

Héctor Gómez de Silva

NORTHERN MEXICO



DUCKS THROUGH OWLS

Nine Muscovy Ducks were at Presa El Cuchillo, N.L. 13 Dec (MDC). A female Wood Duck was on an irrigation channel near Río Bravo, Tamps. 13 Dec (MDC), and 2 males and a female were at Balneario El Tigre, Tamps. 10 Jan (HGdS). At least 2 Ross's Geese were among Snow Geese at Presa Cavazos, Tamps. 11 Jan (HGdS). Two ad. Tundra Swans were seen flying low over a field 2 km w. of Río Bravo 11 Dec (MDC). A Canvasback was in the Las Huertas sewage pond between the cities of Torreón, Coah. and Gómez Palacio, Dgo. 6 Jan (MRLL, FVP), and a group of 3 was in Cañón de Fernández S.P., Dgo. 14 Jan, along with 4 Redheads and 20 Lesser Scaup (MRLL,



This male Wood Duck was in Rancho Primavera, Jalisco, Mexico 7 (here) and 11 January 2007. Photograph by Amy McDonald.

WB, AVJ, FVP). A female and 2 male Redheads were at the mouth of the Río Ameca, Nay. 11 Jan (MJI). Four Hooded Mergansers were at Laguna Colorada, e. of Janos, Chih. 4 Jan (MS, DM, WH, CB). A flock of around 15 Wild Turkeys were near Montemorelos, N.L. 12 Jan (HGdS).

A Red-necked Grebe beautifully photographed in the harbor at Puerto Peñasco, Son. was present at least from 24 Jan through

2 Feb (SS, RW ph., DS, SG). The 3rd Least Grebe in the Cañón de Fernández S.P. was seen 14 Jan (MRLL, WB, AVJ, FVP). Two juv. Northern Gannets were seen 100 m from shore at Playa Bagdad, Tamps. 12 Dec (MDC). An ad. female Anhinga was noted at Presa El Cuchillo, N.L. 13 Dec (MDC). A Snowy Egret was at Laguna Fierro, Chih. 5 Jan (DK, JR). Nine ad. Tricolored Herons were at Presa El Cuchillo 11 Jan (MDC). Two ad. Black Hawk-Eagles were photographed 1.5 km s. of Lo de Marcos, Nay. 4 Jan, and one was still there 17 Jan (SNGH). Two ad. Double-toothed Kites were noted soaring high overhead at Cerro San Juan, Nay. 21 Feb (ESB, DMc), where one been seen and photographed by Steve N. G. Howell 14 Jan (also, one ad. photographed by Howell at the same site in late Mar 2006). An ad. Gray Hawk photographed at Parque Estatal Cañón de Fernández, Dgo. 27 Jan (SLRR) showed features of birds from Pacific Costa Rica southwards (light gray barring on wing coverts and back, single white tail band prior to the terminal band), suggesting the possibility of a migrant from the south; additionally, this is the earliest record yet of this typically summer visitor in the Laguna region. A juv. Red-shouldered Hawk was in grassland habitat near Tanque de Emergencia, Coah. 2 Dec (MDC). A juv. Broad-winged Hawk that showed up in Chihuahua, Chih. was a state first (JDMA, JFAG, ph.). A Bat Falcon was at Copala, Sin. 18 & 20 Feb (ESB, m.ob.); the species is rare in Sinaloa.

Three Sandhill Cranes were at Presa El Cuchillo 11 Dec (MDC). There were around 400 Sandhill Cranes at Tanque Aguilereño, a shallow artificial lagoon in Viesca, Coah. 5 Jan, the largest group sighted so far in the Laguna region (MRLL, FVP). Several Ruddy Cranes were calling at Altamira, Tamps. at the n. limit of their range 6 Dec (MDC). Thirty-

four Piping Plovers were on the beach between Playa Bagdad and the mouth of the Río Bravo (Río Grande) 12 Dec (MDC). A Solitary Sandpiper was on a stock pond 37 km e. of Monterrey, N.L. 13 Dec (MDC). Two Dunlins were near the mouth of the Río Bravo (Río Grande) 17 Feb (HGdS ph., FC ph.). Four Stilt Sandpipers were at Laguna de Quelele, Nay. 12 Jan (MJI). This season had the highest number of Wilson's Phalaropes reported in the Laguna region, with a group of 50+ in the Las Huertas sewage pond 27 Dec (FVP).

A first-winter Thayer's, a potential Kelp Gull × Lesser Black-backed Gull hybrid, a probable ad. Slaty-backed Gull, and at least 7 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Playa Bagdad 12 Dec (MDC). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Las Higuierillas, Tamps. 16 Feb (HGdS), and at least 6 ads. and 2 imms. were at Playa Bagdad 17 Feb (HGdS, FC ph.). Five Bonaparte's Gulls, furnishing the first record for the Laguna region, were observed at the Las Huertas raw sewage pond 27 Dec (FVP,



Hooded Merganser, rather rare in southern Mexico, put in an appearance at Piedra Azul dam near Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca 17-20 (here 19) December 2006. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.

ph.). A Glaucous-winged Gull was at the new sewage lagoon in Puerto Peñasco 24 Jan (RW, SS, DS). An ad. Common Tern was at the mouth of Río Ameca 6 Jan (MJI).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

Carmody estimated 150-200 Military Macaws visited the fruiting nogales at Jaumave, Tamps. 9 Dec. A Eurasian Collared-Dove was at Nuevo Padilla, Tamps. 12 Jan, 3 were at Matamoros, Tamps. 18 Feb, and one and 3 were on the outskirts of Ciudad Mante, S.L.P. and near Jiménez, Tamps. 21 Feb (HGdS); 160 counted in the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 3 Jan was a new record for this C.B.C. (fide WH). A group of 13 Long-eared Owls found in Dec at El Uno ranch, Chih. (JC et al., fide WH) was still roosting there 3 Jan. Three more were found in Casa de Janos, Chih. 3 Jan (DK, ph.). Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuck-



This Red-necked Grebe (here 24 January 2006) found by Scott Schuette in the harbor of Puerto Peñasco, Sonora furnishes one of very few records from Mexico and the first to be photographically documented. It remained at least until 2 February. Photograph by Rick Wright.

ers were at Cañón de Fernández S.P. 14 Jan and 7 Feb (MRL, WB, AVJ, FVP). An Arizona Woodpecker was on the lower foothills of Camino Real, Tamps. 12 Jan (HGdS). A Red-naped Sapsucker was seen in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón 5 Feb (MRL, FVP). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported on the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 3 Jan (WW, JN-M).

Two to 3 Eastern Phoebes were in the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 2 Jan (WH, vt.). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were with a group of kingbirds 15 km w. of La Pesca, and another was at La Pesca, Tamps. 5 Dec (MDC). A Plumbeous Vireo and a late Philadelphia Vireo were at La Florida, Tamps. 8 Dec (MDC). A Philadelphia Vireo was at La Bajada, Nay. 20 Feb (ESB). A flock of 25-30 Tamualipas Crows were farther inland than usual 15 km w. of Linares, N.L. 4 Dec (MDC). Around 8-10 Barn Swallows were still present at Altamira, Tamps. 6 Dec (MDC). Several Mangrove Swallows were on the Río Tampaón near Puente de Dios de Santiaguillo, Ciudad Valles, S.L.P. in mid-Jan (EMBZ). A Winter Wren was found 2 & 4-5 Jan in riparian forest s. of Casa de Janos; its call note indicated it was of the e. subspecies group (WH, vt., DM, DK, JR, SJ, SD). A Brown-backed Solitaire was low at La Florida 20 Feb (HGdS et al.). Seven Aztec Thrushes were on the road to Aserradero El Batel, Sin. 14 Feb (ph. ESB, DMc et al.). Two Gray Catbirds were somewhat inland in Parque La Estanzuela, Monterrey, N.L. 2 Feb (AH, ph.). A Sprague's Pipit was near Playa Bagdad, Tamps. 28 Jan (FC, ph.), and at least 7 were seen at Tanque de Emergencia, Coah. 2 Dec (MDC).

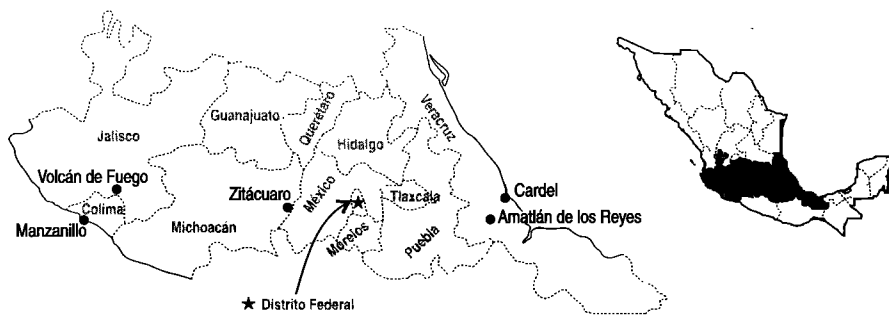
A single Tennessee Warbler was in a mixed warbler flock at La Pesca 5 Dec (MDC). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was in a mixed flock near Espinazo del Diablo, Dgo. 21 Jan (BG). A Yellow-throated Warbler was just e. of the Alamos, Son. cemetery 5 Nov 2006 (RW). Outstanding was a Cape May

Warbler foraging at sapsucker wells in a tree in a garden in Garza García, N.L. 27 Jan (RGG, ph.). A male Hooded Warbler was following an ant swarm near Singayta, near San Blas, Nay. 23 Jan (BG). A Western Tanager was at Presa Hacienda Santa Engracias, Tamps. 10 Jan (HGdS). A Baird's and 56 Worthen's Sparrows were located at Tanque de Emergencia, Coah. 2 Dec (MDC). Fifteen Worthen's Sparrows were seen on the San Rafael, N.L. grasslands 3 Dec (MDC). Exceptional numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded in and near the Ejido San Pedro, Chih. C.B.C. circle 2 Jan during scouting for the count—probably 100+, although count day had fewer due to bad weather (*vide* WH). A Red Fox Sparrow was found along the Río Casas Grandes, Chih. 1 Jan, providing probably only the 2nd Chih. record of this species

usual at El Meco, near El Naranjo, S.L.P. 7 Dec (MDC). A Scrub Euphonia in Singayta road, Nay. 19 Jan was at somewhat low elevation (ESB, DMc).

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CENTRAL MEXICO



and the first of this subspecies group (DM, WH, DK, CB, JR). (WH found 3 *schistacea* Fox Sparrows on the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. a number of years ago.) A Harris's Sparrow was on the Río Casas Grandes e. of Janos 1 Jan, furnishing only the 3rd Mexican record and the first for Chih. (WH vt., DK, JR, DM, CB). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen well running through patches of short reed grasses at the mouth of the Río Grande (Río Bravo) 12 Dec (MDC) and was still there 17 Feb (HGdS), while on the same dates, 3 and one Seaside Sparrows were in mixed tidal reeds and black mangroves, respectively, about 1 km upriver from there. A White-throated Sparrow was at the Río Casas Grandes e. of Janos 1 Jan (DM, WH vt., DK, JR, CB); another was at the riparian woodland at La Presa, Casa de Janos 2 Jan (DM); a 3rd was near Casa de Janos on the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 3 Jan (DK, JR, CB); and 2 more were at Laguna Fierro near Nuevo Casas Grandes on 5 Jan (DK, JR). Two White-crowned Sparrows were in the Cruz de Loreto area 1 Feb (BG). Eight Montezuma's Oropendolas were somewhat farther n. than

DUCKS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Fourteen Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were on Laguna San Bernardino, Pue. 8 Dec 2006, well above normal elevation (AM, JM). A male Wood Duck was at Rancho Primavera (town of El Tuito), Jal. 7 & 11 Jan (ph. MJI, ph. AMcD). Waterbirds at Presa Cajon de Peña, Jal. 7 Jan included 100 Lesser Scaup, a female Ring-necked Duck, and 50 Eared Grebes, along with 15 Laughing Gulls, the latter surprisingly far inland (MJI). Three Crested Guans were well seen near Bioto, Jal. 9 Jan (MJI). Three Bearded Wood-Partridge choruses were heard along the Hueyapa rd. exiting the n. edge of Tlanchinol, Hgo. 21-22 Feb (BG, DT).

Several Brown Pelicans seen along Río Coatzacoalcos near Peña Blanca, Ver. 21-22 Jan 2007 were well inland of normal range (AM, JM). There was only one American White Pelican at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco, D.F. 21 Dec (RW) but 120 there 24 Jan (RW, AMH, HGdS)—and only a few Great Egrets there 21 Dec (RW), whereas there had been more than 50 all summer and again 24 Jan, a reversal of the usual pattern (the

SA Cedar Waxwings formerly visited Mexico annually in winter, but for unknown reasons, since 1991 their irruptions have apparently occurred only every other winter—the only exceptions known to us being Valdés-Perezgasga's records of "distinctly lower numbers and less widespread than usual" around Torreón, Coah. in Feb 2000, Apr 2002, Mar/Apr 2004, and Mar/Apr 2006. A possible clue to explain the every-other-year pattern is Valdés-Perezgasga's observation that since 1992, American Robins have not shown up around Torreón *except* in winters with abundant waxwings. Perhaps the alternate-year pattern is a result of low berry availability north of Mexico in "even" years. *Arctostaphylos polifolia* is an abundant tree along sidewalks and median strips in the Torreón area, and it produces berries all winter. Mulberry trees (*Morus* spp.) are also very common and produce large berry loads in Mar/Apr. Waxwings and robins tend to congregate around these trees, as well as fruiting *Ficus*.

The earliest reported Cedar Waxwings outside of Baja California this season was 4 Dec at the campus of the Instituto Tecnológico de La Laguna, Torreón (this date is roughly the midpoint of their usual arrival dates in the area—24 Nov through 11 Dec—at least as noted 1983-1985 and 1992-2007). The earliest waxwings reported in cen. Mexico was a flock of 8 in Mexico City 14 Dec (Gerardo del Olmo). However, Christmas counts and the *Omitológicas_de_Mexico* listserv show that the species did not show up in numbers anywhere else until 23-30 Dec.

species is typically a winter visitor to D.F. with only rare summering individuals). There were 20 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 30 Dec (HGdS, MPV).

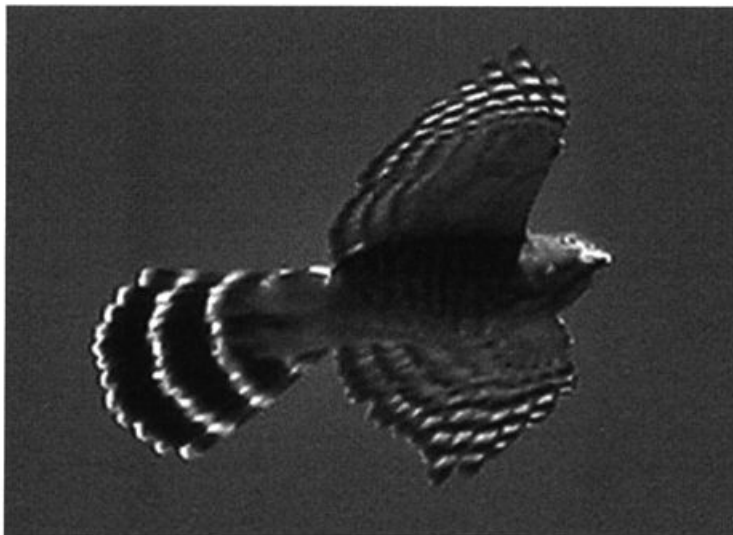
An imm. Snail Kite was near Cruz de Loreto, Jal. 7 Jan (MJI, ph.). A pair of ad. Red-shouldered Hawks at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 19 Jan (GdO, ph.) made a first record for D.F. A Peregrine Falcon was at Xola and Coyoacán, D.F. 22 Feb (HGdS). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was at Rancho Primavera near El Tuito, Jal. 7 Jan, and an ad. was there 8 Jan (MJI). A Limpkin was heard at Tierra Colorada, Gro. 17 Dec (HGdS), and at least 4 were near Cruz de Loreto 5 & 10 Jan (MJI, ph.). A first-winter Franklin's Gull was in downtown Puerto Vallarta, Jal. 6 Jan (MJI ph.). Three Bonaparte's Gulls were in the Río Ameca mouth, Jal./Nay. (MJI ph.), probably related to the irruption in Baja California Sur this winter. A Black-legged Kittiwake 5 km off San Blas, Nay. was a surprise 8 Jan (SNGH).

A Short-eared Owl was at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 24 Jan (HGdS, AMH, RW). Hundreds of Vaux's Swifts entered a large chimney at Periferico and Ejército Nacional, D.F. just before dusk (HGdS). A Wedge-tailed Sabe-wing was at El Tajín, Ver. 17 Jan (BF et al.). A Mexican Woodnymph was well up La Bascula rd., Jal. 5 Jan (MJI ph.) A male Violet Sabrewing in Xalapa, Ver. 18 Feb was n. of normal range (AM, JM). A Smoky-brown Woodpecker was at Bocatoma II, Tamps. 19 Feb, and another was at La Florida, Tamps. 20 Feb (HGdS, m.ob.). Three Gray-breasted

Woodpeckers were near Azumbilla, Pue. 8 Dec, well n. of normal range (AM, JM).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH FINCHES

An Eastern Phoebe was at Rancho Primavera 11 Jan (MJI et al. ph.). A Gray Flycatcher was at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 24 Jan (HGdS, AMH, RW). Seven Hammond's Fly-



This adult Double-toothed Kite at Cerro de San Juan, Nayarit, Mexico 14 January 2007 furnished a rare state record; an adult had been photographed at same site in late March 2006, and courting adults were observed here in February 2007. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell/WINGS.

catchers in Xalapa 18 Feb were e. of normal range (AM, JM). A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 21 Dec (RW). One Western Kingbird was slightly n. of its usual wintering range near the coast in Jal., about 1.5 hours' drive s. of Puerto Vallarta 30 Jan (BG). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in the Cruz de Loreto area, Jal. also about 1.5 hours s. of Puerto Vallarta 15 Feb (BG). A pair of Boucard's Wrens near Azumbilla 8 Dec 2006 was well n. of normal range (AM, JM). A White-breasted Nuthatch was at the UNAM

botanical garden, D.F. 16 Feb (GdO). A White-throated Robin was at Desierto de los Leones, D.F. 26 Feb (GdO). An Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush encountered on the Veracruz side of Río Tonto was slightly out of normal range and below normal elevation (AM). A Blue Mockingbird was in the D.F. at km 33.5 of the old rd. to Cuernavaca 21 Dec (HGdS, MPV, RCP). Seven European Starlings were in and near Parres, D.F. 21 Dec (HGdS, MPV), 2 were near Tehuacán, Pue. 23 Feb (RK et al.), and 8 were at Bosque de Aragón 6 Jan (HGdS, MPV).

A Colima Warbler was at the entrance to the El Rosario butterfly sanctuary, Mich. 12 Dec (HGdS, MPV). A female Northern Parula was near Aquiles Serdán, Jal. 30 Jan (BG), and 2 were at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 21 Dec (RW). Two Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Rancho Primavera 9 & 11 Jan (MJI). A Yellow-throated Warbler was in pine forest well up on at La Bascula rd. 10 Jan (MJI). A Northern Waterthrush was near the end of Canal del Bordo, Xochimilco, D.F. 12 Feb (AMH). An Ovenbird was at Viveros de Coyoacán, D.F. 21 Dec (GdO). An ad. male

Hooded Warbler was at Rancho Primavera 10 Jan (MJI ph.). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler seen 2 Feb near Francisco Villa was well out of normal range (AM). A pair of Red-throated Ant-Tanagers was at El Tajín 17 Jan (JR, BF et al.). A Cinnamon-bellied Flower-piercer was seen for the first time at Viveros de Coyoacán 21 Dec (GdO). A flock of around 35 Lark Sparrows was at Teotihuacan, Méx. 29 Jan (GdO ph.). A female Elegant Euphonia was well described at El Tajín 17 Jan (G&S). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 26 Feb (GdO ph.). A Red Crossbill was heard 5 Jan flying over La Bascula, and 4 large-billed birds were seen there 10 Jan (MJI).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



WATERFOWL THROUGH SWALLOWS

A female/imm. male Hooded Merganser was at Piedra Azul dam near Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. 17-20 Dec (RA, EAM, MG ph.); all localities are in Oaxaca unless otherwise indicated. A probable Singing Quail was heard at



This photograph of an adult Gray Hawk in Parque Estatal Cañón de Fernández, Durango, Mexico 27 January 2007 is especially interesting because it is the first adult to be photographed from this part of Mexico and because its tail pattern and barred upperparts resemble the subspecies found from southern Costa Rica southwards. Photograph by Sandra Luz Ramos Robles.

Yaxchilán, Chis. 2 Dec (HGdS). A juv. Blue-footed Booby was at Tangolunda Bay 24-28 Dec (KG). A belated photographic record was received of an ad. **Brown Pelican** on the Usumacinta R. between Frontera Corozal, Chis. and Yaxchilán 21 Jan 2006 (MDC, ph. D. & A. Forster); its features closely resembled those typical of Pacific Coast birds. Another belated record was of an ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** from the Lacantún R. near Parador Turístico Las Guacamayas, Chis. 23 Jan (MDC). Two Solitary Eagles were reported about 15 km uphill of Paraíso, Gro. 16 Feb (RK et al.). An ad. **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** was at the Lacandonia field station at Chajul, Chis. 19 Jan (MDC). An **Aplo-mado Falcon** seen near Tuxtepec 18 Jan was away from its mapped range (AM).

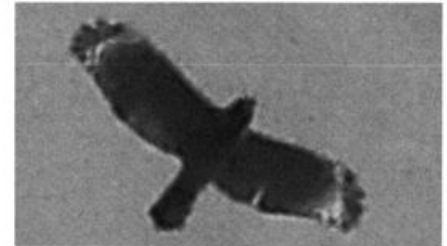
Eight Ruddy Crakes were easily located in grasses by use of audio playback at Lancanja-Bonampak, Chis. 16 Jan and 3 more at La-

candonia-Chajul 18 Jan (MDC). Two Scarlet Macaws were at Bonampak 16 Jan; 20+ were seen at Las Guacamayas 17-18 Jan; and 10+ were observed while at the Chajul field station 19-20 Jan (MDC). Single Guatemalan Pygmy-Owls were recorded at Lagunas de Montebello, Chis. 21 Jan and near San Cristóbal de las Casas 22 Jan (MDC). A male Stripe-tailed Hummingbird was seen near Nuevo San Juan Chamula on the Guatemala/Chiapas border 21 Jan (MDC). A Plain-capped Starthroat was at El Zapotal (ZOOMAT), Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chis. 17 Dec (CMC, FA, ph.). Many Pale-vented Pigeons seen 1-2 Feb near Francisco Villa, Ver. were out of normal range (AM, JM). A Slate-headed Tody-Tyrant was at Yaxchilán 2 Dec (HGdS, MPV). A **Gray Kingbird** was seen on the Cuyo de Álvaro Obregón rd., Chis., n. of Hwy. 186 on 23 Jan (MDC). Two male **Lovely Cotingas** were seen at Bonampak 16 Jan, and an imm. male was at Palenque, Chis. 23 Jan (MDC). A **Gray-breasted Martin** seen s. of Benemérito de las Américas 17 Jan was perhaps early.

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA

Subregional Report written by Barbara MacKinnon



This Red-shouldered Hawk at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco was one of a pair seen there 19 January 2007, providing the first record for the Distrito Federal (Mexico City). Photograph by Gerardo del Olmo.

There were lots of interesting finds this winter, including the addition to the subregion of Central American Pygmy-Owl well identified by voice, and a probable Golden-cheeked Warbler at Punta Laguna in northern Quintana Roo. In addition, there was a second well-documented record for the subregion of a Sandhill Crane, the first record being a sight



This immature Broad-winged Hawk showed up in a backyard in the center of the city of Chihuahua 30 November 2006 and furnished the first record for the state of Chihuahua. Photograph by Juan Francisco Anchondo García.

report by Raymond Paynter on Banco Chinchorro in 1949. A Northern Barred-Woodcreeper heard calling at Chichén Itzá clarifies that species' distribution within the state of Yucatán, and a Vermilion Flycatcher was new for the Cozumel Island list.

Abbreviations: R.L. (Río Lagartos); S.A.C. (San Antonio Chel, Hunucmá, Yucatán); S.F. (San Felipe, Yucatán); S.K.B.R. (Sian Ka'an



A pair of adult Black Hawk-Eagles (one here) were found 1.5 kilometers south of Lo de Marcos, Nayarit, Mexico 4 January 2007; one adult was studied at the same place 17 January 2007. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell/WINGS.

Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo); V.C.R. (Vigía Chico Rd., Sian Ka'an Reserve, Q. Roo); Chunchucmil (refers to the road to Chunchucmil located along the inland border of the Celestún Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.).

TINAMOU THROUGH RAPTORS

Few people report actually seeing a Little Tinamou, but one group of birders did at km 34 in Calakmul 14 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). A flock of 50-100 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen at Laguna Silvituc 12 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). Three Muscovy Ducks were at Santa Elena 3 Dec (IN), and an American Wigeon was in a pond behind San Crisanto 1 Jan (BM, DW), while another was in a coastal pond behind Palmar reserve 28 Jan (AD). Three Ring-necked Ducks, quite rare in the subregion, were seen in a roadside pond 4 km s. of S.F. 5 Dec (SC, ER), and another was seen 15 Dec on the Morocoy rd., Q. Roo (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). A female Red-breasted Merganser was at Celestún 11 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT), and another, or the same one, was observed in the area in salt pond behind Hotel Xixim 23 Dec (AD).

A Crested Guan was near the parking lot near the ruins at Calakmul 14 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT), while 8 were heard on the V.C.R. 27 Dec (GG, GM, IN). Two tour groups enjoyed views of Great Curassow in Calakmul, the first seeing a total of 4 males and 2 females with 2 poults 13-14 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT), and the other group seeing 5 males 12 Jan during drive in and out of Calakmul (MC). Ocellated Turkeys have been more visible this year as well, with 2 seen 9 Dec at Chichén Itzá, where 6 or 7 have been hanging out of late, according to the locals. An incredible 75 were seen in Calakmul 14 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). Other reports included 3 along the V.C.R. 27 Dec; another at Cobá 29 Dec (GG, LM, IN); 3 at Cobá 18 Feb

(IN); and one at Chunchucmil 5 Jan (AD).

An incredible 50-100 Pied-billed Grebes were estimated on the lake at Cobá 4 Dec, which would appear to be a concentration of migrants (KA, PB, TM, DS, JR, HS, RT). An American Bittern was sighted 3 km s. of S.F. 21 Dec (BM, ER, WR) in the roadside savannah, while a total of 8 Jabirus was counted during a drive along the Palizada Rd., n. of Hwy. 186 on Campeche-Tabasco border 13 Jan (MC). Large numbers of Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures were reported at two locations within 15-20 km of R.L. 6 Dec and a dozen at Celestún 11 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). However, there was only one sighting of a King Vulture, in flight over V.C.R. 28 Dec (GG, LM, IN). A dark-morph Hook-billed Kite was seen from the hwy. near R.L. 6 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT), and another on the coastal rd. n. of Celestún 10 Feb (AD). A White-tailed Kite was seen 11 Dec on the rd. from Uxmal to Mérida and an-



Just five kilometers offshore of San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico on 8 January 2007, this Black-legged Kittiwake furnished a rare state record. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell/WINGS.

other 12 Dec near Campeche as well as along the Morocoy rd. (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT)—all of which lie within the species' known area of distribution. However, one observed on rd. to Tekal behind El Cuyo 23 Dec was in a new area, although the species was photographed in that area last Aug (AM, BM, RM, ER, AR, MT). An ad. female Northern Harrier, an uncommon late transient in the subregion, was seen at Telchac Puerto 2 Dec (DB); another female was s. of S.F. 21 Dec (SC, BM, BS, ER), and a male was seen in flight the next day on rd. to Tekal behind El Cuyo 22 Dec (BM, RM, ER, MT). An Ornate Hawk-Eagle attracted gazes of a birding group on the rd. into Calakmul 12 Jan, as it stayed perched in one location for seven hours (MC). Another group enjoyed prolonged

views of a Barred Forest-Falcon at the aguada at km 20 in Calakmul 13 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). Collared Forest-Falcon was reported at several locations, including Sayil 10 Dec, where a pair was seen in flight, and at Uxmal, a dark-morph individual, on San Simon Rd. the same day (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT); 3 were heard or seen on the V.C.R. 27 Dec; another was at Cobá 29 Dec; and another was at R.L. 30 Dec (all GG, LM, IN).

RAILS THROUGH POTOO

A Rufous-necked Wood-Rail was at the petrified forest at Celestún 23 Dec (AD). A juv. Spotted Rail was seen at Cobá 29 Dec (GG, LM, IN). About a dozen Purple Gallinules were at Laguna Silvituc 12 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT), and a juv. with dark head along with 5 ads. were at pond with a juv. and 12 ad. Common Moorhens and 30 American Coots in a small aguada near Dzonot Carretero 16 Dec (BM, LP). Approximately 7000 American Coots were in the Celestún estuary 23 Dec (AD); and 1000 were seen in the coastal lagoon at Sisal 25 Feb (BM, AM, RM).

Exciting news this winter was the 2nd report of Sandhill Crane on the peninsula, this one an ad. located in wet savanna 7 km s. of R.L., where it was photographed in the early morning feeding on a locust infestation 6 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). It was also photographed in same location in the afternoon of the same day (EC, DN) and once more 11 Dec (DB, EG, BM, GT). It was not in the area at the end of Feb. This was the

first confirmed record since Raymond Paynter reported it at Banco Chinchorro in 1949.

Regular but rare on the peninsula were 2 Piping Plovers on a sandbar in R.L. 6 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). Winter records of American Avocet are not common and so are reported here: 30 were noted 26 Nov at Celestún (EC); one was still in the area 3 Dec (EC, BM, MM, RM); another 4 were at Las Coloradas 21 Dec (MT); and 14 were in coastal pond at San Crisanto 1 Jan (BM, DW). A Whimbrel was at Telchac Puerto 2 Dec (DB), and 20-30 Marbled Godwits were at R.L. 6 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). A rarely identified Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Palmar 28 Jan (AD), and 50 Stilt Sandpipers were at R.L. 30 Dec (GG, LM, IN). A single Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Ce-



This Eastern Phoebe at Rancho Primavera 11 January 2007 was in a part of Jalisco, Mexico where the species does not normally occur. Photograph by Marshall J. Iltiff/Beverly Wallace.

lestún 3 Dec (AD, EG), and another was in a salt pond behind Hotel Xixim 1 Dec (AD).

A Pomarine Jaeger was identified 800 m offshore from Celestún 23 Dec (AD). Ring-billed, Herring, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were all reported again this year, the latter obviously increasing, but they are no longer considered unusual for the subregion. Gull-billed Tern seems to be increasing in the area, and one member of a pair in mostly basic plumage appeared to be on a nest 7 Dec at Las Coloradas, but this was not confirmed (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). A total of 20 was seen at R.L. 30 Dec (GG, LM, IN), and one at San Crisanto caught a locust on the wing 1 Jan (BM, DW). Caspian Tern is also increasing in the subregion, with the largest flock reported to date being 44 at Las Coloradas 7 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). Forster's Tern is also reported now each winter, but still in low numbers, with one seen 6 Dec at R.L. (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT); 4 in same area R.L. 30 Dec (GG, LM, IN); one at Celestún 23 Dec (AD); another at Palmar 28 Jan (AD); and 6 at San Crisanto 1 Jan (BM, DW).

Mourning Doves are common in Yucatán but not so in Quintana Roo, where one was seen at Puerto Aventuras 26 Jan (BS). On the other hand, White-crowned Parrot is common in s. Quintana Roo but not registered for Yucatán; however, a possible flock of 15 was heard 9 Dec at Sayil. A Pheasant Cuckoo was seen sunbathing, with back feathers lifted, at Uxmal 13 Jan (AD), and a Barn Owl was roosting in a pothole in a side road at Calakmul 13 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). Also at Calakmul, a Central American Pygmy-Owl was heard calling 13 Dec along the entry rd. at about km 35 (RT). This report constitutes a new species for the subregion. (The species was previously reported in the area, but without the detailed voice description provided by RT.) Two Yucatan Poorwills were calling, and one eventually was seen, at

Uxmal 9 Dec on the San Simon Rd. (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT), and 6 were seen or heard V.C.R. 26 Dec, with several seen at a farmhouse along the V.C.R. (GG, LM, IN). A possible Chuck-will's-widow was found at Celestún in Dec (IN); the only confirmed record for this species is from Cobá in 1977, when fresh feathers were found (BM). A Yucatan Nightjar was on V.C.R. 27 Dec (GG, LM, IN), and a Northern Potoo was near Cobá 4 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WAXWINGS

At San Crisanto on 1 Jan, a female Mexican Shearwater was seen pasting a piece of lichen-like blue paint to her nest that contained one egg; the nest was located in a bush that the locust swarms had just stripped of vegetation (BM, DW); at Sisal, a female was observed feeding in the area of her nest, which held 2 young nestlings, located in a black mangrove 25 Feb (BM, AM, RM). A total of 11 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at R.L. 21 Dec (BM, MM, RM, AM, AR, MT), and 7 were at Hacienda Tzalancab, Izamal 10 Feb (DB, GT). A female Green Kingfisher was seen leaving a freshly dug nest tunnel in the freshwater mangrove channel at San Crisanto 11 Feb (BM, RM). A rarely seen Chestnut-colored Woodpecker was spotted 2 km n. of Botes, Q. R. 28 Dec (BM), and a Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner was seen 13 Dec at about km 52 on the entry rd. to Calakmul (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). A single Olivaceous Woodcreeper was just outside its normal habitat in the mangrove at El Corchito, Progreso 10 Feb (AG). Even more stunning was a Northern Barred-Woodcreeper heard 8 Dec in Old Chichén (RT), which changes the known distribution of this species, previously recorded



Probably providing the first record for Chihuahua, this Winter Wren was found by William Howe 2 January 2007 (here) and was subsequently seen by others through 5 February. Photograph by William Howe.

only from the extreme ne. and s. borders of Yucatán.

An Ochre-bellied Flycatcher was observed at Calakmul 13-14 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT), and Eastern Wood-Pewee was still in

the subregion as late as 5 Dec on the S.K.B.R. n. coast (WS), as well as at Calakmul 13 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). A female Vermilion Flycatcher on Cozumel I. 2 Dec was a new record (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). Although Tropical Kingbirds are more frequently found in coastal zones, they can also be found inland, such as one at Chichén Itzá 9 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT). Philadelphia Vireos were found 14 Dec at Calakmul and on the V.C.R. 16 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). Fifty Purple Martins were returning northward over the Chunchumil rd. 10 Feb (AD), while Tree Swallows were also early, with 20 spotted 3 Dec on the coast at Celestún (IN); 100 were at Muyil 28 Dec and



Providing the first record for Nuevo León was this Cape May Warbler found in San Pedro Garza García, Monterrey 27 January 2007; the bird often fed at sapsuckers' sap-wells. Photograph by Ricardo Guerra de la Garza.

20 at R.L. 29 Dec (GG, LM, IN); 200-300 were recorded 12 Dec from Champoton; and 100 were on the coast of S.K.B.R. 17 Dec (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). The last reported were 24 at Chunchucmil 10 Feb (AD). Six Barn Swallows were migrating through on 10 Feb at Chunchucmil (AD).

Confirmation of new distribution information for Tropical Mockingbird came in a report of their presence in se. Campeche, where 4 were seen along the Escarcega-Calakmul hwy. and first 7 km on the rd. into Calakmul 12 Jan (MC). Once more, European Starlings showed up in Celestún, with 6 seen 3 Dec (BM, MM, RM). A few were still in the area 27 Dec (AD). Cedar Waxwings were reported from several locations around the peninsula this winter, from individuals to flocks of 40 (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT; DB, GT).

WARBLERS THROUGH MUNIAS

A potential new record for the subregion was an ad. male Golden-cheeked Warbler well identified at Punta Laguna 5 Dec but unfortu-

nately not photographed (RT). Curiously, a less-experienced observer reported one 6 km e. of the Chumpon entrance to S.K.B.R. 12 Feb, noting its very black crown (WS). Reports for rarely seen warbler species included a Worm-eating Warbler 2 Dec 30 km sw. of Progreso (AD) and a Swainson's Warbler 4 Dec on the n. coast of S.K.B.R. (WS). Reports of wintering Louisiana Waterthrushes are increasing, with one on Cozumel 2 Dec, one at Chichén Itzá 9 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT), and one in Celestún 9 Jan (DS). An ad. male Kentucky Warbler was on Cozumel 2 Dec, and 2 were seen 13-14 Dec at Calakmul by the same group (KA, PB, BBs, JR, DS, HS, RT). A Wilson's Warbler was at R.L. 30 Dec (LM), and a male was seen 12 Feb in S.K.B.R. (WS). Blue-gray Tanagers are now known to be distributed throughout the subregion, in-

cluding the state of Yucatán, as made clear by the following sightings: one in Valladolid 5 Dec (KA, HS); 4 at Tizimin 9 Dec, with 6 Yellow-winged Tanagers (IN); and 2 at Kinchil 3 Dec (DB). The only reports of sparrows were 2 Savannah Sparrows at Xixim, Celestún 1 Dec (AD) and a Lincoln's Sparrow at R.L. 15 Dec (IN).

EXOTICS

Reports of Eurasian/African Collared-Doves, which invaded the subregion at least as early as 2002, included the following: one at Playa del Carmen, Q. Roo 3 Dec (KA, PB, TM, JR, DS, HS, RT); one at Progreso 17 Feb-5 Mar (BS); and one at Celestún 23 Dec (AD). Seven Tricolored Munias were seen 20 Dec at Progreso, near where they were originally discovered in 1993 (AG).

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Central America



H. Lee Jones | Oliver Komar

Both birds and birders appeared to be on the move this winter. No fewer than 98 contributors (an all-time high for the Region) commented on more than 100 species considered worthy of mention in this season's report. A number of species are clearly expanding their ranges in the Region, some rapidly, others incrementally. For some, however, the question remains open as to whether they are expanding into new areas or only now being discovered in places where they have been overlooked in the past. Unfortunately, all too many species expanding their range are doing so in response to ongoing deforestation. Two species that are clearly on the move in Costa Rica are Tropical Mockingbird and Black-cowled Oriole. Wood Storks were found nesting in El Salvador for the first time, and Amethyst-throated Hummingbird may be colonizing Los Volcanes National Park in El Salvador, 50 km from its nearest known breeding site.

Winter 2006-2007 saw an irruption of

Cedar Waxwings, which in recent years, at least, have exhibited a pattern of incursion every other winter. Two other species, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Olive-sided Flycatcher, neither common, were reported more frequently in northern Central America this winter than typically. Whether Golden-cheeked Warbler is expanding its winter range (perhaps a reflection of successful recovery efforts on its breeding grounds?) or is only now being documented in a number of localities where it had been overlooked, is an open question.

Despite the abundance of reports this season, none represented new country records. With this report, we welcome Tom Jenner as the new El Salvador country compiler.

Abbreviations: M.N.C.R. (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica); S.F. (Shrimp Farm); W.S. (Wildlife Sanctuary).

DUCKS THROUGH KITES

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks on a roadside pond near Altun Ha, Belize 30 Jan (BF et al.) were among the few recorded in Belize away from Crooked Tree W.S. On 14 Feb about 100 Northern Shovelers, an impressive concentration for n. Honduras, were at oxidation ponds just outside the city of El Progreso, Yoro (DA). A male Mallard seen 15 Jan in the R. Tarcoles estuary, Puntarenas (PM, LC)

was thought to be of wild origin. It was seen on only one day where LC conducts almost daily boat tours. This species, a casual winter visitor in Central America, occurred more regularly in the past, but this was the first recent Costa Rica record of a presumed wild bird. A



El Salvador's fourth Double-toothed Kite visited the bird monitoring station at El Imposible National Park on 6 December 2006 (here).
Photograph by Lety Andino.

male and 6 female Ring-necked Ducks, rare anywhere in Costa Rica other than the Tempisque R. basin in Guanacaste, were at San