

Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva

Xola 314-E

03100 México, D.F.

Mexico

(hgomez@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx)

Goose, a Blue-winged, 12 Cinnamon, and 4 Green-winged Teal, 3 Northern Shovelers, a Gadwall, 6 Redheads, 2 Canvasbacks, 2 Lesser Scaup, and a Ruddy Duck 28 May (WH, SD, K&LG) were probably summering; a second-year male Surf Scoter was there 28 May (LG, WH, vt. SD, KG).

A second-year and 3 ad. Mississippi Kites were on the Río Casas Grandes 28 May (WH, SD, K&LG); this is the only location where the species is known to breed in Mexico. Two Swallow-tailed Kites were at Rancho Los

was noted at Riito, Son. 15 Dec, as was a White-winged Dove, the latter unusual there in winter (RE, OHH).

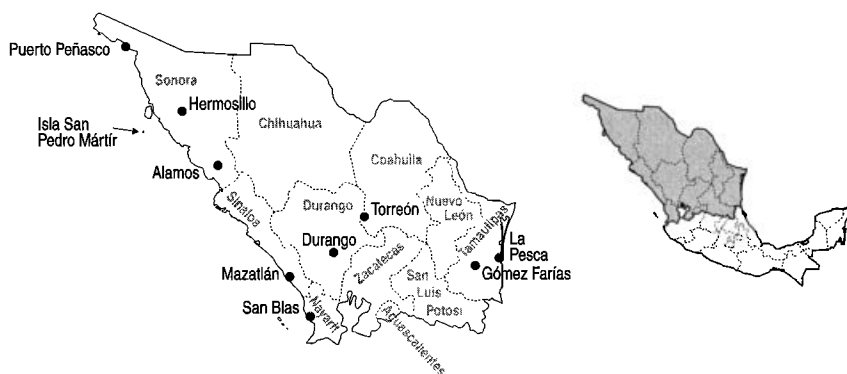
HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

From Mar through May, Anna's Hummingbirds continue to be the most common hummingbird at B.V.C. (FVP, WB). Thirteen Broad-tailed Hummingbirds migrated past a site in the Sierra de San Luis 20–21 Apr (JD, WH); this species is a transient throughout n. Chih. (HGdS), though not mapped there by Howell & Webb (1995). Several singing *Buff-breasted Flycatchers* were in dry pine-oak woodland in the Sierra la Breña, Chih. 29 May (SD, K&LG) and in oaks with some pine in the lower parts of the Mesa de Guacamayas 30 May (WH, SD, K&LG). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers was along the Río Piedras Verdes at Colonia Juárez, Chih. 28 May (WH, SD, K&LG), and several were in the riparian area near Presa Casa de Janos 29 May (WH). Several Brown-crested Flycatchers were on the Río Casas Grandes both e. of Janos and at Casas Grandes, as well as in riparian habitat near Presa Casa de Janos 27 May–1 Jun (WH, SD, K&LG).

A female and 2–3 singing male Gray Vireos were studied on the n. flank of the Sierra de San Luis, Chih. in mid-Apr (JD, WH). Two Warbling Vireos along the Río Casas Grandes at Casas Grandes 28 May, including one singing (WH, SD), were suggestive of local breeding. A Western Scrub-Jay in lower oak-savannah foothill area of the Sierra la Breña 29 May (SD) was in an area where the species has been seen before in summer (WH). Four Cedar Waxwings along the Río Casas Grandes e. of Janos 27 May were somewhat late (WH, SD, KG); following a very strong invasion of the winter, the species was still common in parks and gardens in Torreón, Coah. into mid-May (WB, FVP, AVJ). American Robins were also common there this season, with the last individual noted 26 Apr (FVP). Several Hermit Thrushes were singing on the Mesa de Guacamayas 31 May–1 Jun, and a nest in an alder at 2200 m elevation confirms breeding from Chih. (WH, SD, K&LG).

An alternate-plumaged Red-throated Pipit was with 8 American Pipits at a small grassy field at the Puerto Peñasco, Son. sewage ponds 16–17 Apr (MDC); this constitutes one of very few records from Mexico away from the Baja California Peninsula and is one of only two spring (Apr) records, the other coming from Mich. in 1988. At least 3 territorial male and a pair of Virginia's Warblers were on the Mesa de Guacamayas 31 May (WH, SD, K&LG), where not mapped as breeders by Howell & Webb (1995); 3 Slate-throated Redstarts and 10–12 Crescent-chested Warblers, likewise not mapped in that area, were recorded there 31 May–1 Jun (WH, SD, K&LG). A Northern Waterthrush and 2 Ovenbirds were in B.V.C. 24 Apr (WB, FVP); the latter were recorded at

NORTHERN MEXICO



Abbreviations: B.V.C. (Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah.).

SHEARWATERS THROUGH OWLS

Twenty-five Eared Grebes lingered at Laguna Fierro, Chih. through at least 28 May (WH, SD, K&LG). An Audubon's Shearwater was noted about 200 km w. of Islas Marias, Nay. 8 Apr (K&CR); some recent studies grant full-species status to *subalaris*. An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird was at Los Ébanos Ranch near Barra de Ostiones, Tamps. 12–18 May (ph. LS, ph. AC, ph. SB, JF); except for the first day, it was present at a brackish lake a few km inland, a very unusual setting for this typically oceanic species. An ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron on Río Casas Grandes at Casas Grandes, Chih. 28 May (WH) was in an area where the species was discovered breeding a few years ago; on the same day there, a group of 5 Wood Ducks, plus another pair (WH, SD, K&LG), adds to the evidence that this species breeds there. Numerous Wood Ducks continued to be seen at La Isla on the Nazas R., Dgo.; on 15 Jun, a pair escorting 11 ducklings provided an early nesting record (WB, FVP). A Muscovy Duck was recorded at Cañón de Fernández on the Nazas R. 17 Apr (AVJ, WB, FVP), only the 2nd report for the subregion. At at Laguna Fierro, an ad. and an imm. Snow

Ébanos 7 May, and one Hook-billed Kite was there 8 May (LS). Two pairs of Common Black-Hawks were e. of their mapped range in n. Chih. on the Río San Pedro, upstream from the Presa Casa de Janos, 29 & 30 May (WH, SD, K&LG). A light-morph Short-tailed Hawk was in the Sierra de San Luis 3 Apr (ph. JD). Some 45 American Avocets and 3 Black-necked Stilts in Laguna Fierro 28 May (WH, SD, K&LG) were slightly n. of mapped breeding range. A Hudsonian Godwit in nearly full alternate plumage was at Laguna Fierro 28 May (WH, vt. SD, K&LG). Two Forster's Terns were at Laguna Fierro 28 May (WH, SD, K&LG), apparently the first Chih. record, though not unexpected.

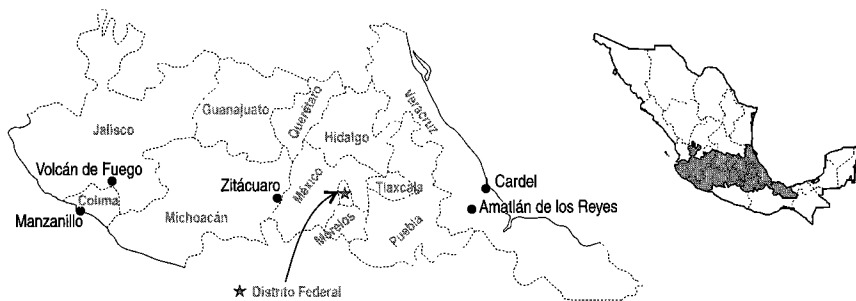
Three Common Ground-Doves were on the Río Casas Grandes e. of Janos 27 May (WH, SD, K&LG), and one was heard in the riparian area near the Presa Casa de Janos 29 May (WH). On 15 May, the first Yellow-billed Cuckoos of the season were noted in a riparian willow-cottonwood corridor near La Isla on the Nazas R. (WB, FVP). A pair of Spotted Owls with an active nest was near near the top of the Mesa de Guacamayas, Chih. 30 May–1 Jun (SD, WH, K&LG); the nest was fairly high up in a Douglas-fir on top of a large clump of dead branches with mistletoe. From the winter season, a Eurasian Collared-Dove

exactly the same spot that produced three records in 2000 and 2002.

The first Painted Bunting of the season in the Torreón area was seen 29 May at La Isla on the Nazas R., where on 15 May, a Black-headed Grosbeak, an uncommon bird for the sub-region, was also noted (WB, FVP). At least 15 Western Tanagers were on Mesa de Guacamayas 30 May–1 Jun (WH, SD, K&LG), and a female Flame-colored Tanager was on a nest (with a male Western Tanager defending the territory around the nest) there 1 Jun (WH, SD, K&LG). An ad. male and a second-year male Indigo Bunting were observed along the Río San Pedro 29 May–1 Jun, suggestive of local breeding (WH, SD, K&LG). Two Botteri's Sparrows were singing along the Ojitos B.B.S. route, Chih. 30 May, where not previously recorded (WH).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): William Beatty, Steve Bein, Michael D. Carmody, Arturo Caso, John DeLong, Scott Dineni, Richard Erickson, Joe Fuhrman, Kathy & Luis Granillo, Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, William Howe, Larry Sansone, Francisco Valdés Peresgasa, Kurt & Cindy Radamaker.

CENTRAL MEXICO



GREBS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Two Least Grebes were inland on Laguna de Tuxpan, Gro. 6 Apr (DM, MDC). Fifteen American White Pelicans were rising in a spiral above Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 5 Mar (HGdS); 2 at the Parque Ecológico Xochimilco, D.F. (hereafter, P.E.X.) 26 May (RW) were apparently summering stragglers. At least 24 Black-crowned Night-Herons were at Bosque de Aragón 12 Mar (HGdS, MPV). A Wood Stork was at Laguna de Sayula, Jal. 26 May (R&JC). Two Turkey Vultures were seen at Contreras, D.F. 5 Mar (MG). A Canada Goose was found at the beach at Yelapa, Jal. 1 May; it stayed there at least two weeks (ph. C&JS, LMV, JT, JE) and seemed to be exhausted. Around 100 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were at a lagoon 12 km s. of Tecomán, Col. 2–22 May (R&JC).

A Hook-billed Kite flew over Parque Ecológico Cuicuilco, D.F. 16 Mar (HGdS, MG). Four imm. Snail Kites were 12 km s. of

Tecomán 21–22 May (R&JC). A probable Cooper's Hawk was at Magdalena Petlacalco, D.F. 18 May (SA). An ad. White-tailed Hawk was at Tierra Colorada, Gro. 31 Apr (MDC), a location where first seen by the same observer in fall 2003. A dark-morph Short-tailed



This male Surf Scoter seen by several observers at Laguna Fierro on 28 May 2005 was Chihuahua's first and was at a very late date. Photograph from videotape by William Howe.

Hawk was at Iguala 7 Apr (MDC). Single Merlins were at Almoloya del Río, Méx. 6 Mar (MG, AD) and at Lomas de Bezares, D.F. 29 Mar (MG). A group of Bearded Wood-Partridges consisting of 3 ads. and 6 chicks was observed in the Parque Ecológico Macuítépetl, Xalapa, where they were reintroduced in 1995 (SA).

A Limpkin and a Collared Plover were noted 12 km s. of Tecomán 22 May (R&JC). A Collared Plover was at the res. at Tepecoacuilco, Gro. 7 Apr (MDC). A Semi-

palmed Plover was inland on Laguna de Tuxpan 6 Apr (MDC), and another was at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco 16 Apr (MG). Among 15,000 Wilson's Phalaropes at Lago de Texcoco, Méx. 7 May were 33 Sanderlings, a Red-necked Phalarope, a Semipalmated Plover, and 80 Stilt Sandpipers (MG). A few Pectorals were among the sandpipers at P.E.X. 30 Apr (ph. HGdS). Two Baird's and 3 Spotted Sandpipers at P.E.X. 26 May (RW) established a new late date. Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns nested at P.E.X. in the 2nd half of May (RW), the first time the species has been recorded in the capital area.

A Striped Cuckoo was heard in dune scrub s. of Diamante, Gro. 1 Apr (MDC), and a Groove-billed Ani was heard at P.E.X. 30 Apr (HGdS), one of few records for D.F.

Numerous Balsas Screech-Owls were between Iguala and San Juan de Unión, Gro. 7 Apr (MDC). Sixty pairs of Burrowing Owls are known to breed near Texcoco, and four

pairs were seen there 7 May (MG). A Common Nighthawk was heard 12 Feb at Cerro de la Estrella, Iztapalapa, D.F. (LASG). An estimated 5000 Vaux's Swifts entered a small chimney near Plaza Loreto, D.F. just before dusk 23 Mar (HGdS, AOI), but only ca. 1000 entered this chimney 28 Mar (HGdS, AOI, MG). Two White-naped Swifts flew over the ITAM Río Hondo, D.F. 28 Mar (HGdS, MG, AOI), and one was at the UNAM Botanical Garden 16 Apr (MG). A Stripe-throated Hermit was seen near Coatepec, Ver., n. of its mapped range, 22 May (CG). A Berylline Hummingbird seen 17 Apr at Desierto de los Leones, D.F. (2700 m elevation) was rather high (MG). Two Violet-crowneds and a Lucifer were among hummingbirds frequenting flowering prickly-pear cactus at P.E.X. 30 Apr (HGdS, MG).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Cuauhtémoc, Col. 18 May (RC) was late. A Greenish Elaenia was heard at the UNAM Botanical Garden 16 Apr (MG). Two Tufted Flycatchers were at Desierto de los Leones 17 Apr (MG). Pileated Flycatchers responded to playback and were seen near Chilpancingo, Gro. and Iguala 4 & 7 Apr (MDC). A White-throated Flycatcher was in a reed marsh near Capulhuac, Méx. 6 Mar (MG, AD). A Black Phoebe was at P.E.X. 30 Apr (HGdS, MG). A Myiarchus flycatcher on Cerro de la Estrella 26 Mar (LASG) was not identified with certainty; any species in this genus would be rare in the D.F. A male Gray-collared Becard was seen near Tetipac, above Taxco, Gro. 8 Apr (MDC).

Up to 4 Brown Jays were observed at just over 1900 m elevation in Comaltepec, Zacapoaxtla, Pue. 12 Mar–14 Apr (BV). At least 2 of the swallows flying above the ITAM Río Hondo in the late afternoon of 28 Mar were apparently Cave Swallows; if confirmed, this would be a new record for the D.F. (HGdS, MG). A Canyon Wren was at La Cima, D.F. 19 Mar (HGdS, MP). An American Dipper was in an unsuitable-looking river in Magdalena Petlacalco 18 May (SA, MA, JR). The last records of Cedar Waxwings in Mexico City were 14–15 May (RW, SA). A male Phainopepla was seen between Tepexco, Pue. and the Pue./Oax. border 20 Mar (BDSP). European Starling is apparently increasing in the subregion: one was at the Tehuacán, Pue. toll booth 8 Apr; 4 were at Texcayacac, Méx., se. of Almoloya del Río, 9 Apr (MDC); one was at Almoloya del Río 5 May; and 3 were at Rancho Capetillo, Méx. 5 May (HGdS, AMH, MG, RW). A pair of Rufous-backed Robins was at the UNAM Iztapalapa, D.F. in the last week of May (RW).

Single Virginia's Warblers were at the UNAM Botanical Garden 10 (MDC) & 16 Apr (MG), and 2 Audubon's Warblers there 26 May were very late (ph. HGdS, MPV). A female American Redstart was in Parque

Ecológico Xochimilco 16 Apr (MG). A female Mourning Warbler captured near Coatepec, Ver. 18 May (AOI, CG) and a MacGillivray's Warbler at P.E.X. 19 May (RW) were considered late. A Wilson's Warbler was still at Desierto de los Leones, D.F. 7 May (SA). Several Red-breasted Chats were near Iguala 7 Apr (MDC). A Northern Cardinal and a Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater were at P.E.X. 30 Apr (HGdS, MG). A pair of Green-striped Brush-Finches, not mapped in Gro. by Howell & Webb (1995), were near Tetipac 8 Apr (MDC). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 16 Apr (MG), one of very few records from D.F. A male and 2 female Varied Buntings were near the Instituto de Ecología, UNAM 25 Mar (MG, JD, JC). An Evening Grosbeak was at La Cima, D.F. 25 Mar (MG, JD, JC), and a Hooded Grosbeak was at San Nicolás Totolapan 7 Apr (SA).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Sergio Aguilar, Marcelo Aranda, Sofía Arenas, Michael D. Carmody, Robert Cecil, John Cecil, Jeff Cheffnick, Alec Davis, Jon Dunn, Jeff Elies, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Clementina González, Manuel Grosselet, Alejandro Meléndez Herrada, David Michael, Luis Morales Vallin, Adán Oliveras de Ita, Michael A. Patten, Mónica Pérez Villafañá, Jaime Rivera, Luis Antonio Sánchez González, Brenda D. Smith-Patten, Cody & Judith Sonntag, Jon Thomson, Bernardino Villa, Richard Wilson.

SOUTHERN MEXICO



March and April were extremely dry and hot throughout the state of Chiapas; the lagoons in the Catazajá area were reported by locals to be at the lowest water levels ever. Numerous forest fires also appeared in the state during these months. Some rains arrived in May, though water levels are still well below normal in autumn 2005. Raptor and shorebird migrations along the coast were good to heavy, as were shorebird, swallow, and warbler migrations to the north in Catazajá. Migration through the highlands appeared light. As in some previous years, an influx of some Gulf Slope migrants was observed in central Oaxaca in late May. All localities are in the state of Oaxaca unless otherwise indicated.

Abbreviations: La Cumbre (Sierra de Alo-



This adult light-morph Short-tailed Hawk was photographed 3 April 2005 in the Sierra de San Luis, Chihuahua, only 2 km from the United States border. Photograph by John DeLong.

paneca, above Oaxaca City); P.H. (Puente de Hierro, below Guelatao); S.A. (San Andrés Huayapan, just e. of Oaxaca City); S.F.P. (San Felipe Park); S.J.G. (San Juan Guelavía); T.V. (Teotitlán del Valle).

GREBES THROUGH SWIFTS

There were 20 Least Grebes at Presa Piedra Azul near T.V. 21 Mar (MP, BDSP). A group of 9 Pied-billed Grebes observed 8 Apr in Laguna La Joya, Chis. were late migrants (AM, JM). A Neotropic Cormorant was seen at S.A. 10–24 Mar. Single ad. Blue-footed Boobies were at Puerto Angel 1 Jun and on the rocks se. of Huatulco 31 May (MDC). Three Brown Pelicans soared over El Triunfo camp, Chis. 28 Mar (MP, KLG et al.). There were 30 American White Pelicans at Presa Miguel Alemán 8 Mar. A nesting colony of at least 50 pairs of Wood Stork was discovered at Laguna Catazajá, Chis. 13 Apr (AM). About 30 Ful-

vous and about 50 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were on Presa Miguel Alemán 8 Mar. On the same date, about 300 of the latter were seen along the river at Camelia Roja, near Tuxtpec, and 10 were seen just e. of T.V. 24 May. A Mexican Duck was seen 17–25 May at S.A., possibly the same bird that has been at Presa Piedra Azul above T.V. for several years now. Three Northern Pintails and several hundred Lesser Scaup were at Presa Miguel Alemán 8 Mar.

Three ad. male Snail Kites were seen s. and e. of Tapachula, Chis. 9–11 Mar, and another was in El Manguito, Chis. 13 Apr (AM, JM); 3 at Presa Miguel Alemán 8 Mar were more expected. Three ad. King Vultures and a Solitary Eagle were seen about halfway between Limonar and Paval, Chis. 1 Apr (MP, KLG et

al.). Two Mississippi Kites were observed migrating over the entrance to Cerro Huitepec, Chis. 1 May, well above normal elevation (AM, JM). A nesting pair of Plumbeous Kites was discovered 1 Apr just w. of Puerto Madero, Chis. (EC, AM, JM), with a small chick in the nest 5 May; a pair possibly breeding was also observed e. of Boca del Cielo, Chis. 5 Apr: both birds continuously defended an area against a Crested Caracara (AM, JM). Not mapped along the coast in Chis., a Cooper's Hawk was seen at Joaquín Amaro 13 Apr (JM). A Black-collared Hawk was seen 11 Mar s. of Miguel Alemán, Chis. near the Guatemalan border (AM, JM), and a Harris's Hawk was observed 7 Apr e. of Estación Mojarra, Chis.

Three Broad-winged Hawks migrating over the entrance to Cerro Huitepec 1 May were perhaps above normal elevation (AM, JM), but the spring migration of this species through the tropics deserves more study. A juv. Red-tailed Hawk was seen migrating close to Barra San Simón, Chis. 1 Apr (JM). A kettle of around 900 mostly light-morph Swainson's Hawks was seen at Las Ánimas, Santa Catarina Ixtepeji, Ixtlán 15 Apr (HYH), 20 were seen soaring over La Cumbre 17 Apr, and one light-morph ad. was seen at Huitzo 23 Apr (MG, GRM). Two Short-tailed Hawks were over El Triunfo 27 & 28 Mar (MP, KLG et al.). A Zone-tailed Hawk seen 24 May at Benito Juárez, above T.V., may have been a breeding bird. An imm. Black Hawk-Eagle was seen flying along the Rio Cajonos 7 Apr between Lalopa and Riagui. A Collared Forest-Falcon was in Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 25 Mar (MP, KLG et al.). An Aplomado Falcon was seen perched in a field with isolated trees near Santa María Jacatepec 9 Mar. A Merlin was at Presa Piedra Azul 22 Mar (MP, BDSP). Two Peregrine Falcons were seen and heard calling to each other 14 Apr at about 3000 m elevation near La Cumbre; a pair has also been seen nearby in Oaxaca City in recent years.

Two West Mexican Chachalacas near Zoquiapan 15 Apr marked the first report of this species in the Gulf Slope drainage of cen. Oaxaca; several heard near La Cumbre 20 Apr at 2600 m may represent, by a few hundred m, a new altitudinal record. Nineteen sightings of Horned Guans at El Triunfo 21–24 Mar (BM), with 7 in one day 27 Mar (MP, KLG et al.), was considered high. A pair of Montezuma Quail was at B.J. 24 May in a potato field, where locals say they kill the birds for digging up the potato plants (*fide* RAN). A Greater Yellowlegs was at S.A. 3 May. Two Solitary Sandpipers were at Presa Piedra Azul 21 Mar (MP, BDSP). Six Hudsonian Godwits were seen 7 Apr e. of El Manguito, slightly early arrivals (AM, JM). Three Long-billed Curlews were observed on the e. side of Mar Muerto, Chis. 16–17 May (AM, JM). A new record for the

coast of Chiapas, 2 **Dunlin** were at El Ironconal 2 May, and one was along Joaquín Amaro canal 14 Apr (JM). Baird's Sandpipers were seen 3 & 17 May at S.A. and near T.V. 3 May. Forty Least Sandpipers were counted 22 Mar at Presa Piedra Azul, where they winter, but a **Red-necked Phalarope** (MP, BDSP, ph. MG) photographed there the next day, was a rare transient and apparently provided the first record for the cen. valleys of Oax.

A new record for Chis., 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were sitting on the shore near La Polka with 5 Laughing Gulls 3 May (JM); one Laughing was seen at S.A. 17 May. A second-year Herring Gull was on the beach near Alvarez near Arriaga, Chis. 30 May (MDC). At least 20 Least Terns were observed chasing a Turkey Vulture around a large sand island on the Usumacinta R. near Hwy. 186, Chis. 6 May (AM). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen 10 May at P.H. and 12 May at T.V. A Striped Cuckoo was seen at Sumidero Canyon, Chis. 26 May (MDC). Two Yellow-naped Parrots were at Paval 1 Apr (MP, KLG et al.). A flock of 7 Green Parakeets seen regularly around downtown San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chis. in Apr–May may have been escapees or altitudinal migrants (AM, JM). Several pairs of Pacific Parakeets were observed nesting in large palms just w. of Puerto Arista, Chis. 16–20 Mar (AM, JM).

A Flammulated Owl was heard 15 Apr near Zoquiapan, at around 2950 m elevation, a location that appears to be reliable for the species in Oax. Four active Mexican Whip-poor-will nests were found 21 Apr–5 May in the La Cumbre area, where this species is numerous. Spot-tailed Nightjars continue to be seen on the Uxpanapa road: 6–10 were counted about 4 km off the main Isthmian hwy. 24 May (MDC). Birds judged to be Chimney Swifts were recorded in Chiapas as follows: a single at Sumidero Canyon N.P. 25 Mar and 10 near Querétaro between Jaltenango and Finca Prusia 26 Mar (MP, KLG et al.). Ten Black Swifts were observed s. of Mazatán, Chis. 1 Apr, and ca. 100 over Tapachula 31 Mar, a large concentration. A pair of Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts was seen 1 Apr se. of Mazatán (AM, JM). White-collared Swifts were recorded somewhat out of range 25 Apr at El Punto, and much more out of their area 17 May, when a flock of about 30 was seen feeding along the Río Salado near S.J.G.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

A Violet-crowned Hummingbird was seen at P.H. 10 May. Citreoline Trogons seen in Maza-

tán 7 Apr were e. of their normal range. A pair of **Turquoise-browed Motmots** was discovered nesting in the banks of the Usumacinta R. n. of Hwy. 186 at the Chis./Tab. border 11 Apr; at least 20 pairs were seen there 6 May (AM). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Ladder-backed Woodpecker were recorded near Camelia Roja (near Tuxtepec) 8 Mar.

A Pileated Flycatcher was mist-netted in the Santo Domingo Botanical Garden in downtown Oaxaca City 24 Apr (ph. MG). Olive-sided Flycatchers were recorded 12 &



Another Chihuahua first discovered on a visit to Laguna Fierro 28 May 2005 was this Hudsonian Godwit in nearly full alternate plumage. Photograph from videotape by William Howe.

21 Apr in the La Cumbre area. White-throated Flycatchers were seen at Camelia Roja 8 Mar and Santa María Jacatepec the next day. Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers returned to T.V. and appeared to be nesting 3–24 May in the same location as in the past two years. At least 5 Brown-crested Flycatchers were seen 5–8 Apr migrating through Laguna La Joya, Chis. (AM, JM). A Flammulated Flycatcher was discovered e. of Mazatán 31 Mar (AM, JM). A Western Kingbird was high (2300 m) at El Punto 25 Apr. Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were still at Tonalá 30 May (MDC).

Two Fork-tailed Flycatchers were at Presa Miguel Alemán 8 Mar. Slaty, Warbling, and Dwarf Vireos were heard singing 16–21 May at S.F.P. A Golden Vireo was at Monte Albán 21 Mar (MP, BDSP), and a Plumbeous Vireo was singing from a completed nest 3 May above T.V., the first nest recorded of this species in cen. Oaxaca. A singing, highly territorial Plumbeous Vireo has been noted at the second sharp switchback above T.V. in Mar 2003 and Mar 2005 (m.ob.), but no female was observed. A Green Shrike-Vireo was heard on Palo Gordo trail in El Triunfo 27 Mar (MP, KLG).

An apparent white-throated form of Black-throated Magpie-Jay was photographed near T.V. 23 Mar (ph. MG, GRM, EdV). The provenance of this individual is unknown; White-throated Magpie-Jay is common just 30 km away (Totolapan, on the Pacific Slope), but Black-throated's range comes no closer than Colima! Three Marsh Wrens were heard 24 Mar in cattails w. of Tlacolula. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen 14 Apr near La Cumbre, where this species is apparently regular in small numbers. Several nesting pairs of Gray-breasted Martins have been observed in downtown San Cristóbal de Las Casas in Apr and May, well above normal elevation (AM, JM). Possibly breeding Violet-green Swallows were seen 17 & 24 May at T.V.; Binford (1989) noted that breeding in this species was not yet confirmed in cen. Oax. Bank Swallows were

seen 3 May at S.A. and S.J.G. A Wood Thrush was recorded 24 Apr along the arroyo at Tierra Colorada below La Cumbre, the 3rd record for cen. Oaxaca. Black Robins (10 Mar–2 May) and Aztec Thrushes (10 Mar–24 Apr) were recorded several times in the La Cumbre area; they are recorded most regularly in fruiting trees on the Yuvila side, often foraging amidst large flocks of American Robins and Gray Silky-Flycatchers, with smaller numbers of White-throated Robins and tanagers.

Several Northern Parulas were observed Mar–May in the mangrove woods as far e. as Joaquín Amaro (JM). A male Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Cerro Huitepec 1 May (AM, JM). Single Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen near T.V. 12 May. A male Blackpoll Warbler was in among a flock of warblers on an oak ridge between Limonar and Paval in the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Chis. 27 Mar (BM). A Hermit Warbler near Yuvila 18 Apr furnished a new late date for the species in cen. Oax. A Blackburnian Warbler was apparently stunned by flying into a window at 3000 m (high) at Cuajimolyas 29 Apr. An American Redstart was recorded 10 & 12 Mar at S.A. Two Ovenbirds were recorded 7 Mar below El Estudiante (the village below La Cumbre). Three Northern Waterthrushes were seen 24 Mar w. of Tlacolula. A Mourning Warbler was seen 16 May at S.F.P. Both a fe-



This immature Kelp Gull or Kelp-like hybrid was found at Las Coloradas, Yucatán on 2 March 2005. Photograph by Pamela Hunt.

male MacGillivray's Warbler at Cerro Huitepec near San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chis. 26 May and a female Wilson's Warbler near San Cristóbal de Las Casas 27 May (MDC) were late. Single Canada Warblers were seen above T.V. 12 May and at S.F.P. 16 May.

Three Yellow-winged Tanagers were at El Triunfo camp 27 Mar (MP, KLG et al.); this species is apparently a recent colonizer there. A Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow at S.F.P. 21 May furnished just the 2nd record for the species in the cen. valleys of Oaxaca. Multiple flocks of Stripe-headed Sparrows were found from Mar Muerto to the Suchiate R. in Mar–

May, suggesting continuous distribution along the Chis. coast (AM, JM). Two Lark Sparrows were noted 13–14 Apr in the open areas s. of Joaquín Amaro (JM). Five **Savannah Sparrows** were discovered at La Gloria, Chis. 16 Mar, and 3 were near San Cayetano, Chis. 7 Apr (AM, JM), all rather farther s. than usual. A Lincoln's Sparrow on Hwy. 190 near the Ocosingo Rd. junction 15 May was a slightly late migrant (AM, JM). A singing Chipping Sparrow was recorded 25 Apr at Tierra Colorada, n. of Oaxaca City: this species is rarely recorded in the breeding season in this area. A Black-chinned Sparrow was recorded 9 Mar at Monte Albán, where rare. Five Vesper Sparrows, a good number, were seen 24 Mar near T.V.

Four Orange-breasted Buntings near Tehuizingo, Pue. 20 Mar (MP, BDSP) were at the edge of their range. A Melodious Blackbird calling near the n. entrance to Cerro Huitepec 29 May was above normal elevation; several were seen between Mar Muerto and the Suchiate R. as well (AM, JM). Small numbers of Yellow-billed Caticques were in the mangroves near Brisas del Mar, Chis. 9–10 Mar, slightly out of normal range (AM, JM). A Bronzed Cowbird at La Cumbre 20 Apr was unusually high at 2800 m. A pair of Elegant Euphonias was noted nesting along the arroyo at S.F.P. 21 May. A Lesser Goldfinch was at Camelia Roja 8 Mar. A pair of Hooded Grosbeaks was seen irregularly on the w. side of San Cristóbal de Las Casas Mar–Apr and 29 May (AM, JM).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Ramiro Aragón, Roque Antonio (RAn), Efraim Castillejos (EC), John M. Forcey, Kimball L. Garrett et al. (David E. Quady, Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers), Manuel Grosselet, Bernard Master, Amy McAndrews (AM), Jorge Montejó (JM), Michael A. Patten, Georgita Ruiz Michel, Brenda D. Smith-Patten, Edgar del Valle, Kerry Wilcox, Habacuc Ychante Huerta. Uncredited observations are by John M. Forcey, Ramiro Aragón, Roque Antonio (RAn), and Kerry Wilcox.

YUCATÁN PENINSULA



Yet another species—Great Black-backed Gull—was recorded for just the second time

in Mexico. This record came from the state of Yucatán, which had another first state record, of White-winged Tanager, and three second state records, Piratic Flycatcher, Streaked Flycatcher, and Collared Trogon.

Abbreviations: J.B. (Jardín botánico near Puerto Morelos, Q. Roo); P.M. (Puerto Morelos); P.P. (Pok-ta-Pok G.C., Cancún, Q. Roo); R.L. (Río Lagartos); R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.); R.S.M. (Rancho Santa María, Q. Roo); R.C. (Ruta de los Cenotes, Puerto Morelos, Q. Roo); S.F. (San Felipe, Yuc.).

HERONS THROUGH TERNS

An Agami Heron, very rare in Mexico, was photographed while feeding in a small pond at km 16 between Majahual and Tamplalam, Q. Roo 10–11 May (ph. LT). Four Black-crowned Night-Herons in a large Mérida garden 3 Mar (JA) were most likely transients. A White-faced Ibis was noted near R.L. 31 Mar (DB); this species was recorded for the first time in the subregion only in Aug 2004. In addition, 12 were observed in a pond at P.M. 7 Apr (DB)! Some 12,000 breeding pairs of Greater Flamingo were at their newly restored nesting island at Punta Mecoh (BM, MT); the total population on the peninsula is estimated at 44,000 birds (MT). A Jabiru was at Laguna San Felipe, s. Q. Roo 8 Mar (BS); another was in savanna at Chunyaxché 25 Apr (IC), and 5 and 9 were seen 21 & 28 May, respectively, along Hwy. 186 near the rice fields at the turnoff for Palizada (DB). A first-year King Vulture was seen flying over the Vigía Chico road 22 Mar (DB).

An **American Wigeon** was at Celestún, Yuc. 30 Mar (DB), and 25 Blue-winged Teal were in a pond at km 4 on the road to Las Coloradas, R.L.B.R. 15 Apr (KK, MSM). **Singing Quail** was recorded for the first time in R.L.B.R. 11 May, with several heard and one seen in secondary forest behind El Cuyo (DB, BM). A flock of 12 Black-throated Bobwhites 9 Mar was at Ox-tankah ruins n. of Chetumal (CL, RC).

A male Hook-billed Kite was near Xcaret 12 Apr (KK, MSM), while a migrating Swallow-tailed Kite was at Río Lagartos 31 Mar (DB). A Crane Hawk was in the forest-savanna area

castrum at Hacienda Tzalamcab, Izamal, and an ad. Roadside Hawk was at nest in a kapok tree at Hacienda Tikuch (BM). An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was over mangroves in the Ría Lagartos estuary 15 Apr (KK, MSM). A juv. Collared Forest-Falcon was seen perched in forest behind El Cuyo 12 May (BM, MT), and at Hacienda Tikuch, a pair with one nestling—the nest was built on the floor of an abandoned building—was reported 25 May by the caretaker (BM).

Two Clapper Rails were seen feeding along the edge of the mangrove near the ecotourism pier 2 at Chelem 4 Apr (BM). A Black-bellied Plover in breeding plumage was at Chelem 24 Apr (BM), while 2 were in salt flats 5 km w. of El Cuyo 12 May (DB, BM). An American Golden-Plover, a rare spring migrant on the peninsula, was at Celestún 26 Apr (DB, FC, VM). A Snowy Plover was on flats behind Chuburná 29 May, along with 2 ad. Wilson's Plovers and their week-old chick (BM, RM). A total of 33 Semipalmated Plovers was counted at Chelem 1 Mar (RL, BM). Three Lesser Yellowlegs were on a pond inland from El Cuyo 12 May (DB, BM), and 2 were on flats behind Chelem 29 May (BM, RM). A migrating flock of ca. 40 White-rumped Sandpipers fed in a near-dry roadside pond behind El Cuyo 5 May (DB, BM). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at R.L. 31 Mar (DB), and another was seen at Celestún 26 Apr (DB, FC, VM). A Stilt Sandpiper was feeding on shallow flats behind Chelem 1 Mar (RL, BM), and 3 were seen at Celestún 26 Apr (DB, FC, VM). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Celestún 30 Mar (ph. DB) was a first for the reserve and only the 3rd reported for the peninsula; 2 were in Celestún 26 Apr (DB, FC, VC).

An ad. Ring-billed Gull was on sandbar behind Chelem 29 May (BM, RM), and a Herring Gull was there 14 Mar (BM). Four reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull included one at Las Coloradas 1 Mar (CD, BW), 4 at Chelem 14 Mar (BM), 2 at R.L. 31 Mar (DB), and 2 in the R.L. estuary 15 Apr (KK, MSM). A first-winter Great Black-backed Gull on the pier at Las Coloradas in the R.L.B.R. 1 Mar represented a first record for the state and the peninsula and only the 2nd documented record for Mexico (CD, ph. BW). An imm. Kelp Gull (or Kelp-like hybrid gull) was photographed near Ría Lagartos 2 Mar (PH); only ad. Kelp Gulls have been documented in the area before. Ten Gull-billed Terns were reported at R.L. 31 Mar (DB), and a high total of 40–50 was tallied during a short boat ride in the R.L. estuary 15 Apr (KK, MSM). Late were single Caspian Terns near El Cuyo 12 May (DB, BM) and at Chuburná 29 May (BM, RM).

CUCKOOS THROUGH PIPITS

A Mangrove Cuckoo was reported in coastal dune habitat 5 km w. of El Cuyo 12 May (DB, MT); 2 were inland at Hacienda Tikuch and

behind El Cuyo 12 May (DB). On 25 May, one ad. Gray Hawk was at nest in a *Brosimum ali-*

Hacienda Tzalamcab 25 May (BM). Up to 5 Pheasant Cuckoos were heard in May at R.S.M.; in 2004, they were heard in the area much earlier in the spring (PW). A Smooth-billed Ani was carefully identified at the edge of a freshwater pond 30 km s. of S.F. on the Panabá road (KK, MSM); one wonders whether it came across the Yucatan canal from Cuba, rather than coming from the Cozumel population. A Yucatan Nightjar was found with Lesser Nighthawks near km 30 s. of S.F. on the evening of 14 Apr (KK, MSM); fewer than usual were heard this spring at R.S.M. (PW).

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was still at Hacienda San Juan Lizárraga near Telchac Pueblo, Yuc. 15 May (KW). Another new record for the R.L.B.R. was a pair of Collared Trogons seen on the road to Tekal behind El Cuyo 7 May (MM, WR). This species is found in the humid forests of n. Q. Roo, not far from El Cuyo—and the only previous records for Yuc. are from Tizimín in 1879. A Collared Araçari was in forest behind El Cuyo 11 May (DB). A Streaked Flycatcher at Hacienda Chichén 2 May (ph. AH, BM) represented a 2nd photographic record for Yuc.; the first, which came to light only recently, was a pair photographed at Sayil ruins 20 Jun 1988 (R. L. Ake, J. R. Ake, ph. E. S. Brinkley). Another summer visitor from South America, Piratic Flycatcher, was seen along the road to Tekal behind El Cuyo 12 May (BM, VM), and 5 were seen or heard 13 May along same road (DB, BM); there was just one previous confirmed state record.

Two Eastern Kingbirds were at Chelem 24 Apr (BM); 2 were in Celestún park 30 Apr (DB); up to 9 at Hacienda Chichén 2–3 May were eating fruits of *Ehretia tinifolia* and Indian laurel trees (BM). A Gray Kingbird, a rare coastal migrant, was on the P.P. 16–17 Apr (KK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Celestún 30 Mar (DB), and 2 were in Celestún Park 30 Apr (DB). A pair of Fork-tailed Flycatchers spent Apr in a Celestún garden (DB). A Philadelphia Vireo was on the P.P. 12 Apr (KK), and at least 3 Red-eyed Vireos each were at S.G., Cozumel 11 Apr (KK, MSM) and in Celestún park 30 Apr (DB). A Black-whiskered Vireo was seen 18 & 21 Apr on P.P., which coincides with a sighting 18 Apr 2002 (KK).

Five Purple Martins were in an area of savanna inland from El Cuyo 12 May (DB). Migrant Barn Swallows numbered 13 at Chelem 24 Apr (BM); 4 were over forest and 3 over dunes at El Cuyo 12 May (BM). For the 2nd consecutive year, White-lored Gnatcatchers were found inland at Hacienda Tzalamcab and adjoining Hacienda Tikuch 25 May (BM). Several Veeries were netted at R.S.M. in late spring, along with Gray-cheeked Thrushes; some apparently use this coastal route before crossing the Gulf of Mexico (PW). Other Gray-cheekeds were seen at km 10 on Vigía

Chico road 13 Apr (KK, MSM) and in Celestún park 30 Apr (DB). A Swainson's Thrush was at Hacienda Chichén 2 May (AH). Two Black Catbirds were feeding on fruits of alamo behind El Cuyo 11 May (DB, BM); another was at Hacienda Tikuch 25 May (BM). An American Pipit, a scarce migrant on the peninsula, was at R.L. 31 Mar (DB).

WAXWINGS THROUGH ORIOLES

Two Yellow Warblers were still passing through Hacienda Chichén 4 May (IB, BG,



Close on the heels of the first record for Mexico, this first-winter Great Black-backed Gull showed up 1 March 2005 on the pier at Las Coloradas, Yucatán. Digiscoped photograph by Brenda Wright.

BM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was near San Gervasio, Cozumel 11 Apr; another was seen along the Vigía Chico road 12 Apr (KK, MSM). Yellow-rumped Warblers made a strong appearance in Chelem 12 Mar, when 50 were encountered during a two-hour walk (BM). Prairie Warbler was observed on 17, 18, & 21 Apr on the P.P. (KK). A molting male Bay-breasted Warbler was at km 10 on Vigía Chico road 12 Apr (KK, MSM); another was seen 30 Apr in Celestún park (DB). A Black-poll Warbler was on P.P. 16 Apr (KK). American Redstarts appeared to be moving northward on the e. coast in mid-Apr: 15 on 10 Apr spanning the P.P., J.B., and entrance to R.C. near P.M.; 30 on Cozumel the next day; and 20 along Vigía Chico road 13 Apr (KK, MSM); a male was still at Chelem 22 Apr (AC). A

(6 birds), on Cozumel 11 Apr (10), and along the Vigía Chico road (2; KK, MSM). A Kentucky Warbler was at P.P. 10 Apr (KK). A male Hooded Warbler that showed up in nets at R.S.M. in late Mar did not fatten up while there; it may have utilized a staging area farther w. for crossing the Gulf (PW).

Late Summer Tanagers include one heard in a Mérida garden 27 Apr (BM) and a male seen at Mayaland Hotel, Chichén Itzá 2 May (AH, BM). A male Scarlet Tanager was at Rancho San Miguel 15 Apr (BM), and 2 were in the park at Celestún 30 Apr (DB). Four male White-winged Tanagers were reported from Hacienda Chichén. A Blue-gray Tanager showed up at Rancho San Salvador in R.L.B.R. 4 May (IN), while a male Red-legged Honeycreeper was in forest behind El Cuyo 12 May (DB). Four Botteri's Sparrows were seen in different locations behind El Cuyo 13 May (IN), and a Lark Sparrow showed up at Celestún 30 Mar (DB). Two Savannah Sparrows were at Celestún 29 Apr (DB). A Blue Grosbeak was at Hacienda Chichén 3 May (IB). Seven Dickcissels were at the Celestún baseball field 1 May (DB).

Five male Bobolinks stuck around R.S.M. during the last two weeks of Apr and first week of May (PW); elsewhere, one was at Chunyaxché, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Yuc. 25 Apr (IC), and a male was near Dzibanché, s. Q. Roo 10 May (LT). A male Orchard Oriole was still at Chelem 24 Apr (BM), and a pair of Yellow-backed Orioles was a surprise in dune vegetation 10 km w. of El Cuyo 12 May (DB, BM). A young male Baltimore Oriole was in Chelem village 14 Mar (BM), and an ad. male was still at Hacienda Chichén 2 May (BM).

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): Joann Andrews, David Bacab, Isabel Barbachano, Ismael Caamal, Antonio Canul, Rafael Chacón, Ron Conkey, Francisco Cutz, Coen Dexter, Luis Garma, Bruce Gordon, Antonio Hidalgo, Pamela Hunt, Ken Kurland, Ramiro Lara, Hugo Lizama, **Barbara MacKinnon**, Mario Marín, Victor Marín, Rodrigo

SA After a massive invasion of Cedar Waxwings over the winter, their northbound migration was carefully monitored this spring. For this subregion, counts were remarkably high well into May, as was also the case elsewhere in Mexico. Thirty were in the Celestún park 30 Apr (DB); 60–70 were behind the Mayaland Hotel, Chichén Itzá 3 May (IB, BG, AH, BM); one was in forest behind El Cuyo 12 May (BM); 20 were on Cozumel 11 May (RC); 20 were on the plaza at Celestún 15 May (DB); 100 were at Tetiz park 17 May (DB); 50 were in the village of Samahil, Yuc. 17 May (HL); ca. 15 were still on Cozumel 17 May (RC); and a remarkable 200 were in a Mérida parking lot 18 May (DB). Of the 30 seen in Cozumel in the afternoon of 23 May, all but one had departed by the next morning (RC).

In addition to tracking the waxwings' whereabouts and numbers, some observers took notes on their foraging preferences. In many areas, the birds were observed feeding on the ripe fruit of the "robble" tree, *Ehretia tinifolia*. At Chunyaxché 16–17 May, 20 were seen taking fruit of the *Manilkara zapota* tree before taking off in a northwesterly direction (IC). On Cozumel, Conkey photographed a waxwing feeding on the seeds of the poisonwood, *Metopium brownie*.

male Prothonotary Warbler was in Celestún park 30 Apr (DB); another was on the n. coast of Cozumel 22 May, rather late (ph. RC). Ovenbirds were at J.B. and R.C., 10 & 14 Apr

Migoya, Ismael Navarro, Julian Pech, Waldemar Rivero, Mike San Miguel, Bev Scott, Luis Téllez, Brenda Wright, Katherine Wingate, Paul Wood. 📷