

Héctor Gómez de Silva

## NORTHERN MEXICO



### DUCKS THROUGH TROGONS

Wood Ducks were seen in good numbers on the Nazas R., Dgo. throughout the period, including several ducklings (FVP et al.). A vocalizing male **Singing Quail** was on the road to El Cuarenteno, Nay. 28 Jul (MC); this species was not mapped in this state by Howell and Webb (1995). A **Pinnated Bittern** was in a large marsh at Altamira, Tamps. 9 Jul (MC), probably a first state record and northernmost anywhere. A **White-tailed Hawk** was around 10 km n. of Durango, Dgo. 28 Jun (AP). Up to 2 **White-tailed Kites** were at Quinta Graciela, Coah. 4-22 Jun (AD). An ad. **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** was at Mirador del Águila, Nay. 28 Jul 2005 (CP). A **Limpkin** was heard on the lower Singayta rd. near San Blas, Nay. 28 Jul (MC), adding evidence that this species is resident in this area.

Two **Black-necked Stilts** were seen near the Chihuahua, Chih. airport 30 Jun (AP). An ad. **Snowy Plover** was with a chick was 2 km n. of at El Faro de Punta Borrascosa, Son. 17 Jun, where around 100 **Least Terns** were nesting (ESM, MG). **Eurasian Collared-Dove** records from Chih. 24-25 Jun include 5 at Buenaventura, 5-6 on roadside wires between there and Galeana, 2-3 in Nuevo Casas Grandes, one in Janos, one in Ricardo Flores Magón, and one in Chihuahua (AP); up to 8 were at Quinta Graciela, Coah. through Jun (AD). A pair of **Military Macaws** was at 2600 m elevation in the mts. just n. of Valparaíso, Zac. 18 Jul (RB). A pair of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** in Cañón de Fernández S.P. on the Nazas R. 15 Jul were the first for the season, more than two months later than usual (FVP et al.). Two or 3 **Spotted Owls** were heard at Cuevecillas, Dgo. 12 Jul (HGdS). A vocalizing **Eared Poorwill** was at La Noria, Nay. 30 Jul (MC). Around 15 **White-naped Swifts** were at Salto del Agua Llovida, Dgo. 11 Jul

(HGdS, MAM). A **Violaceous Trogon** was seen and audio-recorded near Gómez Farias, Tamps. 22 Jun (EB, EPS). An **Elegant Trogon** was at 1620 m elevation in Cañón Prieto, just above the village of Ojo Frio, Chih. 12 Jun (MW et al.). Three **Eared Quetzals** were at Mesa de Guacamayas, Chih. 11-12 Jun (MW et al.). **Mountain and Elegant Trogons** and **Eared Quetzals** were all found in Arroyo las Playas and Bajío de Aguinaldos, Dgo. 12-14 Jul (HGdS, MAM).

### WOODCREEPERS THROUGH SPARROWS

An **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** was on El Cuarenteno road 29 Jul (MC). Records of **White-throated Flycatcher** from Dgo. include one in a stand of small cypresses in Rancho Tepalcates, Dgo. 10 Jul, a pair in a bunchgrass meadow at Bajío de Aguinaldos 14 Jul, and one at Paraíso de la Sierra 14 Jul (HGdS, MAM). A nest of **Social Flycatchers** at Hualahuises, near Linares, NL in the first week of Jun provided a first state record (AM, AH, MG, RS, ph. 1G). Two **Western Kingbirds** were at a small wetland near Manuel, Tamps. 9 Jul (MC). A **Plumbeous Vireo** was at El Palmito, Sin. 22 Jun (MAGB). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen in different

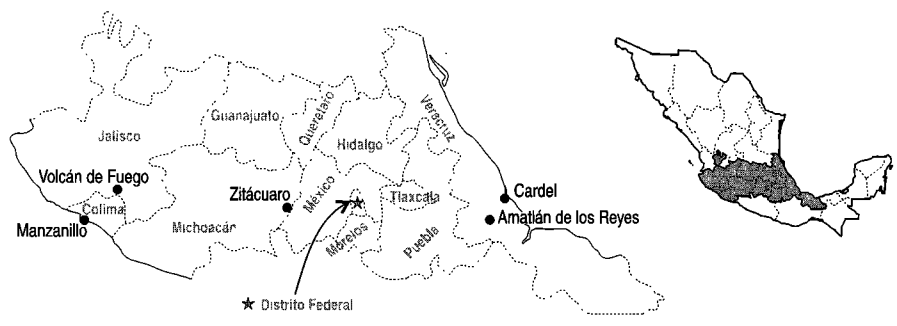
locations at Mesa de Guacamayas 11-12 Jun (MW et al., JNM). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was heard in the dry oak zone at Cumbres de Majalca N.P. near Chihuahua 29 Jun (AP). **Singing Hermit Thrushes** were numerous at Mesa de Guacamayas, Chih. 11-12 Jun (MW et al.). A flock of 15 **Aztec Thrushes** was at Yécora, Son. 16 Jul (MC). Three **European Starlings** were at Presa de las Golondrinas near Madera, Chih. 15 Jul (MC).

A male **Hooded Warbler** was at Mesa de Guacamayas 12 Jun (MW et al.). At least one **Orange-crowned** and 2 **Virginia's Warblers** were at Mesa de Guacamayas 11-12 Jun (MW et al.). A pair of **Blue-gray Tanagers** attended a nest in Hualahuises in the first week of Jun (AM, AH, MG, RS, ph. 1G). A **Lark Sparrow** was in the plateau above El Naranjo, SLP 10 Jul (MC). A singing **Botteri's Sparrow** was recorded at Cañón de Fernández S.P. 15 Jul in the same two-acre plot where six of the seven sightings for the subregion have been made, the most recent sighting being no more than 500 m distant (WB, AVJ, RLL, RV, AV, FVP). A male **Sierra Madre Sparrow** was being harassed by **Striped Sparrows** at Bajío de Aguinaldos, Dgo. 14 Jul (HGdS, MAM), and at least 11 **Sierra Madre Sparrows** were at Ejido Ojo de Agua del Cazador 15 Jul (HGdS, MAM, WBi).

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### CENTRAL MEXICO

Records are from Veracruz unless otherwise stated.





This Hooded Warbler was photographed 12 June 2006 at Mesa de Guacamayas, providing the first record for the state of Chihuahua. Photograph by Mark L. Watson.

## HERONS THROUGH ORIOLES

Two Muscovy Ducks were at San Julián 25 Jun (AM). A pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Miradores 4 Jul was above normal elevation (AM); 8 were at Granja El Destierro, Jal. through the period (ARG). Two Black-crowned Night-Herons were at Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 1 Jul (HGdS, MPV), and at least 12, including a leucistic imm., were at Presa San Joaquín, D.F./Mex. 23 Jul (JGdS, IHG, HGdS). An ad. White-tailed Hawk was seen 8 Jun near the Isla exit on the La Tinaja–Acayucan toll rd., outside of mapped range (AM, JM). Four Sungrebes were at San Julián 25 Jun (AM, JM). A Semipalmated Plover near La Huerta, Socorro I. 20 Jul (LH, AM, JM) was early. Several Black Skimmers were discovered at Boca del Río 24 Jun (JMG, AM).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at San Julián 25 Jun (AM, JM). Up to 2 Mangrove Cuckoos were seen in the first week of Jun in Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chicoasen, and on the rd. to Rabasa, Chis. (AM, JM). A White-throated Swift at Víboras 5 Jul was well e. of mapped range (AM). Single Mexican Sheartails were at 6 de Enero 11-12 Jul, and 5 were at Miradores 4 Jul (AM, JM). Many Wedge-tailed Sabrewings were near Víboras 5 Jul, well e. of mapped range (AM). Single American Pygmy Kingfishers were at Arroyo Moreno and San Julián 24-25 Jun (AM, JM).

A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was at Miradores 4 Jul (AM). Several Black-crested Titmice at Miradores 4 Jul and Víboras 5 Jul were well outside of known range (AM). Five Northern Rough-winged Swallows circling above Mount Evermann, Socorro I. 20 Jul were out of normal range (LH, AM, JM). Many Rufous-naped Wrens at Miradores 4 Jul and Víboras 5 Jul were above normal elevation (AM), as were several White-bellied Wrens at Miradores 4 Jul, Víboras 5 Jul, and 6 de Enero 11 Jul (AM). A pair of Canyon Wrens near Víboras 5 Jul was well e. of mapped range (AM). A Chipping Sparrow near La Huerta, Socorro I. 20 Jul was a local vagrant (LH, JMG, AM,

JM). Several singing Blue Grosbeaks at Miradores 4 Jul, Víboras 5 Jul, and 6 de Enero 11-12 Jul were well e. of mapped breeding range (AM). A Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer was singing at Xola and Bajío in downtown Mexico City, where rare, 25 Jul (HGdS, MPV). Two Audubon's Orioles were at 6 de Enero 6 Jun (AM, JM).

**Erratum:** The White-collared Swifts reported at UNAM Botanical Gardens, D.F. 30 Apr in the spring 2006 issue were in fact White-naped Swifts.



Sierra Madre Sparrow was recently (2004) rediscovered in the state of Durango, Mexico after a 50-year absence. This bird was located in Bajío de Aguinaldos, Durango 14 July 2006, about 40 km from the nearest prior record; it likely represents a dispersant from the known population or a still-undiscovered one. Photograph by Héctor Gómez de Silva.

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## SOUTHERN MEXICO



## GUANS THROUGH BUNTINGS

A Highland Guan was heard 8 Jun near Ejido Armando Zebadúa, Chis. (AM, JM). Many Brown Pelicans were observed inland at Chicoasen and near Malpaso, Chis. 3 & 7 Jun (AM, JM). Around 12 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons were building nests in a single tree in Parque Papagayo, Acapulco, Gro. 9 Jun (JPC). A White-faced Ibis was discovered

near Chicoasen 3 Jun (AM, JM, ph.). Three Roseate Spoonbills were seen 7 Jun near Malpaso (AM, JM). A subad. and 2 ad. King Vultures were seen in Sendero Santa Isabel on the new hwy. between Arriaga and Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chis. 12 Jul (CRR). Another King Vulture was at Cerro del Sapo, Chis. 7 Jun (AM JM). A Snail Kite was at Chicoasen 3 Jun (AM, JM).

Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Chicoasen 3 Jun (AM, JM). Up to 2 Mangrove Cuckoos were seen in the first week of Jun in Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chicoasen, and on the rd. to Rabasa, Chis. (AM, JM) Many Orange-fronted Parakeets were encountered nw. of Ocozocoautla 6 Jun, well n. of mapped range (AM, JM, ph.). Four Green Parakeets were at San Cristóbal de las Casas Chis. 22 Jun (FA). A pair of Yellow-naped Parrots was at the edge of Finca Guadalupe Zajú, Chis., located e. of Huixtla and n. of Tapachula, 6 Jul (HGdS). A male Magnificent and a pair of Beautiful Hummingbirds were at flowers of a mistletoe near the Oaxaca airport 3 Jun; the latter is rarely reported in the Valley of Oaxaca in summer. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher near Malpaso 4 Jun was a late migrant (AM, JM). A Greater Pewee was at Finca Guadalupe Zajú 4 Jul (HGdS). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher in downtown San Cristóbal de las Casas 12 Jun (FA) was well out of normal range and elevation. Three American Dippers were at Finca Guadalupe Zajú 5 Jul (HGdS). Three pairs of Azure-rumped Tanagers were at a remnant forest patch at Finca Guadalupe Zajú 3-4 Jul (HGdS). A Blue-gray Tanager was in downtown Acapulco 5 Jun, possibly an escapee. Several Lesser Greenlets were at Sumidero Canyon near km 18 on 1 Jun (AM, JM) Whistled imitations of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl at km 10.5 of Sumidero Canyon N.P.,

Chis. 15 Jul attracted Banded Wrens, White-tailed Gnatcatchers, Varied Buntings, and a male Rose-bellied Bunting (DJ).

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## YUCATAN PENINSULA



A conservation project to produce two interactive CDs with photos, songs, and information on 200 mostly resident bird species of the Yucatan Peninsula made all involved more aware of nesting activity this season while tapping and photographing the birds. During this period, a change of wind direction one night in Jul resulted in the early arrival of migrant Yellow Warblers. Summer sightings of Eastern Meadowlarks in southern Quintana Roo provided evidence of the northward expansion of the Central American population.

## DUCKS THROUGH TERNS

Four Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, a peninsula resident that is reported with more frequency throughout the year, were seen in a roadside pond at Dzilam González, Yuc. 17 Jun (BM, RM, SO). Although Blue-winged Teal have been seen in the past as late as the first week of Jun on Banco Chinchorro, it was

birdwatchers in the subregion grows, there are more reports of Black-throated Bobwhite at the base of the peninsula, as evidenced by a pair at Villas Ecotucan, 5 km n. of Bacalar, Q. Roo 24 Jul (AH). A Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, normally a coastal species, was seen 28 Jul in a roadside wetland leading to the Mayan site of Dzibanchén, Q. Roo (DB).

A King Vulture flew in a northwesterly direction over the field station at San Felipe Bacalar Reserve, Q. Roo 28 Jul (AH, BM); another or the same was seen circling over Chacchoben, Q. Roo 12 km farther n. the next afternoon (AH, BM). A flock of 15 migrating Swallow-tailed Kites was reported flying northward toward Tulum from Felipe Carrillo Puerto 2 Aug (GT). The species feeds and rests in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo, before continuing southward through Belize en route to South America. A White-tailed Hawk was on the coast at

(BM, RM, SO). Single Willets were seen on the coast 17 Jun at both Dzilám Bravo and at Chabihau, Yuc. (BM, RM, SO). Ten Least Terns were nesting at Dzilám Bravo 17 Jun (BM, RM, SO); and 10 Black Terns were still migrating through the area 4 Jun at Chicxulub, Yuc. (DB).

## PARROTS THROUGH CATBIRDS

Six White-crowned Parrots were feeding fledglings in treetops at Bacalar, Q. Roo 25 Jul (BM), and a pair of Red-lore Parrots was in corn field near Bacalar 8 Jul (BM, AS). Although most Yellow-billed Cuckoo are transients through the peninsula, some nest, as did up to four pairs at San Antonio Chel, where one pair was observed making multiple trips to a nest with food in their bills 23 Jun (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT). A locally rare Pheasant Cuckoo was seen at Labná, Yuc. 18 Jun (GT). A Keel-billed Toucan was observed guarding its nest hole in a coconut palm at the San Felipe Bacalar Reserve, Q. Roo station 8 Jul (BM, AS); chicks fledged prior to 28 Jul, when an ad. was observed still in the area (AH, BM).

A Yellow-olive Flycatcher was observed collecting nesting material at San Antonio Chel 22 Jun, and a fledgling with an ad. were seen 23 Jun at same site (AC, FG, BM, MT); another was constructing a new nest in the area 2 Jul (BM, AS). A male Royal Flycatcher was observed 2 Aug at Muyil, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo, where it is known to nest (DB). A pair of Great Kiskadees, along with a pair of Social Flycatchers, both had young still in nest at San Antonio Chel 22 Jun (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT). Two of the latter species were feeding 2 fledglings berries in the Bacalar area 22 Jul (BM). A rare summer report of one ad. and 2 imm. Fork-tailed Flycatchers came from the road to Dzibanchén, n. of known breeding areas, 28 Jul (DB). A pair of Rose-throated Becards was feeding fledglings at San Antonio Chel 22 Jun (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT); a pair of Green Jays attended 3 chicks in a nest at Hotel Chicanná Ecovillage, Camp. 7 Jul (LF, BM).

The earliest flock of Purple Martins noted this summer was of 40 seen flying southward over the coast of Laguna Bacalar 22 Jul (AH, BM). A pair of Long-billed Gnatwrens was observed feeding 2 young in nest located 15 cm off the ground 3 km n. of Bacalar 27-28 Jul (AH, BM). At least three pairs of White-lore Gnatcatchers were seen at San Antonio Chel 22 Jun (AC, FG, BM, MT); this species is usually associated with the coastal dune vegetation here, but in recent years it has been found to inhabit secondary forest in the interior of the state of Yucatan. Another predominately



This Blue-gray Tanager was one of a nesting pair found this summer in Hualahuises, Nuevo León (here 3 July 2006), apparently the first documented record for the state. Photographs by José Ignacio Granados.

surprising that 6 were still around 25 Jun at a ranch near San Felipe, Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc. (RM). Ocellated Turkey is showing up more often on land dedicated to ecotourism projects where protection is assured; several were heard and 2 seen at San Antonio Chel, Hunucmá, Yuc. during the last two weeks of Jul (AM). And, as the number of

Dzilám Bravo, Yuc. 17 Jun (BM, RM, SO). A Purple Gallinule, of which a small population is resident in the subregion, was seen 28 Jul on the rd. leading to Dzibanchén (DB). Several plover species are likewise both migratory and resident, as evidenced by 2 Snowy and 10 Wilson's Plovers, including a juv. of the latter species, seen at Dzilám Bravo 17 Jun



This pair of Social Flycatchers nested in Hualahuis, Nuevo León (here 3 July 2006), a first documented record for the state. Photograph by José Ignacio Granados.

coastal species, Black Catbird—which had been reported as individuals or pairs scattered throughout the interior of Yucatan—has been documented in recent years in small nesting colonies in the spring and summer. One such site is San Antonio Chel, where 15–20 active nests in close proximity were observed 22 Jun,

most containing chicks (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT). A nearby colony of a similar number had been active several weeks earlier in Jun (AM).

### WARBLERS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

A notable change of wind direction from easterly to north-northeasterly in the predawn hours of 25 Jul was likely responsible for the observations, 30 hours later (26 Jul), of a Yellow Warbler 14 km n. of Bacalar and another 11 km to the s. (BM); most begin to arrive in early Aug. A flock of 16 Yellow-winged Tanagers were feeding on *Cecropia* fruit at Chachoben 29 Jul (AH, BM), while 4 Red-legged Honeycreepers were seen at Muyil, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo, where they are known to nest, 27 Jul (DB). A female White-collared Seedeater was busy feeding fledglings in Bacalar 25 Jul (AH, BM). The count of 12 Eastern Meadowlarks 28 Jul along the rd. to

Dzibanchén extends the known distribution of this species n. into s. Q. Roo from Belize (DB). Three chicks of Hooded Oriole were still in their nest woven into the overhang of a thatched roof over an entranceway at San Antonio Chel 22 Jun (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT), where single pairs of Orange Oriole, Altamira Oriole, and Yellow-throated Euphonia were feeding fledglings on the same day (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT).

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## Central America



H. Lee Jones | Oliver Komar

Without the inclusion of a number of late-arriving reports from the past winter and spring, this column would be very short indeed. While the contributions for the other three seasons have increased significantly over the last several years, the Summer Season report continues to be quite spare. Nevertheless, the number of species recorded breeding in the countries that make up the Region continues to grow. Bridled and Roseate Terns were documented breeding in Honduras, and Red-footed Booby was documented breeding near mainland Costa Rica for the first time. But not all birds found in Central America in the short summer season breed there. July, of course, marks the beginning of fall migration for most shorebird species, and a few species, mostly charadriiforms, occasionally or regularly summer on their wintering grounds (e.g., 3 Parasitic Jaegers in Guatemala in mid-June).

One shorebird that rarely summers south of its Canadian and Alaskan breeding grounds is Solitary Sandpiper, so one in Nicaragua in early June was quite unexpected.

The Caribbean lowlands of eastern Honduras are still relatively unexplored. An expedition to the headwaters of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve this summer by Robert Gallardo and Andrew Vallely produced a number of birds previously unrecorded in the area. Those they recorded in late July are reported here; those recorded in August will be reported in the Fall Migration issue.

**Abbreviations:** N.R. (Nature Reserve), R.P.B.R. (Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve in Honduras).

### GREBES THROUGH TERNS

Eight pairs of Least Grebes on I. Contadora 8 Jul (VW et al.) were the first of this species reported in Panama's Pearl Is. Received late was an account of a pelagic trip off the s. Pacific coast of Costa Rica on 1 Mar (SW et al.); noteworthy were about 1000 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and an unconfirmed Mottled Petrel. The latter, if confirmed, would be the first reported from Costa Rica and Central America. Also too late for inclusion in the Spring issue was documentation of Red-footed Boobies breeding on an islet near the mouth of the Sierpe R. (I. Violines) along the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. On 22 Apr, three

nests with nestlings were noted (NU) and on 12 May, six active nests with nestlings were found. This colony first came to light in late spring 2005, but it was not confirmed at the time, and the source of the report was never accurately determined.

A Cattle Egret on I. Contadora 8 Jul (VW et al.), perhaps an early fall migrant or local disperser, was the first reported from the Pearl Is. Even though the species is well known for its remarkable dispersal capabilities, the Pearl Is offer little in the way of suitable habitat and few, if any, cattle. Nevertheless, a few undoubtedly reach these islands periodically, if not annually. A Wilson's Plover sighted on Nicaragua's Pacific coast in Padre Ramos Estuary N.R., *Chinandega* 25 Jul (JM, ND, UMA) was apparently the first reported for the department. The species is probably more common on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua than inferred from the lack of reports. An unseasonable Solitary Sandpiper was on the se. shore of L. Managua 4 Jun (LL, JM, WA, DK), and impressive numbers of southbound Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs (250 and 400, respectively) were counted in a single flooded rice field near Sebaco, *Matagalpa* 22 Jul (JM).

DA and DS reported on three species of terns found in the vicinity of Honduras' Bay Is. In eight days of seabird monitoring off the Caribbean coast in 2005 and 2006, they had only four observations (8 individuals) of Brown Noddy, the latest of which was one