

Mexico

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Xola 314-E

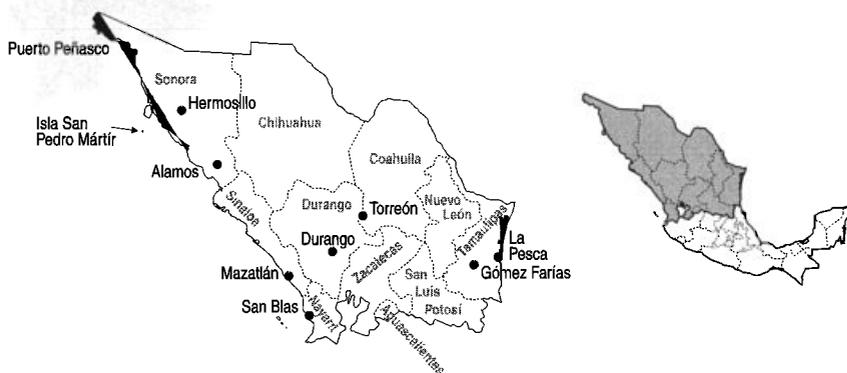
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Mexico

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An unusually cold winter blanketed most of Mexico, with, for example, Mexico City cooler than Denver, Colorado, on some days in January.

NORTHERN MEXICO



Carmody noted that the region around Mazatlán, Sinaloa was particularly wet in mid-February, and Elegant Quail and Flamulated Flycatchers were vocal earlier in the year than usual. Howe reports that there was much flooding in n. Chihuahua near Janos in early January; added to the unusually high rainfall from the autumn, the wet conditions produced very lush grasses and a notably large numbers of sparrows.

LOONS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Three Common Loons were inland on Presa San Francisco nw. of Ciudad Victoria, Tamps. 3 Dec (MDC). Four imm. Northern Gannets were seen from Boca Chica, Tamps. 17 Feb (MJJ). A Boat-billed Heron was in Laguna El Quelele, Nay. 9 Jan (BM). At least 3 blue-morph Ross's Geese were among about 1200 white morphs at Laguna Fierro on the e. side of Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chih. 31 Dec (vt. BH, DK, DM), one of which may have been a Ross's Goose x Snow Goose hybrid. A pair of Mexican Ducks was at Puerto Peñasco, Son. 29 Jan, the male showing

some Mallard features (MDC). Eight Mexican Ducks were in irrigation canals near Villa Juárez, Son. 9 Dec (KG, KM); though they are not mapped for western Son. or Sin. by Howell & Webb (1995) or Russell & Monson (1998), these same observers have seen them regularly s. of Ciudad Obregón and Navojoa, Son. A first-winter Surf Scoter was at San Francisco, Nay. 9 & 20 Jan (ph. MG, IA, ph. RT, CG).

An ad. Golden Eagle was seen soaring above the cliffs 3 km w. of El Palmito, Sin. 14 Feb (MDC). Two Ospreys were on Cañón de Fernández, Dgo. 6 Feb on the Nazas R. (AVJ, WB, FVP). An ad. Harris's Hawk was at the sewage lagoon at Puerto Peñasco 29 Jan (MDC), where mapped by

Russell & Monson (1998) but not by Howell & Webb (1995). A pair of Collared-Forest Falcons was 17 km w. of Linares, N.L. 3 Dec (MDC). A covey of Singing Quails was at a higher-elevation coffee finca on Cerro San Juan, Nay. 17 Feb (MDC). A group of 79–85 Sandhill Cranes were seen feeding on short grass near Tanque Aquilereño, a shallow dam on the Aguanaval R. in sw. Coah. 12 & 30 Dec (AVJ, FVP, WB). Three Black Turnstones were at Emerald Bay, Mazatlán, Sin. 12 Feb (MDC, ph.). Three Piping Plovers were seen at Ciénega de Santa Clara, Son. in the Colorado R. delta 19 Dec (OHH), and one was at La Pesca, Tamps. 31 Dec (MAP). Six Wilson's Phalaropes were at Yávaros, Son. 11 Dec (KG, KM), where they are usually considered transients. Three Red Phalaropes, new for Chih. and unusual in interior Mexico in winter, were seen in Laguna Fierro 5 Jan (AJ, CR). An ad. Western Gull was at the mouth of the harbor at Puerto Peñasco 30 Jan (MDC), and a juv. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at the Puerto Peñasco dump 19

Dec (DS, WR). A first-winter Great Black-backed Gull that had been reported since 20 Jan at the beach at Boca Chica, Texas was seen 20 Feb flying across the mouth of the Río Grande/Río Bravo to the Mexican side (DJ).

An Inca Dove was at Puerto Peñasco 29 Jan (MDC), a female Ruddy Ground-Dove was at Colonia Juárez, sw. of Casas Grandes, Chih. 31 Dec (DM, vt. BH, DK), and a Common Ground-Dove was at Casa de Janos, Chih. 2 Jan (BH). Two Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Miguel Alemán between Hermosillo and Bahía Kino, Son. 7–8 Dec (KG, KM), and a total of 101 was counted on the Ejido San Pedro, Chih. C.B.C., most of them in Ejido San Pedro itself 3 Jan (fide BH)—a surprising number, considering that the first record for that relatively well-birded area was Jan 2003. Records of this species from Tamps. include one 2 km n. of Aldama, one 25 km s. of Soto La Marina 31 Dec, 10 at km 92 of Hwy 97 (MAP), and one around the Coah./N.L. border in a small settlement around 24 km w. of San Rafael, N.L. 21 Feb (WE). In Dec, biologists from the Tecnológico de Monterrey made a record count of 3100–3500 Maroon-fronted Parrots on their main wintering ground near the border of N.L. and Tamps. (fide EE). Ten Lesser Nighthawks in Bahía Kino 7 Dec and 5+ between Miguel Alemán and Hermosillo 17 Dec (KG, KM) were nw. of their mapped winter range.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

An imm. male *Selasphorus* believed to be Rufous Hummingbird was defending a stand of tree tobacco near the Highrise parrot cliffs, N.L. 1 Dec (MDC). Two Olivaceous Woodcreepers were seen in an upper-elevation coffee finca on Cerro San Juan 17 Feb (MDC). Most unexpected was a White-striped Woodcreeper in cottonwood riparian woodland on the Río San Pedro at the upstream end of La Presa, Chih. (DK, vt. BH, ph. S&NC, AJ, CR, K&LG, AR, DM, RM)—not far from the United States border. One to 2 Eastern Phoebes were at the same location as the White-striped Woodcreeper 1 & 2 Jan (BH et al.). A Say's Phoebe was found again in the large field at Rancho La Noria, Nay. 17 Feb (MDC). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were n. of their usual winter range near Soto la Marina, Tamps. 3 Dec (MDC). On the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 3 Jan, a drop in Chihuahuan Ravens of about 90% compared to previous winters years led to speculations about the effects of West Nile virus there (BH et al.). A Bridled Titmouse was in a mixed flock 19 Feb in La Estanzuela, Monterrey, N.L. (CH, CE, CWR, DP), slightly n. of the range mapped by Howell & Webb (1995). Three Mexican Chickadees were in a riparian woodland at La Presa, Chih. 1 & 2 Jan, a habitat in which they are apparently regular in winter here (BH et al.).



This blue-morph Ross's Geese is one of three that showed up among an estimated 1200 Ross's Geese at Laguna Fierro, Chihuahua, Mexico 31 December 2004. Photograph from videotape by Bill Howe.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was heard at Chamizal Park, Ciudad Juárez, Chih. 1 Jan (JZ, MS), not surprising in light of the continent-wide irruption of the species in fall 2004. Compared to most winters, this season saw few thrushes in Sin. along the Durango Hwy. and in Nay. on Cerro San Juan (MDC). Single Yellow-throated Warblers were seen at Copala, Sin. 5 (JF) & 15 Feb (ph. MDC). A male or bright female Pine Warbler was in a Tamps. park across the border from Anzalduas County Park, Texas 26 Dec (MAP). A male Pine Warbler was seen 30 Jan in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, Torreón, Coah. 20 m from the site of a 5 Jan 2003 sighting (WB). Groups of 3 and 4 Black-chinned Sparrows were seen 13 Feb in the Cañón del Sarnoso, Dgo., 40 km nw. of Torreón (AVJ, WB, FVP), just the 2nd sighting in this location; the previous sighting was of one 5 Feb 1999 (FVP). Four Baird's Sparrows and at least 7 Sprague's Pipits were in the ungrazed fenced grasslands at Tanque de Emergenica, Coah. 30 Nov (MDC). Three Clay-colored Sparrows were among Chipping Sparrows in oak woodlands at La Presa 1 & 3 Jan (BH, DK, S&NC). A Field Sparrow was seen in mesquite grassland on the Ejido San Pedro C.B.C. 3 Jan (N&SC). A Rufous-capped Brush-Finch was near Yécora, Son. in early Jan (K&CR). An ad. male Eastern Towhee near the e. end of El Pinal valley, N.L. 20 Feb (KW) may represent the first record for Mexico, although not an unexpected record, given its status in se. Texas. An Indigo Bunting was at Río Matape about 74 km e. of Hermosillo, Son. in early Jan (K&CR). Around 40 Dickcissels were near Villa Unión, Sin. 5 Feb (KR, JF, SK). A single Red Crossbill was heard flying over Casa de Janos 2 & 3 Jan (BH, DK).

Addenda: A Northern Goshawk was at Paraíso del Oso, Chih. 18 Mar 2004 (MJI). At least one Eurasian Collared-Dove was at a small farm 16 km w. of Chihuahua City, Chih. 21 Mar 2004 (MJI). A Gray-crowned Woodpecker was inland at Paraíso del Oso 19 Mar 2004 (MJI). Nine European Starlings were at Culiacán, Sin. 20 Jan 2004 (MDC).

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CENTRAL MEXICO



Three ad. Blue-footed Boobies were at Barra de Navidad, Jal. 25 Feb (MDC). A Pinnated Bittern was in a pond on Las Barrancas road, Ver., where 3 had been 28 Nov (HGdS). One Cattle Egret flew over Cuicuilco, D.F. 20 Dec (HGdS, AOI, LASG). An imm. Roseate Spoonbill was inland at Magdalena, Jal. 21 Feb (MDC). Inland were 27 Wood Storks at Laguna de Sayula, Jal. 21 Feb (MDC). A Bufflehead was seen in Parque Ecológico Xochimilco, D.F. 20 Dec (RW). A Snail Kite was near Manzanillo airport, Col. 15 Feb (HGdS). An ad. Crane Hawk was at Barranca el Choncho, Jal. 14 Feb (HGdS). Three dark-morph Red-tailed Hawks were near Melaque, Jal. 14 Feb (HGdS). A juv. Broad-winged Hawk was near the Instituto de Ecología, UNAM, D.F. 16 Jan and 4 Feb (HGdS).

An imm. Purple Gallinule was at Colotitlán, Jal. 13 Feb (HGdS). Four Semipalmated Plovers were seen in Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 20 Dec (RW). A Franklin's Gull, rare in Mexico in winter, was among Laughing Gulls at the mouth of Río Ameca at the Jal./Nay. border 14 Jan (BPG, MJI). A flock of 200–300 Maroon-fronted Parrots was seen 28 Dec flying high overhead near El Lobo, Landa de Matamoros, and a group of 16 was seen 8 Jan feeding on cones of *Pinus greggi*

at Puerto de Malpais, a few km w. of the previous sighting at 1720 m above sea level (RP); both records are from the e. portion of Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Qro. A group of 26 Military Macaws were seen flying over Rancho Nuevo, Jalpan de Serra, Qro. 19 Feb (RP) and were said by local inhabitants to have shown up recently in numbers to feed on the fruit of the introduced *Melia azedarach*. A Lesser Roadrunner was about one km e. of Parres, D.F. 6 Feb (KR, JF, SK, RS, HGdS, AOI). A Common Pauraque was heard in a rural area just s. of Cuernavaca at Atlacholoaya, Mor. 31 Jan (CL, BF). Small groups of 8–10 White-collared Swifts were seen on several occasions mid-Jan–early Mar at Yelapa, Jal. (AD). Two Bumblebee Hummingbirds were at the top of the hill at

La Cima, D.F. 20 Dec (HGdS, AOI, LASG). Probably the first record for D.F., a male Gray-breasted Woodpecker was seen in an area with prickly-pear cactus in Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 20 Dec (RW). Two Streak-headed Woodcreepers were heard at Barranca del Agua, Col. 18 Feb (HGdS). Two Common Ravens were seen flying over Coyoacán, D.F. 5 Feb (LASG). A singing Bell's Vireo was at Playa de Oro, Col. 16 Feb (HGdS). A Blue-headed Vireo was n. of Comala, Col. 23 Feb (MDC). One Canyon Wren at 3000 m at La Cima 20 Dec was at high elevation (HGdS, AOI, LASG); also at high elevation was a Happy Wren heard at km 16 of the road up Volcán de Fuego, Jal. 17 Feb (HGdS). Few thrushes were noted this winter on the Volcán de Nieve, Jal. rela-



This first-winter Surf Scoter at San Francisco, Nayarit, Mexico 9 January 2005 is apparently the southernmost ever recorded. Probably the same individual was independently recorded in the same location on 20 January. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.

tive to most years (MDC). Five Eastern Bluebirds were at San Nicolás Totolapan, D.F. 20 Dec (AM). A White-throated Robin was on Playa de Oro road 15 Feb (HGdS). A Northern Mockingbird was unexpected at Cuicuilco 20 Dec (HGdS, AOI, LASG). Two European Starlings were near Parres, D.F. 20 Dec (HGdS, AOI, LASG), and 6 were in Toluca, Méx. 6 Jan (HGdS).

Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were seen twice in early Jan and once 10 Mar at Yelapa (AD). Some of Jal.'s first records of **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were of one on the Báscula Rd. 11 Jan, one at Rancho Primavera 12 Jan and 2 there 21 Jan (BPG, MJI), and one on the Ciénega de Ojuelos Rd 14 Jan (BPG, MJI)—all of these localities are near El Tuito. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Rancho Primavera, Jal. 11 Jan, and a **Tennessee Warbler** was there 15 Jan (BPG, MJI). An ad. Tennessee Warbler was near treeline on Volcán de Nieve, Jal. 22 Feb (MDC). An ad. male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in a shady ravine n. of Comala 23 Feb (MDC). A Northern Waterthrush was seen in Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 20 Dec (RW). Two Varied Buntings were at Cuicuilco 20 Dec (HGdS, AOI, LASG). At least 30 Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters were on the road to Manzanillo airport 15 Feb (HGdS).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO

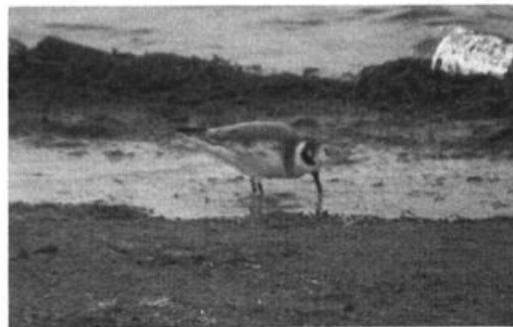


GREBES THROUGH BECARDS

Four Pied-billed Grebes were seen near Miahuatlán 14 Jan. Four Blue-footed Boobies were near Santiago Astata 9 Dec (HGdS). Inland were one juv. **Magnificent Frigatebird** flying high over Tullijá, Chis. 14 Dec (HGdS) and one Wood Stork flying with a flock of vultures at Río Hondo, between Oaxaca City and Tehuantepec and around 40 km e. of El Camaron 7 Feb (BF et al.). The **Mexican Duck** seen in recent years at Piedra Azul Dam near Teotitlán del Valle was seen again 25 Dec–24 Jan (RH, MEC et al.). A drake

Green-winged Teal at the same reservoir was a rarity there 24 Jan–23 Feb (MEC, CB, ESB et al.). An Osprey was about 6.5 km w of Zaachila on a utility pole in valley agricultural habitat 2 Feb. A female Hook-billed Kite at the Yagul ruins 3 Jan was most out of place (MEC et al.). A Crane Hawk was seen 28 Dec on Mazín Chico road outside Camelia Roja (RH). Zone-tailed Hawks were seen 4 Dec at San Mateo Cajonos, 12 & 14 Dec at San José del Pacifico and 28 Dec at San Sebastian Etlá. A **Solitary Eagle** was sighted 29 Dec about km 72 above Valle Nacional (RH; 1350 m), the first report for this area in some years. An ad. Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle was above Valle Nacional 22 Jan (MG). A Merlin was at Piedra Azul Dam 7 Dec (HGdS).

Two flocks of West Mexican Chachalacas



This Red Phalarope is one of three that showed up at Laguna Fierro, northern Chihuahua, Mexico 5 January 2005. This species had never been recorded in Chihuahua before and is known in the interior of Mexico from very few winter records. Photograph by Andy Johnson.

were heard near El Estudiante 7 Dec (HGdS). A Common Moorhen was recorded near Miahuatlán 14 Jan. Three Laughing Gulls were at a reservoir near Miahuatlán 14 Jan. A **Caspian Tern** was seen 14 Jan near Miahuatlán, apparently a first record for the cen. valleys of Oax. Among hundreds of

Laughing Gulls and various tern species, a single Gull-billed Tern was seen 12 Jan at Barra de Navidad. At least 5 **Sandwich Terns** were at Salinas del Marquez 9 Dec (HGdS). Two Yellow-headed Parrots were seen near Zipolite 23 Jan (MF, KB). A Flammulated Owl, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, and a *sartorii* **Barred Owl** were recorded 25 Dec on Cerro San Felipe (RH et al.); the latter was also heard by M. Edwards Crewe here, at the s. end of the species' range, in 2003. A feeding flock of 40+ Lesser Nighthawks was seen in the evening of 28 Dec between Tuxtepec

and the Cerro de Oro reservoir (RH). Six Vaux's Swifts were flying over Monte Albán ruins 23 Dec (RH), and at least 3 were seen here 21 Feb (CB, ESB et al.). Two Bumblebee Hummingbirds were seen in fairly dry pine-oak forest at San José del Pacifico 12 Dec, and the species was reported as common in the La Cumbre/Cerro San Felipe area 22 Dec (RH) but not found there after Jan. Five Rufous Hummingbirds were at San José del Pacifico 12 Dec. A probable male Broad-billed Hummingbird was seen in Oaxaca City 15 Jan (MF, KB), and a Green-fronted Hummingbird was below El Estudiante 25 Feb (CB, ESB).

A Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser was seen 29 Dec at about km 58 above Valle Nacional (RH, 670 m). A **Strong-billed Woodcreeper** was voice-recorded 24 Dec near La Cumbre, Cerro San Felipe (RH); the species is observed every few years there but appears to be rare in the Sierra de Aloapaneca. Of the 23 or so named subspecies, three (*omiltemensis*, *sclateri*, and *emigrans*) are known from s. Mexico; the Oax. birds are *sclateri*, which apparently do not respond to recordings of allopatric *emigrans* of Chiapas, for instance (*vide* ESB). Four Social Flycatchers above Teotitlán 2 Jan were noteworthy (MEC et al.). One or 2 Pileated Flycatchers were seen at Monte Alban 23 Dec–21 Feb (RH, MEC, CB, ESB et al.), and one was noted 30 Dec at

about km 70 of the Oaxaca–Tehuantepec highway above Totolapan (RH; 1335 m). A Greenish Elaenia was seen at La Cumbre 22 Dec. Hammond's Flycatchers were recorded at low elevations (670–1350 m) 27 Dec at about km 58 and 72 above Valle Nacional (RH); the species was especially numerous around La Cumbre in late Feb (CB, ESB). At least 5 Buff-breasted Flycatchers were recorded 24 Feb at Cuatro Venados. One **White-throated Flycatcher** was near Valle Nacional 22 Dec (MG). A **Cinnamon Becard** was reported near Camelia Roja 23 Dec (MG); this species is not mapped in nw. Oaxaca by Howell & Webb (1995), but there is a specimen from this part of the state (Miller et al. 1957). Several Rose-throated Becards were present around La Cumbre 22 Dec–25 Feb, as is usual here.

VIREOS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

A **White-eyed Vireo** was near Yagul 21 Dec (MG), and a Philadelphia Vireo accompanied a foraging flock below El Estudiante 1 Jan (MEC et al.). A high-flying swarm of 1000+ swallows near Ocosingo, Chis. were probably Tree Swallows, which have been found to form winter swarms in this region in some years (HGdS). A **Happy Wren** heard and glimpsed below El Estudiante 7 Dec

(HGdS) was only the 3rd recorded in the cen. valleys of Oax, though the species occurs just over the continental divide from La Cumbre, e.g., at Gueletao de Juarez. A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Cerro San Felipe 3 Feb (BF et al.) added to the very few records from this site and the state. A Bushtit was seen completing an unusually early nest 24 Feb at Cuatro Venados. Eastern Bluebirds were seen 9 Dec at Cuajimoloyas and 24 Feb at Cuatro Venados. Swainson's Thrushes were recorded 22 Dec at La Cumbre and 29 Dec at about km 58 above Valle Nacional, and a Veery was in a mixed flock of thrushes, warblers, and becardas at La Soledad in the Sierra de Miahuatlán 4 Jan (MEC et al.). An Aztec Thrush was found eating apples at an orchard in Las Guacamayas, above Etila 20 Dec (MG), and a group of around 10 was in humid oak-conifer forest above Filo de Caballo, Gro. 15 Jan (JF et al.) A Black Thrush sang steadily on the road to Yuvila, e. of La Cumbre, 25 Feb (CB, ESB et al.). A possible Black Catbird was glimpsed near La Libertad, Chis. 16 Dec (HGdS).

Cedar Waxwing's pattern of appearance (every other winter) in cen. Oaxaca continued this year, with the first records of large flocks coming 9 Dec at high-elevation locations of Llano Grande and Cuajimoloyas. Three Lucy's Warblers were near Tehuantepec 24 Dec (MG). An imm. Prothonotary Warbler was in mangroves at Parque Ecológico Aztlán in Ixtapa, Gro. 17 Jan (RS, DCR), and a female was in mangroves at Playa Ventanilla 22 Jan (KB, MF). A Magnolia Warbler was near sea level 13 Jan at Laguna Mazunte. A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was at the Oaxaca botanical garden 19 Dec. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Laguna Mazunte on 13 Jan was quite low, and an *albilora* Yellow-throated was seen 22 Dec at El Tequio Park in Oaxaca City—just the 2nd record for this species in the Oaxaca cen. valleys (ph. RH). A single Tennessee Warbler at San José del Pacífico 12 Dec was very high. A Louisiana Waterthrush, certainly a migrant, stopped in at Piedra Azul reservoir 20 Feb (CB, ESB et al.). Hooded Yellowthroat was seen 9 Dec at Cuajimoloyas, and another was found again below El Estudiante, apparently on territory 25 Feb (CB, ESB et al.).

Common Bush-Tanagers were seen in relatively dry pine-oak forest at San José del Pacífico 12 Feb; one recorded 22 Dec below El Estudiante (MG) was far out of its normal habitat and range, whereas 2 Red-headed Tanagers there were scarce residents, seen 25 Jan (MEC et al.) and 24 Feb (CB, ESB et al.). About 20 Red-legged Honeycreepers were seen 13 Jan at Finca El Pacífico. About 35 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported 20 Dec on the road from San Gabriel Etila to Guacamayas. Two Blue-gray Tanagers at El Camarón between Oaxaca and Tehuantepec

8 Dec were a surprise (HGdS). A hyperxanthic Chipping Sparrow was at Monte Albán 6 Feb (BF, V&KB). About 15 Striped Sparrows (mostly paired, with some possible courtship behavior, including begging) were recorded 24 Feb at Cuatro Venados. Four Oaxaca Sparrows near Puente de Fierro 27 Dec confirms sympatry with Rusty Sparrow



in this location (RH). Oaxaca Sparrows were "abundant" (or at least very conspicuous) around Teotitlán del Valle and other traditional locations this winter, with daily counts as high as 24 birds (MEC, CB, ESB et al.). Some 11 Grasshopper Sparrows were seen 22 Dec at El Tequio park, and another 6 were seen 30 Dec below the Yagul Ruins. At least 6 Grasshopper Sparrows were at Oaxaca airport 26 Dec (MG). Single Song Sparrows were found at Monte Alban 31 Dec and at Piedra Azul reservoir 2 Jan (MEC et al.); the species is hardly known in the Oax. central valleys.

Black-vented Orioles and a Hooded Oriole at San José del Pacífico 12 Jan were unusually high. Two Streak-backed Oriole pairs were recorded 30 Dec–3 Jan below Yagul ruins (MEC, RH et al.). A Black-backed Oriole was recorded 27 Dec between Guacamayas and Zoquiapan. About 6 Scott's Orioles were at Cuajimoloyas 9 Dec. A Melodious Blackbird was w. of Tehuantepec 9 Dec (HGdS) and 9 Feb (RC), one was s. of Tehuantepec 10 Dec (HGdS), 2 were at an RV park at the n. edge of Tehuantepec 10 Feb (BF), and 2 were in Puerto Ángel 24 Dec (MG). A Scrub Euphonia was heard at El Camarón 8 Dec (HGdS). Thirteen *stricklandi* Red Crossbills were gathering nesting material and singing vigorously at La Cumbre 22 Feb (CB, ESB et al.).

Addendum: Unexpected was a juv. Bald Eagle seen in Chis. 13 km n. of Puerto Arista on the road to Paredón 12 Jan 2004 (MDC, ZS, JT).

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA

Records of the three merganser species in one season was unprecedented. The second occurrence of Short-eared Owl and a new species for the Yucatán Peninsula, White-winged Tanager, were major news items of the season. In addition, seven new species were recorded for Cozumel, and a second sighting of Yellow Palm Warbler was reported.

Abbreviations: Ecotucán (Villas Ecotucán, southern Q. Roo); Coz. (Isla Cozumel, Q. Roo); P.M. (Puerto Morelos, Q. Roo); P.T. (Peten Tuhá in Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.); R. L. (Río Lagartos).

GREBES THROUGH FALCONS

A high count of 22 Pied-billed Grebes was made at a large pond between Muná and Umán 20 Jan (AD). A Pinnated Bittern was seen at Cobá in Dec (DB), and Least Bittern was reported in the Celestún area 20 Jan (AD) and in Feb (DB). Another was seen at Palancar Beach, Coz. 1 Jan (PB, LB, JM). Surprisingly, 100 Reddish Egrets were totaled during the day in the Celestún area 12 Feb (AD), the largest congregation of this species reported on the peninsula. Several reports of Glossy Ibis, a regular but uncommon winter visitor in the subregion, were submitted: 2 flying eastward over the hwy. near P.M. 29 Jan (KH), one across from the cemetery on the outskirts of R.L. 28 Dec (RM), and a few there 28 Feb (BW, CW). Among them were 3 ad. White-faced Ibis 19 Jan (MC, SC, AF, ph. DF) and one 9 Feb (AM, JM, MT). A record of the latter species in the same location last Aug was the first record for the Yucatan Peninsula. Sightings of Jabiru are always exciting, and at least 2 ads. and one juv. were at rice fields s. of San Hipolito, Camp. 16 Jan (MC, SC).

Three American Wigeons were photographed at pond near the entrance to P.T.

24 Jan (PB, LB, AM, JM). A high of 60 Blue-winged Teal was counted at a small pond near Chacchoben, s. Q. Roo 5 & 14 Feb (BS). An uncommon winter visitor to the subregion, a Ring-necked Duck was seen in the area of P.M. 22 Dec (JF, JG, NH, NJ). A **Hooded Merganser** was reported on Coz. 30 Jan (KH), and a flock of 30 **Common Mergansers**, extremely uncommon migrants in the Region, were bathing and feeding in the Ría de Chelem 2 Feb (BM, MT). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported on Isla Holbox, Q. Roo 17 Dec (TvS), and one was in a pond on the se. coast of Coz. 10 (RC, JM, AM, AMcG, JM) & 26 Jan (PB, LB, AM, JM)—a new record for the island. A **Masked Duck** was sighted at Palancar Beach area on Coz. 4 Jan (NH).

Also on Coz., a tape recording of **Great Curassow** produced a vocal response 8 Jan in heavy forest e. of El Cedral (RTC, JM, AM, JM). Two **Ocellated Turkeys** were on the entrance road to Hacienda Tikuch, 10 km n. of Izamal, Yuc. 30 Jan (BM, DW). A **King Vulture** was seen flying over the R.L. garbage dump 8 Dec (IN). **Non-breeding Greater Flamingos** are often found at Celestún—but rarely as many as the 28,000 reported there 2 Feb (AD). The resident *ridgwayi* **Osprey** nests in winter in the subregion; 2 chicks were in a nest on Isla Holbox 17 Dec (DB, BM). A dark **Hook-billed Kite** was seen flying across the hwy. at the n. end of Laguna Bacalar 19 Jan (JC, KH). An ad. **Black-collared Hawk** was at the large waterhole one km e. of the staff housing at Calakmul 14 Jan (MC, SC); and a single **Crane Hawk**, formerly quite common in Q. Roo, was sighted at Ecotucán 20 Feb (BS). A pair of **Great Black-Hawks** was seen at Rancho San Salvador in Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve 28 Dec (AM, BM, RM, MT), while a dark-morph **Red-tailed Hawk**, uncommon in Q. Roo, was seen flying over Rancho Santa María, Q. Roo 15 Dec (PW). An ad. **Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** was at the Mamantel R. crossing 16 Jan (MC, SC), and an ad. **Black Hawk-Eagle** was seen at Rancho Santa María 19 Jan (AM, JM). A **Peregrine Falcon** was sighted in Celestún 15 Feb (RL).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Five **Rufous-necked Wood-Rails** were easily viewed feeding around mangrove roots a few km e. of Celestún bridge 30 Dec (AM, BM, RM, MT). It seemed that shorebirds were congregating somewhat early this year in preparation for their migration northward, as noted at Chelem, where 20 **Black-bellied Plovers** were feeding in the mudflats 2 Feb (BM, MT; usually no more than 3 are seen together during the winter). A **Piping Plover** was among other plovers on the outer beach at Isla Holbox 17 Dec (DB, BM); the species is almost annual here. A high number of

Northern Jacanas—75 (60% juvs.)—were counted on a small lake near Chacchoben village 14 Feb (BS). A **Whimbrel**, not very common in the subregion, was feeding in the flats of the Ría Chelem 14 Mar (LG, BM). That same morning, flocks of 20 and 15 **Long-billed Curlews** were seen heading northwestward along the coast at Chelem (LG, BM). Four **Marbled Godwits** were on the sandbar upstream from the bridge at R.L. 24 Feb (BM, DN). A flock of 100 **Least Sandpipers** was seen at Celestún 2 Feb (AD), and a few **Dunlin** were at salt flats in R.L. area 28 Feb, with a few **Stilt Sandpipers** (BW, CW). On the same day, 2 **Long-billed Dowitchers** were reported feeding at an inland pond a few km s. of the coast of R.L. (BW, CW). Nearby that day were several **Wilson's Phalaropes** and 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes**,



This female **Ruddy Ground-Dove** found at Colonia Juárez on 31 December 2004 may represent the first photographic record for Chihuahua, though its appearance in this state is not too surprising in view of the increasing number of records in all of the southwestern United States in recent years. Photograph by Bill Howe.

thought to be a vagrant to the subregion (BW, CW). Four nonbreeding **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in salt ponds at Celestún 20 Feb (AM, JM).

A **Pomarine Jaeger** was seen over the estuary at Celestún 2 Feb (AD), while a **Franklin's Gull** in breeding plumage was at Chelem 28 Feb (RL, BM). A rare **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported over the coast at R.L. 16 Jan (DN). **Herring Gull** is expected each year but may be on the increase. One with a band was noted 17 Dec at Isla Holbox (DB, BM); one ad. and one second-winter bird were at Chelem 1 Feb (BM); one first-winter bird was at R.L. 24 Feb (BM, DN); and possibly the same individual was at Las Coloradas 28 Feb (BW, CW). Definitely present in above-normal numbers this season was **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one winter ad. and one first-winter bird on the beach at Isla Holbox 17 Dec (DB, BM); 6 ads. at Chelem 1 Feb (BM); 2 ads. at Churburná 4 Feb (AM, JM); 10 ads. plus one third-year bird at Las Coloradas salt ponds 8 Feb (AM, JM; MT); and 4 ads. at Chelem 14 Mar (BM). A **Kelp Gull** was at R.L. 24 Feb (BM, DN). Although **Forster's Tern** is expected in winter in the Region, it is not common and should be re-

ported. An ad. in breeding plumage and another in almost full breeding plumage were present at R.L. 24 Feb, as were 50 **Black Skimmers** (BM, DN). The tremendous variation in numbers of **Black Skimmers** during fall and spring migration periods indicates that this species participates in local migrations within the Region.

DOVES THROUGH ORIOLES

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was reported from Celestún 24 Dec (JC, NH), and what appeared to be a **Ringed Turtle-Dove** was in the main square of San Miguel, Coz. 7 Jan (RTC, JM, AM, AMcG, JM). Another case of possible escapees, or misidentification, were two pairs of **White-crowned Parrots** reported flying around Celestún 26 Feb (RL). An unusual but not impossible sighting was of a single **Smooth-billed Ani** with 2 **Groove-billed Anis** in Xcalak 3 Feb (GL). An undocumented report of **Central American Pygmy-Owl**, this one from Calakmul 9–12 Jan (BB, JS), is worth mentioning in case others have the opportunity to tape-record its call. **Black-and-white Owl** is rarely reported in the subregion; 2 juvs. were seen at Kohunlich 19 Feb (BS). A **Short-eared Owl** at Las Coloradas salt flats seen at a 150-m distance represented another new and unusual record for the subregion (AM, JM; MT); the only other record is of one reportedly shot by R. Dickerson in sw. Camp. 16 Nov 1963 (Allan R. Phillips, pers. comm. to BM).

This winter season produced several new records for Coz., including a **Cinnamon Hummingbird** in San Miguel in the courtyard of the Hotel Marrauang 3 Jan (JF, JG, NH). The only other previous "record" was a doubtful **Gaumer** specimen and a mention by E.P. Edwards in a popular article. **Ringed Kingfisher** is very local in Yucatán and Q. Roo; 4 were seen at the small pond near Chacchoben 5 Feb (BS), and one was at Cobá in Feb (DB). A **Collared Araçari** was reported on Coz 30 Jan, either a very good record or perhaps an escapee. A **Northern Barred-Woodcreeper** was located 10 km sse. of El Cuyo 11 Feb, where it has previously been reported (AM, JM, MT). **Black-faced Anthrush** is more readily found in the s. part of the peninsula, so one seen at Central Vallarta, 15 km w. of Puerto Morelos, 24 Jan, along with a **Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher** (MV), is noteworthy.

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was seen at Celestún 15 Dec, very late for this transient (AD). Another new species for Coz. was an **Eastern Phoebe** at the Hotel Presidente 3 Jan (JF, NH); one was at El Cuyo 10 Feb (AM, JM). **Great Kiskadee** was first reported on Coz. in fall 2003, and this year there were several reports, including one in the same location near the small pond at the entrance to the Cozumel Golf Club 7 Jan (MC, SC), one there and another at a small cenote near

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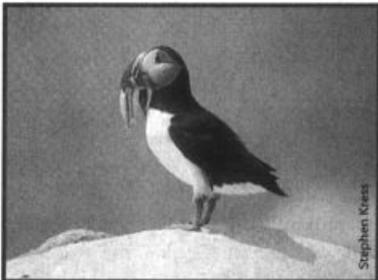
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YUCATAN PENINSULA

shore near Bella Caribe 11 Jan (RC, RLC, AM, AmcG, JM), and one near the lighthouse 31 Jan (KJ). Rose-throated Becard continues to thrive on Coz., where one was photographed in Oct (RC); other singles were recorded in the Hotel Presidente garden 3 Jan (JF, NH, NJ), at San Gervasio ruins 12 Jan (BiB, NB; JM), and nearby 26 Jan (PB, LB, AM, JM). A pair of Gray-collared Becards at P.T. 28 Dec was a new species for the R.L. biosphere reserve (JE, BM, RM, MT). A male Masked Tityra was seen at San Gervasio ruins, Coz. 12 Jan, a new species for the island list (BiB, NB, JM). Tree Swallows passed through in Feb, as expected, with 10 at Chelem 2 Feb (BM, MT) and 50 at Celestún 12 Feb (AD). Barn Swallow was first reported Celestún 12 Feb (AD).

Two Yucatan Wren fledglings were being fed by an ad. 30 Dec at Celestún (JM). New for Coz. were a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** near the entrance to San Gervasio 8 Jan (AM) and single **Clay-colored Robins** at Hotel Presidente 3 Jan (JF, NH, NJ) and El Cedral 7 Jan (MC, SC). The latter was previously known on Coz. only from a dubious Gaumer specimen. A Veery was reported at Calakmul 12 Jan (JS); the species is not known to winter in the Region. The many reports of **American Robin** included a male and female on Isla Holbox 3 Dec (DB, RE, ph. BM); a male 7 Dec at Central Vallarta (LK, GR); one on Coz. 17 Dec (ph. RC); a pair at a water station 10 km e. of Celestún 30 Dec (BM, AM, RM); one at San Miguel, Coz. baseball fields 3 Jan (JG); and a male at El Cuyo Reserve Station 10 Feb (MM, AM, JM, MT).

Black Catbird is predominantly found on the e. coast of the peninsula but is also known from scattered locations elsewhere: one was in a coastal dune near El Cuyo port 27 Dec (BM, RM, MT); one was at San Bartolo, Tekax 17 Jan (KH); and one was at Chachoben 14 Feb (BS). A **European Starling** on Coz. 17 Dec (ph. RC) constituted a new record for the island of this very occasional visitor to the peninsula. A single ad. Golden-winged Warbler, predominantly a transient on the peninsula, was noted at Calakmul 12 Jan (BB, JS). **Tennessee Warbler** is also mostly transient in the Region, but 6-7 were at Hacienda Chichén, Yuc. 11 Dec (TE), and one was still there 1 Jan (BM). **Cape May Warbler** winter records are also rare, but 2 were at km 10 of the Palizada road, Camp. 16 Dec (HGdS), and a single male was at Cobá 28 Jan (PB, LB, KH, AM, JM). The big news at Chichén Itzá this winter was a male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** that wintered there. It was first reported 10-12 Dec (TE, BM), and subsequent records were from 18 Jan (MC, SC, AF, DF) and 27 Feb (BW, CW). "Many" male and one female **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were reported on Coz. at Chankanaab 20 & 23 Jan (MV). A **Yellow**

Palm Warbler, a subspecies with one previous subregional record, was at Rancho Santa Maria 20 Jan (AM; JM). Another species that is usually a transient, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Hacienda Chichén 11 Dec (TE), and another was seen on the banks of the Mamantel R., Camp 16 Jan (MC, SC). An uncommon ad. male **Kentucky Warbler** was at C.V. 21 Jan (MV); and an equally uncommon migrant, a **Mourning Warbler**, was tentatively identified at P.T. at the R.L. biosphere reserve 28 Dec (JE, BM).

Sightings of **Western Tanager**, an extremely rare migrant reported more frequently in recent years, included an ad. male at Calakmul 31 Dec (JF, JG, NH, NJ) and a young male at Izamal eating fruit of *Sideroxylon foetidissimum* 12 Dec (TE, BM). A pair of **White-winged Tanagers** was photographed at C.V. 21 Jan (MV)—a new species for the Yucatan Peninsula. Ten to 12 **Blue-gray Tanagers** fed feverishly on the fruit of *S. foetidissimum* atop the Mayan ruin at Izamal 12 Dec (TE, BM); another 2 were in the village of Chelem 1 Feb (BM, MT), where they are commonly found though not mapped by Howell and Webb (1995). A female **Red-legged Honeycreeper** at San Miguel 3 Jan (JF, NH) furnished just the 2nd record for Coz.

Sparrows also made news this winter, with sightings of less expected ones such as the single **Lark Sparrow** at Cancún airport 29 Jan (KH); 2 **Savannahs** at Celestún 12 Feb (AD); and single **Lincoln's** and **White-crowned Sparrows** at El Cedral 30 Jan (KH). Rarely reported, a female **Blue-black Grosbeak** was spotted at a small pond near Chachoben village 5 Feb (BS). Two female **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, rare migrants, were in Chelem 18 Mar (AD, BM), and **Baltimore Oriole** sightings were up this winter, with an ad. male at Hacienda Chichén 31 Dec (BM), 3 at Ecotucan 3 Feb (BS), one at San Bartolo Tekax (JC, KH), and a first-winter male 14 Mar at Chelem (LG, BM).

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