

NOTES

A RECORD OF THE ROSEATE SPOONBILL ON THE PACIFIC COAST OF THE PENINSULA OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

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On 18 March 1994, we observed and photographed a single Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) at Estero de Rancho Bueno (29° 19' N, 111° 29' W), Baja California Sur, Mexico. The bird was in breeding plumage and was roosting in the mangroves near the head of the estero. The photograph, on file at the Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, La Paz, shows the spatulate bill, pale pink body plumage, and contrastingly bright pink shoulders, but the image is too small to be reproduced well for publication. Located at the southern end of the Bahía Magdalena–Bahía Almejas complex on the Pacific coast, the Estero de Rancho Bueno is a coastal lagoon, 11 km long and averaging 300 m wide, fringed by mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*, *Laguncularia racemosa*, and *Avicennia germinans*).

On the Pacific coast of mainland Mexico the Roseate Spoonbill is resident from extreme southern Sonora (Knoder et al. 1980, Peterson and Chalif 1973, E. Palacios and E. Mellink pers. comm.) to Chiapas (A.O.U. 1983). In Baja California Grinnell (1928) described this species as a sporadic postbreeding summer visitor to the delta of the Colorado River, although there are no recent records for this area (Wilbur 1987). The only other record of the Roseate Spoonbill for the peninsula is for the east coast of Baja California Sur, where Fernández et al. (1993) observed a single individual in first fall plumage in the Ensenada de La Paz (24° 06' N, 110° 23' W) on 7 December 1992. Therefore our observation represents the second sight record of the Roseate Spoonbill in Baja California Sur and the first for the Pacific coast of the peninsula.

During our surveys of Estero de Rancho Bueno, from November 1993 to June 1994, this was our only observation of a Roseate Spoonbill, so we presume the bird was a vagrant. Outside of its usual distribution the species has been recorded irregularly north to central California, U.S.A., mainly in late summer and early fall (Small 1994).

We thank Eduardo Palacios and Leopoldo A. Moreno-Matiela for improving this note.

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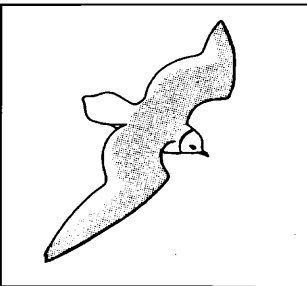
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Tentative schedule:

Friday, 14 June 1996

- 5:30 AM Field trip: Wild Basin, south Rocky Mountain National Park; meet at YMCA, bring your own lunch.
- 6:00 AM Field trip: Pawnee National Grassland; meet at Crow Valley Campground, a 2-hour drive from Estes Park. Bring your own lunch.

- 3:00 PM Check-in: YMCA, Estes Park. Dinner on your own, available at the YMCA.
- 6:00 PM Bird art show preview, YMCA.
- 6:30 PM Six-shot slide show, best of members' works. Bring your best bird photos! YMCA.
- 7:30 PM WFO and CFO board of directors' meetings, YMCA.

Saturday, 15 June 1996

- 5:00 AM Field trip: Continental Divide and Endo Valley, Rocky Mountain National Park; sack breakfast provided.
- 11:30 AM Lunch, YMCA, Estes Park.
- 12:30 PM Bird art show opens, YMCA.
- 1:00 PM Convention papers session, YMCA.
- 4:30 PM California Bird Records Committee, discussion of selected records decisions, YMCA.
- 4:45 PM Colorado Bird Records Committee, discussion of selected records decisions, YMCA.
- 5:00 PM WFO bird identification panel, YMCA.
- 7:00 PM Banquet and speaker, Park Village Playhouse, 900 Moraine Ave., Estes Park.

Sunday, 16 June 1996

- 5:00 AM Field trips: Wild Basin, Sylvandale Ranch, Continental Divide, and Endo Valley, Rocky Mountain National Park; (possible repeat) Pawnee National Grassland. Sack breakfast and lunch provided.

Rocky Mountain National Park: A wilderness of some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the world, offering an abundance of birds in a variety of habitats. Target species will include the White-tailed Ptarmigan, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Brown-capped Rosy Finch. Also expected are the Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers, American Pipit, Hammond's, Dusky, Willow, and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Pine Grosbeak Cassin's Finch, and American Dipper. Other possibilities include the Northern Goshawk, Blue Grouse, and Boreal Owl.

Pawnee National Grassland: This picturesque short-grass prairie of northeastern Colorado is favored by many, not only for the special breeding birds found there, but also because eastern vagrants are often discovered in the isolated wooded areas and water sources. We should see the Mountain Plover, Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs, and possibly Long-billed Curlew. Also to be found are the Brown Thrasher, Lark Bunting, Brewer's, Vesper, Cassin's, and Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern and Western Kingbirds.