

Mexico

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Records from the winter reporting period come from scattered parts of the country, with a particularly large number of records from Oaxaca. Sonora and the northern Yucatan Peninsula produced a remarkable variety of vagrants. On the other hand, Chiapas, Guerrero, and many northern and central states continue to provide few or no records.

Limpkins and Snail Kites continued to show up in many areas along the Pacific coast where they were not mapped by Howell & Webb (1995). Flammulated Owls continue to be recorded in numbers around La Cumbre in Oaxaca; there were very few previous records from that state.

A particularly interesting contribution is Rob Hamilton's careful observations from a trip to the rarely birded Islas Marias off Nayarit from 23 Jan—8 Feb, which produced six new species for the archipelago and a number of interesting winter records of birds thought to be transients. Sadly, Hamilton reports much habitat damage by introduced mammals on Isla María Magdalena and Isla María Cleofas. He writes: "Magdalena appears to show the effects of grazing fairly dramatically, both in its dearth of herbaceous understory and the dominance of thorny agaves and other spiny species in the understory left by the grazers," and Cleofas is now "full of goats and black rats, a mule, some cattle, and sign of cats," whereas this island did not have any feral animals in the mid-1970s. At least one bird of the Islas Marias, the endemic Lawrence's (Broad-billed) Hummingbird, appears to be in serious decline. However, these are just two of many Mexican islands that have problems caused by introduced mammals.

LOONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Red-throated Loon was in Cholla Bay, Puerto Peñasco, Son 15 & 16 Dec (SG, RJ). A Red-necked Grebe was recorded in Puerto Peñasco 16 Dec (NB). At least 40 active Brown Pelican nests were seen at a traditional nesting site on the nw. side of Isla María Cleofas 4 Feb (RAH). A Double-crested Cormorant was at San Blas, Nay., where rare, 11 Jan (SNGH,CW). An estimated 371 active Blue-footed Booby nests were recorded at a traditional nesting site near the se. anchorage of Isla María Cleofas 3 Feb (RAH). An estimated 1730 Blue-footed Booby nests with sitting ads. or under construction were reported from the s. end of Isla San Juanito, Islas Marias, Nay. 10 Feb (AJ, SL). Holsinger reported a Reddish Egret at a large lake in Linares, N.L. in early Feb. At least 2 Bare-throated Tiger-Herons were seen at Mintadero Arroyo e. of Alamos, Son. 18 Jan (G&GW), and several were seen along the Río Cuchijaqui, Son. in mid-Feb (SG).

Fifteen Canada Geese, a rare species in Son., were found in the Estero María, Puerto Peñasco 16 Dec (NB). There was one Snow Goose along the Río Mayo at Presa Mocuzari, Son. (SG), where rare. Miller estimated 700 Snow Geese at Presa Abelardo R. Rodríguez in Hermosillo, Son. 6 Dec (SM). In Navojoa, Son., 5 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were with 300 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in mid-Feb (SG). Three Blue-winged Teal, formerly unrecorded in the Islas Marias, were seen on Isla María Magdalena 6 Feb (RAH). A male Greater Scaup was seen on the Río San Cristóbal near Las Marismas, Nay. 14 Jan (NM-C, RT). One female Hooded Merganser was seen at El Golfo de Santa Clara, Son. 11 Feb (KG).

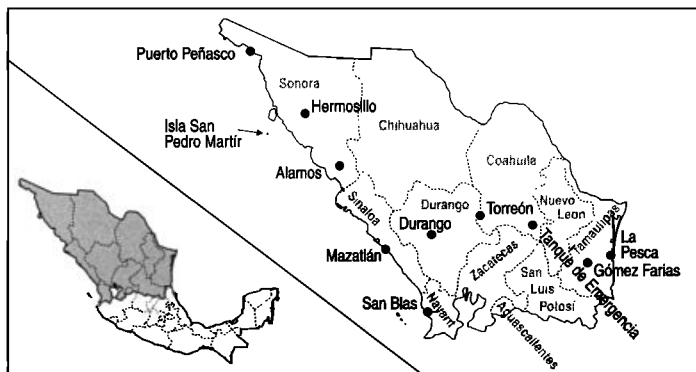
Three imm. Snail Kites were photographed on the Río San Cristóbal 14 Jan (NM-C, RT); SNGH and CW saw 5 nearby on the Singayta road 9 Jan; NM-C and RT recorded Snail Kites in the San Blas area in Jan 2000, and Rod DREWEN remembers seeing them at San Blas as far back as the 1960s (*vide*

NM-C). One Ferruginous Hawk was reported near Bahía Kino, Son. 7 Dec (SM). Around 100 Sandhill Cranes were seen in N.L. near the Tamps. border at km 145 of Hwy 85 (AH). Five Limpkins were along Río San Cristobal and at Las Marismas 14 Jan, where they had also been seen Jan 2000 (NM-C, RT) A Common Moorhen, a new species for the Islas Marias, was seen on Isla María Magdalena 6 Feb (RAH).

Eight Snowy Plovers, also formerly unrecorded in the Islas Marias, were seen on Isla María Cleofas 1 Feb (RAH), and 18 were seen on Isla San Juanito 10 Feb (AJ, SL). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen along the Río Cuchijaqui (SG). Seven hundred Red Phalaropes were estimated on the boat trip from Isla María Magdalena to Isla María Madre 8 Feb, while 700 were estimated between Isla María Madre and Isla María Cleofas on the same date (RAH). Sixteen Heermann's Gulls were estimated on Isla María Cleofas 3 Feb (RAH). One first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake was seen at a large gull roost just n. of Mazatlán, Sin. 22 Feb (MDC).

A pair of Ruddy Ground-Doves was in Puerto Peñasco 15 Dec (SG, RJ); this is the 2nd record for Puerto Peñasco of a species that has recently become somewhat regular in winter in s. Arizona. Around 40 Military Macaws were seen at Mirador El Águila, Nay. 15 Jan (NM-C, RT). The highest daily counts of the endemic race of Yellow-headed Parrots in the Tres Marias Islands in late Jan and early Feb were 12 on Isla María Cleofas and 18 on Isla María Magdalena (RAH). One Elf Owl carcass was found on Isla María Magdalena 25 Jan (RAH). An Eared Poorwill was seen on Cerro San Juan, Nay. 19 Feb on a traditional perch, and 2 were using the same foraging perch 27 Feb (MDC). Grazing and trampling of the understory by goats has probably caused a decline in the formerly common Lawrence's (Broad-billed) Hummingbird in the Islas Marias, where only one was seen 25 Jan, 2 on 7 Feb, and none on 26-27 Jan or 6 Feb on Isla María Magdalena, and none were seen on Isla María Cleofas 29 Jan—4 Feb (RAH). On the other hand, Cinnamon Hummingbird, which also has an endemic race on the Islas Marias, was seen daily 24 Jan—8 Feb, with maximum daily counts of 25 on Isla María Magdalena and 26 on Isla María Cleofas (RAH). A male Anna's Hummingbird was at La Posta, Dgo. 8 Dec (T&DH, FVP, WB). Many Plain-capped Starthroats were seen along the Río Cuchijaqui mid-Feb (SG). One male Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird was seen feeding in flowering *Inga* at La Bajada near San Blas 16 Jan (NM-C, RT) Two Bumblebee Hummingbirds, a male and a female, were seen on Cerro San Juan, Nay. 15 Jan (NM-C, RT). A female Calliope Hummingbird was at a low elevation for winter at Singayta 13 Jan (SNGH, CW).

NORTHERN MEXICO



WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Red-naped Sapsuckers and a Lineated Woodpecker were seen along the Río Cuchujaqui in mid-Feb (SG). An Ivory-billed Woodcreeper was in a park in Alamos in mid-Feb (SG). A **Say's Phoebe** was reported from the summit of Cerro de San Juan, Nay. 3 & 5 Feb (MWE). A Tufted Flycatcher was at Bosque Venustiano Carranza Park in Torreón, Coah. 2 Feb, presumably the same bird found there 17 Nov (FVP, WB). Greater Pewee, Tufted Flycatchers, Brown-backed Solitaire, and Slate-throated Redstarts were all wintering at low elevation along the Río Cuchujaqui in mid-Feb (SG). A male Vermilion Flycatcher, normally considered a transient in the Islas Marías, was photographed on Isla María Cleofas 31 Jan (RAH). A **Barn Swallow**, unrecorded in the past from the Islas Marías, was on Isla María Cleofas 1 Feb (RAH) during the time of a winter "invasion" of the species that spanned from California to British Columbia. At Yávaros, Son., Mangrove Swallows appeared to be nesting already mid-Feb (SG).

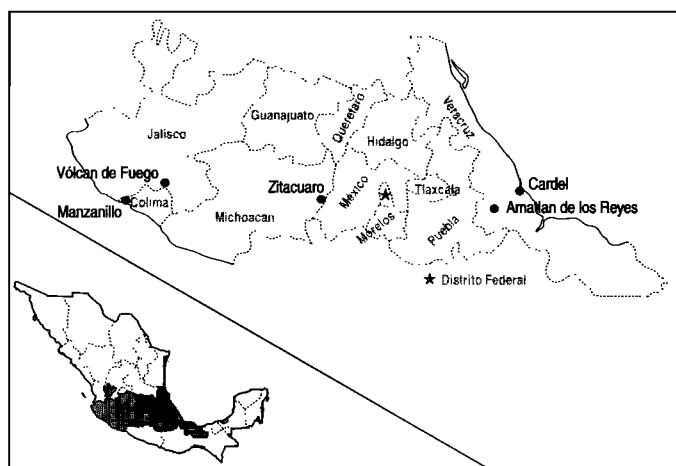
A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, new to the Islas Marías, was seen on Isla María Magdalena 2 Feb (RAH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** had likewise never been documented in the Islas Marías; 14 were estimated on Isla María Cleofas, and 7 were estimated on Isla María Magdalena late Jan and early Feb (RAH). A single Grayson's Thrush on Isla María Cleofas 2 Feb showed juv. plumage (RAH). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen near Piedra Blanca, Sin. 14 Jan (G&WW). One Colima Warbler was on Cerro San Juan 15 Jan (NM-C, RT). A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, new for the Islas Marías, was seen on Isla María Madre 8 Feb (race *albilora*, RAH). An imm. male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was in a yard on the e. side of Puerto Peñasco 16 Dec, feeding in acacia, mesquite, and citrus trees, as was a female or imm. male **American Redstart** (SG, RP). A **Northern Parula** and a Louisiana Waterthrush were along the Río Cuchujaqui. at Esperanza, Son. mid-Feb (SG). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at the large gravel pond just n. of the toll booth on Hwy 15 in mid-Feb (SG). A MacGillivray's Warbler was seen on Isla María Cleofas 30 Jan (RAH), while a male Wilson's Warbler was on Isla María Magdalena 7 Feb (RAH).

Garrett saw one female **Scarlet Tanager** at El Doctor, Son. (km 81 on the highway to El Golfo de Santa Clara) at the late date of 9 Dec; this record agrees with the exceptional showing of Scarlet Tanagers in Arizona, s. California, and Baja California during fall 2001 (incidentally, the same observer saw an imm. male at El Doctor 8 Oct 2000). A **Canyon Towhee** was reported in Peso Island, San Blas, Nay. 4 Feb (MWE). A female **Rusty Blackbird** was found in a pigpen in Puerto Peñasco 16 Dec together with Brewer's Blackbirds, Red-

winged Blackbirds, and a few Great-tailed Grackles (SG, RJ, m. ob.). Two pairs of Hooded Orioles were found in Puerto Peñasco 16 Dec (SG), new winter records for this locality. Three American Goldfinches were reported 30 km s. of Cananea, Son. 5 Dec (SM).

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CENTRAL MEXICO



Abbreviations: P.E.C.M. (Parque Ecológico de la Ciudad de México, D.F.), U.N.A.M. (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

HERONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Green Heron was in the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden, D.F. 16 Dec (SA). Two **Wood Storks** were inland at high elevation (1500 m) at Laguna de Sayula, Jal. 17 Feb, perhaps the same individuals seen flying over the west edge of Colima, Col. 23 Feb (SNGH, DL). A pair of Ring-necked Ducks was at a lake in Toluca, Mex. 25 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). Three **Snail Kites** were seen on the road to Manzanillo Airport, Col. 14 Jan (AJ, JV), and up to 5 were there 12—22 Feb (SNGH, DL). A single **Hook-billed Kite** was in the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden 16 Dec, 17 Jan, and 10 Feb (SA). A pair of Cooper's Hawks were heard vocalizing in the P.E.C.M. 8 Dec (SA, HGdS), and one was heard vocalizing there 27 Dec, 22 & 24 Jan, and 7 Feb (SA). An ad. nominate **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Laguna Zapotán, Jal. 16 Feb

(SNGH, DL). A Broad-winged Hawk was soaring low over the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden 7 Feb (HGdS). Ten **Limpkins** were reported from the road to the Manzanillo Airport 14 Jan (AJ, JV), and 2 were noted there 3 Feb (SJD). Up to 12 **Limpkins** were at Manzanillo Airport marshes 12-22 Feb (SNGH, DL). Two **King/Clapper Rails** were at Barra de Navidad, Jal. mangroves 13 Feb (SNGH, DL). An imm. Ring-billed Gull was at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco, D.F. 28 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.), while a **California Gull** was reported near Hotel Vida del Mar, Col. 19 Jan (AJ, JV). Two introduced Red-ored Parrots were seen in Oaxtepec, Mor. 16 Dec (HGdS). A Long-eared Owl was sitting on the Volcan de Fuego, Jal., road before dawn 16 Feb (SNGH, DL). A female **Whip-poor-will** was studied at its roost in Barranca El Choncho, Jal. 15 Feb. at the **low elevation** of 250 m (SNGH, DL). Chestnut-collared Swifts were seen on the Playa de Oro road, Col. 13 &

14 Jan (AJ, JV). Two **White-fronted Swifts** were with 20 Chestnut-collareds over the Playa de Oro road 13 Feb (SNGH, DL). Five hundred White-naped Swifts were estimated flying to their roost at Salto de San Antón, Cuernavaca, Mor. 27 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.), along with a few Chestnut-collared Swifts. Green Violet-ears were singing on Volcán de Fuego, Jal. 1 Feb, along the road to Microondas Víboras, Jal. 5 Feb (SJD), and at La Cima, D.F. 28 Feb (HGdS). One Green Violet-ear was singing in the P.E.C.M. 18 Dec (HGdS) and 14 Jan (SA); one was singing near Zitácuaro, Mich. 26 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). Two male Mexican Woodnymphs were at Puerto Los Mazos, Jal. 4 Feb (SJD). A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird was at La Cima 28 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Greenish Elaenias were seen and heard at the P.E.C.M. through the reporting period and at the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden 25 Jan (SA). A Pileated

and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were at Cañón de Lobos, Mor. 27 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). Two Tufted Flycatchers were at La Cima, D.F. 20 Dec (HGdS, SA, BC, JGB), and an Eastern Phoebe was near Atarascuillo, Mex. 25 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). A dozen Cliff Swallows were at Salto de San Antón 27 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). One Cave Swallow among dozens of Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Gray-breasted Martins was reported on the Playa de Oro road, Col. 13 Jan (AJ, JV), and 5 Cave Swallows were there 13 Feb migrating n. (SNGH, DL).

A Steller's Jay was at U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden 20 Dec (HGdS, SA, BC, JGB), where Western Scrub-Jay is usually the only jay present (and occasional escapee Green, San Blas, or Beechey's Jays, or White-throated Magpie-Jay). A female/imm. **Black Robin** was on Volcán de Nieve, Jal. 18 Feb, and flocks of up to 100 **Aztec Thrushes** were on the Volcanes de Colima 16-18 Feb (SNGH, DL). Four Blue Mockingbirds were heard at P.E.C.M. 8 Dec (HGdS, SA). Two **European Starlings** were seen near Atarascuillo 25 Feb, and 2 were 2 km nw. of El Yukón, Mex., w. of Toluca 26 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Barra de Navidad 13 Feb (SNGH, DL). A Painted Redstart was in a grove of introduced *Grevillea* trees in Cuernavaca 27 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). A female Western Tanager was at Nogales, Ver. 28 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). One or 2 male **Lazuli** and 6 **Varied Buntings** were seen at Cañón de Lobos, Mor. 27 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). Black-headed Grosbeaks were singing frequently and even performing song flights close to Zitácuaro 26 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). Blue Grosbeaks were absent from the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden through the reporting period (SA). One Sierra Madre Sparrow was seen and another heard at La Cima 18 Dec (HGdS). Sierra Madre Sparrows were defending territories at La Cima 28 Feb (HGdS, m. ob.). Scott's Orioles were singing at the P.E.C.M. and the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden through the reporting period (SA). Seven **Pine Siskins** were seen in flight low over the U.N.A.M. Botanical Garden 7 Feb (HGdS).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



Weather was normal for the period, with no unusual trends noted. Localities are in the state of Oaxaca unless otherwise stated. Uncredited observations are by John M. Forcey.

Abbreviations: B.J. (Benito Juárez, above Teotitlán del Valle, 2800 m), C.R. (Camelia Roja), E.E. (El Estudiante), L.C. (La Cumbre, the village that marks the entrance to Parque Nacional Benito Juárez), L.G. (La Guacamaya, 2700 m), M.A. (Monte Albán), P.A.D. (Piedra Azul Dam, Teotitlán del Valle, 1700 m), S.J.G. (San Juan Guelavía, 20 km e. of Oaxaca City, 1550 m), S.F.P. (San Felipe Park, adjoining the n. end of Oaxaca City, 1700-2200 m), Tot. (Totolapan, 65 km se. of Oaxaca City).

TINAMOUS THROUGH ANTPITTAS

A **Thicket Tinamou** (race *occidentalis*) was photographed in Parque Nacional de Huatusco 25 Jan (MG). A Least Grebe with 2 chicks and an Eared Grebe were seen at P.A.D. 6-13 Dec. A Little Blue Heron was at San Pablo Etla 23 Dec, while a Reddish Egret was seen 28 Dec along the Río Papaloapan one km upstream of C.R. (RH, CW et al.). Two **Tricolored Herons** were near S.J.G. 13 Dec. Up to 12 Green-winged Teals were at P.A.D. 14-28 Dec. A male **Mexican Duck** was seen at P.A.D. 26 Jan—28 Feb (JF, RAn, ESB, MEC et al.); this represents only the 2nd state record, although it may be the same individual that was seen at this location in spring 2001. Up to 21 Ruddy Ducks were at P.A.D. 6 Dec—28 Feb. A Hook-billed Kite was at km 68 of Highway 175, at 1045 m above Valle Nacional, 29 Dec, and a **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** was seen there 27 Dec (RH, CW, m. ob.). A Zone-tailed Hawk was at B.J. 26 Dec (ABB). Another outstanding Oax. record was an ad. **Northern Goshawk** seen well along the road to Nuevo Zooquiapan from L.C. 21 Jan (†CT, DH). Single Merlins were seen Teotitlán del Valle 21 Dec (ABB) and Yagul 23 Dec (ABB).

Up to 13 West Mexican Chachalacas were observed above Teotitlán del Valle throughout the period (JF, ESB, MEC, ABB et al.). Two Long-tailed Wood-Partridges were near Arroyo Jilguero above Teotitlán del Valle 14 Feb and several were calling below L.C. in early Mar (ESB, MEC et al.). A Sora was at P.A.D. 25 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). Up to 12 Common Moorhens were seen near S.J.G. 13 Dec—28 Feb. A Lesser Yellowlegs was at P.A.D. 26 Feb (ESB, MEC et

al.) and one Greater Yellowlegs was seen at a pond in Cuilapan 1 Jan (JF). Six **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at P.A.D. on the late date of 21 Dec (ABB); one was still there 25 Feb (MEC). Single Common Snipe were at P.A.D. 6 Dec and at S.J.G. 13 Dec. A **Ring-billed Gull** was seen along highway between Oaxaca City and Etla 28 Dec (ABB).

A **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** was calling at Tot. 27 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). A **Flammulated Owl** was at L.C. 25 Dec (RH, CW et al.), and at least 9 were calling there 26 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen there 25 Dec (RH, CW et al.) and 26 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). Hundreds of Lesser Nighthawks were seen P.A.D. 26 Dec (ABB). A Green-fronted hummingbird was seen at Tot. 16 Feb, and the prized Garnet-throated Hummingbird was at L.C. 24 Dec (RH, CW et al.). Three **Violet-crowned Hummingbirds** were at Río Grande bridge below Guelatao 27 Dec (RH, CW et al.). Several Emerald-chinned Hummingbirds were around km 63 of Highway 75 above Valle Nacional 8 Dec (MDC). Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were seen at Tot. 16 Feb (JF) and 27 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). A **Strong-billed Woodcreeper** was at L.C. 24 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.), where recorded only three or four times previously, and single Spot-crowned Woodcreepers were seen there 27 Dec (ABB) and 24 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). One White-striped Woodcreeper was at Jilguero arroyo above Teotitlán del Valle 28 Feb (JF, RAn, ESB, MEC et al.). Two **Scaled Antpittas** were seen at S.F.P., an unusual location, 23 Feb (RAn) and 26 Feb (RAR)

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CACIQUES

Single **Greenish Elaenias** were reported at E.E. 22 Dec (ABB), at L.C. (2960 m) 24 Dec (RH, CW et al.), and at S.F.P. 23 Feb (JF). Single Pileated Flycatchers were at E.E. 22 Dec (ABB) and at M.A. 23 Dec (RH, CW et al.). Three Gray-collared Becards were above Santa Cruz Etla 23 Dec (JF) and at B.J. 26 Dec (ABB). Rose-throated Becards were observed at L.C. 22 Dec (ABB) and 24 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). An apparent White-eyed Vireo was noted mobbing a Colima Pygmy-Owl 2 km n. of Huatulco 3 Dec (MDC).

Two Golden Vireos were at S.F.P. 23 Feb. Three White-throated Jays were seen at San José del Pacífico 1 Dec (MDC). Two **Happy Wrens** were at Río Grande below Guelatao 27 Dec (RH, CW et al.). Clay-colored Robins were at S.F.P. 20 Dec (ABB), M.A. 24 Dec (ABB), and Tequio Park 21 Feb (JF); they were numerous, along with Rufous-backed Robins, on the grounds of the Hotel Mision de los Angeles in Oaxaca City again in Feb (m. ob.). A **Hermit Thrush** apparently of the race *faxoni* was seen 27 Dec at about km 75.4 of Hwy 175 above Valle Nacional (RH, CW, CW). Single White-throated Robins were noted above Teotitlán del Valle 13 Dec and 25 Feb (JF, RAn, ESB, MEC et al.). White-throated Robins were not seen in the Sierra de Aloapaneca or Sierra Madre del Sur in Oax., where they are normally conspicuous, in three days spent in the area during the first week of

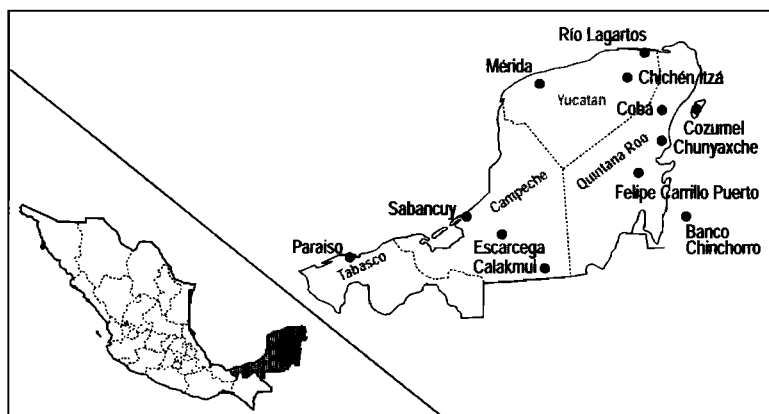
Dec (MDC). A male **Black Robin** (possibly 2 present) was at L.C. 24 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). Several Rufous-backed Robins were seen throughout the cen. valley of Oaxaca 6 Dec—21 Feb. Single **Gray Catbirds** were seen P.A.D. 7 Feb (RAn) and 25 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). A **Magnolia Warbler** was noted at Tot. 27 Feb (ESB, MEC). A **Yellow Warbler** was in Oaxaca City 23 Dec (*vide* JMF.), and a stunning **Golden-cheeked Warbler** was reported at 985 m near Santa María Zoogochi 28 Feb (RAR). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at the San Andrés Reservoir near Oaxaca City 25 Dec (ABB) and another in Tuxtpepex 28 Dec (RH, CW, m. ob.). A **Hooded Yellowthroat** was reported 1 Jan at San Pablo Cuatro Venados, about 25 km sw. of Oaxaca City (MG). A **Hooded Warbler** was near Huatulco 26 Jan (MG), and 2 were recorded at Finca Irlanda near Tapachula, Chis 4 Feb (TD).

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at E.E. 22 Dec (ABB), Yagul 23 Dec (ABB), Oaxaca City 26 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.) and B.J. 26 Dec (ABB). Orange-breasted Buntings were recorded at Tot. 27 Feb (ESB, MEC); this is the nearest this Pacific-slope species comes to Oaxaca City. Indigo Buntings were seen at L.C. 22 Dec (ABB) and above Teotitlán del Valle 28 Feb (JF). Varied Buntings were seen at E.E. 25 Dec (ABB), e. of Teotitlán del Valle 23 Feb (RAn), and at Yagul 27 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). Striped Sparrows were seen 1 Jan at San Pablo Cuatro Venados (JMF, MG). Hooded Oriole was noted at S.F.P. 20 Dec (ABB), E.E. 22 Dec (ABB), Oaxaca City 23 Dec (*vide* JMF), and 26 Feb (ESB, MEC et al.). One Altamira Oriole and 2 Yellow-winged Cacicques were recorded Tot. 27 Feb (ESB et al.).

Undocumented reports: A **Black Swift** was reported at P.A.D. 21 Dec (ABB).

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YUCATAN PENINSULA



This winter was particularly wet in Yucatan, especially during the month of February, when two back-to-back “nortes” lasted the entire month. Perhaps the bad weather accounted for the sighting of a new species for the peninsula. Uncredited observations are by Barbara MacKinnon.

Abbreviations: F.C.P. (Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo), J.B. (Jardín Botánico, Dr. Alfredo Barrera M., Puerto Morelos, Q. Roo), L.C. (Las Coloradas, Yuc) P.A. (Punta Allen), R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.) R.L. (Río Lagartos, Yuc), S.F. (San Felipe, Yuc), S.K.B.R. (Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo), Y.P. (Yucatan Peninsula).

BOOBIES THROUGH TERNS

A juv. Brown Pelican was at L. Cobá, Q. Roo 5 Jan (HGdS, PE). Four juv. Brown Boobies took up residence in Celestún, Yuc. this winter during the last two weeks of Dec (DB). One was still in the area 28 Feb (DB, BM). The only known nesting site of this species is at Alacrán Reef. A few juvs. are always present on Cayo Culebra in the S.K.B.R., and both ad. and juv. spend the winter on Isla Contoy, Q. Roo.

A Least Bittern was observed just w. of the 261/Progreso bypass junction 17 Jan, and an active nest of Bare-throated Tiger-Heron was located 100 m downstream from the Las Coloradas Bridge in the R.L.B.R. 20 Jan (KMB, LN). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported for Isla Holbox 26-27 Jan (JG), and 2 ads. were observed in the wetlands alongside the road leading into Xcalak, Q.Roo 23 Feb. Although the species nests in the Laguna de Términos area, it is an uncommon migrant in the rest of the peninsula. Three Glossy Ibis were just s. of Puerto Morelos, Q.Roo 1 Dec (SNGH, DK). One to 4 **Jabirus** were reported very close to the town of Xcalak on several occasions this winter by local naturalist guides. At least two reports appear to be accurate and not misidentifications of Wood Storks. Local naturalist guides at San Felipe reported a **Jabiru** there in Feb in wetlands w. of

town. A female **Greater Scaup** was observed 9 km e. of Progreso, Yuc. 18 Jan (KMB, LN), adding a new species to the peninsula's ever-growing list. A complete report on these sightings is in preparation for publication in the journal *Cotinga*. Four Lesser Scaup, once quite common on the peninsula, were observed in Celestún 20 Dec (DB), 2 were seen there 4 Jan (HGdS, PE) and 2 were seen 9 km e. of Progreso 18 Jan (KMB, LN).

Three ad. King Vultures were seen at Calakmul, Camp. 10 Jan (HGdS, PE, GC). A Great Black-Hawk and a Zone-tailed Hawk were interesting finds at the J.B. 9 Jan (KMB, LN). A Roadside Hawk at S.K.B.R. had a large bat in its talons at 9 a.m. on 9 Jan (HGdS, PE). Of great interest was the report of a **Collared Forest-Falcon** on the L C road several km from Hwy 295 (KMB, LN). This is a new species for the R.L.B.R.

A Rufous-necked Wood-Rail was at Celestun bridge 4 Jan (HGdS). A Piping Plover, an apparently regular but rare migrant on the peninsula, was reported w. of Dzilam de Bravo, Yuc. around Santa Clara 18 Jan (KMB, LN) and another was at L.C. 4 Dec (SNGH, DL). Two Long-billed Dowitchers were among several hundred Short-billed Dowitchers at Celestún 10 (KMB, LN) & 26 Feb (DB), while 3 were observed there 28 Feb (EG, BM). A Dunlin was reported just e. of the 261/Progreso bypass junction 18 Jan (KMB, LN) Eleven Wilson's and 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at L.C. 4 Dec (SNGH). Four third-winter and adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (resembling *graellsii*) were at R.L./L.C. 4 Dec and a second-winter bird was with an adult at L.C. 22 Jan (SNGH). Also, 10 Caspian Terns, a regular though not particularly common winter visitor, were reported on Isla Holbox 26-27 Jan (JG). One was at L. Cobá 5 Jan (HGdS, PE).

PARROTS THROUGH ORIOLES

An escapee Red-lored Parrot was on Cozumel 25 Jan (SNGH). A **Northern Potoo** was well seen on Cozumel 24 Jan, apparently the first record for this island (SNGH). The road leading to Nuevo Xcan out of Cobá, Q. Roo was found to be good for Yucatan Poorwill 12-13 Jan (KMB, LN). A female Mexican Sheartail was robbing nectar from pink *Ipomea* flowers near Umán, Yuc. 4 Jan (HGdS, PE). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed 6-7 Dec on Isla Holbox (JG), and a **Ringed Kingfisher** was there 26-27 Jan (JG). Although Howell & Webb (1995) do not map this species in n. Y.P., it has been sparingly reported along the n. coast since the 1970s. Five American Pygmy Kingfishers (including an imm.) were seen in the Celestún mangroves 4 Jan (HGdS, PE) A Keel-billed Toucan and 2 Smoky-brown Woodpeckers were in the first 4 km of the Viga Chico Road at S.K.B.R. 9 Jan (HGdS, PE).

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulets were heard at Calakmul 10 Jan (HGdS); Howell & Webb (1995) do not map this species for the state of Camp. Two Caribbean Elaenias were at Xel-ha 7 Jan (HGdS, PE). Five Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Champotón, Camp. 12 Jan (HGdS). A female-plumaged **Rose-throated Becard** was seen 6 km s. of San Miguel, Cozumel 10 Jan (KMB, LN). A Thrush-like Schiffornis was found at the J.B. 22 Jan (KMB, LN). Two Cave Swallows were reported in the area of Isla Holbox 6-7 Dec (JG); the species is a very local resident on the peninsula. A flock of 25 Tree Swallows was at Celestún 4 Jan, and a flock of 400 was at Xel-ha 7 Jan (HGdS, PE). Yucatan Wrens were singing at Celestún 4 Jan (HGdS, PE), while Cozumel Wrens were skulking at San Gervacio ruins, Cozumel, Q. Roo 8 Jan (HGdS, PE). A Tropical Gnatcatcher, not uncommon in forested areas of Q. Roo, was reported at Cobá 12-13 Jan (KMB, LN).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, normally a late-autumn transient, was close on the heels of a Wood Thrush at Cobá 6 Jan (HGdS, PE). A late **Swainson's Thrush** was at El Dedral, Cozumel 6 Dec (SNGH). Two thrushes that appeared to be very richly-colored Swainson's Thrushes were at Calakmul 10 Jan (HGdS). A Black Catbird was seen few km from Felipe Carrillo Puerto in the S.K.B.R. 9 Jan (HGdS). A Palm Warbler was at km 15 on the Vigía Chico road near F.C.P. 4 Dec and 21 Jan (SNGH). A male Black-throated Blue and a Wilson's Warbler were seen at Puerto Morelos 1 Dec, and a Wilson's Warbler was at El Cedral, Cozumel 6 Dec (SNGH). A large number of euphonias, mainly Yellow-throated, were on the ground feeding on fallen *Ficus* fruits in the cen. plaza of Calakmul 10 Jan (HGdS, PE, GC). A Blue-gray Tanager was at Campeche, Camp. 12 Jan (HGdS). A male **Western Tanager** was at Calakmul 10 Jan (HGdS, PE, GC). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was observed in Celestún 15 Feb, while a **Lark Sparrow** was also there 25 Feb (DB). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was reported near L.C. in the R.L.B.R. 18 Jan (KMB, LN). Eight Savannah Sparrows were at Celestún 4 Jan (HGdS, PE).

A single **Brown-headed Cowbird** was observed on a cable near a stable in the town of Celestún on 27 Feb (BM, DB). This is the first winter record of this species, and interestingly, it was located within a block of where 3 were reported last year during spring migration. A male **Baltimore Oriole** was found nearby on the same day (BM, DB) and may have been the same bird reported 15-17 Jan (KMB, LN). This species was mapped as a transient in the nw. Y. P by Howell & Webb (1995).

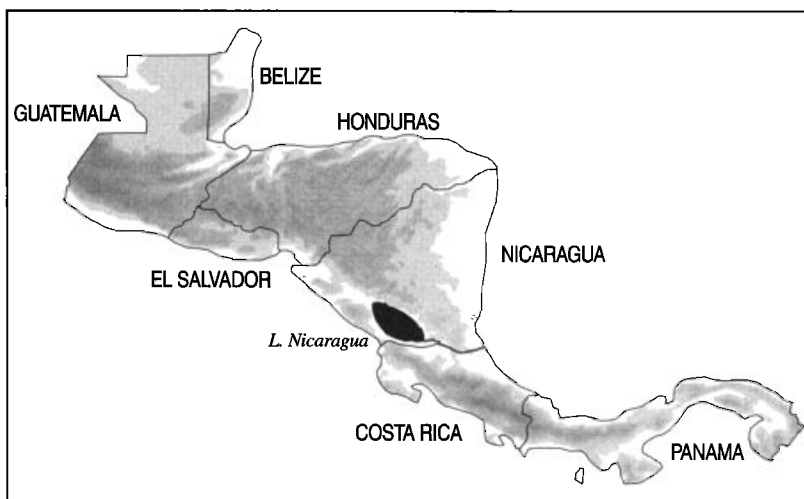
Undocumented reports: Ten **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported on Isla Holbox 29-30 Nov (JG).

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Central America



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The event of the winter season was not a bird but birders. For the first time, Central America surpassed the 50 mark, with 60 initialed observers contributing to this season's report. This is more than twice the number that contributed to the first report only five seasons ago and a testament to both the increased awareness by birders of the inclusion of Central America in the *North American Birds* seasonal reports and the increasing numbers of active birders in Central America. Hats off to all, and especially to those who contribute their observations on a regular basis!

It is perhaps too early yet, with so little historical data, to begin detecting yearly population

fluctuations or long-term changes in bird populations, but clearly, the numbers of Cave Swallows in Central America have increased dramatically in the past decade. Kelp Gulls are on the move and are likely to begin showing up in other areas besides Panama before long. This *may* have been a better than normal year for Pomarine Jaegers offshore and for Emerald Toucanets in the Belize lowlands, but with such a meager historical record, one can only speculate.

First country records keep coming in, but with "only" two country firsts—Cave Swallow in Costa Rica and Townsend's Warbler in Belize, and two potential firsts, Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird in Belize and Hoffmann's Woodpecker in El Salvador—this would have to be considered a rather normal winter season.

Abbreviations: B.B.R.C. (Belize Bird Records Committee); K.U.N.H.M. (Kansas University Natural History Museum); N.S.F. (Nova Shrimp Farm, Belize); Tikal (Tikal National Park, Peten District, Guatemala).