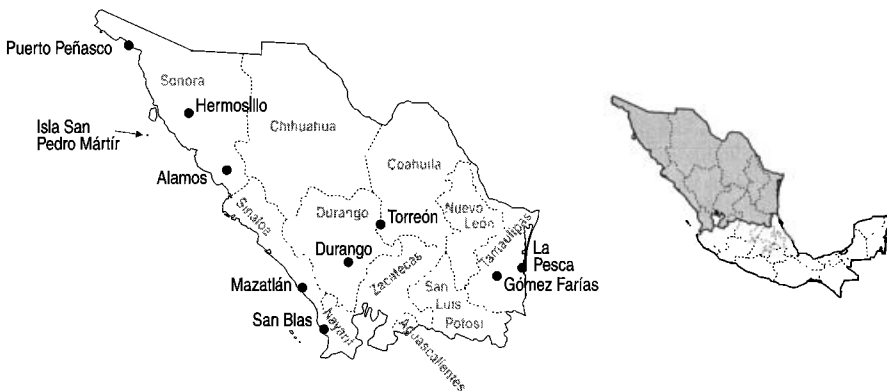


## Héctor Gómez de Silva

In winter 2005–2006, numerous new state records and records of species far out of their known ranges continued to accrue, perhaps the most astounding of all being records of two Neotropical eagle species in northern Mexico: a Solitary Eagle in Tamaulipas and a Black Hawk-Eagle in Nayarit.

## NORTHERN MEXICO



Sinaloa and Nayarit were very dry throughout the period, with little measurable rain over most regions since early October. Flowerbanks were relatively barren away from streamsides. Carmody reports much less song (except in Fan-tailed Warbler and Rosy Thrush-Tanager) and less responsiveness to audio recordings than is usual at this season. On the other hand, he noted that nearly any highway median strip that had not been grazed held small numbers of Botteri's and Grasshopper Sparrows in February, also probably a consequence of the arid conditions.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH DOVES

About 1000+ Ross's Geese and 450 Snow Geese (including 5 or 6 blue morphs of the latter) were at Laguna Fierro, along with 4 Common Mergansers 5 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa). An apparent Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrid and 800+ Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were on a large stock pond in Rancho Ciudadela, along the La Noria road, ne. of Mazatlán, Sin. (MC, ph. JL). A Greater White-fronted Goose was in riparian habitat s. of the bridge into Casas Grandes, Chih. 8 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa). About 1150 Snow Geese and one ad. Ross's Goose (ph.) were seen 20 Nov at Laguna Sayula, Jal.; one of the Snows wore a yellow neck collar that indicated it had been banded in 2002 at Queen Maud Gulf, Nunavut (SJD et al.). Four Buffleheads, an uncommon duck in the area, were seen in the Cañón de Fernández S.P. on

the Río Nazas 15 Jan (RLL, WB, FVP).

A dozen ad. Clark's Grebes were seen in Tanque Aguilereño and Tanque Genty, shallow dams s. of Torreón, 3 Jan (FVP) and 6 Feb (RLL, FVP). An Eared Grebe, 4 Clark's Grebes, an American White Pelican, and a Snowy Egret were at Laguna Fierro, Chih. 5 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa). A Great Blue Heron nest, and one carrying nesting material, were seen 4 Feb near La Cortina along the Río Grande de Santiago, e. of Tepic, Nay. (JM,

AM). Small numbers of Boat-billed Herons were at Laguna de Quelele, Nay. 13 Jan (MJI) and 12 Feb (BG).

Two White-tailed Kites were near Laguna Fierro 5 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa). After a period of almost six years without reports, Red



This female Ruddy Ground-Dove frequented riparian habitat near Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico 8 December 2005; it furnishes just the second confirmed record for the state of Chihuahua. Photograph by Dave Krueper.

shouldered Hawks were seen in the subregion: an ad. at Cañón de Fernández S.P. 20 Nov and 4 Dec (RLL, WB, AVJ, FVP), 2 ads. there 11 Dec (RLL, AVJ, WB), and a juv. at Bosque Venustiano Carranza, an urban park in Torreón, 2 Jan (ph. FVP). Interestingly, in

the same area, no Northern Harriers were reported—for the first time in many years. An imm. Solitary Eagle in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve between Gómez Farías and Alta Cima, Tamps. was documented 21 Feb during one of the field trips of El Cielo Nature Festival (PL, RJ, SO, EP, ph. RC, m.ob.); this would furnish a first state record. The El Cielo Nature Festival is an effort to promote sustainable development through avitourism; local guides are available year-round, and several special events are hosted each year (<www.elcielofestival.com>). Another outstanding eagle record was of an ad. Black Hawk-Eagle found at La Bajada, near La Palma, Nay. 15 Feb (GK, MC, ph. KK).

Two groups of Sandhill Cranes totaling 45 birds were seen flying over Tanque Aguilereño at dawn 6 Feb (RLL, FVP). A Pacific and 5 American Golden-Plovers were reported from the coast 10 km n. of the town of Golfo de Santa Clara, Son. 26 Aug (MG, ME, ES); 4 of the latter were at Bahía Adair, Son. 6 Dec (MG, EL, ES). A remarkable count of 318 Snowy Plovers came Laguna Sayula, Jal. 20 Nov (SJD et al.). A Wandering Tattler was along the rocky coast n. of Punta Mita, Nay. 24 Jan (MD); 3 were noted on the Islas Marietas, Nay. 27 Jan (M.N.T.C.). An ad. Wilson's Phalarope was at San Blas 23 Feb (JL, MC). Six Stilt Sandpipers were farther n. than usual in winter near the Mazatlán airport 9 Feb (MC). A Long-billed Dowitcher was at Laguna Fierro 5 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa). One and 2 Black Turnstones were at Playa Cerritos n. of Mazatlán at the head of Emerald Bay 8 & 18 Feb, respectively (MC). An American Woodcock was found just outside Parque Estanzuela in Monterrey, N.L. in early Feb (IG, fide AGS). A group of 20+ Sandwich Terns was reported well out in the Bahía de Banderas about two-thirds of the way between Nuevo Vallarta and Islas Marietas 27 Jan (M.N.T.C.). A female Ruddy Ground-Dove was photographed in riparian habitat near Casas Grandes 8 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa), providing the 2nd documented record from Chihuahua. A Eurasian Collared-Dove was in a large cattle pen in the La Noria road with many Ruddy Ground-Doves and White-winged Doves 9 Feb (KC, MC).

## HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

Several Lucifer and up to 10 Costa's Hummingbirds were seen near La Cortina at about 300 m elevation 4 Feb (AM, JM). Anna's continues to be the most common hummingbird species in Bosque Venustiano Carranza (FVP et al.). Three species of sapsuckers were found along the Durango Hwy. in Feb: 2 fe-

male Williamson's and a male Yellow-bellied near El Palmito, Sin. 11 & 19 Feb, plus a female Red-naped below El Batel, Sin. 19 Feb (MC). Near the latter spot, a pair of Eared Quetzals foraged amid a large mixed-species flock containing warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, woodcreepers, and flycatchers 27 Feb (DM et al., ph. ESB, vt. LC). A pair of Pale-billed Woodpeckers with fledglings at a nest hole were on the El Cuarentano Rd., Nay. 23 Feb, and a pair was on the coast n. of Mazatlán at Emerald Bay 8 Feb (MC). A Say's Phoebe was seen near Santa Fe, e. of Tepic 28 Jan (JM, AM), and another was in the large field at Rancho La Noria, Nay. 13 & 23 Feb (MC). A male Gray-collared Becard was in a patch of forest at the s. end of Bucerías, Nay. 24 & 26 Jan (M.N.T.C.). A Bright-rumped Attila was high at an elevation of 2170 m near El Palmito 19 Feb (MC); another was high at 1980 m along the Durango Hwy. w. of Barranca Rancho Liebre 27 Feb (DM, ESB et al.). At a lower elevation on the hwy., a Blue-headed Vireo was seen well near Cerro el Elefante 26 Feb (LC).

At least 250 Sinaloa Crows were noted in various locations in Bucerías 20-29 Jan (M.N.T.C.). A Tree Swallow was at Laguna Fierro 5 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa). Two Colima Warblers were on the El Cuarentano road 23 Feb, where they have recently been found to be regular (MC). Two or 3 Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted in El Guamuchil, Nay. 23, 25, & 29 Jan (M.N.T.C.). A Townsend's Warbler n. of Santa Fe 31 Jan (JM, AM) was somewhat low at about 300 m. A male Hooded Warbler was in the forest at the s. end of Bucerías 17 Jan, and a Pyrrhuloxia was noted there 24-30 Jan (M.N.T.C.). Two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen in riparian areas near Casas Grandes 8 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa), where rare in winter. A Swamp Sparrow was at Laguna Fierro 5 Dec (DK, DMe, JRu, JRa). A Song Sparrow was reported 17-29 Jan at the s. end of Bucerías (M.N.T.C.); if this report can be confirmed, it will constitute the first record for Nayarit.

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## CENTRAL MEXICO



## HERONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Least Grebe frequented a res. near Trinidad, 15 km s. of Guanajuato, Gro. 21-29 Jan (MW); 100 Eared Grebes and a similar number of American White Pelicans were there 5 Feb (MW). Eight Magnificent Frigatebirds soared over Rancho Primavera, Jal. 19 Jan, an extraordinary count well inland (MJI), and around 300 Blue-footed Boobies were feeding off the Río Ameca mouth, Jal. 13 Jan (MJI).



Anna's Hummingbird continues to be the most common hummingbird in Bosque Venustiano Carranza, an urban park in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, where this photograph was taken in January 2006. Photograph by Ernesto Cabrera.

An American Bittern was seen in Rancho Primavera, Jal. 19 Jan (MJI). An apparent Snowy Egret × Little Blue Heron hybrid was at the Maito, Jal. estuary 18 Jan (MJI). A Reddish Egret that flew over the pond in Cruz de Loreto, Jal. 9 Jan (MJI) was unusual being away from the immediate coast. An ad. White Ibis was inland at L. Colotitlán, Jal. 5 Feb (HGdS, MPV). A female Lesser Scaup was at Bosque de Aragón 31 Dec (HGdS, MPV). A male and 2 female Buffleheads were at Parque Ecologico Xochimilco 13 Dec (RW). A female Hooded Merganser was at the res. near Trinidad 21 Jan (MW). A Crested Guan was heard and seen near Bioto road, Jal. 9 & 18 Jan (MJI), and 2 were seen at Los Mazos microwave towers, Jal. 16 Feb (BG).

Five Roadside Hawks were seen near Cruz de Loreto 10 Feb (BG). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was at La Primavera ranch, Jal.

11 Jan, and 2 ads. and an imm. were observed soaring over Cajón de Peña dam, Jal. 18 Jan (MJI). A Harlan's Hawk was photographed at Aquiles Serdán W.T.P. 18 Jan (ph. MJI). A Peregrine Falcon was at La Cima, D.F. 21 Dec (HGdS, MPV), and another was in San Gerónimo, above the Periférico 25 Jan (MG). Single Limpkins were noted in Cruz de Loreto 7 Jan (MJI), at the mouth of Río Ameca, Jal. 13 Jan (MJI), and at L. Colotitlán 5 Feb (HGdS, MPV); this species was only recently recorded in Jalisco and seems to be spreading in that

state. An imm. Purple Gallinule was at a pond along Las Barrancas road, Ver. 19 Feb (HGdS)

Among interesting birds seen at the res near Trinidad 15 Jan-5 Feb were a Laughing Gull 15 Jan, 50 Caspian Terns (including 2 color-banded birds) 5 Feb, and a Snowy Plover 29 Jan (MW). At the Aquiles Serdán, Jal. W.T.P. 9, 18, & 21 Jan (MJI) and 8 Feb (BG) were up to 4 Stilt Sandpipers. An ad Common Tern was a surprise at the Río Ameca mouth 7 Jan (MJI). A first for Jal. was a Eurasian Collared-Dove photographed about 3 km inland from the mouth of the Río Ameca on the Jal. side of the river 15 Jan (MJI, ph DW). A Monk Parakeet was at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 11 Dec (MG). Ten White-collared Swifts were at La Báscula road, Jal. 12 Jan (MJI), a small flock was above El Tuito 27 Jan, and around 25 were flying over Hwy. 200 about 20 km s. of Puerto Vallarta, Jal. 29 Jan (BG). A Mexican Hermit was at hibiscus along the La Báscula road 9 & 18 Jan (MJI). An imm. male Costa's Hummingbird was between Rancho Primavera and Tehua 9 Jan, and an ad. male was near Llano Grande, Jal. 18 Jan (MJI). A displaying Bumblebee Hummingbird was 100 m past the two towers at Los Mazos microwave towers 16 Feb (BG).

## WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

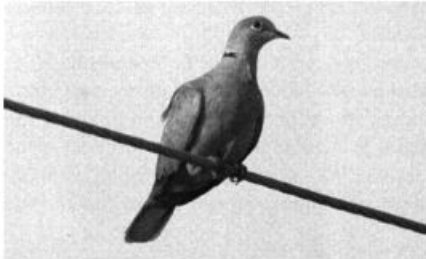
Single Smoky-brown Woodpeckers were at Laguna La María, Col. and on the lower slopes of Volcán de Fuego, Jal. 8-9 Feb (HGdS, MPV). An Olive-sided Flycatcher, rare in winter, was near Rancho Primavera 12

Jan (MJI). A mixed flock of magpie-jays at Rancho Primavera held at least 4 Black-throated and 2 White-throated (MJI). A Slaty Vireo was found just above the first large tower at Los Mazos microwave towers 16 Feb (BG). Three Golden-crowned Kinglets were at La Cima 21 Dec (HGdS, MPV). More than 15 Aztec Thrushes were in the area of Víboras microwave towers, Jal. 15 Feb (BG). A pair of American Dippers was seen investigating a potential nest site at Magdalena Contreras, D.F. 16 Feb (SA). A European Starling was on the sw. outskirts of Guadalajara, Jal. 5 Feb (HGdS, MPV).



An immature Red-shouldered Hawk 2 January 2006 in Bosque Venustiano Carranza in Torreón was one of three or four reported in Coahuila this season. Photograph by Francisco Valdés Perezgasga.

A female Golden-winged Warbler was on the Ciénega de Ojuelos road about 10 km towards Puerto Vallarta from El Tuito, Jal. 26 Jan (BG). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen 12 Jan in a bamboo thicket at Ciénega de Ojuelos road, Jal. just n. of La Báscula road, the same location at which one was found a year ago (MJI). A Yellow-throated Warbler, probably of the race *albilora*, was in pines at the entrance of Ciénega de Ojuelos road 12 Jan (MJI). A Black-throated Green Warbler was above Provincia on La Báscula road 9 Feb (BG), and another was at Laguna La María 8 Feb (HGdS, MPV). A Myrtle Warbler was at La Provincia on La Báscula road 16 Jan (MJI). A female American Redstart was at Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 11 Dec (MG), and a female Hooded Warbler was in the drainage just n. of Rancho Primavera 11 Jan (MJI). A Red Warbler was seen in Viveros de Coyoacán, D.F. 3 & 9 Feb, where it was a rare visitor to this urban park. An Ovenbird was at Viveros de Coyoacán 9 Feb, and another was at the UNAM botanical garden 20 Feb (GdO). A Slate-throated Redstart and a pair of Olive



This Eurasian Collared-Dove near the mouth of the Río Ameca 15 January 2006 represents the first record of the species for Jalisco. Photograph by David Waltman.

Warblers at the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 8 Dec (GdO) were rare visitors from the nearby montane forest.

Amazing was a Black-throated Sparrow in

weedy scrub near the three small ponds just behind the football field in Aquiles Serdán, w. of El Tuito 8 Feb (BG). Four Grasshopper Sparrows were near Cruz de Loreto 17 Jan (MJI). An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was near Llano Grande 18 Jan (MJI). A Varied Bunting was at Parque Ecológico Cuicuilco, D.F. 21 Dec (HGdS, MPV). Around 300 Dickcissels flew past near Cruz de Loreto 17 Jan (MJI). A male Orchard Oriole was at Trabajo Social, Ciudad Universitaria, D.F. 20 Dec (HGdS), and a female was there 21 Dec (HGdS, MPV).

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## SOUTHERN MEXICO

The interior valleys of Oaxaca were very dry



in January and February, and flowers were well below average for January, but the level of the Piedra Azul reservoir was extremely high, so there must have been good rains through early winter at least: at least two species new for the state of Oaxaca were documented there in January. In the highlands above Oaxaca City, weather was often cool and cloudy. Locations are in Oaxaca unless otherwise stated.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH THRUSHES

Noteworthy ducks at Piedra Azul res. above Teotitlán del Valle included a male and 2 female Wood Ducks 25 Jan–25 Feb (the first record for the state of Oaxaca and apparently the southernmost anywhere; MSM, KK, ph. ESB, MC, RAn, ph. HGdS, CDB, m.ob.), up to 5 Ring-necked Ducks, up to 6 Cinnamon

Teal, and a male Lesser Scaup 15 Jan–25 Feb (m.ob.). A West Mexican Chachalaca was photographed 28 Jan in the switchbacks above Piedra Azul res., a regular location for the species since at least 1997 (ph. MC, ESB et al.). An Eared Grebe was on Presa Emiliano Zapata 3 Dec (AM, JM, RAr). Many Brown Pelicans were seen inland at Presa Miguel Aleman 6 Dec (AM, JM, RAr). An imm. Reddish Egret was feeding along the edge of Presa Emiliano Zapata 3 Dec (AM, JM, RAr). Many White Ibis were feeding in flooded fields just e. of Cosamaloapan 8 Dec (AM, JM, RAr).

A Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture near Xpujil ruins, Camp. 23 Jan was at high elevation and away from water (BF, CL). Two Ospreys were at a large res. w. of Tehuantepec 4 Dec (HGdS). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Hotel Misión de los Ángeles, Oaxaca City 17 Feb was apparently a first for the well-birded gardens here (HGdS). An Ornate Hawk-Eagle was reportedly shot and killed at 2100 m near the El Portillo–San Juan Yaguila road, Ixtlán 9 Jan (*fide* RAr). A Peregrine Falcon was at Yagul 4 Dec (HGdS) and 15 & 20 Jan (MSM, KK). A Sora was at Piedra Azul res. 15 & 20 Jan (MSM, KK); in the same area, Roque Antonio found 2 Virginia Rails, 8 Soras, and several Common Moorhens, Jan–Feb. Single Semipalmated Plovers were at the small dam e. of Teotitlán del Valle 4 Dec and the flooded

fields just e. of Cosamaloapan 8 Dec (AM, JM, RAr). Numbers of Least Sandpipers at Piedra Azul res. were high, fluctuating between 40 on 20 Jan and 120 on 15 Jan (MSM, KK), dwindling to 70 by 15 Feb (HGdS). Four Short-billed Dowitchers were at the same location 28 Jan (ph. ESB, MC) and 15 Feb (HGdS).

A Eurasian Collared-Dove near Piedra Azul res. 15 Jan (MSM, KK) represents a new record for Oaxaca. A Yellow-lored Parrot reported from Palenque ruins, Chis. 23 Jan (BF, m.ob.) was either a vagrant displaced by Hurricane *Wilma* or an escapee. More certainly an escapee was a White-fronted Parrot at San Agustín Etla 19 Dec (MG). A Lesser Roadrunner was rather high (ca. 2900 m) at the base of the trail to the La Cumbre microwave towers 27 Jan (MC, ESB et al.). Four Buff-col-

lared Nightjars were heard along the road to Dainzú 28 Jan (MG), and one was heard at San Felipe Park near Oaxaca City 12 Feb (EdV). A possible Azure-crowned Hummingbird was seen at Nochixtlán 29 Dec (MG); the bird had upper mandible black, the basal two-thirds of lower mandible red, a white postocular spot, greenish sides of neck, and greenish head contrasting with greenish-gray back and tail. The identification of some white-bellied *Amazilia* hummingbirds in the

cen. valleys of Oaxaca is still a mystery. Again this year, a Green-fronted Hummingbird was found feeding in *Erythrina* on the lower slopes of Hwy. 175 below El Estudiante 24 & 27 Jan (MC, ESB et al.). A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was at La Cumbre 16 Dec (HGdS). A female Lucifer Hummingbird at Yagul 23 Jan (MC, ESB) was in an area where Beautiful Hummingbirds are far more regular.

A Northern Barred-Woodcreeper was photographed at Finca Sinai above Nopala 7 Jan (ph. MG); a Strong-billed Woodcreeper was at km 79 of Hwy. 175 n. of Oaxaca City 18 Jan (MSM, KK). A Greenish Elaenia was above Piedra Azul res. 15 Jan (MSM, KK). Three Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets were at high elevation in the forest above Arroyo Guacamaya 14 Dec, as was one near La Cumbre 16 Dec (HGdS). Often difficult to find in winter, single Pileated Flycatchers were found below El Estudiante 14 Dec (HGdS), above Piedra Azul res. 15 Jan (MSM, KK), and at Monte Albán 26 Jan (ESB, MC et al.). As often occurs in winter, Tufted Flycatchers and Greater Pewees were noted downlope of their usual habitats in cen. Oaxaca, with Tufteds at Piedra Azul res. 15-28 Jan (m.ob.), near Oaxaca City 13 Feb, and near San Miguel Etla 14 Feb (HGdS), with a Greater Pewee near San Miguel Etla 14 Feb (HGdS). Most unusual for the location, a Buff-breasted Flycatcher was studied at Monte Albán 14 Feb (RAR, RS, m.ob.). A White-throated Flycatcher was in cane near Tuxtepec 18 Feb (HGdS). An Eastern Phoebe was at Piedra Azul res. 25 Jan (ESB, MC et al.). Several Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were around Presa Emiliano Zapata 3 Dec (AM, JM, RAR). A female Gray-collared Becard was at the monument at km 96.5 along Hwy. 175 n. of Oaxaca City 18 Jan (MSM, KK).

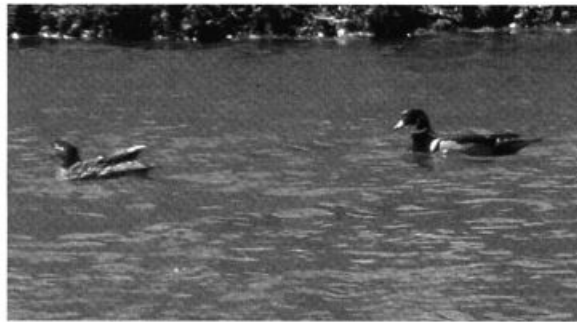
Twenty Dwarf Jays were seen well near La Cumbre 24 Jan (MC, ESB et al.), and 13 were



This Long-billed Dowitcher in Mérida, Yucatan 1 December 2005 is probably the first to be photographically documented for the state. It was identified as a Long-billed Dowitcher by call, bill length, and its rather straight supercilium. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet.

above Arroyo Guacamaya 19 Feb (MG). A Clay-colored Robin was at San Gabriel Etla 19 Feb (MG, ph. AD, RP). A Golden Vireo was s. of El Estudiante 17 Feb (HGdS). A Slaty Vireo was above San Gabriel Etla 22 Jan (MG); another, plus a Dwarf Vireo, was at La Cumbre 24 Jan, part of a large mixed-species flock found during cold, foggy, rainy weather; both vireos were at their upper elevational limits at just under 3000 m (MC, ESB et al.); Crewe also found a Slaty Vireo near

this spot 25 Dec. A Happy Wren was at Puente de Hierro 16 Dec and a pair s. of El Estudiante 14 Dec, with one there 17 Feb (HGdS). Two Marsh Wrens were noted at the small dam e. of Teotitlán del Valle 4 Dec (AM, JM, RAR). A Barn Swallow was at Piedra Azul res. 20 (MSM) & 25 Jan (MC, ESB et al.), with a Tree Swallow also present 28 Jan (MC). Aztec Thrushes were widely reported in small numbers: one was at Arroyo Guacamaya 22 Dec (MG); one to 2 were near the La Cumbre microwave towers 28 Dec (MC et



Three Wood Ducks joined other waterfowl at Piedra Azul dam above Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca, Mexico 25 January—25 (here 15) February 2006. These birds represent the first record of the species for the state of Oaxaca and the southernmost anywhere. Photograph by Héctor Gómez de Silva.

al.), 19 Jan (MSM, KK), and 27 Jan (ESB, MC et al.); a female was at Arroyo Jilguero 25 Jan, and 4 (a female and 3 males) were there 28 Jan (MC, ESB et al.). Two Black Robins were at La Cumbre 27 Jan and 2 at Arroyo Jilguero the next day (MC, ESB et al.). A Clay-colored Robin was reported near El Punto 19 Jan (MSM, KK).

## WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Tennessee Warbler was at San Pedro Nexicho 22 Jan, and another was mist-netted at the Santo Domingo botanical Garden, Oaxaca City 26 Feb (MG). A Hooded Yellowthroat was again found below El Estudiante 24 Feb (CDB et al.). An American Dipper was at the stream that crosses the road to Arroyo Gua-

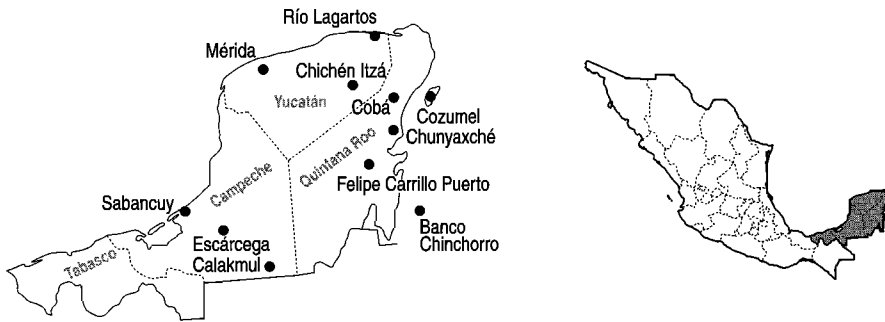
camaya above San Gabriel Etla 22 Jan (MG). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were at La Cumbre 25 Dec (MC et al.), continuing a string of recent sightings in this area. A male Yellow-throated Euphonia was with 2 Scrub Euphonias, the latter apparently of the nominate subspecies, w. of Tehuantepec 4 Dec (HGdS, MPV). A Summer Tanager of the w subspecies *cooperi* was at Monte Albán 26 Jan (ESB, MC et al.), possibly the 2nd record of this subspecies from Oax. For the 3rd winter, a pair of Red-headed Tanagers was found in eucalyptus below El Estudiante 27 Jan (MC, ESB et al.). Two flocks totaling more than 100 Red-legged Honeycreepers were found along the road to Pluma Hidalgo (about 12 km down from La Soledad) 1 Jan (MC et al.).

A male Yellow-faced Grassquit was seen 18 Jan in roadside scrub at km 162 of Hwy. 175 near Gueletao (MSM, KK), a regular location for the species. A Oaxaca Sparrow and a Rufous-crowned Sparrow were at Arroyo Jilguero 28 Jan (MC, ESB et al.) and 16 Feb (HGdS). Female-type Lazuli Buntings were noted near Guelatao 18 Jan (MSM, KK), below El Estudiante 27 Jan (MC), and at the location known affectionately as “garbage gulch” (or “valle de los pañales”) below El Estudiante 21 Feb (ph. HGdS), records of this species from the valleys of Oaxaca are increasing. There were at least 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Arroyo Guacamaya 15 Dec (HGdS), and an ad. male was near Yuvila 17 Jan (MSM, KK).

A pair of Melodious Blackbirds was at the village on the turnoff to Guien Gola 4 Dec (HGdS, MPV). A Streak-backed Oriole was at San Juan Guelavia 30 Jan (MG). Two Baltimore Orioles were near Piedra Azul res. 15 Jan (MSM, KK). A Bullock's Oriole x Baltimore Oriole hybrid was mist-netted at the Santo Domingo botanical Garden, Oaxaca City 26 Feb (ph. MG). A male Abeille's Oriole was at La Cumbre, where a rare winter visitor, 24 Jan (MC, ESB). Two siskins at La Cumbre 17 Jan were described as having a contrasting dark-streaked crown and bold yellow wingbars, typical of young juv Black-capped Siskins (MSM).

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## YUCATAN PENINSULA



Very bad news this winter came from Cozumel Island, which took the brunt of Hurricanes *Stan* and *Wilma* last season. Annual January visitors to the island noted a *complete absence* of parrots, cuckoos, owls, nightjars, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, tanagers, or Yucatan Vireos; only one dove and nine individual warblers (of five species) could be found in three days. Fallen and standing dead trees litter the island.

There was good news this winter from the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, where there was a successful nesting pair of Jabirus that increased the local population of the species by three. Two new species were added to the Reserve's list.

**Abbreviations:** H.S.A.C. (Hacienda San Antonio Chel, Hunucmá, Yuc.); R.L. (Río Lagartos, Yuc.); R.L.B.R. (Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve); R.S.F. (Rancho San Francisco, just s. of R.L.B.R. behind El Cuyo); R.S.S. (Rancho San Salvador, 15 km se. of Río Lagartos); S.F. (San Felipe, Yuc.); T.P. (Telchac Puerto).

### WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen between Celestún and Chunchucmil 14 Jan (DB, DY). Two Gadwalls and a Green-winged Teal were seen at R.S.F. 27 Feb (AC, MM, MS). Another rare winter migrant, a Cinnamon Teal was seen near the entrance to Progreso 21 Jan (DB, EG, DS). A total of 245 Lesser Scaup, mostly females, was counted 21 Jan at Uaymitún (DB, EG, DS). Sightings of **Red-breasted Merganser** are on the rise, with a female at S.F. 20 Dec (AP, ER, MT), 8 in front of the Hotel Reef Club, T.P. 21 Jan (DB, EG, DS), and one in a temporary puddle on the beach in Celestún 3 Feb (ph. DB). A rare **Masked Duck** was at R.S.F. 27 Feb (AC, MM, MS). A Singing Quail was taped 24 Feb at R.S.S., a new location for the species in the R.L.B.R. (AC, MM, MS).

Least Grebes nested on Cozumel I. this winter: 2 ads. with chicks were seen there 7 Jan (MC, SC). Along the mangrove loop

trail at Muyil, in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, a rare **Agami Heron** was observed using the boardwalk as a fishing perch 16 Jan (MC, SC)—one of the few benefits of the extremely high water levels. Boat-billed Herons were nesting at Progreso by 5 Feb (DB), and 2 Glossy Ibis were reported at Celestún 21 Dec (DB). The nesting of a pair of **Jabirus** in the R.L.B.R. made big news this winter. Nest-building began in early Dec, and 3 chicks hatched in Feb. Two **King Vultures** were seen flying over R.S.S. 24 Feb, almost a regular occurrence in the area of late (IN). A single Gray-headed Kite was seen near El Cuyo 6 Jan (AC), and another or the same bird was seen over Dzonot Carretera between El Cuyo and R.L. 4 Feb (AC). A single White-tailed Kite was at Xcambó 15 Dec (EG), and a male Northern Harrier flew low over R.S.S. 20 Dec (DN). A Crane Hawk was seen in Celestún 21 Dec (DB), and 3 were together on the road to Chunchucmil 14 Jan (DB, DY). A female Merlin was at Petén Tucha 20 Dec (BM, DN, RM).

### RAILS THROUGH SKIMMER

At least five pairs of Ruddy Crakes were at the sewage pond on Cozumel I. 6 Jan (MC, SC), while 3 Soras were seen along the road to Chunchucmil from Celestún 14 Jan (DB, DY). Around 5000 American Coots were at Celestún 31 Dec (DB), while 50 Wilson's Plovers were counted in the coastal lagoon behind the Celestún Reef Club during the Tex-Mex Shorebird Survey 21 Jan (DB, EG, DS, AS). A single ad. Piping Plover was found at Las Coloradas for the C.B.C. 20 Dec (BM, RM, DN). A large number of Killdeer (36, with 29 of them in one flock) was counted at El Cuyo 21 Dec (BM, MM, GP, ER, MT), and a Solitary Sandpiper was reported from Celestún 15 Jan (DB, DY). A single Whimbrel was at Las Coloradas 20 Dec (BM, RM, DN), and another was at Chelem 21 Jan (DB, EG, DS). A Marbled Godwit was at Celestún 15 Jan (DB, DY), and 15 were resting on a sandbar at Río Lagartos 21 Jan (SC, ER). Two rare Red Knots were on flats behind Chichchulub, e. of Progreso 21 Jan

(DB), and 3 Dunlins, which are increasingly being identified, were at Las Coloradas 20 Dec (BM, RM, DN). A 2nd state record of **Ruff** came from the coastal salt flats on the turnoff to Xcambó, 30 km e. of Progreso 30 Dec; the bird was observed for 20 minutes at a distance of 20 m as it rested and preened (MB, BM). Some 50 km w. of this location, the same or another **Ruff** was viewed through a scope at 30 m on a sandbar at Chuburná harbor 21 Jan (BM, AS). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was photographed at El Vivero, Mérida, Yuc. 1 Dec. Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were feeding in salt ponds at Las Coloradas 21 Jan (IN, DN).

An ad. Herring Gull, a scarce winter visitor to the n. coast, was at El Cuyo 21 Dec (BM, MT). An ad. and 2 imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in the coastal lagoon behind Chelem Ría 21 Jan (DB, EG, DS); and another ad. was seen at Chuburná 21 Feb (AD, BM). This species is definitely increasing in the area, as is Gull-billed Tern, with 13 at the Telchac Puerto harbor 21 Jan (DB, EG, DS). Caspian Terns are also on the increase along the n. coast of Yucatan: 10 were at Uaymitún 27 Jan (MB, BM). Three Forster's Terns were at Celestún 15 Jan (DB, DY). A favorite location for wintering Black Skimmers is the sandbar at the Chuburná harbor, where a minimum of 700-800 can be found roosting during the day, as on 20 Feb (AD, BM).

### PIGEONS THROUGH VIREOS

A consequence of Hurricane *Wilma*, a White-winged Dove was the only columbid seen on Cozumel I. 6-8 Jan (MC, SC). Eurasian Collared-Doves are being reported more frequently: one was feeding with ground-doves at Celestún 21 Feb (EG), and one was along the main avenue at Playa del Carmen 22 Feb (IN). A total of 75 Olive-throated Parakeet in flocks of 10-25 were feeding on the seeds of the Tajonal bush (*Viguiera dentate*) along the road from Sierra Papacal to Chuburná 21 Jan (MJE, BM, AS). A Barn Owl with 2 young was observed 22 Feb in the ruins at Dzibanché, Q.R. (LT), and 2 Vermiculated Screech-Owls were recorded calling 15 Jan near El Cuyo (v.r. AC). A rare **Black-and-white Owl** was seen at Chachoben in s. Quintana Roo in early Feb; however, the bird has not been seen since then (LT). Yucatan Nightjars were heard calling every night 26-27 Jan and 7-14 Feb at El Eden, Q.R. (AC). Two **Keel-billed Toucans**—a new species for the R.L.B.R.—were observed along the road to Tekal 12 km s. of El Cuyo 23 Feb, at same location where Collared Araçari was seen in 2004 (AC).

A Smoky-brown Woodpecker was taped calling 24 km s. of El Cuyo at Sta. Pilar, the s. point of the R.L. reserve 25 Feb (MS). A Gold-

en-olive Woodpecker was excavating a nest hole in a tree on the road to Tekal behind El Cuyo 1 Feb (AC). A Ruddy and a Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, plus a Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, were seen at Kiuic, Yuc. 6 Dec (BM, ph. AH), confirming this as a site with five species of woodcreepers (*vide* BM). At least 2-3 Tropical Kingbirds remained on Cozumel I. 6-7 Jan (MC, SC). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, another species that is more frequently reported in the past few years, was seen at R.L. 1 & 20 Dec (DN; BM, RM) and in dune vegetation at Chuburná 21 Feb (AD, BM). A male Gray-collared Becard was seen Vallalodid on 15 Jan (MC, SC). Two Black-crowned Tityras were on Chunchucmil road 14 Jan (DB, DY) and 2 more on the road to Tekal behind El Cuyo 21-22 Jan (AC).

A female Mangrove Vireo (containing one egg) was mist-netted at El Cuyo 4 Jan (AC). At least 5-6 Cozumel Vireos were seen and heard on Cozumel I. 6-7 Jan (MC, SC), which suggested they survived the autumn hurricanes better than many other species. A Blue-headed Vireo was reported in vegetation near Xcan toll station on toll road between Cancún and Valladolid 9 Jan (AR, SM). A Warbling Vireo was at Hacienda San José Cholul 5 Feb (BM, AS), and another was at San Antonio Muliz, Yuc. 12 Feb (BM, RM). Some 180 Tree Swallows were counted flying over R.L. 20 Dec (BM, RM, DN, MT); 50 passed over Chuburná 20 Feb (BM, AD); and thousands were behind El Cuyo daily 2 Jan-27 Feb (AC). Two Cozumel Wrens were noted on Cozumel I. 6-7 Jan (MC, SC).

More and more often, White-lored Gnatcatchers are reported inland, such as one at Hacienda Yaxcopoil, Yuc. 9 Jan (DB, GT) and a pair at H.S.A.C. 18 & 26 Feb (EC, BM, AM, JS). The same can be said for Black Catbird, although it is more prevalent in coastal dunes, where one was found 3 km w. of El Cuyo 21 Dec (BM, MM, GP, ER, MT); another was on road to Chunchucmil near Celestún 21 Dec (DB); but on Cozumel I., only 2 were seen 7 Jan during a three-day stay (MC, SC). Twelve were together 3 km from village square of H.S.A.C. 18 Feb (EC, BM, AM, JS).

### PIPITS THROUGH ORIOLES

Two American Pipits at R.S.S. 20 Dec (BM, DN) added yet another species to the R.L.B.R. list; 2 more were reported in Celestún in dune vegetation near the port 3 Feb (ph. DB). A Tennessee Warbler at Celestún 15 Jan (DB, DY) wintered, and 4 were at Chichén Itzá 4 Dec (and again in Mar). The local subspecies of Yellow Warbler on Cozumel I. appeared to have survived the landfall of Hurricane *Wilma*; at least 6-8 were seen there 6-7 Jan (MC, SC). As in the previous winter, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler wintered at Chichén Itzá, where seen in mid-Feb (AR, SM). Only one Black-throated Green, one Hooded, one Yellow-throated, and 2 Magnolia Warblers and 4 Common Yellowthroats were found on Cozumel I. 6-8 Jan (MC, SC). A male Prothonotary Warbler was at Celestún 21 Dec (DB) and 14 Jan (DB, DY). A resident pair of Gray-throated Chats, locally rare, was near Vallalodid 15 Jan (MC, SC). A male Rose-

throated Tanager was observed at Tekal behind El Cuyo 2 Feb (AC). At least one Western Tanager again wintered atop the pyramid at Izamal: last winter (in Dec 2004), an imm male was seen feeding on the fruits of *Sideroxylon americanum* (BM); this winter, an ad male and a female were observed there 19 Feb feeding on the same fruit (EG). Two Blue-gray Tanagers were in Kinchil Park 3 Feb.

A single Green-backed Sparrow was observed on road to Tekal 2-3 Feb (AC); this is the only area where this species is found regularly in Yucatan. Botteri's Sparrow is present in numbers around R.L., but on 3 Feb one was found at the entrance to the village of Tetiz, well inland from Celestún (DB). Four Baltimore Orioles and 2 ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Kinchil Park 3 Feb (DB); 3 of the latter were at H.S.A.C. 26 Feb, plus 9 Painted Buntings (EC, BM, AM, JS).

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