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(Short communication)

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF *THRAUPIS EPISCOPUS* (BLUE GRAY TANAGER) IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT ON THE CENTRAL COAST OF OAXACA, MEXICO**REGISTRO FOTOGRÁFICO DE *THRAUPIS EPISCOPUS* (TÁNGARA AZUL GRIS) EN UN AMBIENTE URBANO DE LA COSTA CENTRAL DE OAXACA, MÉXICO****JESÚS GARCÍA-GRAJALES*¹, ALEJANDRA BUENROSTRO-SILVA²**¹Universidad del Mar (UMAR), Campus Puerto Escondido, Instituto de Recursos, km. 2.5, Carr. Puerto Escondido-Sola de Vega, San Pedro Mixtepec. CP. 71980, Oaxaca, México. <archosaurio@yahoo.com.mx>²Universidad del Mar (UMAR), Campus Puerto Escondido, Instituto de Industrias, km. 2.5, Carr. Puerto Escondido-Sola de Vega, San Pedro Mixtepec. CP. 71980, Oaxaca, México. <sba_1575@yahoo.com.mx>

*Autor de correspondencia: <archosaurio@yahoo.com.mx>

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ABSTRACT. We present a photographic record of the Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) in an urban environment on the central coast of Oaxaca, Mexico. The nearest geographically known records are from the southeastern coastal plain of Guerrero, northeastern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula. In Oaxaca, the unpublished visual records are from the coastal plain of this state and can be seen on digital platforms; however, it is necessary to publish records in order to facilitate the analysis of passive dispersion of neotropical birds and document its possible causes.

Key words: distribution range; neotropical bird; photographic record; urban environment; Oaxaca

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RESUMEN. Realizamos un registro fotográfico de la tángara azul gris (*Thraupis episcopus*) en un ambiente urbano de la costa central de Oaxaca, México. Los registros recientes publicados más cercanos corresponden a la planicie costera del sureste de Guerrero, al noreste de México y la Península de Yucatán. Particularmente en Oaxaca, los registros no publicados se relacionan con la planicie costera del Estado y se observan en las plataformas digitales; sin embargo, es necesario publicar los registros para facilitar el análisis de dispersión pasiva de las aves neotropicales y documentar sus posibles causas.

Palabras clave: área de distribución; ave neotropical; registro fotográfico; ambiente urbano; Oaxaca



The Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) is a neotropical resident species with known distribution from eastern Mexico through Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, northern Bolivia, eastern Peru and the center of Brazil, and in the Caribbean region in Trinidad and Tobago (Miller *et al.*, 1957; Dickinson, 2003; Clements, 2007; Schulenberg *et al.*, 2007; Hilty, 2016). In Mexico, it is widely distributed in geographical areas from sea level up to 1,500 m (Howell & Webb, 1995) in the states of the center-south, including Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosí, Hidalgo, Puebla, Veracruz, northern and southern Oaxaca, Tabasco, Campeche and Quintana Roo (Navarro-Sigüenza *et al.*, 2004; Navarro-Sigüenza & Peterson, 2007; Monroy-Ojeda & Grosselet, 2008). This neotropical bird prefers open and semi-open areas, crops, gardens on the outskirts of cities, parks and squares (Howell & Webb 1995; Silva *et al.*, 1996).

In the systematic list of birds from Oaxaca State, Navarro-Sigüenza *et al.*, (2004) considered the Blue gray Tanager in the Atlantic and Oaxaca's central valleys. The most recent accounts of birds in the central coastal plain (Bojorges-Baños, 2008; 2011a; 2011b; Germain & Ruiz-Bruce, 2016) not include the presence of this species in this region. However, two recent unpublished records on the distribution of this species in Oaxaca (AverAves/Naturalista electronic platform) have been documented, one in La Crucecita, Huatulco on July 22, 2017, and another in Puerto Escondido on May 26, 2017; both records lack geographic location. Therefore, in this work we present a recent photographic record of the Blue-gray Tanager (*T. episcopus*) in an urban environment on the central coast of Oaxaca, Mexico.

On September 26, 2017 at 09:16, a couple of individuals of *Thraupis episcopus* were found in the main parking lot (15° 53' 20.63" N, 97° 04' 40.56" W) of the Universidad del Mar, campus Puerto Escondido (Fig. 1), where eight photographs were taken too of one of them (Fig. 2). The female specimen was observed among the foliage and flowers of a guamuchil tree (*Pithecellobium dulce*), and the identification was made with different field guides (Howell & Webb 1995; Peterson & Chalif, 1998; Van Perlo, 2006).

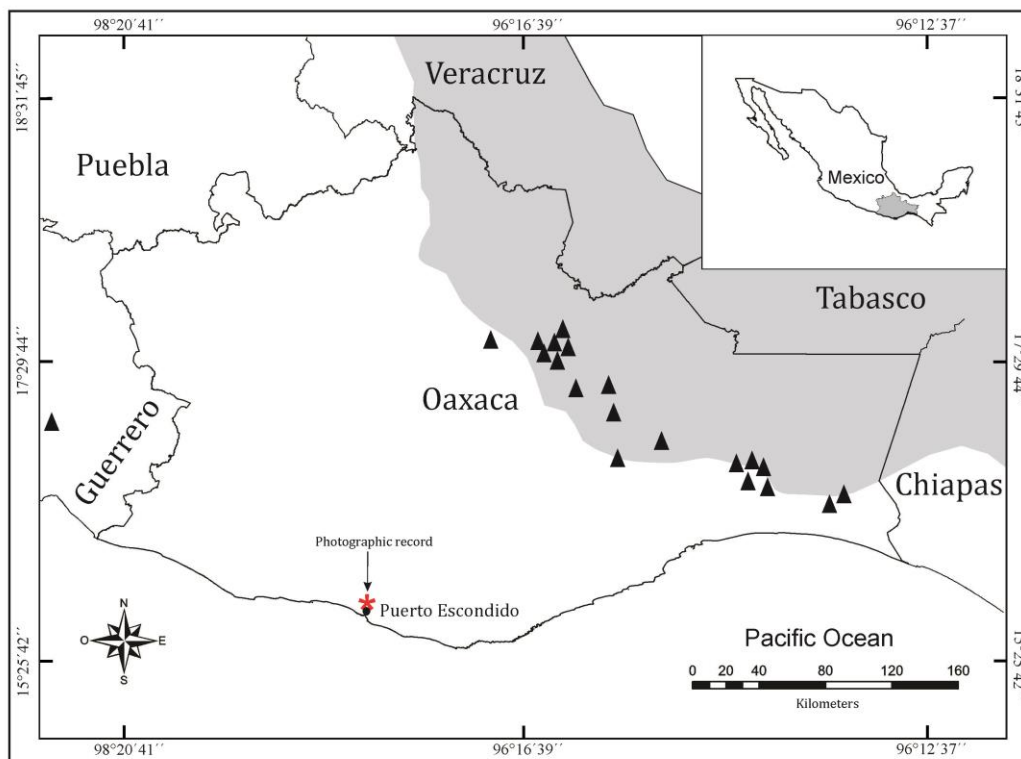


Figure 1. Location of photographic record of *Thraupis episcopus* (red asterisk) in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca; and historic published records (black triangles) in the state. The gray shade represents the potential distribution of this species based on Navarro-Sigüenza and Peterson (2007).



The coloration of plumage for females and juveniles of Blue-gray Tanager is blue-gray are a dull blue overall (Howell & Webb, 1995; Peterson & Chalif, 1998; Van Perlo, 2006). The record presented here confirms the presence of the Blue-gray Tanager in areas that lack previous published records (Sánchez-González, 2013); furthermore, similar records in Guerrero (Blancas-Calva *et al.*, 2017) and the Yucatan Peninsula (Rodríguez-Ruíz *et al.*, 2011) have been related to the expansion of range of this species due to the presence of human altered habitats that promote the establishment of bird populations in new areas (Castro-Torreblanca & Blancas-Calva, 2014).



Figure 2. Photographic record of *Thraupis episcopus* in Puerto Escondido, San Pedro Mixtepec Municipality, Oaxaca.

Puerto Escondido is located on the central coast of Oaxaca, and our photographic records confirm the presence of this species (Sánchez-González, 2013), but this punctual record should be considered as unusual for this area unless more records are documented in intermediate areas.

Probably, there has been successful dispersal due to climatological events, such as hurricanes, cyclones, and tropical storms (Blancas-Calva *et al.*, 2017). In our case, the climatological events in recent past years (Carlota and Ernest hurricanes, 2012) could have influenced in the enlargement of the distribution of this species.

Finally, it is of utmost importance to recognize sites where this species has been reported to contribute to the analysis of trends in the enlargement of the distribution area of neotropical birds and the possible causes of these possible episodes of dispersion.

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