

The winter 2002-2003 was again marked by an invasion of Cedar Waxwings throughout the country, and a pattern seems to be developing in which the species "invades" Mexico every two winters. Valdez Peresgasga reports that waxwing winters have coincided with large influxes of American Robins to Torreón, Coahuila, for the past four years at least, but there is not a wider correlation of these two species across the remainder of the country. There seemed to be an especially large number of vagrants reported this winter, particularly eastern migrants in western Mexico. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to be reported in many parts of northern Mexico and less frequently on the Yucatán Peninsula. This season's report includes one of only a few Mexican records of Le Conte's Sparrow, Pine Warbler, and Ruff.

Mexico

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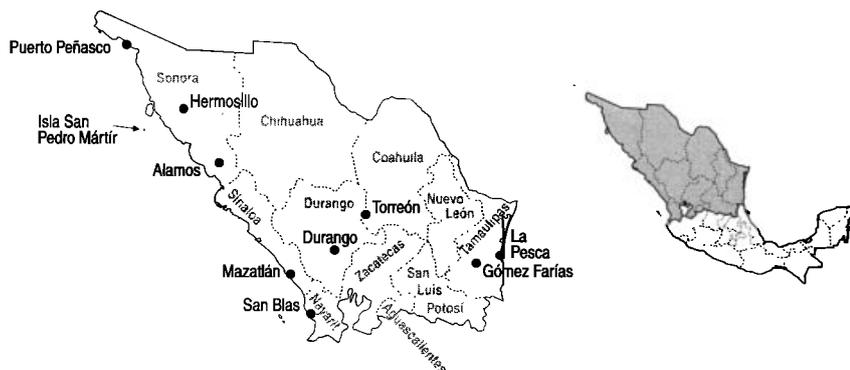
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NORTHERN MEXICO

Jan (SAG, MDC, HO, NC), and one was at Laguna Fierro on the e. end of Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chih. 6 Jan (BH, SJ, SD). Up to 7 Northern Fulmars were seen off San Blas, Nay. from mid-Dec to at least early Jan by

Fewer Wood Ducks than usual were seen on the Nazas R. this period, and many showed nervous behavior. This could be due to the recent issuing of hunting permits for up to 15 per day by Mexican authorities; such permits were revoked in Feb, thanks to the efforts of FVP and others, although enforcement remained feeble (FVP). Three males and a female were noted in flight over the Nazas R. in Cañón de Fernandez, Dgo. 15 Dec, with 4 males and 3 females swimming on a pond there 22 Dec. A pair was there 19 Jan, while 8 males and a female were detected 16 Jan, plus a pair courting in an irrigation ditch nearby on the same date (FVP). One male Long-tailed Duck was at P.P. 13-14 Dec (NB, SG, ph. DS, m. ob.); there have been about seven records for P.P., with multiple birds on three occasions. A male Greater Scaup was at the P.P. sewage ponds 19-21 Jan (SNGH, ph. CW). One male and 3 female Hooded Mergansers were at Laguna Fierro 6 Jan (BH, SJ, SD), and a male was at the P.P. sewage ponds 13 Dec (WR, DS) but could not be found subsequently, whereas a female Common Merganser also there 13 Dec was seen through Jan (m. ob.). Five Common Mergansers, including one male, were seen in Estero Morúa, P.P. 4 Feb (SG, LN), currently the high count for P.P. of a species that is rare on the coast of Son.

The northernmost roost in Chih. of Black Vulture and the northernmost regular winter roost of Turkey Vulture, Casa de Janos produced normal or slightly above-normal counts in the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 4 Jan (BH); this roost is only 48 km from New Mexico, U.S.A., and yet there is only one record of Black Vulture and very few winter records of Turkey Vultures from that state. However, 5 Black Vultures at 28° 25.725' N, 108° 22.59' W were only 10 km from the New Mexico border 14 Dec (MDC, DM, KB). A Snail Kite was along the Río San Cristóbal near San Blas 10 Jan (SNGH). One ad. Northern Goshawk was near Ocampo,



Howell notes that post-hurricane *Kenna* bird numbers around San Blas, Nayarit in early January were down noticeably for many species, especially frugivores and to a lesser extent insectivores, but all species regularly in the area were present. Carmody reports that some rarely-seen birds in the San Blas area, such as Fan-tailed Warbler, were far easier to locate in early December and that the lowlands of Sinaloa and Nayarit were very green and leafy at the end of the reporting period.

Abbreviations: B.V.C. (Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah.), P.P. (Puerto Peñasco, Son.).

LOONS THROUGH SANDPIPERS

Common Loon, rarely recorded inland in Mexico, was detected at Laguna de Labradores near Galeana, N.L. 12 Jan (ad.) and on the reservoir ne. of San Francisco, Tamps. 13 Jan (juv.; SAG, MDC, HO, NC). A Western Grebe was at the latter reservoir 13

boatman Armando Santiago (*vide* SNGH); one was seen around 5 km offshore of San Blas 10 Jan (SNGH). A Great Egret on the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. (LG) was unexpected in winter (BH). An ad. Tricolored Heron was inland at Presa El Tullillo, Coah. 13 Jan (MDC, SAG, HO, NC).

The 2nd record of Ross's Goose for P.P. (and apparently the 3rd for Son.) was provided by one at the new sewage ponds 13 Dec through the first week of Jan (WR, DS, SG). A first record for N.L. was furnished by 2 at Presa La Juventud 23 Feb (RD, ph. DGT, m. ob.), and apparently the first records from Tamps. were of one flying over La Pesca 18 Jan and another 35 km s. of Matamoros 19 Jan (HO, MDC, SAG, NC). Three Ross's were with 700+ Snow Geese (including 25 blue morphs) at Presa Francisco Madero w. of Delicias, Chih. 13 Dec (MDC, DM, KB).

A Mallard was at P.P. sewage ponds 19 Jan (PL, m. ob.). A pair of Mottled Ducks was near El Salto, S.L.P. 8 Dec (MDC, DM, KB).

Chih. 14 Dec (MDC, DM, KB). An ad. **Roadside Hawk** was n. of its usual range at San Blas 10 Jan (SNGH). A juv. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Presa El Tulillo 11 Jan (MDC, SAG, HO, NC). Kettles totaling 175-200 Swainson's Hawks (all ages and color morphs) were n. of Culiacán, Sin. on the late date of 1 Dec (MDC). A rufous-morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was at the foothills of Cerro Potosí, N.L. 18 Jan (BF et al.). An ad. **Bat Falcon** was slightly nw. of its mapped range at Santiago, N.L. 17 Jan (CD, BW et al.).

Three **Limpkins** were along Río San Cristóbal 10 Jan (SNGH). More than 250 **Sandhill Cranes** were in a Dgo. field on old Hwy 49 between Chihuahua City and Torreón 12 Dec (MDC, DM, KB). A pair of **Sungrebes** was at El Nacimiento near Gómez Fariás, Tamps. 17 Jan (J&DC). Nine and 27 **Mountain Plovers** were in El Cuervo near Ejido San Pedro 3 & 4 Jan (BH, SJ, SD); this species is not known to winter in nearby New Mexico. At least 4 **Piping Plovers** were at Playa Bagdad and n. of La Capilla, Tamps. 20 Jan (HO, SAG, MDC, NC). Two **Collared Plovers** were found 16 Jan at a seasonal pond s. of the Río Tampoán, S.L.P. bridge on Hwy 85A (MDC, SAG, HO, NC), the same area where recorded by others in fall 2002. A **Dunlin** was in a tidal basin n. of Mazatlán, Sin. 24 Feb (MDC).

GULLS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

An ad. **Herring Gull** was at Laguna Fierro 6 Jan (BH, SJ, SD). A second-year **Yellow-footed Gull** was at San Blas 10 Jan (SNGH) and was still there in late Jan (*fide* John P. Martin). One nearly ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at the dump in P.P. 14 & 15 Dec (SG, LN, ph. DS, m. ob.) but could not be found there afterwards (3rd record for P.P. and Son.). A second-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was with 100+ gulls on the shore of the Laguna Madre near La Capilla 19 Jan, and one ad. and 2 second-winter individuals were at Playa Bagdad 20 Jan (MDC, SAG, HO, NC). Two first-winter **Glaucous-winged Gulls** were in the P.P. area 19-20 Jan (*fide* PL). Two first-winter **Glaucous Gulls** were at the P.P. dump and estuary in late Jan (WR, ph. SNGH, ph. DS, m. ob.), and a first-winter **Mew Gull** found at the P.P. dump 15 Dec (the 2nd record for P.P.) was seen through late Jan (WR, ph. SNGH, ph. DS, m. ob.). At least 11 **Thayer's Gulls** (2 ads., a third-winter, 8 first-winters) were at P.P. late Jan (ph. SNGH). A total of 6 **Western Gulls** was reported in the P.P. area 19-20 Jan (PL, ph. DS). Two **Eurasian Collared-**

Doves were seen at km 89 on Hwy 97 in Tamps. 1 Dec (SJD et al.), while one was at Ascensión, Chih. 2 Jan (BH; this is the first record from an area where C.B.C.s have been carried out regularly for eight years), and 37 were in the 55-km stretch of road between San Francisco de Presas and Carboneras, Tamps. 18 Jan (MDC, SAG, HO, NC). **Mexican Parrotlets** were seen within a km of the coast n. of Mazatlán 24 Feb (MDC). A **Bur-**



Rare in southeastern Chiapas state, Mexico, this Chestnut-sided Warbler was a nice find at Finca Irlanda, above Tapachula 6 December 2002. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.

rowing Owl was roosting on a breakwater at San Blas 10 Jan (SNGH).

A male **Anna's Hummingbird** was seen in B.V.C. through the season, sitting on top of a tall cypress for long periods (FV, WB). One male **Allen's** with several **Rufous Hummingbirds** were feeding on ocotillo flowers just outside P.P. 4 Feb (NB); this is the time for spring migrants to move through the area. A **Tufted Flycatcher** was at La Bajada, Nay. 25 Dec (WB). An apparent **Willow Flycatcher** was in Cañón de las Canoas near Dinamita, Dgo. 29 Dec (FV, WB). A **Dusky Flycatcher** was at Río San Pedro, Chih. 6 Jan (vt. BH et al.); there are only a few winter records for nearby New Mexico. Two **Say's Phoebes** were in the large field at Rancho La Noria, Sin. 28 Feb, where one had been 5 Dec; this is the 3rd winter the species has been recorded here (MDC). An **Eastern Phoebe** was ne. of Rosario, Sin. 4 Dec (MDC). Three late **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** were 17 km w. of La Pesca, Tamps. 9 Dec (MDC); one more was near Carboneras 18 Jan (MDC, SAG, HO, NC). A **Black-crowned Tityra** was at El Nacimiento 17 Jan (J&DC). Two **Western Scrub-Jays** were seen in Cañón de las Canoas 29 Dec, the first sightings for the region (FV, WB), which is a supposed gap in its range. A **Clark's Nutcracker** was on Cerro Potosí, N.L. 13 Jan (MDC). A **Gray Vireo** was reported in Cañón de las Canoas 29 Dec

(WB, FVP), and one was 157 km se. of Hermosillo, on Hwy 16, Son. 14 Dec (MDC, DM, KB). One **Mexican Chickadee** was at low elevation in the Ojitos riparian area near Casa de Janos 3 & 4 Jan (CR et al.). Two or 3 northbound **Cliff Swallows** were found about two weeks early at the new P.P. sewage ponds 4 Feb (MB). About 25+ late **Barn Swallows** were around P.P. from Dec through the first week of Jan (one was seen there 19-20 Jan, *fide* PL), but none were seen in Feb (SG).

Two **Townsend's Solitaires** e. of P.P. in the Las Conchas area 14 Dec (ph. DS, WR) provided the 2nd record for P.P. Up to 17 **Eastern Bluebirds** away from the mountains in the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 4-7 Jan were unusual (BH et al.). Two **Mountain Bluebirds** were in the P.P. area 19-20 Jan (*fide* PL), and a dozen were seen outside Barrial de Guadalupe, s. of Torreón 23 Feb (FV, WB, EC, AV, EH, MC). An **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush** was at La Bajada 25 Dec (WB). A **Grayson's Robin** was at San Blas 10 Jan (SNGH). One **American Robin** in the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. was an unusually low number (BH et al.). A **Gray Catbird** at Río San Pedro 5 Jan (vt. BH, m. ob.) provided a first record for Chih. A **Blue Mockingbird** was at La Bajada 25 Dec (WB). Three **Sprague's Pipits** were near Tanque de Emergencia, Coah. 10 Dec, but none was found in the same spot 10 Jan, despite a more extensive search (MDC). Eleven were either flushed or studied on the ground during a one-km walk in grasses near the shore of Presa Falcón, Tamps. 21 Jan (MDC, SAG, HO, NC). Reports of **Cedar Waxwings** include early records from Torreón, Coah. 4 & 11 Dec (FVP), counts of 25 at Cerro de San Juan, Nay. and 40 in Tepic, Nay. 9 Jan (SNGH), and counts of 100+ at Chipinque, N.L. 25 Jan (AH). A **European Starling** was in the P.P. area 19-20 Jan (*fide* PL).

An ad. male **Pine Warbler** was in B.V.C. 9 Jan (WB). Two **Palm Warblers** were around the new P.P. sewage ponds from Dec through Feb (SG, ph. DS, m. ob.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** and a female **Hooded Warbler** were on the Singayta trail near San Blas 4 Dec, as was a high count of 6 **Fan-tailed Warblers** (MDC). A female **Kentucky Warbler** was at La Bajada 5 Dec (MDC). A **Lazuli Bunting**, unexpected in winter, was along Río Casas Grandes 6 Jan (BH). MDC and party found only small flocks of 3-7 **Worthen's Sparrows** at Tanque de Emergencia 10 Dec but flocks of 50 and 150 at nearby Rancho Dos Arbolitos and Rancho Los Angeles, Coah. 10 Jan. Large flocks were

also near Rancho Dos Arbolitos 12 Jan (around 80 individuals) and at Las Esperanzas, N.L. 9 Feb (ph. AH, RD). Three Baird's Sparrows were recorded in the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 4 Jan (BH et al.), and singles were near Tanque de Emergencia 10 Dec and 10 Jan (MDC). A Le Conte's Sparrow was seen in coastal grasses 3 km w. of Playa Bagdad 20 Jan (MDC, SAG, HO, NC). A White-throated Sparrow was at Río Casas Grandes 6 Jan (vt. BH, m. ob.). At least 3 McCown's Longspurs were in a field on the se. corner of Laguna Bustillos, Chih. 13 Dec, and 75-200 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were visiting a stock pond near Sandoval, Chih. 13 Dec (MDC, DM, KB).

A male Ochre Oriole was near Matanchén, Nay. with many Orchard Orioles (SNGH), a first state record of this subspecies. Three Lawrence's Goldfinches were in a flock of Lesser Goldfinches on Hwy 8 about 15 km from P.P. 4 Feb (NB), coinciding with a big influx of Lawrence's Goldfinch into s. Arizona this winter. Single Lawrence's Goldfinches were heard at Río San Pedro 3 & 4 Jan (BH), where not mapped by Howell & Webb (1995).

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CENTRAL MEXICO



After a cold fall and early winter, record-high temperatures were felt in Mexico City in late Jan and Feb, though these months remained very cold in central Veracruz (with shrub-killing frost in Las Minas and La Joya); the

cold was most likely responsible for displacing multiple species to below "normal" elevations. Records are for central Veracruz unless otherwise stated.

Abbreviations: L.P. (La Piedra, Ver.), P.E.C.M. (Parque Ecológico de la Ciudad de México, D.F.), Sal. (Laguna El Salado, Ver.), U.N.A.M. (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, D.F.).

GREBES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

An Eared Grebe was at El Farallón lagoon 17 Dec (JM, AM). Around 50 American White Pelicans were at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco, D.F. 14 Dec, and at least 85 were there 4 Feb (RW, HGdS). Two Plegadis ibis were at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco 14 Dec, and a White-faced Ibis was there 4 Feb (RW, HGdS). A Glossy Ibis in breeding plumage in the Alvarado wetlands 22 Feb was the first record for Ver. (JM, AM). A Roseate Spoonbill and 7 Wood Storks were unusual at about 1500 m elevation Laguna de Sayula, Jal. 16 Feb (SNGH). At least 50 roosting Boat-billed Herons were observed in the Alvarado wetlands 20 Feb (JM, AM). One Fulvous was with approximately 500 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks 12 Feb near Las Barrancas. A Muscovy Duck was recorded on Veracruz's first C.B.C., flying over La Mancha 14 Dec. Howell reports that whereas in most winters there are 200-500 Snow Geese at Laguna de Sayula (with three per cent blue morphs), there were 1010 there 16 Feb (with the usual proportion of blue morphs).

Up to 5 Snail Kites were at Manzanillo airport marshes, Col. in mid-Feb (SNGH). Two ad. Hook-billed Kites were foraging in the scrub near Instituto de Ecología, U.N.A.M. 16 Dec, another was there 30 Jan, and one Broad-winged Hawk was there 8 Jan (HGdS). Single ad. White-tailed Hawks

were seen just s. of Veracruz City 12 Feb and at Las Barrancas 17 Feb, well outside of their normal range. An ad. female Peregrine Falcon with trailing harnesses was seen flying n. of L. P. 17 Feb; together with recent news

of captured Aplomado Falcons, this provides further evidence of continuing illegal trapping of raptors in cen. Ver. One Black-bellied, 2 Collared, and 4 Snowy Plovers, 17 Willets, 6 Wilson's Phalaropes (early), and 3 Gull-billed Terns were at Laguna de Sayula 16 Feb (SNGH). A Solitary Sandpiper was at a small watering hole near L. P. 12 Feb. Most unusual at Laguna de Sayula 16 Feb was a Baird's Sandpiper in active primary molt, molting at a later date than in South America, where the population usually winters (ph. SNGH); this is probably the first Mexican winter record.

A Laughing Gull was at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco 14 Dec and 4 Feb (RW, HGdS). One Franklin's Gull was near Isla Candelaria in Alvarado wetlands 25 Jan. Two first-winter Herring Gulls were inland at Laguna Zapotlán (near Ciudad Guzman), Jal. 15 Feb (SNGH).

Five Mourning Doves were at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco 4 Feb (HGdS, RW). A Barred Owl was seen 5 Feb near Colonia Veinte de Noviembre (2100 m), a new record for cen. Ver. A single female Green-breasted Mango was seen 12 Feb near Las Barrancas, early for cen. Ver. A very vocal male White-eared Hummingbird was seen 2 Feb at Esquilón (1000 m), e. and downslope of its normal range (AM, JM, RS). Three male and one female Sparkling-tailed Hummingbirds were at Cafetal El Basurero 16 Jan, ne. of normal range. Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen 12 Feb near L.P., n. of normal wintering range: were they already beginning to move north? Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Barra de Navidad, Jal. and one at Playa de Oro, Col. in mid-Feb were more than usual (SNGH). At least 10 Bumblebee Hummingbirds, the majority male, were seen on flowering eucalyptus at Cafetal El Basurero 16 Jan, e. and downslope of normal range. Two male Broad-billed Hummingbirds were seen chasing each other at El Farallón lagoon 14 Dec; though well e. and downslope of mapped range, this species has been found regularly wintering in the cen. Ver. lowlands. Several Hairy Woodpeckers were observed near Colonia Veinte de Noviembre 5 Feb, e. of normal range. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was heard near Viaducto and Avenida Coyoacán 24 Dec (HGdS).

Three Yellow-bellied Elaenias (2 already paired) were seen 12 Feb n. of La Piedra, perhaps early arrivals from nonbreeding areas. A Common Tody-Flycatcher was n. of L. P. 12 Feb. Two Yellow-olive Flycatchers at Cafetal El Basurero 16 Jan were n. of their normal range and new for cen. Ver. At least 8 Tufted Flycatchers were around the small river at the entrance to Cafetal El Basurero 16 Jan. One Pine Flycatcher was mist-netted at P.E.C.M. 5 Dec (vt. AOI). A male Vermil-

ion Flycatcher was close to the Instituto de Ecología, U.N.A.M. 16 Dec (HGdS). A **Cassin's Kingbird** was seen 11 Jan at Villa Rica, well e. and downslope of normal range (JM).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Brown-capped Vireos were seen 16 Jan and 2 Feb at Cafetal El Basurero. A Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo was at La Joya 7 Dec (JG), while a Common Raven, rare in cen. Ver., was on the road to Quiahuixtlán 7 Dec (JM, AM). Dozens of Violet-green Swallows were seen 5 Feb at Las Minas (2100 m) and 15 Feb at Volcancillo (1800 m); this species is seen regularly at these sites in the winter, though it is e. of mapped range. A roost flight of 1000+ Gray-breasted Martins at Manzanillo, Col. 20 Feb (SNGH) was more than the few hundred usually seen in other years (*fide* SNGH). Five **Black-crested Titmice** were near Esquilón 2 Feb (AM, JM, RS). Several Rufous-naped Wrens carrying nesting material were seen along the L. P. road 12 Feb, and at least 8 singing/territorial individuals were in the Alvarado wetlands 22 Feb in a small palm-scrub area surrounded by kilometers of mangroves. Four Sedge Wrens were at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco 14 Dec (RW, HGdS).

Two European Starlings were just inside the D.F. along Calzada Ignacio Zaragoza 1 Jan (HGdS). Cedar Waxwings were first recorded in Mexico City during the C.B.C. 14 Dec (*fide* RW); they were numerous thereafter throughout the city, including Alameda Central, Bosque de Aragón, and different parts of Xochimilco and Ciudad Universitaria (HGdS, RW, MPV, SA)—with a count of 650+ between Insurgentes and Instituto de Ecología, U.N.A.M. 3 Feb (HGdS, MPV). Cedar Waxwings were also numerous and widespread “everywhere” in Col. and w. Jal. in Feb, from sea level Barra de Navidad to Ciudad Guzmán (SNGH) and dozens in several places in the cen. Ver. lowlands, where the earliest record was from 14 Dec at El Farallón lagoon (JM, AM). Several **Gray Silky-flycatchers** were seen at Esquilón and Cafetal El Basurero 2 Feb, well e. of normal (AM, JM, RS). A **Phainopepla** was on the road to Los Humeros, Pue. 14 Dec (JM, AM, RS, JG).

Three Yellow Warblers were at Parque Ecológico de Xochimilco 4 Feb, one of them singing (HGdS, RW). Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were more abundant than usual this winter (JM), and dozens to hundreds could be found daily virtually everywhere in the cen. Ver. lowlands. A female Hermit Warbler was seen 2 Feb at Esquilón, e. of normal (AM, JM, RS). One Red and 19 Olive Warblers were mist-netted in oak-*Buddleia* scrub at P.E.C.M. 19 Dec (AOI, SA). Olive Warblers

were heard in different parts of Ciudad Universitaria, D.F. 30 Jan (HGdS). A very dull Western Tanager was seen at Villa Rica 11 Jan, just n. of normal wintering range. At least 6 male Black-headed Grosbeaks were singing at Volcancillo 15 Feb. A Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer was heard calling in Delegación Benito Juárez, D.F., and singles were seen at Instituto de Ecología, U.N.A.M. 3 Feb (HGdS) and near Facultad de Ingeniería in Ciudad Universitaria 19 Feb (HGdS, MPV). The male **Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer** 2 Feb at Cafetal El Basurero was both e. and downslope of normal (AM, JM, RS).

A **Song Sparrow**, rare at sea level, was in coastal dunes at La Mancha 17 Dec (JM). Ten **Black-chinned Sparrows** in the Perote lava-rock scrub 14 Dec provided new records for Ver. (JM, AM, RS, JG). A single Clay-colored, 3 Black-chinned (one male singing), and several Vesper Sparrows were in the highland Malpais, e. of their mapped ranges 5 Feb. One Lark Sparrow was at Playa Juan Ángel 17 Dec (JM, AM, RS, RR) and at least 10 there 11 Jan; though well out of mapped range, this species is found regularly during the winter in some of the cen. Ver. grasslands.

One male Ochre Oriole was s. of Salinas 17 Feb, perhaps an early arriver to its breeding grounds. A **Scott's Oriole** was in the Perote lava-rock scrub 14 Dec (JM, AM, RS, JG), and another was seen 5 Feb in highland Malpais, e. of normal range (AM, JM, RS). Dozens to hundreds of Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were found daily in the high pine forests of cen. Ver. this winter. Up to 20 Lesser Goldfinches were seen regularly in downtown Xalapa (1300 m) through the period, well e. of mapped range.

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



This winter seemed somewhat drier than usual, at least in central Oaxaca. The large number of participants in the central Oaxaca C.B.C. led to exceptionally high counts of some species. A drop in numbers of winter resident species was noted toward the end of the period, which would seem to be early if it represents departure in February. Species of this type included several that are usually common through early spring, such as Townsend's, Yellow-rumped, and Wilson's Warblers. This phenomenon could simply reflect a change in resource availability locally rather than true northward migration. Noteworthy this year was the great abundance of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, including down to sea level on the Pacific coast of Oaxaca. Records are from Oaxaca unless otherwise stated.

Abbreviations: Bac. (Bacocho Beach, Puerto Escondido), Est. (Arroyo Estudiante), Huat. (Huatulco area), La Cumbre (Sierra de Aloapaneca, above El Estudiante), Monte Albán (Monte Albán archaeological site and environs, Oaxaca City), Nav. (Barra de Navidad, Pochutla District), S.A.D. (San Andrés Dams at San Andrés Huayapan), S.F.P. (San Felipe Park, Oaxaca City), Teq. (Tequipo Park, Oaxaca City).

GREBES THROUGH BECARDS

There were 2 ad. and 3 imm. Least Grebes at a small dam above Santo Domingo Tomaltepec, near Oaxaca City 19 Dec; breeding of Least Grebes in cen. Oax. is now well established. One each of Audubon's and **Black-vented Shearwaters**, along with a **Nazca Booby**, were off Huat. 16 Dec (MG). Five American White Pelicans were at Nav. 7 Dec. Ten Brown Pelicans were inland at the Sumidero Canyon, Chis. 22 Jan (AP). An imm. Neotropic Cormorant was reported from the upper reservoir above Santo Domingo Tomaltepec 22 Dec (EH, ET). One Little Blue Heron was above Santo Domingo Tomaltepec 19 Dec. Four ad. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** roosted along Río Atoyac in Oaxaca City through the period (MG). Two Wood Storks were inland at 630 m at La Cintal bridge near Cintalapa, Chis. 8 Feb (PGD). One ad. **King Vulture** was seen soaring

above Pequeñez, near Jaltenango, Chis. 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). The first **Ring-necked Duck** for cen. Oax. was at the dam above Santo Domingo Tomaltepec 22 Dec (EH). A Gray and a Harris's Hawk were at San Juan Guelavía 12 Feb. Four Short-tailed Hawks were reported in the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec, most in lower slopes of the mountains. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Oaxaca City 19 Jan (GLA, MEC). A Zone-tailed Hawk was at La Cumbre 18-22 Dec, and another was at Teq. 6 Feb. A light- and a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk were displaying at La Cumbre 21 Dec. A **Laughing Falcon** was seen close to Pequeñez 17 Jan, and another was heard above Finca Prusia, Chis. 17 & 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.).

A male Horned Guan was humming its courtship call on Bandera trail near El Triunfo, Chis. 18 Jan (IG, HGdS, m. ob.). Long-tailed Wood-Partridges were at Arroyo Jilguero 8 & 10 Feb. A Common Moorhen was at S.A.D. 19 Dec. American Coots were scarce in cen. Oax. through the period. Two **Northern Jacanas** were near Jaltenango 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Piedra Azul Dam 20 Jan (GLA, MEC). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Bac. 8 Dec, and a **Wandering Tattler** was at Puerto Escondido 8 Dec. Four **Whimbrels** were at Nav. 7 Dec. One **Ruff** was seen 20 Jan at the mouth of Rio Colotepec, the same location as Oax.'s first record in Aug 2001 (RA, KW, RG, CLJ). A previously unpublished record of **Ruff** has recently come to light: a male in alternate plumage seen by W. J. Schaldach, Jr., at Playa Novilleros, Nayarit in May 1966. A **Common Snipe** was at Bac. 8 Dec. A juv. **Heermann's Gull** was at Santa Cruz harbor, Huat. 7 Jan, and a **Sabine's Gull** was there 16 Jan (MG). A **Heermann's Gull** was at La Ventosa lagoon, s. of Tehuantepec, 9 Feb (CD, BF et al.). Two **Sandwich** and 8 **Common Terns**, as well as 10 **Black Skimmers**, were at Nav. 7 Dec.

Three **Red-ored Parrots** were seen near Jaltenango, Chis. 17 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). At least 2 **Flammulated Owls** were heard at Llano Grande the entire last week of Feb (MG, DH); at least 4 and 5 were heard 7 km w. of La Cumbre 25 Dec (RH), 22 Jan (GLA, MEC), 23 Feb (JV, ESB), and 27-28 Feb (JMF, RAr, RG). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at Llano Grande 8-13 Dec (MG, GB); another was found 7 km w. of La Cumbre 23 Feb (JV, ESB), along with 3 **Whiskered Screech-Owls**. **Mountain Pygmy-Owls**, usually fairly common in this area, were not observed during this period. A pair of roosting **Whiskered Screech-Owls**, one rufous and one gray morph, was noted above Teotitlán del Valle (at "Rio Verde") 28 Feb (JV, ESB). A **Sparkling-tailed** and a **Magnificent (low) Hummingbirds** and a

Green-throated Mountain-gem (low) were at 1335 m near Finca Prusia 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). A **Black-crested Coquette** was at 1875 m on the Prusia to El Triunfo trail 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). A male **Slender Sheartail** was singing at the highest point of the road in Sumidero Canyon National Park 16 Jan (AP), while a female was there 22 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.).

The 2nd winter record of **Elegant Trogon** in the Valley of Oaxaca was at Monte Albán 8 Feb, a low site for the species. Two **Colared Araçaris** were between Jaltenango and Finca Prusia 17 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). A **Ringed Kingfisher** was at Nav. 7 Dec. Single **Yellow-breasted Sapsuckers** were at S.A.D. 19 Dec, at Teq. 20 Dec, and at La Cumbre 28 Feb, and a high of 10 was reported in different localities in cen. Oax. during the C.B.C. 22 Dec. Two **Spot-crowned Woodcreepers** were at La Cumbre 28 Feb. A **Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet** was at Teq. 20 Dec. Two **Greenish Elaenias** were heard along the Rio Salado during the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec (EH), and one was at El Triunfo 18 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). Two **Pileated Flycatchers**, rarely recorded in cen. Oax. in winter, were heard 22 Dec at Monte Albán and along Hwy 175 above the Huayapam turnoff (A&BB); another was at Monte Albán 28 Feb, probably an early spring arrival (JV, ESB).

Olive-sided Flycatchers are rare in cen. Oax in winter, so one at S.F.P. 19 Dec and another at La Cumbre 25 Dec (A&BB, RH) were surprising; the species can be found rarely in late Feb, but these are likely to be early northbound migrants. Two and 3 **Greater Pewees** were near Finca Prusia 17 & 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). A high of 42 **Tufted Flycatchers** was reported during the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec. A **Yellowish Flycatcher** was low at 1335 m near Finca Prusia 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). Single **Say's Phoebe**s were above Santo Domingo Tomaltepec 19 Dec and at S.F.P. 22 Dec. A **Brown-crested Flycatcher** was near the first look-out at Sumidero Canyon 16 Jan (AP). A **Rose-throated Becard** was mist-netted 15 Dec at La Cumbre (RAr), where several pairs can be found at this time of year.

VIREOS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Two **Slaty Vireos** were recorded at S.F.P. (RAr, m. ob.), and reports of singles came from S.F.P. 18 Feb and Hwy 175 above the Huayapam turn (A&BB, RH), in addition to the regular sites above Teotitlán and at Monte Albán. A **White-eyed Vireo** was at Teq. 22 Dec (RH). A rare **Philadelphia Vireo** was studied carefully by Armistead and Crewe at Totolapan, on the Pacific slope, 23 Jan. A **Bell's Vireo** was recorded at Tehuantepec 24 Jan (HGdS, JM, FGG), one was at Bac. 8 Dec, and 3 were at Zipolite beach 9 Dec.

A **Tree Swallow** was at P.A.D. 30 Jan. An **American Dipper** was seen along Hwy 175 in n. Oax., where rare, 2 Feb (CT, MG). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at Llano Grande in late Feb (ph. MG, DH). A high of 112 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** was reported on the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec. Apparently the 2nd record of **Wood Thrush** for the Pacific slope of Oax. n. of the Isthmus was at Huat. 19 Dec (MG, GB; the first and hitherto unpublished record was by JMF 6 km from Pluma Hidalgo 16 & 17 Mar 1999). A **Wood Thrush** was also reported at Teotitlán del Valle 4 Feb (JP et al.). Two **Swainson's** and a **Wood Thrush** were in the El Triunfo clearing 18 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). A **Black Robin** and 2 **Aztec Thrushes** were at Jilguero Arroyo 30 Jan, with one Aztec calling there 28 Feb (JV, ESB). A **Mountain Robin** was singing near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 16 Jan (HGdS).

A **Gray Catbird** was at P.A.D. 8 & 10 Feb. A **Northern Mockingbird** at Bac. 8 Dec was unusual; this species has not been recorded near sea level in Oax. before. **Cedar Waxwings** were very common in cen. Oax. (JMF, m. ob.) and near Huat. (MG) throughout the period; 762 were counted during the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec. Numerous small flocks were seen between Jaltenango and Finca Prusia 17 Jan and at Sumidero Canyon National Park 22 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). A **Tennessee Warbler** was at Oaxaca City 19-20 Dec (EH). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Huitepec reserve near San Cristóbal de las Casas Dec, and another was at nearby Moxviquil reserve 9-27 Jan (HYH, AMF, JGG, ECC). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was mist-netted at Finca Irlanda above Tapachula, Chis. 6 Dec (ph. MG, PB, GB). Another was seen along Hwy 175 close to Oax. City 2 Feb (BF et al.). **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers** are not mapped in Pacific coastal Oax. by Howell & Webb (1995), so 3 at Bac. 8 Dec and 5 at Huat. 19 Dec (MG) are probably the first records. Two were also at S.F.P. 6 Feb, and 3 were at Teq. 8 Feb, a few more than normal. A high count of 694 **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers** was recorded on the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was in riparian thickets along Rio Salado 22 Dec (EH). A singing **Grace's Warbler** was in pines at Pequeñez 19 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). One **Ovenbird** mist-netted at La Cumbre 22 Dec and recaptured there 1 Mar was at high elevation (RAr). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at a small dam e. of Teotitlán del Valle 12 Feb, while a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Est. 21 Dec. The highest elevation record of **Louisiana Waterthrush** in cen. Oax. was one mist-netted at La Cumbre 12 & 13 Dec. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at P.A.D. 8 &

10 Feb.

Two Elegant Euphonias were at S.A.D. 19 Dec. A flock of around 20 **Azure-rumped Tanagers** was high at 1785 m above Finca Prusia 19 Jan (IG, HGdS, m. ob.). Three ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at S.A.D. 19 Dec, and one in basic plumage was at the base of Monte Albán 22 Dec (EH). A non-breeding male **Lazuli Bunting** was at Viguera near San Agustín Etla 26 Dec (MG, GB), 3 females were at S.F.P. 6 Feb (JMF, RAr), and one male in breeding plumage was at P.A.D. 12 Feb (RAn). Ten Indigo Buntings were at Teq. 20 Dec; 12 were reported on the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec. A Painted Bunting was at S.F.P. 22 Dec (RAr), and another was at Teq. 8 Feb. A pair of Varied Buntings was near the first lookout at Sumidero Canyon 16 Jan (AP). There were many Dickcissels near Jaltenango 17 Jan (HGdS, m. ob.). Eight Blue-black Grassquits were at Teq. 20 Dec (JMF); 4

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YUCATAN PENINSULA



one area of the coastal lagoon behind Progreso, Yuc. 16 Jan (BM, MB). Guides in Celestún reported nesting activity of Roseate Spoonbill on Bird I. in the estuary 6 Feb and confirmed the sighting of 8 nests (one with chicks) 21 Feb (VM). Tour boats were diverted from the area for the time being. Two Jabirus were in a hurricane-created marsh sw. of R. L. 4 Dec (RH). A Bare-throated Tiger-Heron that built its nest at the waterhole in the Celestún estuary 12 Nov was observed with 2 offspring 27 Feb; the young had already attained full ad. plumage (BM). A single Wurdemann's Heron was at Punta Allen, Q. Roo 5 Feb (BM, PW). In the coastal lagoon behind Progreso, 500 Great and 200 Snowy Egrets and 200 Little Blue Herons were observed 16 Jan (BM, MB). Six Reddish Egrets were feeding actively in the Churburná lagoon 9 Feb (BM). Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were in the hurricane-created marshes se. of San Felipe, Yuc. 4 Dec (RH).

A pair of King Vultures was observed perched in a tree along the road to Chun Was near Chunyaxché, Q. Roo 8 Feb (ACA). Another rarity, and new record for the S.K.B.R., was a male **Red-breasted Merganser** in the Chunyaxché Canal 9 Dec (ACC). A single White-tailed Kite was seen over R.L. 26 Dec (DB), while a Great Black-Hawk was observed flying low over thorn forest 2 km e. of Chablekal, Yuc. (BM, MTP). A dark-morph Short-tailed, a White-tailed, and 2 Zone-tailed Hawks were seen 5 Jan flying over the ponds 10 km e. of Celestún during the C.B.C. (AD, BM, RM). A White-tailed Hawk was also reported soaring over R.L. 26 Dec (DB). A Zone-tailed Hawk was seen at Xel-Ha 17 Feb (DB). A Peregrine Falcon was reported at Boca Paila, in the S.K.B.R. 9 Dec (PC). Although traditionally considered rare, Rufous-necked Wood-Rails appear to be populous in Celestún, where 2 juvs. and one ad. were observed during the C.B.C. on the se. side of the bridge 5 Jan (AD, BM, RM).

A flock of 20 Semipalmated Plovers was observed along with a single American Oystercatcher at Churburná Puerto 9 Feb (BM). The coastal lagoon behind Progreso, Yuc. is home to both resident and migrant Black-necked Stilts, and 300 were observed together there 16 Jan (BM, MB). It was a nice surprise to find 8 Marbled Godwits as well as a flock of 70 Sanderlings at Churburná Puerto 9 Feb (BM). Three Dunlin were reported at Nichelite, Celestún, along with several Western Sandpipers, 2 Dec (PW). Ring-billed Gull is an uncommon but regular visitor to the n. coast, where one was seen at R.L. 26 Dec (DB). Herring Gull is also seen regularly in small numbers, and there were several reports,

were reported there 22 Dec (RH, m. ob.). Two **Black-chinned Sparrows** were recorded at Monte Albán 22 Jan (GLA, MEC), the first local records. Three Clay-colored, a Grasshopper, a Vesper, and 3 Lark Sparrows were at Teq. 20 Dec. Two more Lark Sparrows were at Bac. 8 Dec, and one was at S.A.D. 19 Dec. Six Savannah Sparrows were at Teq. 20 Dec; 3 were reported in the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec. Four Grasshopper Sparrows were at Teq. 22 Dec (RH, m. ob.).

A Red-winged Blackbird was at San Juan Guelavía 12 Feb. A flock of 20 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Teq. 20 Dec was considered unusual (usually rare in winter). Two **Melodious Blackbirds**, apparently recent invaders of Pacific Oax., were at Matías Romero 24 Jan (HGdS, JM, FGG). Three Orchard Orioles were at S.A.D. 19 Dec, 4 were at Teq. 20 Dec, and 4 were reported on the cen. Oax. C.B.C. 22 Dec. An ad. male Baltimore Oriole was at Teq. 20 Dec. Two Black-backed Orioles were at La Cumbre 22 Dec (*vide* EH), and one was there 24 Dec (RH, m. ob.). Around 10 Lesser Goldfinches, including an ad. male attending 2 begging immes., were at S.A.D. 19 Dec.

An unusually cold winter in the eastern United States and Canada, with similar conditions in the high, central plateau of Mexico, coincided with increased reports of Cedar Waxwings, thrushes, and sparrows, among others. The north-coastal zone of Yucatán, including up to 30 km inland, continues to show tremendous damage inflicted on the area by Hurricane *Isidore* last September. Hoyer reports that 75-90% of the mangroves in Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve were still completely leafless in early December.

Abbreviations: F.C.P. (Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo), R.L. (Río Lagartos, Yuc.), R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.), S.K.B.R. (Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo), UADY (Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán).

Amid the hurricane-damaged forests, waterholes served as oases for waterbirds such as the family of 5 Least Grebes observed at a private ranch 2 km e. of Chablekal, Yuc. 28 Feb (BM, MTP). Numbers of wintering American White Pelicans have increased in the past 10 years; nevertheless, it was spectacular to see 2000 in

including one at R.L. 26 Dec (DB), and 2 (one first-winter and one third-winter bird) at Chuburná Puerto 9 Feb (BM). Other regular but rare gull and tern species reported include 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a Kelp Gull at R.L. 26 Dec (DB), a Lesser Black-backed Gull w. of Progreso, Yuc. in early Jan (JM, AM), presumably the same reported there in fall 2002, an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull with one juv. Herring and a Ring-billed Gull at the upper R.L. estuary 4 Dec (RH), and single Gull-billed Terns at Celestún 18 Dec, Chicxulub, Yuc. 8 Jan, and Laguna Rosada, Yuc. 18 Jan (PW). Six Caspian Terns, which have become regular winter visitors though in small numbers, were observed in the estuary 2 km n. of Celestún 5 Jan (AD, BM, RM). **Common Tern** is normally a transient through the subregion, so it was a surprise to find one at Laguna Rosada 18 Jan (PW). Forster's Terns are regular, and one was noted during the C.B.C. at Celestún 5 Dec (AD, BM, RM). A total of 25 Black Skimmers was observed at the Celestún port 5 Jan (AD, BM, RM). Although it is a resident species, its numbers swell with migrants in the winter months, as evidenced by the 1100 seen by the Club Toh birders at Chuburná Puerto 9 Feb (*vide* BM). One Eurasian Collared-Dove was observed near the bus station in downtown Cancún, Q. Roo 4 Jan, potentially the same individual recorded near "market 28" in Cancún 10 Nov (PW).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MIMIDS

A Striped Cuckoo was caught in a net at Rancho Hobonil in the s. of Yuc. 30 Jan by UADY students (LC, GP, WS; another observed at El Cuyo last fall by JD and AC was the first substantiated report for Yuc.). The aftermath of Hurricane *Isidore* has made Lesser Roadrunner more visible, and 6 or 7 were seen in a stretch of highway n. of Dzibichén near Hopelchén, Camp. 25 Jan (SM). Although not unusual, the sighting of a Wedge-tailed Sabrewing at Chunyaxché 13 Dec was of interest, as this species is becoming rarer with increasing destruction of habitat (IC, DB). Another migratory bird more in evidence this year was Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with single females at 10 km e. of Dzibichaltún, Yuc. 8 Dec (EG, PW) and 2 km e. of Chablekab, Yuc. 28 Feb (BM, MTP), with 2 at Cuxtal 12 Jan (PW, EG). To the delight of local residents, a Keel-billed Toucan made Punta Allen its home through the period (BM, PW).

A Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher was heard at Chunyaxché 14 Dec (ACC). Least Flycatcher is another prominent migrant in the subregion this winter, with 3 observed 2 km w. of Dzibichaltún 8 Dec (BM) and

another 3 in the Cuxtal Reserve 12 Jan (BM). An Eastern Phoebe was at a shallow pond a few km w. of Las Coloradas, Yuc. 3 Dec (RH). Swallow migrations through the region are interesting, as it is not always clear if they are coming or going due to the varied calendars of different populations. Tree Swallows were more in evidence than usual during their late southward migration through the area, as demonstrated by the sighting of 50 flying over R.L. 26 Dec (DB), while 30 or more were observed heading ne. along the coast at Celestún 5 Jan (AD, BM, RM). A Bank Swallow was reported perched on a cable at R.L. 26 Dec (DB), a late date for this uncommon migrant. Barn Swallows also appeared quite late, as 12 were seen flying over R.L. 26 Dec. (DB) and 5 others flying e. over Celestún coastal area 5 Jan (BM, AD, RM). Their appearance so late in the season might have resulted from increased movement among Mexican populations in the Central Plateau due to the extremely cold winter.

A single White-lored Gnatcatcher was observed at Pactac, 10 km s. of Mérida near San José Tzul 26 Dec (GW), which was rather far from its usual coastal habitat, possibly a result of Hurricane *Isidore* (one was also seen there 22 Nov 2002 by HGdS et al.). An Eastern Bluebird was at the e. edge of Las Coloradas 4 Dec (RH). The Hermit Thrush first recorded at the Jardín Botánico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M., Q. Roo in fall 2002 was still there 21 Dec (DB), and 2 more were recorded 28 Feb, for the first time in Yuc., 2 km e. of Chablekab (BM, MTP). A Swainson's Thrush was on the Vigía Chico Road n. of Felipe Carrillo Puerto 1 Dec, and one was at El Cedral on Cozumel, Q. Roo 5 Dec (RH). Wood Thrushes were also more in evidence this winter. A total of 6 was found at Chunyaxché 13 Dec, and 2 were there the next day (BM, DB, IC, ACC). Another was reported at the Jardín Botánico Dr. Alfredo Barrera M. 21 Dec (DB). In addition, increased reports of American Robins included one near El Cedral 5 & 6 Dec (RH), 3 together at Hacienda Patac 17 Dec (GW), one at Celestún 18 Dec (DB), and a female in Chuburná, Mérida 9 Jan (PW). Inland records of Black Catbird in the subregion exist for many locations but are infrequent: one was observed 10 km e. of Dzibichaltún 8 Dec (BM, PW).

WAXWINGS THROUGH ORIOLES

Two Cedar Waxwings were reported in Chuburná, Mérida 16 Dec, and one was in the same location 10 Jan (PW). The most seen were 15-20 that flew over near Pactac 26 Dec (GW), while 10 were seen feeding in a fruiting tree at Uxmal ruins, Yuc. 26 Jan (SM). Known more as transients on the

peninsula's east coast, it was a surprise to find 3 at Punta Allen 4 & 5 Feb (BM, PW), as well as 3 in Mérida 21 Feb (BM). Beginning a month after hurricane *Isidore*, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler quickly became the most common species of the warbler in the subregion. The most reported together were 34 at Celestún 5 Jan (BM, AD, VM, RM). A Worm-eating Warbler was found in mangroves e. of the bridge leading into Celestún 5 Jan (AD), and a Swainson's Warbler was observed in the Calakmul archeological site 23 Jan (SM). Although not unusual for the location, the sighting of a Gray-throated Chat at Chunyaxché 29 Dec was a nice surprise, as this species is seen infrequently (ACA).

Two Red-legged Honeycreepers were seen at Chunyaxché 14 Dec (BM, DB). Fifteen Gray-headed Tanagers were at an ant swarm at Chunyaxché 6 Dec (IC), with one there 29 Dec (ACA). A female Rose-throated Tanager captured in a net at Celestún 22 Jan by West Nile virus researchers was a new record for the reserve (IS, JF, JM, ML). Savannah Sparrow was another species that was recorded in greater numbers this winter than during most other years: a flock of 13 was feeding in the coastal scrub at Celestún 5 Jan (BM, RG, AD), and at least 7 were in the scrub bordering the coastal lagoon at Progreso 16 Jan (BM, MB). Rose-breasted Grosbeak seemed more evident as well, with one male 2 km w. of Dzibichaltún 8 Dec, a female at Chunyaxché 14 Dec (BM), and 2 in the Cuxtal Reserve 12 Jan (BM, PW). Blue Bunting is not found as readily as 25 years ago, but a male was observed feeding on the seeds of *Dorstenia contrajerva* at Chunyaxché 29 Dec (ACA). Indigo Buntings were plentiful this winter, with as many as 70 seen in a single flock along a dirt road 2 km e. of Chablekab 28 Feb (BM, MTP). Painted Buntings, on the other hand, are on the decrease, and the only report turned in was of 2 females in the coastal scrub at Celestún 5 Jan (AD). Orchard Orioles were very much present in Felipe Carrillo Puerto this winter, where 6-7 were observed feeding at a favored tree 17-19 Feb (ACA).

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