

NOTES

A WINTER RECORD OF THE GRAY VIREO FROM SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO

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The Gray Vireo, *Vireo vicinior*, winters mainly in coastal Sonora (including Tiburón and San Esteban islands) and sparsely in southern Baja California, southern Arizona (mountains of Yuma and western Pima counties), the Big Bend region of western Texas, and probably southwestern Coahuila (Phillips et al. 1964, Barlow and Wauer 1971, AOU 1983, Phillips 1991, Howell and Webb 1995). We report here a recent record of the Gray Vireo from the state of San Luis Potosí, México, and suggest that the winter distribution of the Gray Vireo may be more widespread than is currently recognized.

On 29 November 1994, along Mexico Highway 80, 30 km by road east-southeast of El Huizache (approximately 22° 50' N, 100° 30' W), elevation 1220 m, we collected an adult male Gray Vireo. The bird weighed 14.9 grams and had a wing chord of 68 mm. The bird was in good condition with light fat and heavy molt on the head and body; the skull was completely pneumatized. This specimen (catalog number 11999 MZFC) is housed at the Museo de Zoología, Mexico City. The habitat was typical Chihuahuan desert as described by Atwood (1988) and Toledo and Ordoñez (1993) and seemed to be suitable wintering habitat for the Gray Vireo (but see Bates 1992). This locality was a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*) collecting site of Atwood's (1988), and we found that species here as well.

There exists a single Mexican specimen of the Gray Vireo from south or east of Sonora, a bird (USNM 164057) taken at Inde, Durango, on 13 August 1898. An additional specimen from Quelite, Sinaloa, collected 6 February 1934, was apparently misidentified (Phillips 1991).

The San Luis Potosí specimen is thus the southernmost and easternmost of the Gray Vireo for Mexico. This seemingly anomalous specimen may represent a broader, though more local (Phillips 1991), winter distribution than is currently recognized. It is possible that some eastern Gray Vireos breeding in the Chisos Mountains (Texas) and Sierra Del Carmen (Coahuila, Mexico) may winter as far south as San Luis Potosí. The sight record of a Gray Vireo in southwestern Coahuila on 22 November (cited in Phillips 1991) may also represent this heretofore unknown winter range.

Suitable (see Bates 1992) arid and semiarid habitats on the central Mexican plateau, particularly from Texas and New Mexico south to San Luis Potosí, Zacatecas, and Durango (see discussion of habitats in Toledo and Ordoñez 1993) should be considered as a possible winter range extension for the Gray Vireo. Further documentation with additional specimens is required.

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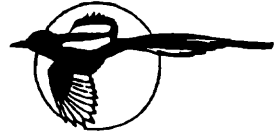
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