

km 27 on the road to Calakmul 7 May were late migrants (AM, JM), as was one seen 8 May at R.L. (JB, MC, RH).

Three male Scarlet Tanagers were at San Crisanto 24 Apr, feeding on gumbo-limbo fruits (BM); others were seen 1 May on Coz., 3 May along the Vigía Chico Rd. (2; JB, MC, RH), and the same day at Uxmal (DB). A single Western Spindalis was detected on Coz. 10-13 Apr (RC, BC, BM). A Blue-gray Tanager was near San Crisanto 20 Mar (BM); this species is commonly found nesting in Mérida as well as in the coastal villages to the n., though it is not mapped here by Howell and

Webb (1995). Two Savannah Sparrows were noted at Churburná harbor 23 Mar (BM, IN); the species has become scarce in the subregion. Two Dickcissels, a late transient, were at Calakmul 6 May (JB, MC, RH), and 7 Bobolinks were seen on Coz. 2 May (JB, MC, RH). An Eastern Meadowlark was seen in a pasture at Hopelchén, Camp. 24 Apr, outside its known distribution (DB). Once more, Shiny Cowbird has shown up at Sian Ka'an, Q. Roo, where 3 males were observed at in a mangrove tree one km n. of Boca Paila 15 Mar (WS). Two Eurasian/African Collared-Doves were reported courting 23 May at Celestún (DB).

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## Central America



H. Lee Jones | Oliver Komar

With this spring report, we welcome Jeffrey McCrary as our Nicaraguan records coordinator. For the first time, we have a country coordinator for Nicaragua, and for the first time national compilers have contributed from all of the Central American countries. Of special interest this period were expeditions to two poorly known areas. Kevin Easley led an expedition to Cocos Island, finding four rare pelagic species and several unexpected migrants. Knut Eisermann carried out an inventory at an isolated patch of lowland humid rain forest in southwestern Honduras, in the Río Amarillo valley near the Copán ruins, producing 19 new records for the department of Copán and a number of interesting range extensions.

This spring was notably different from spring 2004 in one respect. There were no reports of Cedar Waxwing. Thousands were reported a year ago. This was not really surprising, as no Cedar Waxwings were reported during the winter season, in strong contrast to the previous winter. Two country "firsts" surfaced this spring: a well-documented Rud-

dy Crane in Panama and a Hermit Thrush in Honduras. Other Regional rarities included Panama's second Nashville Warbler, Honduras' third White-vented Euphonia, El Salvador's third Roseate Tern and third Spotted Woodcreeper, Costa Rica's second, third, and fourth Swallow-tailed Gulls, and that country's third American Pipit. There are now several records of Swallow-tailed Gull from both Costa Rica and Panama, but until now no photographic evidence or specimen evidence has been published, and the species has not yet been added to the A.O.U. Check-list for North American birds.

### TINAMOUS THROUGH VULTURES

On Cerro Pirre above Cana in e. Darién, a rarely encountered Choco Tinamou was heard 5 Apr (FT). At Indian Creek Village, Toledo, a male Ring-necked Duck was seen 8 Mar (BF). This species is rare in Belize away from Crooked Tree W.S. Since the open ocean between mainland Costa Rica and Cocos I. is rarely visited by birders, almost any pelagic species seen in these waters is worth noting. Two Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen on the trip out 30 Apr, and one was seen on the return trip 5 May (KEa et al.). This species surely passes through Costa Rican waters regularly during migration but probably in small numbers, as indicated here. Single Leach's Storm-Petrels seen on two occasions between the island and mainland 5 May (KEa et al.) are also worth noting. An ad. Red-footed Booby at Isla Uvita off Puerto Limón 15 Mar (LS, GF) was on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, where the species had not previously been reported.

American Bittern is rare anywhere in Cen-

tral America, so one seen in Nicaragua flying low over L. Moyuá, *Matagalpa* 9 May (LL, JM, WA, DK) was noteworthy. Not previously reported from Summit Ponds, Panama Canal Area, was a juv. Agami Heron seen 1 Apr (FT). Two reports of Green Ibis come from Panama. One was seen at the bridge over the R. Frijoles on Pipeline Road in Soberanía N.P. 6 Apr (CB), and 2 were near Chiriquí Grande, *Bocas del Toro* 19 Apr (RM, DM, KK). There are very few verified reports for the Canal Area, and it is very uncommon at the latter locality. An ad. and imm. King Vulture were seen 6 Mar (KE, CA, JLL) on the Pacific slope of Guatemala at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Suchitepéquez*, where the species is rare.

### RAPTORS

Pearl Kite, still expanding its range in Costa Rica, reached new elevational heights when one was observed at 2100 m at Savegre Lodge, San Gerardo de Dota, on the Pacific slope of Cerro de la Muerte 14 Feb (MAM). Another was seen a few km n. of Puerto Armuelles in Panama 11 May (KA), possibly only the 2nd recorded in Chiriquí. A Crane Hawk seen in mangroves on the Bayano R. in e. Panamá 26 Apr (RM) was the first reported from that locality. A rarely seen Solitary Eagle was observed in flight at Cerro Azul e. of Panama City 28 Apr (OK, RoC, CA, DD, NQ). On the Caribbean coast of Honduras, Cooper's, Swainson's, and Broad-winged Hawks were observed migrating over Capiro Calentura N.P. outside Trujillo, *Colón*, in the first week of Apr (MW, GCo). The latter two species migrate principally w. of the Continental Divide.

In Costa Rica, an ad. light-morph Crested Eagle was seen perched and in flight at Tor-

tuguero N.P. 2 Apr (ph. BW, DL). In the past year, there have been several reports from this same area. In Panama, a Crested Eagle was reported at the Cana airstrip 4 Apr (FT). Crested Eagle is considered to be rarer than Harpy Eagle in most areas where the ranges of the two overlap. In Honduras, individual Black Hawk-Eagles soaring over humid broadleaf forest and coffee plantations at two sites near R. Amarillo 27 Apr and 6 May (ph. KE, CA) were the first recorded for *Copán*, as were 3 Barred Forest-Falcons in the same humid broadleaf forest 28 Apr and another at a forest patch nearby 6 May (CA, KE). A Crested Caracara seen near Changuinola, *Bocas del Toro* 16 Apr (RM, DM) provided the first provincial record.

## RAILS

A Ruddy Crake seen in a marsh just ne. of Changuinola, *Bocas del Toro* 20 Mar (†RM) was the first ever reported in Panama. The only other reports s. of n. Nicaragua are apparently two sight reports, possibly representing a single bird, from *Guanacaste*, Costa Rica, in early May 1955 (Paul Slud, 1964, *The Birds of Costa Rica: Distribution and Ecology*). The Panama record most likely represents a vagrant rather than a rare resident population. Also in the vicinity of Changuinola, *Bocas del Toro* were at least 3 Gray-breasted Crakes heard 14–16 Apr (RM, DM), only the 2nd reported for the province and the first for the Panamanian lowlands.

Rufous-necked Wood-Rails were seen and heard this spring from all three of J&MW's monitoring sites, Tamarindo, Naranjo, and Estero Iguanito, in mangroves on the ocean side of the Nicoya Pen., where seldom reported. Up to 4 Uniform Crakes were heard, and 2 seen, 13 & 18 Apr near Chiriquí Grande, *Bocas del Toro* (RM, DM, KK); 2 were heard ne. of Changuinola, *Bocas del Toro* 14 Apr, and one was heard at the same place 17 Apr (RM, DM). There are few previous reports from Panama. In Costa Rica, a Yellow-breasted Crake was seen as it was flushed on three occasions from a wet pasture in El Tigre about 3 km e. of La Selva in late Mar (KEa et al.). This very secretive species is seldom reported from Costa Rica, although it is probably widely distributed.

## THICK-KNEES THROUGH JAEGER

Two Double-striped Thick-knees in a fallow harvested rice field 5 km s. of Matapalo between Quepos and Dominical 23 Apr (PM), following close on the heels of the first record



Herring Gulls in Central America are usually first-winter birds and are rarely recorded outside of winter. Although this second-summer gull at the mouth of the Río Jiboa, found on the late date of 23 May 2006, was initially identified as a Herring Gull, it has generated much debate on the Internet. It may be a hybrid (note dark eye and large bill), and Herring Gull may not even have been one of the parents. Photograph by Tom Jenner.

from the Caribbean lowlands last fall (published in the journal *Zeledonia*), were considerably farther s. on the Pacific coastal plain of Costa Rica than previously reported—apparently the first ever recorded s. of Jaco. Suitable habitat for this species exists all along the Pacific coast down into Panamá, leaving open the possibility of an incipient southerly range expansion. A Northern Jacana seen on the Chagres R. about 3 km upstream from Gamboa, Canal Area 16 May (GA) represented the



A pocket of rainforest and associated coffee plantations in the Río Amarillo valley in the Department of Copán in western Honduras was discovered to host isolated populations of nearly 20 bird species this spring. The Black-crested Coquette (male, 2 May 2006) is an example of one of these species. Photograph by Knut Eisermann.

easternmost record for this species. In Costa Rica, an ad. Watted Jacana was seen 13–17 Mar in the San Joaquín marsh, San Vito, *Puntarenas* (JZ, GF), where one bird has appeared during the spring months since 2004, when it was an imm. El Salvador's 4th Baird's Sandpiper was at the mouth of the R. Jiboa, *La Paz* 23 May (ph., †TJ). It was at the same

locality as El Salvador's first spring record in Apr 2005.

An ad. Herring Gull was seen between the Costa Rican mainland and Cocos I. 5 May (KEa et al.). This species is seldom seen in Costa Rica, and an ad. is an even rarer occurrence. A possible second-summer Herring Gull at the mouth of the R. Jiboa, *La Paz* 23 May (ph., †TJ) would be the first spring record for El Salvador, but some features suggest a hybrid, possibly Kelp × Herring. Two Swallow-tailed Gulls were seen the night of 30 Apr following a ship about three-fourths of the way out to Cocos I. (ph. KEa et al.). Later, 3 were seen with the ship near the island pre-dawn 1 May. Finally, one bird was seen around 8:00 a.m. on 5 May, about one-third of the way back to the mainland from the island (roughly 6° 45' N). This is only the 2nd time this species has been reported from Costa Rica waters. The first record was of birds seen at night off the tip of the Burica Pen. at the Costa Rica–Panama border in Mar 2003. A nearby sighting in Apr 2000, however, was believed to be in Panama waters.

Four Sooty Terns seen on a rocky islet in Wafer Bay, Cocos I. 2 May (KEa et al.) were possibly nesting. This species was reported as nesting at the island 22 May 1962, when 30 nests were counted on Isla Manuelita at the n. end of Cocos, but it has not been reported nesting there since. In El Salvador, a concentration of 960 Black Terns resting on sand bars at Barra Salada, *Sonsonate* 7 May was noteworthy (OK, TJ, JF); only 30 of these birds were in breeding plumage. A still impressive 75 were at the mouth of R. Jiboa, *La Paz* 23 May (TJ). A Roseate Tern at Barra Salada 7 May (†OK, TJ) was only the 3rd recorded for El Salvador and the first for *Sonsonate*. Parasitic Jaeger is the only species of stercorariid reliably reported from Honduras, where it is considered a vagrant. A dark-morph ad. was documented from the beach near the mouth of R. Platano 7 Apr (†D&ES, GF, DH), and a subad. was photographed 11 Apr at Laguna de Brus, *Gracias a Dios* (vt. D&ES, GF, DH).

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## PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS

In Honduras, 3 Short-billed Pigeons found in a humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo, *Copán* 24–28 Apr (v.r. KE), were substantially isolated from other known populations. In Costa Rica, up to 13 Scarlet Macaws at La Selva late Feb–Apr (m.ob.) were the first to appear at La Selva in perhaps 30 years. In addition, 3 were seen 8 Apr near Chilamate, 10 km nw. of La Selva, and 10 were seen 20

May at Boca Tapada de San Carlos, 35 km nw. of La Selva (both JZ). One can only speculate if these were resident birds or visitors from Nicaragua—or perhaps strays from a small remnant population near the n. edge of Costa Rica that had been presumed extirpated. Is the sudden appearance of these birds a positive result of conservation efforts and an illustration of biological corridors in action? Or is deforestation and poaching in Nicaragua driving these birds to the south?

In Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, Barred Parakeets are normally found in high-altitude cloud forests. It was surprising, therefore, to find the species daily (11 Apr–8 May) at 700 m in bamboo stands on the flood plain of the R. Amarillo, near the village of R. Amarillo, *Copán*; at least 100 were present 8 May (ph. KE, CA, OK). A Spectacled Parrotlet, typically a lowland species, was seen at Cana 3 Apr (FT), providing the first record for that e. *Darién* locality. A small population of Brown-hooded Parrots was found in humid broadleaf forest 3 km nw. of R. Amarillo 26–28 Apr and 8 May (v.r. KE), establishing the first records for *Copán*. Groups of one or two pairs were heard each day. In Las Alturas on the s. Pacific slope of Cordillera Talamanca, a Pheasant Cuckoo heard singing from the forest edge 6 Feb at 1500 m (JG, AO, JZ) provided the 3rd report for this area. Single singing birds were heard last year in Mar from two other areas on the Las Alturas farm.

Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoos put on a show for birders and other visitors to the Rainforest Aerial Tram bordering Braulio Carrillo N.P. 29 Mar–8 Apr (m.ob.). Up to 3 were seen together regularly from the tram, the loading platform, the parking lot, the coffee shop, and even right outside the plate glass windows of the gift shop. A persistent army ant swarm in the area around the tram enticed these rare and seldom-seen birds into the open. At least 3 Bare-shanked Screech-Owls heard calling and one seen at 1600 m about 15 km nw. of Hato Chamí 4 Mar (WA, GA) provided the first report from e. *Chiriquí*. Although considered rare in Honduras, Crested Owls were noted to be fairly common this spring in Pico Bonito N.P., *Atlántida* up to 900 m (DA). Anderson either heard or saw an individual on about 70% of visits into forested areas between dusk and dawn. To the southwest, Crested Owls were recorded on at least three territories in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo, a first record for *Copán*, 2 May (v.r. KE).



Sparkling-tailed Hummingbirds are rarely reported and even more rarely captured in El Salvador. This female was mist-netted at Montecristo National Park on 23 March 2006. Photograph by Leticia Andino.

### NIGHTJARS THROUGH TROGONS

A Dusky Nightjar calling and seen at about 1700 m about 10 km nnw. of Hato Chamí, *Chiriquí* 5–6 Mar (GA, WA) established the easternmost report for this species. Easley reported seeing and hearing several White-tailed Nightjars in Apr along the road to Durika de Buenos Aires at 900 m on the s. Pacific slope of Costa Rica. This species is very seldom reported in Costa Rica, but it appears to be common here in the grasslands along the road up to what is now known as the Rosy Thrush-Tanager spot. A Great Potoo was heard 4 Mar 2 km n. of Las Mangas, *Atlántida* (MB, DA) in primary rain forest. This is the 2nd report from Honduras in the last two years. Reports of Rufous-crested Coquette, rare in Panama, included a male along Pipeline Road 31 Mar; up to 5 females at Cerro Azul, *Panamá* 2 Apr; 2 females at Cana 3 Apr; and one female at Cana 4 Apr (all FT). A male Black-crested Coquette in coffee plantations near R. Amarillo 2 May provided documentation of an isolated population in *Copán* (ph. KE).

Two female Violet-crowned Woodnymphs were seen near the peak of 940-m Mt. Margaret in e. *Cayo* 8–9 May (PB, GC, DT, PW, SR, IM). The species has only been recorded in Belize n. of *Toledo*, where it is rare and localized, on one prior occasion. Two female Mangrove Hummingbirds were captured at Tamarindo Mangroves (date uncertain; ph. J&MW). Stiles and Skutch list this species as occurring only around the Gulf of Nicoya and not from the w. side of the peninsula. As the species is reported closer and closer to the Nicaraguan border, it may soon lose its status as a Costa Rican endemic. A male Snowcap was seen visiting feeders at Bosque de Paz at 1600 m on the Caribbean slope of Poás Volcano 15–20 Mar (VP). This is an unusually

high elevation for this species. A Purple-crowned Fairy was at L Moyuá, *Darío*, *Matagalpa* Nicaragua 9 May (LL, JM, WA DK).

A pair of Purple-throated Woodstars was seen at Cana 3 Apr (FT). This species is rare in Panama. A female Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird was mist-netted at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 23 Mar 2006 (ph. LA). The species is rarely reported anywhere in El Salvador. A second-year male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was mist-netted at Finca Corteza in San Vito, *Puntarenas* 15 Mar (AO; San Vito Bird Club) near the Panama border,

where rare and near the edge of its wintering range. A small population of Slaty-tailed Trogons (at least 2) was found in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo (v.r. KE) 26 Apr, which extends the range into *Copán*. Another 3+ were observed in shaded coffee plantations 2.5 km s. of R. Amarillo at the unusual elevation of 1100 m on 13, 14, & 23 Apr (v.r. KE).

### KINGFISHERS THROUGH COTINGAS

An Amazon Kingfisher at Cana 4 Apr (FT) was the first reported from this site. An American Pygmy Kingfisher along a creek near R. Amarillo, *Copán* 28 Apr (KE) was unexpected and a first record for that department. Rare at Cana was a female Rufous-tailed Jacamar 7 Apr (FT). A Tawny-winged Woodcreeper in humid broadleaf forest 5 km n. of R. Amarillo 26 Apr (KE) extends this species' range into *Copán*, Honduras. A Strong-billed Woodcreeper at Mayflower–Bocawina N.P., *Stann Creek* 3 Mar (BF et al.) was in an area where this highly localized species in Belize had not previously been reported. A Spotted Woodcreeper mist-netted 22 Mar at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* (ph. VG) represented the first record for *Santa Ana* and only the 3rd documented record for El Salvador. The species was not entirely unexpected, however, as one (conceivably the same individual) was found in Jul 2005 in the Honduras portion of the park (KE).

At least 3 Yellow-bellied Tyrannulets at R. Amarillo 23–26 Apr (v.r. KE) extend this species' range into *Copán*, Honduras. Another species rare at Cana was a Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet 4 Apr (FT). Unexpected along the Pipeline Road was a Yellow-green Tyrannulet heard 2 Mar (GLA). A Rufous-browed Tyrannulet 8 May (KA, TS) on the Sora–El Valle road just above the village of Mato Ahogado,

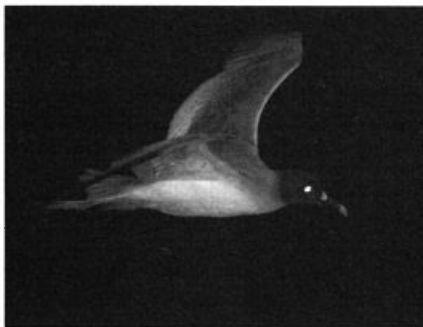
*Panamá*, may represent only the 2nd report from this locality. Paltry Tyrannulets were fairly common in humid broadleaf forest and in shaded coffee plantations near R. Amarillo, *Copán* (v.r. KE) on all days from 13 Apr–8 May. This appears to be an isolated population. In Guatemala, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Rocjá Pomtilá, *Alta Verapaz* 24 May (RC) was a late spring migrant, but a Least Flycatcher there the day before was exceptionally late (EC).

Two Rufous Mourners were singing in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo 25 Apr, establishing a new locality for the species. It has been recorded at one other site in *Copán*. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher 11 Mar at Lubaantun, *Toledo* (CL) was early, but a Streaked Flycatcher at Nim Li Punit, *Toledo* 8 Mar (CL) may have established the earliest spring date yet for this uncommon species in Belize. In Costa Rica, at the s. extreme of its winter range, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen in a rice field at Finca 18 in Siepre de Osa (s. Pacific lowlands in the Río Sierpe–Río Terraba delta) 17 Mar (GF). Rarely reported in Panama was a Snowy Cotinga seen 28 km n. of Punta Peña on the road to Almirante, *Bocas del Toro* 14 Apr (RM, DM).

## VIREOS THROUGH PIPITS

In Guatemala, the last White-eyed Vireo of the season was reported at Rocjá Pomtilá 14 Apr (EC), and a Yellow-green Vireo at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Suchitepéquez* 6 Mar (KE) was early. At least 9 Green Shrike-Vireos at R. Amarillo 23–28 Apr (v.r. KE) extend this species' range into *Copán*, Honduras. A well-documented Brown-chested Martin was observed with a small group of Gray-breasted Martins between Palmar Sur and Ciudad Cortés in the s. Pacific lowlands along the coastal hwy. 25 Mar (†CaL, DP), and another or the same individual was found not far away 12 Apr at ca. 1000 m in San Vito (†AS). The few previous records from Costa Rica have all been May–mid-Sep. Tree Swallow is a rare migrant in Panama, so a flock seen near the Gatún Yacht Club near Colón 12 Apr (JT) was noteworthy. Providing only the 2nd record for Cocos I. (the first was in Apr 2005) was a group of 6 Cliff Swallows seen 1 May (KEa et al.).

Two Rufous-and-white Wrens found 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo 24–25 Apr (v.r. KE) established a new locality for this species in Honduras. The species is also known from the Valle de Copán about 20 km to the southwest. Another first for Cana in e. *Darién* was a Tropical Gnatcatcher seen 6 Apr (FT). Following the capture of a Slate-colored Solitaire at 150 m elevation in Pico Bonito, *Atlántida* in Feb,



Swallow-tailed Gulls have been reported twice in recent years in North American waters off the Pacific coast of Panama and Costa Rica. This bird was observed before dawn at sea between the Costa Rican mainland and Cocos Island 30 April 2006; it provided the second record for Costa Rica and the second photographically documented record for North America, the first being from Pacific Grove, California, in June 1985. Photograph by Kevin Easley.

another was mist-netted at the same location 26 Mar (MB). A slightly extralimital Hermit Thrush 3 km s. of R. Amarillo 23 Apr (†KE) was apparently the first for Honduras. Rare in e. Panama, a Wood Thrush at Cana 7 Apr (FT) was the first reported from this site; one at Rocjá Pomtilá in Guatemala 6 May (EC) was a late spring migrant. Clay-colored Robins seen at Cana 3–4 Apr (FT) were the first reported from this site.

A Gray Catbird that approached and circled a boat well out to sea en route from Cocos I. 5 May (KEa et al.) and then headed north-



From 29 March (here) until 8 April 2006, a persistent army ant swarm at the Rainforest Aerial Tram adjacent to Braulio Carrillo National Park in Costa Rica enticed as many as three Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoos at a time into the open, where they could easily be observed from the loading platform, the parking lot, the coffee shop, and even from the plate glass windows of the gift shop. The species is rarely observed in the open. Photograph by Warner Bonilla.

ward over the water was most unexpected on the Pacific side of Costa Rica. Tropical Mockingbirds are apparently more common in the Pacific region of Nicaragua than previously

reported. This species was nesting in May along the sw. shoreline of L. Managua in low brush close to shore. Additionally, a singing individual was observed on Chiltepe Pen. 20 Jun (all LL, JM, WA, DK). In Costa Rica, one visited a fruit feeder at Bosque de Paz late Feb–mid-Mar (RaC, VP). This bird was at a new location and at the highest elevation (1600 m) yet reported in Costa Rica. An American Pipit seen daily at the soccer field and along the beach at Wafer Bay, Cocos I. from 1–4 May (ph. KEa et al.) provided only the 3rd record for Costa Rica. Both previous records were from the mouth of the R. Tarcóles, one in autumn 1993 (JV) and another 28 Jan 2005 (JH, RH).

## WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Blue-winged Warbler is seldom reported on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, so 2 seen at Takalik Abaj, *Retalhuleu* 5 Mar (KE, CA) were unexpected. An Orange-crowned Warbler seen at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 6 May (JF, TJ) was only the 4th reported for El Salvador and the first in spring. A Nashville Warbler seen near the Gatún Yacht Club, near Colón 31 Mar (JT) established the 2nd Panama record and the first from the Canal Area. A female Blackburnian Warbler at Finca Patrocinio, *Quetzaltenango* 4 Mar (KE, CA) was an exceptionally early migrant. Although there are nearly a dozen documented records of Yellow-throated Warbler in El Salvador, all have been in fall or winter. The first spring record was an individual seen at Merliot, *La Libertad* 23 Mar (TJ).

Although fairly common in winter on the cayes, a Prairie Warbler at Pelican Beach, *Stann Creek* 1 Mar (BF et al.) was on the Belize mainland, where the species is seldom seen. As part of an ongoing study of Cerulean Warbler migration routes through n. Central America, 21 Cerulean Warblers were recorded in Apr on the Caribbean coast between Trujillo, *Colón* and Omoa, *Cortés*, and at Copán Ruinas, *Copán* in the interior of Honduras (MW, GC, DA et al.). Similar to last year's results, the mt. ranges facing the Caribbean had the highest densities. A Northern Waterthrush briefly visited the dining area of a boat bound for Cocos I. from the Costa Rican mainland 30 Apr (KEa et al.) before flying off over open ocean to the north. In Honduras, a late Red-faced Warbler in a shaded coffee plantation at R. Amarillo 1 May (CA) and a male Scarlet Tanager mist-netted in nearby broadleaf forest 4 May (ph. KE, CA) both furnished first records for *Copán*.

A small outlying population of Flame-colored Tanagers was discovered on top of Mt. Margaret, *Cayo* in 1994 (MM) and found

again in 1997, when 6 were counted (LJ). A short expedition to the peak 8–9 May (MM) documented a single individual, suggesting that the population is extant but perhaps not for long. The status of Golden-hooded Tanager in w. Honduras is poorly understood. Several individuals, including a pair nest-building at the unusual elevation of 1100 m, were found 23 Apr and 2 & 6 May in shaded coffee plantations 3 km s. and se. of R. Amarillo (ph., v.r. KE, CA) and 27 Apr and 8 May along the edge of humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo (KE). These represented new localities for this tanager, although the species has been recorded at one other site in *Copán*.

### SEEDEATERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

After an absence of reports in Belize for several years, about 6 Slate-colored Seedeaters were found in spiny bamboo along the Sibun R., Cayo 16 Apr+ (EB, DB), less than one km downstream of its confluence with Caves Branch. The following day, 2 more were found nearby at Hellgate. The Slate-colored Seedeaters at Carara N.P., Costa Rica in Feb remained until at least late Apr. A late report of ca. 6 Yellow-bellied Seedeaters seen along the Peninsula road by L. Arenal Dam 1 Feb (JJG) may have provided the first record for the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica. The only other place on the Caribbean side where they are known to occur is around Cartago. This record is also much farther n. and w. than any previous records. Many Nicaraguan Seed-Finches were seen in abandoned rice fields w. of Changuinola, *Bocas del Toro* 15–17 Apr (DM, RM, KK); there are few previous reports from Panama.

A young (molting) male Blue Seedeater captured 6 Apr and a female captured 7 Apr at El Imposible N.P. (ph. LA) provided only the 2nd and 3rd spring records for El Salvador. A Yellow-faced Grassquit near Mile 24 on the Western Hwy. 9 Apr (PB) represented a short northward range extension of this species in Belize. After two decades of rapid expansion following its discovery in Belize around 1980, the population appears now to have stabilized. A small population of Orange-billed Sparrows was found in humid broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo, *Copán* 25 Apr (v.r. KE). This population is substantially isolated from the known range of this species near the Caribbean coast, by perhaps 50 km or more.

In Guatemala, at least one Savannah Sparrow was seen 2 Mar in grass savannah at ca. 2800 m between Momostenango and San Francisco El Alto, *Totonicapán* (JB, KE), where nesting has been assumed but not confirmed. Another was seen 13 Apr in the Sier-

ra de los Cuchumatanes, 2 km s. of Páquix, *Huehuetenango* (ph. TJ). Grayish Saltator, first reported for Panama in 2003, now appears to be fairly common around Changuinola in *Bocas del Toro*. One was seen on a side road off the main road between Changuinola and Guabito 21 Mar, and another was heard at a different location along the main road the same day (KK, RM). Several were seen and heard at various localities around Changuinola 14–18 Apr (RM, DM, KK). Another isolated rainforest species found in humid



An American Pipit, only the third recorded in Costa Rica, was observed on the beach at Wafer Bay, Cocos Island from 1 (here) through 4 May 2006; it was located by a birding tour group visiting the island. Photograph by Kevin Easley.

broadleaf forest 5 km nw. of R. Amarillo is Black-faced Grosbeak, of which 2 were found singing 24 Apr (v.r. KE).

### BLACKBIRDS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

A female Bobolink seen perched at Wafer Bay and a male seen in flight over Chatham Bay, Cocos I. 4 May (KEa et al.) were unexpected. There are several previous spring records from Cocos I. between 28 Mar and 26 Apr. It is extremely rare on the mainland in spring. On 26 Mar, at least 6 male Red-winged Blackbirds were observed at Rubelsanto, *Alta Verapaz*, where a lone singing male had been present this past winter (KE, CA). These recent records apparently represent a significant range expansion. At least 6 Eastern Meadowlarks were seen near the village of El Tucán Uno in s. *Petén* 28 Mar (KE, CA). The site is 80 km s. of a known population at La Libertad. Although PROEVAL RAXMU has been conducting monthly bird monitoring since 2001 in Rocjá Pomtilá, *Alta Verapaz*, Eastern Meadowlark was not recorded there until 25 May (JC).

Shiny Cowbirds were seen in fair numbers in the Cana Station clearing daily 3–5 Apr (FT). There are few if any previous records from this site. A Black-cowled Oriole seen 10 Apr (LG, LC, LM, G&HL), and a pair present

until the 17th (HL) in the R. Tarcoles mangroves on the cen. Pacific coast near Carara N.P., provided more reports of this species for the Pacific slope, where it has appeared recently in widely separated areas. Although these birds have lingered for a few weeks or a month, an established population has yet to be documented. Single Orange-crowned Orioles seen at Cana 3–4 Apr (FT) were the first records from this site. In El Salvador, the Yellow-winged Cacique colonization documented in summer 2005 was reconfirmed 7 May this year, with at least 10 nests near Los Cóbano, *Sonsonate* (ph. TJ, OK, JF). At the colony site, 8 ad. males and 3 females were observed, while 3 males (2 of them second-year birds) were found up to 5 km away. A male White-vented Euphonia was closely observed in Pico Bonito N.P., *Atlántida* 24 May (DA). Surprisingly, this species had only been reported in Honduras twice before, and neither was adequately documented.

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