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*Cover photo.* The gradual emergence of the Yucatan platform during the Quaternary (Maya block), jointly with associated climate and vegetation changes, are presently expressed as a major morphological unit on the north, with plains of heights less than 50 m and an extensive marine platform dominated by wetlands that provide critical habitat for some of the region's most emblematic species (see Gutiérrez-García and Vázquez-Domínguez, pp. 311–324 of this issue). Photo by E. Vazquez.