his winter season was an active one for birders and birds alike. With 97 named contributors and the collective contributions of four tour groups, the Central America region reached the century mark of participation for the first time. Coverage is steadily improving as well; however, there are still no reports coming out of Nicaragua.

Birds were on the move as well. The event of the season was the unprecedented invasion of Cedar Waxwings, with record numbers occurring as far south as Panama. One must wonder how many made it as far south as Colombia, where it is considered accidental. In Costa Rica, a series of intense winter storms moving in off the Caribbean may have contributed to the appearance of several typically pelagic and Caribbean island species along the coastline at Tortuguero in January and February, among them both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Sooty Tern, Brown Noddy, and White-crowned Pigeon, the latter only the second ever recorded in the country. The resulting severe stormy weather in the highlands may have driven at least three mid- and high-elevation species to record-low elevations. Purplish-backed Quail-Dove and Emerald Tanager were recorded at La Selva for the first time, and a Golden-olive Woodpecker turned up in the lowlands at Guapiles.

In Belize, several fall transients—Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager—were recorded well into December for the first time. Panama recorded its first Golden-cheeked Warbler and Costa Rica its fourth. But El Salvador again topped the list with Red-breasted Merganser, Sungrebe, and Ruff, all country firsts, and an incredible Buff-breasted Sandpiper, one of few ever seen in winter in North America.

Abbreviations: N.H.M.E.S. (Natural History Museum of El Salvador); N.M.C.R. (National Museum of Costa Rica); N.M.P. (National Marine Park); N.R. (Nature Reserve); W.S. (Wildlife Sanctuary).

#### SHEARWATERS THROUGH DUCKS

Costa Rica's 2nd Cory's Shearwater appeared at Tortuguero alive but floundering in the surf on 6 Dec (AS, CSt, WS, ph. PH, \*N.M.C.R.). Other noteworthy pelagics in Costa Rica this fall were a Red-billed Tropicbird and a Nazca/Masked Booby (specific identification not determined), the former a juv. seen a few km off Punta Uvita in Isla Ballena N.M.P. 3 Jan (RD), and the latter an ad. seen perched on a rock stack between Marenco in Drake's Bay and San Pedrillo in Corcovado N.P. 31 Dec (JRZ). An imm. Nazca Booby found dead on the beach at Mizata, La Libertad 11 Dec (ph. RI, \*N.H.M.E.S.) was the first reported in El Salvador outside the month of Apr. Red-footed Boobies, all of the brown morph, were found on Isla Violín

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at the mouth of the Sierpe R. in Jan (ph. RM, *fide* JS), with at least one observed on a nest. This is the first Costa Rica nesting record of Red-footed Booby away from the Cocos Is.

Numbers of American White Pelicans wintering in n. Central America continue to increase. In Guatemala, 500+ were in Monterrico N.R., Santa Rosa 20 Feb (KE, CA), and one, only the 2nd for Petén, was on L. Yaxhá 5 Feb (CA, EK). In El Salvador, a flock of 48 seen flying over San Salvador 6 Jan (MR) established the first record for San Salvador. Three Least Bitterns were in Monterrico N.R. 20 Feb (KE, CA), and in Panama, one was at the Ammo Dump Pond near Gamboa 2 Feb (MJI et al.). An ad. Cocoi Heron seen from a train along the shore of L. Gatún, Canal Zone 27 Jan (JV et al.) was unexpectedly far west.

A presumably wild Muscovy Duck on Caye Caulker 4 Feb (JB, DB) was the first reported from any of the true cayes in Belize. Another at Comalapa airport, La Paz 11 Feb (RI) was in a part of El Salvador where the species is seldom recorded. Nine American Wigeon at Nova Shrimp Farm 19 Dec (LJ, JB et al.) was a high count for this uncommon species, and an imm. male Ring-necked Duck near Punta Gorda 30 Dec (LJ) was in an unexpected locality, as this species is seldom reported in Belize away from Crooked Tree W.S. Red-breasted Merganser made news in two countries: a female-plumaged bird on L. Olomega, San Miguel 22 Dec (†RI, JH, EM) established the first record for El Salvador, and another along the shoreline of Belize City 22 Dec (JU) was only the 3rd or 4th ever recorded in Belize. The other 2 (or 3?) were just n. of Belize City in Dec 2000. Establishing a first for intensively birded L. Olomega were 10 Masked Ducks, including one ad. male and several juvs. 18 Feb (RI).

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#### **KITES THROUGH FALCONS**

Unexpected in s. Belize was an imm. Snail Kite near Punta Gorda 13 Dec (LJ). Five Northern Harriers, including 2 ad. males, at the Blue Creek rice fields, Orange Walk 3 Jan (LJ, JU) was an impressive number for this uncommon species. All previous published records of harriers in Belize have pertained to imms. Also at the Blue Creek rice fields was a dark-morph Swainson's Hawk 3 Dec (BC, GC) and 3 Jan (LI, JU). Following the report of 3 Swainson's Hawks at Tocumen, e. of Panama City, last winter on 5 Feb were 3 there again this winter, also in early Feb (MJI et al.). An ad. Bicolored Hawk in Santo Domingo de Heredia 14 Feb (WAI, IA, MV, RR) was out of place in an urban setting and may have been a first for Costa Rica's Central Valley. An ad. Solitary Eagle (studied in direct comparison with Black Vultures) seen from the Rainforest Aerial Tram 1 Dec (AD) was the first reported from Costa Rica's La Selva-lower Braulio Carrillo area in a while.

An ad. White-tailed Hawk, rare in southernmost Belize, was at The Dump 15 Dec (MT et al.), and later that day it or another ad. was

seen flying over nearby Aguacaliente Lagoon (LJ, JU). Farther n., in Orange Walk, the species is fairly common; however, 18 feeding in freshly plowed fields at the Blue Creek rice fields 3 Jan (LJ, JU) was an exceptionally high concentration. A Collared Forest-Falcon in Arcatao 3 Jan (FF) was the first for Chalatenango. This species is apparently quite rare in interior El Salvador. Two Red-throated Caracaras were seen 26 Feb a few km beyond the Río Mamoní bridge in the lower Bayano Valley, e. Panamá (WA, LH). The species has not been reported recently from this far w. on the Pacific slope of

Panama. Red-throated Caracara is rare anywhere in Costa Rica, so 2 seen and another heard nearby 19 Dec (JJJ), and again on 3 Jan, at Tortuguero were noteworthy.

Meanwhile, Crested Caracaras continue to turn up in n. Belize: 2 were observed at the Blue Creek rice fields 28 Dec (JU), and at least one, an imm., was still there on 3 Jan (†LJ, JU). Another one was at Crooked Tree W.S., Belize 6-7 Feb (MC). There were only two previous fully convincing reports for Belize prior to these. Merlins were seen 1 Feb in downtown San José (BH) and 6 Feb in Celaque N.P., Honduras (RG). Following the first report of Bat Falcon on the Belize cayes this past fall (Caye Caulker), one was again seen at Caye Caulker 22 Feb (JB, DB). In Guatemala, an Orange-breasted Falcon, identified in part by its large size compared with a harassing Bat Falcon, was a first for Punta de Manabique near Puerto Barrios 11 Jan (NK, JLB).

#### RAILS THROUGH SANDPIPERS

A Gray-breasted Crake was at the Gatún Drop Zone near Ft. Sherman 2 Jan (CM). There are few records of this elusive species from Panama. Four Crested Guans at Bajo Frio 12 Feb (MJl et al.) were unexpected, as this species is very rare in Chiriquí. A Rufous-necked Wood-Rail on a levee at Nova Shrimp Farm 19 Dec (LJ, JB) was at a locality on mainland Belize where it had not previously been recorded. Most impressive was a Sungrebe, previously unrecorded in El Salvador, found 300 m inland of Estero de San Diego, La Libertad 23 Dec (†MCo). Southern Lapwing continues to make news in the Region. The one present at Crooked Tree W.S., Belize since last Mar remained through the period (m.ob.). In Costa Rica, a nest with four eggs was found 21 Feb+ at Montaña de Fuego Resort at the base of Volcán Arenal (JT et al.). The eggs were laid on top of a dry pat of manure and were fiercely defended against humans and livestock by the ads. This event marked the first confirmed breeding record in Costa Rica for this species,



Coming less than two years after Costa Rica's first, this Cory's Shearwater was found floundering in the surf 6 December 2004 (here) at Tortuguero, also the site of the country's first record. It later died, but unlike the first bird (which was thrown out before the specimen could be prepared), this one made it safely to the Costa Rica National Museum. *Photograph by Pablo Herrera*.

which first appeared in 1995.

Thirty Killdeer at L. El Jocotal, San Miguel 21 Jan (AM) was a high count for that area. A Black-bellied Plover at the Blue Creek rice fields 3 Jan (LJ, JU) was the first ever recorded inland in Belize. Rare anywhere in the Region, a Long-billed Curlew was observed at Playa Azul in the Gulf of Nicoya 26 Feb (KL, DaMa). In Belize, a Marbled Godwit was at Nova Shrimp Farm 19 Dec (LJ, JB), and the 2 reported last fall at Caye Caulker remained throughout the period (JB, DB). Exceptional were two reports of Dunlin in Costa Rica during the period, 2 at the Río Tarcoles Estuary 7 Jan-14 Feb (DW, RC et al.), and 2 at La Ensenada Lodge, n. shore Gulf of Nicoya 15 Feb (RC et al.). A Solitary Sandpiper and a Stilt Sandpiper at L. El Jocotal 21 Jan (AM) were believed to represent only the first and 2nd winter records, respectively, for El Salvador, but their apparent rarity is almost certainly an artifact of a general unfamiliarity of local ob-



Until now, all Nazca Booby records for El Salvador have come from the month of April. This immature—found dead on the beach at Mizata in the Department of La Libertad and here photographed on 11 December 2004—provided the first winter record and second specimen for the country. Photograph by Ricardo Ibarra Portillo.

servers with shorebirds in the past. Expect more winter records of these two shorebirds in El Salvador in the future. Likewise, there are few winter records of Stilt Sandpiper from Panama, but 13 found near El Agallito Beach, Los Santos 19 Jan (DaMo, MS) suggests that this species may be more prevalent in winter than the few records indicate.

Truly extraordinary were 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers carefully observed, but unfortunately not photographed, 21 Jan at L. El Jocotal (†AM). The species has apparently never before been reliably reported after Dec in the New World n. of Colombia and seldom n. of Paraguay; however, vagrants have turned up in winter in Europe, Africa, and Australia (Hayman et al., 1986, Shorebirds: An Identification Guide), perhaps making this record more plausible. As if 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were not enough for one day, a Ruff was also found at L. El Jocotal the same day (†AM), the

first ever recorded in El Salvador, and one of the few for Central America. A flock of ca. 60 Long-billed Dowitchers were at the Blue Creek rice fields 3 Jan (LJ, JU), where they are no longer considered unusual.

#### **JAEGERS THROUGH DOVES**

Both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen flying low along the beach at Tortuguero but on different dates by different observers. An ad. Parasitic was seen 4 Jan (JRZ), and a Pomarine was seen 26 Feb (CS et al.). Two Laughing Gulls near Guapiles 16 Dec (EC) were more than 30 km inland. An imm. Bonaparte's Gull seen at the mouth of Río Jiboa, La Paz 7 Dec (ph. TJ) was a different individual than the one photographed there in late Nov, thereby providing only the 3rd country record. First-winter Ring-billed Gulls were at Tortuguero 4 Jan (JRZ) and Panama Viejo 7 Feb (MJI et al.). Two Herring Gulls were reported in El Salvador: one each at the mouth of Río Jiboa 19 Nov (ph. TJ) and Punta Amapala, La Unión 30 Dec (AM); 3 reported in Costa Rica were singles at Hatillo Viejo R. estuary 3 Jan (RD), Tortuguero 4 Jan (JRZ), and Chomes Shrimp Farm 9 Feb (JRZ).

At least 50 Caspian Terns at Monterrico N.R. 20 Feb (KE, CA) was an unusually high number for this locality, and one at Tortuguero 21 Feb+ (NM) was considered to be unusual on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. At least 3 Forster's Terns were at Nova Shrimp Farm 19 Dec (LJ, JB). This species is a rather uncommon winter visitor in Belize. An ad. Sooty Tern at Tortuguero 2 Jan observed flying in from the ocean toward Río Tortuguero Lagoon (JRZ) may have been the first ever recorded from the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica; however, there is an Apr 1983 specimen from Río Sarapiquí near La Selva, well inland. An ad. Brown Noddy was observed flying over Caño Palma n. of Tortuguero Town on 3 Jan, and a recently dead bird was found the next day on the beach at the mouth of Río Tortuguero (both JRZ). This SA Work began last year on a highly controversial hydroelectric project in the remote Raspaculo wilderness of w. Belize, home to the country's only Scarlet Macaw population. The subspecies in n. Central America, cyanoptera, is now threatened because of extensive habitat loss and exploitation by the pet trade. In early Jan, a pair of these magnificent birds showed up in the Bladen River N.R. 30 km to the s. on the opposite side of the Maya Mts., where the species had not been reported in many years (JM). By mid-Feb, daily sightings of up to 9 birds were being made. The Raspaculo wilderness provided an abundance of suitable nest sites and preferred food trees, an essential combination that experts believe are no longer duplicated anywhere else in the country. Therefore, it will be interesting to see in the coming months and years if birds displaced by the hydroelectric project will eventually settle at Bladen (or elsewhere) or simply "blink out," as many have speculated.

species is occasionally blown ashore by storms in the Caribbean. Thirty Black Skimmers at Monterrico N.R. 20 Feb (KE, CA) were unexpected, as this species is rarely seen at this locality.

At least one Band-tailed Pigeon was seen on the coast at Tortuguero 2 Feb (PM et al.) well away from its typical highland haunts. Even more impressive, though, was a Whitecrowned Pigeon, also at Tortuguero 2-6 Feb (PM, KW, ph. JS et al.), which provided only the 2nd confirmed record for Costa Rica. It is thought to have been blown in by one of the severe storms that plagued the s. Caribbean coast this winter. Also representing a 2nd record for Costa Rica was a Eurasian Collared-Dove seen 21 Dec (III) at Zapote on the e. side of San José. Two Purplish-backed Quail-Doves at La Selva 20 Dec (SW) were the first for that intensely birded locality and may have been driven to lower elevations by the intense winter storms. A Violaceous Quail-Dove at Carara N.P. 27 Dec (MD et al.) was either a wanderer or representative of a very sparse and rarely detected resident population in this area.

#### **CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS**

Mangrove Cuckoos were reported from three localities where they are rarely seen: in Panama at Cienaga de las Macanas, Herrera 19 Jan (DaMo, MS) and at David, Chiriquí 8 Feb (MJI et al.), and in Belize at Punta Gorda 15 Dec (JB). A Greater Ani at Tortuguero 11 Dec-22 Feb (ph. DL) was thought to be the same bird that has been seen off and on since summer 2003, although it had not been seen in recent months. A Black-crested Coquette in the Río Bravo C.A. near the La Milpa Field Station, Cayo 4-5 Feb (BR) was well n. of its known breeding range in s. Belize and may have been a seasonal wanderer. A Green-throated Mountain-gem nest with two eggs was found 25 Jan at Los Volcanes N.P. Santa Ana, and on 25 Feb feathered nestlings were present (both IRS). Additionally, a recently fledged juv. was caught in a mist net at this site 26 Jan (ph. JRS). This is the first documented instance of winter nesting in this species.

A Buff-bellied Hummingbird on Caye Caulker 20 Feb (JB, DB) provided the first record for any Belize caye, and a Rubythroated Hummingbird at David airport in extreme w. Panama 8 Feb (MJI et al.) was in

the only area of the country where the species is reported somewhat regularly. At Gamboa, near Panama City, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was observed 29 Jan (JV et al.). This species is seldom reported so far south. A Golden-olive Woodpecker at Guapiles 6 Dec (AD) may have been yet another exam-



A rare winter visitor anywhere in Panama, Ruby-throated Hummingbird can be seen on the Pacific plain in extreme western Panama somewhat regularly. This female was discovered 8 February 2005 at the David airport by an alert tour group led by Marshall Iliff. Photograph by Marshall Iliff.

ple of a higher-elevation species driven downslope by the storms that pummeled Costa Rica this winter.

#### **FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS**

Providing the first report in many years for the Chiriquí highlands of w. Panama was a carefully studied Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher at Finca Hartmann 10 Feb (MJI et al.). A Willow Flycatcher observed in full song near Big Falls, Toledo 12 Dec (LJ) was the first ever reported in Belize in winter, and 2 White-throated Flycatchers at the same location 12 & 15 Dec (LJ, MT, MC, JU) were the first reliably reported from s. Belize in winter. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in the Agáun Valley, Yoro 11 Feb (RG) was the first recorded in Honduras away from the Pacific slope. A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Caye Caulker 19 Feb (JB, DB) was likely an early migrant, as this principally summer resident in Belize is unrecorded on the cayes in winter. A Boat-billed Flycatcher at 2100 m near Antigua 26 Feb (KE, CA) was at an unusually high elevation for this species.

Exceptionally early were a Piratic Flycatcher at Rocjá Pomtilá, *Alta Verapaz* 29 Jan and a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher there 2 Feb

(both EfC). Neither species winters n. of South America. An Eastern Kingbird near Medina Bank, Toledo 18 Dec (LJ) was an exceptionally late fall migrant. As it occurs only sporadically as far s. as Costa Rica, a Scissortailed Flycatcher near Potrero Grande de Coto Brus 16 Feb (AO, TM, JG, DWo) was unexpected. Providing only the 9th El Salvador record, and the 2nd for Montecristo N.P., was a male Gray-collared Becard captured 15 Feb (LCA, ph. RP). In Panama, a Golden-headed Manakin seen 26 Feb (WA, LH) a few km beyond the Río Mamoní bridge in the lower Bayano Valley, e. Panamá was farther w. than it has been reported in recent years. Two Blue-headed Vireos were reported this winter in Costa Rica: one at 1300 m on the Caribbean side in Tapanti 12 Dec (JS, HA) and another at 1200 m on the Pacific side in Naranjo de Alajuela 18 Dec (IRZ). Two late fall records of Red-eyed Vireo provided the only Dec records to date for Belize: one was on the s. outskirts of Punta Gorda on 15 Dec (JB), and another was at El Pescador Resort n. of Punta Gorda three days later (LJ).

### **SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS**

Two presumed male Purple Martins, the first recorded in winter in Costa Rica, were observed at El Quizarra near Guapiles 16 Dec (PM, HF). The similar Southern Martin, an austral migrant, is also possible in Costa Rica but would be far more likely in summer during the austral winter. Tree Swallow is a rare and irregular winter visitor as far s. as Panama, so one at the Ammo Dump Pond near Gamboa 2 Feb (ph. MJI et al.) was considered noteworthy. A Gray-cheeked Thrush, rare in winter as far n. as Costa Rica, was observed at 1100 m in Naranjo de Alajuela 21 Jan (JRZ); and 3 Wood Thrushes mist-netted at Los Volcanes N.P. 26 Jan and 24 Feb (ph. IRS) were more than typically reported in El Salvador in winter.

#### **WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS**

A Blue-winged Warbler was mist-netted at Los Volcanes N.P. 24 Feb (ph. JRS), providing roughly the 6th record for El Salvador. In Costa Rica, 2 Blue-winged Warblers were at Fila Costera between San Isidro de El General and the Pacific coast 3 Jan (PW, LS, MK), and another was seen in the Monteverde Reserve at 1500 m on the Pacific slope 18 Feb (RC et al.). In Costa Rica and Panama, Northern Parulas were reported from Barra Honda N.P. at the base of the Nicoya Pen. 14 Dec (SH), from Ft. Sherman 2 Jan (DaMo, DeMo), and from the Ammo Dump Pond 26 Jan (JV et al.). An imm. male Cape May Warbler was on the mainland in Punta Gorda 15-16 Dec (JB, LJ, JU, JSh), where rare, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Ft. Sherman 27 Jan (JV et al.), where rare. Single Golden-cheeked Warblers were

SA This winter saw Central America's largest invasion of Cedar Waxwings on record. In Belize, there were more reports than usual, including the earliest on record by several weeks (see fall season report), but no especially large numbers were reported. In Guatemala, three flocks of at least 30 individuals each were reported from Los Tarrales Reserve near L. Atitlân 7 Feb (KE). In El Salvador, more than 700 were reported from the greater San Salvador area in Feb. In Honduras, among a scattering of other reports were 20 at the Copan Ruins 16 Jan (RG). Since this species is regular, however, in n. Central America in winter, most sightings from these countries may have gone unreported. The waxwing invasion was most impressive in s. Central America. Reports from Costa Rica in Jan and Feb were too numerous to report individually, with nearly everyone afield in those two months from Cerro de la Muerte to sea level reporting small to moderate numbers, mostly one to two dozen birds per flock. The earliest report was of one 15 Dec at Cerro de Diría on the Nicoya Pen. In Panama, a flock of ca. 20 just outside Bocas del Toro Town, Isla Colón on 29 Jan (GA) was only a prelude of what was to come. Angehr later commented: "This seems to be a really big waxwing year for Panama, with more records than I have ever seen."

reported from Panama for the first time and Costa Rica for the 4th time. Panama's first record was established 3 Jan, when an ad. male was closely observed along the Los Quetzales Trail in Volcán Barú N.P. above Cerro Punta, Chiriquí (JTo, NH, MH). In



For a species that is not very common anywhere within its range in Mexico and northern Central America, Gray-collared Becard is especially rare in El Salvador. This adult male, mist-netted in Montecristo National Park, furnished only the eighth ever record for that country. Photograph by Ricardo Pérez.

Costa Rica, a well-studied female at 1700 m in Finca Los Espinos, Oratorio de Oreamuno, Cartago 25 Dec (†DaMa, VR) was only the country's 4th. The four Costa Rica records, all recent, have been females, and there is still no photographic documentation of the species for the country. A Hermit Warbler in the Central Valley at Agres R., San Antonio de Escazu 28 Dec (MKü) was the only one reported this season in Costa Rica. A male Prairie Warbler at Zona Protectora El Rodeo, Colón 29 Dec (AS, AA, AOn, FC) and a Palm Warbler at Tortuguero 27 Feb (CS et al.) were rare winter visitors. An exceptionally late Blackburnian Warbler near Punta Gorda 15 Dec (MM) provided Belize with its first convincing Dec record. Typically, only one or 2 Yellow-breasted Chats are reported each year in Costa Rica; however, at least 5 were reported from widely scattered locations across the country between 8 Dec and 23 Ian this season.

A male Scarlet Tanager on Caye Caulker 20 Dec (LJ, JB, DB) was either a very late fall migrant or a winter visitor. The only other Dec record for Belize was of a wing-damaged bird that could fly but apparently not well

bird that could fly but apparently not well enough to have continued its southward migration. Yet another example of a species at unprecedented elevations in Costa Rica this winter, several Emerald Tanagers were low at La Selva 22 & 26 Dec (JA). A female Blue Seedeater at Los Volcanes N.P. 28 Jan (ph. JRS) was the first recorded at this site since Oct 1979. At Cenegón de Mangle W.R., Herrera, a male Painted Bunting was recorded 29 Dec (JL). This species is a rare migrant in Panama, especially in the east.

An Eastern Meadowlark at Comalapa airport, La Paz 11 Feb (Rl) established the 2nd winter record for El Salvador, and a Black-cowled Oriole at 600 m in Las Tumbas de Pérez Zeledón between San Isidro El General and the Pacific coast 3 Jan (LS, RiG) was the first ever recorded on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica. The bird may have reached this area by crossing the divide at Cartago or San Ramón and skirting the mid-elevation Pacific slopes of Cerro de la Muerte. This weak singer is not a typical cage bird, but it is a showy species, thus its natural provenance is not necessarily a given in this case.

Corrigenda: In the summer 2004 season's report, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher credited to



Researchers at Los Volcanes National Park in El Salvador were surprised to find this stunning male Blue-winged Warbler in their nets on 24 February 2005. There are only five previous records for the country. Photograph by Jennifer R. Smith.

NH should instead be credited to OK and JF, and the Blackburnian Warbler from El Imposible N.P. also should be credited to OK and JF.

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This leucistic Whimbrel stood out along the Rio Tarcoles in western Costa Rica 23 February 2005. Photograph by Larry Semo.

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