



H. Lee Jones | Oliver Komar

Unlike in fall 2005, no major hurricanes reached Central America's shores in 2006, although there was a major cold front that generated damaging winds from the north in late November, at least as far south as Nicaragua. Also, unlike last fall, we have no results to report from hawk migration monitoring stations. The efforts begun during 2005 in Guatemala and El Salvador unfortunately were not repeated this year. Nonetheless, ornithological and birding activity was high throughout the Region, and this fall's report provides no fewer than six new country records: Fasciated Tiger-Heron and Gray-rumped Swift in Honduras, Solitary Eagle and Yellow-headed Caracara in Nicaragua, Shiny Cowbird in Guatemala, and Veery in El Salvador.

**Abbreviations:** B.R. (Biosphere Reserve/Biological Reserve); C.T.W.S. (Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, Belize); N.R. (Nature Reserve); S.F. (Shrimp Farm); R.B.C.M.A. (Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, Belize).

## TROPICBIRDS THROUGH FALCONS

Heavy rains may have helped bring 6 Red-billed Tropicbirds onshore at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 2 Sep (JRS, MT), providing El Salvador with its 4th record. At least one was an ad. with tail streamers. An imm. Nazca Booby on the beach near Barra Jiote, Municipio Pasaco, *Jutiapa* 3 Nov (RCU) was noteworthy, as there are few records from Guatemala. It was reportedly banded at a breeding site in Colombia. In Costa Rica, on 16 Oct, 3 American White Pelicans were seen flying down the coast from the Kéköldi raptor observation tower at Hone Cr., *Limón* (DM). A Magnificent Frigatebird overflying Santa Tecla, *La Libertad* 26 Nov at 900 m elevation (TJ) was a rare inland sight for El Salvador. Providing the 8th record for Panama and the first for *Panamá* was a Jabiru at Tocumen Marsh 18-26 Sep (JS, ph. RM et al.). Although impressive, 65 Jabirus at Fresh Catch Fish Farm, La Democracia, Belize 20 Nov (PB) pale in comparison to the 120 seen there last

Jan. Since this fish farm has been in operation, Jabirus have become relatively scarce at other locations such as Nova S.E., where they have congregated in the past. The special attraction of Fresh Catch Fish Farm for Jabirus is not clear.

A first for Honduras, an ad. Fasciated Tiger-Heron was well observed along the upper Río Plátano, *Colón* on 4 Aug (RG, AV). This species' northernmost documented occurrence was in Costa Rica, but its presence in Honduras suggests that it will eventually be found in e. Nicaragua. An ad. Agami Heron at L. de Güija, *Santa Ana* 12 Oct (ph. GG, JoR) furnished the first documented record for El Salvador. This species has been reported at this site sporadically since 1994,



Two Wilson's Phalaropes were found in the Blue Creek rice fields, Orange Walk District, Belize 3 September 2006, adding to three previous records for the country, one in fall and two in spring. Photograph by Ryan Phillips.

but no photographs were previously obtained. Three King Vultures were seen from the TELCOR tower site at 600 m on the La Virgen/San Juan del Sur road in Rivas 30 Nov (JM), and single individuals had been reported in the area in the preceding four weeks (LL, PS). This species is local and rare in Nicaragua, and existing populations are not



Gull-billed Terns are locally fairly common along the coast of Belize, principally at shrimp farms and a few kilometers inland at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, but this one at the Blue Creek rice fields, Orange Walk District 5-9 (here 6) September 2006 (with 2 there on the 9th) provided the only truly inland record for the country. Photograph by Ryan Phillips.

well documented. A migrating juv. Mississippi Kite observed in the R.B.C.M.A., *Orange Walk* 10 Oct (RP, CH, VR) provided only the 2nd record from inland Belize and the first in 18 years. Another juv. and an ad. migrating at Playa Salamar, Jucuarán, *Usulután* 25 Oct (JF, CF) as part of a large mixed-species movement represented a late fall record for El Salvador and a first department record.

An ad. Black-collared Hawk soaring over La Selva, *Heredia* 10 Nov (AD, JT, Neblina Forest birding group) provided the first record for this heavily birded location. In Costa Rica, this species is essentially confined to the Tortuguero and Caño Negro areas in the n. Caribbean lowlands and perhaps a few spots in the s. Pacific region. Although river ox-bows, its preferred habitat, once abounded in the area, the countryside surrounding La Selva is now dominated by banana and pineapple plantations, where silt-laden rivers plow straight courses along denuded banks. A Plumbeous Hawk was at Cerro Azul, *Panamá* 23 Oct (BZ), where it is rarely seen. Perhaps even more out of place was a Tiny Hawk at Metropolitan Park in Panama City 27 Oct (BZ). Solitary Eagle was recorded for the first time in Nicaragua when an ad. was seen 3 Aug at 900 m soaring above Las Golondrinas waterfall, Musún Mountain N.R., *Matagalpa* (JM, MSJ, EM, MAJ, FAM). Remarkably, for the 3rd year in a row, Benesh photographed a Solitary Eagle in the same general area of the Mountain Pine Ridge near Douglas de Silva, *Cayo* while on tour in Belize. All were seen on the same date: 25 Nov. The first 2 were ads.; the one this year was a juv.

In Belize, where it is rare, an ad. Broad-winged Hawk was seen in the R.B.C.M.A. 20 Oct (RP, CH, VR). On 4 Sep, a fledged juv. White-tailed Hawk was still at its nest at La Joya protected area in *San Vicente* (ph. GC, *vide* RI), documenting the first nesting record for this rare hawk in El Salvador. Another White-tailed Hawk seen 10 Aug was new for the Río Plátano B.R., *Gracias a Dios* (RG, AV). Perhaps a first for Nicaragua was a Yellow-headed Caracara at La Virgen, Rivas 26 Oct (LL, PS), although at least one previous sighting remains unpublished (J. C. Martínez, pers. comm.). An ad. Aplomado Falcon at The Dump, *Toledo* 26 Nov (LJ) was at a location where the species is seldom seen.

## SUNGREBE THROUGH SWIFTS

Local and rare in Nicaragua, a Sungrebe at a waterfall pool in Musún Mountain N.R. 3 Aug (JM) was apparently the first reported in the area. Another at La Joya protected area, *San Vicente* 30 Oct (ph. VC, *vide* RI) represented El Salvador's 3rd record but the first from the



Providing the third documented and first lowland record for Costa Rica (and the first to be found alive) was this Oilbird found in Sector Madrigal, Corcovado National Park, Puntarenas on 3 October 2006. Previous records were of a desiccated corpse found under a powerline on Cerro de La Muerte and a road-killed bird found at Monteverde. Photograph by Rayner Araya.

department and the first documented by photograph in El Salvador. The Southern Lapwing first seen at C.T.W.S., Belize in Mar 2004 was still present through the end of the period (m.ob.). Two American Oystercatchers seen on several occasions on a beach s. of Monkey R. 13 Nov+ (MM) may have been the first recorded in Toledo. This species is a rare and local winter visitor in Belize, with most records coming from the mouth of Stann Cr. in Dangriga. Also rarely seen in Belize was an American Avocet at Fresh Catch Fish Farm near La Democracia 20 Nov (PB, MB, MyB). An Upland Sandpiper observed near the border of R.B.C.M.A. and Blue Creek, *Orange Walk* 13 Oct (RP, CH, VR) provided the latest fall date yet for this infrequently encountered transient in Belize.

A Long-billed Curlew at Cahuita 12 Nov (LR) on the Caribbean coast was exceptional. In Costa Rica, the species is a casual migrant/winter resident only to be expected in the Gulf of Nicoya on the Pacific coast. The species is also very rare in Panama but in recent years has been reported almost annually on the Pacific coast. This year was no exception, with a single Long-billed Curlew found at Panamá Viejo 14 Nov (BZ). Although not especially noteworthy, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Least Sandpiper were all recorded for the first time in the Río Plátano B.R., *Gracias a Dios* 10 Aug (RG, AV). Significant were a White-rumped Sandpiper and 2-3 Baird's Sandpipers in Panama at Colón on the late date of 13 Nov. Also worth mentioning was a Silt Sandpiper there the same day (all BZ). An ad. Ruddy Turnstone at the Blue Creek rice fields, *Orange Walk* 9 Sep (RP, CH, VR) was the first to be recorded away from the coastal plain in Belize, and 2 Wilson's Phalaropes there on 3 Sep (ph. RP,

CH, VR) provided only the 4th record for Belize. A Gull-billed Tern there 5-9 Sep was joined by a 2nd bird on 9 Sep (ph. RP, CH, VR). Like the turnstone, these were the first to be recorded in Belize away from the coastal plain.

A male and female Maroon-chested Ground-Dove seen 22 & 24 Nov at Montaña de Uyuca B.R., *Francisco Morazan* (OK) are noteworthy, as the species is rarely reported in Honduras. Fifteen Great Green Macaws at Cobachón, Cerro Hoya N.P., *Veraguas* 5 Aug (MD) was considered to be a large number for this endangered species, especially

on the Azuero Pen. Also at Cobachón on 5 Aug (MD) were 5 Painted Parakeets. This species is rarely reported in its restricted range in Panama. A Black-billed Cuckoo was photographed at 2000-m Dota, Cerro de la Muerte 5 Oct (PM). This relatively rare migrant is not often reported away from the



Ornithologists have intensively surveyed and monitored the cloud forests of the Santa Ana volcano complex in El Salvador since the 1920s, without ever recording an Amethyst-throated Hummingbird. This female captured at a permanent monitoring station 15 November 2006 was apparently a vagrant or disperser, perhaps from Montecristo cloud forest 50 kilometers to the north. One month later, the monitoring station captured two additional males, so perhaps we are witnessing a colonization event. Photograph by Vicky Galán.

coasts and is especially unusual at such high elevation. In 30 minutes, JF counted an impressive 1260 Lesser Nighthawks migrating at dusk on 25 Oct at Playa Salamar, Jucuarán. A Yucatan Nightjar was found resting on a lawn in Belize City 29 Oct (ph. PH).

An Oilbird near sea level at Sector Madrigal, Corcovado N.P., *Puntarenas* 3 Oct (ph. RA) furnished the 3rd documented record for Costa Rica and the first from the lowlands. Thus far, no clear idea of the origin of these birds or the species' status in the Region has

emerged. Gray-rumped Swift has long been suspected to occur in the Honduras Mosquitia. An expedition to the Río Plátano B.R., *Colón* confirmed such suspicions when at least 50 Gray-rumped Swifts were identified daily 3-6 Aug at 220 m elevation (RG, AV). In El Salvador, a single individual of the rarely reported White-throated Swift, accompanying other swifts and swallows, was flying around the peak of Cerro El Pital, San Ignacio, *Chalatenango* on 15 Oct (OK).

## HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH BECARDS

In Guatemala, White-necked Jacobin is mainly restricted to the Atlantic slope. It was first reported for the Pacific slope at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Suchitepéquez* in 2002. A male there 27 Oct-12 Nov (JLL, KE) was the 2nd recorded at this reserve and on the Pacific slope. During and following the strong cold front that passed through Honduras 23-24 Nov, a Brown Violet-ear fed constantly at bottlebrush at the entrance to Montaña de Uyuca B.R. at an elevation of 1600 m (ph. BG, OK et al.) accompanied by numerous Green Violet-ears. The species is presumed to be accidental at this site. Mangrove Hummingbirds have been only recently reported from the outer Nicoya Pen. On 16 Aug, a male and female were observed at Playa Venado 20 km s. of Playa Tamarindo (RiG, TG, ToG), and on 20-21 Nov a male and female were again seen there (J&MW). Playa Venado is the 2nd mangrove area where the species has been recently reported, the other being Tamarindo, where several birds have been netted and photographed. This species may well have been resident but overlooked in these areas until now.

An inventory of the birds of the Colinas de Jucuarán, made during several months in the hills above Playa Salamar, provided El Salvador's first documentation of a population of Blue-tailed Hummingbirds. There had been five prior records, individuals scattered across cen. and e. El Salvador, but the source of those birds was unknown. During the inventory, 2 were netted and collected in riparian forest along the Río Pita, Jucuarán 24 Oct (CZ, ph. JF). Another was collected during the study, and at least 2 Blue-tailed Hummingbird × Berylline Hummingbird hybrids were collected. In Guatemala, a Blue-tailed Hummingbird nest with 2 nestlings at 1400 m in Vesubio Reserve, Atitlán Volcano, *Suchitepéquez* 11 Nov (GL, ph. KE) provided the first documented nesting record for that



An immature Golden-crowned Warbler captured 29 August 2006 at a coffee plantation in Izalco, El Salvador was 20 kilometers from the nearest known breeding population. Although likely a disperser from a local population, migration in the species is also a possibility. Photograph by Rosehy Juárez.

country. On 15 Nov, the monitoring station at the Santa Ana Volcano in *Santa Ana*, El Salvador captured a female Amethyst-throated Hummingbird (ph. VG), the first record for Los Volcanes N.P., and an apparent vagrant some 50 km from the nearest known population. Rarely reported in Guatemala's Sierra Sacranix, a male Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird was found at 1500 m in Sanimtacá, *Alta Verapaz* 22 Aug (EPC).

A pair of motmots observed 26-27 Oct at 225 m in Río Cangrejal drainage, *Atlántida* in Honduras (DA) shared characteristics of both Broad-billed and Keel-billed. One had plumage typical of Keel-billed except that its bill was very wide like Broad-billed. The other had plumage characters of both species. The 2 were excavating a burrow in a bare stream bank. Mixed pairs, if not hybrids, of these congeneric species have been reported (Howell, S. N. G., and S. Webb 1995. *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Central America*. Oxford University Press, New York). A Great Jacamar was observed 23 Oct (BZ) at Cerro Azul, an area where it was not expected. Noteworthy at Río Plátano B.R., *Gracias a Dios* were a Northern Barred-Woodcreeper 8 Aug and Chestnut-backed Antbirds recorded daily 3-5 Aug (both RG, AV). Neither species had been reported previously from this location. A feeding flock observed at 800 m in secondary forest in Peñas Blancas (Bolt property), *Matagalpa* 6 Nov (JM, StB, SB) included both a Strong-billed Woodcreeper and 2 Dot-winged Antwrens, two species seldom reported in Nicaragua. In El Salvador, a Scaled Antpitta at Talnique, *La Libertad* 1 Oct (RMA) was the first recorded in the Sierra del Balsamo and the department. It may only be a vagrant at this locality.

Another possible vagrant, or perhaps altitudinal migrant, a Mountain Elaenia at 1100

m on Cerro El Leon, El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* 14 Oct (LA, JF) was about 25 km from the nearest known breeding site. In Belize, 2 White-throated Flycatchers were found at The Dump 26 Nov (LJ). This enigmatic species is not often reported in Belize, and at least some reports in the literature have pertained to other, misidentified *Empidonax*. After its discovery at The Dump, a marshy area formerly cultivated as rice fields, in Dec 2004, it has consistently been found there the past three winters (LJ). Prior to

2004, it was likely overlooked, as it is relatively quiet in winter and typically perches low in tall grasses, where it can be missed by those unfamiliar with its distinctive call. The



Although reported almost annually now, Scarlet Tanagers had not been photographically documented in El Salvador until this male, the country's fifth record, was found 14 October 2006 at San Ignacio, Chalatenango Department. Photograph by Oliver Komar.

earliest report of Least Flycatcher this fall was from Rocjá Pomtilá, *Alta Verapaz* 15 Aug (EC). A large movement at Playa Salamar, Jucuarán on the morning of 25 Oct contained 1270 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers flying eastward during just 1.5 hours of counting (JF). Many more flycatchers migrated past this site during the preceding week but at lower densities. A pair of Black-and-white Becards, rare in Panama, was seen along the Oleoducto Rd. in Palo Seco Protection Forest, *Bocas del Toro* 10 Aug (MD).

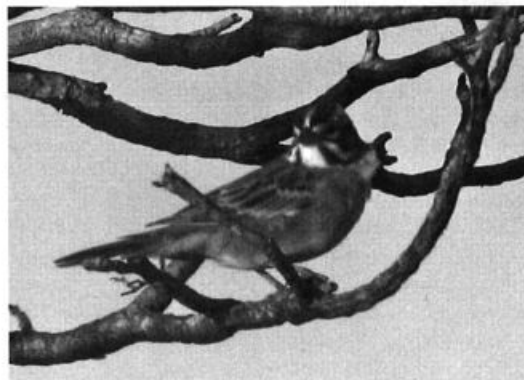
## VIREOS THROUGH TANAGERS

The report of 2 Blue-headed Vireos at Dota, Cerro de la Muerte 7 Oct (LB) is interesting in several respects. Although it is not the first report from the area, it is a rare winter visitor as far s. as Costa Rica. Previous reports have been of single individuals, thus

2 together is a bit unusual. Also, previous records from Costa Rica have been from Dec-Mar, and it is unexpected anywhere in the Region before the end of Oct. A Red-eyed Vireo banded 24 Sep at Izalco, *Sonsonate* (ph. VG) provided rare documentation for this uncommon transient in El Salvador. In Guatemala, a Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo at 2500-m Tecpán, *Chimaltenango* 4 Nov (RC) provided the first recent record for Cerro Tecpán. Also noteworthy were 3 seen at Reserva Molino Helvetia, *Chimaltenango* 14-15 Nov (KE, CA).

A group of 3 Brown Jays found 30 Nov at the Hotel Perkin Lenca, Perquín, *Morazán* (RB, NH) represented the 2nd El Salvador record and first department record. Single Tree Swallows seen foraging with Barn Swallows 20 & 22 Nov (JZ) along the Río Tempisque and at Bagatzi, *Guanacaste*, respectively, suggests that this species, rare in Costa Rica, may be more common than usual this winter. A Great Tit (*Parus major*) coming to a feeder in Gamboa, *Colón* 8 Nov+ (GK) was thought to have been ship-assisted rather than an escaped cage bird. The appearance of this most improbable species near the entrance to the Panama Canal adds to a growing list of such species in recent years and illustrates the difficulty in assessing the provenance of other, more likely vagrants near the entrances of the canal.

Black-throated Wren was first recorded in Honduras in the Tawahka-Asangni B.R. in Mar 2004 by RG and others. Its range was extended farther northward 8 Aug, when RG heard one singing in the Río Plátano B.R., *Gracias a Dios*. Single Slate-colored Solitaires were observed at the low elevation of 225 m in the Río Cangrejal drainage, *Atlántida* 22 & 29 Nov (DA); the latter bird was singing. A Veery of the Rocky Mountain subspecies was captured and banded in the pine-oak forest at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 24 Oct (ph. LA),



Providing the fifth record for Costa Rica, but only the third documented, was this Lark Sparrow found at Chomes on the north shore of Golfo de la Nicoya 22 November 2006. Photograph by Jim Zook.

establishing the first record for El Salvador. A Gray Catbird at Cerro Azul 10 Nov (BZ) was at the extreme s. end of its winter range, where rare. A Tropical Mockingbird seen in Las Mangas, *Atlántida* 6-23 Nov (DA) may have been the first reported from the Caribbean lowlands of Honduras. The nearest known resident population is 35 km away on the s. side of Cordillera Nombre de Dios in the Valle de Aguán, *Yoro*.

An imm. Northern Parula seen at close range in mangroves at Estero El Espino, Jucuarán 22 Oct (JF) was just the 5th recorded in El Salvador. A Blackburnian Warbler 7 Aug and a Tennessee Warbler 16 Aug on Caye Caulker (J&DB) were both exceptionally early. These species do not normally arrive in Belize until late Aug and early Sep, respectively. A male Audubon's Warbler at Lubaantun, *Toledo* 30 Nov (LJ) was only the 3rd ever reliably reported from Belize. It may occur more frequently, but it is likely under-reported since it is "only" a subspecies, and most local birders are not aware of its significance. Little reported in Nicaragua was a Grace's Warbler on the Bolt property in secondary forest in Peñas Blancas, *Matagalpa* 6 Nov (JM, StB, SB); this may be the first report of this species from this area.

Palm Warbler is a casual migrant and winter visitor in Costa Rica along the Caribbean coast; thus, one at Manzanillo 25 Oct (KeE, SE) and 2 others in separate locations in Tortuguero 12 Nov (AD, OV et al.) represented more than the usual number reported for the period. A Prothonotary Warbler mist-netted just a few m from the beach at Playa Salamar, Jucuarán 20 Oct (CZ, ph. JF) provided only the eighth record and first specimen for El Salvador. A Slate-throated Redstart in a mixed-species flock at 225 m in the Río Cangrejal drainage, *Atlántida* 10 Nov (DA) was at an elevation well below normal. That this species and Slate-colored Solitaire (discussed above) occasionally move to lower elevations during the nonbreeding season is not surprising and illustrates the importance of connectivity between lowland and highland forests in Pico Bonito N.P., something that is rare now in Honduras.

A Common Yellowthroat on Caye Caulker 28 Aug and a Summer Tanager there 1 Sep (J&DB) were early migrants; conversely, a male Scarlet Tanager in Punta Gorda 23 Nov (LJ) was the latest fall migrant on record for Belize. An imm. Golden-crowned Warbler banded 29 Aug in a coffee plantation in Izalco (VG, ph. RJ) was either a rare migrant or a disperser. The nearest known breeding population is at Apaneca, about 20 km to the west. A male Scarlet Tanager at San Ignacio 14 Oct



Following on the heels of Central America's first White-throated Sparrow on Belize's Half Moon Caye in May 2005 was this White-crowned Sparrow, Belize's second, found in virtually the same spot on 5 November 2006. Photograph by Dirk Francisco.

(ph. OK, CZ) established a first department record, 5th country record, and was the first to be documented photographically in El Salvador.

## SEEDEATERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Individual Blue Seed eaters were banded 1 Aug (a juv.), 4 Oct, and 8 Nov at the monitoring station in El Imposible N.P. (ph. LA). Of the 10 seed eaters captured at the station since its inauguration in Nov 2003, 5 were in 2005 and 5 in 2006, all after a massive bamboo seeding event in Nov 2004 in the hills above the station. The juv. captured 1 Aug this year provided the best evidence so far



Apparently resident in the northern mountains of El Salvador, this Red Crossbill photographed 15 October 2006 at San Ignacio, in Santa Ana department, nonetheless represents just the sixth record for the country. Photograph by Oliver Komar.

that the species breeds in El Salvador. Grassland Yellow-Finches appear to be highly nomadic in Belize, with groups of birds appearing in an area for brief periods up to a few years, then moving on. A flock of about 65 was discovered 26 Nov at The Dump (LJ), a popular birding area well away from any locality in Belize where they had previously

been reported. It will be interesting to see if these birds remain to breed.

Providing the 5th report for Costa Rica, but only the 3rd documented, was a Lark Sparrow at Chomes, *Puntarenas* 22 Nov (ph. JZ). Two of the previous records were also from the cen. Pacific lowlands, in Dec and Jan. Another was from an inland valley on the Pacific side in Mar, and the 5th, a specimen, was from the n. Caribbean coast, apparently also in Nov. An imm. White-crowned Sparrow, only the 2nd reported from Belize, was on Half Moon Caye 15 Nov (ph. DF). The first was found on Ambergris Caye 18 years prior. An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Costa Rica at Monteverde 4 Aug (RiG) was an exceptionally early fall migrant, although one was found nearly as early on 12 Aug 2004 in the mts. of *Heredia*.

On 22 Sep, NH and RI observed at least 2000 Dickcissels feeding in rice fields at Hacienda Miravalle, Municipio de Sonsonate, *Sonsonate*. Later, 3800 in multiple groups were counted migrating over Playa Salamar, Jucuarán during 1.5 hours in the early morning of 25 Oct (JF, CF). The previous high day count in El Salvador was 1100 Dickcissels in Apr 2004. The only Bobolink reported this fall in Costa Rica was seen near Buenos Aires, *Puntarenas* 6 Oct (JZ). This species is a rare fall migrant along the Caribbean coast but found only sporadically inland, and even less frequently on the Pacific side. Eastern Meadowlark continues to expand its range in s. Belize. The former Voice of America grounds at Orange Pt. in Punta Gorda have recently been converted to pasture, and at least 5 meadowlarks had arrived by 23 Nov, establishing a new locality record. Shiny Cowbird has now reached Guatemala. On 8 Sep, 3 males and a female were found at Jocotán, *Chiquimula* (†RF, KH, AW, HOP). It has yet to be found in nearby Belize, but its arrival has been anticipated for some time.

DA photographed a singing male White-vented Euphonia 50+ m high in the forest canopy in the Río Cangrejal drainage of *Atlántida* 4 Oct, thus providing the first photographic documentation of the species in Honduras. He has observed it high in the canopy on four previous occasions this year but always with a bit of uncertainty, due to the birds' distance and the potential confusion with Scrub Euphonia. In Belize, 5 male White-vented Euphonias were observed feeding along the Sibun R. near Monkey Bay at the extreme n. end of its range 26 Nov (PB, DB, OB, JR). One was decidedly orange beneath and had more extensive white in the vent area than the others. Just the 6th documented report in El Salvador, a pair of Red Crossbills

near Hotel Miramundo, San Ignacio posed for photographs 15 Oct (OK, CZ).

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## West Indies & Bermuda



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The Region was mostly spared severe tropical storms during this quiet fall season, although Hurricane *Florence* came close to Bermuda on 10 September. While reporting continues to be strong from the Bahamas and Bermuda, as well as from Barbados and a few of the southern Lesser Antillean islands, we received nothing from Hispaniola or Cuba or Jamaica or the Cayman Islands—in other words, from most of the landmass of the Region. North American birding visitors to these islands are few in autumn, and local reporting has always been spotty from the Greater Antilles. How marvelous it would be to change that!

The Bahamas produced a remarkable variety of vagrants, including the Caribbean's first Ross's Goose, nesting Anhingas, a Veery, and a Hudsonian Godwit, and there were also notable Bermuda sightings this fall, including potential first records of MacGillivray's War-

bler and Western Tanager, plus a rare Sandhill Crane and four Northern Wheatears. On Guadeloupe, Levesque turned up House Martin, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Baltimore Oriole, among others.

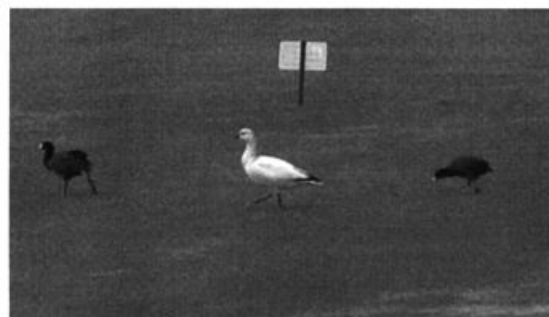
### WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

On 18 Nov+ the West Indies' and Bahamas' first Ross's Goose was found at the Reef G.C., Grand Bahama (MH, EG, ph. NB, m.ob.). A Brant was present at Daniel's Head, Bermuda 31 Oct (DW). At Ste. Anne, Guadeloupe, a Northern Pintail was present 9-26 Nov (AL). On Barbados, a Garganey frequented East Pt. 30 Nov (MF, EM). An imm. male Surf Scoter was discovered on Mangrove L., Bermuda 27 Nov+ (EA). The same bird was probably in Castle Harbour 24 Nov (JM). A Red-breasted Merganser was at Brown's Pt., New Providence, Bahamas 26 Nov (HC, PD et al.).

From Guadeloupe, seawatching during



An immature male Surf Scoter was discovered on Mangrove Lake, Bermuda 27 November 2006 (here 22 December) and remained into the New Year, furnishing the ninth record for Bermuda. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.



A Ross's Goose at Reef Golf Course, Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas 18 November 2006 (here) provided a first record of the species for the country and for the West Indies. Photograph by Noreen Brent.

Nov (10 hours) from Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe produced 11 Cory's Shearwaters, a Black-capped Petrel, and 2 unidentified *Pterodroma*. A late White-tailed Tropicbird was over Darrell's I., Bermuda 22 Oct (AD, PW). Three Masked Boobies were seen off the East End, Bermuda 14 Sep (PW), probably the result of Hurricane *Florence*, which skirted the island 10 Sep; another was seen 17 Oct, also off the East End, Bermuda (PW). Single Brown Pelicans in the Bahamas at Warderick Wells, Exumas 4 Aug (LD), Clifton Cay, New Providence 10 Sep (MD), and Montague Foreshore, New Providence 20 Sep (LG) were unusual. On Barbados, a juv. Brown Pelican took up residence in Bridgetown by the Main Bus Terminal 23-30 Sep (MF, EM). Grand Bahama's first 2 Neotropical Cormorants found at Reef G.C. 26 Sep were last seen 18 Nov (BH, EB, BP, PB). An Anhinga nest with 2 ads. and 3 young on Paradise I. 10 Sep (ph. PD) established the first nesting record of the species for the Bahamas; 3 female/young were seen there 17 Nov (CW, CI).