

Mexico

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Mexico

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The spring season's observers continued to document low numbers of frugivores such as Cedar Waxwings and American Robins, which were essentially absent across large areas from Nuevo Leon through Oaxaca, where by contrast many thousands had been seen in recent winter/spring seasons. This was particularly interesting in light of the harsh winter weather experienced in the United States and Canada in 2003–2004, felt in Mexico as a series of cool fronts (*nortes*) that brought heavy, frequent rains to some areas, especially along the Atlantic slope.

We received fewer reports from northern Mexico than usual this season, though there were several interesting migrants in the migrant trap of Bosque Venustiano Carranza in Torreón, Coahuila. (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas birders: please send us your sightings from northern Mexico!) On the other hand, we had reports from a larger number of states in central and southern Mexico than we have had in the past, thanks in part to some new contributors. We are pleased to include several reports of interest from the winter season, received too late for inclusion in that season's summary.

NORTHERN MEXICO

Through the period, **Thicket Tinamous** were heard for the first time in several locations in N.L., from the Monterrey–Rayones Hwy. to Parque Estanzuela (*vide* AGS, m.ob.). Up to 400 Snow Geese (including 15 blue morphs) were noted 27 Dec 2003 on a drive through cen. Tamps., along with 7 Sandhill Cranes (PAH et al.). A Cinnamon Teal, 2 Ruddy Ducks, and 3 Lesser Scaup at Laguna de Chiricahueto, Sin. 15 May were late (MG, MAGB, HGdS, AP). A Muscovy Duck was seen w. of Tampico, Tamps. 27 Dec 2003 (PAH et al.). An active Ornate Hawk-Eagle nest was found near Alta Cimas, Tamps. in Apr by members of the local birding club (*vide* AGS). A pair of Yellow-breasted Crakes with 2 chicks was seen in a canal in Laguna de Chiricahueto 30 Apr and 11 May (MAGB). Three pairs of Sungrebes (at the nest) were seen along the Río Frío near Gómez Fariás, Tamps. in the 3rd week of Apr (AGS et al.).

Five Double-striped Thick-knees were seen in the flat country below Gómez Fariás in Apr (MLPR), with 2 there in late May (JCA). A small resident population of Mountain Plovers has been found in Valle de la Soledad, San Rafael, N.L. (*vide* AGS), which is also a very important wintering area (i.e., 500 were found there in Dec by personnel from Pronatura Noreste, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León and Museo de las Aves de México, *vide* AGS). Two Caspian Terns were seen at a small reservoir near Chihuahua, Chih. in the first week of Apr (MBR, *vide* Bill Howe). A Groove-billed Ani was on the edge of Ejido Monterreycillo, close to Río Nazas, Dgo. 3 Mar (ph. EH); this constitutes by far the most inland record for this species in the subregion. Eight Eurasian Collared-Doves were counted between km markers 36 and 37 on Rte. 80 n. of Tampico, Tamps. 27 Dec

2003 (PAH et al.), a location s. of where seen by the same party the previous season. At least one male Anna's Hummingbird was in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah. through Mar and Apr (FVP, WB).

A Western Wood-Pewee was at Culiacán, Sin 13 May (HGdS). A Swainson's Thrush was at Río Tamazula near Imala, Sin., and 3 were in reedbeds at Laguna de Chiricahueto 14 May (HGdS). Two Verdins were at Laguna de Chiricahueto 14 May (MG, HGdS). Not encountered this winter and spring in N.L. were American Robins (other than the residents in the higher mts.), Cedar Waxwings (found by the hundreds last year), and Pine Siskins (not seen for the past three winters) (AGS). A singing male Prothonotary Warbler was in Cañón de Fernández, Río Nazas, Dgo. 4 Apr (FVP). A Tennessee Warbler was on the campus of the Instituto Tecnológico de la Laguna, Torreón 26–27 Apr (FVP). A Virginia's Warbler was in Bosque Venustiano Carranza 5 May (FVP), and a Lucy's Warbler was there 21 Mar (WB). A Palm Warbler was seen at China, N.L. 14 May; it stayed for two weeks (AGS et al.). Two Song Sparrows were in habitat fringing the Laguna de Chiricahueto mudflats 15 May (AP, HGdS, MG). An imm. male Bullock's Oriole at Imala 15 May was rather late (HGdS, MG, AP).

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CENTRAL MEXICO

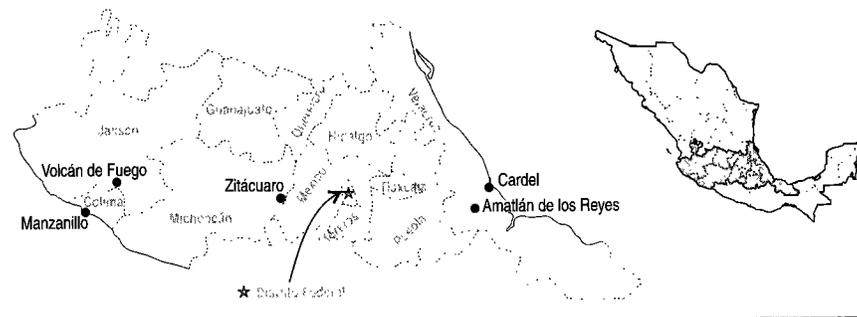
Unless otherwise stated, records are from Veracruz, either along Highway 140 from the Puebla–Veracruz border eastward and downslope to the coast or from Highway 180 from Villa Rica southward to the Alvarado wetlands system. Central Veracruz was reportedly much wetter than normal, with many *nortes*—where is the dry season?

Abbreviations: A.W.S. (Alvarado wetlands system, around sea level); C.B. (Cafetal el Basurero, Coatepec, 1100 m elevation); J.B. Jardín Botánico del Instituto de Ecología (1200 m elevation); L.B. (Las Barrancas, around sea level); L.H. (Los Humeros, 2200 m elevation); L.J. (La Joya, 1700 m elevation); Salinas (around sea level); Xalapa (1300 m elevation); Tlanchinol, Hgo. (specifically the track at km marker 169); Volcancillo (1800 m elevation).

BOOBIES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An ad. Blue-footed Booby was resting on a





rock with 50+ Brown Boobies at the tip of Punta Diamante near Acapulco, Gro. 15 Mar (MC). Migrating flocks of American White Pelicans were seen 13 May over A.W.S., later than normal. An ad. King Vulture was on the Atoyac road, Gro. 16 Mar (PJ). A pair of nesting Hook-billed Kites was discovered 25 May in a coffee plantation near Coatepec. A White-tailed Kite was near the ruins of Xochicalco, Mor. 22 Apr (MC). Monitoring of raptor migration in cen. Ver. yielded interesting reports from Rinconada (200 m elevation): a third-year Bald Eagle 2 Mar and an ad. and a juv. Golden Eagle 11 Mar and 10 Apr, respectively (*vide* JM). An ad. White-tailed Hawk was seen 18 Apr over the Coatepec soccer field, far from normal range. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks was seen 1 May near Volcancillo, and a single was e. of normal and late at L.H. 23 May. A Peregrine Falcon seen 11 May near Salinas was later than normal. A pair of Crested Guans was seen in cloud forest near La Trinidad, close to Xilitla, S.L.P. (1960 m elevation) 6 May (RP). A group of 6 Singing Quail was seen in a humid oak forest near Jalpan, Qro. 16 Mar (RP).

Two Ruddy Crakes at the marsh near Carrizal, n. of Coyuca, Gro. 29 Mar provided a good report. A Uniform Crake was heard singing 13 May in the heart of A.W.S., where 5 Sungrebes were also observed. Eleven Double-striped Thick-knees were tallied, along with 2 Pinnated Bitterns, around Las Barrancas, Ver. 12 Jan 2004 (PAH et al.). Eight American Golden-Plovers were near Almoloya del Río, Mex. 22 Mar, with 3 Upland Sandpipers on the w. side of the lake at Almoloya del Río the next day (MC). A Collared Plover and an alternate-plumaged Western Sandpiper were at the res. at Tepcoacuico, w. of Iguala, Gro. 1 Apr (MC). An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was observed chasing a Royal Tern offshore from Salinas 12 May. A single first-alternate Laughing Gull was seen at a sewage pond 23 May near L.H., a rare visitor to this area.

Two pairs of White-crowned Parrots were seen 23 Apr at 1250 m elevation near the El Pilon field station close to Valle Verde in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Qro. (RP). A pair of White-fronted Parrots was seen 25

May in a coffee plantation near Coatepec; though far from normal range, escaped caged birds have established a small breeding population around the Xalapa area. A Greater Roadrunner was seen 23 May near L.H., slightly out of normal range. Single pairs of Balsas Screech-Owls and Colima Pygmy-Owls were near Iguala, Gro. 21 Apr (MC). At least 5 Greater Swallow-tailed Swifts were flying low over Xochipala, Gro. during the late afternoon of 31 Mar (MC).



An impromptu pelagic trip off the coast of Oaxaca, Mexico at Puerto Angel 5 January 2004 rewarded visiting birders with many light-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (top), as well as Black-vented Shearwaters (the first confirmed for the state), including some partly leucistic birds (bottom). Photographs by Peter A. Hosner.

Multiple Lucifer Hummingbirds, including a nest-building female, were seen 23 May at L.H., e. of normal range. An imm. male Broad-billed Hummingbird was seen 11 May near Salinas, and another imm. male

was seen 5 May 4 km sw. of Salinas, well out of normal range. A single male Bumblebee Hummingbird was seen 24 Apr at C.B., e. of and lower than mapped range.

TROGONS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

A male Black-headed Trogon was calling 4 May at J.B., and a pair was observed 25 May at a coffee plantation near Coatepec, both sightings above usual elevation. Three Yellow-olive Flycatchers were seen 24 Apr at C.B., and a pair in courtship display was observed 25 May at a coffee plantation near Coatepec, n. of mapped range. One to 3 Pileated Flycatchers were near Iguala 22 Mar and 1 & 22 Apr (MC). A Vermilion Flycatcher was on the coast at Punta Diamante 15 Mar (MC). A male Gray-collared Becard was along the Tepitac Rd. n. of Taxco, Gro. 2 Apr (MC). A pair of Boucard's Wrens were s. of Ixtapan de la Sal, Méx. (very near the Gro. border) 21 Apr (MC); this area may well be an area of sympatry with the closely related Spotted Wren. Two American Dip-

pers were seen 28 May in Río Escanela, Qro. (1100 m elevation) in the buffer zone of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve; this species is not mapped in the state of Qro. by Howell & Webb (1995), but it is known from three rivers in the reserve (RP).

Aztec Thrushes were not seen in Gro. by Carmody 15–24 Mar, but a group of 9 was just above Filo de Caballo 20 Mar, at least 200 were seen in three areas 4–9 km farther up the dirt road from Filo de Caballo 31 Mar, and a group of 40–50 was on the Tetipac Rd. above Taxco 2 Apr (MC). A single European Starling was seen 23 May near L.H., well out of normal range, though this species is rumored to have established a breeding population to the w. in Puebla. Extraordinary was the report of a female Prothonotary Warbler at 2520 m elevation in the Sierra de Atoyac, Gro. 31 Mar, often feeding on the ground in a cleared meadow with Yellow-rumped Warblers (SM, MC). Three Altamira Yellowthroats and a female Prothonotary Warbler were seen in the Tecolutla marshes, Tamps. 13 Jan 2004 (PAH et al.). A single male Black-throated Blue Warbler

was discovered 4 May at J.B., a vagrant to the highlands of Ver. A male Bay-breasted Warbler, an uncommon spring transient, was captured 10 May near Salinas. A rare transient, a male Cerulean Warbler was

seen 24 Apr at C.B. A **Palm Warbler** at Punta Diamante 15 Mar was in the same location as recorded last year (MC). A female **MacGillivray's Warbler** was captured 11 May near Salinas; though assumed to be a vagrant to the Veracruz lowlands, local bird banders report capturing this species regularly during spring migration.

A **Slate-blue Seedeater** was near Iguala 22 Mar and 1 Apr (MC). Two **Cinnamon-bellied Flower-piercers** were seen 23 May defending a territory at L.J., e. of mapped range. Small flocks of migrating Orchard Orioles were seen 10–12 May near Salinas, in A.W.S. and at L.B., all late records. A pair of Northern Cardinals was at the U.N.A.M. botanical garden 22 May (MG) and 5 Apr (HGdS, AOI). **Yellow-winged Tanager** has recently moved upward to the cloud forest at 1550 m elevation near Jalpan, Qro. (RP). Singing and nest-building **Scott's Orioles** were observed 23 May at L.H., e. of normal range. A **Yellow-winged Cacique** was reported 17 Mar from Hwy. 185 in Ver. just e. of the Oax. border (KM, PS, MWE); this is a very odd location for this species, suggesting an escapee. A male **Lesser Goldfinch** was seen 12 May at L.B., outside of mapped range. Four **Evening Grosbeaks** were near Xalatlaco, Méx. 20 Apr (MC).

Addenda: A trip report received too late for inclusion in the winter season's summary included 28 Dec 2003 sightings at Tlanchinol of **Collared Forest-Falcon**, 2 **Unicolored Jays**, 10 **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, 2 **Hooded Grosbeaks**, 2 **Spot-crowned Woodcreepers**, "many" displaying **Black-headed Siskins**, an **Audubon's Oriole**, a **Mountain Trogon**, and a **Blue Mockingbird** (PAH et al.); the same observers noted a **Sierra Madre Sparrow**, a **Long-tailed Wood-Partridge**, and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in the vicinity of La Cima that afternoon/evening, with 3 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 2 **Buff-breasted Flycatchers**, and 12 **Strickland's Woodpeckers** in the area the next morning. On 29–30 Dec 2003, PAH et al. visited the Real de Arriba/Las Mesas area, Méx., near Temascaltepec, where **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, **Golden-crowned Emerald**, **Great Swallow-tailed Swift**, **Slaty and Golden Vireos**, 2 **Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireos**, **Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush**, **White-throated Robin**, and 3 **Red Crossbills** were seen.

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



Abbreviations: B.J. (Benito Juárez); C.V. (San Pablo Cuatro Venados); S.F.P. (San Felipe Park); S.J.P. (San José del Pacífico); FP. (Finca Pacífico); P.A.D. (Presa Azul Dam). All localities are in Oaxaca unless otherwise stated.

GREBES THROUGH TERNS

A pair of **Least Grebes** was at Laguna Belgica, Chis. 25 Mar (MSM et al.) and 19 Apr (HGdS). After a three-year absence in the cen. valleys of Oaxaca, 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen 1 May at a small res. just n of Miahuatlán. A group of 14 **Brown Pelicans** soared inland over rainforest on the Tuxtla Gutiérrez–Malpaso Hwy., Chis. 25 Mar (MSM et al.), 3 flew low over the road near Ocozocauilla, Chis. 19 Apr, 5 were at Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 20 Apr, and one was there 26 Apr (HGdS). These inland incursions have probably become regular as individuals commute between the Pacific coast and the Chicoasen and Malpaso dams, although the enormous exodus of the species from the Sea of Cortez observed in mid-2004 may have contributed to the increase in sightings this spring.

A **Great White Heron** was near Salina Cruz 22 Mar (MSM et al.); this subspecies is rarely reported in the subregion. The late date for **Great Blue Heron**, **Snowy Egret**, and **Cattle Egret** in cen. Oaxaca this year was 19 May. A **White-faced Ibis** was in a field near Jaltenango, Chis. 26 Mar (MSM et al.). Several large groups of **Wood Storks** totaling 400 birds were seen soaring at Manglar Zapotón Ecological Reserve near Huixtla, Chis. 4 Apr (MSM et al.). A flight of around 2000 **Black Vultures** was at Manglar Zapotón 4 Apr; no more than about 200 **Turkey Vultures** were seen in the area (MSM et al.). Three **King Vultures** were seen between Limonar and Pavál 2 Apr (MSM et al.).

A **Muscovy Duck** was near Jaltenango 27 Apr (HGdS). The single male **Mexican Duck** that has been showing up at P.A.D. since 2001 was at the same location 22 Mar. A **Plumbeous Kite** was soaring over the end of the road at Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 20 Apr (HGdS). A **Double-toothed Kite** was reported at Pavál 3 Apr (MSM et al.). Three **Crane Hawks** were near Tuxtatepec 26 Mar (HGdS). A hawk thought to be an ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in Tab. near La Libertad, Chis 23 Apr (HGdS); the species is still

undocumented by photograph in s. Mexico. A **Laughing Falcon** was near Jaltenango 27 Mar (MSM et al.). Three **Highland Guans** were heard at Pavál, Chis. 3 Apr (MSM et al.), with 5 **Crested Guans** noted there 5 Apr (MSM et al.).

A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at El Triunfo 1 & 2 May (HGdS), and single **Greater Yellowlegs** were at P.A.D. 22 Mar and 19 Apr. One to 10 **Baird's Sandpipers** were at P.A.D. 7 Apr–19 May. Two hundred **Franklin's Gulls** in breeding plumage were at Salinas del Mar-quez 14 Apr, and three flocks totaling about 200 birds flew northward along the beach at Puerto Arista, Chis. 17 Apr (HGdS). A small group of **Arctic Terns** was reported 12 May off Puerto Arista, Chis. (TL); though presumed to be a regular migrant in the Pacific here, as farther n., there are few documented records of the species for the state.

DOVES THROUGH KINGBIRDS

Three **Blue Ground-Doves** were near Tuxtatepec 26 Mar (HGdS), and 3 **Red-lore Parrots** were near Jaltenango 27 Mar (MSM et al.). Two **Mealy Parrots** were glimpsed (but identified confidently by voice) near Pavál 5 May (HGdS); this species has been seen here by Greg Lasley, Victor Emanuel, and others in the past, but it is not mapped in the area by Howell and Webb (1995). Five **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were near Palenque ruins 22 Apr, and 4 were in Tab. near La Libertad 23 Apr (HGdS). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at El Triunfo 30 Apr (HGdS). A **Pheasant Cuckoo** was seen and another heard at La Soledad 15 Apr (HGdS). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen at R.E.O. Ocotepetec 23 Mar in hilly country with agricultural fields and patches of oak forest (HGdS); this is only the 2nd record for Oax. A **Striped Owl** was seen at Tuxtatepec 5 May (TL). An imm. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** had a fatal collision with a car 12 Mar at La Cumbre, which is probably the extreme s. limit of the species' breeding range.

A juv. **Common Nighthawk** was found roosting in Sumidero Canyon N.P. 20 Apr (HGdS), and a **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard at Pavál 3 Apr (MSM et al.). A small flock of **Black Swifts** was at El Triunfo 29 Apr (HGdS). Eight **Great Swallow-tailed Swifts** were seen about 3 km coastward of Limonar, Chis. 2 Apr (DK, MSM). A female

Blue-capped Hummingbird was noted about 25 km uphill of La Soledad, Oax. 15 Apr (HGdS). Both White-eared and Magnificent Hummingbirds were at low elevations just above the entrance to S.F.P. 24 May. Three Garnet-throated Hummingbirds were on the Ocosingo road near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 21 Apr (HGdS). At least 5 female Slender Sheartails were at Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 26 Mar (MSM et al.). Three Collared Araçarís were between Jaltenango and Finca Prusia 27 Mar (MSM et al.), and one was near Villa Flores, Chis. 18 Apr (HGdS). Single male Cinnamon-sided Hummingbirds feeding at morning glory (*Ipomoea*) were noted at km marker 216.3 of Rte. 135 out of Puerto Angel, Oax. 3–4 Jan 2003 (R. Hoyer, m.ob.).

A Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet was at a high elevation in agricultural fields adjacent the La Cumbre turnoff 21 Mar (HGdS). Tufted Flycatchers were on nests, apparently incubating, at S.F.P. 13 & 24 May. Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen 19 Apr at B.J. and 30 Apr at F.P., as well as at La Cumbre 25 Mar and 11 Apr (HGdS). Two Greater Pewees were near Finca Prusia 28 Apr (HGdS). An Acadian Flycatcher was near Laguna Bélgica 26 Apr (HGdS). A pair of White-throated Flycatchers provided the first record of nesting for the species in Oax. 1 May just w. of the San Agustín Loxicha turnoff. A Pine Flycatcher appeared to be gathering lichens for nesting material at B.J. 7 Apr, while Cordilleran Flycatchers were nesting at S.F.P. 13 & 24 May. Two Buff-breasted Flycatchers at C.V. 12 Apr provided a new late date for the species in cen. Oax., but at this location the species is almost surely resident. Three fledgling Black Phoebes with stubby tails and gape flanges but able to fly well were seen 7 Apr at P.A.D. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher there 24 Mar was somewhat early for the subregion (HGdS), and by 19 May, a pair had constructed a new domed cover over the same abandoned Great Kiskadee nest used last Jun. There were at least 3 Streaked Flycatchers at Laguna Bélgica 27 Apr (HGdS). Thick-billed Kingbirds were constructing a nest 24 Apr and apparently incubating 24 May at S.F.P.

RAVENS THROUGH WARBLERS

A parliament of 14 Common Ravens at km 102 on the hwy. from Oaxaca City to Tehuantepec 13 Apr was considered a high count (HGdS). Two Mangrove Vireos were heard in Tab. near La Libertad 23 Apr (HGdS). A new late date for Cassin's Vireo in cen. Oax. was 24 Apr at S.F.P. A pair of Plumbeous Vireos seen 19 Apr above P.A.D. appeared to be carrying nest material. A singing Bell's Vireo was found 26 Mar at km 98 of the Tuxtla Gutiérrez–Jaltenango road

(MSM). A singing Philadelphia Vireo was seen in Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 20 Apr, and at least 10 (not singing) were at Palenque ruins, Chis. 22 Apr, along with 2 Red-eyed Vireos (HGdS). Numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes in the valley of Oaxaca seemed low: only one was seen between Oaxaca and Yagul 22 Mar, and none were seen in that stretch 13 Apr (HGdS). There is much development in that corridor of the Pan-American Hwy., including a widening project out as far e. as Mitla.

Two Bank Swallows were at P.A.D. 19 Apr (JMF et al.), with one at Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 26 Apr (HGdS). One to 2 Cave Swallows were near Tehuantepec and Salina Cruz 22–23 Mar, and one was near Huixtla 2 Apr (MSM et al.); at least one was at Salinas del Marquez 14 Apr (HGdS). These records add to other records from the past two years that document a Pacific flyway for this species, at least in spring. There were dozens of Barn Swallows, probably on passage, near Tehuantepec 22–23 Mar (MSM et al.) and near Jaltenango 26 Mar (MSM et al.) and 27 Apr (HGdS). A pair of Brown Creepers was nesting at B.J. 7 & 19 Apr. A Banded Wren was seen carrying nest material at F.P. 30 Apr. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was lining a nest in the slopes below El Estudiante 12 Apr (HGdS).

A Swainson's Thrush was high near B.J. on 19 Apr. Large numbers of Swainson's Thrushes seen and heard singing in the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Chis. late Mar–early Apr were evidence of passage; around 500 were estimated between Limonar and Paval 2 Apr (MSM et al.). A single Clay-colored Robin was high at El Jilguero arroyo above Teotitlán del Valle 7 Apr; the species has been seen here irregularly since at least 1999. A Mountain Robin was taking food to a nest near El Triunfo camp 2 May (HGdS). A Tropical Mockingbird was high at El Triunfo camp 2 May (HGdS). Around 40 American Pipits were present at the Tlacolula sewage discharge 7 Apr.

A huge mixed-species flock containing several hundred birds, mostly warblers (Townsend's, Hermit, Red, and others), was at La Cumbre 21 Mar (HGdS). A Golden-winged Warbler was at Laguna Bélgica 19 Apr, one was on the road to Cascadas Patatnel, Chis. 21 Apr, and 2 were near Palenque ruins 22 Apr (HGdS). At least 4 Virginia's Warblers were along the slopes below El Estudiante 12 Apr (HGdS). A Cerulean Warbler and a Canada Warbler were at Laguna Bélgica 19 Apr (HGdS). A Fan-tailed Warbler was at an ant swarm near Tuxtepec 26 Mar (HGdS); this species was not mapped in n. Oaxaca by Howell and Webb (1995). A pair of Hooded Yellowthroats was at S.J.P. 1 May.

TANAGERS THROUGH SISKINS

A pair of Azure-rumped Tanagers was gathering nest material near Pozolero on the n. slope of the Sierra Madre de Chiapas 28 Apr (IG, HGdS). A Hepatic Tanager was in pines near Finca Prusia 28 Apr (HGdS). Five Red-headed Tanagers were below El Estudiante 12 Apr (HGdS), one of very few records for that area, and a pair was at S.F.P. 24 May. A single Blue-gray Tanager was mist-netted at the Jardín Botánico in Oaxaca City 30 May (ph. MG). A small flock of Common Bush-Tanagers was in pine-oak habitat 2 May at S.J.P., where uncommon to rare.

A female Painted Bunting near Teotitlán del Valle 19 May provided a new late date for the area. Six Striped Sparrows were recorded at C.V. 12 Apr. A Grasshopper Sparrow was near Jaltenango 27 Apr (HGdS). Two Bronzed Cowbirds were at El Triunfo 30 Apr. A Giant Cowbird was n. of Tonalá, Chis. 17 Apr; there are no oropendolas to parasitize here, but there are Yellow-winged Cacicques (HGdS). A flock of at least 7 Scott's Orioles was at La Cumbre 21 Mar (HGdS), where regular through winter, and a flock of at least 6 was at B.J. 22 Mar. An imm. Bar-winged Oriole was near Limonar 3 Apr (MSM et al.) and 4 May (HGdS), one was near Villa Flores 18 Apr, an ad. male was at the end of the road at Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 20 Apr, and another ad. male was near the bottom lookout there 26 Apr (HGdS). One to 2 Audubon's Orioles were at Jilguero Arroyo and La Cumbre 24 & 25 Mar (HGdS); this is an area where the species is not mapped by Howell and Webb (1995). A male Ochre Oriole was at Jaltenango 10 Apr (MC). At least 10 Black-capped Siskins were seen at km 226 of the Ocosingo road near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 26 Mar (MSM et al.).

Addenda: A trip report received too late for inclusion in the winter season's summary included 31 Dec 2003 sightings in the Sierra de Atoyac, Gro. of 2–3 Long-tailed Wood-Partridges, single Mottled and Stygian Owls, a Balsas Screech-Owl, a Barred Forest-Falcon, 6 Emerald (Wagler's) Toucanets, and several Spot-crowned Woodcreepers (PAH et al.). On 1–2 Jan 2004, the same observers crossed the range to the coastal slopes and Paraiso, observing 3 White-tailed Hummingbirds, Ruddy Foliage-Gleaner, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Long-billed Starthroat, Yellow-billed Cacique, Black-headed Saltator, Orange-fronted Parakeets, plus small numbers of Lilac-crowned Parrot around Nueva Dehli. A pelagic trip out of Puerto Angel 5 Jan 2004 found a Pink-footed, 300 Wedge-tailed, 12 Black-vented (several leucistic), 10 Audubon's (one with dark underwing coverts) Shearwaters, one storm-petrel, 300

Black Terns, 3 Pomarine Jaegers, and one Red-necked Phalarope. The count of Black Terns was unexpected here (cf. Williams, S. O., III. 1983. Distribution and migration of the Black Tern in Mexico. *Condor* 85: 376–378.)

Highlights 10 Jan 2004 along Hwy. 175 in Oax. toward the Valle Nacional included Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (km 75), 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (km 73), a Louisiana Waterthrush, Amethyst-throated Hummingbird, and Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet (km 68), 3 Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaners, 2 Plain Xenops, 8 White-winged Tanagers, 30 Lesser Greenlets, a Stripe-throated Hermit (km 62.2), a Golden-hooded Tanager, Green Shrike-Vireo, Violet Sabrewing, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, White-bellied Emerald, 3 Violaceous Trogons, 2 Rufous-breasted Spinetails, Long-billed Gnatwren, 3 Black-crested Coquettes, and Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser around km 61 to Nueva Esperanza. A **Townsend's Warbler** was low on the Atlantic Slope just above Valle Nacional 11 Jan 2004, and a **Green-breasted Mango** around Tuxtepec, Oax. the next day was likewise unexpected there (PAH et al.).

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA



Abbreviations: Cel. (Celestún, Yuc.); F.C.P. (Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Q. Roo); H.S.J.C. (Hacienda San José Cholul, 80 km e. of Mérida, Yuc.); J.B.A.B. (Jardín Botánico Dr. Alfredo Barrera, Puerto Morelos, Q. Roo); R.S.I. (Rancho San Isidro on the Río Candelaria, 80 km n. of Escárcega, Camp.); R.S.M. (Rancho Santa María, n. Q. Roo); T.V. (Ejido Tekal de Venegas, 20 km ne. of Izamal, Yuc.); V.C.R. (Vigía Chico Rd., near F.C.P.). Note that R.L. (Río Lagartos), S.F. (San Felipe), P.T. (Peten Tucha), R.S.S. (Rancho San Salvador), and El Cuyo are

sites are in the R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.).

BITTERNS THROUGH TERNS

A Least Bittern was reported at Cobá, Q. Roo 28 Apr (KB, MF). Two Glossy Ibis were feeding in a pond at P.T. 7 Apr (PW), with 6 observed in same area 23 May (KB, MF). For over a year now, at least 2 ad. Jabirus have been reported in the area of P.T., and reports of subad. birds have been received recently. For example, one ad. and one subad. were reported there 6 Apr (PW), and one was observed in flight in the same area 3 May (KB, MF). At a Wood Stork colony at km 32 on the San Felipe–Panabá road, 100+ storks were actively nesting or in courtship 6 Apr (PW). A pair of Turkey Vultures watched over their 2 fluffy white chicks on the ground under a tangle of vines beside a corn field in a forested area near the Río Candelaria 13 Mar (BM). Nearby, a pair of King Vultures was nesting in a cavity 6–7 m high in a Pucté tree near a branch of the Río Candelaria 500 m e. of the hwy. the next day (BM); an ad. and 2 subads. were perched in a large *Cecropia* with several Black Vultures 0.5 km from the nest tree. Two other nests of King Vulture were reported this spring in the Calakmul area at Balamkin and next to Balam-Kú, Camp. (MM), and 3 individuals were reported at R.S.S. 15 Mar (IN).

Muscovy Duck has become quite rare in Yuc. and Q. Roo but is still found in small numbers in Camp., where 2 flew up along the Río Candelaria at R.S.I. 13 Mar (BM). A migrant Osprey was still present at San Felipe 5 May (BM). A Swallow-tailed Kite, always an early spring migrant, was reported

Crane Hawk was 3 km s. of S.F. 4 May, and a juv. was seen 5 May at nearby R.S.S. (BM). A male American Kestrel was reported at R.S.M. 3 Apr (PW), and 2 females were between R.L. and S.F. 7 Apr (PW).

Two ad. Clapper Rails with 2 chicks were in a marsh behind Chelém, e. of Progreso, Yuc. 9 May (BM). Limpkins have become common sights on the San Felipe–Panabá rd., where 2 were feeding in flooded fields 4 May (BM). Three Black-bellied Plovers in breeding plumage were at Chelém harbor 9 May (BM), with another at El Cuyo 10 May (SF), in both instances accompanied by a Semipalmated Plover (BM, SF). Nearby at Chelém 9 May was a single Greater Yellowlegs (BM). Single Solitary Sandpipers were at R.S.M. 1 Apr, P.T. 7 Apr (PW), and very nearby on 2 May (KB, MF). A single Spotted Sandpiper in breeding plumage was at S.F. 5 May (BM); this species returns to the peninsula by mid-Jul. Four Ruddy Turnstones were still at S.F. 5 May (BM), with one at El Cuyo 10 May (SF). This species is known to summer on the peninsula. Three Sanderlings were still in the R.L.B.R. 2 May (KB, MF), and a single Semipalmated Sandpiper at Chelém 10 May (BM). On this date, a Western Sandpiper was found at El Cuyo (SF), and 2 were in flooded roadside pond near P.T. 5 May (BM). Approximately 10–12 Least and 30 White-rumped Sandpipers were on the coast of the R.L.B.R. 2 May (KB, MF). A single Wilson's Phalarope in breeding plumage was studied 18 Apr at R.L. (IN).

A Gull-billed Tern was sighted inland at R.S.M. 1 Apr, and two pairs were in courtship at Las Coloradas, R.L.B.R. 7 Apr (PW). Four were reported on a sandspit e. of Las Coloradas 2 May (MF, KB), indicating that this species most likely nests in the area. A Caspian Tern was seen at R.L.B.R. 2 May (KB, MF), and 2 transient Common Terns were reported at R.L. 7 Apr (PW). A Least Tern was near Uaymitún, Yuc. 21 Mar (BM), with 3 at Las Coloradas 7 Apr (PW), both well before the average arrival date of mid-Apr.

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

Two Zenaida Doves were at R.S.S. 3 May (KB, MF), while an ad. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen along V.C.R. 27–28 Apr (MF, KB). Chimney Swift was reported at Muyil 10 Mar (BS). Reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird were more numerous than last year: a female at Xcambó, Yuc. 21 Mar (BM); 2 at T.V. 18 Apr (BM, RM); a male at the tourism parking area at Cel. 28 Apr (VM); a male at R.S.S. 5 May (S.F.); one netted at the same location 13 May; one netted 26 May at El Meco in R.L.B.R. (SF); and the last one 27 May R.S.S. (SF). One netted in dune vegetation behind El Cuyo 22 May wore a band (#7237) that had been put on

moving n. over El Cuyo 5 Mar (SF). Two were observed flying eastward over El Cuyo 26 Mar (EG). Ongoing satellite-tracking studies of the autumn migration of this species by G. Zimmerman, C. R. Chandler, and K. D. Meyer have demonstrated that the Yucatan Pen. is an important stopover area for Swallow-taileds along the 8000-km migratory path; it would be interesting to know whether the same is true in spring. Four Plumbeous Kites were seen 14 Mar either perched or flying low over the Río Candelaria approx. one km. e. of the hwy. An ad.

too tightly, leaving the leg crippled; the band was removed.

A Ringed Kingfisher, an uncommon resident in Yuc. and Q. Roo, was seen at Bacalar 12–14 Mar (BS), and an even rarer White-necked Puffbird was seen at Cobá 9 Mar (BS). A pair of Lineated Woodpeckers took a dust bath along the banks of Río Candelaria 13 Mar (BM). A Rufous-breasted Spinetail was near its nest in a recently burned area on the road entering Dzibanché, s. Q. Roo 7 May (LT). The last Least Flycatcher reported for the season at R.S.M. was 23 Apr (PW), while a Great Crested Flycatcher was one of many migrant species reported at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (KB, MF). A Streaked Flycatcher was first seen at R.S.M. 20 Mar; the previous earliest date was 13 Apr (PW). Another was reported on V.C.R. 27–28 Apr (KB, MF). The first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher for the season at R.S.M. was reported on 12 Apr (PW), while 4–5 noisy birds were observed at Cobá ruins 29 Apr (KB, MF). The first Piratic Flycatcher was observed 21 Apr at R.S.M. (PW).

Two Eastern Kingbirds were at Cel. 20 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM), while another was seen at R.S.S. 5 May (SF). Six Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, a much-less-common but regular migrant along the n. coast, were seen at km 19 on the road from R.L. to Tizimin 15 Mar (IN). On 17 Mar, 3 Fork-tailed Flycatchers were observed on road to R.S.S. (IN), and an ad. male was seen on road leading to the estuary at Cel. 21 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM).

Two Yellow-throated Vireos were seen along the V.C.R. 27–28 Apr (KB, MF), and 5–6 vireos thought to be Warblers were reported during a visit to the J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (KB, MF). At R.S.M., Purple Martins were reported migrating through steadily and daily during Mar–Apr (PW), while a single Bank Swallow was reported among Cave Swallows on the early date of 11 Feb at Tulum (LD, RD). Another was reported with Barn Swallows at R.S.M. 16 Apr (PW). Barn Swallows were reported to have passed daily at R.S.M. 20 Mar–Apr (PW).

THRUSHES THROUGH ORIOLES

A Swainson's Thrush was reported at Chichén Itzá 30 Apr (MF, KB), while 10 were at Cel. 3 May, along with 2 Wood Thrushes (FC, LG, RL, VM). The last date for Gray Catbird at R.S.M. was 20 Apr (PW), while the last date for Blue-winged Warbler at the same location was 1 Apr (PW). A single Tennessee Warbler, mostly a transient species, was seen 28 Apr at the tourism parking area at Cel., and 10 more were there 3 May (FC, LG, RL, VM); 2 were at Chelém 9 May (BM). Yellow Warbler's last date at R.S.M. was 19 Apr (PW). Northern Parula was widely recorded this year. Some 10–12 were at

J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (all but one males), the high count, and 2 or more males were seen singly at Puerto Morelos 25 Apr (MF, KB) and 2 near a waterhole at T.V. 18 Apr (BM). On 26 Apr, 3 males were seen at Tulum and 3–4 along the V.C.R. over the next two days (MF, KB). One was near the coast in R.L.B.R. 2 May (KB, MF), another 4 May, and 6 the next afternoon (BM). The last reported at Chelém came 9 May (BM); interestingly, the last parula recorded at R.S.M. was a month and a half earlier, 25 Mar (BM).

A Chestnut-sided Warbler, a rarely reported spring transient, was in the estuary at Cel. 2 May, and a female was reported in the same area 3 May (FC, LG, RL, VM). An ad. male and 2 SY Magnolia Warblers were in a garden in Escárcega 14 Apr (BM), while a male in breeding plumage was seen at T.V. 18 Apr (BM, RM). A male in breeding plumage and 3 SY females were among the migrants at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (MF), and a single male was on the V.C.R. 27–28 Apr (KB, MF). A male Cape May Warbler, mostly a transient, was at Cel. 28 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM). Black-throated Green Warbler was last recorded at R.S.M. 15 Apr (PW), while an SY female was in the R.L.B.R. 4 May (KB, MF). A coastal male was at Chelém 9 May (BM). One ad. male Blackburnian Warbler, another transient, was seen in the mangrove of the estuary at Cel. 25 Apr, within its normal migration period (FC, LG, RL, VM). The last date recorded at R.S.M. for Yellow-throated Warbler was 1 Apr (PW), and the last date for Palm Warbler there was 25 Apr (PW). On the same date, an ad. in breeding plumage was at Puerto Morelos (MF, KB), with one more reported at S.F. 4 May (BM). Three Bay-breasted Warblers were among transients passing through Cel. 3 May, while a male Blackpoll Warbler was seen at Cel. 25 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM). Another male, in breeding plumage, was on Isla Pasión, Isla Holbox 6 May (KB, MF). Last date for Black-and-white Warbler at R.S.M. was 15 Apr (PW), but 3 were among migrants at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr, along with an American Redstart (KB, MF). Three Black-and-whites were on the V.C.R. 27–28 Apr (KB, MF).

Prothonotary Warblers were recorded coming through R.S.M. 22 Mar–14 Apr, with one recorded in R.L. 6 Apr and another in Chunyaxché 9 Apr (PW). However, the most reported were 25–30 observed around a mangrove canal near a waterhole in Cel. 4 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM). A male was at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (KB, MF). The last date recorded for Ovenbird at R.S.M. was 1 Apr (PW), but one was seen at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (KB, MF). The last reports of Northern Waterthrush were of 2 at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (MF) and one netted at El Cuyo 6 May (SF). A late date for Kentucky Warbler was 4 May at the

pier in Progreso (EG). The last date recorded for Common Yellowthroat at R.S.M. was 21 Apr (PW), while a male was seen at Puerto Morelos 25 Apr (KB, MF). Last date for Hooded Warbler at R.S.M. was 15 Apr (PW). A female Wilson's Warbler, a rare but regular migrant, was netted at R.S.M. 4 Apr (PW, SH, RT, CT). Gray-throated Chats are always welcome sights: 2 females were seen at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (KB, MF).

A male Rose-throated Tanager was at J.B.A.B. 24 Apr (KB, MF), and a male Summer Tanager was recorded near the tourism parking area at Cel. 18 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM). Scarlet Tanager, normally a late Apr–early May migrant, showed up a bit earlier this spring, with a female netted 24 Feb at R.S.M. (PW), 2 males on V.C.R. 27–28 Apr (KB, MF), and single males at Chunyaxché 9 & 16 Apr (PW), at R.S.M. 22 Apr (PW), and in Black Mangrove habitat at Cel. 17 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM). Blue-gray Tanager was reported at Cobá 9 Mar (one; BS), F.C.P. 27 Apr (2–3; KB, MF), and Chelém 9 May (one; BM). Yellow-winged Tanagers are not seen as regularly as in the past in the n. of the peninsula, but 2 were in palm trees in the main plaza in F.C.P. 27 Apr and again the next morning in association with Blue-gray Tanagers (MF, KB). Another was reported at Cobá 28 Apr (KB, MF). Red-legged Honeycreepers are always a pleasure to find; a single male was at Cobá 28 Apr (KB, MF). A White-crowned Sparrow, rare but regular, was reported 18–19 Apr in grasses near the tourism parking area at Cel. (FC, LG, RL, VM). Four Blue Grosbeaks were seen in coastal dune vegetation at Cel. 17 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM), with singles at R.S.M. 25 Apr (PW) and the next day near Tulum, Q. Roo (MF, KB). Two male Indigo Buntings were at Escárcega 14 Apr (BM), and a female Painted Bunting was recorded there 14 Apr (BM); the latter species was last recorded at R.S.M. 20 Apr (PW).

A male Bobolink was observed in the gardens of DUMAC station at Cel. 20 Apr (FC, LG, RL, VM). A male and 2 female Orchard Orioles were seen at Escárcega 14 Apr (BM), while the species was last recorded at R.S.M. 23 Apr (PW). An ad. female Baltimore Oriole was observed at R.S.I. 14 Mar (BM), and 2 ad. males and one female were at Escárcega 14 Apr (BM).

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