

# Central America



H. Lee Jones | Oliver Komar

The expansion of open-country species through deforested regions of Central America continues unabated. In Costa Rica alone, Pearl Kite, Southern Lapwing, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Melodious Blackbird, and Crested Oropendola, none of which were on the Costa Rica list two decades ago, continue to extend their ranges, occupying once-forested areas of the country. A more recent example, Tropical Mockingbird, is expanding rapidly after the first birds believed to be of wild provenance were recorded near Palo Verde less than three years ago. Elsewhere, Eastern Meadowlarks have been reported in pastureland and other man-altered grassland areas in Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras in the past few years, all in regions where they did not formerly occur. But a species that has the potential to have the greatest impact on local, and even regional, economies is the non-native Tricolored Munia. In the region, it first appeared in Costa Rica in 1999 and has subsequently spread into nearby rice-producing areas, causing justifiable concern. It was first recorded in Honduras and Belize in 2003 and El Salvador in 2004; it has now, in 2006, reached Panama.

Continuing an unbroken string of "country firsts" each season were the first Pacific Screech-Owl and Cave Swallow for Honduras, El Salvador's first documented Green-winged Teal and Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and Panama's first Tricolored Munia.

## DUCKS THROUGH STORKS

A flock of about 200 Muscovy Ducks at Laguna de San Juan del Gozo, *Usulután* 24 Feb (ph. RV) was a remarkable concentration for El Salvador, although apparently a similar group was at the same site last year. Three female American Wigeons at a shrimp farm at Chomes, on the n. shore of Gulf of Nicoya, 4 Jan (JZ) were noteworthy. This species winters regularly in small numbers in Tempisque Basin, but it is much rarer in other areas of Costa Rica. A pair of Green-winged Teal 13 Jan at Lago Güija, *Santa Ana* (ph. LP) established the first documentation of the species in El Salvador and first record since an aerial

survey reported it in 1947. In Panama, 4 Lesser Scaup on R. Chagres at Ft. San Lorenzo, *Colón* (KK, RM) were in an unexpected locality. And in Guatemala, 6 Ruddy Ducks were in San Miguel Dueñas, *Sacatepéquez* 5 Jan (KE, CA).

Approximately 150 Audubon's Shearwaters 55 km offshore from e. El Salvador 14 Dec (AM) provided the first winter record for El Salvador. A Magnificent Frigatebird was seen over Tres Leguas, nw. *Orange Walk*, Belize 3 Feb (BF); most published inland records of this species have been from late summer. In Guatemala, 2 Least Bitterns were seen in Monterrico N.P., *Santa Rosa* 12 Dec (KE). A Great Blue Heron nest at Turneffe Atoll on 1 Feb (BF) was attended by a pair comprised of a blue morph and a white morph, the latter not often seen in Belize. Seventeen Roseate Spoonbills in a marsh near Las Lajas Beach 5 Feb (GA) provided the 2nd report for *Chiriqui*



With no more than a half-dozen previous reports for Costa Rica, this Nashville Warbler, found in the Botanical Gardens at Tirimbina Rainforest Center 13 and (here) 22 February 2006, was the first to be photographically confirmed in the country. Photograph by Ryan Terrill.

and largest number reported for the province. An extraordinary 120 Jabirus in with 300 Wood Storks at Fresh Catch Fish Farm near La Democracia, *Belize* 27 Jan (CP, CC, RR, SR) was easily the largest concentration ever recorded in Belize or in Central America.

## RAPTORS

The imm. Gray-headed Kite reported from Caye Caulker last spring was still present through the end of the period and is now an ad. (ph. BF, ph. EMc). In El Salvador, 3 Hook-billed Kites at El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* 16 Feb (tPP, CA) were noteworthy and possibly represented transients. A rare winter visitor in Costa Rica, single Northern Harriers were at Parque, 10 km s. of Los Chiles, in the n. Caribbean lowlands, 8 Jan (KEa et al.) and

at La Guinea, 10 km e. of Filadelfia, along R. Tempisque, *Guanacaste* 26 Jan (JZ). The Parake bird was an ad. male. A pair of ad. Crane Hawks was seen 10 Jan (LS) with several other raptor species over fallow rice fields that were being plowed in preparation for cultivation at Sierpe in the s. Pacific lowlands near the mouth of R. Sierpe. This species is very rarely reported anywhere in Costa Rica away from its two centers of abundance in Tortuguero and the lower Tempisque Basin.

In Panama, in the forest along Old Gamboa Road near Summit, an area where the species is seldom reported, 2 ad. Plumbeous Hawks were seen chasing each other and calling 22 Feb (GLA). Now that people are looking, Zone-tailed Hawks are being seen more frequently in the Caribbean lowlands of Honduras. One soaring 2 km s. of Las Mangas, *Atlántida* 19 Feb (MB) and another in the Valle de Aguán w. of Olanchito, *Yoro* 28 Feb (DA) continue a recent trend of one to three reports per year. An intermediate-morph ad. Swainson's Hawk at Blue Creek rice fields, *Orange Walk* 11 Dec (LJ, PB, EB, LH et al.) was thought to be the same individual seen there last winter. In Costa Rica, Swainson's Hawk is an irregular winter visitor in small numbers; however, up to 25 birds attracted to burning sugar cane and rice fields in Bagatzi adjacent to Palo Verde N.P. 6–12 Jan (JZ) represented an unusually large number for the season.

A White-tailed Hawk, very rare in the Panama Canal area, was seen near Metropolitan Nature Park, Panama City 18 Dec (JAC). Quite unexpected was an imm. Harpy Eagle at Quebrada de Oro, Bladen N.R., *Toledo* 15 Dec (JM, SM, ph. SB, SoM, JR). There are very few documented reports of this majestic species from Belize, and this was the first to be confirmed photographically. An ad. Ornate Hawk-Eagle flying over Pipeline Road 23 Feb (GLA) was in the Panamanian lowlands, where it is rare. In Costa Rica, wintering Merlins were at La Fortuna by Volcán Arenal 28 Dec (LC) and at La Guinea, 10 km e. of Filadelfia, along the R. Tempisque, *Guanacaste* 25–26 Jan (JZ). The latter may be the same individual reported from this locality in the fall and perhaps in previous winters.

## RAILS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS

At the Gatún Drop Zone in Sherman, *Colón*, a Gray-breasted Crake was seen 2 Jan (CM), and 2 were seen there 2 Feb (BB, JC, DM); this rarely reported species has only recently been found at this site. A Sungrebe carefully observed at Estero de San Diego, *La Libertad* 23 Jan (MC) was in the same place where El Salvador's first record was obtained 13 months earlier. The Southern Lapwing first

recorded in Belize at Crooked Tree W.S. in Apr 2004 was still present through the end of the period (BZ et al.). A Long-billed Curlew was at Costa del Este in Panama City 9 Feb (AMc). What was thought to be one of 2 Marbled Godwits that have wintered on Caye Caulker the past several winters returned again this winter (J&DB, BZ et al.). A surprising 4 Ring-billed Gulls were at Panama Viejo 9 Feb (MJI), and an ad. Elegant Tern in basic plumage was found 28 Feb among 1000 Sandwich Terns at a beach near downtown Panama City (ph. CB). In El Salvador, a flock of more than 600 Black Skimmers 18 Feb was an exceptional concentration at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* (OK et al.).

Three Scaled Pigeons at Tortuguero N.P. 6 Dec (DL) were apparently the first reported from the heavily birded Tortuguero area; this species is very seldom encountered in the Caribbean lowlands in the e. half of Costa Rica and may exhibit pronounced seasonal movements. Normally restricted in Honduras to cloud forests at elevations above 1200 m, a White-faced Quail-Dove was observed at close range for several minutes 24 Feb (MB) in the lowlands at 150 m at Pico Bonito in *Atlántida*. A Pheasant Cuckoo heard singing at 1500 m from the forest edge at Las Alturas on the s. Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca 6 Feb (JG, AO, JZ) was only the 3rd reported from this area of Costa Rica, the others having been recorded nearby last year.

A Pacific Screech-Owl, the first ever documented in Honduras, was found 11 Feb with a mate on Isla Zacate Grande, in the Gulf of Fonseca (ph. TJ, OK), where it has long been expected. Short-tailed Nighthawk is one of Honduras' most poorly known resident (?) species. Two were reported this winter: one seen about 30 minutes after sunset flying over the soccer field at Cuero y Salado N.W.R., *Atlántida* 12 Jan (D&ES); another flying low over a seasonally flooded pond 30 to 10 minutes before sunrise 29 Feb (RG) and 1 Mar (MB, LSo) 16 km w. of Olanchito, *Yoro*. These sightings support the premise that this species is most likely to be seen in the darkest twilight hours, perhaps explaining why it is not reported more often. The Olanchito sighting is the first report for Honduras away from the Caribbean coast.

## SWIFTS THROUGH TOUCANETS

In the company of 50+ Chestnut-collared Swifts were at least 4 male Black Swifts at El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* 15 Feb (+PP). This represents either the first winter record for El Salvador or earliest spring migration record. A Vaux's Swift seen in a large flock of Short-tailed Swifts above the Gamboa bridge

over the R. Chagres 26 Dec (DM) was unexpected, as this species is rare in the Panama Canal area. A Violet Sabrewing 15 Feb (ph. JiW) at duPlooy's resort in w. Cayo was the first reported for this heavily birded area at the n. edge of the species' range in Belize, and a Brown Violet-ear singing from a high perch at Altos de María, *Panamá* 2 Feb (MJI) was the first reported in that area. Two individuals of the rarely reported Emerald-chinned Hummingbird in El Salvador were captured at the Santa Ana volcano, *Santa Ana* 25 Feb (ph. LA). Four Rufous-crested Coquettes (an unusually high number for any locality in Panama) were at El Valle, *Coclé* 3 Feb (MJI). A male Black-crested Coquette 30 Jan (CG et al.) at 150 m in the Oro Verde reserve in Uvita on Costa Rica's cen. Pacific coast was visiting cashew tree flowers. The species is only occasionally reported from the Pacific slope, and this one was exceptionally far s., well be-



This attractive adult male Prairie Warbler was mist-netted in the Playa Naranjo mangroves in Santa Rosa N.P. 25 December 2005. The species winters in the Caribbean and is a treat anywhere in mainland Central America. Photograph by Maureen and John Woodcock.

yond its normal range limit. In Panama, a female Green Thorntail was at Canopy Lodge, El Valle 16 Dec (GA), and 3 females and an ad. male were there 3 Feb (MJI). Twelve Snowcaps seen at Altos de María, *Panamá* 2 Feb (MJI) was an extraordinary number for this rare species. Convincing details were provided for what was almost certainly a female Broad-tailed Hummingbird seen at El Imposible N.P. 15 Feb (+PP, CA). The species is hypothetical in El Salvador based on two undocumented sight reports. An American Pygmy Kingfisher was at Summit Ponds 18 Dec (DM). Previously rarely reported from the Summit area, it is now being reported more frequently. In El Salvador, one at Estero San Diego 23 Jan (MC) provided the first record for *La Libertad*.

On 16 Feb, at about 450 m in Pico Bonito, seasoned observers saw Yellow-eared Toucanets feeding in the same tree (*Virola kochnyi* or "sangre") with Keel-billed Toucans, Colared Araçaris, and Emerald Toucanets (MB, LSo, DA). The elevational distribution of this

species in Honduras has proven enigmatic; at present, it is rather common above 350 m in Pico Bonito N.P., with only a few recent reports in Pico Bonito below 350 m and from the Moskitia. In his *Distributional Survey of the Birds of Honduras*, Monroe described it as a lowland species rarely reported above 500 m, citing specimens from the n. coast and in Olanchito at elevations below 500 m.

## WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen in Panama at Metropolitan Nature Park 17 Jan (JT) and in Gamboa and the Ammo Dump Ponds about 3 km away 4 Feb (MJI). A Bare-crowned Antbird, rarely reported in Belize was heard between the villages of Blue Creek and Jordan, *Toledo* 26 Jan (LJ). Farther s., a pair was at Dúrika de Buenos Aires 14 Jan (LS), a location in Costa Rica where it was first reported last fall. Seldom reported in the region away from Caye Caulker, where there is a small resident population, a Caribbean Elaenia was carefully studied at Altun Ha, *Orange Walk* 28 Feb (ph. BF et al.). In Panama, a rarely reported Rufous-browed Tyrannulet was at Altos de María, *Panamá* on 2 Feb (MJI)

A Northern Scrub-Flycatcher was at Ft. San Lorenzo, *Colón* 2 Jan (GB), and a Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant was heard on the s. side of R Chagres near Gamboa 26 Dec (DM). The former is rare on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal area, and the latter has not been reported previously this far onto the Atlantic slope. A Bran-colored Flycatcher near the s. end of Old Gamboa Road near Summit 18 Dec (DM) was the first reported in recent years from that locality. A Yellow-margined Flycatcher that responded to a pre-recorded tape was seen and heard at Uvita 5 Dec (CU, NU, CV, PW). In Costa Rica, this primarily Caribbean-slope species is now fairly common in the Pacific lowlands around Ciudad Neily and Paso Canoas near the Panamá border, and it has been recorded at Golfito a little farther west. Uvita is much farther up the coast. It is yet to be determined if this observation is indicative of a species that has been overlooked on the Pacific slope in areas very seldom visited by birders or if it is indicative of a species that is expanding its range.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed along the Coastal Hwy. s. of La Democracia, *Belize* 12 Feb (BF et al.). While relatively common in winter in the Maya Mts., this species is seldom observed in winter in the coastal plain of Belize. A pair of Cattle Tyrants was discovered delivering food to a nest in a palm tree at Tocumen Airport, *Panamá* 15 Feb (MJI). The nest appeared to

have at least 3 half-grown young. This represents only the 2nd known breeding locality for the species in Panama. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Tocumen Marsh 24 Feb (DM, HO) was early. It is not usually reported in the Region before early Mar. About 10,000 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers coming to a nocturnal roost at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 18 Feb (OK, PP et al.) was the largest concentration recorded in El Salvador.

## BECARDS THROUGH MOCKINGBIRDS

A Gray-collared Becard at Mayflower–Bocawina N.P., *Stann Creek* 16 Dec (LJ) was noteworthy, as this species is not often reported in Belize. A White-eyed Vireo was at the Gatún Drop Zone in Sherman, *Colón* 2 Feb (BB, JC, DM). Even more impressive, a Warbling Vireo, only the 2nd ever recorded in Panama, was observed at Finca Hartmann, above Santa Clara, *Chiriquí* 14 Feb (JT). Philadelphia Vireos, normally uncommon to scarce in winter in Belize, were reported more frequently this winter than is typical. A male Gray-breasted Martin in Punta Gorda 14 Dec (LJ) established the earliest “spring” arrival date for this species in Belize, where it is normally absent late Sep–late Dec.

At least 7 Cave Swallows at El Jicarito N.W.R., *Choluteca* 11 Feb (OK, ph. TJ) provided the first record for Honduras, although the species was expected as a winter visitor on the Pacific coast. A Slate-colored Solitaire was mist-netted 26 Feb at the unusually low elevation of 150 m at Pico Bonito, *Atlántida* (MB). The species had not been recorded previously in Honduras below 500 m, and it is decidedly uncommon below 900 m. Why this species and White-faced Quail-Dove, mentioned previously, were so low and at the same location is intriguing. Noteworthy were a Wood Thrush seen on the first part of Pipeline Road, *Soberanía* N.P. 26 Dec (DM) and another seen at Achiote Road, *Colón* 28 Feb (LPa, CW, RW). This is a rare winter visitor in the Panama Canal area. Tropical Mockingbird is in the process of colonizing Costa Rica. Birds of presumed wild provenance were first noted in *Guanacaste* in Mar 2003 and have been noted at several other locations since. One at La Fortuna, near Volcán Arenal 28 Dec (LC) through at least mid-Jan was at a new location for this species.

## WARBLERS

A male Nashville Warbler in the botanical gardens at Tirimbina Rainforest Center 13 & 22 Feb (ph. RT) provided one of the few con-

firmed records for Costa Rica. It was observed pumping its tail, which is apparently more typical of the w. subspecies *ridgwayi* (“Calaveras Warbler”) than of the nominate. In Panama, Northern Parulas were at the Gatún Drop Zone (DM) in Sherman and at Ft. Davis 2 Jan (KK, RM). In Guatemala, one was near L. Yaxhá, *Petén* 3 Dec, and another was found in mangroves in Monterrico, *Santa Rosa* 13 Dec (both KE). What was likely the same Cape May Warbler in imm. female plumage was seen feeding in flowers at Metropolitan Nature Park 9 Feb (MJI) and 21 Feb (JT). These sightings represent the first for the Pacific side of the Panama



Cave Swallow records have long been expected in Honduras, and this one at El Jicarito, *Choluteca* Department, on 11 February 2006, was part of a flock of seven. Photograph by Tom Jenner.

Canal area. Rare anywhere on the mainland, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Saint Catherine Academy, Belize City 18 Feb (PB), and 2 males were at the Keköldi Reserve on the s. Caribbean coast of Costa Rica 25 Jan+ (PPo, DM). One of the latter was captured and banded.

Above-average numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported in some parts of the Region this winter. Worth mentioning were 5 at El Jicarito N.W.R., *Choluteca* 11 Feb (TJ, OK) and one at Pijije, 20 km se. of Liberia, *Guanacaste* 13 Jan (JZ), an area of Costa Rica where it is not often found. In Panama, where it is normally a rare visitor, one was at Altos de Maria, *Coclé* 2 Feb, and



One of two captured at Los Volcanes National Park, El Salvador, this female Emerald-chinned Hummingbird was caught 25 February 2006; the species is rarely observed here. Photograph by Leticia del Carmen Andino.

one was at Ft. San Lorenzo, *Panamá* 6 Feb (both MJI). Golden-cheeked Warblers continue to be reported from new or surprising localities. Providing only the 2nd record for Panama, a female was seen along the road to Respingo in Volcán Barú N.P. above Cerro

Punta, *Chiriquí* 13 Feb (JT). The species was first recorded in Panama last winter in the same area. In El Salvador, 2 males at Bosque La Montaña 4 Dec (†LG, EM) established the first record for *Chalatenango*. Another male at the same locality and in appropriate pine-oak habitat 20 Dec (EM) suggests that this may be a regular wintering locality for the species. With only about nine previous records for El Salvador, and only two of these from the coastal volcanic highlands, 2 Yellow-throated Warblers at Merliot, *La Libertad* 20 Jan (AM) were unexpected. An ad. male Prairie Warbler was mist-netted at the Playa Naranjo mangroves in Santa Rosa N.P., *Guanacaste* 25 Dec (ph. M&JW). The species is an exceptionally rare winter visitor in Costa Rica. Rare in Panama were 2 Palm Warblers at Gatún Drop Zone, Sherman, *Colón* 10 Feb (GA) and 2 Blackpoll Warblers, one at Metropolitan Nature Park 17 Jan (JT) and one at Tocumen Marsh 24 Feb (DM, HO).

Rare in winter was a female Cerulean Warbler at Achiote Road, *Colón* 21 Jan (JT). A Worm-eating Warbler at Metropolitan Nature Park 21 Feb (JT) was both farther e. in Panama than expected and in the Pacific lowlands, where it is rarely recorded. An Ovenbird at 2000 m Cerro Alux, *Guatemala* 15 Jan was at an atypically high elevation (KE, CA). Three Common Yellowthroats were reported from Panama, where it is a rare winter visitor: 2 at Tocumen Marsh 7 Feb (MJI) and one at the Ammo Dump Ponds near Gamboa 13 Feb (AA). A female Hooded Warbler at Palo Verde N.P. 6 Jan (JZ) was in an area of Costa Rica where it is unexpected. In Panama, where it is relatively rare, 3 were reported this winter: one each on the s. side of R. Chagres near Gamboa 26 Dec (DM), just s. of Gamboa, also along the s. side of R. Chagres 4 Feb (MJI), and at Hotel Sol de Melia near *Colón* 24 Feb and 1 Mar (GLA).

## TANAGERS THROUGH MUNIAS

Rosy Thrush-Tanagers continue to be reported from *Dúrika de Buenos Aires*, Costa Rica, where a small population was discovered last fall. The nomadic and unpredictable Slate-colored Seedeater is always worth reporting. At least 3 were heard singing from a woodland at Sabalito de Coto Brus in the se. Pacific region of Costa Rica at 900 m 13

Feb (JZ). This species was very common in this area in 2002 during a big fruiting episode of the local understory bamboo. Elsewhere, Slate-colored Seed eaters, including multiple singing males, appeared in *Carara* N.P. along the Meandrica Trail and near the visitor's cen-

ter, as well as just outside the park near the Villa Lapas Hotel, in late Feb+ (MV et al.). Interestingly, there is no sign of seeding bamboo in the area. A Stripe-headed Brush-Finch was seen 1 Feb at about 600 m along the Vistameres Trail in Altos de Cerro Azul e. of Panama City, where it is not often reported (BB, JC, DM). Belize recorded its first winter-season Dickcissel 14 Dec, when 7 were seen at The Dump rice fields, Toledo 14 Dec (MT, DT, RC).

A singing male Red-winged Blackbird at Rubelsanto, *Alta Verapaz* 20 Dec and 7 Feb was apparently the first ever recorded in that region of Guatemala (KE). Three Eastern Meadowlarks at Big Falls, Toledo 14 Dec (MT, DT, RC) were about 35 km s. of the species' known range in Belize. It has been expanding its range elsewhere in the region in response to expanding agriculture. A male Shiny Cowbird seen near the Ammo Dump Pond 26 Dec (DM) was the first reported from the vicinity of Gamboa, and an Altamira Oriole at Chan Chich, *Orange Walk* 24 Feb (BZ, VE et al.) may have been the first recorded from that heavily birded locality in Belize. Noteworthy in Costa Rica was a Bullock's Oriole seen 26 Dec (LR, OM) feeding with a group of Baltimore Orioles in the town of Tarcoles near Carara N.P., and in Guatemala, a male Red

Crossbill was seen carrying pine needles (probably as nesting material) in Novillero, *Sololá* 1 Jan. A singing male and a female were seen there the next day (KE, CA). Panama recorded its first Tricolored Munia 6 Feb just w. of Summit Nature Park, *Panamá* 6 Feb (MJI); another was seen and photographed in Metropolitan Nature Park the following day (JT). Although these could have been escaped cage birds, this Asian native is spreading elsewhere in Central America, and these likely represented part of the first wave of a spontaneous colonization of the area.

**Corrigenda:** In the 2003 Fall Season report (N.A.B. 58: 157), a Bare-necked Umbrellabird was mistakenly referred to as a Bare-throated Umbrellabird. The Prairie Warbler was observed last winter at Ciudad Colón, *San José*, not simply "Colón" (N.A.B. 59: 340).

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## West Indies & Bermuda



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Winter is always a busy season in the West Indies. The combination of more birds and more observers produces more and longer reports. Increased reporting from Cuba and the Lesser Antilles was especially noticeable this winter and included some remarkable records of threat-

ened endemics and strays from the Old World and North America. A new species for the A.O.U. Area, White-winged Swallow, was seen and photographed.

Taxonomists continue to re-evaluate West Indian birds. Garrido, Wiley, and Kirkconnell (2005). The genus *Icterus* in the West Indies. *Ornitologia Neotropical* 16: 449-470) have proposed splitting Greater Antillean Oriole (*Icterus dominicensis*) into four species: Bahamas Oriole (*I. northropi*), Cuban Oriole (*I. melanopsis*), Hispaniolan Oriole (*I. dominicensis*), and Puerto Rican Oriole (*I. portoricensis*). This proposal is under consideration by the A.O.U. Check-list Committee.

Eighteen dead birds (14 Greater Flamingos, 3 Roseate Spoonbills, and a cormorant) were found on Great Inagua, Bahamas 26-27 February. There was speculation that the birds may have died from "avian flu." The birds were determined to have died from other causes, but articles in the international press led to cancellation of tourist reservations in the Bahamas. This incident reflects the high level of concern over avian diseases

and the care one must exercise when mentioning dead birds (*vide* EC, various newspaper and Internet articles).

### DUCKS THROUGH FLAMINGO

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was photographed 21 Dec at a marsh near Telescope, Grenada (JF). Four ad. West Indian Whistling-Ducks with 8 ducklings were at Laguna Cartagena, Puerto Rico 19 Dec (FS), and 12 ads. were noted at La Belen Res., Najasa, Carmaguey Province, Cuba 25 Jan (WS, JC DO). The C.B.C. on Grand Bahama 16 Dec found 7 Canada Geese on island golf courses Three Snow Geese were at Bermuda Airport 11-13 Dec (G&SH), and 2 spent Feb at the Emerald Bay G.C., Great Exuma, Bahamas (J&BM). Six Wood Ducks were seen at Ruby G.C., Grand Bahama 16 Dec (BH, C.B.C.); 3 were still there 24 Jan (EG). Waterfowl provided two exciting new species for Guadeloupe: a male Garganey at Le Gosier 14 Jan-27 Feb (AL) and an American Black Duck (also first for the Lesser Antilles) at La Desirade 16 Jan-13 Feb (AL). Also in Guade-