

The common denominator this summer throughout Mexico was the heavy rain. Beatty and Pérezgasga report from Coahuila that the historic "Laguna de Mayrán"—which in the last few centuries has been a desert—was dotted with ponds this summer.

Mexico

NORTHERN MEXICO

A juv. Cooper's Hawk was seen hunting the numerous White-winged Doves in the

Brush-Finch was along Hwy. 16 at km 260, w. of Yécora, Son. 15 Jul (KLG). Several Worthen's Sparrows were singing in a weedy field near San Rafael, N.L., and in

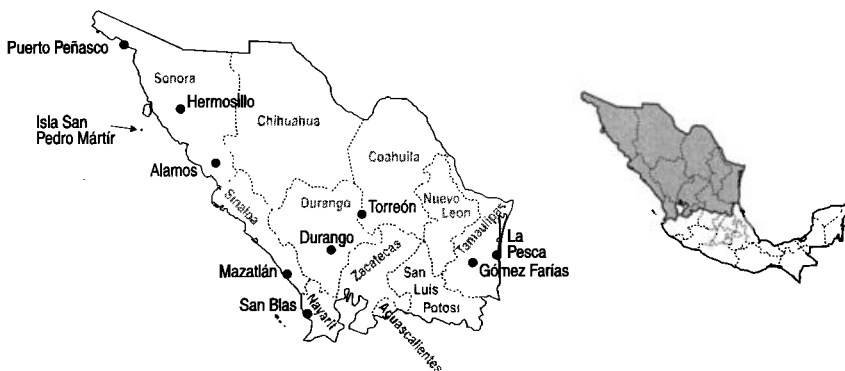
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Alameda park at Saltillo, Coah. 25 Jun (HGdS, LASG); Saltillo's introduced Green Parakeets and Lilac-crowned and Red-crowned Parrots may potentially be food sources as well. Ten **Double-striped Thick-knees** were seen in Rancho Los Santos, e. of Ciudad Mante, Tamps. in mid-Jun (GW). An American Avocet was seen 7 Jul feeding in a roadside puddle in the desert between San Pedro and Cuatrociénegas, Coah. (WB). An alternate-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper at Estero Tastiota, Son. 21 Jul (KLG) provided one of few published records for Sonora, though the date is typical for a fall migrant. Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were 10 km s. of Ciudad Obregón, Son. 17 Jul, and one was w. of Guasave, Sin. 18 Jul (KLG). On 31 Jul, a group of 12 **Military Macaws** was seen near Salto del Agua Llovida waterfall, s. Dgo., at 2500 m elevation (FVP), and the local inhabitants say that there are many active nests in neighboring limestone cliffs; this is a privately-owned nature reserve and a well-preserved woodland of firs, cedars, junipers, and pines. **Anna's Hummingbirds** continue to be seen in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, the urban park of Torreón, Coah. Males were observed through the summer chasing one another, and females, though less noticeable, were also seen regularly (WB); this species has been seen there year-round for the past two-and-a-half years (WB, FVP). A Gray-crowned Woodpecker in thornscrub and willow riparian habitat along Hwy. 16 at km 215 at Tecopa, Son. 15 Jul was in an unusual habitat (KLG). A **Rufous-capped**

native bushes bordering the Mexican Prairie Dog colony in Zona Sujeta a Conservación Ecológica La Soledad, N.L. 26 Jun (HGdS, EIE, HB, AP).

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wise stated, records are from central Veracruz.

Abbreviations/elevations: C.A. (Cerro de Acatlán, 1700 m elevation); E.E. (El Esquilón, 1100–1200 m elevation); L.C. (Las Cañadas, 1100–1200 m); L.E. (La Esmeralda, 1100–1200 m); L.H. (Los Humeros, 2300 m); L.M. (Las Minas, 2100 m); L.P. (La Piedra, at sea level); L.V. (La Vequia, 1100–1200 m); El Mirador (1100–1200 m); Panamacani (1100–1200 m); Totutla (1100–1200 m); Xalapa (1300 m); Zacamitla (1100–1200 m).

Two **Brown Pelicans** were high at Jalpan Res., Qro., at 860 m elevation, 3 Jul (RP). An ad. Cooper's Hawk was seen at the se. edge of Totutla 6 Jun, a rare record during the breeding season but part of a small resident population in the mts. An ad. **Black Hawk-Eagle** was seen outside of Ixhuatlan del Café 6 Jul, probably the first record for cen. Ver. in 60 years. Good numbers of American

CENTRAL MEXICO



June and July were wet in central Veracruz, more than normal for recent decades, which made for a good breeding season, with a lot of insects. Some areas visited in July (e.g., coffee plantations around Xalapa and Huatusco) had experienced good showers and thunderstorms, and many plants and grasses remained green throughout the dry season (unlike in the last few years). Unless other-

Kestrels were seen at L.H. in Jul, part of a small population that breeds in the valley. A few **Peregrine Falcons** were seen at L.M. 3 Jul, possibly a pair. Three **Bearded Wood-Partridges** were observed in an undisturbed cloud forest at 1840 m in the Joya del Hielo area of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Qro. 8 Jun (RP).

A flock of around 40 **Military Macaws**

was seen in the canyon of Arroyo El Chubeje, Qro. 11 Jun; they flew in from the ne., the direction of Sótano del Barro (this species' main breeding and roosting area in Qro.) and remained for around half an hour, presumably feeding on acorns, before flying back toward the ne. (RP). Small flocks of **White-fronted Parrots** were seen at L.E. and El Mirador in Jun and Jul, escaped birds now breeding around the area. Several **Blue Ground-Doves** were heard at Zacamitla 25 Jul, above the altitude given by Howell and Webb (1995). Several **Gray-fronted Doves** were seen and heard 6 Jul near Zacamitla, again above the altitude given by Howell and Webb (1995). Three **Black Swifts** were reported from L.P. 29 Jul, far below the elevation given in Howell and Webb (1995). A group of 6 **White-naped Swifts** flew over the sw. part of Mexico City, D.F. 9 Jun (MG).

An ad. **Green Violet-ear** was at L.C. 23 Jun, far e. of mapped range. A male **Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird** was reported from Chapultepec Primera Sección, D.F. 11 & 14 Jun (EHP). A male **Magnificent** and 3 male **Bumblebee Hummingbirds** were feeding on flowers of a wild bean in a clearing in humid oak forest near Jalpan 4 Jul (RP). A female/immature **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was seen 5 Jul at Teocelo, e. of the mapped range and below the species' normal altitude.

Singing **Yellow-olive Flycatchers** were found around Xalapa, L.V., El Mirador, well n. of mapped distribution. A rather tame **Steller's Jay** was in the U.N.A.M. botanical garden 19 May (HGdS) and 15 Jun (MG), perhaps an escapee. Two ad. **Black-crested Titmice** were feeding 2 young at L.V. 22 Jun, outside their mapped distribution. A singing **White-bellied Wren** was in a shade coffee plantation near Mata Obscura (between Paso de Ovejas and Huatusco) 18 Jul at 1200 m, far above its expected elevation. Several **Bewick's Wrens** were defending territories at L.H. 3 Jul, e. of normal range; if breeding can be confirmed, it would be a new nesting species for Ver. Several **Brown-backed Solitaires** were singing and carrying food at L.C. 23 Jun and 17 Jul, e. of mapped breeding range; 3 were singing at Panamacani (below 1400) 1 Jul, also e. of mapped range. Three **Bananaquits** were at L.C., above "normal" elevation and n. of the mapped range for the species.

A pair of **Cinnamon-bellied Flower-piercers** nesting at C.A. were seen 5 Jun, e. of mapped range and one of few records for Ver. (probably the first breeding record). At least 10 were in the U.N.A.M. botanical garden 15 Jun (MG), and several were at and around Chapultepec Primera Sección through Jun (HGdS). Many **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were singing at C.A. 5 Jun and at L.M. 3 Jul, e. of mapped breeding range. There were many records of **Blue Grosbeak**

from various parts of cen. Ver., from singing, territorial males to pairs feeding young, all outside mapped breeding range. A single male **Indigo Bunting** was seen 5 Jul singing and defending a territory, at Teocelo, possibly an escaped bird. Many individuals were seen during Jun and Jul above 1000 m, in localities such as L.E., El Mirador, Teocelo, Xalapa, all higher than elevations published for breeding birds. Several **Black-headed Siskins** were seen at E.E. (5 Jun) and Teocelo (5 Jul), e. of mapped range.

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



In Oaxaca, a wet summer followed the wet spring, said to be the normal pattern, though most recent years have been drier. Observations are from Oaxaca unless otherwise stated.

Abbreviations: E.C. (El Chilar, 5 km s. of Cuicatlán); M.A. (Monte Albán); S.F.P. (San Felipe Park, Oaxaca City).

Two male **Blue-winged Teal** were possibly summering or very early migrants in the large wetland on the s. side of Hwy 200 e. of La Ventosa 11 Jul (MDC). An imm. **White-faced Ibis** was reported 18 Jul at a pond near Ocotlán. An early or summering **Osprey** was at the Huitzo dam 30 Jul (TAC, MAP). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen soaring above San Miguel de Suchixtepec 3 Jul (MDC). Over-summering were up to 25 **Common Terns** 2–5 km off the coast of Puerto Angel 4 Jul (MDC). At least 2 **Sparkling-tailed Hummingbirds** were at M.A. 11–19 Jul. A pair of **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** was seen 1 Jul at Tomellín, the first reported for the Cañada. A **White-throated Flycatcher** on territory was at km 58 above Valle Nacional 14 Jul (MDC). A **Brown-capped Vireo** was at the upper Mirador of Hwy. 175 3 Jul (MDC). Ten **Barn Swallows** feeding over the large meadow se. of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 9 Jul were early migrants (MDC). An **American Dipper** was seen at the stream

crossing on the way up to La Guacamaya 3 Jul (MDC).

An ad. **Common Raven** was seen 2 Jul feeding a single imm. near E.C. A small flock of **Boucard's Wrens** was high at around 3000 m near Cuajimoloyas 18 Jun. Several **White-lored Gnatcatchers** were seen 1–2 Jul around E.C. An ad. **Dwarf Vireo** was seen attending nestlings 3 Jul near San Andres Huayapan. A pair of **Golden Vireos** was reported building a nest 15 Jun near the entrance to M.A. (JM, PR), and many were seen and heard around E.C. 1–2 Jul. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was seen 14 Jul near Yuvila (MDC); this is a month earlier than prior records for cen. Oax. (Forcey 2002) but within the dates of records from se. Ver (Wilson & Ceballos 1993) and elsewhere. At least one male **Hooded Yellowthroat** was seen singing vigorously near the entrance to S.F.P. 14–16 Jun, the first report of the species from this location and an unusually

low elevation at about 1750 m. Two pairs of **Yellow-winged Tanagers** were recorded 1–2 Jul near E.C. and Tomellín. A **Yellow Grosbeak** was seen 2 Jul near E.C., a first summer record from the Cañada. A pair of **Varied Buntings** seen 2 Jul near E.C. were the first summer record for the species from the Cañada. **Streak-backed Orioles** were very common around E.C. 1–2 Jul. A single female **Orchard Oriole** was near Puerto Arista, Chis. 10 Jul (MDC).

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA

Abbreviations: R.S.S. (Rancho San Salvador; R.L.B.R.); Coz. (Cozumel, Q. Roo); P.T. (Peten Tuchá, R.L.B.R.); S.F. (San Felipe); R.L. (Río Lagartos); J.B.P.M. (Jardín Botánico Puerto Morelos), R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.).

BOOBIES THROUGH WOOD-QUAIL

The observation of 3 subad. **Brown Boobies** 10 Jul on an offshore rock at s. end of Cozumel adds a new species to the island list (PL, SM). Immatures of this species are



HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH MUNIAS

A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird at R.S.S. 12 Jun was very late returning northward—or else was spending the summer in the area (SF). Belted Kingfishers, often early migrants, were reported twice: single females at Celestún 17 & 20 Jul (AD) and at R.L.B.R. 29 Jul (BM). Another new species for the R.L.B.R. was a single Northern Barred-Woodcreeper sighted in a forested area behind El Cuyo 26 Jun (SF). A single Piratic Flycatcher was seen at Carwash Cenote on the road to Cobá, Q. Roo 13 Jul (DM). This South American migrant is a rarity in the state of Yuc. but may be expected in the forests of Q. Roo. A late Eastern Kingbird moving northward was seen perched at San Felipe 11 Jun (SF). A difficult-to-find Thrush-like Schiffornis was located at Punta Maroma 9 Jun (BR). A Black-crowned Tityra was reported 14 Jul on Hwy. 307 in good forest between Felipe Carrillo Puerto and Limones, Q. Roo (DM). Purple Martin and Barn Swallow appear to be in constant migration over the peninsula. Three Purple Martins were perched on wires on the road between R.L. and S.F. 12 Jun (SF, BM), while 3 Barn Swallows flew over R.S.S. 11 Jun (BM); about 30 more (mostly juvs.) were on wires 10 km to the w. on 11 Jun (SF, BM), and 2 flew over the estuary at R.L.B.R. 29 Jul (BM).

A rare report of a Critically Endangered species, a Cozumel Thrasher was seen in flight across the road 10 Jul between the Occidental Cozumel Resort Hotel and the large pond about 2 km to the n. on the e. side of the road (PL, SM). On 9 Jul, Villanova University and the American Bird Conservancy announced that a team of field biologists, working in conjunction with the Mexican counterpart of the Island Endemics Institute, spotted a single Cozumel Thrasher in Jun (<<http://oikos.villanova.edu/cozumel/status.html>>). The most recent confirmed sighting of the species had been in 1998. A single Black Catbird was found at Celestún 9 Jun (DB).

Other early migrants this season included 2 Yellow-throated Warblers at Celestún 5 Jul in mangroves at the Visitors' Center (FC, LG, RL). Another was seen on Coz. 11 Jul (PL, SM). A male Black-and-white Warbler was at Celestún 21 Jul along with a male Prothonotary Warbler (FC, RL). An extremely late date was registered for 2 male Scarlet Tanagers at Hacienda San José Cholul, e. of Mérida, Yuc. 13 Jun (JA). A male Crimson-collared Tanager, possibly an escapee, was found 7 Jun at J.B.P.M. (BR); this is a species not previously recorded for the peninsula. Blue-gray Tanagers seem to be making a comeback in n. Yucatán. Three were reported in the park plaza at Celestún

known to wander after nesting on Banco Chinchorro and Arrecife Alacranes, showing up in coastal areas around the peninsula in low numbers. Seven American White Pelicans were reported at Celestún, Yuc. 9 Jun (DB), and 3 others were in the estuary there 22 Jul, one of which was missing a wing (BM, LG). This particular group had been reported there since Jun (LG). There is a record of one on the sandbar with flamingos 7 Jun 1979, when the species was known only as a transient through the peninsula. An ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron reported 11 Jul on Coz. along the beach at Occidental Cozumel Resort (PL, SM) adds yet another species to the island's list. To date, nesting of this species on the peninsula has only been confirmed in the Laguna de Términos area, Camp. Two subad. Jabirus were observed feeding with a flock of herons and egrets in a pond just s. of entrance to P.T. 11 Jun (BM). Sightings of this species in the area during the past year suggest that one pair is nesting successfully nearby. Five ad. and one juv. Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures flew low over road near entrance to P.T. 11 Jun (BM). The numbers of juvs. indicate that it nests in the area, along with Black and Turkey Vultures. Approx. 3000 Greater Flamingos were feeding at Uaymitún 29 Jul (BM). This year, 12,000 flamingo chicks hatched at R.L.B.R., after two years of no reproduction due to high tides and the intrusion of a jaguar. There is also evidence that many flamingos crossed over from the Zapata peninsula, Cuba to nest as a result of extreme drought conditions there.

Five resident Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen flushing from a pond at R.S.S. 11 Jun (BM). A single ad. Crane Hawk was observed being harassed by Yucatán Woodpeckers and Yucatán Jays 16 Jul along paved highway about midway between Xcalak and Mahahual, Q. Roo (DM). Two pairs of Common Black-Hawks, one with a juv., were observed in R.L.B.R. 29 Jul (BM). One Great Black-Hawk was perched on a snag at Rancho Xpanatoro, 4 km s. of entrance to San Felipe, Yuc. 11 Jun (BM), and a pair was similarly perched at R.S.S. 12 Jun (BM). A single Zone-tailed Hawk with very worn tail feathers was observed at Ce-

lestún 20 Jul (AD), and a Merlin was reported there on 9 Jun (DB), quite an unusual date. A covey of 3-4 Spotted Wood-Quail was seen on a rural road running through undisturbed forest near Laguna Bacalar, Q. Roo 18 Jul (DM).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

Ten Wilson's and 4 juv. Semipalmated Plovers were on a sandbar in the estuary at R.L.B.R. 29 Jul. They were all considered to be migrants, as resident Wilson's Plovers are usually found in small family units. Later the same day, a total of 30 Wilson's, combined with Semipalmated Plovers, were at Uaymitún (BM). Interestingly, 12 Semipalmateds were reported as early as 17 Jul at various spots along the beach between Xcalak and Mahahual, Q. Roo (DM). A Killdeer observed in a roadside field at R.S.S. 11 Jun (BM) was from the small local population that nests in the area. A Greater Yellowlegs near P.T. 11 Jun (BM) and another near Celestún 21 Jul (BM) were apparently overwintering in the area, while the Willet in R.L.B.R. 29 Jul (BM) and 2 others at Uaymitún 29 Jul (BM) were migrants from the north. One of the earliest shorebird arrivals each year is Spotted Sandpiper, of which 3 were still in breeding plumage at Celestún 17-20 Jul (AD). Ruddy Turnstone is another species that summers in the Region, but the 6 at Uaymitún 29 Jul, in transitional plumage, may well have been returning migrants (BM). Some 50 Least Sandpipers in R.L.B.R. estuary 29 Jul and 20 at Uaymitún 29 Jul were clearly returning migrants (BM).

Two days after a heavy storm hit the central Q. Roo coast, a probable Pomarine Jaeger was seen over the beach at Maroma, Q. Roo 12 Jun (BR). A single Forster's Tern was reported at Celestún 9 Jun (DB), and 4 Least Terns were observed in Uaymitún 29 Jul (BM). Two pairs were reported on the beach at Punta Maroma 7 Jun; one had 2 chicks in a nest (BR). Several appeared to be nesting 8 Jul at the s. end of Coz., while 5 Bridled Terns and 15 Brown Noddies were both at rest and flying around on the offshore rock nearby 10 Jul (PL, SM).