

# Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva

Xola 314-E

03100 México, D.F.

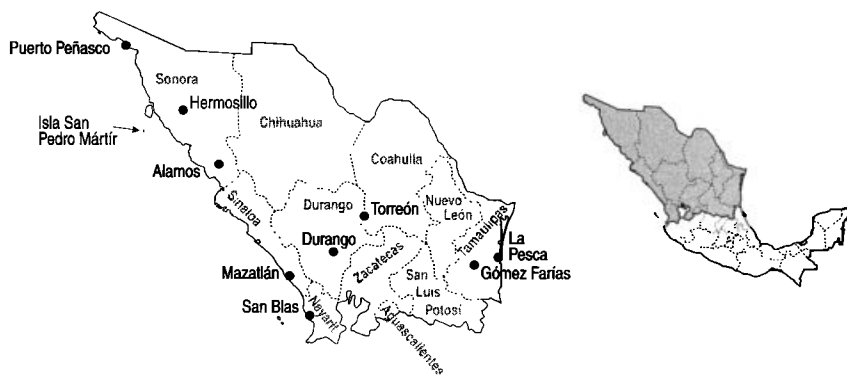
Mexico

(hgomez@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx)

Rains were late throughout Mexico, with record-high temperatures through most of the period and with the first rains falling as late as late May in many places.

## NORTHERN MEXICO

Heron with nestlings were found in tall cottonwoods w. of Casas Grandes 29 May, along with at least 15 ads. (BH, SD). Seven ads. at Colonia Juárez, Chih. 29 May also suggest breeding. Howell and Webb (1995) indicate no breeding records for Chih., but Sartor O.



Arvin notes from a trip to Gómez Farías in the first week of Apr that the tropical deciduous forest was dry and partially leafless but that trees at subtropical elevations (mostly oaks) were freshly leafed out; many trees and vines were flowering and/or fruiting. He also noted that several summer residents of the area had not yet arrived: Plumbeous Kite, Mangrove Cuckoo, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Streaked Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, Brown-capped Vireo, and Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush.

Abbreviations: B.V.C. (Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah.), C.d.F. (Cañón de Fernández, Nazas R., Dgo.).

## PELICANS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Two Brown Pelicans were reported in the large reservoir near Santiago, N.L. 11 Mar (RB, JH). Green Herons were numerous on the Rio Casas Grandes, Chih. 29 May (BH, SD). Three nests of Black-crowned Night-

Williams III has found them nesting in s. Chih. in the past (*vide* BH). At least 3 ad. Boat-billed Herons were on the Río Frío below Gómez Farías, Tamps. 1 Apr (JA).

An ad. Black Vulture with 2 fledglings (downy feathers still around their necks) were at Casa de Janos, Chih. 31 May, documenting breeding at this n. fringe of its range; another ad. was carefully guarding an apparent nest site in a huge cottonwood at Casas Grandes 29 May (BH, SD).

Three pairs of Wood Ducks were in the Casas Grandes area 29 May, indicating probable breeding (BH, SD), though no ducklings were seen. A count revealed 66 Wood Ducks along the Nazas R., Dgo. 9 Mar (FVP). A male Mallard was in C.d.F. 1 May (FVP). An Osprey lin-

gered well into May in C.d.F. (FVP, AV). An ad. Osprey was nw. of Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chih. 30 May, many km from the nearest body of water (BH, SD). There were 3–5 Mississippi Kites around Casas Grandes 29 May, where nesting has been documented in the past (BH, SD). A Gray Hawk was heard close to Casa de Janos 31 May (audiotape BH, SD), and singles were at C.d.F. 9 Mar and 11 May (FVP). A pair of Peregrine Falcons perched and hunted from the Canal 9 television antenna, Torreón, Coah. almost daily throughout spring (FVP).

Three Sungrebes were seen on the Río Frío and a tributary 1 & 2 Apr (JA, m. ob.). A second-winter Glaucous Gull was at the mouth of Río Soto La Marina just e. of La Pesca, Tamps. 16 Mar (CT, BF et al.). One to 2 Eurasian Collared-Doves were found in several towns in n. Chih. 28–31 May—Ascensión, Janos, Nuevo Casas Grandes, Casa de Janos, and Buenos Aires (BH vt., SD). Several Common Ground-Doves were near Casa de Janos 31 May and also in Son. near Pancho Villa, Chih. 30 May (BH, SD).

Around 30 Green Parakeets were seen at small caves near Cueva del Abra s. of Cd. Mante, Tamps. (JA). Arvin noted that White-crowned Parrot flocks had broken up into pairs and were fairly inconspicuous above Gómez Farías in early Apr and thus were presumably nesting. Encouragingly, 8–10 pairs of Red-crowned Parrots were seen at Hacienda Santa Engracia on the Río Corona n. of Ciudad Victoria, Tamps. 1 Apr, and up to four pairs were noted at Rancho Cielito, Tamps. 2 Apr, up from one pair there in Jun 2002 (JA).

A very high number of Burrowing Owls was counted in a B.B.S. w. of Ejido San Pedro (BH, SD). A Tawny-collared Nightjar sang spontaneously at dusk at Hacienda Santa Engracia 31 Mar (JA).

## HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH ORIOLES

An ad. and a subad. male Green-breasted Mango were foraging at bromeliad and planted jacaranda flowers at Rancho Cielito 2 Apr (JA). A pair of Anna's Hummingbirds was again at B.V.C. throughout Mar and Apr. A subad. male Lucifer Hummingbird was feeding at flowering *Erythrina* near Hacienda Santa Engracia 1 Apr, the first record e. of the Sierra Madre Oriental (JA). A Lewis's Woodpecker was found in Chipinque Park, Monterrey, N.L. 9 Mar (J&MK) and was



This soaring Mississippi Kite was one of a few seen near Casas Grandes, Chihuahua in late May. The only breeding records of this species from Mexico come from this area. Photograph by Bill Howe.

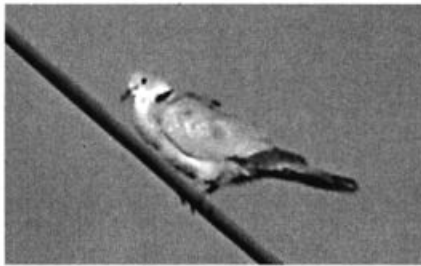
present through the following week (RD, RS, AS, ph. AH).

An Eastern Phoebe at Hacienda Santa Engracia 1 Apr was late (JA). Numerous

Brown-crested and Dusky-capped Flycatchers and around 8 Thick-billed Kingbirds were e. of their mapped range in Chih. on the Río San Pedro s. of Casa de Janos 31 May; the former species was also at Río Casas Grandes 29 May (BH, SD). A Rose-throated Becard was well seen in C.d.F. Dgo. 9 Mar (FVP). Six Western Scrub-Jays were in the lower oak zone sw. of Colonia Juárez 29 May (BH, SD). Tamaulipas Crows were fairly common around El Naranjo, S.L.P. in early Apr, and a few were seen near Ocampo, Tamps., but they were absent around Gómez Farías, where formerly hundreds would be seen (JA); only one Tamaulipas Crow was seen on the drive between Ciudad Victoria, Tamps. and Gómez Farías 31 May (HGdS).

The first Barn Swallow of the year in the Torreón, Coah. area was seen 9 Mar (FVP). Confirmed nesting of Northern Rough-winged Swallow was documented in Chih., with one pair repeatedly entering a hole in the bank of the Río Casas Grandes delivering food and once carrying out a fecal sac 31 May (ph. BH, SD). Most of the dozen Cliff Swallows nesting along the Río San Pedro 31 May had chestnut foreheads, but a few had pale foreheads. As in previous years, virtually all of the Bushtits in the oak zone and higher were of the Black-eared form; those lower down along the Río San Pedro 29–31 May were a mix of a few Black-eared and a majority of "Brown-eared" birds (BH, SD).

Cedar Waxwings were abundant in Torreón throughout Mar and Apr, and several hundred were seen flycatching in C.d.F. 1 May (FVP). Small numbers of Lucy's Warblers were along the Río Casas Grandes 29 May, and at least 8 were along the Río San Pedro 31 May (BH, SD). One male Mangrove Warbler at La Pesca 17 Mar was n. of its usual range (D&JS, CD et al.). A Black-throated Green Warbler was in B.V.C. 2 May (WB, EC, AV, FVP). An ad. male Golden-cheeked Warbler was seen near the crest of the range above El Naranjo 4 Apr, a very late date for this early migrant (JA). A Palm War-



Eurasian Collared-Dove has been reported with increasing frequency in Mexico in the past three years. This one, photographed in Janos, was one of several found in late May in five towns in northern Chihuahua by Bill Howe and Scott Dieni. Photograph by Bill Howe.



This Lewis's Woodpecker showed up at Chipinque Park on the outskirts of Monterrey, Nuevo León and stayed at least one week in mid-March. This species, more regular in Sonora and Baja California, had been recorded only once in northeastern Mexico and never before in Nuevo León. Photograph by Antonio Hidalgo.

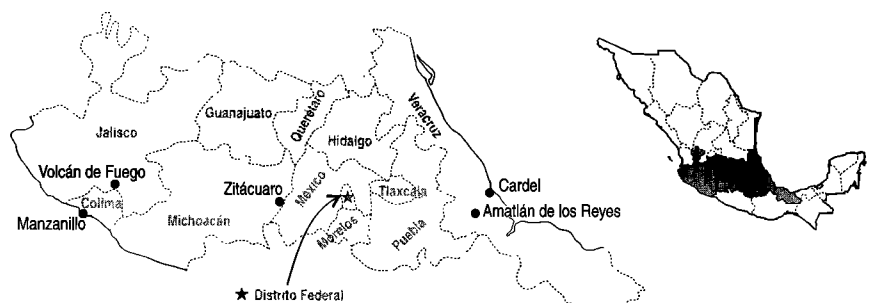
bler was around the Coah./N.L. border near Hedionda Grande, Coah. 1 Apr (RD, m. ob.). An Ovenbird was in the same area of B.V.C. 14 May as in previous years (FVP).

One singing *orinantha* White-crowned Sparrow near Casas Grandes 29 May was a rather late migrant (BH, SD). Singing Painted Buntings were in the Tecnológico de La Laguna campus, Torreón 28 Mar (FVP) and in C.d.F. 25 Apr (FVP, WB). One second-year male Indigo Bunting was near Casas Grandes 29 May (song was noted to be faster than usual but there was no sign of hybridization with Lazuli Bunting in the

plumage; BH, SD). A pair of Hooded Orioles was s. of Casa de Janos 31 May (BH, SD). A Black-vented Oriole was found in oak forest above Ocampo 5 Apr (JA).

Contributors (subregional compilers in boldface): John Arvin, William Beatty, Ray Bieber, Ernesto Cabrera, Maribel Cortez, Rubén Deschamps, Coen Dexter, Scott Dieni, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Bert Frenz, John Haas, Eduardo Hernández, Bill Howe, John & Molly Kaye, Sandra Luz Ramos, René Sada, Adrián Sada, Don & Jodi Shannon, Chris Tenney, Francisco Valdéz Perezgasga, Alfredo Villalobos Jáuregui.

## CENTRAL MEXICO



Abbreviations: P.E.X. (Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco, D.F.).

## PELICANS THROUGH SHRIKES

Some 55 American White Pelicans were in the P.E.X., D.F. 23 Apr, and only 11 were left 8 May (RW). An imm. Boat-billed Heron was high at 2250 m in a permanent pond at Rancho Santo Domingo at Ojuelos de Jalisco, Jal. 3 May (EM, MRL). Three Turkey Vultures were seen soaring over Xochimilco 25 Apr (SA). An Osprey was fishing at the P.E.X. 8 May (RW), one was at Lázaro Cárdenas, Mich. 21 May (EM, JL), and 2 were at Laguna Mitla, Gro. 24 May (EM, MR). A pair of Harris's Hawks circling over the U.N.A.M. botanical garden, D.F. 5 May may or may not have been escapees (HGdS, SA).

Two pairs of Long-tailed Wood-Partridge were on top of the hill at La Cima, D.F. 22 Mar (HGdS, DP). An ad. Collared Plover was at P.E.X. 4 Apr (RW). The only prior record of this species in the D.F. is of one in Aug–Sep 1996. Six pairs of American Avocets attempted to nest in the P.E.X. in Apr, but only 2 chicks hatched successfully, due mainly to flooding (RW). A Barn Owl was seen in Xochimilco 13 Apr (GA). A Mourning Dove was near Parres, D.F. 6 Mar (HGdS). Five male and one female Mexican Sheartails were seen at a small grassland close to El Lencero, near Xalapa, Ver. 7 Jun (FGG). Blue-throated Hummingbirds became conspicuous in La Cima as soon as the drought ended in late May (HGdS).

Two Acorn Woodpeckers were at Coajomulco, Mor. 22 Mar (HGdS, DP), and up to 2 were at Santiago Tlacotenco, D.F. 1 May (HGdS, RW). A Greenish Elaenia was on top of the hill at La Cima 30 May (HGdS). One to 3 Tufted Flycatchers were recorded at La Cima, D.F. in various Mar and May visits (HGdS). A Loggerhead Shrike was feeding a fledgling at Xochimilco 30 Apr (SA).

## VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

A Plumbeous Vireo was in subsong in Ciudad Universitaria 11 Apr (HGdS, FGG), and 2 were singing at Santiago Tlacotenco 1 May (HGdS, RW). Barn Swallows occur year-round in low numbers in the Mexico City

area, but 20 Mar marked increased numbers of sightings at Viveros de Coyoacán, D.F.

(OF) and at Texcoco, Méx. (JLA).

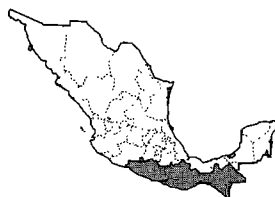
Two Blue Mockingbirds were at La Cima 9 Mar, and at least 4 were there 30 May; one was at Cañón de Lobos, Mor. 31 May (HGdS). Two Northern Mockingbirds were s. of mapped range along the Pacific coast at Laguna Mitla 24 May (EM, MR). A European Starling was near Parres 9 Mar, and small numbers were seen at various points in Mexico City through the period (HGdS). Cedar Waxwings were recorded in D.F. from Mar through the first week of May (HGdS, AOI).

A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Santiago Tlacotenco 1 May established a new late date. A Prairie Warbler was recorded 6 Apr in the Manzanillo airport marshes, Col. 6 Apr (MWE, SD, HC, EP, PS, KM). A Yellow-breasted Chat was in full song in a thorn forest near Amacueca, Jal. 3 May (FGG). A territorial male Western Tanager was noted near Instituto de Ecología, U.N.A.M. 11 & 25 Apr, while a female at the U.N.A.M. botanical garden 5 May was somewhat late (HGdS). Blue Grosbeaks were back and singing at U.N.A.M. botanical garden, D.F. by 27 Apr (SA). Two territorial male Northern Cardinals were in the U.N.A.M. botanical garden 5 May (HGdS, SA). Only one Sierra Madre Sparrow, a singing male, was found near Coexapa, Méx. in late Apr despite much searching (AOI).

There were 2 Orchard Orioles in the P.E.X. in mid-Apr (RW) and singles in U.N.A.M. botanical garden 27 Apr (SA) and 5 May (HGdS, SA). Numbers of Black-backed and Scott's Orioles came to feed at a flowering *Erythrina* in the U.N.A.M. botanical garden (HGdS). A House Finch and a Lesser Goldfinch were high at 3400 m and 3550 m, respectively, above Coexapa 21 May, where they have been presumed vagrants (HGdS).

**Contributors** (area compiler in boldface): José Luis Alcantará, Sofía Arenas, Galdino Arenas, Hugh Cotter, Stephen Davies, Mark W. Eaton, Oscar Flores, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Fernando González-García, Jaime Luévano, Kevin McKereghan, Eric Mellink, Adán Oliveras de Ita, David Pearson, Eric Preston, Mónica Riojas-López, Paul Saraceni, Richard Wilson.

## SOUTHERN MEXICO



The period was quite dry except for showers in mid-April that turned extensive areas of scrub green while leaving others still dry. A short influx of unusual (and late) migrants occurred 13–17 May. As stated in the winter report, a number of migrants seemed to leave the area early this year. Several new locations mentioned herein are Chilar and Cuicatlán in the Cuicatlán Valley nw. of Oaxaca; Totomoxtla in the Sierra Juárez above the Río Grande which drains into the Cuicatlán Valley; several sightings from towns in the Cajonos Valley including Yaganiza, Xagacia, San Miguel Cajonos, Yatoni, and El Porvenir; and San Sebastián de Las Grutas in the Sola de Vega Valley. Some species reported for these areas, although known to be common elsewhere, have not been previously reported from these areas, or only rarely. All localities, unless otherwise noted, are in Oaxaca. Note that Barra de Navidad refers to a location in Oaxaca 7 km e. of Puerto Escondido, not the better-known locality with the same name in Jalisco.

**Abbreviations:** P.A.D. (Piedra Azul Dam, just above Teotitlán del Valle); P.E.Z. (Presa Emiliano Zapata, 10 km s. of Zimatlán, cen. valley of Oax.); S.F.P. (San Felipe Park, 5 km n. of Oaxaca City); Teq. (Tequio Park, next to Oaxaca airport).

## GREBES THROUGH PHALAROPES

Least Grebes were found in many of the large impoundments in interior Gro.: 6 on Laguna de Tuxpan 20 Apr, 24 at Tepecoacuilco 21 Apr, and 17 on Presa Vicente Guerrero 14 Apr (MC). Five Neotropic Cormorants were at P.E.Z. 22 Apr, and of ca. 100 at Barra 22 May, some 20 were in breeding plumage and 2 were on nests at a nearby egret rookery.

An ad. and 2 juv. **Brown Pelicans** were inland in the reservoir at Tepecoacuilco 21 Apr (MC). A Great Egret at P.A.D. was in breeding plumage 29 May. In breeding plumage at Barra 21–22 May were a Great Blue Heron, 14 of 15 Tricolored Herons, one of 3 Little Blue Herons, and at least 2 of 8 Green Herons, as well as around 40 Great Egrets (31 of them on nests), and most of the 50 Snowy and 10 Cattle Egrets. On 22 Apr, 2 imm. Little Blue and 2 Tricolored Herons were at P.E.Z. A pair of **Agami**

**Hérons** was in the stream behind cottage 19 at Chan-Ka Lodge, Palenque, Chis. 24 Mar (MSM, PR, m. ob.), where one had been 3 Mar (SNGH, CW). The 6 Black-crowned Night-Hérons at Barra 22 May were imms. A White-faced Ibis was near Chilar 16 May. Three imm. Roseate Spoonbills were at Barra 22 May.

An ad. **Wood Stork** was inland at Tepecoacuilco reservoir 21 Apr (MC). An ad. King Vulture was near Limonar in the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Chis. 25 Mar (GL). Fifteen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at P.E.Z. 22 Apr (JMF et al.), and Tepecoacuilco reservoir yielded a very high count of 175 on 21 Apr (MC). A **Mexican Duck** was at P.A.D. 11–18 Mar. Around 20 Blue-winged Teal were still at P.A.D. 11 Mar, several already paired. Two were still at Bacocho beach, 2 km w. of Puerto Vallarta 21 May.

An Osprey was at P.E.Z. 22 Apr. An ad. **White-tailed Kite** was seen at Laguna de Tuxpan 20 Apr (MC). On 10 Apr, a Cooper's Hawk was harrasing another hawk on the road to La Guacamaya, 10 km n. of Etlá. However, the nest used in two past seasons was not used this season, following site disturbance. Other Cooper's Hawks were seen at Totomoxtla 25 Apr and above P.A.D. 29 May. Single adult Harris's and Gray Hawks were seen near Chilar 16 May. A single "normal" Broad-winged Hawk was seen on the La Guacamaya road 10 Apr, and a dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk was at Teq. 12 Apr. Short-tailed Hawks were seen at Totomoxtla 25 Apr and San Mateo Cajonos 10 May. Five migrating Swainson's Hawks were seen 7 km s. of P.E.Z. 22 Apr. Two Zone-tailed Hawks were at Totomoxtla 25 Apr. Two Laughing Falcons were heard between Jaltenango and Finca Prusia, Chis. 19 Mar (GL). Single Peregrine Falcons were above Teotitlán del Valle 24 Apr and 29 May.

Two Great Curassows were killed by hunters from Santa María La Luz in Apr in lands of San Miguel Tiltepec; locals hunt these birds every Apr and May, when they reportedly arrive from lower elevations (*vide* JMF). They are hunted year-round along the Usumacinta R. in Chis.

Three pairs of **Collared Plovers** were in interior Gro: one pair at Laguna de Tuxpan 20 Apr and two pairs at Tepecoacuilco 21 Apr (MC). Eight Killdeer were at Tlacolula sewage pond 11 Mar, with 2 there 29 May.

Only 2 Black-necked Stilts were at Barra 21 May, whereas hundreds were there in winter. One Solitary Sandpiper was at P.A.D. 11 Mar. About 15 Least Sandpipers were still at P.A.D. 24 Apr. Eleven Baird's Sandpipers were at Tlacolula sewage pond 29 May. Wilson's Phalaropes were at P.E.Z. 22 Apr and P.A.D. 24 Apr.

## GULLS THROUGH MANAKINS

One Franklin's Gull was at P.A.D. 22 Apr. Eight Least Terns were at Bacocho beach 21 May, with two pairs in courtship displays and 2 chicks found (this beach is probably soon to be developed). About 15 Black Skimmers were at Barra 22 May.

A Black-billed Cuckoo was at Totomoxtla 25 Apr, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at San Andrés Huayapan 17 Apr (MG). A Ruddy Quail-Dove was unusually high in the clearing at El Triunfo 20–22 Mar (GL). A pair of Yellow-headed Parrots moving in and out of a cavity in a large snag at La Venta Park, Villahermosa, Tab. 22 & 23 Mar may have been escapees, though this location is in their historic range (MSM, PR, m. ob.). A pair of Spectacled Owls was well seen and a Crested Owl was heard at Paval, Chis. 25 Mar (GL). Common Pauragues were heard 1 May at San Pablo El Porvenir and 14 May at San Bartolomé Yatoni. At least 3 Common Pauragues were calling (2 were also seen) in a large marshy field near Altamirano, Gro. 13 Apr (MC). Buff-collared Nightjars were heard at San Agustín Etna 2 Mar (MG), S.F.P. 8 Mar (MG), La Trinidad de Viguera 11 Mar, San Pablo Yaganiza 4 & 5 Apr, and El Estudiante 4 May.

Hummingbird breeding activity in Palenque in early Mar included a White-necked Jacobin building a nest 5 Mar, Wedge-tailed Sabrewing feeding a fledgling 7 Mar, three active nests of Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and one nest of White-bellied Emerald (SNGH, CW). A Green Violet-ear and a Black-crested Coquette were at Cuasimulco (600 m elevation), 45 km by road n. of Ixtlán de Juárez 26 Apr. A Dusky Hummingbird was seen 16 May at Chilar. One Magnificent Hummingbird was low at around 1800 m elevation near P.A.D. 29 May.

Six Citreoline Trogons were perched together in tall mangroves at Barra 22 May. One Elegant Trogon was seen 8 Mar at S.F.P. (MG, RAr). Four Russet-crowned Motmots were seen between Chilar and Cuicatlán 16 May. A Ringed Kingfisher was at Cuicatlán 16 May. A Belted Kingfisher was seen 12 Mar at Puente de Hierro, 3 km s. of Guelatao. Green Kingfishers were at San Sebastián de las Grutas 22 Apr, at S.F.P. 13 May, and at Chilar 16 May. Several Acorn Woodpeckers were along the San Sebastián de las Grutas road 22 Apr, apparently nesting in the large riparian trees. The latest observation of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was one at S.F.P. 21 Mar.

Greenish Elaenias were common at S.F.P. beginning 17 Apr and were also seen 22 Apr on the San Sebastián de las Grutas road. Tufted Flycatchers were still common at S.F.P. in Mar but were not found on several trips after 7 Apr. One Greater Pewee was seen 4 May at Río Juquila below Tanetze de Zaragoza (750 m elevation), 25 km ene. of

Ixtlán de Juárez. Single Tropical Pewees were at Cuasimulco 26 Apr and at Río Juquila 4 May. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported at S.F.P. 13 May. Willow Flycatchers were at Santo Domingo botanical garden, Oaxaca City 12 May (MG) and at Barra and Bacocho Beach 21 May. Cordilleran Flycatchers returned to breeding areas along the stream at S.F.P. beginning 8 Mar.

Social Flycatchers nested 23 Apr at San Andrés Huayapan and 16 May at Chilar; one was at the Oaxaca City airport in early Mar (JV, ESB). Ten Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers were along the San Sebastián de las Grutas road 22 Apr, 2 at Río Juquila 4 May, one at S.F.P. 13 May, one at Cuicatlán 16 May, and 2-4 at P.A.D. 17-29 May. A Piratic Flycatcher was at Río Juquila 4 May. One Western Kingbird was at Chilar 16 May. On 22 Apr, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at P.E.Z., and in mid-Mar, 2 were at the El Triunfo clearing, where vagrants. A female Gray-collared Becard was at Totomoxtla 27 Apr. Rose-throated Becards were first recorded in the central valley of Oax. 17 Apr.

A lek of White-collared Manakins was found behind Stele 11 at Yaxchilán, Chis. 14 Mar (SM).

## VIROES THROUGH WARBLERS

Two e. Bell's Vireos at Teq. 12 Apr were seen interacting aggressively and singing; another was in Oaxaca City 17 Apr. Golden Vireos were on their breeding grounds at S.F.P. beginning 21 Mar; the species was also recorded in Apr and May along the San Sebastián de las Grutas road and at San Bartolomé Yatoni, San Pablo El Porvenir, San Mateo Cajonos, and Chilar. Singing Warbling Vireos were recorded beginning 17 Apr at S.F.P. and also at San Sebastián de las Grutas 22 Apr and Jilguero Arroyo 24 Apr. A Warbling Vireo was at Palenque 3 Mar (SNGH, CW).

Two Violet-green Swallows, possibly a breeding pair, were at P.A.D. 29 May. An active nesting colony of about 50 Cliff Swallows was at P.E.Z. 22 Apr. Six Bridled Titmice were seen along the San Sebastián de las Grutas road 22 Apr. A pair of Happy Wrens was at Chilar 16 May. Southern House Wren was recorded at San Bartolomé Yatoni 30 Apr and 14 May and at San Pablo El Porvenir 3 May. A White-browed Wren was at Bonampak, Chis. 26 Mar (MSM, m. ob.). One Marsh Wren was seen at San Juan Guelavia, 7 km s. of Teotitlán del Valle 31 Mar. An Eastern Bluebird was at Totomoxtla 27 Apr.

A Brown-backed Solitaire was nesting on the road to San Martín Buena Vista, 50 km by road n. of Ixtlán de Juárez 27 Apr, and a pair was seen gathering nest material at S.F.P. 7 May. Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrushes were recorded on breeding grounds at S.F.P. 7 Mar and along the road to San Sebastián de las Grutas 22 Apr and at Totomoxtla 27 Apr.

The species was conspicuous along roadsides near El Estudiante above Oaxaca City in early Mar (JV, ESB). Hermit Thrushes were recorded at S.F.P. until 13 May. Clay-colored Robins were singing at S.F.P. beginning 7 Apr; one was at Totomoxtla 27 Apr, 2 were at San Pablo El Porvenir 3 May, 2 were at Río Juquila 4 May, and about 40 were at Chilar 16 May. White-throated Robins were on breeding grounds at S.F.P. beginning 21 Mar and along San Sebastián de las Grutas road 22 Apr and Totomoxtla 25 Apr. Rufous-backed Robins numbered 15 at Chilar 16 May. American Robins were nest-building at S.F.P. 21 Mar, with the first imm. seen 13 May; the species was also seen at San Sebastián de las Grutas road 22 Apr and Totomoxtla 25 Apr. At least 19 in three groups were encountered in the upper Sierra de Atoyac, Gro. road 19 Apr (MC); Carmody has found this species here before in Jan and early Mar, but this is the first time in over a dozen Apr visits that he has recorded this species.

American Pipit was recorded until 24 Apr at P.A.D. Cedar Waxwings were common through the first part of the period, with flocks of up to 150 in cen. valley of Oax., where last recorded 7 May. A flock of 50 Cedar Waxwings was in the El Triunfo clearing, whereas others were nearby around Cañada Honda and Paval in mid-Mar (GL, m. ob.). Gray Silky-Flycatchers were most notable by their near-absence from S.F.P., where they had been abundant breeders in Apr and May in the two previous years. One pair was nesting at El Jilguero arroyo above Teotitlán del Valle 24 Apr, and the species was abundant at Totomoxtla 25 Apr.

Single Tennessee Warblers were at P.A.D. 24 Apr and at Cuasimulco 26 Apr. A Nashville Warbler was at Palenque 7 Mar (SNGH, CW). The last Nashville Warbler record from cen. valley of Oax. was 17 Apr. Yellow Warblers, present in very small numbers in winter, were in cen. valley 23 Apr—12 May and at Cuicatlán 16 May. One Chestnut-sided Warbler was at P.A.D. 17 May. Blackburnian Warblers were seen 21 Apr at Teotitlán del Valle and 22 Apr on the La Guacamaya road. An ad. Western Palm Warbler was near the Acapulco, Gro. airport 15 Apr (MC, TW, RI, JB, BP, RH). One Grace's Warbler was seen at San Sebastián de las Grutas road 22 Apr. A Black-and-white Warbler was seen in a mixed flock of migrants 13 May at S.F.P., a new late date for cen. Oax. An Ovenbird banded at La Cumbre this winter was recaptured there 1 Mar (ph. RAr). A Mourning Warbler was at S.F.P. 13 May. The last MacGillivray's Warbler in cen. Oax. was 12 Apr and the last Wilson's Warbler 24 Apr. A Fan-tailed Warbler was at S.F.P. 4 Apr (RAn). A male Red-breasted Chat was on the Gro. side of Presa Vicente Guerrero 14 Apr (MC).

**BANANAQUIT THROUGH SISKINS**

One Bananaquit was at Palenque 24 Mar, and another was building a nest near Misol-Há waterfalls, Chis. 25 Mar (MSM, PR, m. ob.). Two Yellow-throated Euphonias were at Río Juquila 4 May. A pair of Elegant Euphonias was constructing a nest at S.F.P. 7–17 May, and 2 were at Misol Há Waterfalls 25 Mar (MSM, PR, m. ob.). Single White-winged Tanagers were at Palenque, along the road to Bonampak, Chis., and at Yaxchilán 24–27 Mar (MSM, PR, m. ob.). A pair of Shining Honeycreepers was reported from Palenque 24 Mar (MSM, PR, m. ob.). A pair of **Red-legged Honeycreepers** was at S.F.P. 26 Apr, a 2nd area record. Two Yellow-winged Tanagers were at Chilar 16 May. Red-headed Tanagers were reported at S.F.P. 8 Mar, La Guacamaya ford 7 & 26 May, and at El Estudiante 27 May.

Lazuli Buntings were recorded 8 Mar at P.A.D., 12 Mar at Puente de Hierro, and 12 Apr (a breeding-plumaged male) at Teq. Indigo Buntings were recorded 8 Mar–7 May at S.F.P.; around 50 were at Teq. 12 Apr, including some singing males. Two Varied Buntings were seen at San Sebastián de las Grutas road 22 Apr. A Painted Bunting was at Puente de Hierro 12 Mar. A flock of around 175 Dickcissels was between Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chis. and Jaltenango 2 Apr (MC). A Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch was low at Cuasimulco 26 Apr. A Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow was at Puente de Hierro 12 Mar. White-throated Towhees were recorded at Santo Domingo Xagacia, Totomoxtla, and San Mateo Cajonos in Apr and May.

White-collared Seedeaters of the race *morelleti* were at Chilar 16 May. Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters were singing in the Puerto Escondido area 21 & 22 May. A male Slate-blue Seedeater responded to a tape-recording at Taxco el Viejo, Gro. 21 Apr (MC). Yellow-faced Grassquits were at Puente de Hierro 12 Mar, at Cuasimulco 26 Apr, at Río Juquila 4 May, and at Chilar 16 May. Botteri's Sparrows were first heard singing at Teq. 12 Apr. Rusty Sparrows were recorded at Puente de Hierro 12 Mar, at Cuasimulco 26 Apr, at San Pablo El Porvenir 2 May, and at Río Juquila 4 May. The last Chipping Sparrow in cen. Oax. was 12 Apr, and the last Lincoln's Sparrow was recorded 27 Apr.

Breeding colonies of Red-winged Black-bird were found along the Río Salado at San Juan Guelavía and at Tlacolula sewage pond 29 May. About 20 Great-tailed Grackles were at Chilar 16 May. Flocks of 200 and 50 Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at Teq. 12 Apr, one of few recent records of such large flocks in cen. Oax. A pair of Bar-winged Orioles was at Limonar 9 Apr, whereas none were seen in Sumidero Canyon National Park 2 Apr (MC). About 30 Streak-backed Orioles were at Chilar 16

May. A Black-headed Siskin was seen at El Triunfo in mid-Mar (GL, m. ob.); 3 were seen 1–3 May at San Pablo El Porvenir.

**Contributors** (area compiler in boldface): Roque Antonio, Ramiro Aragón, Edward S. Brinkley, Jane Brooks, Michael Carmody, **John M. Forcey**, Manuel Grosselet, Ruth Guzmán, Steve N.G. Howell, Ron Huffman, Richard Irvin, Greg Lasley, Bob Pann, Pablo Ribas, Mike San Miguel, Stauffer Miller, Jay VanderGaast, Terry Witt, and Chris Wood. Uncredited observations are by John M. Forcey, Ramiro Aragón, Ruth Guzmán, and Roque Antonio.

**YUCATÁN PENINSULA**

The weather remained cool until mid-May. The intermittent cool winds blowing from the north-northeast caused a few notable "fallouts" of spring migrants. Long-distance migrants, the last to pass through, are reported with higher frequency as more birdwatchers are trained and new birding locations are identified. In late spring, a week can make the difference between the presence and absence of such transients as Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-eyed Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, or Blackpoll Warbler. Numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbird show up in coastal regions, while inland they are found singly. This could imply a gathering at coastal sites prior to making the trans-Gulf spring crossing.

**Abbreviations:** R.S.M. (Rancho Santa María, n. Q. Roo); R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.); S.K.B.R. (Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo); K.D.L.P. (Komchen de los Pájaros, Yuc.).

**HERON THROUGH TERNS**

Three imm. Little Blue Herons feeding in an estuary at San Crisanto, Yuc. 3 May were probably migrants, as this species is mostly migratory on the peninsula (BM). A total of 5 Boat-billed Herons was viewed at close range in the hurricane-damaged mangrove behind San Crisanto 3 May (BM). A Jabiru was seen 24–27 Mar moving in and out of the marshy area around Peten Tuch, R.L.B.R. in order to feed on fish in surrounding small

lagoons (DN).

Sixty Blue-winged Teal were observed at Uaymitún, Yuc. 23 Mar (RM); 2 were still at San Crisanto 3 May (BM). A single Swallow-tailed Kite was observed during the late afternoon of 24 Mar perched in a tree at Peten Tucha (DN), while another was seen flying over Pisté, Yuc. 10 Apr. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed 4 Mar at R.S.M. (PW). Two Great Black-Hawks were seen 27 Mar at Celestún, Yuc. (DB), and a Zone-tailed Hawk was in same area 30 Apr (DB). Three **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported kettling low with several Black Vultures near Campeche, Camp. 10 Mar (JM, AM). A female Merlin flew over mangroves at Punta Allen, S.K.B.R. 5 Apr (BM, PW). An



Aplomado Falcon, mapped as extirpated from the subregion by Howell & Webb (1995), was recorded at R.S.M. 25 Mar (PW).

Two juv. Rufous-necked Wood-Rails and their parents were in a tiny patch of mangrove in front of RS's house in Punta Allen through the period. Forty Black-bellied Plovers were at Uaymitún 25 Mar (RM); only 3 were in the area 26 Apr (BM), and one was at R.L.B.R. 29 Apr (GW). Four American Golden-Plovers, a rarely reported transient, were at Celestún 26 Mar (DB). A total of 5 Snowy Plovers was at San Crisanto 5 May, including one nest with three eggs, as was a resident pair of Wilson's Plovers (BM). Another 25 Wilson's Plovers at Uaymitún 25 Mar (RM) were no doubt migratory, as residents usually are observed in pairs. A total of 10 Semipalmated Plovers was feeding in the marsh behind Progreso, Yuc. 26 Apr (BM).

Approximately 100 American Avocets were observed feeding at Uaymitún 23 Mar (RM). This is a location consistently used by this species, at least during migration, when it is more prominent in the area. A total of 6 Willets was observed in the marsh behind Progreso 26 Apr (BM). Another was reported at R.L.B.R. 29 Apr (GW). Three Spotted Sandpipers were seen at San Crisanto 3 May (BM); this species usually disappears from the subregion for only six weeks a year (usually returning on the 3rd week of Jul). An Upland Sandpiper was reported 27 Mar at the entrance to Peten

**SA** Gray Kingbird, previously rarely reported along the Q. Roo coast, and then mostly on outlying islands in ones or twos, showed up in "numbers" this spring, apparently due to the unusual northeasterly winds experienced in the Caribbean this spring.

At least 4 were observed for hours at Punta Allen between 26 and 28 Feb, which are early dates (GW). Another was reported there 4 Apr (RS). The next day, 14 were observed eating the fruit of the Gumbo Limbo tree. On 6 Apr, 4 birds were there, and on 7 Apr there were 7 (BM, PW, RS). Interestingly, 5 were observed perched on wires along Hwy. 307 near the Bahía Principe Hotel n. of Tulum, Q. Roo 10 Apr after a storm had passed through the day before and dropped temperatures (PB). These may have been some of the same birds as at Punta Allen.

Tucha (DN).

A single Whimbrel was at R.L.B.R. 29 Apr (GW); large flocks of this species have been reported wintering in the reserve, but this bird could have been a migrant. Some 200 Least Sandpipers were at Uaymitún 23 Mar (RM), while around 35 in two flocks were feeding in a nearby area 26 Apr (BM). There were 3 Least at R.L.B.R. 29 Apr (GW), and around 50 were feeding in the estuary behind San Crisanto 3 May (BM). As many as 12 White-rumped Sandpipers, a transient, were seen at R.L.B.R. 29 Apr (GW), while 3 uncommon Baird's Sandpipers were at Celestún 30 Apr (DB). Only 3 Pectoral Sandpipers were observed at Celestún 26 Mar (DB). This species is reported in the subregion less often now than 25 years ago (BM).

Ten Stilt Sandpipers were seen 26 Mar at Celestún (DB). This is a species that has been registered in the hundreds in the R.L.B.R. (BM). Four Short-billed Dowitchers were at Uaymitún 23 Mar (RM), and 6 were still around at San Crisanto 3 May (BM). A Wilson's Phalarope was seen 26 Mar at Celestún (DB); 26 were observed there 30 Apr (DB), and 7 were at San Crisanto 3 May, feeding in a seasonally flooded area next to the highway. (BM).

Two Gull-billed Terns were flying over coastal lagoon below Xcambó, Yuc. 9 Mar (BM, PW). A Caspian Tern was on a sandbar in the marsh behind Progreso 26 Apr (BM). Around 20 Least Terns were observed with three active nests at San Crisanto 3 May in an area behind the coast where the inhabitants are restoring a damaged wetland. Twenty-five years ago, this estuary was an excellent location for birdwatching; it was damaged by the introduction of cattle into the wetland, causing the filling in of freshwater springs that had helped to maintain an equilibrium with the saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico just 500 m away. Black Terns were also reported there by the locals this spring—the first time they had seen this transient species.

### PIGEONS THROUGH VIREOS

A White-crowned Pigeon was seen roosting with 40+ Red-billed Pigeons 19 Mar at R.S.M. (PW). Five Yellow-billed Cuckoos were feeding in adjacent trees in Kiucic Reserve, Yuc. 27 Apr (BM); the species had not been detected

there 10 days earlier (DB). Two Pheasant Cuckoos were heard 4 Mar and 11 Apr at R.S.M. (PW). A Chimney Swift was observed at the cruise-ship pier at Progreso 9 Apr (DB); another was seen at Celestún 30 Apr (DB). Ten Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flew past the pier at Progreso 10 Apr (DB); 20 others were observed competing for nectar in the flowering starbell (siricote) trees at Celestún 30 Apr (DB). A male was feeding in bushes. Five Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers were observed in Kiucic 27 Apr (BM). Eastern Kingbird passes through the subregion in large numbers, but this season it was detected very sparingly: one and 3 individuals at R.S.M. 2 & 10 Apr (PW); 2 moving through at K.D.L.P. 26 Apr; and another 4 seen at nearby San Crisanto 3 May (BM).

One Red-eyed Vireo was seen at Kiucic 27 Apr along with a Yellow-green Vireo, the latter a migrant that summers in the subregion (BM). At R.S.M., the first Yellow-green Vireos were noted 10 Apr; however, the species may have arrived a few days earlier, as there were already several in full song (PW). A Black-whiskered Vireo, a rather rare transient on the e. coast of the peninsula, was observed feeding on fruit of a Gumbo Limbo tree at Punta Allen together with 4 Yucatan Vireos 5 Apr; 3 were observed feeding on the same fruit nearby 6 Apr along with the Gray Kingbirds and numerous other species; at least one was still in the area 7 Apr. This was a new species for the S.K.B.R. (BM, PW). Another Black-whiskered Vireo was seen 9 Apr along the access road to the Aktun Chen Natural Park n. of Tulum; it was in a flock of woodland birds and not feeding (PB).

### MARTINS THROUGH ORIOLES

At R.S.M., a female Purple Martin was seen 20 Feb and 2 males 3 Mar, with a maximum of 350+ on 10 Apr. Generally no more than 30–40% were ad. males (PW). Two Barn Swallows passed over R.S.M. 14 Mar, while the maximum reported was 600+ on 11 Apr (PW). Five flew over Noh-Ac 4 May (BM). Both Purple Martin and Barn Swallow are often observed throughout the year flying over the peninsula, either coming or going. A Cedar Waxwing was observed flying over R.S.M. 27 Mar (PW), while a large flock of 25 was at Celestún 30 Apr (DB).

A single Blue-winged Warbler was found at Celestún 30 Apr (DB), and 12 Tennessee Warblers were seen there 30 Apr, along with a single, rare Orange-crowned Warbler (DB). Four male Yellow Warblers were observed feeding in the mangrove at San Crisanto 3 May, likely late migrants (BM). One Cape May Warbler was among the migrants passing through Celestún 30 Apr (DB). An ad. female Prairie Warbler seen at R.S.M. 24 Mar may have been a transient, as it was not observed again (PW). A male Blackpoll Warbler, a rare transient through the subregion, was observed 9 Apr at the pier at Progreso (DB). A Prothonotary Warbler was among a flock with many Yellow Warblers n. of Tulum 9 Apr, all part of a fallout from a strong storm that was followed by quite cool temperatures for the rest of the week (PB). A Northern Waterthrush was still in the forest at Kiucic Reserve 27 Apr, and another was at San Crisanto on 3 May (BM). A single Louisiana Waterthrush was observed on the road to Vigía Chico, 10 km e. of Santa Teresa, S.K.B.R. 4 Apr (BM, PW); another one was seen at R.S.M. 10 Apr (PW).

A male Western Tanager was seen in downtown Mérida 2 Mar (JM, AM). A male Summer Tanager was at Punta Allen 4 Apr (BM, PW), while a very tired male sought refuge in shade of the patio of BM's house in Mérida 1 May. Reports of Blue-gray Tanagers, such as that of one at Tulum 12 Mar (SM), are not unusual, as the species has been documented breeding in Mérida since early 1990s (BM) and is found as far n. as Chichén Itzá (RH). However, as this species expands, Yellow-winged Tanager is not observed as frequently (BM). A Botteri's Sparrow was seen 23 Mar near Peten Tucha (DN).

Three Blue Grosbeaks were observed 20 km sw. of Mérida 13 Apr along with an Indigo Bunting (BM). Twenty Blue Grosbeaks were feeding in grasses near a water pond at K.D.L.P. 26 Apr (BM), and 2 females were feeding in the damaged mangrove canals at San Crisanto, where secondary grasses have taken hold along the banks of the canals, 3 May (BM). At R.S.M., the first sighting of Dickcissel was of one male and 2 females 23 Mar. Afterward, a male was recorded regularly with Blue Grosbeaks to 11 Apr (PW). Some 16 were recorded at K.D.L.P. 26 Apr (BM), and 5 at Kiucic (BM) the next day; 3 were at Celestún 30 Apr (DB). Two male Orchard Orioles were observed eating *Solanum verbascifolium* fruits in dune vegetation at Punta Allen 4 Apr (BM, PW).

Contributors: (area compiler in boldface): David Bacab, Pierre Bannon, Rich Hoyer, Barbara MacKinnon, Sandy McRuer, Victor Marin, Amy McAndrews, Rodrigo Migoya, Jorge Montejo, Diego Nuñez, Rosario Salazar, Gabriel Willow, Paul Wood. ☉