

Mexico

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On the national scene, an irruption of Cedar Waxwings was noted across most of the north and central states. Migration of many Nearctic and Neotropical species was well documented, with greatest diversity on the Caribbean/Atlantic Slope coasts, as is typical, and there were several noteworthy local and state records. Among many resident species, increased singing and nesting activity were also noted throughout the period.

Because the amateur study of Mexico's avifauna is relatively young, and the tradition of birding as a hobby very new in most of Mexico, we are still amassing records on many species' basic distribution in our borders. Careful, thorough documentation of species seen on birding tours or holidays would be very welcome, and photographic documentation is invaluable for species that are little-known, whether resident or migrant, or on the edges of their ranges or periods of typical occurrence. Our subregional reports below make reference to several key texts that can serve as common documents for visiting birders and ornithologists; the full citations are provided at the close of the reports.

For the near term, Mexico, apart from Baja California, will be divided into five Subregions that are defined by political borders rather than biotic provinces. These will be:

- 1) **Northwestern Mexico:** Zacatcas, Chihuahua, Sonora, Durango, Nayarit, Sinaloa, and Aguas Calientes;
- 2) **Northeastern Mexico:** San Luis Potosí, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas;
- 3) **Central Mexico:** Jalisco, Distrito Federal (the capital area), Veracruz, state of México, Puebla, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Queretaro, Hidalgo, Morelos, and Tlaxcala;
- 4) **Southern Mexico:** Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Chiapas; and
- 5) **Yucatan Peninsula:** Tabasco, Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán.

For the time being, I have merged the first two subregions into one, Northern Mexico. As

contributions from the less-often visited states come in, we anticipate that the Subregions of Mexico can in the future be treated as full Regions, befitting their ornithological complexity and riches.

Abbreviations for states largely follow the conventions used in Mexico. In the reports that follow, states from which reports were received are abbreviated: Camp. (Campeche), Chis. (Chiapas), Coah. (Coahuila), D.F. (Distrito Federal), Dgo. (Durango), Gro. (Guerrero), Méx. (México), Mor. (Morales), Oax. (Oaxaca), Q. Roo (Quintana Roo), Sin. (Sinaloa), Son. (Sonora), Tab. (Tabasco), Tamps. (Tamaulipas), Ver. (Veracruz), Yuc. (Yucatán).

NORTHERN MEXICO

This spring was cooler than normal, at least in parts of the Subregion. For example, in Torreón, Coah., warm spells appeared one month late, at the end of May.

Abbreviations: A.S.B. (Arroyo Santa Bárbara, Son.); A.V. (Arroyo Verde, Son.); I.S.P.M. (Isla San Pedro Mártir, Son.); L.F.P. (Laguna Flamingos Project, Tamps.); P.P. (Puerto Peñasco, Son.); P.V.C. (Parque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah.).

GREBES THROUGH CUCKOOS

There were still 200 Eared Grebes at the P.P. sewage ponds 21 May (NB, SG). Twenty **Pink-footed Shearwaters** were seen s. of I.S.P.M. 16 May (RT); this species is not listed in Russell and Monson (1998). Fifteen Sooty Shearwaters were s. of I.S.P.M. 16 May (RT). One Black-vented Shearwater was seen from shore at P.P. 21 May (NB, SG), but interestingly none was seen on a pelagic trip in the Sea of Cortez 13–22 May (RT). At least 3 **Brown Pelicans**, first sighted in late Jan, continued to occupy Presa Francisco Zarco, Dgo. through Mar. A Bare-throated Tiger-Heron was seen in pine woodland at A.S.B. 20 Mar (DM). Roughly 500 Turkey and Black Vultures that roosted in Vivero de Lerdo, Dgo. during the fall and winter departed in Mar and Apr. On 25 Mar 8–10 Turkey Vultures were seen in P.V.C., where they are not known to roost, along with a Zone-tailed Hawk. **Wood Ducks** continue to breed in significant numbers along the lower Nazas R., Dgo. Four Redhead, 2 Lesser Scaup, and 2 Ruddy Ducks were among

the waterfowl seen in Laguna La Sal, Tamps 25–27 Apr (L.F.P.). A Northern Goshawk was seen at A.V. eating a Rufous-bellied Chachalaca 19 Mar (DM). Two Golden Eagles were seen 23 Mar at Tanque de Emergencia, Coah. (WB) Two Laughing Falcons were seen in A.V. 18 Mar (DM). This species was reported as extirpated in Son. in Russell and Monson (1998). One Peregrine Falcon was sighted at P.V.C. 17 Mar One Peregrine and one Merlin were seen at L.F.P. late Apr (L.F.P.). Seven **Wild Turkeys** were recorded at L.F.P. in late Apr. A single American Golden-Plover was seen near the Torreón, Coah Airport wastewater area 25 Mar. Ten American Golden-Plovers, 3 Upland and 3 Stilt Sandpipers, as well as 80 Dunlin, were seen L.F.P. in late Apr. One Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at a flat inland of the La Pesca, Tamps delta in late Apr (L.F.P.). One light-morph ad Parasitic Jaeger was seen between Isla Tortuga and I.S.P.M. 15 May (RT). Six and 3 Sabine's Gull were seen s. of I.S.P.M. 15 & 16 May, respectively; several were in alternate plumage (RT). Eight Herring Gulls were at Laguna Almagre, Tamps., and one pair of nesting **Least Terns** with 2 eggs was seen near La Pesca in late Apr (L.F.P.). More than 200 Black Terns were at the P.P. sewage pond 21 May (NB, SG). Fourteen Military Macaws were seen on a fig tree at A S B 18 Mar (DM). Around 60 Maroon-fronted Parrots were seen 27 May at their El Taray, Coah., breeding site, compared to last year's 40, nesting begins early Jul (CMC). Two Red-crowned and at least 55 Yellow-headed Parrots were seen at L.F.P. late Apr. At least 2 breeding pairs of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** returned to La Isla on the lower Nazas by 10 May, roughly the same date as last year. Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen L.F.P., and one early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Bocatoma II, near Gómez Farías, Tamps. 28 Apr (RD, WB et al) One **Squirrel Cuckoo** was at the tropical semi-deciduous Zuazua's Forest, Tamps. 26 Apr (L.F.P.).

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

A Vermiculated Screech-Owl was heard A S B 18 Mar (DM). Several Tawny-collared Nightjars were vocalizing dusk and dawn at L.F.P. in late Apr. Five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at L.F.P. and La Pesca in late Apr. Six Eared Trogons were seen in A.V. 19 Mar within 100 m of both Mountain and Elegant Trogons (DM). One Blue-crowned Motmot was seen at Zuazua's forest 26 Apr (L.F.P.), and one Belted Kingfisher was at Laguna La Sal in late Apr (L.F.P.) A **Lewis's Woodpecker** in A.S.B. 20 Mar was s of its usual range (DM). Three Lineated Woodpeckers were at Zuazua's Forest (L.F.P) and Laguna Chovenosa, Tamps. late Apr. There

were one to 2 **Ivory-billed Woodcreepers** at Zuaqua's Forest 26 Apr (L.F.P.). Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets and Tropical and Western Kingbirds were seen on the lower Nazas throughout May. **Brown-crested Flycatchers**, which nested on La Isla last year, were recorded 20 May, but appear to have moved to a different spot subsequently. One or 2 **Social Flycatchers** near Laguna Almagre were n. of their mapped range.

Three Masked Tityras were at A.V. 19 Mar (DM); there have been no Son. records in many years. A pair of Violet-green Swallows was nesting on a cardon cactus on Isla San Esteban, Son. 16 May (RT). Two Black-throated Magpie-Jays at P.P. 21 May (one or 2 have been around for a couple of months) are no doubt escapees (NB, SG). One or 2 **Loggerhead Shrikes** at L.F.P. in late Apr were apparently out of season. Flocks of 5–40 Cedar Waxwings were present everywhere in the city and rural areas around Torreón, the last being seen 17 May. During some winters, waxwings are not seen at all. European Starlings, seen on three occasions last winter, were not seen this year. Among the unexpected migrant passerines sighted this spring in Torreón's central park, Bosque Venustiano Carranza, were single **Red-eyed Vireo** (6 May), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (30 Apr), **Yellow-throated Warbler** (25 Mar), and **Ovenbird** (30 Apr). One **Tennessee Warbler** was seen 23 Mar at Tanque de Emergencia, a first state record (WB). One singing Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was at L.F.P. in late Apr. Four Scrub Euphonias, rare in Son., were seen in A.V. 18 Mar (DM), and 3 were in the Sierra de Alamos, Son. 12 Mar (JT). Single **Yellow-winged Tanagers** were documented for the first time in S.L.P. at Huichihuayan, El Meco and near Sótano de las Golondrinas in late Apr and May (RD, WB et al.). Five Summer and 15 Scarlet Tanagers were observed at L.F.P. late Apr. There was a Rusty-crowned Ground Sparrow in A S B. 20 Mar (DM). Two male Yellow-faced Grassquits were near La Pesca late Apr (L.F.P.). At least 70 Dickcissels were noted L.F.P. late Apr. As in all winters, the mixed icterid flocks roosting along the 1.2 km tree-lined part of Calzada Colón in Torreón were estimated at 1.5–2 million. These flocks are composed mostly of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Great-tailed Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Brown-headed Cowbirds, with smaller numbers of Bronzed Cowbirds and Brewer's Blackbirds. Their numbers began to decrease in Mar, and they were gone by late Apr. One night in early Mar, around 500 dead birds (mostly Yellow-headed Blackbirds) were found in Plaza John F. Kennedy, where 250,000 are estimated to roost. The government agency Profepa implicated poisoning by people living near the roost. At

least 3 Melodious Blackbirds were in Sabinas, Tamps. 26 Apr (RD, WB et al.). Thirty Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted at L.F.P. in late Apr. Two **American Goldfinches** were seen in P.V.C. 31 Mar and 8 Apr.

Undocumented rarities: a Broad-winged Hawk was reported 18 Mar in A.V. (D.M.)

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CENTRAL MEXICO

Six Least Grebes were at Puerto del Aire, Ver. 3 Mar, above their usual elevational range. There were 23 American White Pelicans in the recently (summer 1991) created lake at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco, D.F. 1 Mar. This species was known to winter in what remains of L. Texcoco but did not occur in Xochimilco until this winter. A kettle of 120 Anhingas was observed soaring above Cardel, Ver. 3 Mar. One **Hook-billed Kite** was soaring above Bosque de Tlalpan, D.F. 21 Apr. This species was historically recorded from Mexico City but went unrecorded for decades until the last few years (it is probably a passage migrant). A single female Redhead was at the La Mancha, Ver. lagoon 3 Mar, whereas on 4 Mar the year before there had been 40 individuals. One Snowy Plover was at Lago de Chalco, D.F./Méx. 11 Apr. One Long-billed Curlew was at Laguna Mitla, Gro. 18–21 Mar (RGW). Three Baird's Sandpipers on a plowed field one km e. of Parres, D.F. 26 May were rather late (HGdS, AOI). A **Lesser Roadrunner** was heard at La Cima, D.F. 1 Mar. One **Green Violet-ear** was at feeder in Contreras 3 Mar—a very odd date, especially given the very cold temperature, with snow on slightly higher ground the previous two days (RGW). One Ladder-backed Woodpecker was heard on Insurgentes near the Hotel de México 16 Apr. Woodpeckers rarely stray into the urbanized parts of Mexico City. Two Tufted Flycatchers were heard 22 Apr at La Cima, where they are not always recorded, and one was heard there 27 May. Buff-breasted Flycatchers were singing in Bosque de Tlalpan and near the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden by 21 Apr. **White-throated Flycatchers** were seen 2

km e. of Parres and at 2800 m above San Juan Tlacotenco, Mor. 20 May (HGdS, AOI). Four Pine Flycatchers were at 2700–2800 m above San Juan Tlacotenco on the same date (HGdS, AOI). A Pileated Flycatcher was heard at Cañón de Lobos, Mor. 27 May. One **Eastern Phoebe** was seen in Cuernanco, D.F., 5 Apr (RGW, AMH). Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers and Western Wood-Pewees were present and singing at Canón de Lobos by 22 Apr, whereas they were not seen 28 Feb. Two Olive-sided Flycatchers at La Cima 27 May (one of them singing) were rather late migrants (HGdS, AOI). Several Sumichrast's Wrens were singing at Amatlán, Ver. 2 Mar. Three Sedge Wrens were singing in the edge of a plowed field two km e. of Parres 20 May (HGdS, AOI). A pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** was seen at Avándaro, Méx. 11–13 Apr; in the past five years, only Western Bluebird had been seen there (RGW). One Rufous-backed Robin was seen at U A M Iztapalapa, in the e. of Mexico City 1 Mar (RGW); this species is regularly found only in the w. of the city. At least 3 White-throated Robins were at La Cima 27 May. A singing Eastern Bluebird close to Micro-ondas Las Trincheras, Ver. 2 Mar was slightly e. of its mapped range. European Starlings were recorded in different parts of Mexico City, usually singly or in pairs, as well as in Parres and Teotihuacan, Méx. (HGdS, AOI). Cedar Waxwings, usually in flocks, were seen close to Micro-ondas Las Trincheras, Teotihuacán, U.N.A.M.'s Instituto de Ecología, Bosque de Tlalpan, and Cuernavaca, Mor. in Mar and Apr, as well as close to Zitácuaro, Mich. 27 Feb. A single Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Santiago de la Union (lower Atoyac Road), Gro. 30 Mar (MDC), apparently a first state record. At least 4 Yellow Warblers were singing at Cuernanco 5 Apr (RGW, AMH). Audubon's Warblers were singing near U.N.A.M.'s Instituto de Ecología in the last week of Apr. A male Prairie Warbler was noted off Highway 18, 22 km n. of Puente Nautla, Ver. 30 Apr (MDC). Crescent-chested Warblers were especially numerous and vocal at La Cima 27 May. One singing Hooded Yellowthroat was seen at 2800 m above San Juan Tlacotenco 20 May (HGdS, AOI). One Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer was singing at the U.N.A.M.'s Instituto de Ecología by 16 May. A pair of **Slate-blue Seedeaters** was at Canón de Lobos 22 Apr. Sierra Madre Sparrows were staking out their territories at La Cima by 1 Mar. Three Audubon's Orioles were at Amatlán 2 Mar. Two Evening Grosbeaks were at La Cima 1 Mar, and one there 22 Apr. One Hooded Grosbeak was at Avándaro 13 Apr (RGW). Red Crossbills were singing abundantly at La Cima 1 Mar.

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SOUTHERN MEXICO

All records this season pertain to the valley of **Oaxaca** and its surroundings. Flowers were more numerous than in winters 1998–2000, indicating better winter rainfall. There was a subtle pattern in early March of highland-wintering warblers, vireos, and silky-flycatchers moving through the lowlands, and this coincided with the presence of hundreds of Townsend's and Hermit Warblers flocking on the montane slopes of Benito Juárez N.P., joined by throngs of local Red and Crescent-chested Warblers and other species in early March; these numbers certainly indicate active migration.

Abbreviations: H.M.A. (Hotel Misión de los Ángeles, Oaxaca City); P.A.D. (Piedra Azul dam, near T.d.V.); S.A.D. (San Andrés dams); S.F.P. (San Felipe Ecological Park, close to San Felipe del Agua to the n. of Oaxaca City); S.T.P. (San Pedro Totolapan); T.d.V. (Teotitlán del Valle); T.P. (Téquio Park, close to the Oaxaca airport).

GREBES THROUGH OWLS

Sixteen Least Grebes were at P.A.D. 27 Feb–1 Mar (EB, AJ et al.). One **Pied-billed Grebe**, formerly recorded to 24 Apr, was at the S.A.D. to 16 May One Eared Grebe in breeding plumage was seen at the P.A.D. 12 Apr. There were 4–7 Little Blue Herons at P.A.D. 27 Feb and 1 Mar (AJ, EB et al.) and one imm. early Mar–12 Apr. Ducks at P.A.D. were a single Green-winged Teal 31 Mar, a single **Mexican Duck** 30 Mar–25 Apr, a first state record (JMF, MG), up to 17 Blue-winged Teal 1 Mar–25 Apr (pair formation and courtship displays were seen toward the end of the stay), a single Lesser Scaup 30 Mar–12 Apr, and several Ruddy Ducks to 25 Apr. One **Cooper's Hawk** was seen making its butterfly display flight on the road to Yuvila 2 Mar (AJ, EB et al.), and a pair of *Accipiter* strongly believed to be this species was nesting at 2250 m above sea level on the road to La Guacamaya, noted 18, 22 & 29 May; this species was not known to nest in Oax. Short-tailed Hawks were at 2700–3000 m in the La Neveria-Cuajimoloyas area 10 & 11 May, around 1800 m at T.d.V. 29 May, and at La Cumbre 2 Mar (EB, AJ et al.). One Peregrine Falcon was seen at Monte Albán 25 Feb feeding on a small passerine on the wing, and another was seen at Yagul 28 Feb (AJ, EB et al.); the species has been seen through the winter in Oaxaca City and is suspected of nesting (JMF).

West Mexican Chachalacas were recorded above El Estudiante 26 Feb (EB, AJ et al.), in arid subtropical scrub above T.d.V., and at 2150–2200 m in an ecotone of oak scrub and dry pine-oak forest on the road to La Guacamaya (JMF). Six Montezuma Quail were seen just outside the gate of Monte Albán, actively pursued by seven-year-old boys with slingshots 25 Feb (AJ, EB), and 3 were seen 9 May at La Neveria (2700 m).

Common Moorhens were recorded until 17 May at a small pond near the Río Salado on the road to San Juan Guelavía. One American Golden-Plover was at the sewage discharge area w. of Tlacolula 25 Apr. Killdeer were recorded along the Río Salado until 17 May. Spotted Sandpipers were seen throughout the period with what seemed to be a migration wave 28 Apr, when 15 very fat birds were seen at the S.A.D. A single **Western Sandpiper** was at the P.A.D. 30 Mar. Baird's Sandpipers were seen 25 Apr–29 May, when 4 were at the Tlacolula sewage outlet area. Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded 25 Apr–8 May at various sites. A single Laughing Gull was at the S.A.D. 25 Apr, along with a flock of 25 Franklin's Gulls (all in definitive alternate plumage, at least one with a bright rosy wash on the breast). A Black-billed Cuckoo was at Monte Albán 4 May, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen 13 Apr near T.d.V. and 12 May at T.P.

One **Flammulated Owl** (only the 4th Oax. record) was seen only a few m from a Northern (Mountain) Pygmy-Owl 26 Feb at 17° 11.5' N, 96° 38.3' W, around the forestry cabins in Benito Juárez N.P. (AJ, EB v.t. LC). At least 3 more Northern Pygmy-Owls were heard in the mountains above T.d.V. 1 Mar (EB, AJ). One gray-morph Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was seen at S.P.T., the closest the species approaches Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (EB, AJ). A Great Horned Owl was being harassed by a Cooper's Hawk at Monte Albán 11 Apr.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH MIMIDS

One Dusky Hummingbird was at a nest at the ruins of Yagul 28 Feb (EB, AJ). White-eared Hummingbirds were in much greater numbers than usual in the La Cumbre area and above T.d.V. in late Feb and early Mar (EB, AJ). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, previously recorded until 3 Mar, were at the T.P. and S.F.P. until 20 & 21 Apr. One male Garnet-throated Hummingbird was seen 26 Feb in Benito Juárez N.P. (AJ, EB et al.). Green Kingfishers entered the S.F.P. 15 Mar–27 Apr, during the worst of the dry season. One **Russet-crowned Motmot** (MC et al.) and 2 Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were seen at S.P.T., the closest these species approach Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (EB, AJ, v.t.). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen to 5 Apr at T.P., previously

to 18 Mar. A single Strong-billed Woodcreeper was at Las Tarajeas, near Cuajimoloyas, 11 May

One Pileated Flycatcher was at Monte Albán 24–25 Feb (AJ). Several Greater Pewees 30 May in arid tropical scrub along the Río Grande at San Juan Atepec were probably breeding. Western Wood-Pewee was first recorded 27 Mar, and the first nest was found 21 Apr. A pair of White-throated Flycatchers was at a small damp meadow near La Neveria (2700 m) 11 May. **Gray Flycatcher** (formerly no spring records) was recorded 12 Apr near T.d.V. A Pine Flycatcher was seen constructing a nest near Cuajimoloyas 11 May. Cordilleran Flycatcher first seen on its breeding ground in the SFP riparian area 15 Mar. The earliest nest of Great Kiskadee was found at S.F.P. 4 Apr, and the earliest nest of Social Flycatcher was found at San Andrés 28 Apr. Three Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers were along Río Grande of San Juan Atepec 30 May. One male Rose-throated Becard was seen 26 Feb in Benito Juárez N.P., and a **Slaty Vireo** was seen there at rather high altitude 2 Mar (LC). A Bell's Vireo was seen 28 Feb at S.P.T. (EB, AJ). Warbling Vireos returned to breeding areas of S.F.P. 15 Mar; one recorded at Río Verde, above T. d. V., was confirmed as belonging to the w. group *swainsonii* (audio-tape AJ). **Philadelphia Vireos** were recorded 25 Apr near T.d.V. and 28 Apr at the S.A.D. One Hutton's Vireo was found at Monte Albán 25 Feb (EB, AJ), an odd low-elevation record. The last Violet-green Swallows were seen 29 Apr. An early Cliff Swallow was at T.d.V. 22 Feb. A Bushtit nest at 2700 m at La Neveria 10 May was high. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, rare in summer, was seen 18 May at the ford on the road to La Guacamaya, and two pairs and 2 singles were in the arid tropical scrub along the Río Grande of San Juan Atepec 30 May. A pair of Eastern Bluebirds nesting at 3000 m at Cuajimoloyas 11 May was high. Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush returned to riparian area of S.F.P. 15 Mar, and the first nesting was recorded 20 Apr. Clay-colored Robins were seen commonly in Oaxaca City at H.M.A. 25 Feb–2 Mar (EB) and in riparian area of S.F.P. 4 Apr (found nesting there 20 Apr). One White-throated Robin was at H.M.A. 25 Feb (RS), and the species was found nesting at S.F.P. 27 Apr. Rufous-backed Robins returned to breeding areas in T.P., S.F.P., and near T.d.V. 10 Mar, and the first nest was found 30 Apr. One Gray Catbird was seen above P.A.D. 27 Feb and one Ocellated Thrasher there 1 Mar (EB, AJ).

WAXWINGS THROUGH ORIOLES

Waxwings were numerous throughout, regularly in flocks of up to 25, though less numerous than in the 1998–1999 season (v. o.). One

Gray Silky-Flycatcher was at H.M.A. 25 Feb (LC, MC). Townsend's, Hermit, Crescent-chested, and Red Warblers were seen in greater numbers than usual in the La Cumbre area in late Feb and early Mar (EB, AJ), probably indicative of northward migration; one large foraging flock numbered well over 500 warblers 2 Mar (LC, MC). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen 21 Apr at S.F.P. Single **Tennessee Warblers** were recorded 15 Mar at S.F.P., 5 Apr at T.P., and 25 Apr near T.d.V. Virginia's Warblers were recorded at various sites to 28 Apr. One Crescent-chested Warbler was low at H.M.A. 25 Feb (RS). Yellow Warbler was seen at several locations 25 Apr–12 May. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was recorded 27 Apr at S.F.P. Audubon's Warbler was recorded to 11 May and Black-and-white Warbler to 4 May. Single Ovenbirds were seen 27 Apr at S.F.P. and 30 Apr above T.d.V. True to their spring dates, Northern Waterthrushes were recorded to 5 May and Louisiana Waterthrushes to 12 Apr. A pair of Hooded Yellowthroats was near La Neveria 10 May. A pair of Hepatic Tanagers was feeding young in nest at Las Tarajeas (3000 m) 18 May. A male Red-headed Tanager was at the ford on the road to La Guacamaya 18 May. Two Scrub Euphonias of undetermined subspecies were seen at S.P.T., the closest the species approaches Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (EB, AJ). One Common Bush-Tanager was seen 26 Feb in Benito Juárez N.P. (LC). A **Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow** was seen along the Río Grande of San Juan Atepec for the 2nd time (previously 13 Feb); this population had not been seen since 1894 according to Binford (1989). The earliest sighting of Blue-black Grassquit on its breeding grounds along Río Salado was 9 May. The last sighting of Lincoln's Sparrow was 11 May. One Varied and a few Orange-breasted Buntings were seen at S.P.T. 28 Feb (AJ, EB). Orchard Orioles were recorded to 12 May, far beyond their normal Mar departure (Howell & Webb 1995). Likewise, Scott's Oriole was last recorded 9 May at Cuajimuloyas (3000 m) One Audubon's Oriole was seen in arid subtropical scrub above P.A.D. 1 Mar (MC, EB, AJ et al.). A Yellow-winged Cacique was seen at S.P.T., the closest the species approaches Oaxaca City, 28 Feb (MC et al.).

Observers (area compiler in boldface): Edward S Brinkley, Lori Conrad, Mark Conrad, **John M. Forcey**, Manuel Grosselet, Álvaro Jaramillo, Rose Stogsdill. Uncredited observations are all by John M. Forcey.

YUCATAN PENINSULA

The rains arrived early this year in most of the Y.P., late Apr and early May experiencing more than usual.

Abbreviations: Chumpón gate (Chumpón

entrance to Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo); Coz. (Cozumel Island, Q. Roo); F.C.P. (Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo); P.A. (Punta Allen, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo); Y.P. (Yucatan Peninsula).

HERONS THROUGH TERNS

Five Cattle Egrets were on Cayo Lobos, Q. Roo 5 Apr. A Great White Heron was at the Pez Maya estuary 2 May (HGdS). One **Agami Heron** was noted at Chan Kah Hotel in Palenque, Chis. 14 Feb (PAB). Three Reddish Egrets were seen at Playón, inland of P.A., 10 May. A Least Bittern was at L. Cobá, Q. Roo 17 Mar (JH et al.). Seventeen Glossy Ibis were at Usumacinta marshes, Chis./Tab./Camp. 15 Mar (JH et al.). On 9 May, Mogote San Juan, near P.A., had fewer birds than usual and not a single White Ibis (formerly nested in large numbers). There were at least 1500 Wood Storks at nests in a lagoon near Ría Candelaria, Camp. 24 Apr (the colony is estimated at 3000 individuals, plus 1000 young from the previous year, in the vicinity mid-May). Seven ad. **Jabirus** were at a waterhole behind the Sabancuy estuary, Camp. 14 May (the Mexican population is likely under 40). Three King Vultures were seen at Calakmul, Camp. 12 Mar (JH et al.). In the Y.P., wintering Ospreys are most abundant in Laguna de Términos, Camp. Along two-and-a-half km of the upper Sabancuy estuary, 23 were counted 19 Mar but none 14 May. A pair of resident Ridgway's Ospreys was at Pez Maya 2 May (HGdS) and at P.A. lighthouse 8 May, and a pair of Common Black-Hawks was at a nest at each of these localities as well. One **Gray-headed Kite** was recorded 2 km from F.C.P. 5 May (HGdS); this rarely encountered raptor was one of the more common birds-of-prey in the ne. Y.P. 20 years ago. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen flying over the Ría Candelaria 24 Mar; this species was photographed in the area in 2000 by C. Alcérrec, though it was first seen by P. Rivas here approximately 15 years ago. On 24 Mar, a juv. Red-tailed Hawk was near Cristalina, Camp. The only record of the Coz. Roadside Hawk during four days of intensive birding late Apr was one heard near El Cedral (HGdS). A male American Kestrel at Banco Chinchorro, Q. Roo 4 Apr was new to the list of migrants from these cays. A pair of Peregrine Falcons was at Cayo Lobos 5 Apr, and one flew past Mogote San Juan 9 May. Two Ocellated Turkeys were on the road between F.C.P. and Santa Teresa 4 May, one was seen only 2 km from F.C.P. 5 May, and 5 were counted between F.C.P. and Playón 7 & 10 May. One Spotted Rail was heard at Lake Cobá 16 Mar (JH et al.). One Rufous-necked Wood-Rail was just e. of the bridge at Celestún, Yuc. 16 Mar (JH et al.). Two Rufous-necked Wood-Rails were at a small grove of mangroves in a back-

yard in P.A. in early May (BM, HGdS), and it was reported that 4 individuals sometimes feed among the chickens. This species was also claimed to be abundant close to Xcalak, Q. Roo, by local fishermen/naturalist guides (per BM). On 14 May, 12 American Avocets and a White-rumped Sandpiper were at a waterhole behind the Sabancuy estuary. A Lesser Yellowlegs in early Apr added to the list of migrants from Banco Chinchorro. One basic-plumaged Dunlin was at the Playa del Carmen, Q. Roo ferry dock 30 Apr, slightly away from its mapped range. On 19 Mar, a flock of 40–50 Black Terns flew by the upper Sabancuy estuary heading n., while 2 flew past Playón 10 May, and one and 3 flew n. past the boat launch at Chunyaxché 11 & 12 May. At Pez Maya there were at least 24 ad. and 2 juv. Least Terns 2 May (HGdS).

PARROTS THROUGH MIMIDS

At the upper Sabancuy estuary there was at least one pair of **Brown-hooded Parrots**—a first this far north. A **Red-lored Parrot** between Calax, Camp. and the Sabancuy estuary 20 Mar and a pair at Cristalina 15 May were slightly out of the species's mapped range. Five *Amazonas* in one flock near the e. end of the cross-island highway in Coz. were the only parrots observed during intensive birding on the island 27–30 Apr (HGdS). A **Pheasant Cuckoo** flew over Hwy 261 near Tixmucuy, Camp. 14 May Common Nighthawks were seen at San Miguel 28 Apr, near F.C.P. 3 May, and at Laguna Ocom 5 May (HGdS). Also, one was seen in mid-morning in Chunyaxché 11 May. Vermiculated Screech-Owl, Yucatan Poorwill, and Yucatan Nightjar were heard in the forest at F.C.P., and Northern Potoo, Yucatan Poorwill, and Yucatan Nightjar were heard at Laguna Ocom on the moonlit nights of 3 & 5 May, whereas only a Mottled Owl was heard on the moonless night of 11 May (HGdS). Yucatan Nightjar was heard 11–13 Mar at F.C.P. and Calakmul, and Yucatan Poorwill was heard at F.C.P. 11 Mar (JH et al.) A Chimney Swift was in a flock with 5 Vaux's Swift along the cross-island highway in Coz. 27 Apr (HGdS). The resident Vaux's Swifts were very vocal in late Apr, with some vocalizations reminiscent of Yellow Warbler chip notes (HGdS). One female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was two km from F.C.P. 7 May (HGdS). A juv. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3 Apr was new to the species list for Banco Chinchorro. One Smoky-brown Woodpecker was along the stream in Chekubul, Camp., 2 others were two km from F.C.P. 6 & 7 May (HGdS), and 2 were at Chunyaxché 11 May Only one Keel-billed Toucan was heard at F.C.P. between 3 & 7 May (HGdS), and 2 were glimpsed at Chunyaxché 11–13 May (HGdS),

BM), the species was formerly much more common in the area. One late migrant Belted Kingfisher was at P.A. 8 May (HGdS). One Rufous-breasted Spinetail was putting the finishing touches on a nest 30 km from Santa Teresa on the road to Playón; there was another unused nest a few m away. Caribbean Elaenia was recorded at P.A. 9 May. One Common Tody-Flycatcher was starting a nest at P.A. 8 May. Three Eye-ringed Flatbills were seen at Chunyaxché 11 May. One to 2 late Eastern Wood-Pewees were noted 4, 5 & 7 May at F.C.P., and 8 May at P.A. (HGdS). Tropical Pewees were abundant and vocal at F.C.P. and Chunyaxché in early May; there were several active nests at both sites. Piratic Flycatcher was heard at Laguna Ocom 5 May and at Chunyaxché (abundantly) 11–13 May, but Piratics were not present at F.C.P. (HGdS). Yucatan Flycatchers were seen at F.C.P. in early May (including one active nest), but were not detected in Coz. in late Apr (HGdS). In one block at San Miguel 28 Apr, there were at least 2 Tropical, one Eastern, 5 **Couch's**, and 2 **Gray Kingbirds** (HGdS, MPV); at El Cedral the next day, Tropical, **Couch's**, and 2 Eastern Kingbirds, along with 12 Brown-crested Flycatchers, were tallied (HGdS, MPV). A **Gray Kingbird** was also recorded at P.A. 7 & 8 May. Couch's Kingbird was unrecorded on Coz. by Howell & Webb (1995), although Howell has recorded it recently (per BM), and Gray Kingbird is rarely recorded in the Y.P. There was much activity suggestive of breeding by Rose-throated Becards at Santa Teresa and Chunyaxché in early May. One male Black-crowned Tityra was seen between Playón and Santa Teresa 10 May (HGdS, BM). Cozumel Vireo and particularly Yucatan Vireos were singing abundantly on Coz. in late Apr (HGdS), as were Yellow-green Vireos at Chunyaxché in early May. Barn Swallows were coming through heavily just e. of the Sabancuy turnoff on Hwy 180 on 23 Apr and w. of the Sabancuy exit on the Escárcega-Villahermosa hwy 25 Apr. At least 50 Barn and 2 Bank Swallows flew n. past the Chunyaxché boat launch just before dusk 12 May. There were very few records of migrant thrushes, including 2 Swainson's at Calakmul 12 Mar (JH et al.), one to 2 Wood at Calakmul and Palenque, Chis 10–15 Mar (JH et al.), and a Gray-cheeked at F.C.P. 6 May. Clay-colored Robins were heard imitating Singing Quail near Santa Teresa and at Chunyaxché (HGdS). Only 2 Gray Catbirds were sighted on Coz. 27–30 Apr (HGdS, MPV). Black Catbirds were very common at Pez Maya (mangroves), P.A. and Coz., but they are more rarely recorded on the mainland. One each was near F.C.P. 11 & 12 Mar (JH et al.) and 7 May (HGdS), 4 were at

Calakmul 13 Mar (JH et al.), and 3 were recorded around Chumpón gate 11 May (HGdS).

WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES

An unspecified number of Cedar Waxwings was recorded at Calakmul 12 & 13 Mar (JH et al.). One Cedar Waxwing was seen two km from F.C.P. 3 May (HGdS), 20 were feeding on the fruit of the *chit* palm at P.A. 9 May (HGdS, BM), 7 were seen Isla Contoy, Q. Roo, where recorded for the first time, 24 May (RA), and 80 were at Celestún 22 May (DB). One Swainson's Warbler was recorded on Coz. 18 Mar (JH et al.). Landbird migration was not strong on Banco Chinchorro in early Apr, not surprising given the strong wind blowing from the ne. all week; 22 species including American Redstart (the most common species on Banco Chinchorro in spring), Ovenbirds, and Black-throated Blue, Tennessee, Palm, and Nashville Warblers were recorded nonetheless. A male Blackburnian Warbler was true to its schedule of passing through the Y.P. during the last two weeks of Apr as it fed in a flowering *jabin* tree at Isla Aguada 23 Apr. Tennessee Warblers were migrating through Isla Aguada 22–23 Mar. The number of migrant wood-warblers on Coz. in late Apr and around F.C.P. early May also appeared low (HGdS). There were 2 Palm Warblers at Pez Maya 2 May and one at P.A. 8 May. The few migrant warblers at F.C.P. on 3 May were 2 Yellow, and Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, and American Redstart; the next day, 6 Yellow, 7 Magnolia, and 3 Bay-breasted Warblers were counted, with just one American Redstart each 5 & 6 May (HGdS). One singing Gray-crowned Yellowthroat in a wooded field in San Miguel and another singing one in the Coz. sewage treatment plant late Apr provided records of a species not recorded with certainty on the island until recently (HGdS). There was much Yellow Warbler song in Cozumel in late Apr (most or all presumably the resident race; HGdS). Three Northern and 4 Louisiana (including one singing) Waterthrushes were at the Coz. sewage treatment plant 30 Apr. One Red-legged Honeycreeper was seen a P.A. 8 May, while 3 were seen at Chunyaxché 12 May. One Blue-gray Tanager at F.C.P. 5 May (HGdS) was n. of the mapped range in the Y.P. (Howell & Webb 1995). However, this species has extended its range northward in the peninsula (BM). Two Scarlet Tanagers were seen at Santa Teresa 4 May, and single males were seen 8–10 May at P.A. Rose-throated Tanagers and Blue Buntings were singing early May in F.C.P. and Chunyaxché (HGdS). At least 5 Blue-black Grassquits were seen, some of them displaying, at El Cedral 29 Apr. This species has only recently been recorded from Coz. One Grasshopper Sparrow, a species rarely recorded in the Y.P., was at the Coz. S. T. P. 30 Apr. Ten Dickcissels were counted in a wood-

ed field at San Miguel and 4 at a plowed field near El Cedral 28 & 29 Apr (HGdS), respectively, plus one at Xcalak 28 Apr. Dickcissels pass through the peninsula during the end of Apr and in early May. Three male Bobolinks flew over a wooded field at San Miguel 28 Apr, 3 males were feeding in a grassy area next to the sewage treatment plant 30 Apr, and 2 males flew past P.A. 10 May (HGdS). One probable Shiny Cowbird was glimpsed at P.A. 10 May. This species was first reported on the Y.P. in Celestún in May 1996, and in 2000 a few pairs were found at Chunyaxché and Nuevo Hochtún, Q. Roo, with 13 at P.A. (per BM). Only Bronzed Cowbirds were present at these localities and Pez Maya in May. Orange Orioles were building nests or already had nests at two spots between Santa Teresa and Playón, at Santa Teresa, and near the Chumpón entrance in early May (BM, HGdS). In Coz., one Lesser Goldfinch was seen on the cross-island highway and 2 near El Cedral (HGdS).

Undocumented rarities: A Strong-billed Woodcreeper was recorded at Calakmul 12 Mar (JH et al.). One **Great Potoo** was reported in "Chicanná, Camp. near the road into Calakmul" 11 Feb (PAB et al.).

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