

Two worst-in-decades hurricanes visited Mexico this fall. Hurricane *Kenna* swept over the Islas Revilagigedo and Islas Mariás as a Category 5 hurricane and roared into the mainland at San Blas, Villa Hidalgo, and Santiago Ixcuintla, Nayarit, 25 October as a Category 4 (see <www.rambocam.com/kenna.html>). The storm subsided as it traveled northeastward overland, becoming a tropical depression and releasing much precipitation in the states of Aguascalientes, Zacatecas, Durango, Coahuila, Nuevo León, San Luis Potosí, and Tamaulipas. Beatty reports that it rained for three days almost nonstop in Torreón, Coahuila, right after the hurricane. Ryan reports from a visit to San Blas 7-11 November that the numbers of wading birds seemed if anything higher than usual and that many newly-flooded marshy areas were created; small baitfish were much more numerous, and the only "permanent" habitat damage was to emergent trees on south- and west-facing slopes; trees were already sprouting new leaves two weeks after the hurricane. Damage was moderate to severe along the Nayarit coast as far south as the Jalisco border, with only moderate tree damage in west-facing slopes around Puerto Vallarta, according to Brinkley. On the other side of the country, Hurricane *Isidore* affected the northern Yucatan Peninsula 22-23 Sep (see the discussion under Yucatan Peninsula subregion).

Weather was noted to be cooler than usual throughout Mexico on most days from early November forward, courtesy of many cold fronts from the north.

Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva

Xola 314-E

03100 México, D.F.

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(hgomez@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx)

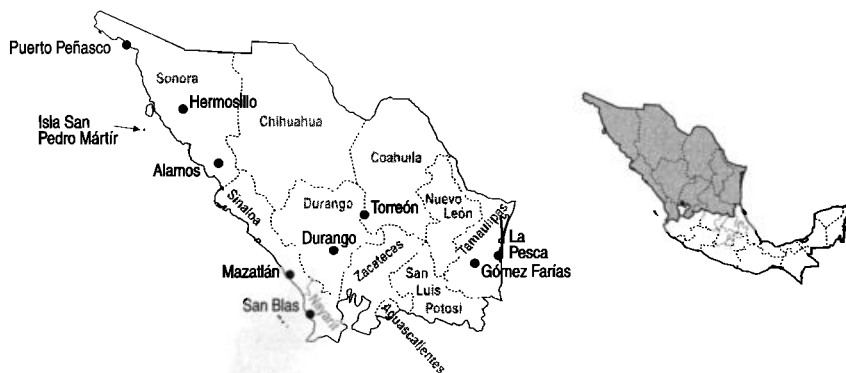
Carranza, Torreón, Coah.), P.P. (Puerto Peñasco, Son.).

LOONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A juv. Common Loon was near Ciudad Mante, Tamps. 27 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A Red-throated Loon was at P.P. 17 Nov (SG, RJ), where uncommon (see Ganley 2002). Three Eared Grebes near Cuatro Ciénegas, Coah. 25-27 Oct (RD, FVP, WB, m. ob.) were slightly early. A juv. Northern Gannet and a subad. Masked Booby were seen at La Pesca, Tamps. 30 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A male Great Frigatebird showed up on Isla Isabel, Nay. through Nov., probably displaced by Hurricane *Kenna* (VM, m. ob.). An imm. Bare-throated Tiger Heron was along Río El Fuerte, Sin. 28 Oct (NMC, JD, RE, LG, JL, W&JA). Five Boat-billed Herons were seen at Taninul, S.L.P. 29 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). An

In late Nov, permits were granted for hunters to claim up to 15 Wood Ducks per day in the Nazas R., and this may have meant the end of the species as a nesting duck in Mexico, as this small population is the only breeding group, but the permits were ultimately revoked, thanks to the efforts of FVP. Two Mexican Ducks were near El Naranjo, S.L.P. 27 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A single Northern Pintail and a single Canvasback were seen in Cañón de Fernández 3 Nov (FVP). A juv. Surf Scoter was just s. of Río Tampoan 27 & 29 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A female Common Goldeneye at P.P. 17 Nov was somewhat early (SG, RJ).

One Zone-tailed Hawk and one Turkey Vulture were perched in nearby trees in B.V.C. 27 Nov (FVP). Ospreys were seen in Cañón de Fernández from 6 Oct (FVP). A Crane Hawk was at El Fuerte 28 Oct (NMC). One Great Black-Hawk was along the Río Cuchujaqui, near Alamos, Son. 25 Nov (AMC, NMC, WLC). Two very vocal juv. Gray Hawks were in Cañón de Fernández, Nazas R., Dgo. 4 Aug (FVP). One juv. was at the location 8 Sep, and an ad. was farther upriver 10 Oct (FVP). Two White-tailed Hawks near Cuatro Ciénegas, Coah. 25-27 Oct (RD, FVP, WB, m. ob.) were in a state where not mapped by Howell & Webb (1995). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk was seen in B.V.C. 30 Aug (WB); this is consistent with sightings in the same park during recent fall and spring migrations. A juv. Cooper's Hawk was at B.V.C. 27 Nov, while a Sharp-shinned Hawk was there 6 Oct (FVP). On 25 Nov, a Merlin was along the Río Cuchujaqui, and 2 more were catching bats at dusk over the plaza in Alamos (AMC, NMC, WLC). Single Aplomado Falcons were seen near Aquismón, S.L.P. 25 (O&AC) & 27 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A Prairie Falcon was seen in Jimulco, Coah. 13 Oct (FVP). A single Peregrine Falcon was seen guarding what appeared to be a good nesting site in a cliff in Cerro de las Noas in the city of Torreón, Coah. up until early Aug (FVP). Peregrines



NORTHERN MEXICO

Narca Moore-Craig reports from Sinaloa and Chihuahua a few days after Hurricane *Kenna* that, "as in other years after a dry summer, bird numbers in the mountains seemed very low; numbers in the lowlands seemed more normal."

Abbreviations: B.V.C. (Bosque Venustiano

ad. and a juv. Roseate Spoonbill were seen in a shallow wetland along Hwy. 85 just s. of Río Tampoan, S.L.P. 27 Nov, and the ad. was still there 29 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS).

A Ross's Goose was at La Pesca 30 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). Wood Ducks continue to be seen in the Nazas R., Dgo. through the year; in Aug and Sep, juvs., females, and eclipse males were seen at several sites. They continued to be seen in Oct and Nov (FVP).

were again seen on the Canal 9 TV antenna in Torreón 1 Sep+, and 3 were seen vocalizing heavily on this antenna 10 Oct (FVP).

A female Sungrebe was near Gómez Fariás, Tamps. 23 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A Collared Plover, along with a Semipalmated and a male Snowy Plover were just s. of Río Tampaon 27 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A Northern Jacana along Río El Fuerte 28 Oct (NMC, JD, W&JA) was n. of its mapped range. A Spotted Sandpiper was somewhat high at Paraíso del Oso, Cerocahui, Chih. 30-31 Oct (NMC, JD, JL). In Puerto Peñasco, there were 3 Wilson's Phalaropes at the shrimp pond and 200+ Red-necked Phalaropes at the sewage ponds 8 Oct (SG).

A first-year Thayer's and 2 Western Gulls were at P.P. 17 Nov (SG, RJ). There were 2 Black Terns at the P.P. sewage ponds 8 Oct (SG). At Cholla Bay, Son. there were still 8 Elegant and 4 Common Terns 8 Oct (SG). A late juv. Common Tern was at La Pesca 30 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). Two Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen 30 Nov along the n. edge of Manuel, Tamps. (JS, SJD, RIC, JJD). This fall, 31 Maroon-fronted Parrot nests at El Taray, N.L., produced an average of 1.45 chicks per nest (*vide* CMC). A Military Macaw was heard at Urique Rim, Chih. 30 Oct (JL), and 34 were seen near El Naranjo 30 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). Around 25 Mexican Parrotlets were seen at Alamos 25 Nov (NMC, WLC). The last sighting of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Cañón de Fernández was one on 4 Aug, in line with previous years (FVP).

A pair of Vermiculated Screech-Owls was high at Rancho El Cielo, Tamps. 3-4 Oct (RH), while a Mexican Whip-poor-will there 4 Oct was low (RH). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was at Urique Rim 30 Oct (NMC, JD, JL), and a Berylline and a female Black-chinned Hummingbird were at Paraíso del Oso 31 Oct (NMC, JD, JL), where 3-4 Anna's Hummingbirds were present 29-31 Oct (NMC, JD, W&JA). A male Anna's Hummingbird was seen in B.V.C. 9 Nov using the same perch as the male (probably this same one) seen in the previous Mar and Apr (WB). Ten Emerald Toucanets were at Las Pozas near Xilitla, S.L.P. 29 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A Lineated Woodpecker at La Pesca 30 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS) was slightly n. of its mapped range.

WOODCREEPERS THROUGH TOWHEES

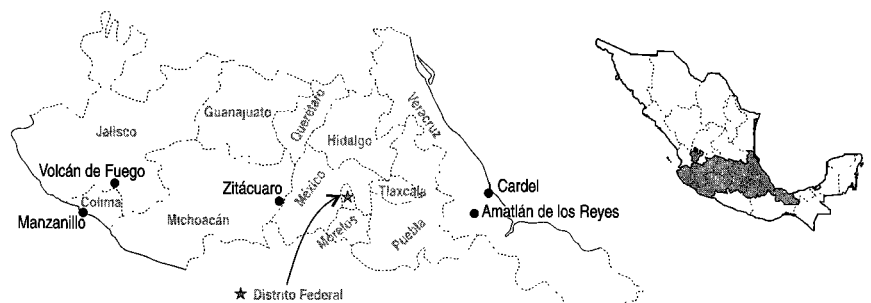
A White-striped Woodcreeper was at Paraíso del Oso 29 Oct (JD). A Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet was seen in Cañón de Fernández 4 Aug (FVP). Fall migrants still in P.P. 8 Oct were a Western Wood-Pewee, a Willow Flycatcher, 2 Pacific-slope Flycatchers, and 15 Western Kingbirds (SG). A pair of Black-crowned Tityras at the Balneario La Florida

at El Nacimiento below Gómez Fariás, Tamps. 1 Oct (RH) was at a spot where a pair has been seen since 1996 by OC and Will Carter. Only one Hutton's Vireo was recorded at Posadas Barrancas, Chih. 31 Oct, an unusually low number (NMC).

A pair of Mangrove Swallows was in the canal that drains out of Presa Ramiro Caballero se. of Ciudad Mante, Tamps. 30 Sep (RH). A Winter Wren was seen near Cuatro Ciénegas, Coah. 27 Oct; the identification was supported by vocalization, including response to playback (RD, JG). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were e. of P.P. 17 Nov (SG, RJ); there are fewer than 10 records for Sonora. A Mountain Bluebird was at Cusárare Mission, Creel, Chih. 1 Nov (JL). Single Slate-colored Solitaires were at Las Pozas 28 & 29 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A Brown-backed Solitaire was heard at Paraíso del Oso 31 Oct (NMC, JL). A single American Robin was seen on B.V.C. 27 Nov; this

JS). A Blue-gray Tanager was reported from Vivero La Morita near Gómez Fariás, Tamps. 26 Nov (O&AC), and 2 were near Aquismón 27 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). Summer Tanagers were still present in Cañón de Fernández 5 Sep (FVP). Single Painted Buntings were seen in Cañón de Fernández 4 Aug and 6 Oct (FVP). A Varied Bunting was in Cañón de Fernández 6 Oct. One Green-tailed Towhee was seen at P.P. 8 Oct (SG).

Contributors: Wayne & Jan Anderson, William Beatty, Edward S. Brinkley, Kelly Burke, Oscar and Ariel Carmona, Robert I. Cecil, Alan M. Craig, Wendi L. Craig, Rubén Deschamps, Stephen J. Dinsmore, James J. Dinsmore, Jeanine Dreifuss, Roger Eichhorn, Lee Galbraith, Steve Ganley, Julio Guzmán, Rich Hoyer, Juan Leon, Claudia Macías Caballero, Vinnie Madsen, Hollin Moore, Narca Moore-Craig, Tom Ryan, Jim Sinclair, and Francisco Valdéz Perezgasga.



species used to be a nesting bird here until 1990 but now is an irregular winter visitor (FVP).

Transient warblers at P.P. 8 Oct included 30 Yellows, 10 Black-throated Grays, one MacGillivray's, and one Wilson's (SG). A Black-throated Green Warbler in a late flowering Palo Verde tree e. of P.P. 17 Nov (SG, vt. RJ) was the only warbler in the area; this appears to be the 3rd Sonoran record, the others being in Nov 1953 and Dec 1956. A well-described ad. male Golden-cheeked Warbler was reported from near El Salto, S.L.P. 24 Nov (O&AC), away from its expected range and, especially, date. A Northern Waterthrush at Paraíso del Oso 31 Oct (NMC, JL, JD, W&JA) was rather late. A Louisiana Waterthrush was also there 29 Oct (NMC, JD, RE, LG, JL, W&JA). A male Altamira Yellowthroat was near El Naranjo 27 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD, JS). A Slate-throated Redstart seemed out of place in the mangroves between Río San Cristóbal and the road to Matanchén, near San Blas, Nay. (TR).

A flock of 62 Yellow-winged Tanagers was reported at Las Pozas 28 Nov (SJD, RIC, JJD,

CENTRAL MEXICO

Abbreviation: Sal. (Laguna El Salado, Ver.).

SPONBILL THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Three Roseate Spoonbills were at Sal. 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS), while an American Wigeon was at there 16 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR) and another there 18 Oct with 4 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (JM, AM, RS). Eight Ring-necked Ducks at Laguna el Farallón 17 Dec were a first record (with specific date and locality known) for cen. Ver. (JM, AM), though the species is mapped there by Howell and Webb (1995).

Two Ospreys were soaring over Xochimilco 26 Nov (SA). Two Harris's Hawks were seen migrating over Playa Juan Ángel, Ver. and at Chichicaxtle, Ver. 16 & 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). Another Harris's Hawk was seen near Xochicalco, Mor. 4 Oct (HGdS, AOI). Single imm. Golden Eagles were seen migrating over cen. Ver. 29 Sep and 20 Oct (RR, JG); the species is not mapped in that state by Howell & Webb (1995). A light Ferruginous Hawk was just e. of El Seco, Pue. 21

Oct (JM, AM), a new state record. One very vocal Peregrine Falcon was seen in the center of Orizaba, Ver. 14 Nov (FVP). A Bearded Wood-Partridge was heard at Ahuatlamimilol, Pue. 18 Oct (HGdS), and one was noted near Las Minas, Ver. on the same day (JM, AM, RS). A Singing Quail was also near Las Minas 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS).

A Sungrebe was on Río La Palma, which flows into Sontecomapan Lagoon near Catemaco, Ver. 27 Oct (RG, OCC). A Double-striped Thick-knee was seen at Playa Juan Ángel 16 & 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). A group of 9 of the same species were along the Las Barrancas, Ver. road 25 Oct (RG, OCC). A Snowy Plover was seen at Laguna La Mancha, Ver. 16 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Laguna El Salado 16 & 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). At least 50 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Almoloya del Río, Méx. 5 Oct (HGdS). Single Black Terns were at Playa Juan Ángel 16 & 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR).

Two Plain-breasted Ground-Doves were near Río Escondido, Ver. 16 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). Flocks of Barred Parakeets were seen flying high overhead at Ahuatlamimilol and Presa La Soledad, Pue. 18-19 Oct (HGdS, MPV). Two male Broad-billed, a Bumblebee, and an Amethyst-throated Hummingbird were seen at Huitzilac, Mor. 5 Oct (HGdS, AOI).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CACIQUES

A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was heard at Avenida Coyoacán and Morena, rather close to the center of Mexico City, 22 Oct (HGdS). Five Tufted Flycatchers were seen at La Cima and Coajomulco, Mor. 3 Oct (HGdS, AOI). Single Say's Phoebes were near Las Minas 16 & 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). Two Western Kingbirds were seen at Presa La Soledad, Pue. 20 Oct (HGdS, MPV). There was a Laughing Gull at Almoloya del Río 5 Oct (HGdS). An Acorn Woodpecker was seen flying over the hill at La Cima 3 Oct (HGdS, AOI). A Cassin's Vireo was reported near Las Minas 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS). Three European Starlings were at Almoloya del Río 5 Oct (HGdS), and an American Dipper was at Cascada de Texolo, Ver. 11 Oct (JM, AM).

A Prothonotary Warbler turned up at Parque Macuiltepec, Ver. 13 Oct, while another was at Sal. 16 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). Single Golden-winged Warblers were at Parque Macuiltepec 16 & 18 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). A male Northern Cardinal was seen in Ciudad Universitaria, D.F. 21 Oct (HGdS, MPV). A flock of Dickcissels were in coastal dune scrub at La Mancha 27 Oct (RG, OCC). Blue-black Grassquits were displaying in a sorghum field near Laguna El Rodeo, Mor. 4 Oct (HGdS, AOI). A Lark Sparrow, apparently rare in Ver., was near

Río Escondido 16 Oct (JM, AM, RS, RR). An Audubon's Oriole was at Parque Macuiltepec 10 Oct (JM, AM). There was one Yellow-winged Cacique at Amacuzac, Mor. 4 Oct (HGdS, AOI).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Sofia Arenas, Octavio Cruz Carretero, Julio Gallardo, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Ricardo Guerra, Amy McAndrews, Jorge Montejo, Adán Oliveras de Ita, Mónica Pérez Villafañá, Rafael Rodríguez, Robert Straub, and Francisco Valdéz Perezgasga.

tlán del Valle and S.J.G. 30 Nov, and 2 Short-tailed Hawks were at S.P.T. 4 Oct. A Merlin was seen at Oaxaca City 16 Nov. Single Peregrine Falcons were at Tot. 19 Sep and Oaxaca City 21 Sep.

Two Crested Guans were at Marav. 2 Nov. Three Montezuma Quail were at S.M.V. 19 Nov. Soras were recorded at S.J.G. 5 Sep and 30 Nov. Two American Coots were at P.A.D. 18 Oct. A Common Moorhen was heard at S.J.G. 2 Oct. A Killdeer was at a pond near Santiago Cuilapan 17 Oct. A Solitary Sandpiper was high at 2857 m at a dam near Nev.



SOUTHERN MEXICO

Cold fronts in central Oaxaca in mid-November may have been the cause of an influx of raptors and pelicans. Fewer aquatic species than usual were noticed there early in the season. All records are from Oaxaca unless otherwise stated. Unattributed records are by J. Forcey.

Abbreviation: Marav. (road from Las Maravillas to Talea de Castro), Nev. (La Nevería, near Benito Juárez), P.A.D. (Presa Azul Dam, Teotitlán del Valle), S.P.T. (seasonal pond, Teotitlán del Valle, 1649 m above sea level), S.A.D. (San Andrés Dams at San Andrés Huayapan), S.J.G. (San Juan Guelavia, about 20 km e. of Oaxaca City, 1550 m above sea level), S.M.V. (San Miguel del Valle), Teq. (Tequio Park, Oaxaca City), Tot. (San Pedro Totolapan).

GREBES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Least Grebe was high at 2857 m at a dam near Nev. 19 Nov (RAR, RG), and 2 imms were at S.P.T. 5 Sep. Fourteen American White Pelicans were at S.M.V. 20 Nov. One Blue-winged Teal was also high at 2857 m near Nev. 19 Nov (RAR, RG), and 4 were at P.A.D. 25 Oct. Three Lesser Scaup and a Ruddy Duck were at P.A.D. 29 Oct. Up to 6 White-tailed Kites were at Teq. 6 Oct—9 Nov, including a pair attending 2 one-third to nearly-grown chicks in a nest, the first confirmed nesting of this species in central Oax. (at least one of the imms flew successfully from the nest). A Gray Hawk was at Dainzú archaeological site 21 Nov. Four Harris's Hawks were along the road between Teoti-

30 Sep (RAR, RG). Two Baird's Sandpipers were at S.P.T. 5 Sep. A Laughing Gull was at P.A.D. 24 Oct (RAN). A Black-billed Cuckoo was on the road to the dam near San Pablo Huitzo 14 Sep, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Rancho Sol y Luna, Santa María Chimalapas 22 Sep. Vaux's Swifts were recorded at S.P.T. 2 Oct and at San Felipe Park, Oaxaca City 12 Oct. Around 80 White-throated Swifts were at P.A.D. 30 Nov. Hummingbirds of note were 2 possible Azure-crowneds (see Forcey 2002) near San Pablo Huitzo 14 Sep, 2 Green-fronteds (one of them with cinnamon sides) reported at Tot. 19 Oct, a Berylline building a nest at Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario de Oaxaca, Xoxocotlán 12 Sep, an Amethyst-throated, 3 Garnet-throateds, and a Bumblebee at Marav. 2 Nov and one at S.M.V. 18 Nov, 2 Magnificents at San Felipe Park, Oaxaca City 12 Oct, and a Broad-tailed at S.A.D. 30 Nov.

TROGONS THROUGH ORIOLES

What appeared to be a flock of 9 Mountain Trogons were at a madrone and nearby oaks above Teotitlán del Valle 8 Oct (RAN). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Teq. 9 Nov. A Spot-crowned Woodcreeper was in a mixed flock at Nev. 4 Oct, and one was at Marav. 2 Nov. A Dusky Antbird was reported at San Juan Yaguila, around 15 km ne. of Guelatao, as the crow flies, on the Gulf Slope 14 Oct (RAR). This area is at the upper end of tropical evergreen forest, with small coffee plantations, and has much human disturbance (JMF). A Greenish Elaenia was at P.A.D. 30 Nov. A Willow Flycatcher was mistnetted at Jardín Botánico de Santo Domingo, Oaxaca

City 13 Sep (MG). Three Social Flycatchers were at Teq. 9 Nov, and 2 were at S.A.D. 30 Nov. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Teq. 17 Oct.

A Golden Vireo at San Juan Yaguila 14 Oct (RAr) was the first record for the Gulf Slope of Mexico. A Bell's Vireo was mistnetted at Jardín Botánico de Santo Domingo 13 Sep (MG). Six Unicolored Jays were at Marav. 2 Nov. Six Rufous-naped Wrens were at Tot. 19 Sep. An **American Dipper** was at S.M.V. 18 Nov; Forcey knows of only four prior records from cen. Oaxaca, from Nov, Dec, Jan, and late May. Both Brown-backed and Slate-colored Solitaires were vocalizing at Marav. 2 Nov. A Barn Swallow was at S.A.D. 30 Nov. Four Cedar Waxwings at S.P.T. 16 Nov and 5 at S.A.D. 30 Nov set a new early date for central Oax.

A Tennessee Warbler was at Teq. 17 Oct, while a Yellow Warbler was at S.J.G. 30 Nov. A **Grace's Warbler** at 2887 m at S.M.V. 19 Nov was near the published highest elevation for that species, though the species has been seen along the highest ridges above Teotitlán del Valle, which are around 2700 m. Around 10 Elegant Euphonias were at Marav. 2 Nov. Around 40 Common Bush-Tanagers were seen at Marav. 2 Nov in mixed flocks with mostly Golden-browed and Wilson's Warblers, and 6 were seen at Santa María La Luz 7 Nov. Two Yellow-winged Tanagers at Santa María La Luz 7 Nov at 1950 m were slightly above their published altitudinal limit. There were 3 and one Indigo Buntings at Teq. 17 Oct and 9 Nov, and one was noted at Puente de Hierro, Guelatao 2 Nov. A White-naped Brushfinch was at Santa María La Luz 7 Nov. One Grasshopper Sparrow was at S.P.T. 19 Nov, and a Lincoln's Sparrow was at Santa María La Luz 7 Nov. A Melodious Blackbird was at Santa María La Luz 7 Nov. A Streak-backed Oriole was recorded at S.P.T. 4 Oct.

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): John M. Forcey, Ramiro Aragón, Roque Antonio, Manuel Grosselet, Ruth Guzmán.

which sat over northern Yucatan for 30 hours on 22-23 September, causing damage to the north coast and inland areas. Populations of landbirds and some waterbirds were immediately affected, according to witnesses who noted complete absences of certain species where they had been just a week prior to the hurricane. On the other hand, MacKinnon reports that the insect population dramatically increased for about six weeks post-hurricane, as was noticed first-hand by residents of Mérida, Yuc. and as evidenced in the field by plagues of flies (presumably from all the dead animals) and mosquitoes (presumably from the newly-created marshes). A few new records for Cozumel island of species usually found only on the mainland at first seem odd because the hurricane traveled westward over the area, not eastward, but Hoyer rightly observes that jets of wind moving northward and eastward are produced on the w. side of the eye of a hurricane. On the other hand, at least three of the species involved—Semipalmated Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Elaenia and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher—may have been pushed westward if they were caught migrating over the Caribbean Sea, as they may have been, given the late September date.

The second big event this fall was the holding of the First Annual Yucatan Bird Festival, ending in a birdathon 22-23 November that provided interesting information from the hurricane-damaged countryside.

Two reports were received of heavy migration, both at Celestún. Between 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. on 11 Sep, Bacab noted birds streaming in from the sea and across the main plaza about 10 meters up, being pushed farther inland by a strong north wind. On 23 Nov, Gómez de Silva et al. observed streams of passerines, mainly warblers, flying south, parallel to the coast, about 100 m inland and about five to 50 m up.

Ongoing bird monitoring at El Cuyo once more reported that many migrants follow a corridor running west to east along the n. coast. Two species were added to the Yucatan

the public presentation of her updated check-list of the birds of the Yucatan Peninsula (MacKinnon 2002), the other by Hoyer a week after, making this publication already out-of-date (if only slightly!).

Abbreviations: S.K.B.R. (Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo); R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.); R.L. (Río Lagartos, a town inside the R.L.B.R.); C.C.C. (Cozumel, Q. Roo, Country Club); J.B. (Jardín Botánico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M., Q. Roo).

BOOBIES THROUGH DUCKS

Three Red-footed Boobies on Cayo Culebra 15 Aug (FM) were new to the S.K.B.R. list. At least one pair has nested on Alacrán Reef, but for the most part this species occurs from Belize southward. Neotropical Cormorant is known to nest in the winter in this subregion, so it was not surprising to see 2 carrying materials to old nests on "Bird Island" in the Celestún, Yuc. estuary 3 Nov (BM, EG, JR). Around 150 Anhingas were seen flying ne. over the Celestún shoreline 7 Sep (DB). This is only the 2nd observation at Celestún of a large flock of this species (which is known to migrate in large numbers along the Ver. coast). A Bare-throated Tiger-Heron was constructing its nest with dry twigs pulled off hurricane-damaged trees at the spring in the Celestún estuary 3 Nov (BM, EG, JR), very close to where it had nested previously (juv. seen at nest 10 Apr 2002). A Great White Heron was seen 28 Sep at Cobá (MC). Black-crowned Night-Heron, a migrant on the n. coast of Yuc., was reported frequently this fall, with one 23 Nov at San Salvadore in R.L.B.R. (MT), 2 in the estuary behind Progreso on the road to Chicxulub, Yuc. 23 Nov (MM), and one at Celestún 22 Nov (DB). All were adults. Participants in the birdathon noticed an absence of Boat-billed Herons in R.L. even six weeks after the hurricane.

A Caribbean Flamingo born in 2000 in the R.L.B.R. and reencountered in 2001 in Celestún was found in the Everglades N.P., FL 20 Oct (*vide* RM). After the hurricane, most Caribbean Flamingos were scattered throughout the peninsula, in particular along the coast between Sisal and Dzilám de Bravo, Yuc., where 30,000 of the pre-hurricane population of 34,000 were located a month after *Isidore* (RM, MT). These numbers are still much higher than in the past decades, when only 6000 were estimated in 1954, 11,500 in 1975 and 19,000 in 1991 (*vide* RM, MT). A flock of 23 **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks**, uncommon in Yuc. and Q. Roo, were seen flying over L. Cobá 28 Sep (MC), and 75 were counted together with 100+ Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in a hurricane-created marsh 8 km. s. of San Felipe 22 Nov (PW).



YUCATAN PENINSULA

The big news this fall was Hurricane *Isidore*,

Peninsula list (Horned Lark and Hermit Thrush), the first by MacKinnon 36 hrs after

SA The migration of Swallow-tailed Kite, a Threatened species, has been under intense investigation in recent years. As investigators learn more about migration routes from satellite data, local birders can play a role in mapping the timing of arrival and departure in areas where they bird.

The first fall sighting of a **Swallow-tailed Kite** was one over semi-evergreen forest 6 km s. of El Cuyo in the R.L.B.R. 6 Aug (AC). However, satellite data revealed an early migrant near Chetumal, Q. Roo, 20 Jul (KM). On 9 Aug, one of the satellite-tagged birds that crossed from Florida, U.S.A. to Cuba arrived at Chetumal, Q. Roo, then turned around and headed n. into S.K.B.R., where it spent the next three days before moving slightly farther north. Four others were feeding approximately 3 km e. of the Chumpón entrance to S.K.B.R. 13 Aug, and a 5th was seen there the next day (FM). A flock of 12 was observed 16 Aug over Laguna Muyil in S.K.B.R. (VV), perhaps part of the 13 individuals that flew over the Chumpón entrance not far to the s. later that day (FM). The following day, 5 more were observed in the same location, circling and heading southward (FM). A flock of 21 was reported 17 Aug, feeding over Laguna Muyil (VV).

One Muscovy Duck was recorded in Celestún 22 Nov (EG). Around 40 Blue-winged Teal were seen in the coastal lagoon behind Chichchulub 3 Nov, with lower numbers in the same area 23 Nov in company of a male and 3 female Northern Shovelers (BM).

OSPREY THROUGH RAILS

Six Ospreys in the upper estuary at Celestún 12 Nov was a high number; only one was of the resident subspecies (BM).

Thirteen Snail Kites, mostly ad. males but including at least one juv., were seen feeding on snails while moving southward over Laguna Bacalar, Q. Roo 7 Aug (BM, GZ). A 2nd record of **Mississippi Kite** for the subregion involved 2 ads. and 1 juv. s. of El Cedral ruins, Coz. 22 Sep (MC). A single **Zone-tailed Hawk** was reported in Celestún 8 Aug and is thought to have perhaps overwintered (DB). An ad. **Red-tailed Hawk**, a regular but uncommon migrant in the subregion, was observed 22 Nov along the Dzilám de Bravo—Yalsihon road, Yuc.

A **Collared Forest-Falcon** was perched above its nest near Temple 8 at Muyil archeological site 25 Aug. A **Bat Falcon** was seen unsuccessfully pursuing a **Belted Kingfisher** 25 Aug above the Celestún mangroves (AD). **Peregrine Falcon** has measurably increased in the subregion in the last five years. Singles were reported 24 & 29 Oct from an oil-drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico approx 70 km ne. of Ciudad del Carmen, Camp. (at 10° 23' 44" N, 92° 02' 23" W); a colony of **Feral Pigeons** on the rig are the obvious attraction (there are also two records from the platform 23 & 28 Apr 2001; RA). Other reports were of one perched in a snag in the coastal lagoon behind Progreso, Yuc. 23 Nov (BM) and of a male near R.L. on the same day (PW).

A covey of at least 16 **Yucatan Bobwhites** were around 1.5 km n. of Celestún 23 Nov (HGdS et al.). A **Rufous-necked Wood-Rail** was found 22 Nov in its usual location on the nw. side of the bridge at Celestún (DB). Eight **Gray-necked Wood-Rails** interacted at dusk on the **Vigia Chico** road n. of Santa Teresa in

the S.K.B.R. (BM, IC, HAS). Two reports of **Sora** were made 22 Nov in the R.L. area (MT, PW). **Spotted Rail** is still found at Cobá, where one ad. was reported 28-29 Sep, the water level being unusually high after Hurricane *Isidore* (MC). **Common Moorhens** were numerous this fall, 5 being found together in the Celestún estuary feeding not far from 35 **American Coots** 3 Nov (BM, EG, JR); 2 **Common Moorhens** and 500 **American Coots** were there 23 Nov (HGdS).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

Black-bellied Plover remains a commonly seen species on the peninsula, whereas **American Golden-Plover** has rarely been reported. A total of 6 golden-plovers was observed well 7 Sep at Celestún (AD). (Note-worthy is the unpublished observation by BM of 150 on the Cancún golf course 20 Mar 1983.) **Snowy Plover** numbers seem to be diminishing in general (BM), while **Wilson's Plovers** are more in evidence between the local resident population and migrants. Two **Wilson's Plovers** were reported along with 6 **Semipalmated Plovers** in the coastal lagoon on the road leading to Xtambó, Yuc. 4 Aug (BM). Four more were reported 23 Sep on the flooded fairway of the C.C.C. (MC). Fifteen **American Avocets** were observed 4 Aug at Uaymitún (BM). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was present 4 Aug in the estuary at Progreso along with a **Willet** (BM). Small numbers of both species of yellowlegs are thought to overwinter in the subregion. **Spotted Sandpiper** returns as early as mid-Jul (*fide* BM), although the first report this season was of 10 on 5 Aug at Celestún (DB).

Two **Whimbrels** were seen 23 Nov in the salt flats s. of Chuburná, with 2 more on the road between Chelem and Progreso (MM). Five **Marbled Godwits** were seen 5 Aug in Celestún (DB) and one 23 Nov at San Salvador (MT). Three more were on mudflats behind the entrance to Progreso on the road to Yucalpetén 23 Nov (MM). The first 2 **Sanderlings** of the season were seen 4 Aug on the beach at Uaymitún, Yuc. (BM). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, mostly a transient in the subregion, was reported for Cozumel, Q. Roo

for the first time 23 Sep, when one was seen at ponds in the C.C.C. (MC). At least one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was observed 23 Nov at San Salvador, while a flock of 50+ was in the mudflats along the road from Progreso to Chicxulub 23 Nov (MM). No **Western Sandpipers** were seen at the site, but a few were reported 26 Aug in Celestún (AD), with 20 there 7 Sep (AD). Eight **Least Sandpipers** were reported as early as 4 Aug in the coastal lagoon on the road leading to Xtambó, while one was seen 7 Aug in marsh at Chiquilá, Q. Roo (BM). A few more were reported 26 Aug in Celestún (AD). **Pectoral Sandpiper** used to be a regular visitor on Isla Cancún in the late 1970s (BM), but it is now infrequent in the area. A total of 24 was counted on the flooded fairways of the C.C.C. 24 Sep, and one was at Cobá 27-29 Sep (MC).

A single **Dunlin** was among **Short-billed Dowitchers** 3 Nov in the lagoon behind Progreso, and another (or the same) was in the general area 22 Nov (MM). A **Dunlin** was reported in the saltflats at Las Coloradas 23 Nov, along with a single **Stilt Sandpiper** (PW), while another one was at San Salvador on the same day (MT). Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were noted 23 Sep along with other shorebirds on the grounds of the C.C.C. (MC). The first report for **Short-billed Dowitcher** was of 16 in the estuary at Progreso 4 Aug (BM); 8 more were seen 26 Aug at Nichilit, Celestún and 2 more 7 Sep at Celestún (AD). In recent years, more **Long-billed Dowitchers** seem to be showing up, or being identified increasingly frequently. A flock of more than 20 was observed 23 Nov along the road between Progreso and Chichchulub Puerto (MM). A **Wilson's Snipe**, reported less frequently than in the past, was seen at freshwater ponds e. of Celestún 22 Nov (DB).

Franklin's Gull is becoming a regular on the peninsula. Two were observed in the Celestún estuary 3 Nov (BM). A **Ring-billed Gull** was seen in marsh behind Chuburná 23 Nov (JL). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was first seen in the marsh behind Chuburná Puerto 20 (JM, AM, RS) & 23 Nov (BM, JR, JL). At least 4 **Gull-billed Terns** were seen at Las Coloradas (BM) and one at San Salvador 23 Nov (MT). Two **Caspian Terns** were on a sandbar 3 Nov, and another was in a coastal lagoon behind Progreso 23 Nov. A total of 12 **Forster's Terns** was present 8 Aug at Progreso (DB), with 6 at Celestún 23 Nov (DB).

Least Terns, which usually leave by mid-Sep, were still present 22 Nov, when around 20 were seen in flats at Chuburná (MM). A single **Brown Noddy** seen 26 Sep in Celestún (DB) was new to the reserve's list—no doubt a bird exhausted in the passage of Hurricane *Isidore*.

PIGEONS THROUGH VIREOS

A White-crowned Pigeon flew out of Mogote San Juan near Punta Allen, Q. Roo 8 Sep (BM, IC, HAS), when most had already left. Only one report of parrots was received during the birdathon 22-23 Nov, which was alarming, but Yellow-billed Cuckoos, by contrast, were in evidence that day. One seen 3 Nov 29.5 km s. of Telchac Puerto, Yuc. could have been a migrant or a resident. Among the surprises of the season were the reports of Common Nighthawk migration both before and after Hurricane *Isidore*. A flock of 15 was observed 7 Sep flying ne. over Celestún (DB), possibly the same 16 seen the next day flying over El Edén, Q. Roo (JR). A few individuals were noted by local guides at Chunyaxché in the last week of Sep and early Oct, though a thorough watch for migrants was not attempted. However, at dusk on 11 Oct BM, DB, and members of the tourism cooperatives of Chunyaxché watched the sky for 40 minutes until darkness set in and counted ca. 100 flying low in an ese. direction, feeding actively, along a front about one km wide. A Yucatan Nightjar was seen on a road in Celestún 22 Nov (EG, SL et al.). Since the late 1970s, local birders have reported Ringed Kingfisher in the n. of the Yucatan Peninsula, so it was not surprising to see one cross the Chunyaxché canal 7 Sep (IC). In the 1980s, BM reported Northern Barred Woodcreeper in n. Q. Roo; again, one was seen 6 Sep at the J.B. (BM, HAS).

A Greenish Elaenia reported 23 Nov at San Salvadore was new for the R.L.B.R. (MT), while a Yellow-bellied Elaenia observed 23 Sep just s. of the Cozumel sewage ponds was new for the island (MC). A Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher was heard at Chunyaxché 15 Dec (AC, DB). An Eastern Wood-Pewee was netted 28 Aug at Rancho Hobonil, s. Yuc. (ML), and another was reported at Uxmal, Yuc. 22 Nov (DB). An Alder/Willow Flycatcher was observed 6 Sep at the J.B. (BM, HAS). Very rare in the subregion, an Eastern Phoebe was first reported a few km s. of Chuburná 20 Nov (JM, AM, RS), and probably the same bird was observed 23 Nov feeding from a low branch over dune grasses at Churburná Puerto, several km to the e. (BM, JL, JR). A Great Crested Flycatcher heard at Petén Tuchá in the R.L.B.R. 23 Nov was late; this species is a transient in the subregion. Another new species for Cozumel was a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher observed 23 Sep s. of El Cedral, most likely displaced by Hurricane *Isidore* (MC), although vagrants of this species are reported with apparently increasing frequency elsewhere (e.g., Baja California). A Piratic Flycatcher was still present at Muyil in S.K.B.R. 26 Aug. An Eastern Kingbird was at Celestún 5 Aug (DB), while a massive migration of the species was under-

way by 8 Sep over S.K.B.R. (BM, IC, HAS). A migrating Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen 9 Aug flying s. over the Chetumal-Escárcega hwy., ca. 12 km. w. of its junction with the Cancún-Chetumal hwy. A Philadelphia Vireo was netted at Celestún 15 Oct (ML).

LARKS THROUGH ORIOLES

A new record for the peninsula, a female Horned Lark was discovered 23 Nov close to the lagoon behind Progreso (BM, JL, JR). A Cliff Swallow was seen flying in company with a few Barn Swallows over Muyil 11 Oct (BM). Yucatan Wrens were quiet at Celestún 23 Nov, but White-lored Gnatcatchers were singing consistently on the same day (HGdS et al.). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was netted at El Cuyo 15 Nov (AC, JD) while one was seen 18 Nov and 3 more 25 Nov, moving about in a gumbo limbo tree in the coastal dune approximately 7 km n. of Celestún (AD). The only other record for this species in the subregion is an individual observed by S.N.G. Howell on Isla Pérez in mid-Oct 1984, making the above observations the first for the mainland.

At least 6 Wood Thrushes were calling vigorously at Chunyaxché 14-15 Dec (DB, IC, AC, BM). Hoyer reported a Hermit Thrush 30 Nov at the J.B., a new species for the subregion. American Robin made an appearance near R.L. 23 Nov (JM, AM, RS, PW, TE). One of Mérida's most numerous birds, Clay-colored Robin seemed very scarce after the hurricane (BM, PW, m. ob.). Black Catbird is common in the subregion, mainly near the coast. One was at an ant swarm in low secondary vegetation near Conkal, Yuc., approx. 25 km inland, 22 Nov (BM). A mid-afternoon visit to the J.B. 6 Sep proved exceptional, as a mixed flock of migrants fed constantly as they moved through the forest. Some of the warblers encountered included a male Golden-winged, 2 Tennessees, a Nashville, an imm. female Yellow, a male Cerulean, 2 Black-and-whites, a male Prothonotary, a Kentucky, and a male Hooded (BM, HAS). Several Tennessees and ca. 8 Hoodeds were observed 12-13 Oct at Chunyaxché, suggesting active migration (BM, DB). Another interesting sighting at the oil platform ne. of Ciudad del Carmen included a Yellow-throated Warbler 12 Sep, amid the garbage near the incinerator (RA). A rare Swainson's Warbler was netted and banded at El Edén 12 Oct in secondary forest (JR). A Northern Waterthrush was reported at Celestún 19 Aug (DB), while a Louisiana Waterthrush was netted 10 Aug at Rancho Hobonil (ML), and another was seen 22 Aug at Celestún (DB). A male Hooded Warbler was seen 9, 11 & 13 Sep on the offshore oil-drilling platform mentioned above (RA). A month

later, 12-13 Oct, ca. 8 migrants were heard moving past. A male Wilson's Warbler and a male Canada Warbler were reported 26 Sep at Las Coloradas (MC).

Five Blue-gray Tanagers were observed in the central park in Mérida, Yuc. 22 Nov (MM), and another was seen at Hunucmá, Yuc. 23 Nov (DB), showing that this species quite definitely is present in the n. of the peninsula. A single Savannah Sparrow was found in dune vegetation at Celestún 23 Nov (DB). Grayish Saltator, one of Mérida's common urban birds, was largely absent after Hurricane *Isidore* (BM, PW, m. ob.). On 19 Oct, a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen one km w., and a male approx. 20 km w., of Dzibichaltún, Yuc. (BM, MP). A female Blue Grosbeak was seen 6 km e. of Uxmal 22 Nov (DB). This species is less numerous here than in the past. An ad. male and at least 2 female or imm. Baltimore Orioles were observed at Panabá, Yuc. 23 Nov (PW).

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): Roberto Arreola, Joanne Andrews, David Andrews, Houston Audubon Society board members (HAS), David Bacab, Ismael Caamal, Pastor Caamal, Michael Carmody, Antonio Celis, Alberto Cen Caamal, Luis Chulim Pereira, Jill Deppe, Ted and Virginia Eubanks, Kathleen Dowd Gaily, Alex Dzih, Alfonso Escobedo, Eduardo Galicia, Héctor Gómez de Silva, David González, Mariana Gullco, Freddie Heitman, José Moo Huchim, Eduardo Íñigo-Eliás, Jacques Laesser, Ramiro Lara, Steve Latta, Mildred López Uribe, María Alba Loroño Pino, Amy MacAndrews, Barbara MacKinnon, Keys McManus, Miguel Méndez, Ken Meyer, Ismael Navarro, Diego Núñez, Uriel Ortiz Chay, Gerardo Pérez Mendoza, Melgar Tabasco, Víctor Marín, Miguel Méndez, Herald Mesh, Rodrigo Migoya, Jorge Montejó, Fabiola Murillo, Troy Murphy, María Teresa Puig, Jamie Rotenberg, Chandler Robbins, Ingrid Sánchez Herrera, Waldemar Santamaría Rivero, Andrés Sierra, Alejandra Silveira Puig, Robert Straub, Luis Téllez, Vidal Vela, Gabriel Willow, David and Katherine Wingate, Paul Wood, Gina Zimmerman.

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