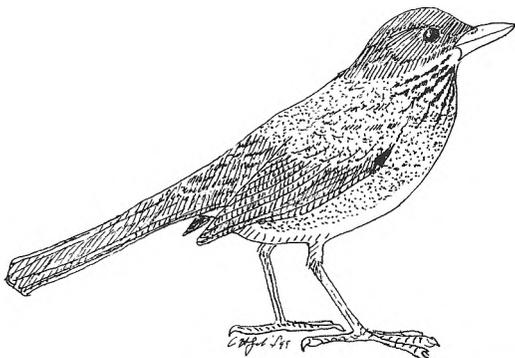

Rufous-backed Thrush *Turdus rufopalliatus* in Guanajuato, Mexico

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Se detalla el primer registro del Zorzal Dorsirrufo *Turdus rufopalliatus* para Guanajuato, México. Este nuevo registro representa una extensión en su área de distribución de aproximadamente 140 km hacia el norte.



Rufous-backed Thrush *Turdus rufopalliatus* (Charles Gambill)

During 12–15 November 1998, I was in the region of San Miguel de Allende (SMA), Guanajuato, Mexico (c.20°55'N 100°50'W, at c.2,000 m). On the morning of 13 November 1998, at c.08h30, I entered a suburban neighbourhood, exiting the north-east corner of Parque Juárez, calle Sollano, in SMA. Hearing an unfamiliar bird call, I immediately began recording it, noticing there were at least 2–4 of the vocalising birds in a large oak *Quercus* sp. (c.1 m dbh). I did not specifically note the number of individuals present as I quickly brought my binoculars to my eyes to identify the species before it flew off.

The closest individual was <10 m from me, on the lowest branch and pausing every few seconds to sing. It had a strongly peppered black-and-white throat, white vent extending onto the belly toward the base of the carina (approximately), and predominantly rufous breast and back. Instantly recognising it as a thrush *Turdus* sp. based on its morphology, I turned to plate 35 in Peterson & Chalif² and identified it as Rufous-backed Thrush *Turdus rufopalliatus*.

Later that morning, I referenced Howell & Webb¹, reconfirming the identification and noting that the species had not previously been recorded in Guanajuato; the closest region on the range map being c.140 km to the south, in Michoacan (c.19°35'N 100°50'W). *T. rufopalliatus* is known from southern Sonora to the Oaxacan Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in the interior along the Balsas drainage^{1,2}. Populations in Mexico City and Oaxaca City are recent 'colonists' and appear to derive from escaped cagebirds¹; the same may be true for this, most recent, observation (S. N. G. Howell *in litt.* 1999). This present observation represents the first documented record of *T. rufopalliatus* in Guanajuato. My co-observers—J. Van Liere, S. & J. Lease—confirmed the identification and my tape-recording is archived in Texas A&M University Laboratory of Bioacoustics, TAMU-Corpus Christi.

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References

1. Howell, S. N. G. & Webb, S. (1995) *The birds of Mexico and northern Central America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Peterson, R. T. & Chalif, E. L. (1973) *A field guide to Mexican birds*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

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