

Mexico

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Mexico

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All of Mexico seemed to be cooler than usual (on average) in late autumn, with many two- or three-day cold fronts from the north. Cedar Waxwings irrupted into Mexico again this season after a hiatus last season, thus continuing to show a two-year cycle. In the north, they appeared "in force" 11 November, a day of a cold front's passage, on the campus of Instituto Tecnológico de La Laguna, "coinciding with the arrival of American Robins—two species that have been quite irregular winter visitors but that always appear to come together," according to Francisco Valdés Perezgasca.

There were many records of migrants out of their usual ranges, in some cases apparently coinciding with such unusual occurrences in Florida and Texas. Hurricane activity in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico may have been responsible for several unusual records on the Atlantic Slope.

NORTHERN MEXICO



HERONS THROUGH TURKEY

A Reddish Egret, a first local record, was observed feeding in shallow waters at Puentes Cuates on the Nazas R. 12 Sep, after several weeks of unstable weather in ne. Mexico and tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico (WB, FVP). A juv. Bare-throated Tiger-Heron was

at Arroyo El Mentidero s. of Alamos, Son. in the first week of Aug, with an ad. there 21 Oct (RW, AB). An ad. Roseate Spoonbill was at Huatabampito, Son. in the first week of Aug (RW, AB). Both ad. and juv. Wood Ducks were present in the Cañón de Fernández on the Nazas R. throughout the period; a Muscovy Duck 22 Aug was a first for this location (WB, FVP); and FVP saw a male Mallard there 14 Nov.

Two White-tailed Kites, first recorded from Sonora in 1979, were in wet fields at Paredón Colorado, Son. about 50 km s. of Ciudad Obregón 21 Oct (RW). A White-tailed Kite was at Janos, Chih. 2 Oct (MG). The first Osprey of the season was seen in Cañón de Fernández 17 Oct (FVP, WB). Evidence of Gray Hawks breeding along the Nazas R. continued to be strong, as a juv. was seen in Cañón de Fernández 12 Sep and an ad. there 17 Oct (FVP, WB). A Collared Forest-Falcon was heard at Cola de Caballo, N.L. 23 Oct (AGS, JS). A Bat Falcon was reported from the Hotel Villa Blanca, Sin. on the Durango Hwy. 29 Aug (DP). One or 2 Peregrine Falcons were seen frequently perching on the Canal 9 television antenna 11 Aug (FVP).

A few American Coots were at Huatabampito in the first week of Aug (RW, AB). Three Black-bellied Plovers were at Huatabampito and Guaymas, Son. in the first week of Aug (RW, AB). A Surf-bird at Mazatlán, Sin. 28 Aug was early (MSM et al.). A juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper was

photographed in Bahía Santa María, Sin. 13 Sep (MG). Several hundred Wilson's Phalaropes were at Huatabampito in the first week of Aug (RW, AB). At least 2 Least Terns at Paredón Colorado 21 Oct were somewhat late (RW). Separate groups of 6 Wild Turkeys were at Rancho el Ojo, Son./Chih.

3-4 Oct (MG) and at Cajón Bonito (Rancho Los Ojos), e. of Agua Prieta, Son. 20 Oct (AM-C, NM-C, T&AM).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was seen in Casas Grandes, Chih. 31 Aug (AM-C, NM-C, PA), and up to 13 were seen at Janos, Chih. 2 & 5 Oct (MG). More than 4000 White-winged Doves flew over the Mazatlán airport road late in the afternoon of 27 Aug (MSM et al.). A Military Macaw flew into roost at the base of a cliff above Km 1 of La Petaca Road, Sin. at dusk 30 Aug; at least 4 were in the forest above Km 2-3 of the same road 31 Aug (MSM et al.). Two Mangrove Cuckoos were in tropical deciduous forest along the La Noria road, Sin. 28 Aug (MSM et al.). Yellow-billed Cuckoo was numerous and very vocal in the Alamos region in the first week of Aug (RW, AB). An ad. Spotted Owl with 2 fledglings was at the Thick-billed Parrot reserve near Madera 29 Aug (JLGL, JJMQ, AMC, DH). A Buff-collared Nighthawk was seen and heard in El Encinal Ranch near Piedras Negras, Coah. 16 Oct (AGS, FV, FF III). Three White-throated Swifts were near Madera in late Aug (AM-C, NM-C, m.ob.). Single female Broad-tailed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds photographed in Rancho el Ojo, extreme ne. Son. close to the Chih. and U.S. border 3-5 Oct were a bit late (MG). An estimated 7-9 Eared Quetzals were near Madera 28 & 30 Aug (AM-C, NM-C). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen in willow/Bald Cypress riparian woodland in Cañón de Fernández 22 Aug and 19 Sep (FVP, WB).

A Green Kingfisher at Cajón Bonito 20 Oct (AM-C, NM-C, T&AM) was not unexpected there. Two Greater Pewees and at 2 Pine Flycatchers were near Madera at the Thick-billed Parrot reserve 28 & 30 Aug (AM-C, NM-C). Three Flammulated Flycatchers responded to recorded vocalizations along La Noria Road 28 Aug (MSM et al.). A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was heard at Rancho el Ojo 4 Oct (MG). Among flocks of Tree Swallows, 3 Cliffs and 2 Violet-greens were late at Janos, Chih. 1 Oct (MG).

VIREOS THROUGH ORIOLES

A male Black-capped Vireo was in a mixed-species flock along the Panuco, Sin. road 31 Aug (DP), and another was in Bosque Venustiano Carranza in Torreón, Coah. 5 Sep (WB). A Philadelphia Vireo was in a flock of Red-headed Tanagers in Loberas, Sin. 15 Sep (MG, MAGB). A Marsh Wren was on the Chih. side of Rancho el Ojo 4 Oct (MG). A Verdin, 7 European Starlings, and 3 Cactus Wrens were at Bahía Santa María, Sin. 13 Sep (MG); 4 starlings were at Cosalá, Sin. 14 Sep (MG). An Aztec Thrush was at the Thick-billed Parrot reserve in late Aug (PA), and a juv. was near El Palmito, Sin. 15 Sep (MG). A Cedar Waxwing was observed



This juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper frequented Bahía Santa María, Sinaloa, Mexico 13 September 2004. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.

at Rancho el Ojo 5 Oct (MG).

Three Townsend's Warblers near Batel, Sin. (Km 218 of Mazatlán-Durango Hwy.) 30 Aug were somewhat early (MSM et al.). Yellow-rumped Warblers appeared in Bosque Venustiano Carranza 10 Oct, somewhat earlier than previously recorded there (WB, FVP). A Hermit Warbler was among the warblers at Chipinque, N.L. 25 Sep (AGS et al.). Nine Red-faced Warblers were near Madera at the Thick-billed Parrot reserve 28 & 30 Aug (AM-C, NM-C). A Louisiana Waterthrush was mist-netted and photographed at Rancho el Ojo 4 Oct (MG). About 100 km ne. of Torreon, near the road to Cuatrociénegas, a Northern Waterthrush was carefully identified (FVP, WB). At least 25 Red-faced Warblers were near El Palmito 15 Sep (MG). Small numbers of Song Sparrows were seen at the Magdalena R. crossing downstream from Terrenate, Son. 18 Oct (RW). Several Cassin's Sparrows singing 100 km ne. of Torreon (just off the road to Cuatrociénegas) 8 Aug were the first for the La Laguna region (FVP, WB). Botteri's Sparrows were in Cañón de Fernández 22 Aug and 19 Sep, in the same location where first recorded last year (FVP, WB). Painted Bunting reports have been numerous in 2004. Two were in Cañón de Fernández 22 Aug, and single males at Alamos and between Alamos and Río Cuchujaqui in the first week of Aug (RW, AB) were early. Six were with Varied Buntings along La Petaca Road 28 Aug (MSM et al.). At least 6 Dickcissels were in a roadside ditch along Mazatlan Airport Road 27 Aug (MSM et al.). Six meadowlarks, thought to be Easterns, were in fields along the Mazatlan Airport Road 27 Aug, and 4 were in open fields on the outskirts of Mazatlan 28 Aug (MSM et al.). Around 20 Orchard Orioles were migrating through the marshes along the Mazatlan Airport Road 27 Aug (MSM et al.).

Addenda: Several reports by MDC should have been included in the Winter season 2003–2004 report. Stilt Sandpipers wintered

at Rocky Pt., Son. 24 Jan. Some 4500–5000 Sandhill Cranes were at Laguna Bustillos near Cuauhtémoc, Chih. 1 Feb. An ad. Collared Forest-Falcon was 5 km n. of Mazatlán, Sin. 19 Jan. A Bat Falcon was seen 4 km above Copala on the Durango Hwy., Sin. 3 Feb. A female or young male Common Goldeneye was on Presa Rodríguez, Hermosillo, Son. 22 Jan. Single ad. Western and Laughing Gulls were at Puerto Penasco, Son. 24 Jan. Numerous Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were in riparian areas near Chihuahua City and Cuauhtémoc, Chih. 1 Feb, nw. of mapped range, and 9 European Starlings were recorded in Culiacán, Sin. 20 Jun.

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CENTRAL MEXICO



Following one of the wettest dry seasons on record, the weather during this period was abnormally dry and warm, with the rainy season consisting of a few nortes in September through early October. Passerine migration this fall was called "thin": in late September through mid-October, mixed passerine flocks are normally abundant and diverse throughout central Veracruz, but this fall, flocks were notably less numerous and diverse. Observations are from Ver. unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations: L.A.R. (La Antigua R.); L.C. (Las Cañadas); L.H. (Los Humeros); L.M.

(La Mancha); P.J.A. (Playa Juan Angel); R.C. (Ruiz Cortines, Los Tuxtlas); R.E. (Río Escondido); R.M. (Rancho El Mirador); R.S.L. (Rancho San Lorenzo); V.C. (Veracruz City).

HERONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A juv. Green Heron was at the U.N.A.M. botanical garden, D.F. 10 Oct (MG), and 2 Hook-billed Kites were seen in there 24 Nov (RGW). A rare vagrant to Veracruz, an imm. Northern Goshawk was observed heading s. over Cardel 11 Oct (JM). A subad. Golden Eagle at Chichicaxtle 6 Oct was apparently one of several noted this fall in the cen. Veracruz lowlands (HWI, JM). An ad. Ornate Hawk-Eagle near R.C. 18 Sep (EM, AM, JM, RS) was a good find; the species is scarce throughout the subregion. A Prairie Falcon was seen briefly 28 Sep at L.H. (SCC, MOS, JM), a rare vagrant to Veracruz.

Four Bearded Wood-Partridges and 2 Crested Guans were heard in an undisturbed cloud forest at 1750 m elevation in Joya del Hielo, Qro. 21 Aug, and 6 Bearded Wood-Partridges and 2 Singing Quails were heard in a pine-oak forest at 1700 m elevation 15 Sep (RP); both areas are inside the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. A Gray-necked Wood-Rail observed near R.S.L. 1150 m elevation 29 Sep was well above its usual upper elevational limit of 500 m (PB, LB, AM). A juv. Purple Gallinule was on the Las Barrancas, Ver. road 28 Nov (HGdS, FN). Around 200 Baird's and 6 Upland Sandpipers were feeding on grubs in a marsh near Toluca 5 Sep (MG, LG). A dead Solitary Sandpiper was discovered 12 Aug under a line of electrical wires at R.S.L. (AM, JM), and a live

one was at L.M. 29 Sep (MOS, JM). A single Red Knot was at the mouth of L.A.R. 30 Sep (SCC, MOS, AM, JM) and 6 Oct (HWI, JM). A Dunlin was seen near V.C. 4 Oct, an uncommon fall transient there (HWI, JM).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was discovered and photographed 26 Sep near Tamarindo (SCC, MOS, JM); 3 were seen at the same location 2 Oct (SCC, AM, JM). A female Blue Ground-Dove captured 29 Oct at 1100 m elevation at R.M. was high (SCC, AM). Small groups of White-fronted Parrots were ob-

served at R.M. 26–27 Oct, adding to the range of this species that is expanding its population in cen. Veracruz from Xalapa s. to at least R.M. (SCC, AM). A **Military Macaw** was in oak forest at 1500 m in Arroyo del Cuervo in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Qro. 14 Oct, a site where they were formerly common but are now seen only sporadically (RP). A rarely seen transient, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at L.C. 21 Sep (EM, AM). A **Lesser Roadrunner** at R.E. 25 Sep was out of normal range (SCC, MOS, JM).

A group of 15 **White-naped Swifts** were at Parque Ecoguardas, D.F. 8 Sep (MG). An imm. male **Violet Sabrewing** was captured 22 Oct near Xalapa, n. of normal range (AM). A **Mexican Sheartail** seen 12 Aug at R.S.L. was extralimital (AM, JM). Two **Acorn Woodpeckers** were at Parque Ecoguardas 8 Sep (MG). A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was near Zitácuaro, Mich. 26 Nov (HGdS). A **Tufted Flycatcher** was heard at La Cima, D.F. 24 Nov (HGdS), and a **Hammond's Flycatcher** captured 28 Oct at L.C. was e. of normal range (SCC, AM). Two **Rufous-naped Wrens** were observed 12 Aug at 1150 m at R.S.L., well above the maximum elevation of 300 m given for the cen. Veracruz subspecies (AM, JM). Large numbers of migrating swallows at Totolapan, Mor. 5 Nov were conservatively estimated as 5000 **Violet-green** and 12,000 **Barn Swallows** (HGdS, AP, EIE, HB). A singing **Cassin's Vireo** was at the U.N.A.M. botanical garden 10 Oct (MG). A **Brown-backed Solitaire** singing 28 Oct at R.M. was e. of normal range (SCC, AM). An ad. **Russet Nightingale-Thrush** in heavy molt was captured 13 Sep in Xalapa, below its usual lower elevation of 1500 m (AM, CTC). A **Veery** discovered 24 Sep near R.C. was higher than normal (MOS, JM). A **White-throated Robin** was at La Cima, D.F. 24 Nov (HGdS).

STARLINGS THROUGH ORIOLES

A **European Starling** was observed 28 Sep at the sewage ponds near L.H. (SCC, MOS, JM); 4 were at Amozoc, Pue. 11 Oct (HGdS), 6 were at a marsh near Toluca 5 Sep (MG, LG), and singles were at San Pedro Tultepec and Toluca, Méx 25 Nov (HGdS). Three **Cedar Waxwings** at P.J.A. 25 Sep were early (SCC, MOS, JM); 10 in the **Viveros de Coyoacán**, D.F. 25 Nov and 15 near Zitácuaro 26 Nov (HGdS) were on typical dates.

A **Colima Warbler** was at the Méx./Mich. state border on the road to Zitácuaro 25 Nov; another was near Zitácuaro 26 Nov (HGdS). An ad. male **Blue-winged Warbler** seen 28 Aug arrived in Xalapa slightly earlier than normal (AM, CTC). A **Townsend's Warbler** at R.M. 5 Sep was e. of normal range (AM, CTC). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, a rare transient in Veracruz, was well observed 23 Sep at R.C. (SCC, MOS, JM). A female **American Redstart** was in Lomas de Bezares,

D.F. 2 Nov (MG, GRM). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in Avándaro, Méx. 11 Nov (RGW). Many singing/territorial **Hooded Yellowthroats** were present at 1150 m at R.S.L. 12 Aug, below their usual lower elevational limit of 1400 m (AM, JM). A **Wilson's Warbler** 27 Aug at Lomas de Bezares was one of the earliest migrants recorded in Mexico City this year (MG).

Four first-year **Bananaquits** were captured 12 Sep at 1100 m at R.M., above their usual maximum elevation of 1000 m (EM, AM). Five **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, considered rare n. of Isthmus of Tehuantepec Sep–Feb, were seen 28 Oct at R.M. (SCC, AM). A **Rufous-capped Brush-Finch** was in a garden at Lomas de Bezares, D.F. 7 Nov (MG, GRM). At least 2 **Grasshopper Sparrow** were at the edge of a cornfield in Totolapan 5 Nov (HGdS, AP). A **Lark Sparrow** photographed near San Mateo Atenco in the Lerma region, Mex. 8 Aug (MG) seemed early. Single **Lark Sparrows** were seen 1 Oct (MOS, JM) and 10 Oct (HWI, JM) at Las Barrancas, more typical dates. A male **Fuertes's Oriole** seen 6 Oct 1 km w. of P.J.A. was a lingering summer resident (HWI, JM). A **Scott's Oriole** at L.H. 28 Sep (MOS, JM) was slightly e. of normal range. Three **Hooded** and 2 **Orchard Orioles** were at U.N.A.M. botanical garden 10 Oct (MG).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



All reports are from Oaxaca; reports are by Manuel Grosselet unless otherwise stated.

Abbreviations: Finca El Pacifico (just n. of Candelaria Loxicha on the road to Puerto Angel, about 900 m elevation); Teq. (Tequico Park near Oaxaca City airport), Jardín Botánico (Jardín Botánico Santo Domingo, Oaxaca

City); Llano Grande (village ne. of Oaxaca City, about 3100 m elevation); S.F.P. (San Felipe Ecological Park, just n. of Oaxaca City).

CORMORANTS THROUGH WOODCREEPERS

An imm. **Double-crested Cormorant** 5 km e. of La Ventosa on 17 Oct was well out of range (AM, JM). A **Little Blue Heron** was at Teq. 16 Oct, and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was heard 28 Aug in Oaxaca City along Río Atoyac. Up to 22 **Double-striped Thick-knees** were seen in an agricultural field 2 km n. of La Venta in early to mid-Sep and into Nov; this species is not mapped in this area (AM, JM, RV, GA). Four **Killdeer** were at Teq. 16 Oct and a group of **Vaux's Swifts** there the same day. A **Buff-collared Nightjar** was heard in Nexicho (N 17°26.407', W 96° 58.396') 18 Aug (MG).

Many Mexican **Hermits** including around 6 showing lekking behavior—singing, flying around, perched birds with bills open revealing light lower mandible, sometimes flying about together—were at Finca El Pacifico 6 Oct (RA, JF); this may be the first observation of lekking behavior in this species, according to Howell and Webb (1995). A **Dusky Hummingbird** was building a nest at Teotitlán del Valle 20 Aug. Two **Cinnamon Hummingbirds** were at Finca El Pacifico 6–7 Oct (RA, JF). Some 7 **Garnet-throated Hummingbirds** were seen at Llano Grande 19 Aug. A **White-bellied Emerald** seen 18 Oct 5 km e. of La Ventosa was an early arriving winter visitor (AM, JM), as was a **Beautiful Hummingbird** 13 Oct seen n. of La Venta at 100 m elevation (AM, JM, GA). A **Rufous Hummingbird** was mist-netted at Jardín Botánico 29 Aug. A **Golden-cheeked Woodpecker** was near the river at Finca El Pacifico 6 Oct (RA, JF). A **Strong-billed Woodcreeper** was at Llano Grande 19 Aug, and a **Northern Barred-Woodcreeper** was at Finca El Pacifico 7 Oct (RA, JF).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

A **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** was seen at Latuvi (N 17° 19.722', W 96° 51.619') on 19 Aug.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Teq. 15 Oct. A **Happy Wren** was heard near Guelatao 29 Nov (HGdS). Up to 4 **Common Ravens** were seen 1–5 km w. of La Venta between early Sep and Nov, at lower elevation than normal (AM, JM, RV, GA). Many **Northern Mockingbirds** were observed early Sep+ near La Venta and e. of La Ventosa, areas e.

of mapped range (AM, JM, RV, GA). Two Audubon's Warblers at 500 m n. of La Venta 15 Oct were e. of typical range (AM, JM, GA). A Townsend's Warbler 5 km e. of La Ventosa, 20 Oct was below minimum elevation of 500 m and out of normal range (AM, JM). A Hermit Warbler in Llano Grande 19 Aug and a Wilson's Warbler at S.F.P. 20 Aug established new early dates for cen. Oax. A Painted Redstart was in scrub near Teotitlán del Valle 30 Nov (HGdS, FN). A Common Yellowthroat was at Jardín Botánico 21 Nov.

A Clay-colored Sparrow 3 km n. of La Venta 15 Oct was e. of normal range (AM, JM, GA). Another new early date for cen. Oax. was 16 Oct for Savannah Sparrow at Teq. Several Rose-bellied Buntings seen 2–3 km n. and w. of La Venta in mid-Oct were at elevations lower than their usual of 150 m (AM, JM, GA). A Painted Bunting and a Streak-backed Oriole were at Teq. 16 Oct; the latter species has been found increasingly often near the city, presumably using the corridor from the Pacific Slope that follows the Pan-American Hwy. Several pairs of Melodious Blackbirds were observed 3 km n. of La Venta between early Sep and Oct, a bit s. of normal range (AM, JM, RV, GA).

Addenda: Inadvertently omitted from the Winter season 2003–2004 report were two important sightings by Michael D. Carmody: a juv. Bald Eagle seen flying over Mar Muerto on the road between Paredón and Puerto Arista, Chis. 12 Jan (MDC), and a male Hooded Warbler found wintering on the Pacific Slope at Arriaga, Chis. 12 Jan.

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA



Unusually high numbers of migrants, especially granivores, were noted this season. A new species for the peninsula, a single Field Sparrow was photographed at Rancho Santa María, Q. Roo, while Lapland Longspur was new for Quintana Roo. Other rarities reported for the season from different locations in-

cluded White-crowned Sparrow, American Pipit, Western Tanager, and Hermit Thrush.

Abbreviations: J.B. (Jardín Botánico near Puerto Morelos); R.L. (Río Lagartos town); R.S.M. (Rancho Santa María, Q. Roo); R.S.R. (Rancho Santa Rosa, n. Q. Roo); R.S.S. (Rancho San Salvador, in the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve).

PELICANS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A flock of 300 American White Pelicans was at Celestún 17 Oct (AD), while 10 Anhingas soaring high 5 km n. of Uaymitún 20 Nov appeared to be migrants as well (BM, MM). Most participants in the Yucatan Bird Festival bird-a-thon at Ría Lagartos 14 Nov saw a Least Bittern hiding in the mangrove in the middle of town (RM, JM, MT). A total of 300 White Ibis were found in the estuary at Celestún 16 Oct, while 200 were at the garbage dump on the same day (AD). A careful check of 4 *Plegadis* in a flooded field across from the cemetery just outside the town of R.L. 14 Aug turned out to be 2 each of Glossy and White-faced Ibis (HGdS, IN); this furnishes the first record of the latter for the subregion. On 14 Nov, 4 Glossy Ibis were seen in a nearby pond (AM, RM, JM, MT), and another Glossy was reported in Celestún 14 Nov (AD). Two ad. and one imm. King Vultures spent several days in the area of R.S.M. in mid-Sep before moving on (JS, IT, PW); this species seems to disperse in the fall and winter to the n. coast, where it is often sighted in the Ría Lagartos and Ría Celestún reserves.

A Muscovy Duck was seen flying over a waterhole at San Angel 1 Oct (BM). Strangely, 2 singles were seen roosting on grassy highway shoulders in the predawn 20 Nov, one near Suma and other between Motul and Telchac, Yuc.; both were uninjured and perhaps sought warmth from the asphalt (BM, MM). A female Red-breasted Merganser was photographed off Río Lagartos,

Yuc. 20 Nov (JM, MT). An Ocellated Turkey was seen during the bird-a-thon 14 Nov on the Chunchucmil road e. of Celestún (AD). Two ad. Black-throated Bobwhite with a juv. only about a week old appeared on the coastal road in Celestún 16 Oct (AD).

Approximately 50 Swallow-tailed Kites

were sighted at Muyl, Q. Roo 17 Aug, and 20 were still in the area a week later (IC). A juv. Gray Hawk was at Punta Siricote, Isla Holbox 8 Sep. An ad. Ornate Hawk-Eagle was seen in mid-Sep at R.S.M. (JS, IT, PW). A Merlin was in R.L. 14 Nov (AM, RM, IN), and another was at waterhole near Izamal 19 Nov (AH, BM, MM). A male Peregrine Falcon was perched on a communications tower in downtown Izamal, Yuc. 19 Nov (AH, BM, MM).

A group of 26 Semipalmated Plovers was mixed with Least, Western, and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Celestún 16 Oct (AD), while at least 3 Piping Plovers (one banded) were present in Celestún 9 Nov (DB). Four American Avocets showed up in Celestún 16 Oct (AD), while at least one Long-billed Curlew was seen in the R.L. estuary 14 Nov (AM, RM, JM, MT). A rare Baird's Sandpiper was seen at R.L. in the 3rd week of Sep (JS, IT). Nine Franklin's Gulls were well identified 5 Nov at Celestún (DB), and 30 more were photographed in salt ponds behind Las Coloradas 19 Nov (JM, MT). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was again reported in the coastal lagoon behind Chelem 12 Nov—the same place and time of year as in 2004 (AM, JM). A resident Kelp Gull was seen in the estuary of R.L. 14 Nov (AM, RM).

A Mourning Dove was mist-netted at R.S.M. in mid-Oct (JS, IT, PW). Three Caribbean Doves at Chichén Itzá 20 Nov (JM) were far inland; another mostly coastal species, White-lored Gnatcatcher, was reported there that day (p.161). A *Streptopelia* dove most like Ringed Turtle-Dove but with darker primaries and upperside of the tail (like Eurasian Collared-Dove) visited a feeder at Quinta Mari, Mérida 8–11 Sep (JA). A Black-billed Cuckoo was netted at R.S.M. ca. 18 Oct (JS, IT, PW), while the first Yellow-billed of the season was seen 5 Sep at Hacienda Santa Cruz, Yuc. (BM, BS), and another was reported at Celestún 14 Oct (AD). A Great Horned Owl was reported on the grounds of Eco-Paraiso Xixim at Celestún 14 Oct (AD). A juv. Lesser Nighthawk was found resting during the day on Isla Holbox 7 Sep (BM), and 2 were seen at R.L. in company of 2 Common Nighthawks 14 Nov (JM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Affording a new record for n. Q. Roo was the Sepia-capped Flycatcher caught in a net at R.S.M. in early Nov (VM, RL, JS, IT, PW). A Northern Bentbill was reported in the forest behind El Cuyo 14 Nov (AM, RM). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at R.L. 19 Nov (JM), and an Acadian Flycatcher was at Uxmal, Yuc. 20 Nov (DW). A good number of Acadians, along with Willow/Alder Flycatchers, were caught in late Sep–early Oct at R.S.M., with only 2 of the latter positively identified as Alder (PW, JS, IT). There was a burst of

SA The first major migration of passerines arriving on the Yucatan Pen. was noted at dawn 29 Aug, as groups of 300 to 400 birds flew inland over Playa Mujeres on the ne. coast of the peninsula, ca. 10 km s. of Isla Blanca. Some 2500 birds/hour were estimated, all flying high in a southeasterly direction as they passed over the coastline from the sea. "Flocks" of 20–30 Northern Waterthrushes were observed that day on the ne. corner of the peninsula, inland from Playa Mujeres (JG).

However, this early flight paled in comparison to an unprecedented, massive migration of passerines that took place over the entire n. coast of the peninsula, from Celestún to Isla Holbox and down to Banco Chinchorro off the s. coast of Q. Roo. This flight began in the night of 14 Oct and lasted through the day of 16 Oct. The breadth of flight was so great that an event of similar magnitude was recorded in w. Cuba. On Isla Holbox, birds were reported arriving at 0230 on 15 Oct, attracted by the lights of two lighthouses. They streamed in low, just over the street lights (thousands of Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-throated Warblers, waterthrushes, vireos, and buntings among them), and began feeding immediately, particularly attracted by the fruits of the Button Mangrove. They continued to come in all day and that night and all day on 16 Oct. In Celestún, on the nw. corner of the peninsula, they arrived between 0900 and 2300 on 14 Oct and continued strongly all day 15 Oct, with another massive arrival 16 Oct. Researchers at Rancho Santa María in n. Q. Roo had to close up all but one net during these days due to the numbers of individuals caught. Indigo Buntings showed up in numbers in Mérida as well during the days that followed. Among the warblers, tanagers, and flycatchers were never-before-seen numbers of granivores, including buntings, grosbeaks, and sparrows. An indication of the size of the migration that hit the n. coast is reflected in the numbers of Indigo Bunting registered in one small area of coastal dune vegetation in front of the Eco-Paraiso Reserve 10 km n. of Celestún: **3000** on 15 Oct, **2000** still in the area 16 Oct, and **800** on 17 Oct. The buntings and other granivores were seen feeding on the seeds of Crowfoot Grass (Egyptian Grass), *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (AD). This was but a small part of the fallout.

Least Flycatcher sightings and captures in early Oct at R.S.M. (PW, JS, IT). A rare Eastern Phoebe was seen in Celestún 14 Nov (KB, LG, SM). A Great Kiskadee was reported in the Bello Caribe subdivision, Cozumel, Q. Roo 11 Nov (BMi). An Eastern Kingbird was seen perched at Hacienda Santa Cruz, Mérida 5 Sep (BM, BS), and another was seen 7 Sep on Isla Holbox (BM). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were in Celestún 14 Nov (AD), while several Fork-tailed Flycatchers were reported in R.L. the same day (AM, RM, IN).

A single Blue-headed Vireo was seen at Hacienda Tzalamcab, Izamal 19 Nov (BM, JE). A Yucatan Vireo—a species of Q. Roo and coastal Belize—was reported at Rancho San Joaquín 2 km s. of San Felipe, Yuc. (JM). Other than an old report and several recent unconfirmed reports from Chichén Itzá, the only previous Yuc. record was from farther e. in El Cuyo. Northern Rough-winged Swallow was much in evidence this fall; the first reported were 3 at Isla Holbox 7 Sep (BM), and five of the bird-a-thon teams during the Yucatan Bird Festival reported seeing them 20–21 Nov. A pair of alternate-plumaged White-lored Gnatcatchers was recorded inland at Chichén Itzá 20 Nov (JM); there was a report of a pair at Izamal in 2003. Several Gray-cheeked Thrushes were among many Wood Thrushes netted at R.S.M. in mid-Oct; the heavy movement of n. *Catharus* was reduced to a trickle by 20 Oct (JS, IT, PW). A Hermit Thrush was observed in the J.B. in Oct and Nov by a local guide and experienced birders (LK); the first subregional record of this species was also from this site in Dec 2003. American Robin appears to be a rather common visitor the fall/winter period. Two were at R.S.M. in mid-Nov (JS, IT, PW); a female was photographed at R.L. on 14 Nov (AM, JM, IN, MT, RM); and 2 were noted 10 Nov on Isla Holbox (RE) and photographed there 3 Dec (DB, RE, BM). Eight Gray Catbirds were in the coastal vegetation of Celestún 15 Oct (AD), while 3 Black Catbirds were at San Angel in n. Q. Roo 29 Sep (SF, BM). American Pipit, a rarity in the subregion, was reported several times, with sin-

gles at Celestún 9 (DB) & 14 Nov (AD) and one mist-netted at R.S.M. in early Nov (RL, VM, IT, PW).

WARBLERS THROUGH MUNIAS

In mid-Oct, an Orange-crowned Warbler was netted at R.S.M. (JS, IT, PW). A single Nashville Warbler was reported at R.L. 14 Nov (AM, RM); this transient species had previously been documented in the subregion only in coastal locations. Seven Yellow Warblers in close proximity on Isla Holbox 6 Sep indicated they were transients migrating through the area (BM). Another transient, Blackburnian Warbler, was netted the week of 18 Oct. at R.S.M., while a male Prairie Warbler was seen at Uaymitun 20 Nov (BM, MM). Although predominantly a coastal/island species, it has also been reported in the past at Chichén Itzá and Izamal. Twelve Swainson's Warblers showed up at R.S.M. during the late Sep migration and remained through early Oct (JS, IT, PW). An early Ovenbird was reported in the Cuxtal reserve near Mérida in the first week of Aug (JG). Louisiana Waterthrush, typically an early migrant through the peninsula, appears to have migrated in a late wave that arrived in Nov. An individual was found "sleeping" on the covered, cement floor of a garage port in Mérida 11 Nov; when the car headlights illuminated the bird, it reluctantly flew across the street after first flying a short distance to a perch (BM); another was reported 20 Nov in R.L. (JM). Hooded Warblers were reported to have "invaded" Muyl, Q. Roo 25 Oct (IC), while a single Canada Warbler was part of a migration wave at R.S.M. in late Sep (JS, IT, PW). A male Gray-throated Chat was seen 30 Sep at San Angel (SF). A juv. male Western Tanager, a species that periodically shows up on the peninsula and is increasingly reported, was photographed at Kikil, Yuc. 19 Nov (JM, MT).

The large numbers of Indigo Buntings in the subregion this season surely reflected in part an excellent breeding season over most of the temperate United States (N.A.B. 58: 479–480). Rose-breasted Grosbeak, superabundant in the nets at R.S.M. during the

migration of 14–16 Oct (JS, IT, PW), was later reported as singles 14 Nov at R.L. (JM, MT) and 19 Nov at Hacienda Tzalamcab, Izamal (BM, MM, RM), with 4 at Chichén Itzá the next day (JM, MT). A Blue Grosbeak was reported in Cuxtal in the first week of Aug (JG). Captures and sightings of infrequently seen sparrow species probably also indicated a prosperous nesting season farther north. For instance, a single Chipping Sparrow was reported 9 Nov at Celestún (DB), while 2 were netted at R.S.M. in mid-Oct (JS, IT, PW). A Grasshopper Sparrow and a Lincoln's Sparrow were netted in the same location during the week of 18 Oct (VM, RL, JS, IT, PW). Also scarce in the subregion, a White-crowned Sparrow showed up this year at R.S.S. 30 Nov (RH, IN). A 2nd subregional record of Lapland Longspur, and first for Q. Roo, was provided by one in the fallout at R.S.M. in mid-Oct (JS, IT, PW).

A female Orchard Oriole with a broken wing was seen on Isla Holbox 6 Sep (BM). There were numerous reports of Baltimore Oriole this season, the earliest being 2 juvs. at Punta Laguna, Q. Roo 21 Sep (AD, FC, LG); a male was reported 14 Nov at R.L. (JM, MT), while a male and 2 females showed up at R.S.M. in late Nov (RL, VM, JS, IT, PW). Tricolored Munia, an introduced species, is still very much in evidence in the subregion. Two were seen 15–16 Aug on the Chunchucmil road e. of Celestún (HGdS), where often seen by local birders. A maximum of 8, including 2 juvs., was reported at R.S.M. regularly this fall (RL, VM, JS, IT, PW).

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