

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

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THE SPRING MIGRATION

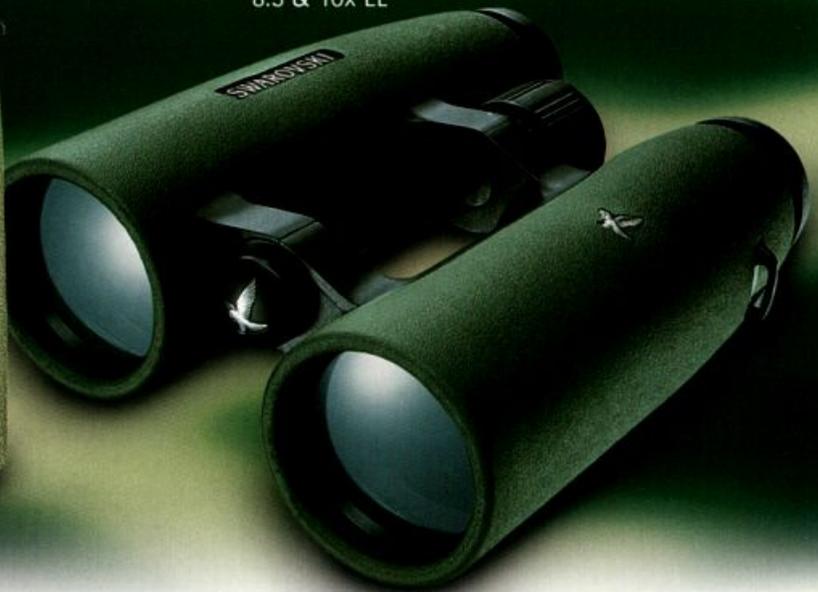
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On the cover—This sublime Swallow-tailed Kite, a species that appears to be overshooting its southeastern range with increasing frequency in the spring, was photographed, without film, on SW 68th Avenue in Miami, Florida on 26 March 2002 at 9:29:59.6 in the morning. The digital camera used to capture this graceful creature was a Nikon DX1 with a 400mm lens. Photograph by Alex Calzadilla



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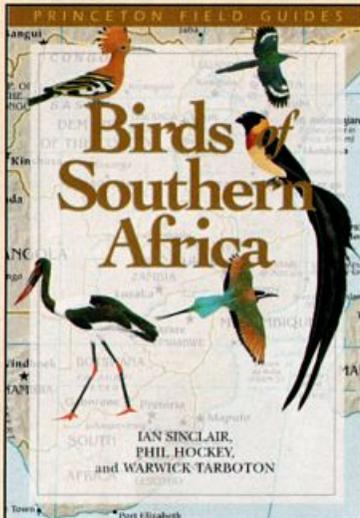
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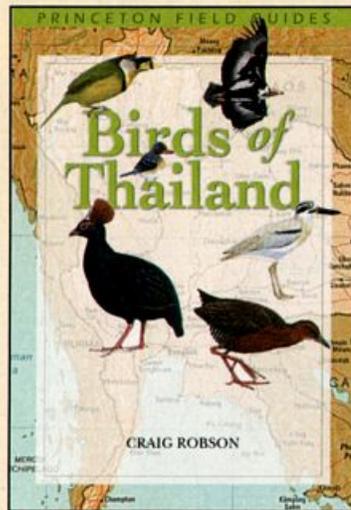
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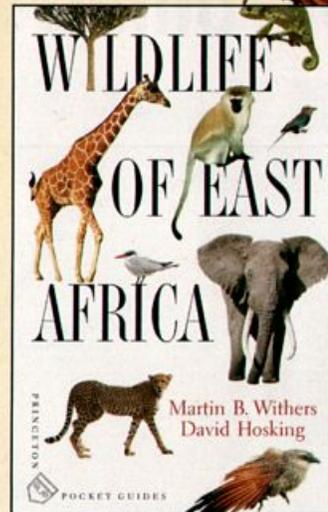
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How to Read the Regional Report

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad. (ads.)	adult(s)
imm.	immature
juv. (juvs.)	juvenal; juvenile(s)
ph.	photographed
sp. (spp.)	species (plural)
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
tape	audio tape-recorded
vt.	videotaped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected

Birds have no respect for range maps. Bird distribution in North America is constantly changing, as birds expand their ranges into new areas, disappear from former strongholds, or alter their patterns of migration.

Our knowledge of bird distribution is also changing constantly, as discoveries continue to come in. Keeping up with all these developments is a challenge for ornithologists, conservationists, and birders.

The Regional Reports, published four times a year, contain a wealth of information about North America's dynamic birdlife. When seeing the reports for the first time, they might appear difficult or technical, but they are not; anyone with any birding experience will find the reports easy to understand. We invite you to read the report from your area of the continent; we predict that the information there will alternately surprise you and confirm your ideas about birdlife in your region. To help you get started, here are answers to some questions that may occur to first-time readers.

What kind of information is included? Do the Regional Editors just report everything that's reported to them?

Regional Editors do not report every sighting of every bird. Such a list would be huge, unwieldy, and not very useful. Instead, they solicit reports from as many observers as possible, screen the records for accuracy, choose those that are most significant, look for trends and patterns of occurrence, connect scattered bits of information, and ultimately come up with a concise, readable summary of the real bird news—the important avian events and trends of the season throughout their region.

Why are there so many abbreviations in the text?

We abbreviate some frequently-used words and phrases to save space. Most of these are easy to understand and remember. (See the list of abbreviations at the end of this section.) In addition to these standard abbreviations, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of some birding hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after their introductory comments and just before their main species accounts.

What do the initials in parentheses mean?

Most records published in each report will be followed by initials, to indicate the source: the person(s) who found or reported the bird(s) mentioned. The initials may be followed by *et al.* (short for *et alia*, meaning "and others"), or preceded by *fide* (literally, "by the faith of"—meaning that this is a second-hand report, and the person initialed is the one who passed it along to the Regional Editor). A dagger (†) before the initials means that this person turned in written details on the sighting.

There are good reasons for giving credit to the observers involved. Readers may be reassured about the accuracy of surprising sightings if they know who the observers were; researchers who want to know more about a certain record may be able to contact the observers directly. In some cases, when a bird was seen by many birders, the Regional Editor may add "v.o." (for "various observers") or "m.ob." (for "many observers") after the first sets of initials.

Who are the people who send in their sightings?

All observers are invited to send in notes to their Regional Editors: details on rare sightings, species that were scarcer or more numerous than usual during the season, unusual concentrations or migration, and so on. Reading the reports for your region for a few seasons is the best way to find out what kinds of information are desired. Although the Regional Editors cannot cite every record that they receive, every contributor helps them to produce a more thorough and accurate summary.

Why are some bird names in heavier or blacker type?

We use **boldface** type to draw attention to outstanding records of rare birds. General categories of birds that the Regional Editors would place in boldface would include: any species that has been recorded fewer than 10 times previously in a given state or province; any new breeding record for a state or province, or any bird totally outside established patterns of seasonal occurrence. (For the most part, records are not boldfaced unless they are backed up with solid details or photographs.) Birders who like to know about rare birds (and most of us do) can get a complete run-down of the season's outstanding rarities by scanning all the Regional Reports for those boldfaced birds.

Why are some of the place names in italic type?

In most of the regional reports, place names given in *italic* type refer to counties. (Italics represent parishes in Louisiana, and in parts of Ontario they may refer to districts or regional municipalities.)

What are the boxes in the text marked "SA"?

"SA" stands for "Special Attention" (and, by coincidence, is pronounced "essay"). The purpose of the boxed essays is to draw attention to particularly noteworthy phenomena or trends. Likely SA topics include new population trends or new bird distribution patterns, unusual invasions or migration events, field research yielding new data, specific conservation problems that have an impact on birdlife, or detailed discussion of an outstanding (or perplexing) rare bird record. Experienced readers of *North American Birds* make it a point to flip through all the Regional Reports and read all the S.A.s, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.



SOUTHERN MEXICO



Contributors (area compiler in boldface): Sofia Arenas, **Héctor Gómez de Silva**, Fernando González García, Constantino Macías.

Central Oaxaca was much drier than normal this spring even after brief showers 10 April and 10 May. Wintering passerines became notably scarce from late March, and many warblers were seen only into mid-April. Most ducks were gone by early April. Arrival of unusual migrant passerines (Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Mourning Warbler) was similar to spring 1998. That spring was also extremely dry, and some 20 unusual migrant passerine were recorded, including all of the ones seen this year.

Earliest nesting dates were normal for cen. Oaxaca. However, there may have been some overall delay of nesting. **Forcey** noted a lack of display by Blue-black Grassquits, usually recorded April to early May, and failures of several early nesting efforts by American Robins and Gray Silky-Flycatchers. Notably absent were a number of species normally recorded, even if sparingly, during spring: Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher (none all winter either), Cedar Waxwing (none all winter either), and Summer Tanager. Also, Grasshopper Sparrow seemed scarcer than expected.

Abbreviations: B.J. (Benito Juárez, Oax. 2800 m elevation above Teot.), Cuaj. (Cuajimoloyas, Oax., 3000 m above Tlacolula), Est. (El Estudiante; Hwy. 175 from near Oaxaca City to pine-oak zone below La Cumbre), Guac. (La Guacamaya, Oax. at 2700 m nw. of Oaxaca City, access through Etna), P.A.D. (Piedra Azul Dam, Teot., 1700 m), S.A.R. (San Andres Reservoir, 4 km n. of Oaxaca City on Hwy. 175), S.F.P. (San Felipe Park, in lands of San Felipe el Agua adjoining Oaxaca City to the n., 1700-2200 m), S.J.G. (Río Salado near San Juan Guelavía, about 20 km e of Oaxaca City, approx 1550 m), Teq. (Tequio

Park next to Oaxaca airport), Teot. (Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. and vicinity), T.S.P. (Tlacolula sewage ponds, Oax.), Yag. (Yagul archaeological site and environs, Oax.).

TINAMOUS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Thicket Tinamou were silent (or absent) at El Sumidero, Chis. 27 & 29 Mar but were singing frequently from 15 Apr+ (HGdS). There were 39 Least Grebes at P.A.D. 5 Apr (JMF et al.) and 30 on 9 Apr (HGdS). These high numbers reflect the drying up of aquatic habitat in cen. Oax.; P.A.D. itself was completely dry 23 May. Six ad. **Blue-footed Boobies** were on a rocky islet near Santiago Astata, Oax. 10 Apr (HGdS). Two American White Pelicans were seen in the Laguna de Tuxpán near Iguala, Gro. 9 May (MDC). A flock of 15 **Brown Pelicans** were inland 40 km s. of Malpaso, Chis. 28 Mar (BD et al.), and 4 (one ad. with 3 juvs.) were at El Sumidero, Chis. 29 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.).

There was a Great Egret at S.A.R. 21 May. A Little Blue Heron was at San Pablo Etna 7 Mar. Four juv. (inc. a white morph) and 2 ad. Reddish Egrets were at a lagoon near Santiago Astata 10 Apr (HGdS). An ad. **Agami Heron** was photographed 9 May on the Río Lacanjá at Bonampak, Chis. (SJD). An ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was on the river between Frontera Corozal and Yaxchilán, Chis. 11 Mar (HGdS).

At least 40 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were near Jaltenango, Chis. 25 Apr (HGdS). A Muscovy Duck was near the turnoff to Nueva Palestina, Chis. 11 Mar, and 3 were e. of Tonalá, Chis. 13 Apr (HGdS). A **Green-winged Teal** at P.A.D. 5 Apr was a new late date for cen. Oax. The last Blue-winged Teal recorded this season in cen. Oax. was 1 at S.A.R. 8 Apr (HGdS). There was one female Lesser Scaup in Tonalá, Chis. on the late date of 20 May (MDC). Ruddy Ducks were last recorded in cen. Oax. at P.A.D. 9 Apr (HGdS).

A Black Vulture was at high elevation at Cuaj. 1 May, while King Vultures away from the

Lacandon rainforest were one near Finca Prusia 20 Mar (GL), one near Limonar 25 Mar (GL), and another near Villa Flores 14 Apr (HGdS). A Snail Kite was near Jaltenango 25 Apr (HGdS). Single dark-morph Hook-billed Kites were recorded near Frontera Corozal, Palenque and Yaxchilán, Chis. 6-11 May (SJD). Eight Swallow-tailed Kites were in a kettle at Lagunas de Montebello, Chis. 25 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.), where regular, and 5 there 10 May (SJD). Cooper's Hawks were seen in cen. Oax. throughout the period; a female was on the same nest as last year by 20 Apr. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was on the road to Guac. 28 Mar (apparently the 2nd record for cen. Oax.), a Short-tailed Hawk was at S.F.P. 15 May, and a pair of Red-tailed Hawks in courtship flight was noted S.F.P. 21 Mar. A juv Ornate Hawk-Eagle was photographed near San Isidro Piedra Ancha, close to Jalapa de Díaz, Oax. 17 Mar (FMZ). A **Laughing Falcon** was heard near Finca Prusia 20 Mar (GL). American Kestrels seemed to leave cen. Oax. early, with the last seen 9 Apr near Teot. (HGdS). A Merlin was at S.A.R. 8 Apr (HGdS). A Peregrine Falcon, rarely recorded in cen. Oax. in spring, was at Yag 27 Apr.

West Mexican Chachalaca was recorded S.F.P. 16 May. Up to 10 Common Moorhens were at S.J.G. throughout the period. An American Golden-Plover was at S.J.G. 23 Mar, and 3 were at T.S.P. 5 Apr. Three Killdeer were at S.J.G. 14 Mar. Two Collared Plovers were on the Usumacinta R. at Yaxchilán 10 May (SJD). Several Northern Jaçanas were near Jaltenango in Mar and Apr (HGdS, GL).

Greater Yellowlegs were recorded at T.S.P. 5 Apr and at S.A.R. 16 Apr. One or 2 Lesser Yellowlegs were at S.A.R. 5-25 Apr (JMF et al.), and 4 were at S.A.D. 9 Apr (HGdS). Five Solitary Sandpipers were at T.S.P. 5 Apr, and 5 were at S.A.R. 16 Apr. Spotted Sandpiper was last recorded in cen. Oax. 21 May. A **Least Sandpiper** at T.S.P. 25 May established a new late date for cen. Oax. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was at P.A.D. 9 Apr (HGdS), one of only a few records from cen. Oax. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers and 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were seen among other shorebirds at Puerto Morelos, Chis. 19 May (MDC). The only records this season of Baird's Sandpiper in cen. Oax. were of one at P.A.D. 5 Apr (JMF et al.) and 2 at S.A.R. 8 Apr (HGdS). An Upland Sandpiper was near Mazunte, Oax. 12 Apr (HGdS).

A raft of 300 alternate-plumaged ad. Franklin's Gulls was just outside the surfline at Puerto Arista, Chis. 13 Apr (HGdS). A **Least Tern** at S.A.R. 5 Apr (JMF et al.) represented only the 2nd record from cen. Oax. (MG reported one at Huitzo dam in Aug 2000.) A pair of Red-billed Pigeons was at El Triunfo clearing 19

Table 1. Dates of earliest observations of nesting in central Oaxaca, spring 2002.

Species	Location	Earliest nesting observation
White-winged Dove	S.A.R., S.F.P.	21 May (1 imm., 1 nesting pair)
Tufted Flycatcher	S.F.P.	18 Apr
Western Wood-Pewee	S.F.P.	16 Apr
Greater Pewee	S.F.P.	16 Apr
Cordilleran Flycatcher	S.F.P.	16 May (with nestlings)
Great Kiskadee	S.F.P.	18 Apr
Social Flycatcher	S.A.R.	21 May
Tropical Kingbird	S.A.R.	21 May
Thick-billed Kingbird	S.F.P.	16 Apr
Rose-throated Becard	S.F.P.	12 Apr
Northern Raven	Yag.	27 Apr (with large nestling)
Bushtit	Jilguero arroyo above Teot.	23 May
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush	S.F.P.	16 May
Clay-colored Robin	S.F.P.	18 Apr
Rufous-backed Robin	S.A.R.	13 Apr
American Robin	S.F.P.	12 Apr
Gray Silky-Flycatcher	S.F.P.	12 Apr
Elegant Euphonia	S.F.P.	16 Apr
Hepatic Tanager	S.F.P.	24 Apr
Black-headed Grosbeak	S.F.P.	3 Apr
Great-tailed Grackle	Oaxaca City	1 Mar

Mar and late Apr (HGdS, MSanM et al., GL). Band-tailed Pigeons are often difficult to find in spring in cen. Oax.; there were four records this season (single birds, one group of about 15).

A pair of Yellow-headed Parrots was near Mazunte 12 Apr (HGdS). A single **Red-lored Parrot** was seen near Jaltenango 15 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.), and 2 pairs were there 26 Apr (HGdS). A total of 80 Yellow-naped Parrots flew to their roosts over Mapastepec microwave valley 21 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). Single Black-billed Cuckoos were at S.F.P. 16 Apr and 15 May. One Black-billed, 2 or 3 Yellow-billed, and 4-5 Mangrove Cuckoos were in a large bushy field along the coast at Tonalá during the late afternoon of 24 May (MDC). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Palenque 6 May (SJD). A pair of Great Horned Owls was sighted at Yag. 27 Apr and 9

May. A group of 3-4 Spot-tailed Nightjars were singing in a heavily grazed pasture at km 3 of the Uxpanapa road, Oax. one hour before sunrise 27 May (MDC).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH VIREOS

For the 2nd time in 11 spring visits to the Sierra Madre del Sur, Gro., Carmody found Green Violet-ears were not yet singing on their usual lek in May. Violet Sabrewings were at their leks at El Triunfo in late Apr but not yet 16-19 Mar (HGdS). Single **Rufous Sabrewings** at three places in the upper cloud forest of El Triunfo 28 & 30 Apr (HGdS) may have dispersed uphill following the flowering *Heliconias*. A few Emerald-chinned Hummingbirds were at El Triunfo in Mar and Apr (HGdS, MSanM et al.). Single Garnet-throated Hummingbirds were near the

El Triunfo clearing 16-19 Mar and near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 24 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was in a landslide gap at El Triunfo 16 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). A female Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird was at the El Triunfo clearing 17 Mar, and another was at Laguna Bélgica, Chis. 26 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). Single Beautiful Hummingbirds were seen in Oaxaca City 15 & 22 Mar. As last spring (also dry), Green Kingfishers in cen. Oax. were in lower riparian habitat in S.F.P. 16 & 22 May, and along Río Salado, which continued to have some water flow, 23 May.

Three vocal Tody Motmots were at Palenque in early Mar (RH, D&CF, SM), a reliable location for this retiring species. Two vocal Strong-billed Woodcreepers were at Lagos de Montebello 25 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.) Single **Scaled Antpittas** were recorded at S.F.P. 27 Mar and 13 May (JMF et al.) and at Huitepec Reserve, Chis. 12 May (SJD). Paltry Tyrannulets appeared more territorial at El Triunfo in late Apr than in Mar (HGdS).

Greenish Elaenia was recorded 13 times 21 Mar—23 May at mid-elevation riparian areas of cen. Oax., and 10 were seen or heard at S.F.P. 23 May. One was near Jaltenango 15 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). Belted Flycatchers were at El Sumidero 27 & 29 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.) but were not noted there 15 & 25 Apr or 4 May (HGdS). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Córdoba above Unión Juárez 22 Mar (MSanM et al., HGdS), and up to 3 were at El Triunfo upper cloud forest 25 Mar (GL) and 29 Apr (HGdS). Western Wood-Pewees at S.F.P. 21 Mar established a new early date for cen. Oax. Single Greater Pewees were in a pine grove between Jaltenango and Finca Prusia 14 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.).

A migrant Dusky Flycatcher was seen in a landslide gap in the El Triunfo upper cloud forest 28 Apr (HGdS). An Acadian Flycatcher was along the San Manuel Road near Palenque 19 Mar, and another was below Palenque ruins 21 Mar (RH, D&CF, SM). A nest-location display by a female Vermilion Flycatcher was noted at Teq. 6 Apr. Ash-throated Flycatcher was last seen in cen. Oax. at Teq. 6 Apr. Dusky-capped Flycatchers were heard at the edges of the El Triunfo clearing, where rare, 16 & 17 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). A **Brown-crested Flycatcher** was heard at Jaltenango 15 Mar (HGdS).

There were six records of Social Flycatcher in cen. Oax. 13 Apr—21 May in riparian areas and parks. The earliest record of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Chis. was a silent individual



The state of Oaxaca's second—and central Oaxaca's first—Palm Warbler was banded at Tequío Park, Oaxaca City, 14 March 2002. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.

at Palenque 10 Mar (HGdS). A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was recorded at P.A.D. 23 May. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was noted at Teot. 5 Apr (JMF et al.), and 2 were at the El Triunfo clearing 17 Mar (MSanM et al., HGdS). A Western Kingbird was at the El Triunfo clearing 28 Apr (HGdS), and an Eastern Kingbird was there 15 May (MDC). Two Eastern Kingbirds, along with a Scissor-tailed and 2 Alder Flycatchers, were in a large brushy field near Tonalá 24 May (MDC).

A **Rose-throated Becard** at 3000 m in Llano Grande 15 Mar. was somewhat high, though regular at this altitude in the Sierra de Aloapaneca. Rose-throated Becards were first seen in the valley of Oax. at S.F.P. 3 Apr. A juv. Red-capped Manakin was singing at Palenque 18 Apr (HGdS). A Bell's Vireo was at Teq. 6 Apr. The latest Blue-headed Vireo in cen. Oax. was noted 25 Apr. A Blue-headed Vireo was at El Triunfo 30 Apr (HGdS). Plumbeous Vireos were in lower riparian areas of cen. Oax 3-25 Apr. An estimated 10-15 singing Golden Vireos were recorded in lower riparian areas of cen. Oax. 21 Mar—23 May. Pair-formation and singing by Warbling Vireos were observed 25 Apr—21 May in a narrow riparian corridor in arid subtropical scrub along Est. arroyo. A worn Brown-capped Vireo was low at 1000 m between Jaltenango and Finca Prusia 16 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). A Red-eyed Vireo was reported at S.A.R. 21 May.

JAYS THROUGH FINCHES

Dwarf Jays were still flocking with Gray-barred Wrens and Steller's Jays in pine-oak forest above the valley of Oax. 14 & 28 Mar. A Purple Martin was near La Libertad, Chis. 13 Mar (HGdS). Violet-green Swallows were last seen in cen. Oax. 25 Apr. Three Bank Swallows were at T.S.P. 5 Apr. The only record of Marsh Wren in cen. Oax. this spring was one at S.J.G. 14 Mar. The earliest nesting by Brown-backed Solitaire in cen. Oax. was noted at S.F.P. 16 May (JMF et al.), whereas in Chis. there were already active nests along the El Triunfo trail by the last week of Apr (HGdS). Nesting starts by other species are gathered in Table 1. Orange-billed Nightingale Thrushes were recorded in lower riparian areas of cen. Oax. 21 Mar+, and singing and displaying birds were observed from 27 Mar. A pair of Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrushes was on the road to Guac. 20 Apr. An imm. Russet Nightingale-Thrush was near La Cumbre, Oax. 7 Apr (HGdS), an excellent location for observing this Mexican endemic. One to 2 **Swainson's Thrushes**, very uncommon spring migrants in cen. Oax. (Forcey, in press), were recorded in middle riparian areas 16 & 20 Apr and 16 May.

A **Wood Thrush** was at El Triunfo 23 Mar (GL). Clay-colored Robins were recorded five times in known breeding areas in cen. Oax. 3 Apr—21 May. There were ten records of White-throated Robins in cen. Oax. beginning 21 Mar, with singing recorded at S.F.P. 27 Mar, while Rufous-backed Robins began singing 6 Apr. A male Black Robin was at La Cumbre 7 & 8 Apr (HGdS). Black Robins in juv. plumage were singing around El Triunfo mid-Mar and in late Apr were imitating songs of Plain Chachalaca (evidence of the robins' altitudinal migrations), Mexican Whip-poor-will, White-collared Swift, and Ruddy Foliage-gleaner, among others (HGdS; see Gómez de Silva et al. 1999).

A Gray Catbird was at Yag. 27 Apr. Singing by Ocellated Thrasher was noted in cen. Oax. and near Guelatao from early Mar+ (MEC, ESB et al.), and an ad. with young were observed in S.F.P. 16 May. An ad. Curve-billed Thrasher was feeding a fledged juv. in Oaxaca City 10 Apr. Blue Mockingbirds were hardly seen in cen. Oax. through the winter but were recorded 18 times 9 Mar—23 May, mostly in lower riparian areas. The latest American Pipit record in cen. Oax. was of 3 at P.A.D. 9 Apr (HGdS). Gray Silky-Flycatchers were abundant along riparian areas in cen. Oax. throughout the period.

Warblers were well reported. A Golden-winged Warbler was at Palenque 6 May (SJD). A Blue-winged Warbler was at El Triunfo 18 Mar (BD, HGdS, MSanM et al.), and one was near Jaltenango 20 Mar (GL). Tennessee Warblers were at the El Triunfo clearing 16 & 17 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.). Single Yellow-rumped Warblers were occasional in the El Triunfo clearing Mar and Apr (HGdS). Single Magnolia Warblers were in the El Triunfo clearing 16 Mar (HGdS, MSanM), on the lower Atoyac road, Gro. 4 May, and at El Sumidero 20 May (MDC). Late dates for some warblers in cen. Oax. were: 2 Orange-crowned 18 Apr, Nashville seen regularly to 24 Apr with a straggler 21 May, Virginia's 18 Apr, Audubon's 2 May, Black-throated Gray 20 Apr, Townsend's seen regularly to 24 Apr but 3 stragglers 16 May (establishing a new late date for the area), Hermit 28 Mar, Black-and-white 7 Mar (a very early last date for the area), MacGillivray's seen regularly to 25 Apr with a straggler 23 May, Common Yellowthroat seen regularly to 27 Apr with a late bird 23 May, Wilson's Warbler 23 May (a new late date), and Red-faced 7 Apr (HGdS). Yellow Warblers were noted at a variety of lower elevation locations in cen. Oax. 24 Apr—16 May. Up to 6 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at S.F.P. 13-16 May. As in cen. Oax., Townsend's Warbler went unrecorded in El Triunfo in late Apr and May (HGdS, MDC), whereas they had been noted there through Mar (HGdS, GL). Two Hermit Warblers were at El

SA The great surprise of the season came from S.K.B.R. After observing an unusual number (15 to 20) of what were assumed to be Yellow Warblers along a quarter km of coastal road without seeing practically any other migrant warbler, MacKinnon and others took a closer look at those caught in the nets. They had the darker crowns and cheeks, strongly marked wing coverts, and other markings of the *Dendroica p. petechia* group, the related Caribbean races of what is sometimes called **Golden Warbler**. A total of 22 individuals, both adults and young, were caught in nets at Sac. 21-23 April, and most were photographed (BM, AdA, MTuz). If the identification is confirmed, this would represent the first record of this subspecies group from Mexico.

Triunfo 22 Mar (GL). **Blackburnian Warbler** was recorded at various low riparian areas in cen. Oax. 10-18 May. The earliest Blackburnian Warblers in Chis. were recorded 15 Apr, and many were in full song in an oak ridge above Paval 2 May (HGdS). A **Palm Warbler** was mist-netted and photographed at Teq. 14 Mar (MG), the first record for the cen. Oax.

Northern Waterthrush was recorded in cen. Oax. 5 Apr, whereas the last Louisiana Waterthrush was seen 3 Apr. A Swainson's Warbler was at Palenque 20 Mar (RH, D&CF, SM). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at El Triunfo upper cloud forest 23 Mar (GL). A **Mourning Warbler** was at S.F.P. 21 May. Single Mourning Warblers were at El Triunfo 16 May, Mapastepec 20 May, El Sumidero 24 May (MDC), Palenque 6 May, and Bonampak 8 May (SJD). **Canada Warbler** was recorded six times in lower riparian areas of cen. Oax. 10-21 May. Single Canada Warblers were in the El Triunfo upper cloud forest 28 Apr (HGdS) and in Lagunas de Montebello 11 May (SJD). A **Painted Redstart** was in a pine grove near Finca Prusia 20 Mar (GL). One **Fan-tailed Warbler** 15 Mar at an ant swarm around 2000 m was a first record for the El Triunfo upper cloud forest (HGdS, MSanM et al.).

A late female Summer Tanager was at Bonampak 7 May, and a male Scarlet Tanager was there 9 May (SJD). A Western Tanager at S.F.P. 21 May was a new late date for cen. Oax. A pair of Red-headed Tanagers, rare in cen. Oax., was at S.F.P. 18 Apr. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted 7 Mar and 20 Apr in cen. Oax. (JMF et al.) and in different parts of Chis. 15 Mar—18 Apr (HGdS, MSanM et al.). The earliest singing Black-headed Grosbeaks in cen. Oax. were

recorded 8 Mar. Yellow Grosbeaks have penetrated farther from the El Triunfo clearing, "colonizing" the small to medium openings in the cloud forest created by the 1998 storms that hit the Sierra Madre de Chiapas (HGdS). An early singing Blue Grosbeak was at S.J.G. 14 Mar. Up to 9 Indigo Buntings were recorded at two locations in cen. Oax. 3-13 Apr, and single Painted Buntings were recorded 6 & 13 Apr. A Dickcissel was at Teq. 6 Apr (the only previous records from cen. Oax. are from 1999). Dozens of Dickcissels were near Ocozocautla, Chis. 14 Apr (HGdS).

Slate-blue Seedeaters were 12 km n. of Iguala, Gro. and on the road to Filo de Caballo, Gro. in early May (MDC). A **White-faced Ground-Sparrow** showed up at the El Triunfo clearing 27 Apr (HGdS); it has only been seen there twice previously in 20+ years (*fide* Rafael Solís). Blue-black Grassquits were recorded at Teq. 6 & 13 Apr and at S.J.G. 23 May. A pair of Yellow-faced Grassquits (restricted in Mexico to the Gulf slope) was foraging with dozens of White-collared (Cinnamon-rumped) Seedeaters near Guelatao 7 Apr, an interesting combination (HGdS). Botteri's Sparrows were singing at Teq. 6 Apr and at S.A.R. 21 May. Oaxaca Sparrow pairs were noted 16 Apr—21 May at S.F.P. A low-elevation **Rusty Sparrow** was along a dirt road below Palenque ruins 21 Mar (RH, D&CF, SM). Late dates for migrant sparrows in cen. Oax. are 9 Apr for Lark Sparrow (HGdS), 27 Apr for Chipping Sparrow, 13 Apr for Clay-colored Sparrow, 5 Apr for Vesper Sparrow, 13 Apr for Savannah Sparrow, and 21 May for Lincoln's Sparrow. This spring's only Grasshopper Sparrow in cen. Oax. was at Yag. 9 Apr (HGdS).

Displaying Red-winged Blackbirds were at a cattail marsh at S.J.G. 23 May. Several **Melodious Blackbirds** were near Jaltenango, Finca Prusia, El Triunfo, Tres de Mayo, Mapastepec, Tapachula, Huixtla, Tonalá, Villa Flores and Ocozocautla (HGdS, GL), where inadvertently omitted by Howell & Webb (1995). Five Bronzed Cowbirds, including a displaying male, were at the El Triunfo clearing in late Apr (HGdS). The latest Orchard Oriole in cen. Oax. was at Yag. 27 Apr. Four imm. Orchard Orioles at Mapastepec microwave valley 3 May were late (HGdS). A Hooded Oriole was in Oaxaca City 20 Mar. Bar-winged Orioles were not noted at El Sumidero 27 & 29 Mar (HGdS, MSanM et al.) but were there 15 & 25 Apr (HGdS) and 13 May (SJD). An Audubon's Oriole near Guelatao 7 Apr (HGdS) was between the ranges of *dickeyae* and *gradua-cauda*. A **Streak-backed Oriole** at Teq. 6 Apr was a first for the Valley of Oaxaca, but the species is very common on the Pacific Slope some 40 km away. A Bullock's Oriole at S.F.P. 16 May was late. Scott's Oriole was recorded at Cuaj. 2 May. Carmody reports three groups of Black-capped

Siskins totaling at least 15 birds around km 3 of the Ocosingo road, Chis. in late May, and Davies saw at least one along the road to Chanal, Chis 12 May. Three Evening Grosbeaks were at Llano Grande 14 Mar.

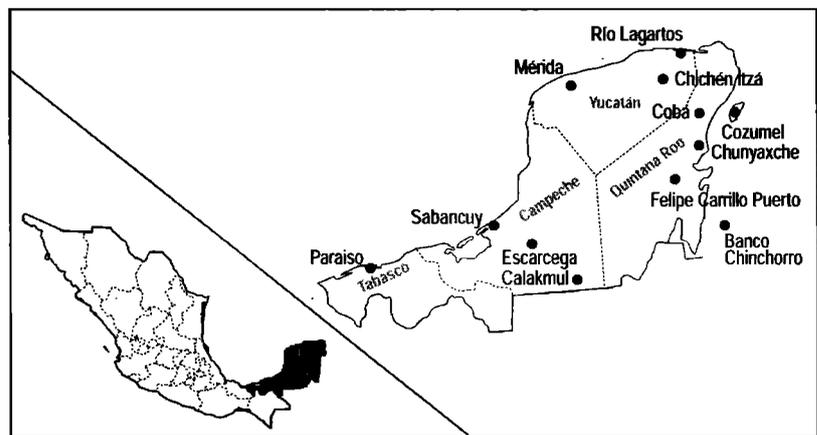
Undocumented reports

A Chuck-will's-widow was reported at El Triunfo, upper cloud forest, 24 Mar (GL).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Roque Antonio (RAn), Ramiro Aragon (RAr),

Edward S. Brinkley, Michael D. Carmody, Megan Edwards Crewe, Brian Daniels, Stephen J. Davies, **John M. Forcey**, Dutton & Caroline Foster, **Héctor Gómez de Silva**, Manuel Grosselet, Ruth Guzman, Rich Hoyer, Greg Lasley, Francisco Marini Zúñiga, Mike San Miguel et al. (Jon Dunn, Brian Daniels, Pete Ginsburg, Curtis Marantz, Guy McCaskie, Michael San Miguel), Stauffer Miller. Uncredited observations are by John M. Forcey, often with Roque Antonio, Ramiro Aragon and/or Ruth Guzmán.

YUCATAN PENINSULA



Abbreviations: R.L. (Río Lagartos, R.L.B.R.), R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.), Sac. (Sacrificios, S.K.B.R.), S.F. (San Felipe, R.L.B.R.), S.K.B.R. (Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q.Roo), S.R. (Santa Rosa, S.K.B.R.), Y.P. (Yucatan Peninsula).

HERONS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

One Great White Heron, uncommon on the w. coast of the peninsula, was seen 10 Apr in Celestún (DB), while an ad. white-morph Reddish Egret interacted with an ad. and an imm. dark morph of the same species in R.L. 14 May (BM, MT). A Glossy Ibis was found feeding in a salt pond in Celestún 9 Apr, while another was observed feeding in a roadside pond near El Cuyo, Yuc. 19 May (JA & MTP). Around 85 White-faced Ibis outnumbered 15 Glossies in the first five km of the road to Palizada, Camp. 20 Mar (RH, D&CF, SM). A Jabiru was on the Usumacinta marshes in Camp. 13 Mar (RH). A Fulvous and 4 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were near El Cuyo 19 May (JA & MTP). There were 3 Muscovy Ducks in Tab. marshes n. of La Libertad, Chis 13 Mar (HGdS). Thirteen Blue-winged Teal were observed in the Celestún estuary 9 Apr, while 6 Cinnamon Teal were reported by a sport fisherman in the salt-water lagoons behind S.R. 20 Apr (new record for the S.K.B.R., but not unexpected, *fide* BM). Approximately 30 Northern Shovelers were seen by

bird workshop participants in the Celestún estuary 10 Apr. A Swallow-tailed Kite was observed flying over Celestún just above hundreds, if not thousands, of Barn Swallows 15 Apr (AD). Six more were observed over El Cuyo May (SF, UOC). A White-tailed Kite was near Celestún 2-3 Mar (DB, WB). A probable Harris's Hawk flew over the crossroads of R.L. and San Felipe 14 Mar (IN, BM), as did a pair of Short-tailed Hawks the next morning in same location. A pair of White-tailed Hawks was reported 26 Mar near the Río Lagartos/Las Coloradas junction (GW). A Zone-tailed Hawk, a regular winter visitor to Celestún, was reported there 9 Apr, along with a Merlin (DB).

A Limpkin was viewed perched in the mangrove in the Celestún estuary 10 Apr by the bird workshop participants led by BM. Five Wilson's Plovers, along with a Black-bellied and 4 Semipalmated Plovers, were in Celestún 30 May (DB). Five Willets were observed in R.L. 14 May (BM, MT), while in Celestún there was the normal gathering of sandpipers, including 8 Greater Yellowlegs 8 Apr, 2 Solitary Sandpipers 9 Apr (BM), as well as 10 Willets, 6 Spotted Sandpipers, and one Upland Sandpiper 1 May (AD). A Long-billed Curlew and one Marbled Godwit were in Celestún 9 Apr. Other sightings include 6 Marbled Godwits along with 2 Ruddy Turnstones in Celestún 30 May (DB). A

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2003 BIRDING TOURS

THAILAND
Northwest, Central, Peninsular
4-26 January

SOUTH INDIA
Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman Is.
2-25 January
Forest Owlet Pretour
28 December-4 January

SRI LANKA
24 January-10 February

PHILIPPINES
Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu, Palawan, Bohol, Negros
31 January-3 March

CAMBODIA
Giant Ibis
7-25 March

BHUTAN
28 March-20 April

EAST HIMALAYAS
West Arunachal Pradesh
25 April-18 May

MALAYSIA
Malaya, Borneo (Mt. Kinabalu)
3-25 May

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For more information contact

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