

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



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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

Miguel de Turrúcares in the w. Central Valley 19 Dec (RiG et al.). Belize recorded its 6th through 9th Red-breasted Mergansers since the first 2 were recorded in Dec 2002. A group of 3 was at Nova S.F., Ladyville, Belize 17 Dec (LJ, JB et al.), and another was at Placencia, *Stann Creek* 21 Feb (GC).

A flock of 17 American White Pelicans flying ssw. over Copán Ruinas, *Copán* 21 Jan (RG) were in an area where the species had not previously been recorded. In Honduras, it had only been recorded in *Atlántida* and from wetlands on the Pacific coast. In Belize, a group of 6 Brown Pelicans was seen following the New R. inland at Hill Bank, *Orange Walk* 27 Jan, and a Magnificent Frigatebird was seen farther inland flying over August Pine Ridge, *Orange Walk* on 5 Feb (both BF et al.). Both species are recorded inland on occasion, but so far no strong seasonal pattern of inland occurrence for either species has emerged. A Reddish Egret at the Gatún Spillway, *Colón* 10 Jan (CB) was the 6th recorded in Panama and the 2nd recorded from this site. Farther n., 7 Reddish Egrets at Bahía de Jiquilisco, *La Paz* 3 Feb (OK, EM, OB, CF) established a high count for this species in El Salvador. An Agami Heron in the R. Tarcoles estuary 22 Jan (LC, KEa) was the first recorded from the Pacific slope n. of Carara in 20 years and one of few for the entire Pacific slope of Costa Rica. A first for heavily birded Tikal N.P., *Petén*, was an ad. White Ibis seen flying overhead 15 Dec (RC, KE, CA). Eleven Wood Stork nests found in a heronry at Cerrón Grande, *Chalatenango* 5 Feb and 40 nests there 12 Feb provided the first breeding records for El Salvador (ph. RI, LQ, LRod). More than 220 storks were counted at the site during an aerial survey 20 Jan (KKr).

Three Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures on the se. shoreline of L. Managua 15 Feb (NK, SP, JM, WA) were at an unexpected locality on the Pacific side of Nicaragua. Four ad. King Vultures seen in the Honduran Emerald Reserve in Olanchito, *Yoro* 18 Feb (RG; VENT Tour) made an unusually high concentration for this area. In El Salvador, a single Hook-billed Kite seen soaring over Nancuchiname 9 Feb (RI) was apparently only the 2nd recorded in *Usulután*. In Costa Rica, 50 female-plumaged Snail Kites 8 Jan (LR, OR) were at a recently opened Tilapia S.F. near Hotel La Pacifica, 8 km wnw. of Cañas, *Guanacaste*, just off the Pan-American Hwy. along the road to Upala. Although this location is along the flight path for birds moving between the two major population centers at Palo Verde and Caño Negro, such an impressive concentration at a distant, recently created habitat illustrates the species' ability to find and take advantage of an unpredictable resource. On 9 Feb, only one female

and 5 males were around these ponds (JZ). In Honduras, many ads. and juvs. (number not given) were seen around L. Yojoa, *Cortés* in mid-Feb after several years of low numbers (RG; VENT tour). At El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán*, an imm. Double-toothed Kite 6 Dec (ph. LA, JF, RJ, RV) furnished only the 4th record for El Salvador.

## ACCIPITERS THROUGH SKIMMERS

Near Cerro Verde, *Sonsonate*, a juv. Cooper's Hawk was well seen as it circled overhead 27 Jan (TJ). There are few documented records of this species in El Salvador. A juv. Harris's Hawk 4 Jan at Finca Palma Quemada 1 km n. of Hatillo between Quepos and Dominical (JZ) may have been the first reported from the s. Pacific slope of Costa Rica. Old winter reports from Panama, which has no breeding population, suggest that this may have been a wandering individual in search of new territory or a migrant rather than part of an undetected resident population. The area's extensive, seasonally plowed agricultural fields surrounded by tall trees, is similar to habitat found in *Guanacaste* where the species is relatively common. Similarly, a juv. White-tailed Hawk 4 km s. of the R. Savegre bridge between Quepos and Dominical 24 Feb (JZ), representing one of the few reliable records in Costa Rica outside *Guanacaste*, was in ideal habitat, a recently plowed rice field. A rare-but-regular winter visitor in Belize, an ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was observed 7 km nw. of Spanish Lookout, *Cayo* 15 Feb (BF, LGr, MH, JH, G&IS). Crested Eagle is rarely reported anywhere in n. Central America, so an ad. at Hickatee Lodge, only 3 km s. of Punta Gorda, 16 Dec (IM, *fide* LJ) was quite a surprise and in an area of s. Belize where not previously reported.

Not unusual in Belize but at an unexpected locality was an ad. Orange-breasted Falcon perched in a tree in a residential yard in Belmopan most of the afternoon of 27 Dec (LJ). The nearest active aerie is 20 km to the s. near Blue Hole N.P. On 28 Feb, a dead Paint-billed Crake with a crop full of rice was found at La Gamba, 6 km nw. of Golfito, *Puntarenas* (JS, \*M.N.C.R.), and a live bird was seen in the same rice field six days later (PM et al.). This species is seldom reported in Costa Rica, and these are believed to constitute only the 3rd and 4th records from the Pacific slope. Two Rufous-necked Wood-Rails were reported from R. Frio n. of Caño



Only a casual winter visitor to Belize, this juvenile Common Tern visited Punta Gorda 19-23 (here 19) December 2006. Photograph by Jim Beveridge.

Negro W.R., *Alajuela* 8 Jan (OR). This species is occasionally reported from Costa Rica's Caribbean slope, where it likely occurs, at least seasonally, in small numbers. A Uniform Crake observed as it crossed the Mollejon Dam road s. of Arenal, *Cayo* on 17 Feb (BF, JH) provided one of the few sight records of this elusive rail in Belize. Belize's 2nd Southern Lapwing made an appearance on the Belize City shoreline 26 Dec (RB, *fide* PB). Meanwhile, Belize's first Southern Lapwing remains at Crooked Tree Village, where it was first reported in spring 2004.

An ad. Wattled Jacana was at La Gamba, 6 km nw. of Golfito, *Puntarenas*, 20 Feb+ (PW). This species is reported nearly annually now near the Panama border along the Pacific slope. Establishing a high count for El Salvador were 174 Marbled Godwits at Bahía de Jiquilisco 3 Feb (OK, EM, OB, CF). Also establishing a high count for El Salvador were up to 4 first-cycle Herring Gulls seen at and near the mouth of R. Jiboa, *La Paz* 3-18 Feb (MR, OK, NK, JvD, TJ). Six Gull-billed Terns there 3 Feb (MR, TJ) was also a large number for this under-reported species in El Salvador. In Belize, a Gull-billed Tern at Edenthal near Tres Leguas, *Orange Walk* 5 Feb (CL, BB) may have been one of 2 seen last Sep in the nearby Blue Creek rice fields. A first-cycle Common Tern was at Punta Gorda 19-23 Dec (LJ, ph. JB, JU). This species is a casual winter visitor in Belize. And in Costa Rica, a Forster's Tern 5 Dec (LG) at the mouth of R. Tarcoles was also noteworthy. Rarely reported in the interior anywhere in Central America, 5 Royal Terns were seen 10 Dec on L. Petén Itzá, *Petén* (RBM), and one was seen 1 Feb+ at San Pedro La Laguna, L. Atitlán, *Sololá* (RBM, ph. CA). Five Elegant Terns at the mouth of R. Jiboa, *La Paz* 10 Feb (OK, NK, JvD) may have been earlier than usual migrants; whereas, 3 Black Skimmers on L. Petén Itzá at Flores 10 Dec (RBM) represented the first record for *Petén* and for inland Guatemala.



This male Amethyst-throated Hummingbird at Los Volcanes National Park in El Salvador 12 December was the third captured there in 2006. The source of these birds is a mystery, as extensive field work at this site over the previous 80 years had not detected the species. Photograph by Vicky Galán.

## PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Two calling Ruddy Pigeons at Cerro Chucanti, *Darién* 6 Jan (DM) provided the first record for this area of Panama. White-winged Doves are being reported with increasing frequency in winter in the s. half of Belize where this season there were close to a dozen reports. Migrants can be fairly common along the cen. and s. coast in Oct/Nov, but the species typically does not remain through the winter and is absent in spring and summer. A Caribbean Dove was heard in littoral forest 17 Dec at Nova S.F. in Ladyville, *Belize* in the same spot where one was heard five years and one day earlier (both LJ). This species is seldom reported on mainland Belize, and Nova S.F. is the southernmost locality of record. At Rincón de La Vieja N.P., sector Pailas, *Guanacaste*, a Violaceous Quail-Dove 18 Jan (RD) was the first reported in recent years from this heavily visited area. Although formerly occurring regularly in the Panama Canal Area, a small flock of Brown-throated Parakeets at Veracruz on the w. bank of the Panama Canal and 2 in the mangroves near Diablo Heights 10 Dec (KK, RM, DM) provided the only recent reports.

Providing a first record for Pico Bonito N.P., *Atlántida* was a well-seen Pheasant Cuckoo along the ridge trail at The Lodge at Pico Bonito 20 Feb (RG, RZ, BM). In Nicaragua, a Pheasant Cuckoo near Macuelizo, *Nueva Segovia* 4 Feb (JM, NL) was noteworthy, as this species is still rather poorly known in Nicaragua. Rarely reported for Costa Rica was a Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo at Hotel Tierras Enamoradas along the hwy. between San Ramón and La Tigra, *Alajuela* 31 Jan (JZ). And in El Salvador, a seldom-seen Northern Potoo was observed in mangroves at Corral de Mulas, *Usulután* 3 Feb (OK, EM,

OB, ph. CF). Perhaps representing the northernmost record in Belize was a Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift heard and seen over Fireburn, *Corozal* 5 Jan (IM, LJ).

Two male Amethyst-throated Hummingbirds captured at the monitoring station at Los Volcanes N.P., *Santa Ana* 12 Dec (ph. VG) were indicative of either an unusual migration or a remarkable colonization event. A female was captured there in Nov (see fall season report) but was thought at the time

to have been a vagrant. Three years of intensive monthly monitoring had not detected this species, nor had avian inventories at the volcano in 1927, 1995, and 2004. The Brown Violet-ear found at Altos de María, *Panamá* last winter was relocated at virtually the same spot 31 Dec–7 Jan (TS, DR, KA et al.). Rarely seen at Hill Bank, *Orange Walk* was an Azure-crowned Hummingbird 27 Jan (BR, BF et al.), at the n. end of its range in Belize. A female Purple-throated Mountain-gem below the mirador at Cerro La Gaitál 7 Jan (KA, TS) was only the 2nd reported from this locality in Panama at the e. edge of its range. It was first reported in Jun 2005. A male Garnet-throated Hummingbird was observed 13 Dec at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* at 1780 m (ph. JF, CF, OB). This species had not previously been reported in pine-oak forest in El Salvador. Additionally, 5 (3 male and 2 female) Sparkling-tailed Hummingbirds were observed there 12–19 Dec (ph. JF, ph. LA, CF, OB), also in pine-oak forest, and several male Wine-throated Hummingbirds were observed nearby at 1825 m singing and performing their U-shaped display flights to at least one female on 15 Dec (vr. JF, ph. CF, OB).

## MOTMOTS THROUGH MANAKINS

Perhaps a sign of altitudinal migration, 2 Keel-billed Motmots seen 24 Feb about 15 km apart in La Virgen de Sarapiquí and La Guaria near La Selva (JS) were in the lowlands outside their known range, which extends to the Tilarán Mts. Noteworthy for El Salvador was a pair of Amazon Kingfishers at R. Chiquito, Chapeltique, *San Miguel* 20 Dec (ph. NH). A male Acorn Woodpecker at Santa Elena, *Petén* 13 Dec (KE, CA) was only the 2nd reported from the L. Petén Itzá/Tikal area in several decades. One was seen nearby in

Jun 2003. Normally an uncommon winter visitor in n. Central America, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in higher numbers than usual in Belize, with multiple reports from all districts but *Corozal*. Two Strong-billed Woodcreepers seen at Montaña de Carmona, 5 km se. of Antigua Guatemala, *Sacatepéquez* 25 Feb (AJ) furnished just the 2nd record at this site after one was heard in Jun 2006 (reported in this journal). In Panama, Thicket Antpitta was only recently recorded in *Kuna Yala*, so one seen 6 km n. of Burbayar 6 Feb (JT) was noteworthy.

A Rufous-browed Tyrannulet was found on the Sora–El Valle rd., just above the village of Mato Ahogado, *Panamá* 7 Jan (vr. KA, TS), where the species was found last May. At only 500 m, a Rough-legged Tyrannulet at Bijagual along the e. border of Carara N.P. 3 Dec (JS) was at an unusually low elevation and slightly n. of its known range. However, species typically restricted to higher elevations are often reported from the lowlands in this part of Costa Rica. Eye-ringed Flatbills were found on three consecutive days in cen. Panama: one on Cerro La Gaitál 7 Jan (KA, TS), one on the Zamia Trail outside El Valle 8 Jan (KA, AR), and one from the Canopy Tower 9 Jan (vr. KA). KA has pointed out that the species was first recorded in e. *Coclé* in the 1990s by DR and in 2001 by DE, not in 2005 as reported in *North American Birds* 60: 154. Three reports were received of individual Olive-sided Flycatchers in the lowlands of Guatemala and Belize, where they are seldom seen in winter: on the Tikal N.P. C.B.C. 14 Dec (ph. KE); at Soldier Creek along the Coastal Road, *Belize* 13 Feb (CL, BB); and at Aguacate Lagoon, *Cayo* 17 Feb (BB, CL, MH). In Guatemala, perhaps as many as 5 Acadian Flycatchers were at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Sucitepéquez* 23 Feb (vr. and ph. AJ), and 2 or more were identified there on several dates between 22 Feb and 3 Mar. The species has not been previously recorded in winter in n. Central America; however, whether these were wintering birds or early spring migrants is an unresolved question. AJ believed them to be wintering, not early migrants, as they responded to playback and were in similar spots over a week apart. Migrant Acadians normally do not appear until mid-Mar, and most songbird migrants do not hold territories and remain for only a few days before moving on. However, OK has suggested that some Acadian Flycatchers may have a staged spring migration with some arriving early and staying one to two weeks at a site before continuing northward.

A Fork-tailed Flycatcher, undoubtedly a migrant, was present 20–26 Dec (OV) at La Guaria, *Heredia* on the Caribbean slope, where it is rarely and irregularly reported.

Two Gray-headed Piprites were reported from the upper ridge trail at The Lodge at Pico Bonito 20 Feb (RG, BM). This species is rarely reported in Honduras. Unexpectedly far n. was a well-studied female or juv. Turquoise Cotinga at Ensenada Lodge, Abangares, *Puntarenas* on the n. shore Gulf of Nicoya 31 Jan (RO et al.). The species has not been reported n. of Carara, although it does wander widely within its range. La Ensenada is known for attracting nomadic frugivores (e.g., Three-wattled Bellbird, Cedar Waxwing), as fruiting trees abound there. On 15 Dec, JCG and MR observed a female or juv. Bare-necked Umbrellabird in Omar Torrijos Park above El Copé, *Coclé*, where there have been few previous reports. At a newly reported location was a single Long-tailed Manakin heard calling at Cerro de Guazapa, *San Salvador* 10 Feb (RI). It remains to be seen if this species is resident there, and if so, whether it is recently arrived or representative of a long-present but overlooked population.

## VIREOS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Blue-headed Vireo in Belmopan 18 Feb+ (PB), although the 2nd for this locality (the first was recorded in Dec 2000), was only the 3rd recorded in Belize. A Brown-capped Vireo 17 Feb at Hotel Villa Lapas just s. of Carara N.P. (AD et al.) was at an exceptionally low elevation (see the Rough-legged Tyrannulet note, above). Another species not recently reported from Diablo Heights, *Panamá*, was a Rufous-browed Peppershrike seen in mangroves there 10 Dec (KK, RM, DM). Following last fall's report of 3 Brown Jays at Hotel Perkin Lenca, *Morazán*, 2 were still present 2 Dec (TJ) and 1 Feb (vt. CF, OB). At least one of these was a young bird with a yellow bill. Confirming that the restricted-range Bushy-crested Jay is not just a vagrant at Cerro de Guazapa where it was reported once before, at least six groups were observed there 10 Feb (RI). Two male and 2 female Purple Martins 30 Jan (BF et al.) near Altun Ha, *Belize* were a full week earlier than the previous early record in Belize.

Around 20 Tree Swallows at Cerrón Grande 10-11 Jan (ph. RI, IV) lend support to last fall's prediction, based on reports from Costa Rica in late Nov, that this may be an invasion year. While these Tree Swallows provided the 4th record for El Salvador, they were the first to be documented with photographs. A Cliff Swallow was exceptionally early 5 Feb (JH), seen perched with other swallows at Rio Bravo, *Orange Walk*. Previously, the earliest arrival date for Belize was 10 Mar. Honduras's 2nd report of Cave Swallow, following close on the heels of 7 seen in



This Acadian Flycatcher at Los Tarrales Reserve, Guatemala 22 February 2007 was unexpected because wintering is not known in this species for northern Central America. Photograph by Alvaro Jaramillo.

El Jicarito N.W.R. last winter, was one perched on a low wire near Marcala, *La Paz* 25 Feb (ph. RG and JJe). There are few reports of this species from Guatemala, so individuals seen in Antigua Guatemala 17 Feb and 5 km se. at Montaña de Carmona 25 Feb (both AJ) were noteworthy. All three Cave Swallow reports were in montane areas and undoubtedly involved migrating birds, as the Central American wintering grounds are on the Pacific coastal plain.

Noteworthy because of its rarity in Panama was a Slate-throated Gnatcatcher 5 km n. of Burbayar, *Kuna Yala* 28 Jan (JT). A Hermit Thrush reported 18 km sw. of Marcala, *La Paz* at 1850 m 25 Feb (RG, IG, JJ, BM, H&MD), if confirmed, would establish just the 2nd record for Honduras. Although it was closely studied,

no details have yet been provided. Tropical Mockingbird continues to expand its range in Costa Rica. Four at 1400-m Las Concavas, *Cartago* 16 Dec (RiG et al.) were the most yet reported together and at one of the highest elevations yet reported (the highest was at 1600 m). At least in recent winters, Cedar Waxwing invasions have occurred at two-year intervals (2001, 2003, 2005, and now 2007). After being absent last year, this, the latest arriving of all winter visitors in the Region, was back again in force. First reported in San Salvador 30 Dec (OK), by 19 Jan, several groups totaling more than 70 birds were being reported in El Salvador at Cerro El Pericón and R. Sapo (RMa, TJ), both in *Morazán*. In Belize, 80 were on Glover's Reef 9 Feb (Z&PW), and 76 were seen on Caye Caulker the same day (JB). In Costa Rica, a flock of 35 was at Hotel Villa Caletas near Jacó by 18 Jan (LCh). About 200 were seen at Montaña de Carmona, 5 km se. of Antigua Guatemala, 26 Feb (AJ).

## WARBLERS

A male Blue-winged Warbler was noteworthy at Finca Filadelfia, 3 km n. of Antigua Guatemala, 25 Feb (AJ). Both of the rare Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler hybrids were found on their wintering grounds this year. A Brewster's Warbler was well studied as it came to a small puddle in the road n. of Chan Chich, about 3 km n. of the Cedar Crossing gate, *Orange Walk* (BZ et al.). A male Lawrence's Warbler at the Tisey Nature Reserve, *Estelí* 22 Jan (PSo, PBo) may have been the first to be documented in Nicaragua. The first report of Northern Parula in Costa Rica in two years came from the U. of Costa Rica campus in San José 6 Dec (LS). Providing only the 3rd record for El Salvador was a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Montecristo

**SA** With only four reports prior to fall 2003, the globally endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler was not known to winter in El Salvador. But with greatly increased coverage in recent years (and perhaps with an increase in population size in response to recovery efforts on its breeding grounds), the number of winter reports has steadily increased. This winter, no fewer than 16 Golden-cheeked Warblers were reported in El Salvador, most as part of a range-wide winter ecology study, supporting the expectation that El Salvador lies within its winter range. Individuals were found at Bosque La Montañona, *Chalatenango* 10 Dec (JF) and 6 Jan (OB, CF); 9 were found at Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 12-19 Dec (OB, ph. JF, ph. CF, LA); 4 were at El Manzano, *Chalatenango* 24 Dec (OB, CF, JvD, JJ, ST); and a single bird was seen at Candelaria de la Frontera, *Santa Ana* 19 Feb (WR).

Similarly, 6 Golden-cheeked Warblers were found at two sites in Nicaragua, where only five previous country records existed: 3 were at Tisey—Estanzuela, La Garnacha, *Estelí* 17-18 Jan, and 3 were at Dipilto, Loma Fria, *Nueva Segovia* 8-11 Feb (JM, PSo, PBo). In Guatemala, 9 birds were recorded in the ecology study (AJC, BG) at previously known wintering sites, but a female in Chelemhá Reserve, *Alta Verapaz* 25 Feb (KE) in primary cloud forest with tall oak stands, was a first for the reserve. Honduran pine-oak forests have long been known as the core wintering range for Golden-cheeked Warblers, but this winter's study, which documented 26 individual birds in Honduras (JvD, JJ, ST), added a new locality on the s. fringe of its range: 4 were observed at La Botija, San Marcos de Colón, *Choluteca* 14-18 Feb. In all, 50 Golden-cheeked Warblers were recorded in the survey within n. Central America, and another 30 were recorded in neighboring Chiapas, Mexico (*vide* OK).

N.P. 13 Dec (JF, CF). On the Caribbean side, where it is seen more regularly, though still considered rare, a female was observed 1 km s. of Punta Gorda on 20 Dec (PB, EB).

In Guatemala, a female Hermit Warbler in a pine reforestation area in Chelemhá 23 Feb (KE) was a first for that reserve. A Palm Warbler at Ensenada Lodge, Abangares, *Puntarenas* 11 Feb (RC), along with three additional reports from Costa Rica last fall, marked a good year for this rare winter visitor in Costa Rica. Five Red-faced Warblers, a species rarely reported in El Salvador, were observed 12-19 Dec in Montecristo N.P. (JF, CF, OB, LA). A Golden-crowned Warbler observed in the Montibelli Private Reserve, *Managua* 23 Dec (JM, PS) was at 300 m elevation. This species is not common at low elevations in Nicaragua. The only report of Yellow-breasted Chat in Costa Rica this season was of one 27 Feb at Hacienda La China, Sabalito de Coto Brus (JZ). Interestingly, this bird had an orangish breast. The distribution and preferred habitat of Gray-throated Chat in Belize is an enigma. While relatively common in "bajo" forest in n. Belize, it is also found locally in widely scattered locations in other broadleaf forest types throughout the country, both in the lowlands and at higher elevations in the Maya Mts. A pair and 3 others in two well-separated locations of upland broadleaf forest in the e. Cockscomb Basin W.S. 29 & 30 Jan (LJ) were the first recorded from this well-birded locality.

## TANAGERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

On 3 Jan, a Rosy Thrush-Tanager was seen and heard at Las Tumbas de Pérez Zeledón on the ocean side of the coastal range above Dominical (LS, LSz), a new location for this spottily distributed and rarely reported resident. All previous reports in Costa Rica have been from the interior valleys of the s. Pacific slope. A female Scarlet Tanager at Wilson's Landing near Punta Gorda 5 Dec (LJ) was either a very late fall migrant or a wintering bird. There are only two previous winter records for Belize. Also new for Chelemhá Reserve, *Alta Verapaz* was a male Western Tanager in primary cloud forest 25 Feb (KE). A pair of Flame-colored Tanagers at Cerro de Guazapa 10 Feb (RI) were at a new and isolated location for this species in El Salvador. With few reports of Gray-and-gold Tanager as far w. as Kuna Yala, one 6 km n. of Burbayar 7 Feb (JT) was of interest.

On 11 Feb, a male Slate-colored Seedeater was seen in spiny bamboo at Monkey Bay, *Belize* (CL), the same site where Blue Seedeaters, another bamboo specialist, have been consistently seen for the past 15 years. Slate-colored Seedeaters also have been recorded recently a

few km to the sw. in similar habitat along the Sibun R. Another of the rare, nomadic species that follow episodes of bamboo seeding is Peg-billed Finch. Soon after *Chusquia* sp. bamboo came into flower in Costa Rica's Monteverde Reserve, single singing males were heard in separate locations within the reserve at ca. 1500 m on 27 & 29 Jan (LS). Thus far, this is the only bamboo specialist that has been reported, but others may show up once the plants start to seed. On 20 Dec, a flock of 40 Grassland Yellow-Finches was seen at The Dump, *Toledo* (LJ), less than a km from where 65 were seen back in Nov. Adding to the long list of likely ship-assisted birds that have turned up at the entrance to the Panama Canal (e.g., Great Tit last fall), and thus confounding the issue of true vagrancy in the area, was a



This female Golden-cheeked Warbler at Montecristo National Park 14 December 2006 provided the first photographic evidence that the species winters in El Salvador. Photograph by Carlos Funes.

Dark-eyed Junco at Sherman 30 Dec (DM, DeM). It was assumed to be ship-assisted because it was so far s. of its normal winter range. This was the 2nd Dark-eyed Junco to have turned up at the Panama Canal.

A Giant Cowbird at Clayton in Panama City 17 Jan (AA) was in an area where it is rarely seen. Black-cowled Oriole continues to expand its range into the s. Pacific region of Costa Rica, the most recent record coming from Bahía Ballena, Uvita 22 Jan (NU). In the past three years, it has been reported from several new locations as far s. as Rincon de Osa on the neck of the Osa Pen., perhaps indicative of a colonizing trend. A few km n. of the n. limit of its known range in Belize were single Chestnut-headed Oropendolas at Black Rock Lodge (JR) and near Arenal (CL, BB), *Cayo* 18 & 20 Feb, respectively. Five species of euphonias seen feeding in the same group of mistletoe in front of the reception area at The Lodge at Pico Bonito 21 Feb (RG) provided quite a treat. Most interesting were at least 2 White-vented Euphonias, a species that is seldom seen in

Honduras. The humid forests of Pico Bonito N.P. may be the best place in the country to find it. Red Crossbill is not commonly reported in El Salvador or Guatemala, so the following are noteworthy: in El Salvador, 5 were seen in pine forest at Montecristo N.P. 14 Dec (vr. JF, ph. CF, OB), and 2 were seen at Cerro El Campanario, Municipio de Concepción Quetzaltepeque, *Chalatenango* 6 Jan (RP); in Guatemala, 2 were seen at Chimusinique, *Huehuetenango* 18 Dec (AJC, BG).

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