



This pair of Social Flycatchers nested in Hualahuisés, Nuevo León (here 3 July 2006), a first documented record for the state. Photograph by José Ignacio Granados.

coastal species, Black Catbird—which had been reported as individuals or pairs scattered throughout the interior of Yucatan—has been documented in recent years in small nesting colonies in the spring and summer. One such site is San Antonio Chel, where 15–20 active nests in close proximity were observed 22 Jun,

most containing chicks (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT). A nearby colony of a similar number had been active several weeks earlier in Jun (AM).

### WARBLERS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

A notable change of wind direction from easterly to north-northeasterly in the predawn hours of 25 Jul was likely responsible for the observations, 30 hours later (26 Jul), of a Yellow Warbler 14 km n. of Bacalar and another 11 km to the s. (BM); most begin to arrive in early Aug. A flock of 16 Yellow-winged Tanagers were feeding on *Cecropia* fruit at Chachoben 29 Jul (AH, BM), while 4 Red-legged Honeycreepers were seen at Muyil, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Q. Roo, where they are known to nest, 27 Jul (DB). A female White-collared Seedeater was busy feeding fledglings in Bacalar 25 Jul (AH, BM). The count of 12 Eastern Meadowlarks 28 Jul along the rd. to

Dzibanchén extends the known distribution of this species n. into s. Q. Roo from Belize (DB). Three chicks of Hooded Oriole were still in their nest woven into the overhang of a thatched roof over an entranceway at San Antonio Chel 22 Jun (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT), where single pairs of Orange Oriole, Altamira Oriole, and Yellow-throated Euphonia were feeding fledglings on the same day (AC, FG, BM, AM, MT).

**Contributors:** (subregional editor in bold-face): David Bacab, Antonio Celis, Luis Fernández, Fernando González, Antonio Hidalgo, Barbara MacKinnon, Alberto Mezquita, Rodrigo Migoya, Susana Ojeda, Ann Snook, Melgar Tabasco, Guilmer Tun. 📍

**Héctor Gómez de Silva**, Xola 314-E, 03100 México, D.F., Mexico, (hgomez@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx)

## Central America



H. Lee Jones | Oliver Komar

Without the inclusion of a number of late-arriving reports from the past winter and spring, this column would be very short indeed. While the contributions for the other three seasons have increased significantly over the last several years, the Summer Season report continues to be quite spare. Nevertheless, the number of species recorded breeding in the countries that make up the Region continues to grow. Bridled and Roseate Terns were documented breeding in Honduras, and Red-footed Booby was documented breeding near mainland Costa Rica for the first time. But not all birds found in Central America in the short summer season breed there. July, of course, marks the beginning of fall migration for most shorebird species, and a few species, mostly charadriiforms, occasionally or regularly summer on their wintering grounds (e.g., 3 Parasitic Jaegers in Guatemala in mid-June).

One shorebird that rarely summers south of its Canadian and Alaskan breeding grounds is Solitary Sandpiper, so one in Nicaragua in early June was quite unexpected.

The Caribbean lowlands of eastern Honduras are still relatively unexplored. An expedition to the headwaters of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve this summer by Robert Gallardo and Andrew Vallely produced a number of birds previously unrecorded in the area. Those they recorded in late July are reported here; those recorded in August will be reported in the Fall Migration issue.

**Abbreviations:** N.R. (Nature Reserve), R.P.B.R. (Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve in Honduras).

### GREBES THROUGH TERNS

Eight pairs of Least Grebes on I. Contadora 8 Jul (VW et al.) were the first of this species reported in Panama's Pearl Is. Received late was an account of a pelagic trip off the s. Pacific coast of Costa Rica on 1 Mar (SW et al.); noteworthy were about 1000 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and an unconfirmed Mottled Petrel. The latter, if confirmed, would be the first reported from Costa Rica and Central America. Also too late for inclusion in the Spring issue was documentation of Red-footed Boobies breeding on an islet near the mouth of the Sierpe R. (I. Violines) along the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. On 22 Apr, three

nests with nestlings were noted (NU) and on 12 May, six active nests with nestlings were found. This colony first came to light in late spring 2005, but it was not confirmed at the time, and the source of the report was never accurately determined.

A Cattle Egret on I. Contadora 8 Jul (VW et al.), perhaps an early fall migrant or local disperser, was the first reported from the Pearl Is. Even though the species is well known for its remarkable dispersal capabilities, the Pearl Is offer little in the way of suitable habitat and few, if any, cattle. Nevertheless, a few undoubtedly reach these islands periodically, if not annually. A Wilson's Plover sighted on Nicaragua's Pacific coast in Padre Ramos Estuary N.R., *Chinandega* 25 Jul (JM, ND, UMA) was apparently the first reported for the department. The species is probably more common on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua than inferred from the lack of reports. An unseasonable Solitary Sandpiper was on the se. shore of L. Managua 4 Jun (LL, JM, WA, DK), and impressive numbers of southbound Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs (250 and 400, respectively) were counted in a single flooded rice field near Sebaco, *Matagalpa* 22 Jul (JM).

DA and DS reported on three species of terns found in the vicinity of Honduras' Bay Is. In eight days of seabird monitoring off the Caribbean coast in 2005 and 2006, they had only four observations (8 individuals) of Brown Noddy, the latest of which was one

seen in the Cayos Cochinos, *Islas de la Bahía* 24 Jul. Although there are a few previous sight records, there are only two published reports of the species in Honduras. Also in *Islas de la Bahía*, Bridled Terns were confirmed nesting on three cays in the Bay Is. and Cayos Cochinos 11, 15, & 24 Jul (DA, ph. DS), thus providing the first verifiable reports of the species in Honduras and the first documented report of breeding. Nesting was suspected on three additional cays based on the presence of territorial birds. DS observed Bridled Tern last year in some of the same sites but did not find nests. Roseate Tern colonies were also found in the Bay Is. this summer, with about 159 and 17 ad. terns seen and about 40 and three nests encountered, respectively, at separate locations on 15 & 24 Jul (DA, DS). There were likely more than 40 nests in the first colony, but observations were restricted to an offshore site to avoid disturbance. The two colonies were on cays other than the one on which DS found a single colony last year, indicating the ephemeral nature of nest-site fidelity. Given the threatened status of the species in the Caribbean, any reports of Roseate Tern colonies are important. Main threats to breeding colonies in the Bay Is. appear to be disturbance from tourism and eggging.

## JAEGERS THROUGH ORIOLES

Three Parasitic Jaegers were found near Puerto Barrios, *Izabal* 18-20 Jun (ph. NK). The species has been reported in the Puerto Barrios area on several occasions previously, as well as in the Bahía de Amatique between Guatemala and Belize (KE, LJ), but these individuals provided the first photographically documented evidence of their occurrence in Guatemala. Providing only the 3rd record for Costa Rica, a White-crowned Pigeon was about 3 km n. of the R. Tortuguero estuary 6 Feb (AM et al.); both previous records have been from Tortuguero. A White-faced Quail-Dove was seen 25 Jul at 250 m elevation in Pico Bonito N.P. between El Naranjo and Las Mangas, *Atlántida* (DA). There have been several other reports this year in the same area, some as low as 100 m. Typically in Honduras, the species is found above 1000 m in the interior. Observations this year provided the first reports for *Atlántida* and extend the

dove's known range into the coastal lowlands.

In Costa Rica, a Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo 20 Feb at Heliconias Lodge at 800 m in Bijagua, *Alajuela*, just over the divide on the Caribbean slope of Tenorio Volcano (JK), was at a new location, but one with good habitat similar to that of another recent sighting near a pass on Rincón de la Vieja, a volcano in *Guanacaste*. A pair of Whiskered Screech-Owls was seen and heard 20-22 Jul (JM, CL, JC, FG) in Cerro Tisey N.R., *Esteli*, Nicaragua. These birds apparently provided the first report of



Although both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers are seen periodically at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala's only Caribbean port, these subadult Parasitic Jaegers photographed 18 June 2006 provided the first documentation of this species in Guatemala. Photograph by Nicholas Komar.

the species in this reserve, although the habitat, pine-oak woodland at 1350 m, is appropriate. Rare on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, a Black-and-white Owl was seen at Los Tarrales Reserve, *Suchitepéquez* in the last week of Jul (JLL), and 2 were there 1 Aug (EG, ph. AB). These observations were the first confirmed for Los Tarrales Reserve. Rare anywhere in Guatemala, a Strong-billed Woodcreeper was heard in oak-cypress forest at an elevation of 2200 m in Montaña de Carmona near Antigua, *Sacatepéquez* 18 Jun (KE).

New to the R.P.B.R. in ne. Honduras were Russet Antshrike and Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher recorded near the headwaters of the R. Plátano 31 Jul (RG, AV). In Panama, another first for the Pearl Is. was a Cattle Tyrant at I. Contadora 8 Jul (VW et al.). This species is rare in Panama. A Gray Kingbird on South Water Caye 16 Jun (ph. CC, KL) was the first recorded in Jun in Belize. All of the 15 or so previous records have been from Jul-May, with most occurring in spring. A Brown-chested Martin at San Vito in an interior valley at 1000 m on the s. Pacific slope near the Panama border 12 Apr (ph., †AS) furnished

another spring record in Costa Rica for this rare S.A. migrant. A flock of 25 Cliff Swallows migrating over Playa Salamar, Jucuarán, *Usulután*, El Salvador 25 Jul (JF) was exceptionally early, as this species is not normally seen in Central America before mid-Aug.

Until recently, Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo was only reported in Guatemala in the mts. on the Pacific slope. Two were heard calling in the oak-dominated cloud forest of the Montaña Yalijux on the border between the Chelemhá and K'antü Shul Reserves, *Alta Verapaz* 21 Jul, and a male and a female were seen there 22 Jul (KE, CA)—the first Guatemalan records from the Atlantic slope. Also new to the R.P.B.R. were Rufous-browed Peppershrike and Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush found at the headwaters of the Río Plátano on 30 & 31 Jul, respectively (RG, AV). Several migratory warbler species begin to arrive in Central America in Jul. One, possibly 2, ad. male Yellow-throated Warblers, perhaps the earliest arriving fall migrant warbler in the Region, were seen on an artificial cay in the Bay Is. 11 Jul (DA, DS), and an early female Black-and-white Warbler reached El Salvador

26 Jul, when it was captured in a mist net in Izalco, *Sonsonate* (ph. VG). A Yellow-backed Oriole seen at the headwaters of the Río Plátano 30 Jul (RG, AV) was new for the R.P.B.R.

Contributors: Uciel Martín Alvarado, David Anderson (Honduras), George Angehr (Panama), Wayne Arendt, Claudio Avendaño, Andy Burge, Jairo Cerrato, Chris Conard, Nestor Díaz, Knut Eisermann (Guatemala), Jesse Fagan, Victoria Galán, Robert Gallardo, Everilda García, Fredy García, Lee Jones (Belize), John Keep, Douglas Knapp, Nicholas Komar, Oliver Komar (El Salvador), Kimya Lambert, Carlos López, Lorenzo López, Joshué de León Lux, Jeffrey McCrary (Nicaragua), Andrew Metcalfe, Ariadna Sánchez, David Shoch, Noel Ureña, Andrew Vallely, Soo Whiting, Venicio Wilson, Jim Zook (Costa Rica). 📷

H. Lee Jones, 4810 Park Newport, #317, Newport Beach, California 92660, (hleejones@adelphia.net);  
Oliver Komar, SalvaNATURA Conservation Science Program, 33 Avenida Sur #640, San Salvador, El Salvador, (okomar@salvanatura.org)