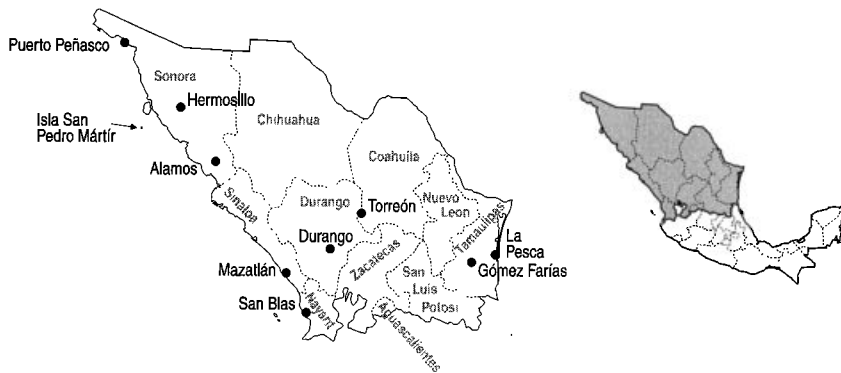


Mexico

NORTHERN MEXICO



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CENTRAL MEXICO

GREBES THROUGH OWLS

An active nest of Pied-billed Grebes on the Cañón de Fernández on the Nazas R., Dgo. 13 Jul was the first nesting record from the area (EH, MC). Also on that date, a family of Wood Ducks including 6 young were seen on the Cañón de Fernández (EH, MC). There were 15+ Mexican Ducks in pairs and family groups along watercourses n. of Ciudad Obregón, Son. 27 Jul (MDC et al.). An Osprey and a juv. Gray Hawk were at Cañón de Fernández 4 Jun (AVJ), and an ad. Gray Hawk there 13 Jul (EH, MC). A White-tailed Kite was near Agua Nueva, ca. 15 km s. of Saltillo 23 Jul (MDC et al.).

Thirty-eight Mountain Plovers with at least 2 juvs. were seen at La Soledad, near Hediondilla, N.L. 26 Jun (LS, MG). A Snowy Plover was at a pool at a Pemex Station on Hwy. 16 near General Triás [Santa Isabel], about 30 km w. of Chihuahua City, Chih. 30 Jul (JC, MDC et al.). A Greater Yellowlegs was recorded at Cañón de Fernández 19 Jun (WB, FVP); the earliest previous records of this shorebird in the Nazas R. are in Aug (FVP). At the n. limit of the species' range on the Pacific slope, a Mangrove Cuckoo was heard on Hwy. 16 about 100 km e. of Hermosillo, Son. 25 Jul, and one was seen on the Obregón-Yécora road 28 Jul (MDC et al.). Small groups of Maroon-fronted Parrots were seen flying over Ejido La Encantada, Sierra Peña Nevada, N.L. 11-17 Jun (JM, GC). Two ads. and a fledgling Stygian Owl were found by EB in Casa de Piedra, above Alta Cima (and photographed by FC 17 Jun), the first records for Tamps.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS

On agaves at and near Cuauhtémoc, Chih.,

there were a Lucifer, an ad. male Rufous, and an ad. male Allen's Hummingbirds, plus 3-5



Rufous/Allen's 24 Jul (MDC et al.). A Mountain Trogon was seen at Ejido La Encantada in mid-Jun (JM, GC). Two female Spotted-crowned Woodcreepers with brood patches were mistnetted in Ejido La Encantada 11-17 Jun; one of them was later seen taking food to a nest (JM, GC). A White-striped Woodcreeper was near Yécora 28 Jul. A Yellow-green Vireo was on Hwy. 16 about 100 km e. of Hermosillo 25 Jul. An American Robin was seen on the grounds of Tecnológico de Laguna in Torreón 19 Jul, an unusual summer record (AVJ). Western Tanagers seen in late Jul included a female/imm. near Hermosillo 26 Jul, 3 females/imms. in willows alongside a golf course pond 27 Jul, single males in two locations on the Obregon-Yécora Hwy. 28 Jul, and a female/imm. near Madera, Chih. 30 Jul (MDC et al.). A Rufous-capped Brush Finch near Yécora 27 Jul was at the n. limit of range. A male Bullock's Oriole was at Cañón de Fernández 4 Jun (AVJ). Five Worthen's Sparrows were seen at El Uno, San Rafael 26 Jun (MG).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface):

HERONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Least Grebe was seen at Tláhuac, D.F. 18 Jul (RW, AM). Two American White Pelicans summered at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco, D.F. (hereafter, P.E.X.) through the period (RW, HGdS, MG). A juv. Brown Pelican was inland at a roadside pond 55 km s. of Acayucan, Ver. 16 Jun (MDC et al.). A Tricolored Heron was at P.E.X. 23 Jul (MG). Around 10 White-faced Ibis were at P.E.X. 23 Jul (MG). At least 3 large Cinnamon Teal ducklings were at P.E.X. 23 Jun (RW), and 2 ads. were at Tláhuac 18 Jul (RW, AM). Two Hook-billed Kites were seen in the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 18 Jun (MG, ph. AD), the first confirmed summer record. Two Northern Bobwhites were heard in Aneneuilco, a suburb of Cuautla, Mor. 9 Jul (HGdS, MG, AD). Probably summering at Tláhuac were 14 Semipalmated and 5 Snowy Plovers, as well as around 30 Least and 3 Baird's Sandpipers, all noted 18 Jul (RW, AM). There were 3 Baird's Sandpipers at P.E.X. 2 Jun (HGdS, RW) and still one there 11 Jun (RW). Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns discovered at P.E.X. in late May were sitting on eggs 2 Jun

(RW, HGdS); the 4 ads. and 2 juvs. were there 23 Jun (RW), with 2 ads. and 2 juvs. still there 30 Jun (RW, AM). Two Black Swifts and at least 5 White-naped Swifts were over the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 24 Jun (HGdS, MG, m.ob.). At least 2 male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were heard at Cerro de La Estrella, D.F. 11 Jun (HGdS, LASG), and one was heard at Lomas de Bezares, D.F. 10 Jun (MG). A belated report of a male Amethyst-throated Hummingbird mist-netted in fir forest in the Parque Nacional Desierto de los Leones 17 Dec 2004 (SA) constitutes the first confirmed record for D.F.

CORVIDS THROUGH FINCHES

A Western Scrub-Jay was at its nest in a *Casuarina* tree at the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 24 Jun (HGdS, MG, m.ob.). A Slaty Vireo and a Bridled Titmouse were seen along the hwy. to Cuernavaca at La Pera, Mor. 9 Jul (HGdS, MG, AD). Two juv. European Starlings were at Cerro de La Estrella, D.F. 11 Jun (HGdS, LASG). A female and 2 male Northern Cardinals were at the UNAM botanical garden 24 Jun (HGdS, MG, m.ob.). Three Rusty Sparrows were seen and heard at La Pera 9 Jul (HGdS, MG). Three Grassland Yellow-Finches were at Anenecuilco 9 Jul (HGdS, MG). Four Cinnamon-bellied Flower-piercers were seen at the UNAM botanical garden 24 Jun (HGdS, MG, m.ob.). A pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen at P.E.X. 2 Jun (HGdS, RW), and a male was there 23 Jun (MG). A fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird was being fed by a Chipping Sparrow at the UNAM botanical garden 24 Jun (HGdS, MG, m.ob.). A female and an imm. male Black-backed Oriole were at Bosque de Aragón 9 Jun (HGdS, MPV), and a pair was being followed by a begging fledgling Bronzed Cowbird at Rafael Dondé, D.F. 15 Jun (HGdS). An Elegant Euphonia was glimpsed near the Instituto de Biología, UNAM 24 Jun (HGdS).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



Carmody reports that rainy conditions in mid-June contrasted with dry conditions in

late May/early June, with many more hummingbirds in evidence toward the end of the season. Records are from Oaxaca unless otherwise stated.



A pair of Hook-billed Kites in the UNAM botanical garden in Mexico City found 4 June 2005 (here) furnished the first summer record of this species in the subregion, which until recently had not been recorded at any season (with the exception of old records). Photograph by Alec Davis.

Abbreviations: P.A.D. (Piedra Azul Dam near Teotitlán del Valle); T.S.P. (Tlacolula Sewage Pond); S.F.P. (San Felipe Park); C.V. (Cuatro Venados).

BOOBIES THROUGH FINCHES

An ad. Blue-footed Booby was flying over the large rock islet off Los Coloradas, s. of Bahías de Huatulco 23 Jun (MDC et al.). About 40 Cattle Egrets (both breeding and non-breeding plumage; none obviously downy) were seen at T.S.P. 28 Jun (JF). A light-morph Short-tailed Hawk was at the Santo Domingo botanical garden, Oax. 26 Jun (MG, EdV, HC). Single ad. Cooper's Hawks were above Teotitlán del Valle 11 Jun and on the La Guacamaya road 12 Jun (MDC et al.); and 3 just-fledged juvs. were at Etila, Oax. 26 Jun (MG, EdV). An Ornate Hawk-Eagle was seen at km 90 above Valle Nacional 14 Jun (MDC et al.). A male Highland Guan responded to tape playback of its wing flaps at Sumidero Canyon N.P., Chis. 17 & 18 Jun (RR, MDC et al.). A covey of 4 Northern Bobwhites 20 Jun was high at 2500 m elevation near San Cristóbal de las

Casas, Chis. on the Ocosingo Hwy. about 3 km e. of the intersection with Hwy. 190

(MDC et al.). A Gray-necked Wood-Rail was high at 1250 m near the 2nd overlook at Sumidero Canyon N.P. 18 Jun (MDC et al.).

Four Double-striped Thick-knees were at Ignacio Ramírez, e. of Arriaga, Chis. 23 Jun, where 3 were seen 30 May (MDC et al.). A Killdeer was at Puerto Arista, Chis. 22 Jun, as was a Red-necked Phalarope in alternate plumage (MDC et al.). Two Sandwich Terns and an Elegant Tern were among a group of 50+ roosting terns at Ignacio Ramírez 23 Jun (MDC et al.).

A flock of 40+ Lilac-crowned Parrots were at Bahías de Huatulco 24 Jun (MDC et al.). Six Black Swifts were at Huayapan 25 Jun (MG), and 7 Great Swallow-tailed Swifts were at 775 m elevation above La Sepultura Reserve n. of Arriaga 21 Jun (RR, MDC et al.). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird (but bill all dark above) was seen at P.A.D. 7 Jun (JF). A female Garnet-throated Hummingbird was seen at Llano Grande 17 Jun (MG). A few Wine-throated Hummingbirds were feeding on flowering thistles in the wetland 5 km s. of San Cristóbal de las Casas 21 Jun (MDC et al.). A Strong-billed Woodcreeper was at Cerro Huitepec, near San Cristóbal de las Casas, as was a Scaled Antpitta 20 Jun (RR, MDC et al.). Many Greenish Elaenias at



This Gull-billed Tern was photographed at its nest in Parque Ecológico Xochimilco in Mexico City, where two pairs were found nesting in late May and early June 2005 (here 2 June); there are no records for the subregion otherwise. Photograph by Héctor Gómez de Silva.

S.F.P.—including 4 together, one of which repeatedly fed another—were seen at C.V. 30 Jun, this is a new breeding location. A pair of Great Kiskadees was nesting at P.A.D. 28 Jun; in the same tree and same nest where Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers have nested in two previous years. A Cassin's Kingbird was high (2750 m) at C.V. 30 Jun. For the 2nd year in a row, a Brown-capped Vireo was seen in the coffee fincas of the coastal sierras of s. Oaxaca on 6 Jun (MDC).

A Green Jay seen at Presas de Huayapan 5 Jul furnished a 2nd record for cen. Oaxaca, both presumably escapes. About 15 Violet-green Swallows (including imms. with gape flanges) were seen at P.A.D. 28 Jun. At least three pairs of Barn Swallows were nesting in San Cristóbal de las Casas 19-21 Jun (MDC et al., ph. NS). A Bewick's Wren was feeding

young in a nest in a hole in a cut road bank at S.F.P. 4-7 Jun. A juv. Clay-colored Robin was mist-netted at the Santo Domingo botanical garden 26 Jun (MG, EdV, HC). An ad. Aztec Thrush was at Cuajimoloyas 16 Jun (MG). A male Golden-cheeked Warbler was seen at Huitepec Reserve near San Cristóbal de las Casas 24 Jul (JG).

On 19 May, a pair of Red-headed Tanagers was seen in the Valley of Oaxaca along Hwy. 175 ca. 5 km e. of the junction with Hwy. 190 (MDC et al.); the species has been seen along Hwy. 175 in recent winters at higher elevations, just below El Estudiante. A pair of ad. Oaxaca Sparrows was seen feeding a fledgling at S.F.P. 25 Jun; the latter looked much like the ads. except for the dull yellow bill. About 30 Striped Sparrows including juvs. with gape flanges were seen at C.V. 30 Jun. Chipping Sparrows in breeding plumage were seen and heard singing at S.F.P. 4 & 7 Jun. A White-throated Towhee, about 35 House Finches, and 4 Lesser Goldfinches were high (2750 m) at C.V. 30 Jun.

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA



was a transient species on the Yucatan Pen., but for the past 15 years, large flocks spend the winter here, and a few individuals have



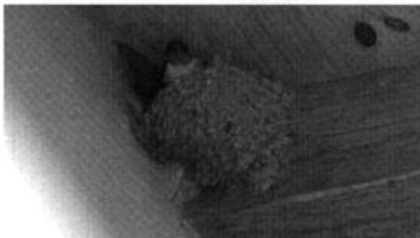
This adult Stygian Owl was one of two found near Casa de Piedra in June, furnishing the first record for the state of Tamaulipas (here 17 June 2005); there are two records from neighboring Texas. Photograph by Fernando Cerra.

summered. On 21 Jun, 76 were counted between Chuburná and Uaymitún on the n. coast of Yucatan, and most were in one large flock (BM, RM). Only one was seen at Celestún 10 Jul, where a few have previously been recorded in summer (DB). Also on 21 Jun, during the count of water birds between Chuburná and Uaymitún, 89 Snowy Egrets were observed, but not a single Little Blue

more exceptional was the sight of 4 White-tailed Kites there 24 Jun, which may suggest migration (PW); one had been reported in same area in Jul 2004.

Nine Black-bellied Plovers were on the flats behind Chuburná and at Uaymitún 21 Jun, and, for the first time, Semipalmated Plovers were confirmed to summer when 2 were seen on the same day in the flats behind Chuburná (BM, RM). Other summering species observed 21 Jun between Chuburná and Uaymitún were 2 Greater Yellowlegs, a Willet, 14 Ruddy Turnstones, 5 Least Sandpipers, and 8 Short-billed Dowitchers (BM, RM). A few Ring-billed Gulls were at Celestún 10 Jul (DB), and a single Caspian Tern was among the Royal Terns on a sandbar behind Chelem 21 Jun. On the same day, a total of 51 Least Terns was counted between Chuburná and Uaymitún (BM, RM).

A Striped Cuckoo, rarely reported in the subregion, sang for half an hour at R.N.T. 9 Jul but subsequently disappeared (PW); though not noted in Yuc. by Howell & Webb (1995), this species has also been found behind El Cuyo, as well as far to the s. at Hobonil (BM). Pheasant Cuckoos were heard occasionally through the month of Jul at R.N.T. (PW). A Caribbean species, Smooth-billed Ani is usually limited to Cozumel and the mainland directly to the w., but after Hurricane Emily hit the island 17 Jul, one showed up at R.N.T. 19 Jul (PW). A male Belted Kingfisher, an early migrant on the peninsula, was recorded on 28 Jul at Celestún (DB). The Purple Martin migration started 8 Jul at R.N.T. (later than last year),



Three Barn Swallow nests were found at San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, in the second half of June. The species was previously considered a winter visitor and transient in the state of Chiapas. Photograph by Nigel Simpson.

A synchronized monitoring of water birds along different sections of the Yucatan coast was carried out 21 June in order to confirm just what birds were spending the summer here; the results provided much of interest. The unfortunate early arrival of Hurricane Emily 17 July had quite an impact on resident birds at the height of the breeding season. It slammed into Cozumel, entering the mainland at Playa del Carmen before veering northward and, fortunately, rapidly exited into the Gulf of Mexico. There were many downed nests, particularly of flycatchers, vireos, and orioles and many of these had dead or live chicks in them.

PELICANS THROUGH WARBLERS

Thirty years ago, American White Pelican

Heron was present. This seems to support past observations that this species has a much larger migratory population than other resident and migratory heron species (BM, RM). Besides the herons, 21 Roseate Spoonbills were seen feeding in the flats behind Chuburná and Chelém 21 Jun (BM, RM). However, there were only 882 non-breeding Greater Flamingos feeding in the coastal lagoons at Uaymitún on the same day; most are found at their traditional nesting site at Punta Mecoh near El Cuyo, where 10,000 chicks were hatched this year (BM, RM). A Swallow-tailed Kite was recorded 15 Jul at Celestún (AD, VM, RL, FC, LG), and rarer still was a White-tailed Kite 15 Jun at Reserva Natural T'isil (formerly Rancho Santa María; hereafter R.N.T.), n. Q. Roo. Even

with several hundred per day passing through by the last week of Jul (PW). A Yellow-throated Warbler was sighted 15 Jul at Celestún (AD, VM, RL, FC, LG), and another was at R.N.T. 23 Jul (PW). As expected, Louisiana Waterthrush was the first of the warblers to arrive at R.N.T., where individuals were recorded 18, 22, & 23 Jul (PW).

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