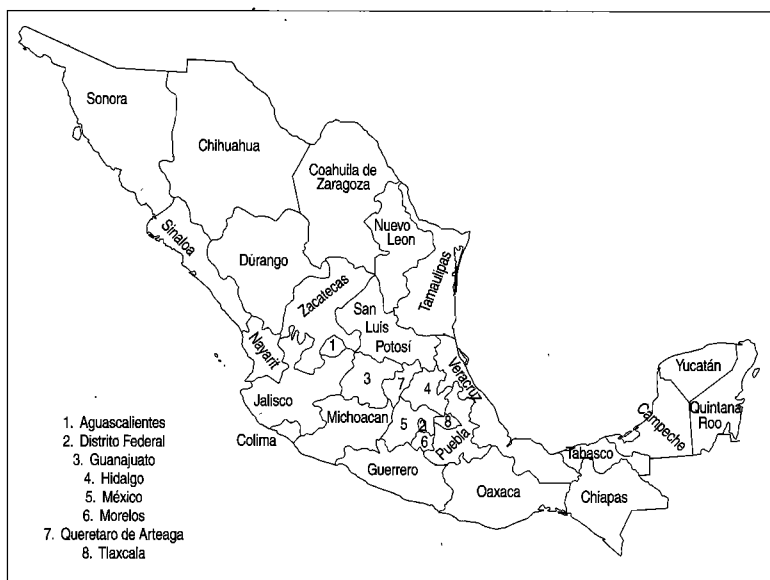


and 2000 m. One appeared to be on territory, the other prospecting. Two birds at 1770 m on 18 Jul (MSM) may have been early migrants; nesting remains undocumented on the peninsula. A female Summer Tanager at El Descanso 17 Jul (RAH, DSC) was unexpected. Two White-collared Seedeaters at Estero San José 7 July (AJ) were thought to be imm. males of one of the West Mexican forms. These birds, or their parents, may have been seen on 8 Apr, when 3 White-collared Seedeaters were reported from the same area (PP). We believe that these reports likely involve escapees. A 16 Jun walk along the w. rim of the S.S.P.M. at 2400–2600 m produced record counts of Green-tailed Towhees (7 territories, 8 birds) and Fox Sparrows (18 territories, 25 birds including 2 juvs.; REW). On 20 Jul, a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was consorting with a male Black-headed on the lower Río Santo Tomás, but no young were seen (†RAH et al.).

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Mexico



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This period was very rainy in most of the country. Significant contributions to this column continue to include records of birds outside their distributions mapped in Howell and Webb (1995), as well as some early and overwintering migrants, but the warm months of June and July saw overall relatively little birding activity. Because the distribution of both resident and transient species in Mexico is still so incompletely known, the records in this report carry comparatively little commentary on their relative rarity—indeed, the first three species boldfaced below are undoubtedly regular visitors to the area but were nevertheless first local records!

SA Among 100+ Cliff Swallows at San José del Cabo 5–8 Jul were several possible Cave Swallows (AJ). Jaramillo writes: “Almost every Cliff Swallow had a rufous forehead, typical of the largely Mexican race *swainsoni* (= *melanogaster*) rather than the white-fronted birds from farther north (*pyrrhonota/tachina*). Rump color varied from pale buff to a darker cinnamon. On ads., the dark throat was obvious. Views of the presumed Cave Swallows were always somewhat distant, and none of the birds was seen perched. These rufous-fronted birds had entirely cinnamon throats and faces, which set off a dark cap. Rump color was dark. Two appeared to be in wing molt.”

“One concern is that some juv. Cliff Swallows may show cinnamon throats with almost no dark, superficially resembling Cave Swallows. I was unable to determine if the auriculars of the presumed Cave Swallows were cinnamon or dark. Cliff Swallows in juvenal plumage are extremely variable, with most but not all showing white speckling on the face or throat. Some are cinnamon on the throat, but they usually show some dark on the lower throat. The variation in *swainsoni* has not been detailed, particularly with respect to separation from Cave Swallows, so conservative field identification is necessary. The dark rumps of these birds represent a potential problem, as Caribbean Cave Swallows are dark-rumped, whereas Mexican birds are pale-rumped. However, the fact that 2 birds appeared to be in wing molt may bode well for their identification as Cave Swallows; that species typically molts on the breeding grounds, while Cliff Swallows molt on the wintering grounds and much later in the season.”

“Given the problems discussed above, it is best to consider these as tantalizing observations that need confirmation. Although the latest *A.O.U. Check-list* attributed the Cave Swallow to Baja California, Howell et al. (*Annotated checklist of the birds of Baja California and Baja California Sur*, Monographs in Field Ornithol., in press.) were unable to find any records. Observers are encouraged to look carefully at swallows in this area in the future.”

NORTHERN MEXICO

A pelagic trip 20 Jul (0730–1300) in Mexican waters in the w. Gulf of Mexico—conducted as part of the Brownsville International Birding Festival—produced 4 **Cory's Shearwaters**, 18 **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**, one unidentified jaeger, and a **Sooty Tern** (PH). These are all species that have been recorded in the n. Gulf of Mexico since pelagic trips off Texas became regular in the 1990s, but they had apparently never been documented in Tamaulipan waters.

One **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was seen 23 Jun on Río Remos, Raíces, N.L., where two pairs with nestlings were discovered last year (RGG), these being the first state records. Two White Ibis and 5 **Wood Storks** were seen near Anáhuac, Tamps. 14 Jun (ORS, AOI). A single Peregrine Falcon was seen perching on the Canal 9 television antenna in Torreón, Coah. and hunting doves and pigeons in the surrounding area on 25, 26 & 31 Jul. Peregrine Falcons are a common sight in the Torreón city center from early Oct through early Apr, and there are a very few summer records from the nearby Nazas R. These are the first Jul sightings of Peregrines since 1984 in the city of Torreón (FVP, WB). Up to 17 Black-necked Stilts were seen near Anáhuac 11–19 Jun, and 2 **American Avocets** were there 15 Jun (ORS, AOI). Royal Terns in ones and twos were seen near Anáhuac 12–19 Jun (ORS, AOI). Several Montezuma Quail were recorded, mostly by call, in pine-oak forest below El Palmito, Sin. 5 & 6 Jun (FR). One Burrowing Owl was near Los Mochis, Sin. 5 Jun (FR). Common Nighthawks were found abundantly near Anáhuac in mid-Jun (ORS, AOI). One and 2 Barn and up to 3 **Cave Swallows** were seen near Anáhuac in mid-Jun (ORS, AOI). Several male **Painted Buntings** on territory were also recorded near Anáhuac 14–19 Jun (ORS, AOI). An early **Lark Bunting** in breeding plumage was seen in the campus of the Instituto Tecnológico de La Laguna, Torreón 23 & 26 Jul (FVP, WB). A couple of **Lark Sparrows** were seen near Anáhuac 13–19 Jun (ORS, AOI). Large numbers of **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were recorded together with other blackbirds near Anáhuac in mid-Jun (ORS, AOI).

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CENTRAL MEXICO

Abbreviation: U.N.A.M. (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

HERONS THROUGH WRENS

One Snowy Egret was at Almoloya del Río, Méx. 22 Jul (HGdS, AOI, EG); this species is mapped by Howell and Webb (1995) in the state of México as a winter visitor only. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at the Glorieta de Colón, Toluca, Méx. 5 Jul, above the 2200-m elevation stated as the upper limit by Howell and Webb (1995). Two Double-toothed Kites were seen 16 Jun at Laguna La María, Col. (FR). A Black Hawk-Eagle was seen 25 Jun on the Elicia road about 2 km ne. of Paraíso, Gro. Single Ornate Hawk-Eagles were seen 16 & 19 Jun near Finca San Antonio, above Comala, Col. (FR). One **Peregrine Falcon** was seen on the se. side of Cerro del Chiquihuite, Méx. 7 Jul (HGdS, MPV, HZV), and one was seen at La Cima, D.F. 11 Jul (HGdS, EG); this species was considered a rare winter visitor in the Mexico City area (Wilson and Ceballos 1993).

A King Vulture was recorded 28 Jun over tropical dry forest around 14 mi s. of Atoyac, Gro. (FR). Two King Rails were seen 18 Jun at Laguna de Sayula, about 5 mi ne. of Ciudad Guzmán, Jal. (FR). Two Common Terns were reported 15 Jun at the warm-water outflow from the hydroelectric power plant in Manzanillo, Col. (FR). Eight Bridled Terns were seen 15 Jun near Piedra Blanca off Manzanillo, as were 2 Brown Noddies (FR). Two Yellow-headed Parrots were noted 19 Jun near Comala (FR). A **Lesser Roadrunner** was seen 3 km e. of Parres (HGdS, AOI, EG).

Barn Owl feathers and pellets were found on the se. side of Cerro del Chiquihuite, Méx. 7 Jul (HGdS, MPV, HZV); pellets included the jaws of different-sized rodents, a shrew skull, and the skulls of House Finches and an ad. Feral Pigeon. One Barn Owl was seen at La Cima 17 Jul (HGdS, EG). Two Flammulated Owls were recorded on Volcán de Fuego, Jal. 17 Jun (FR), and more Flammulated Owls were heard at El Palmito 6 Jun and at the lower campsite on Volcán de Fuego 17 Jun (FR). Two Balsas Screech-Owls were recorded 16 Jun on the road to Microondas La Cumbre, Col. (FR). Two Eared Poorwills were recorded 17 Jun at the lower campsite on Volcán de Fuego, Jal. in pine-oak forest (FR).

At least 28 White-throated Swifts were at Cerro del Chiquihuite 7 Jul (HGdS, MPV, HZV). Green Violet-ears were staking out territories both at La Cima and 3 km e. of Parres, D.F. 22 Jul (a single seen as early as 19 Jul). An estimated 11 Short-crested Coquettes were seen 25 & 27 Jun on the Elicia road about 2 km from Paraíso (1050 m) in humid tropical forest (FR). A Green-fronted Hummingbird was seen 25 Jun near San Vicente de Benitez, Gro. (FR). Several Amethyst-throated

Hummingbirds were seen in cloud forest of Volcán de Fuego 18 Jun, above Carrizal (near Xochipala, Gro.) 23 Jun, and above Nueva Dehli, Gro. 26 Jun (FR). Five Garnet-throated Hummingbirds were seen above Carrizal 23 Jun (FR). Nine Long-billed Starthroats were seen near Paraíso 25–28 Jun (FR). Sparkling-tailed Woodstars were considered to be in lower numbers than usual, with four sightings near El Palmito 6 Jun and above Paraíso 25–28 Jun (FR). Two Lucifer Hummingbirds were seen 17 Jun on Volcán de Fuego just above the lower campsite (FR). One Magnificent Hummingbird was seen at the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden, D.F. 20 Jun (HGdS, MPV, SA). A Mountain Trogon was heard at the Parque Ecológico de la Ciudad de México, D.F. 9 Jun (HGdS, SA, AE). One Eared Trogon was seen 6 Jun about one km w. of El Palmito (FR). Smoky-brown Woodpeckers were present 19 Jun near Comala (FR). A juv. Scaled Antpitta was detected 18 Jun 2 km above the upper campsite on Volcán de Fuego (FR). Eye-ringed Flatbills were recorded 25–28 Jun along the Elicia road and the El Edén Road near Paraíso (FR).

One Pileated Flycatcher was heard at Zapotitlán de las Salinas, Pue. 2 & 3 Jul (HGdS, MPV), and 2 were seen 23 Jun near Xochipala (FR). A **White-throated Flycatcher** was seen 3 km e. of Parres 25 Jul. White-throated Flycatchers were also seen in pine forest close to 8000 ft above El Palmito 6 Jun, and a group with much social interaction was in tropical dry forest near Xochipala 23 Jun (FR). One Vermilion Flycatcher was seen 29 Jun near the U.N.A.M.'s Instituto de Ecología, D.F., where it is a rare summer visitor. White-throated Jays were seen 23 Jun in cloud forest above Carrizal in small groups, apparently "leading" mixed flocks (FR). More than 30 Sedge Wrens were seen at La Cima and 3 km e. of Parres, D.F. through Jul (HGdS, AOI, EG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH ORIOLES

A breeding colony of Cliff Swallows with 50 complete and 37 incomplete or abandoned nests was found in the relatively new library building of the Facultad de Ciencias, U.N.A.M., D.F. 11 Jun (HGdS, MPV). Although some native species lost habitat with the construction of the building (e.g., Black-chinned Sparrow), at least some others gained habitat (only one or two pairs of Cliff Swallows nested in the Facultad de Ciencias before the new library was built).

White-throated Robins were heard at La Cima through Jul. One **Blue Mockingbird** was seen 20 Jun at the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden, D.F. (HGdS, MPV, SA), where it had not been seen for many years, and 3 were recorded in

semiarid scrub on the se. side of Cerro del Chiquihuite 7 Jul (HGdS, MPV). At least 7 **Phainopeplas** were seen at Zapotitlán de las Salinas, Pue. 2–3 Jul (HGdS, MPV), where thought to be only winter visitors by Howell and Webb (1995). Small numbers of Gray Silky-flycatchers were present in and around the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden throughout the reporting period; they had not been recorded in this area prior to 1995. Two Hooded Yellowthroats were heard at the Parque Ecológico de la Ciudad de México 9 Jun (HGdS, SA, AE), and 2 were heard 3 km e. of Parres 22–24 Jul (HGdS, AOI). Blue Grosbeaks were not present in the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden 20 Jun but were vocal by 30 Jun (HGdS, AOI). At least 2 **Northern Cardinals** were singing at the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden on 20 & 30 Jun (HGdS, AOI, MPV, SA). At least 3 Cinnamon-bellied Flower-piercers were at the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden 11 Jun (HGdS, MPV, SA), and one was singing in a small garden near the s. end of Avenida Revolución in early Jul. Several dozen Sierra Madre Sparrows were seen in different locations in D.F. and just across the border in Mor. and Méx. (HGdS, LCG, AOI). One **Song Sparrow** was heard at 2940 m, above the elevation stated in Howell and Webb (1995), 13 km w. of Toluca 5 Jul. Abeille's Orioles became much more active and conspicuous in Ciudad Universitaria, D.F. through the reporting period, though mostly silent or calling (song rarely heard).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO

The very early arrivals of Lesser Scaup and Black-crowned Night-Heron were the most unusual records for the period, and Forcey's confirmation of nesting Cooper's Hawks in the mountains northeast of Oaxaca City is likewise significant.

BOOBIES THROUGH PARROTS

A single ad. Blue-footed Booby and many Brown Boobies, as well as 4 Red-billed Tropicbirds, were seen on a rock island off Playa Zipolite (Puerto Angel), Oax. 23 Jun (MDC). A flock of 21 Brown Pelicans was seen soaring in the fog-shrouded foothills 15 km ne. of Arriaga, Chis. 21 Jun (MDC). Great Egrets were seen at various points in cen. Oax. through the summer, up to 9 at one time. One

Great Blue Heron was around Santa Cruz Huatulco, Oax. 4 Jul (WB). An imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at the Río Salado near San Juan Guelavía, Oax. 28 Jul. On the same date, a **Lesser Scaup** was seen at the sewage discharge area w. of Tlacolula, Oax, possibly an overwintering bird. One Osprey was seen near Santa Cruz Huatulco 4 Jul (WB).

Continuing from the winter and spring, **Cooper's Hawks** were recorded in the mountains n. and ne. of Oaxaca City several times through the period (JMF), including a nesting pair with 2 young on the road to La Guacamaya. These were reported in the spring 2001 report as "Accipiter strongly believed to be Cooper's Hawks"; a primary feather recovered under the nest establishes the identification with certainty, as do JMF's detailed observations. A pair of Harris's Hawks was seen 28 Jul near the sewage discharge area w. of Tlacolula. West Mexican Chachalacas were heard several times, mostly above Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. where seen 22 Jun. A Spotted Rail was heard in wet grasses surrounding a ditch near Tonalá, Chis. 8 Jul (MDC). A nesting **Common Moorhen** was found in a small cattail marsh along the Río Salado 28 Jul. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen 28 Jul at Tlacolula, and a Spotted Sandpiper was seen 21 Jul at Teotitlán del Valle (RA). The first interior Oax. record of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Tlacolula sewage discharge area, a single bird found with 4 Least Sandpipers 28 Jul (also the earliest record of Least Sandpiper in 2001). The Semipalmated Sandpiper was still in the area 4 Aug. Two Least and several Royal Terns were noted around Santa Cruz Huatulco 3–4 Jul (WB). One Plain-breasted Ground-Dove was seen close to Santa María Huatulco 4 Jul (WB). About 200 Band-tailed Pigeons in flocks up to 50 birds were noted at La Luz, on the Atlantic Slope about 60 km ne. of Oaxaca City 16–20 Jul. Also, a flock of 5 **Barred Parakeets** was at La Luz 19 Jul. This locality is a cloud forest at 2000 m elevation. Several Lilac-crowned Parrots were seen around Santa Cruz Huatulco 4 Jul (WB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

One Mangrove and one Pheasant Cuckoo were recorded at El Sumidero, Chis. 7 Jul (MDC). Flocks of 25–30 Black Swifts were reported between 1–2 km inland of Santa Cruz Huatulco on the cloudy afternoons of 2 & 4 Jul (WB). There was a Berylline Hummingbird on a nest above San Felipe, Oax. 26 Jun. A Cinnamon-sided Hummingbird was noted on the road to Pluma Hidalgo, Oax. 4 Jul (WB). One male Green-throated Mountain-Gem was seen along with many Amethyst-throated and

Garnet-throated Hummingbirds on the summit of Cerro Huitepec, near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 19 Jun (MDC). A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen 4 Jul near Santa María Huatulco (WB). A family group of 4–6 White-throated Jays was seen visiting a fruiting tree at San José del Pacífico, Oax. 24 & 29 Jun (MDC). A Wedge-billed Woodcreeper was studied at El Sumidero 20 Jun (MDC). An ad. and an imm. **Violet-green Swallow** were at Teotitlán del Valle 22 Jun (this species is very rare in central Oax. in summer). Apparently the first recorded nest of Golden Vireo in the Oaxaca Valley was seen above Teotitlán del Valle 16–17 Jun. An ad female and an imm. Hooded Yellowthroat were seen at La Luz 17 Jul (JMF), and 3 or 4 calling males were recorded at San José del Pacífico 24 & 29 Jun (MDC). A pair of Red-breasted Chats was near Santa Cruz Huatulco 3 Jul (WB). One singing Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow was reported 8 km above the Pluma Hidalgo turnoff 23 Jun (MDC). A singing male Slate-blue Seedeater was seen 12 km n. of Iguala, Gro. 11 Jul (this species has been found at this locality in spring and summer for the last three years, per MDC). One **Melodious Blackbird** was reported 30 Jun at the Santa Cruz Huatulco marina (MDC), and another was reported 5 Jul at Tangolunda, 6 km n. of the marina (WB). These records very probably refer to different individuals. This species was absent from the Pacific coast of Oax. until a few years ago, when singles were reported from Mazunte (50 km to the w. of Huatulco) in 1995 and 1996 (Gómez de Silva 1998) and again in 2000 (HGdS). **Black-headed Siskins** recorded 20 & 26 Jun at San Felipe Park were low in elevation. Early nesting for Lesser Goldfinch was noted at Monte Albán, Oax. 29 Jun.

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YUCATAN PENINSULA

It is requested that all sightings of Swallow-tailed Kite from the Yucatan Peninsula be reported to Gina M. Zimmerman (email Zimmerman@arcinst.org).

PELICANS THROUGH TERNS

A hundred **American White Pelicans** were reported at Celestún, Yuc. 17 Jul (DB), and at least 95 were still present on the same sand spit 29 Jul (DB, BM). These and other reports—BM photographed this species at the Greater Flamingo nesting colony at Punta Meco, Yuc. 3 & 7 Jun 1979—raise the possibility that some

individuals oversummer in the Region. Black-throated Bobwhites were calling constantly from the vegetation bordering the salt ponds n. of Celestún 29 Jul (DB, BM). Early records of migrant shorebirds in Celestún, where there is continuous monitoring, are of one Black-bellied Plover 20 Jul, 3 Snowy and 9 Semipalmated Plovers 29 Jul (DB, BM), one Greater Yellowlegs 27 Jul, at least 6 Lesser Yellowlegs 29 Jul (DB, BM), 5 Ruddy Turnstones 20 Jul, and 3 Sanderlings with 16 Least Sandpipers 29 Jul (DB, BM). Only 5 Willets were seen at Celestún 29 Jul (DB, BM), whereas 80 Willets were seen 17 Jul (together with the possibly oversummering American White Pelicans). Willets are extremely plentiful on the w. and n. coasts of the peninsula, particularly during migration, but they usually arrive in late Jul. The Spotted Sandpiper is an early arrival on the peninsula, so it was no surprise to find 4 together at Celestún 29 Jul (DB, BM). A small number of nonbreeding individuals of this species oversummer each year. A basic-plumaged ad. Caspian Tern was observed in the estuary at Sisal, Yuc. on 8 Jul (BM). Nonbreeding individuals are known to oversummer in the Region. A single Forster's and a molting Black Tern were observed in Celestún 29 Jul (DB, BM).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen in Celestún's coastal vegetation 29 Jul (DB, BM). It is not known to nest there and so was assumed to be a migrant. A Belted Kingfisher was studied in Celestún 29 Jul (DB, BM). Prior to this record, this species had been recorded on the peninsula only as early as 31 Jul near Escárcega, Camp. (in 1983; BM). A Rufous-breasted Spinetail was found in Jul building its enormous stick nest a short distance into the woods from the road leading to Laguna Muyil, near Chunyaxché, Q. Roo (IC). Three South American migrants—Piratic and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers and Yellow-green Vireos—made themselves at home in the archeological zone of Muyil, Q. Roo through the spring and summer. The Piratic Flycatcher appears to favor the nests of the Social Flycatcher and Rose-throated Becard; stealing of the nest of the White-eyed Flycatcher, as occurs in Costa Rica, was not noted, although White-eyed Flycatcher is also common in Muyil (IC). A single **Piratic Flycatcher** was recorded in Celestún 28 Jun (JSO), this being the first record for n. Yucatan.

SWALLOWS THROUGH HONEYCREEPERS

Approximately 30 Purple Martins were observed feeding over the coast of Celestún 29 Jul, along with a few Barn Swallows (DB, BM). The call of Yucatan Wren could be heard fre-

quently in Celestún through the summer. Between 31 Jul and 3 Aug, a Tropical Mockingbird was observed at Celestún feeding a Bronzed Cowbird chick, indicating that its nest had been parasitized, as has been observed before. The only migrant warblers reported during Jun and Jul were 2 female Yellow Warblers in Celestún 29 Jul (DB, BM—this is the earliest date noted for this species on the peninsula, the previous early dates being one 4 Aug 1982 and 4 on 10 Aug 1983, per BM) and a Louisiana Waterthrush at Chunyaxché 30 Jul–4 Aug. A pair of Red-legged Honeycreepers had young in the nest in Chunyaxché 4 Aug.

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): **David Bacab** (DB), Ismael Camaal (IC), **Barbara Mackinnon** (BM), Javier Salgado

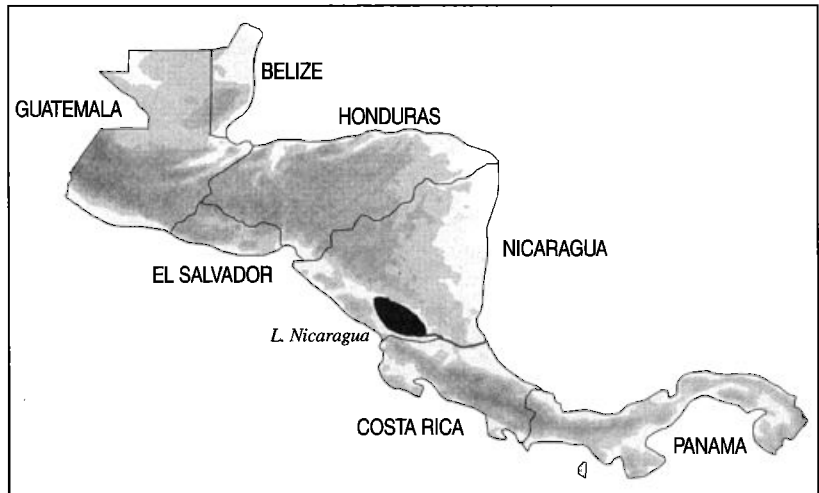
Ortiz (JSO). Uncredited observations are by David Bacab.

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Central America



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Oliver Komar continues to rewrite the chapter on bird distribution in El Salvador. Relatively little avian field research has been undertaken in this small country in the past, and Oliver continues to demonstrate how much we still have to learn. In just two months, June and July, he and his field associates found heretofore-unknown resident or likely resident popu-

lations of four species each in Dept. Morazán (Green Violet-ear, Brown-backed Solitaire, White-throated Robin, Slate-throated Redstart) and Dept. Chalatenango (King Vulture, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Wine-throated Hummingbird, Bar-winged Oriole) and found evidence of breeding for three other species (Zone-tailed Hawk, Red-throated Green Parakeet, Common Nighthawk) previously not known to nest in El Salvador. By way of contrast, reports of species found only a few km beyond their known distributional limits in heavily birded Costa Rica are noteworthy. But if someone wants to be a twenty-first-century trailblazer in Central American ornithology, may I suggest Nicaragua? Other than Thomas Howell's