

Neotropical Notebook



These recent reports generally refer to new or second country records, rediscoveries, notable range extensions, and new localities for threatened or poorly known species. These have been collated from a variety of published and unpublished sources, and therefore some records will be unconfirmed. We urge that, if they have not already done so, contributors provide full details to the relevant national organisations.

BELIZE

There are five new records for the country as follows: a light phase **Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus* seen by the fisheries pier, Belize City, 1 May 1992; several **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* seen at Cox Lagoon in November 1986, up to 20 at Crooked Tree in March 1988, and again on 3 May 1992; a **Chuck-will's Widow** *Caprimulgus carolinensis* collected at San Ignacio, Cayo District, 13 October 1991; **Spectacled Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegaticipes* recently recorded on an expedition to the highest point in Belize (16°30'N 89°W) at 1,160 m (without further details); and a male **Slate-coloured Seedeater** *Sporophila schistacea* trapped and banded between Blue Creek and San Antonio, Toledo District, 28 January 1989, with subsequent records from Chan Chin Lodge, Orange Walk District, and along the Sibun River, Monkey Bay Sanctuary (Miller & Miller 1992). Nesting records of **Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivacea* were from Caracol, in the Chiquibal uplands, 1989-1992 inclusive, with eight records along the Macal River (Miller & Miller 1992) - the species was previously known in Belize from just one record, believed to be accidental.

CUBA

The first nesting record of **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* this century was made on 9 April 1993 by O. H. Garrido and a group of British Birdwatchers at Cayo Sabiná, in the north of Prov. Camagüey (Garrido 1993).

PANAMA

Three new country records come from the region of Laguna de Chiriquí, Bocas del Toro as follows: a **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* observed 20 km east of Isla Escudo de Veraguas, 29 March 1990; 3 **Green-breasted Mango** *Anthracoceros prevostii* collected at La Gruta, Isla Colón in February 1988, with 5 on Isla Cristóbal in February 1989, the species previously known only as far south as La Selva and Guápiles, Costa Rica; more surprisingly **Stub-tailed Spadebill** *Platyrinchus cacominus* was found to be common on all six of the larger islands in the mouth of Laguna de

Chiriquí, during fieldwork between 1987 and 1991, representing a disjunct population from that of Mexico to north-western Costa Rica (Olson 1993). **Red-throated Caracara** *Daptrius americanus* has been rediscovered in western Panama, with several seen and heard on 26 August 1993 around the Indian village of Teribe (*Toucan* 19[9]: 5).

COLOMBIA

Recent expeditions and increasing interest in this country has produced a wealth of new information, including 12 new country records. A Cambridge-RHBNC expedition to Serranía de Naquén, Amazonas, in July-August 1992 found 4 new country records as follows: **Rusty Tinamou** *Crypturellus brevirostris* observed at an ant swarm at Caño Ima, 12 August; **Brown-banded Puffbird** *Notharchus tricolor* observed in riverside trees between Mahimachi and Caño Colorado [no date]; and a male **Guianan Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila guianensis* observed at close range in a mixed flock at Caño Rico, 2 August (Amazon 1992).

Pearman (1993) reported 5 new country records as follows: a **Point-tailed Palmcreeper** *Berlepschia rikeri* was located in a palm grove, 10 km north of Leticia, Amazonas, 28 February 1987, and subsequently at the same locality in August and September 1989 when breeding was confirmed; a **Citron-bellied Attila** *Attila citriniventris* photographed at P.N. Amacayacú, Amazonas, 24 September 1990 was the first documented record, but recently 9 old museum specimens have been uncovered (F. G. Stiles verbally), and the species was found to be fairly common around Mitú, Vaupés in August 1993 (DW, MP); a **Wilson's Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla* seen at 1,250 m on Cerro Tacarcuna, northern Chocó, 9 October 1990 was the first South American record, previously known as far south as central Panama, but generally wintering in large numbers in the Chiriquí region of western Panama; a **Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum* observed near Turbo, north Antioquia, 13 October 1990 also represents the first record for South America, as does a **Green-naped Tanager** *Tangara fusca* seen at c.1,220 m near the ridge of Cerro Tacarcuna, northern Chocó, 8 October 1990.

Two new country (sight) records come from the eastern slope of the East Andes on the Río Guamés, near Orito, Dept. Putomayo in late August 1993 (Salaman & Gandy 1993) as follows: several **Fiery-throated Fruiteaters** *Pipreola chlorolepidota* on at least five occasions, and at least 2 **Grey-tailed Piha** *Lipaugus subalaris*. Stotz (1990) uncovered two previously unpublished specimens of **Striated Antbird** *Drymophila devillei* at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; a male collected, 7 October 1967 at Guascayaco, Dept. Putomayo, and a female collected (probably) from

San Antonio Guamuez, Dept. Putomayo, 30 October 1969, these representing the first and only Colombian records.

Notable range extensions from the Serranía de Naquén, Amazonas, in July-August 1992 include: one or two sight records of **White Hawk** *Leucopternis albicollis*, previously only recorded north of Puerto Inirida, but known from Amazonian Brazil; up to 10 **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus*, all previous Colombian records coming from the Andes; **Grey-bellied Antbird** *Myrmeciza pelzelni* found to be common at Caño Ima, previously known in Colombia from the west bank of the Río Guania, opposite the mouth of the Río Casiquiare; a male **Yapacana Antbird** *Myrmeciza disjuncta* at Caño Ima, 14 August 1992 was only the fourth record ever of the species, previously known in Colombia from a female netted near Puerto Inirida; and a **White-throated Kingbird** *Tyrannus albobularis* observed on 4 July is previously known in Colombia only from sight records at Leticia (Amazon 1992).

Other notable records come from Patio (on the Río Nambi), Dept. Nariño where a pair of the threatened **Yellow-green Bush-tanager** *Chlorospingus flavovirens* were seen on various dates in mid-July 1993 at the same fruiting tree (Salaman & Gandy 1993), this species being previously known from one Ecuadorean and two Colombian localities; and the poorly known **White-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis albiventris*, was found to be common in the vicinity of Mitú, Dept. Vaupés, where flocks of up to 6 individuals were seen daily between 23-29 August 1993 (DW, MP and BF).

ECUADOR

Five new country records are as follows: up to 3 roding **Imperial Snipe** *Gallinago imperialis* observed in P.N. Podocarpus, Prov. Loja by MP *et al.* from 7-10 December 1990, subsequently by GK and TM, and by EH on many occasions; the species was also discovered on the northern slope of Volcán Pichincha at Loma Yanayacu, Prov. Pichincha on 17 and 19 December 1990, and subsequently there in January and March 1991 (Krabbe 1992); single **Pale-rumped Swifts** *Chaetura egregia* observed in flocks of 5-7 Grey-rumped Swift *C. cinereiventris* at Tayuntza, Prov. Morona-Santiago in July and August 1987, with 1 specimen taken (Marin *et al.* 1992); **Nariño Tapaculo** *Scytalopus vicinior* appears to have been long overlooked in Ecuador, but tape-recordings from between 1,650-1,775 m on the Pacific slope in Prov. Carchi in August 1988, and subsequent tape-recordings and specimens from the north-west slope of Volcán Pichincha, from 2,350 m on the Pacific slope in Prov. Carchi and 1,800 m in the Cordillera de Toisan, Prov. Imbabura (Krabbe 1992), indicate that the species may be locally common; a male **Buff-throated Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus rufigularis* was collected at Pachicutza, 1,000 m, Valle de Nangaritza, Prov. Zamora-Chinchipe on 27 July 1989, extending the known distribution 400 km north from Dept. San Martín, Peru (Marin *et al.* 1992), this species subsequently being recorded on two occasions on the southern slope of Cordillera de Guacamayos and the northern flank of the Pan de Azucar, both in Prov. Napo, on 2 September 1990 and 2-3 November 1990 respectively (Krabbe 1992), another 300 km northwards range extension; and groups of 3-6

Orange-throated Tanager *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron* (threatened), of which 4 were collected, were recorded at 1,000 m between 24 July and 3 August 1990 in mature forest at Shaime, 43 km south-east of Zamora in the upper Río Nangaritza, Prov. Zamora-Chinchipe (Marin *et al.* 1992). **Crescent-faced Antpitta** *Grallaricula lineifrons* has been rediscovered in southern Ecuador at Hacienda La Libertad, Prov. Cañar in August 1992 by RSR, the species being previously known only from the type-locality at Oyacacu, north-east Ecuador, and a 1972 record from P.N. Puracé, Dept. Cauca, Colombia.

Other important range extensions from Krabbe (1992) include: 2 **Viridian Metal-tail** *Metallura williami* at 3,350 m on the Páramo El Angel, Prov. Carchi, 14 November 1990, representing the first record from the Western Andes; a **Streak-capped Treehunter** *Thripadectes virgaticeps* and an **Orange-crested Flycatcher** *Myiophobus phoenicomitra* collected 9 km west of Piñas, Prov. El Oro, 14 and 15 April 1991 respectively, extends the known distribution of both species 400 km southward; 5 male **Andean Tapaculo** *Scytalopus magellanicus* collected at the Páramo El Angel, Prov. Carchi, on 16 and 18 November 1990, are the first records from the Western Andes, as were the two **Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus minor* seen at 2,500 m on a ridgetop, 19-22 November 1990, on the Pacific slope in Prov. Carchi; and 3 female **Large-headed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon megacephala* collected 10 km south-east of Archidona, Prov. Napo in October 1988, are the first Ecuadorean specimens, and the second record of the species in Ecuador (Marin *et al.* 1992). A record of the very localized, poorly known (threatened) **Masked Mountain-Tanager** *Buthraupis wetmorei* at Papallacta Pass on 4 December 1992 by J. C. Mattheus, comes from an area well visited by foreign birders.

PERU

The first documented records of **Yellow Tyrannulet** *Capsiemia flaveola* in Peru (involving 3 specimens) were recently published as follows: an adult female from Isla Pasto, c.80 km north-east of Iquitos, Dept. Loreto, 22 July 1984; a juvenile male from Tono, Dept. Cuzco, 29 November 1985; and a juvenile male from Pakitza, Manu National Park, Dept. Madre de Dios, 11 October 1989 (Servat 1993).

BOLIVIA

Six new country records come from chaco scrub at Estancia Perforación, Prov. de Cordillera, Dept. Santa Cruz during 1990 as follows: a group of 6 **Black-hooded Parakeet** *Nandayus nanday* in June, and flocks of 5 and 7 in September; 3 **Rufous-legged Owl** *Strix ruficeps* on 17 and 18 June and again 3 in September; a pair of **Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper** *Drymornis bridgesii* observed in June and September, and a male collected; **Chaco Earthcreeper** *Upercerthia certhioides* found to be fairly common in June and September, the nearest previous records being 300 km to the south in western Paraguay; **Little Thornbird** *Phacellodomus sibilatrix* found to be a common resident; and groups of 2-8 **Stripe-capped Sparrow** *Aimophila strigiceps* recorded frequently in June and September (Kratter *et al.* 1993).

Three new country records from P.N. Noel Kempff Mercado, Dept. Santa Cruz are as follows: 3 **Black-girdled Barbet** *Capito dayi* collected on Serranía de Huanchaco, August 1990, confirming the species's presence in Bolivia, being previously known from a tape-recording also from PNNKM; 4 **Rufous-necked Puffbird** *Malacoptila rufa* collected on Serranía de Huanchaco, August 1990; **Cinereous Antshrike** *Thamnomanes caesius* found to be fairly common at the base of Serranía de Huanchaco, a 350 km eastward range extension; and **Tooth-billed Wren** *Odontorchilus cinereus* found to be not uncommon in the canopy at PNNKM, August 1990, after being first discovered there in 1989 (these being the first records outside Brazil) (Kratzer *et al.* 1992).

Several interesting recent records from Depts. Chuquisaca and Tarija are as follows: **Red-faced Guan** *Penelope dabbeni* found to be very common (groups of 10 and 25 individuals) in mossy forest from Cerro Campanarios to Cerro Campamentito, Dept. Chuquisaca, March 1992; and on the southern slopes of Cerro Campamentito a roost of up to 440 **Alder Amazon** *Amazona tucumana* (previously considered threatened) was encountered (the species was also found to be locally fairly common in central Dept. Tarija); and **Bolivian Warbling-finch** *Poospiza boliviana* found to be fairly common in September/October 1992 in and around Tariquia Reserve, southern Dept. Tarija, only 20 km from the Argentine border (Mayer 1992a,b), from where the species remains unrecorded.

An ornithological survey of Beni Biological Station, Dept. Beni in August/September 1992 revealed a number of interesting observations including four records (one individual mist-netted) of the little known and threatened **Unicoloured Thrush** *Turdus haplochrous*, and a total of 58 species previously unrecorded from the reserve (White *et al.* 1993). Notable range extensions at BBS included an adult **Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* 3 km north of El Porvenir, 24 August, previously known in Bolivia from the non-Amazonian lowlands of Depts. Santa Cruz and Tarija; an adult **Crested Eagle** *Morphnus guianensis* on 17 September, previously known in Bolivia only from Dept. Santa Cruz; a remarkable record of a flock of 15 **Military Macaw** *Ara militaris*, 17 September, an Andean foothill bird previously known from Depts. Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca and Tarija; and a mist-netted **Stripe-cheated Antwren** *Myrmotherula longicauda*, 16 September, is another Andean foothill species.

CHILE

The record of 4 **Westland Petrel** *Procellaria westlandica* observed at sea between Isla Chiloe and Puerto Aisen, 8 December 1991 (PH, GR), represents the second record for Chile and only the third for South America, but perhaps more interestingly, these birds were part of a group of c.150 *Procellaria* petrels, of which only 4 came close enough to allow identification, and it now seems probable, taking into account the recent record in the Beagle Channel (see under Argentina) that the species occurs with some regularity off the southern cone.

ARGENTINA

A total of 14 new records for the country are as follows: (Prov. Misiones) **Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* and **Brown-breasted Pygmy-tyrant** *Hemitriccus obsoletus* were recently recorded from the north by M. Castellino (CS); **Long-tailed Potoo** *Nyctibius aethereus* was tape-recorded at Parque Provincial Urugua-í in September 1986 and September 1989 (Straneck & Johnson 1990); a single **Blue-bellied Parrot** *Triclarina malachitacea* accompanying a flock of Reddish-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis* was observed at P.N. Iguazu, April 1984 (Rumboll 1990), and subsequently a single bird was observed at Arroyo Urugua-í, November 1986 (Canevari *et al.* 1991); 2 **Sharpbill** *Oxyruncus cristata* were located in P.N. Iguazu, 19 July 1987 (Finch 1991), and subsequently by other observers, where the majority of records come from the Bernabe Mendez trail; and a **Palm Tanager** *Thraupis palmarum* was observed at the international hotel in P.N. Iguazu, 20 July 1989 (Finch 1991);

(the north-west) a **Pearled Treerunner** *Margarornis squamiger* was observed in a mixed species flock at P.N. Baritu, Prov. Salta, and a **Golden-crowned Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus* was also observed there (B. Lopez Lanus in press); a pair of **Rufous-webbed Tyrant** *Polioxolmis rufipennis* observed at Lagunillas, Prov. Jujuy, October 1986 (Rumboll 1990), and subsequently at the same locality by FL; 2 **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus* photographed at P.N. Calilegua, Prov. Jujuy by FM; **Grey-bellied Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa carbonaria* recently recorded at Santa Ana, Prov. Jujuy by FM, this species previously regarded a Bolivian endemic; and a population of **Citron-headed Yellow-finch** *Sicalis luteocephala*, also previously regarded a Bolivian endemic, was located near La Quiaca, Prov. Jujuy, 2 April 1989 (Pearman 1989), and subsequently there by numerous other observers;

(the south) a **Jackass Penguin** *Spheniscus demeris* was photographed in the Magellanic Penguin *S. magellanicus* colony at Punta Tombo, Prov. Chubut, 27 December 1986 (Rumboll 1990); and video footage and photographs were taken of 2 **Westland Petrel** *Procellaria westlandica* in the Beagle Channel, east of Ushuais in December 1991 (Whitney & Stejskal in press), representing the second record for South America and the first in Argentine waters (see also under Chile).

Other notable observations include: a pair of **Thrush-like Wren** *Campylorhynchus turdinus* at P.N. Pilcomayo, Prov. Formosa, 27 November 1988 (Finch 1991), the second Argentine record; a juvenile **King Penguin** *Aptenodytes patagonica* located at Balneario Reta, southern Prov. Buenos Aires, January 1991 (Fiameni 1992), a remarkable accidental record but surprisingly the second for the province; and 3 adult male **White-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila leucoptera* trapped and released at Alpachiri, southern Prov. Tucuman, 9 November 1987 (Loughead 1991), the first record from north-east Argentina.

BRAZIL

Two records of **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*, a winter-plumaged male, 27 December 1984 at Parque

Laranjeiras, Amazonas, and another winter-plumaged male near this locality, 19 December 1987 (Stotz *et al.* 1992) are the first records for Brazil. Other new records for Amazonian Brazil were made by Stotz *et al.* (1992) as follows: at least 3 records of **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*, between September and December 1990, at Ilha da Marchantaria, along the Rio Branco north of Boa Vista, and between Manaus and Manacapuru; a calling **Alder Flycatcher** *Empidonax alnorum* in Manaus on 15 December was apparently only the second Brazilian record; a spring-plumaged male **Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca*, 19 March 1983 at the BDFP reserve (Fazenda Esteio) was the third Brazilian record, the fourth being an adult female collected at Chapada do Araripe, Ceara, 21 March 1989 (Teixeira *et al.* 1993); and a first year male and a female **American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* were observed near Manaus, 20 April 1983 and November 1991 respectively.

Other interesting records from north-east Brazil include: some vagrant **Plumbeous Ibis** *Harpiprion caerulescens* observed at a dam near Iguatú, southern Ceara, 31 October 1989, with the nearest previous records coming from Mato Grosso State; 3 records of **Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica* in Ceara involved 7 birds from Massapé in April 1979, Jaguaribe in March 1983 and Aracati in May 1983, this species previously known as far north at Sao Paulo State, with a single record from the Rio Uraricoera, Roraima State in the 1960s; and a young **Wood Pewee** *Contopus virens* collected at Chapada do Araripe southern Ceara, 24 March 1989, previously recorded only from west Amazonian Brazil (Teixeira *et al.* 1993). Another noteworthy range extension is **Oustalet's Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes oustaleti* at Boa Nova, Bahia, 1 August 1993, representing a considerable northward extension from Espirito Santo State (JT, RW and MC).

VENEZUELA

The second and third records of **Semicollared Hawk** *Accipiter collaris* for Venezuela are as follows: a single at 1,600 m along the Río Chiquito Valley, P.N. El Tama, Táchira on 12 September 1990 (MP); and a single along the San Isidro Tunnel road, Mérida on 14 January 1993 (GG).

The Neotropical Notebook was compiled by Mark Pearman

Records were collated from the published and unpublished references cited below, and from observations and contributions by the following: Miguel Castelino (MC), Mike Catsis (MC), Graeme Green (GG), Peter Hayman (PH), Frank Lambert (FL), Flavio Moschione (FM), Mark Pearman (MP), Robert S. Ridgely (RSR), Graham Riley (GR), Carlos Saibene (CS), Joe Tobias (JT), Rob Williams (RW), David Willis (DW).

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Records constitute published material, mostly from the period 1993-1994, including papers from a variety of poorly known journals, together with personal communications submitted to the editors. Subject matters include new country records, rediscoveries, range extensions of over 250 km, and significant new localities for rare or threatened species. Some records may, on occasion, require further confirmation while their authenticity is vetted, as far as possible, by the editors.

CARIBBEAN

JAMAICA

A **Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus* observed by NM and SS at the Upper Black River Morass on 19 January 1994 was the third record for the island; the first record in 1977 also came from this locality indicating that a small population may be present.

BAHAMA ISLANDS

Three notable records, all firsts for the Bahamas, are as follows: a male **Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* was present at Graeme Hall Swamp from February through to 9 March 1993 (Norton 1993); a **Virginia's Warbler** *Vermivora virginiae* was observed at Dover Sound Observation Hill, Grand Bahama on 8 March 1993 (Smith *et al.* 1994), being only the second record for the West Indies; and a **Wilson's Phalarope** *Steganopus tricolor* was located at Lake Rosa, Great Inagua on 4 April (Norton 1993).

ANTIGUA

A **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* was photographed at Cook's Dump, outside St. John's on 14 August 1993 (Gricks 1994a), representing the first record for the Americas. The bird, seen by several observers, appears to be a genuine vagrant and had no leg rings or wing tags, and was not present on the next day. A **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* on 23-24 September 1993 at Jolly Harbour (Gricks 1994b) was also the first record for the Antigua-Bermuda group.

BARBADOS

Norton (1993) reported the first record of **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* in the West Indies, which involved a bird photographed at Golden Grove Swamp on 24 April 1993. Frost (1993) published the second record of **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* observed at Graeme Hall Swamp, St. Philip on 28 November 1992, present til at least 19 April 1993; and the second record of **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*, present from 1-27 April 1993, was made at the same

locality. Amazingly the bird was joined by another on the latter date (Norton 1993) and the records represent the sixth for the Caribbean, the seventh for the Neotropics and only the ninth for the Americas. A female **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* observed at Greenland, St. Andrew on 24 April 1993 is one of a small number of records this century in the Lesser Antillas (Norton 1993).

SAINT VINCENT

A sighting of a single **White-crowned Pigeon** *Columba leucocephala* in March 1993, was possibly the first island record (Norton 1993).

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO

A juvenile-plumaged **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* was photographed at Ensenada, Baja California on 12 September 1992 (Rademaker & Ludden 1993), representing the first conclusive record for Mexico, the species being previously known from an 1882/1883 specimen of questionable identity.

BELIZE

New country records include **Crested Owl** *Lophostrix cristata* and **Slaty Antwren** *Myrmotherula schisticolor*, both found at the Columbia River Forest Reserve, Toledo District in April 1993, along with an observation of **Black-billed cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* on 8 April 1993 (Parker *et al.* 1993), previously listed as hypothetical in Belize. Another important find was that of a fairly large population of the rare **Keel-billed Motmot** *Electron carinatum* in the Columbia River Forest Reserve, Toledo District in April 1993 with at least 20 individuals located (Parker *et al.* 1993).

GUATEMALA

Up to 12 **Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus* were observed, over three days, between 26-29 March 1992 from the Puerto Barrios to Livingston boat service, c. 22 km off the Guatemalan coast (Byrom 1993). This record, backed up with photographic evidence, is the first from the Caribbean coast of Guatemala.

HONDURAS

The isolated population of **Yellow-crowned Parrot** *Amazona ochrocephala* in the Sula Valley has been rediscovered having not been seen since 1962; a flock of 75 were located by SL and AM on 16 and 17 February 1994 in the Punta Sal area.

SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA

New country records are as follows: **Chimborazo Hillstar *Oreotrochilus chimborazo***, previously known only from Ecuador as far north Imbabura Province has been located at El Tambo (3,550 m) on the Pacific slope in Nariño by CD and AP, with at least two pairs observed, including a pair netted and photographed on 12 July 1991 and a female at 3,600 m; and a **Capuchinbird *Perissocephalus tricolor***, accidentally omitted from *Cotinga* 1, was observed in riverside trees between Mahimachi and Cano Colorado, Serranía de Naquen, Amazonas in July/August 1992 (Amazon 1992).

GUYANA

Three recently discovered new country records were published in Parker *et al.* (1993b) as a result of fieldwork undertaken along Maipaima Creek, in the western Kanuku Mountains, south-west Guyana, in February 1993 as follows: 2 **White-winged Potoo *Nyctinius leucopterus*** were heard on numerous occasions, and tape-recorded, in early February, the song being very similar to that of the recently discovered Manaus population; and tape-recorded evidence of **Barred Forest-falcon *Micrastor ruficollis*** and **Tawny-bellied Screech-owl *Otus watsonii*** provided first country records, although both species are common in adjacent countries.

ECUADOR

A total of seven new country records have recently come to light. Ellen & Steijn (1994) reported four **American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*** located on a marshy coastal lake 12 km south of Atacames, Esmeraldas province on 10 January 1991, and a single was photographed by G. Speight and M. Coverdale at the Salinas salt pans, Guayas province on 26 August 1992, providing the first records for mainland South America. Three new records come from a recent expedition to the central portion of the Cordillera del Condor, province of Zamora-Chinchipec in September 1990 (Krabbe & Sornoza 1994): firstly, two **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata***, were collected at 1,700 m, the species previously known from the southern end of this cordillera in Peru; four specimens of the extremely localised **Cinnamon-breasted Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus cinnamomeipectus***, previously known from only from three localities either side of the Marañón River, northern Peru, were also collected at this site; and the recently described **Bar-winged Woodwren *Henicorhina leucoptera*** was found to be fairly common at La Punta, 1,700 m and recorded up to Chinapinza at 1,900 m, extending the known distribution by 100 km northward. From Utuana, southern Loja Province come records of a pair of **Black-crested Tit-tyrant *Anairetes nigrocristatus*** on 14 September 1989, and again a pair and two single males in the same area on 6 February 1991 (Best *et al.* 1993), the species was previously known only from Piura Department, Peru (close to the Ecuadorian border) south to Ancash Department; and **Black-eared**

Hemispingus *Hemispingus melanotis* was found to be fairly common at Utuana with groups of 3-8 observed in September 1989, but could not be located thereafter during searches in 1991, when a considerable portion of the cloud forest and bamboo had been burned (Best *et al.* 1993). Photographic and tape-recorded evidence of a pair of **Three-striped Flycatcher *Conopias trivirgata*** at Pacuya, Napo Province (Cygnus Tour group) was made in both 1992 and 1993. The **Crescent-faced Antpitta *Grallaricula lineifrons***, recently rediscovered (see *Cotinga* 1:27, should read August 1991 not August 1992) in the province of Cañar, has been found at two additional localities (Robins *et al.* 1994) as follows: from 14-24 March 1992, it was found fairly commonly between 3,225 and 3,400 m in humid temperate forest along the western slope of Cerro Mongus, extreme eastern Carchi province, and three birds were located between 28 March - 1 April 1992 at 3100 m in the Cordillera de Cordoncillo, Loja Province, with birds again singing at this locality in September and November 1992, indicating that the species is widely distributed between 3,000 and 3,400 m along the eastern Ecuadorian Andes. Two interesting range extensions, also made by Best *et al.* (1993), were the second record of **Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant *Poecilatriccus ruficeps*** on the Andean west slope at Utuana, Loja Province, extending the known range on that slope by c.250 km southward, while this and a 1968 specimen from Loja may prove to represent the nominate race from the east Andean slope; and records of several **Dusky Bush-tanager *Chlorospingus semifuscus*** from Buenaventura, El Oro Province in February and March 1991, extend the known distribution southward by c.300 km, although these records are likely to be seasonal as the species has gone unrecorded by the numerous observers who have visited this well known site.

PERU

A vagrant adult **Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*** photographed at Pucusana, 60 km southeast of Lima, Department of Lima in (no date given) 1987 (Haase 1993) represents the first South American record.

PARAGUAY

The recent conservation initiative of the Cambridge University expedition Project Canopy '92 (Brooks *et al.* 1993) provides us with substantial new information on the status of many birds in this underwatched country. With the comparatively well studied Atlantic Forest areas in nearby Misiones, Argentina and Paraná, Brazil, recent field work in the forest remnants of the Paraguayan Atlantic Forest from July - September 1992 close to the Argentine and Brazilian borders has, not surprisingly, revealed a number of species previously unrecorded within Paraguay or known from sparsely documented records (Brooks *et al.* 1993) as follows: four sightings of up to 3 **Plumbeous Pigeon *Columba plumbea*** on four dates in September 1992 at Lagunita; two aural records of **Black-banded Owl *Ciccaba huhula*** were made at Estancia Itabó, Department of Canindeyú in August; **Sooty Swift *Cypseloides***

fumigatus was recorded at Estancia San Antonio, Department of Alto Paraná, and Estancia Itabó, Estancia La Golondrina II, and Reserva Natural de Bosque Mbaracayú, Department of Canindeyú; **Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* was found to be relatively common at Estancia La Golondrina, Department of Caazapa, Estancia Itabó, and Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú; a sighting of a **Rufous-throated Sapphire** *Hylocharis sapphirina* at San Antonio on 26 July and two at Itabó on 7 August; observations of the threatened **Red-spectacled Amazon** *Amazona petrei*, a single at Itabó, likely to be a wandering individual, on 15 August 1992; a single **White-browed Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor amaurotis* was recorded at Estancia La Golondrina I on 8 July, and up to three daily over a period of four days in late July at Estancia San Antonio; single **Mouse-coloured Tapaculo** *Scytalopus speluncae* records on four dates in mid July at Estancia La Golondrina I; and a single **Sooty Grassquit** *Tiaris fuliginosa* netted at Lagunita on 12 September provided a considerable range extension from central Brazil. The fourth Paraguayan record of the near-threatened **Canebrake Groundcreeper** *Clibanornis dendrocolaptoides* comes from Estancia La Golondrina I with a bird netted and photographed on 11 July 1992. Other noteworthy records in Paraguay come from a study of austral migrants in Paraguay (Hayes *et al.* 1994) as follows: two **Bar-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes fuscus* and three **Short-billed Pipit** *Anthus furcatus* observed at San Juan de Neembucu, Department of Neembucu on 6 June 1991 were second records for Paraguay; five male **Marsh Seedeater** *Sporophila palustris* near Carayao, Department of Caaguazu on 13 July 1977, two males at Estancia Nu Pora, Department of Misiones on 24 March 1989, a single male at Estancia La Fortuna, Department of Canindeyú on 17 October 1990, and a male southwest of San Juan Bautista, Department of Misiones on 2 March 1991 provide only the second documented records in Paraguay of this threatened species; observations of several male **Chestnut Seedeater** *Sporophila cinnamomea* at Estancia Nu Pora, Department of Misiones on 24 March 1989 and at Estancia La Fortuna, Department of Canindeyú on 2 October 1990 provide the only records in Paraguay since this near-threatened species was collected in 1930; two **Lesser Canastero** *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*, to the north of Filadelfia, Department of Boqueron, on 17 June 1990 represent the third record for the country; and a male **White-winged Black-tyrant** *Knipolegus aterrimus* observed west of Fortin Teniente Agripino Enciso, Department of Nueva Asunción also provided the third Paraguayan record.

CHILE

A new and substantial population of the poorly known and 'threatened' **Tamarugo Conebill** *Conirostrum tamarugensis* was discovered at Pampa del Tamarugal National Reserve, Tarapaca province in October 1993 (CE in prep.). The good news is that the population found, albeit restricted to two localities of planted Tamarugos *Prosopis tamarugo*, consists of several

thousand birds and that the first breeding data has been obtained. Additionally, a sight record of this species near Toconao, Antofagasta province on 25 February 1988 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992) also represents a considerable range extension southward.

Six new country records are as follows: a **Band-tailed Earthcreeper** *Eremobius phoenicurus* collected c.4 km south-east of O'Higgins (= 34 km by road southwest of Monte Aymond), Magallanes Province on 28 November 1988 (Vuilleumier *et al.* 1993), previously known only from Argentine Patagonia; a single **Slender-billed Miner** *Geositta tenuirostris* observed in a bog near Chucuyo, PN Lauca, Tarapaca province in February 1990 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992); a **Cliff flycatcher** *Hirundinea ferruginea* located at Temuco bus station by AJ, present from 19-20 February 1992; a **Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus* present from 20-31 December 1992 at Laguna de Baturu, Santiago province (Aguirre & Egli 1993); a first summer male **American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* observed in the Azapa Valley, Arica, Tarapaca Province by AJ on 8 May 1986, and a female/immature located at the nearby Lluta Valley in February 1989 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992); and 3 **Giant Conebill** *Oreomanes fraseri* located at Zapahuirra (3500 m), Tarapaca Province in December 1991 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992) in a *Polylepis* grove, and again at the same locality on 1 December 1992 (Howell & Webb unpubl. 1992).

A record of a **Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* at Punta Concon, Prov. Valparaiso on 4 January 1992 is the first for the Chilean mainland (Gonzalez *et al.* 1993) while the species is known to breed as close as San Felix and San Ambrosio (to Chile), some 600 km offshore.

Three second records for the country included reports of 3 **White-faced Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* near Cerro La Cruz, Calama on 11 March 1989, two of which were captured on 16 May, and another reported from Valdivia (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992); a pair of **Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma* were observed at Tranque San Rafael, Santiago province on 5 April 1992 (Aguirre *et al.* 1992); and a **Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans* observed at Putre, Tarapaca province in November 1988, followed by another in vicinity of Socoroma, Tarapaca province in January 1981 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992) and a spate of records since, at the former locality, by a number of observers.

Other interesting records include: a **Green Heron** *Butorides striatus* observed at Punta Teatinos at the extreme northern end of La Serena Beach on 5 January 1989 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992) representing the third Chilean record; a **Roseate Spoonbill** *Ajaia ajaja* observed at Estero de Tongoy, Coquimbo province, in September 1989 was the first Chilean record for many years (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992); a **Puna Plover** *Charadrius alticola* located at Embalse El Yeso, Santiago province (3000m) in December 1989 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992) was c.500 km south of its known range; a **Band-tailed Gull** *Larus belcheri*, previously known in Chile as far south as Coquimbo, was located at 400 km to the south at Las Cruces, Valparaiso province in July 1988 (Sallaberry *et al.* 1992); **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*, previously thought to be a

rare summer visitor has been observed in groups of 16-22 on a regular basis in the months of December and January since 1987 in the Calama Valley (Demetrio 1993); **Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota*, previously known from a handful of records, has also been observed in numbers on a regular basis since 1990 at the same locality between December and March (Demetrio 1993b); and a **Sand Martin/Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*, collected 2 km south of San Juan on the Brunswick Peninsula (c. 65 km south of Punta Arenas), in the extreme south of Magallanes Province, on 12 November 1989 (Vuilleumier *et al.* 1993), represents a remarkable vagrant record considering the species was not previously recorded south of Valdivia, in Chile (but see recent records from the Falklands/Malvinas).

ARGENTINA

A **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* in breeding plumage was present at Punta Rasa, Buenos Aires province from 1-8 January 1993 (AJ in prep.) and appears to represent the first confirmed record of the species in Argentina.

Further details on three species previously reported new to Argentina in *Cotinga* 1 are as follows: the record of **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus* referred to a sighting of 12 individuals at P.N. Calilegua, Jujuy on 26 June 1991 (Moschione 1993); the first and second records of **Brown-breasted Pygmy-tyrant** *Hemitriccus obsoletus* were both made at P.N. Iguazu, Misiones on 4 May 1991 and later, tape-recorded, on 21 July 1991 (Saibene and Castelino 1993); and the **Grey-bellied Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa carbonaria* record referred to two individuals at 3440 m, Arroyo San Sana (not Santa Ana as previously stated), 3 km east of La Quiaca, Jujuy on 6 June 1988 (Moschione and San Cristobal 1993).

The wintering range of the rare **Magellanic Plover** *Pluvianellus socialis* has been extended northward by c. 400 km from the Valdes Peninsula, Rio Negro to southern Buenos Aires province; where five separate records, involving three singles, a group of 3 and a group of 7, were made in the austral winters of 1983, 1988 and 1991 at Mar Chiquita, Salitral de la Vidriera, 23 km west of Bahia Blanca, Salinas Chicas, 20 km north-east of Medanos, and near Villalonga (Narosky *et al.* 1993).

Other interesting records, of vagrant birds, made by AJ at Punta Rasa, southern Buenos Aires province, include: an **Andean Flamingo** *Phoenicoparrus andinus* from 16-26 December 1991 (photographed); single **Black Terns** *Chlidonias nigra* on 26 December 1991, and 31 December 1992; a **Short-tailed (Chestnut-bellied) Nighthawk** *Lurocalis nattereri* from 11-12 November 1992; an **Ashy-tailed Swift** *Chaetura andrei* was also reported on 11 November by S.Hilty and M.Rumboll; an **Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* on 6 November 1992; and a male **Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatina jacarina* on 7 January 1992.

FALKLAND ISLANDS/ISLAS MALVINAS

A large number of vagrant records have recently been published (Gregory 1994, Henry 1994) including the

following eleven new records for the islands. Several **Royal Penguins** *Eudyptes (chrysolophus) schlegelii* were found in a Rockhopper Penguin colony on West Falkland (no dates given), representing a huge range extension from Macquarie Island, and a **Snares Crested Penguin** *Eudyptes robustus* from New Zealand was also present, and photographed, in a Rockhopper colony on West Falkland, and later photographed at the Settlement rookery on New Island on 10 December 1988. A **Georgian Diving-petrel** *Pelecanoides georgicus* was present at Stanley swimming pool from 26 March until 31 March 1990, when found dead, although the species may have been previously overlooked in and around the islands. An unconfirmed record of a juvenile **Lake Duck** *Oxyura vittata* was reported near Stanley Airport on 7 March 1994. A dark-morph **Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* observed near Stanley on 25 February 1989 and an **Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* on Sea Lion Island from 21-22 February 1993 represent first records for the islands. Four other firsts were an **American Golden plover** *Pluvialis dominica* at Sea Lion Island from 4-13 January 1994; a **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* at the Frying Pan, Mount Pleasant between 11 November and 5 December 1989, an adult winter-plumaged **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* at Bertha's Beach on 28 November and 27 December 1989 and three records of **Sand Martin/Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*; two at Stanley on 13 October 1988 and one over Beaver Pond, Pebble Island on 18 December 1988.

A vagrant **Tufted Tit-tyrant** *Anairetes parulus* was recorded on Beaver Island on 16 May 1993 representing yet another first.

Seabird records provide a number of other interesting sightings as follows: an **Antarctic Petrel** *Thalassoica antarctica* picked up between Brookfield and Port Louis on 15 September 1990 was the fifth record for the islands; a **Great-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma macroptera* between 110 and 150 km east south-east of Cape Pembroke on 5 February 1990 provides the third record; a single **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* within Falklands waters on 5 February 1990 was the third record; a **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis* 110-150 km east south-east of Cape Pembroke on 24 February 1990, and another 185 km east south-east of Cape Pembroke on 3 March 1990 were the second and third records; a **White-bellied Storm-petrel** *Fregetta grallaria* on 24 February 110-150 km east south-east of Cape Pembroke was the third record; and a **Magellan Diving-petrel** *Pelecanoides magellani* caught and photographed aboard M.V. *Stena Seaspread* in the Falkland Sound in June 1990 was the fourth record for the islands.

Sporadically recorded vagrant non passerines from recent years include a **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* at Bertha's pond on 21 May 1989, one at Kidney Cove in February 1993 and another, or the same, at Stanley on 12 May 1993, representing the fourth and fifth records for the islands; a **Roseate Spoonbill** *Ajaja ajaja* at Monty Dean's Bridge from 29 May to 1 June 1989, found dead in late August, was the fifth record; a **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* at Fox

Point in February 1989 was the fourth record; a **Chimango Caracara** *Milvago chimango* on Cape Pembroke in autumn 1988 was the third or fourth record; a **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* at Cape Pembroke from 31 October - 1 November 1993 may represent only the fifth island record; and a **Tawny-throated Dotterel** *Eudromias ruficollis* on Stanley Common on 15 September 1989 represents the third island record.

Recent vagrant passerine records include: a male **Rufous-backed Negrito** *Lessonia rufa* aboard the *Falklands Right* at c.30 nautical miles west south-west of Cape Meredith on 11 October 1988, and another on New Island in late November 1990, representing the second and third records for the islands; two **White-crested Elaenias** *Elaenia albiceps* present on Sea Lion Island on 16 February 1993 was the second record; an adult **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana* at Gipsy Cove on 2-3 April 1989 was the fourth record; and a **Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* along Cape Pembroke on 8 December 1989, and two at Stanley airport on 14-15 November 1990 provided the second and third records for the islands.

URUGUAY

An important wintering population of the threatened **Pampa's Meadowlark** *Sturnella militaris*, involving c.100 individuals, was located by EA at 90 km west of Tacuarembó on the road to Salto, Department of Tacuarembó on 19 July 1993, and represents the first Uruguayan record since 1958.

BRAZIL

Two important rediscoveries were made in 1992. The first was a pair of **Chestnut-headed Nunlet** *Nonnula amaurocephala* observed, by A. Whittaker, foraging for around five minutes along the northern bank of the Unini River, inside the northern limits of Jau National Park, Amazonas State (date unknown: report to follow). The species had not been recorded since it was collected in 1921 near Manacapuru, c. 200 km to the south-west of Manaus. **Hoary-throated Spinetail** *Poecilurus kollari* has been rediscovered with a pair observed at Conceicao do Mau, Roraima on 22 July 1992 (Forrester 1993, Forrester in prep.), the species last being recorded in 1956, but also been recently in Guyana (report to follow).

Five new country records have been reported as follows: a **Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* was recorded by AW (pers. comm to BF) at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, in 1992 (no date given); three **Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant** *Atalotriccus pilaris* were observed on 21 July 1992 in north Roraima (Forrester 1993), the species also recently located just over the border but in Guyana; a single (?) **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris* was observed by AW at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre in 1992; and the first record of the scarce **Casqued Oropendola** *Psarocolius oseryi* (number unknown) was made in 1992 (no date given) at Eirunepe, Rio Jurua, Amazonas by AW; and **Black-and-white Seed-eater** *Sporophila luctuosa* (numbers and sexes unknown) was recorded at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, in 1992 (no date given) by the same

observer. The latter two species were to be expected in Amazonian Brazil as both have been recorded in neighbouring Colombia, Peru, and the former from Bolivia also.

Three Formicariidae sightings represent second records for Brazil as follows: 5 **Rio Suno Antwren** *Myrmotherula sunensis* were observed at Placido do Castro, Acre on 16 July 1992 (first collected in 1902 along the middle Rio Jurua); at least 3 **Spot-tailed Antwren** *Herpsilochmus sticturus* were observed near Porto Grande, Amapa, on 11 August 1992 (Forrester 1993), previously recorded from Obidos, Para; and at least 1 **Todd's Antwren** *H. stictocephalus* was recorded at the same locality on the same date (Forrester 1993), first collected from Rio Paru de Oeste, Para in June 1960.

Other range extensions from north to south are as follows: two new state records for Amapa were a **Sparkling Violetear** *Colibri coruscans*, near Porto Grande on 7 August 1992; a **Sooty-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias griseiceps* was observed near Porto Grande on 7 August 1992 (Forrester 1993); 3 **Cinnamon Manakin** *Neopipo cinnamomea* records include a single at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre on 12 July 1992, 1 at Placido do Castro, Acre on 16 July and 1 at Boa Vista, Roraima on 19 July 1992 all believed to represent new state records (Forrester 1993). Other new state records for Acre were: 4 **Striped Manakin** *Machaeropterus regulus* at Cruzeiro do Sul on 11 July 1992; at least 4 **Yellow-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufiventer* at the same locality on 12-13 July 1992; a pair of **Bluish-slate Antshrike** *Thamnomanes schistogynus* at Placido do Acre on 16 July 1992, a pair of **Sclater's Antwren** *Myrmotherula sclateri* at the same locality on 15 and 17 July 1992, 5 **Yellow-browed Antbird** *Hypocnemis hypoxantha* at Cruzeiro do Sul on 12 July 1992; 2 **Johanne's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus johannis* at Placido do Castro on 16 July 1992, and 2 **Plain Tyrannulet** *Inezia inornata* at the same locality on 15-16 July 1992. In Minas Gerais RS observed up to 6 **Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma* at Lagoas Pampulha, Belo Horizonte between 24 August and 7 September 1993, representing what appears to be a new state record and range extension of c.400 km west of Rio de Janeiro where this highly localised species is still present in numbers; and the same observer photographed a group of up to 10 **Unicoloured Blackbird** *Agelaius cyanopus* at the same locality on 28 August 1993, a similar range extension west of Rio de Janeiro, and known from c.490 km to the northeast. From Sao Paulo State, a single **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* at Ilha Comprida beach, in December 1993 (Ridgely unpublished 1993) was the first state record, and the first south of Bahia. Finally, **Rusty-fronted Tody Flycatcher** *Todirostrum latirostre* has been observed at Turvo State Forest Reserve and Nonoai State Forest Reserve, Rio Grande do Sul in August 1993 (Clements unpublished 1993).

VENEZUELA

After the recent report of two **Grey-headed Warblers** *Basileuterus griseiceps* at Cerro Negro (Cotinga 1: 10), this threatened and little known species has again

been observed at the same locality by PB with up to 3 individuals on 2 and 4 February 1994, along with a Venezuelan Flowerpiercer *Diglossa venezuelensis*, another threatened species. Single individuals of both species were also located at a new site, by BC, JF, GS and BW, in a finger of semi-degraded forest in an area dominated by coffee plantations along a tributary of the Rio Caripe, at 12 km east of Teresen (= 17 km east of Caripe) on two consecutive days, 19 and 20 December 1993.

Neotropical Notebook:
compiled by Mark Pearman

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Records constitute published material, mostly from the period 1993-1994 (unless otherwise stated) and personal communications submitted to the editor. Subject matter includes new country records, rediscoveries, range extensions of over 250 km and significant new localities or records of threatened and near-threatened species. Some records may, on occasion, require further confirmation while their authenticity is vetted, as far as possible, by the editors.

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMA ISLANDS

A **Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola* reported by an experienced observer near Lucayan National Park, Grand Bahama on 4 November 1994 (see¹⁴) apparently represents only the second record for the West Indies. Up to 5 **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* were observed regularly, between 13-30 July 1994, near Staniard Creek, North Andros Island¹ (also *Neotropical News*). The spread continues and these records are apparently the first for Bahamas. A sub-adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* recorded at New Plymouth Harbour, Green Turtle Cay, Abaco Islands on 19 February 1994 (see¹⁴) apparently represents the first record for Bahamas. The reported **Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* (*Cotinga* 2: 26, 1994) is apparently not unusual on the Bahamas (SL), the species more likely an occasional winter visitor and does not represent the first record for the islands *contra* Norton¹³.

JAMAICA

Two more sightings of a **Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus* at the Upper Black River Morass in 1994¹⁰ apparently refer to the same individual reported as the third country record reported in *Cotinga* 2: 26, 1994 although further details are not available.

ANTIGUA

Gricks⁷ reported a winter plumage **Wilson's Phalarope** *Steganopus tricolor* (first island record) at McKinnon's salt pond, present from

8-14 March 1994; and a **Ruff Philomachus** *pugnax* (second island record) at Potworks Dam on 19 February 1994 and at McKinnon's salt lake on 14 and 19 March 1994. The **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* (see *Cotinga* 2: 26, 1994) first reported near St John's in August 1993 was re-located on 31 March 1994⁷ and was still present on 8 July 1994 with a sighting at Potworks Dam (CG).

ST. LUCIA

An **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* photographed at the Moule a Chique headland on 19 August 1992² represents the third record for the Americas, after a specimen collected on Barbados in 1955 and a record at Desecheo Island, off Puerto Rico in July 1987. One or possibly two **Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris* at Arch Pond on 27 June 1993 and Green Pond on 25 July 1993 (see¹⁴) represents only the fourth island record.

BARBADOS

A first-winter **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* at Congo Road on 5 December 1993 (see¹⁴) appears to represent the first record for the island.

TRINIDAD

Ffrench⁶ (also RF) presented numerous recent records of interest including four new records for Trinidad and nine for Tobago as follows: a **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* picked up dead at Manzanilla Beach, near Nariva Swamp on 12 December 1991 was the first record for Trinidad; an adult **Northern Gannet** *Sula bassana* observed less than 100 m off Speyside, Tobago on 29 November 1991 was the first record for the island; 12 **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* were observed at St. Giles Islands on 20 January 1993, with 4 being photographed there in March 1993 representing the first records for Tobago; an adult **Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* at Caroni on 12 May 1990 was the first Trinidad record; a pair of **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* and a female and 2 immature **Masked Duck** *Oxyura dominica* at Buccoo Marsh on 18-19 January 1992 and 13 February

1994 respectively both represent a first record and a first record this century for Tobago; a female **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* photographed at Speyside on 13-14 August 1992 was the first record for Tobago; a **Savanna Hawk** *Heterospizias meridionalis* reported at the Lowlands Estate, Tobago in August 1990 was the first for the island; an immature male **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* observed at Grafton Estate and near Crown Point Airport on 9/10 February 1991 is the first record for Tobago; a **Double-striped Thick-knee** *Burhinus bistriatus* at Orange Grove on 14 August 1991 was the second record for Trinidad; a **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* seen at Buccoo Reef on 19 January 1992 was a first for Tobago; a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *L. fuscus* at Turtle Beech on 19 January 1992 was only the second record for Tobago; the first record of **Burrowing Owl** *Speotyto cunicularia* for Trinidad relates to a single and later a pair (photographed) in April-July 1992 at Point Lisas Industrial Estate which, after excavating a burrow, later abandoned it due to industrial activity; a group of **Oilbirds** *Steatornis caripensis* observed at Hillsborough Dam, Tobago in September 1988 is the first record for Tobago and the first instance of the species undertaking a sea crossing of up to 30 km, from Trinidad, where the species is a well known breeder; three records of **Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* at Kilgwyn Lake on 6 December 1990, Buccoo Beach on 7 February 1991 and Port of Spain sewage ponds on 15 January 1992 represent the first records for Trinidad; a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens* at Aripo Heights on 22 March 1992 was the second record for Trinidad; a male **Bay-breasted Warbler** *D. castanea* photographed at Aripo on 6 April 1993 was the seventh record for Trinidad; a male **Canada Warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis* photographed at Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad on 18 December 1993 was the first record for Trinidad; a **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* on Little Tobago in March 1992 was the third record for the island.

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

In November 1992 an **Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* was found 3 km from the entrance to Tapanti Biological Reserve, perched on a dead tree on a heavily wooded steep hillside (MR). An unconfirmed sighting near La

Selva is the only other record in the last 30 years. At Tapanti also comes the report of **Lattice-tailed Trogon** *Trogon clathratus* at 1,550 m, extending the altitudinal range for the species by 450 m. Two very localised hummingbirds, **Black-crested Coquette** *Lophornis helenae* and **Snowcap** *Microchera albocoronata*, generally regarded as altitudinal migrants, have been found year-round at Rancho Naturalista, near Turrialba (MR)

BELIZE

Groups of 7 and 12 **White-naped Swift** *Streptoprogne semicollaris* were observed along the upper Rio Raspaculo (520 m) during April and May 1993 by the JSSEUR expedition, representing the first records for the country¹². The species was previously believed to be endemic to Mexico although there are unconfirmed reports from Honduras. An immature **Rufescent Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum* on 14 April 1994, observed by a group from Manomet Bird Observatory at Chan Chich Creek¹², appears to be the first record for Belize.

SOUTH AMERICA

FRENCH GUIANA

A male **American Wigeon** *Anas americana*, present from 3 to 10 January 1994 at a man-made lake near Kourou was the first record for the country and the most southerly record of the species⁹.

COLOMBIA

A new locality for the recently rediscovered **Gold-ringed Tanager** *Bangsia aureocincta* has been found at Alto de Los Galápagos, Chocó/Valle department border (JF) with records of six males, three females/juveniles between 1,800-2,100 m in March 1994. **Tanager-finch** *Oreothraupis arremonops* was also recorded there, representing a new locality for this seldom seen and poorly known species.

ECUADOR

A recently published report of the Amaluza Project¹⁶ concerning threatened avifaunal surveys in southern Ecuador in 1990 and 1991 provide a number of interesting records as follows: an **Andean Tinamou** *Nothoprocta pentlandii* near Chachaco (c. 1,600 m), south of Cariamanga, Loja province is believed to be the first record of the species in Ecuador for over 50 years; **Mountain Caracara** *Phalcoboenus megalopterus* was

found to be fairly common on the Cordillera de Sybanilla near Amaluza in 1990, apparently representing the first Ecuadorean records with more recent records from the Cordillera de Quichiragua, close to the Peruvian border; a **Marañón Spinetail** *Synallaxis gujanensis* was mist-netted in lush roadside vegetation at 1,100 m near Palanda on 4 August 1991 representing the first Ecuadorean record, with more recent sightings from the Zumba region, Zamora-Chinchipe (ANSP expedition); and an **Ovenbird** *Seiurus auricapillus* netted at Río Bombuscaro, P.N. Podocarpus on 27 November 1991 was the second record for Ecuador.

A second-winter **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* photographed at Lago de Colta (c.3,250 m), near Santiago de Quito, Prov. Chimborazo on 20 November 1991 represents a new altitude record for the species and the southernmost far inland occurrence in South America⁸.

Other noteworthy records for Ecuador (RC, SJ and JPV) include a **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* at Sua, Esmeraldas province on 10 March 1994, the first record for western Ecuador; a first-year **Grey-hooded Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus* at Atacames, Esmeraldas on 11 March 1994, the most northern record of the species; and a male **Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* at Mindo, Pichincha on 15 March 1994, apparently also the first record for western Ecuador.

PERU

A recent expedition to the Cordillera de Colán, Amazonas department⁵ (also *Neotropical News*) in July 1994 produced a number of interesting records as follows: the recently described (1975) **Royal Sunangel** *Heliangelus regalis*, previously known from only two localities (in Cajamarca and San Martín departments) was found to be common, primarily in elfin scrub, above San Cristobal; a **White-faced Nunbird** *Hapaloptila castanea* at 2,600 m on a ridgetop above Comboca on 30 July is a new locality for this scarce species; and **Barred Antthrush** *Chamaeza mollissima* was recorded with regularity above Comboca, representing the first known locality south of the Marañón River in northern Peru.

BOLIVIA

A **Giant Snipe** *Gallinago undulata* tape-recorded at Flor d'Oro, PN Noel Kempff Mercado, Santa Cruz department, while displaying two hours after dusk on 6 April 1993 (SM) is the first record for Bolivia. An adult male **Blue-**

winged Teal *Anas discors* at Laguna Alalay (2,250 m), Cochabamba department on 6 December 1991³ is another new record for Bolivia. A number of interesting records representing northward range extensions and new departmental records come from the Vallegrande-Masicuri road, Santa Cruz department¹¹ as follows: several pairs of the near-threatened **Red-faced Guan** *Penelope dabbeni* were located in January and February 1993 at 2,350-2,500 m; the near-threatened **Alder Amazon** *Amazona tucumana* was found to be common on various visits November 1991-February 1993 at 2,200-2,500 m.

The poorly known **Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant** *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus* has been found in numbers along the Riberalta-Guayamirim road, Santa Cruz department in April 1994 where it was the commonest bird species present in roadside cerrado and natural grassland (SM). A pair of **Straw-backed Tanagers** *Tangara argyrofenges* were discovered 25 km north-west of Entrerios on the Tarija-Villa Montes road, Tarija department on 10 November 1994 (SM) representing at least a 300 km southward range extension.

BRAZIL

Among a spate of unexpected finds at the southern Bahian hotspot of Boa Nova come recent sightings of the threatened **Fork-tailed Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus furcatus*; a pair 12 km east of Boa Nova on 16 March 1992 (FL) and again a single on 17 December 1993 (CB) representing a huge northward range extension of over 1,000 km; and an **Oustalet's Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes oustaleti* on 17 March 1992 (FL), a northward range extension of c.500 km.

ARGENTINA

In September 1994, J. Mazar and J. Herrera (A.P.N. wardens) collected the first specimens of **Sooty Grassquit** *Tiaris fuliginosa* (a male and female) close to the falls in P.N. Iguazú, Misiones (*vide* EA), representing the first record of the species in Argentina. This is a remarkable record with the nearest known populations in the Atlantic Forest of coastal São Paulo and far to the north in central Minas Gerais.

The wintering range of the poorly known and recently described (1974) **Hooded Grebe** *Podiceps gallardoi* has been discovered on the Atlantic coast of Santa Cruz province with 462 grebes located in the Coyle Estuary, north of Río Gallegos in the austral winter of 1994. More detailed surveys of coastline are likely to reveal

the rest of the estimated 3,000-5,000 population (see *Neotropical News*).

FALKLAND ISLANDS/ISLAS MALVINAS

A **Tawny-headed Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx fucata* was reported at 52°42'S, 61°30'W on 9 November 1993, some 1,200 km south of its known range¹⁵ and represents the first record for the island group. A number of other important records, all referring to 1992, have recently come to light in Curtis⁴ as follows: 2 adult **Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta cauta* with trawlers 80 nautical miles south of Falkland Sound on 27 January represents the seventh record for the Falklands/Malvinas; an adult summer plumage **Grey-headed Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus* near South Jason Island on 25 March was a first record for the island group, as was a winter plumage **Trudeau's Tern** *Sterna trudeaui* near Steeple Jason Island on 30 April; at Bertha's Beach a **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* on 30 March appears to be the fourth record; and a **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* on 29 March appears to be the first record since unconfirmed records prior to 1921; a **Surfbird** *Aphriza virgata* on Kukri Island on 8 March is an exceptional record (and a first) as the species is only known to migrate along the Pacific coast of South America to Tierra del Fuego; and 2 **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* at Mare Harbour on 12 April represents yet another first record for the islands.

SOUTH GEORGIA/ISLAS GEORGIAS DEL SUR

A recently published record⁴ of 4 **Grey Petrel** *Procellaria cinerea* at 6 nautical miles north of Bird Island on 7 April 1992 constitutes the first record in Georgian waters.

Neotropical Notebook:
compiled by Mark Pearman

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The records featured below have not been vetted, they have been collected from a variety of published and unpublished sources. They generally represent records of vagrants, significant range extensions, rediscoveries, or new localities for threatened or poorly known species. If submitting records for inclusion in future Neotropical Notebooks please include details of species, locality, date, significance of the record and observers. Full Details should also be submitted to the relevant national organisations.

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

A **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* was near Sam Lord's Castle on 8 July 1994 (Norton 1994), this record and the Guadeloupe one documented below are the eighth and ninth for the Neotropics and part of a continuing increase in records in the New World.

DOMINICA

Two **Cory's Shearwaters** *Calonectris diomedea* recorded in spring 1994 were the second Island record and the third for the eastern Caribbean. Also recorded in spring 1994 were; a **White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*, the first for almost a century, the first country breeding record of **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* and the first island record of **Summer Tanager** *Pirangra rubra*. (All PE in litt.)

GUADELOUPE

A **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* in breeding plumage was at Dugomier on 30 July 1994 (Norton 1994). A **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* at Grande Salinas, Pointe-de-Chateaux on 31 July 1994 was the first record for the Island (Norton 1994). An **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* at Grand Anse's beach on 18 April 1987 was the first record for Guadeloupe and the fourth for the western hemisphere (Feldman and Pavis 1995).

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*, **Pelagic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* and **Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* were all new records for Isla Guadalupe, Baja California during a visit on 9 April 1994 (Pyle *et al.* 1994). A **Parasitic Jaeger/Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* at Pamul, Quintana Roo on 28 July 1993 was the fourth Yucutan record and unseasonal (Duncan 1994). A flock of six **Lapland Longspurs** *Calcarius lapponicus* near Las Barranca, 25 km south of Verracruz city, Verracruz on 25 and 26 February 1985 was the fourth and most southerly ever record for Mexico (Howell and Webb 1994).

COSTA RICA

A single **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** *Oceanodroma castro* was positively identified from about twenty individuals believed to have been this species seen about 250 km off the coast en route to Cocos Island on 16 March 1995. A **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* was at Rancho Naturalista on 20 and 21 November 1994. A pair of **Melodious Blackbirds** *Dives dives* there on 9 January 1995 probably represent the southern-most extent of their range on the Caribbean slope (All JV).

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

A **Cape Gannet** *Sula capensis* at Banco Reparo, Patagonia on 7 November 1992 was the first for Argentina, this was followed by a second sighting of possibly the same bird at los Alamos (c. 10 km SW of Banco Reparo) on 12 November (Bergkamp 1995). Three single **Westland Petrels** *Procellaria westlandica* were seen east of the mouth of the Beagle Channel on 3 December 1994, being the second to

fourth Argentine records (Howell and Webb 1995).

BOLIVIA

A nesting pair of **Blackish Nightjars** *Caprimulgus nigrescens* was found on the 18 September 1994 on the Serriania de Huanchaca, Noel Kempff N.P. about 25 km east of Los Fierros, Santa Cruz, this is the first Bolivian record outside Beni (JP-H). **Unicoloured Thrush** *Turdus haplochrous* has been found at Estación Biológica del Beni. This represents a new sight for a species previously known from only four localities (two in Beni and two in Santa Cruz), and a range extension of about 150 km north-west (White *et al.* 1995). Two sightings of a **Flame-crowned Manakin** *Heterocercus lineatus* near Los Fierros, Noel Kempff N.P., Santa Cruz on the 26 and 30 August 1994 are only the second record for Bolivia and represent a southerly range extension (JP-H).

BRAZIL

A **Crested Eagle** *Morpus guianensis* at Barrolândia, near Porto Seguro on 30 January 1995, represents a new site record and is unusual in the east of Brazil (DS, JW, RM). A **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrissi* was seen in daytime at Boa Nova on 21 October 1994 (DS, JW, RM). The first inland Amazonian record of **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* was of a pair at Machantaria Island, near Manaus, Amazonas, from the 3-19 November 1994, as was a **Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica* also in November (SW). The island also had 114 **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* on the 25 October (SW). **Great Xenops** *Megaxenops parnaguae* was seen in Caatinga at Morro de Chappeau on 9 October 1994, although a documented site this is the first record in recent years (DS, JW, RM). Two records of **Glossy-backed Becard** *Pachyramphus surinamus* from Amazonas represent considerable westward range extensions for the species (Whittaker 1995). The first was of a pair nest-building at Alvarães, near Tefé (3°20'S 64°53'W) on 28 September 1989, the second was in Jaú N.P. in July 1993. A **Black-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila melanogaster* was foraging with Double-collared Seedeaters *S. caerulescens* in Emas N.P., Goiás on 17 October 1993, representing a considerable range extension (DB).

A trip to Acre province in November and December 1994 produced several good records, most notably four new species for Brazil: **Black-capped Tinamou** *Crypturellus atrocapillus*, **Scarlet-hooded Barbet** *Eubucco tucinkae*, **White-lined Antbird** *Percnostla lophotes* and **Black-faced Cotinga** *Coniption mcllhennyi* on the upper Rio Tejo and Rio Juruá in the Extractive Reserve of the upper Rio Juruá near Taumaturgo. All but the Tinamou were previously thought to be south-east Peruvian endemics. Other interesting records included: The third Brazilian **Blue-headed Macaw** *Ara couloni*, the fourth **Emerald Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*, the first Acre record and second inland Amazonian record of **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*, the second Brazilian **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris* on 21 November, the second **Alder Flycatcher** *Empidonax alnorum* on 20 November, the second **Casqued Oropendola** *Psarocolius oseryi* with a breeding colony found and the fourth **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* with several birds seen. (All AW and DO). A second visit to the area in May 1995 provided two more Brazilian firsts: **Elusive Antpitta** *Grallaria eludens* and **Rufous-headed Woodpecker** *Celeus spectabilis*. (AW).

A trip to Jaú National Park in July 1993 found several species never before recorded west of the Rio Negro (a range extension of about 250 km). The most notable being the recently rediscovered **White-winged Potoo** *Nyctibius leucopterus*, also **Cherrie's Antwren** *Myrmotherula cherriei* was also a considerable southward range extension. Others such range extensions were **Slaty Antshrike** *Thamnophilus punctatus*, **Spot-backed Antwren** *Herpsilochmus dorsimaculatus*, **Glossy-backed Becard** *Pachyramphus surinamus* (All AW). Similar range extensions were also recorded at the same locality for **Capuchinbird** *Perissocephalus tricolor* and **Plain-winged Antshrike** *Thamnophilus schistaceus* (AC). A **Dwarf Cuckoo** *Coccyzus pumilus* recorded on Maracá Island, northern Roraima on 23 December 1987 was the first Brazilian record (A. Whittaker in press). A female **Firey-tailed Awlbill** *Avocettula recurvirostris* 80 km north of Manaus on the 5 November 1993 significantly extends the species range (AW and VE). The second record of **Merlin** *Falco columbarius* was an immature

female recorded on the Rio Negro north of Manaus on 21 October 1990 (AW, RR, GT), a third was seen in Jaú N.P. in late Autumn 1994 (FP and AC).

Two significant range extensions were found in a survey of Parque Estadual Guarajá-Mirim, Rondonia in April 1995, a **Purple-breasted Cotinga** *Cotinga cotinga* representing a range extension of some 1050 km south-west from the mouth of the Rio Madeira and a male **Black-necked Red-Cotinga** *Phoenicircus nigricollis* (AW).

CHILE

A **Mottled Petrel** *Pterodroma inexpectata* 130 nautical miles SSE of Cape Horn (55°45'S 65°30'W) was the second record since 1848. The first, of several individuals on 18 and 19 September 1964, may have involved misidentified Stejner's Petrels *P. longirostris* or White-necked Petrels *P. externa* (Melfo and Horneman 1995).

Two **Northern Giant Petrels** *Macroneetes halli* were about 5 nautical miles south of Cape Horn on 18 December 1994. Two records of **Westland Petrel** *Procellaria westlandica*, a single on 2 December 1993 and a pair on 8 November 1994 were both c. 15 km west of Valpariso, Valpariso province, these constitute the third and fourth Chilean records of the species. Three **Great Shearwaters** *Puffinus gravis* were 2-5 km south of Cape Horn on 18 December 1994. **Manx Shearwaters** *P. puffinus* were recorded on three occasions: 150 at the eastern entrance to the Straits of Magellan on 28 November 1992, 2 there on the 24 November 1994 and a single 5 km east of Cape Horn on the 18 December 1994, these records are the third to fifth for the country but it seems likely that the species is a regular visitor in small numbers in the austral summer. Two **Little Blue Herons** *Egretta caerulea* were an adult at San Pedro de Atacama, El Loa on 22 November 1993 and an immature at La Ligua, Petorca on 29 November 1993, these records are some 370 km and 1450 km south of other Chilean vagrant records for this species. The desiccated remains of a **Black Crake** *Laterallus jamaicensis* were found at La Ligua, Petorca on 29 October 1994, being the first Chilean record for 25 years. A single **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*, probably a female was at La Ligua, Petorca on 29 November 1993, was the third and

southernmost Chilean record. A fourth Chilean record of **Sparkling Violetear** Colibri coruscans was of one singing at Putre, Parinacota from 2-6 December 1992. Two **Peruvian Sheartails** *Thaumastura cora* were in the Azapa Valley, Arica on the 30 November and 1 December 1992, this is the second record for Chile and some 21 years after the first in the same area. Two **Band-tailed Earthcreepers** *Eremobius phoenicurus*, 10 km south-east of Kimiri Aike on the road to Punta Delgada, Magallanes on the 24 November 1994 are the second Chilean record, the first being a bird collected a few kilometres away in November 1988. A **Giant Conebill** *Oreomanes fraseri* 14 km south-west of Putre at 3300 m on 1 December 1992 was the second Chilean record. (All Howell and Webb 1995).

ECUADOR

A **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* on the Río Napo near Yuturí village on 29 December 1994 was the third record for the mainland and the first in the Oriente (RW). A **White Hawk** *Leucopternis albicollis* at Cajanuma, Podocarpus N.P., Loja was unusually high at 2500 m (PT, DJ, PS, JR). A second winter **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* at Coca, Napo on 30 December 1994 was unusual east of the Andes (RW). The first Ecuador record of **Blue-tufted Starthroat** *Heliomaster furcifer* was at Yuturí Lodge, Río Yuturí, Napo on the 27-29 December 1994 (RW). Two **Hoary Pufflegs** *Haplophaedia lugens* were on the Guacamayos ridge above Archidona on 25 August 1994 providing a southward range extension (NG).

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

A **White-faced Storm-Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina* recorded 7 km north of Isabella Island on 7 August 1994 is the first record within the Archipeligo though the species has twice been recorded at sea near Galápagos (Merlen, 1995). A pair of **Masked Ducks** *Oxyura dominica* were seen with a chick on El Junco Lake, San Cristobal on 15 December 1994 constituting the first record for the Islands (JWe).

FALKLAND ISLANDS/MALVINAS

A **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* was on Pebble Island from 20 to 31 December 1994, the seventh record for the Islands. A

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* at Port Stanley on 22 April 1993 was the fifth, a **Maguari Stork** *Ciconia maguari* on Dundar on 1 March was the second. A **Chimango Caracara** *Milvago chimango* at Port Stephens on 31 December 1991 was the fifth record. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** *Calidris melanotos* on Pebble Island on 31 December 1994 were the fourth record. The third **White-bellied Seedsnipe** *Attagis malouinus* was on Bertha's Beach on 28 April 1991. A **Grey Gull** *Larus modestus* in Port Stanley for three weeks in June 1991 was the second. The *Falkland Desire* provided a resting spot for the islands first **Ruddy Ground-dove** *Columbina talpacoti* on January 12 1993. A **Bar-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes fuscus* on Carcass Island on 21 September 1991 was a new species for the Islands, a male **Austral Negrito** *Lessonia rufa* there on the same day was the fourth record. A **White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps* on Sedge Island on 27 December 1994 was the fourth record. The sixth and seventh records of **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** *Tyrannus savana* were on Sea Lion Island on 9 January 1993 and on Saunders Island in December 1994 respectively. (All AH *in litt.*)

PARAGUAY

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizeatus tyrannus* has been found at Mbaracayú, although there are three prior reported records of the species for Paraguay the species was treated as hypothetical by Hayes (1995). This is the first confirmed record and was closely followed by a pair seen displaying at the same site (AM, DP, RD and RC). **Ornate Hawk-Eagle** *S. ornatus* has also been found at Mbaracayú, extending the known range in Paraguay to the west (AM, EE). **American Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* has also been found at this site in late 1994 and early 1995 (EE and RC). The second country record of **Collared Crescentchest** *Melanopareia torquata* was found just east of Mbaracayú on 9 February 1995 and also extends its known distribution to the south (AM). **Curl-crested Jay** *Cyanocorax cristatellus* has also been found in the reserve at Mbaracayú significantly extending its range to the south (EE and AM). A **Mato Grosso Antbird** *Cercomacra melanaria* trapped on 28 July 1990 a few km south of Cerro León, P.N. Defensores del Chaco, Alto Chaco (20°20'S 60°25'W) is a westward range

extension in Paraguay and the first outside the Mato Grosso (AM).

VENEZUELA

A single **Black-chested Tyrant** *Taenotriccus andrei* was seen well at Caño Colorado on 13 March 1995, this species is very rare and virtually unknown in life (GK, NB, CGB, JH). A specimen of **Pale-footed Swallow** *Notiochelidon flavipes* collected in 1951 and previously erroneously identified as a Blue-and-white Swallow *N. cyanoleuca* has been found in a museum collection. This now constitutes the first Venezuelan record and a northward range extension of about 150 km. Pale-footed Swallows have since been seen in Mérida City, Mérida and a specimen taken at the Páramo de Tamá, Táchira, both in 1985 (Ryan and Lentino 1995).

Neotropical Notebook:
compiled by Rob Williams

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Neotropical Notebook



The records featured below have not been vetted, and have been collected from a variety of published and unpublished sources. They generally represent records of vagrants, significant range extensions, rediscoveries, or new localities for threatened or poorly known species. If submitting records for inclusion in future *Neotropical Notebooks*, please include details of species, locality, date, significance of the record and observers. Full details should also be submitted to the relevant national organisations.

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMAS

The country's first **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** *Ammodramus caudatus* was videoed on 13 October 1994¹⁶.

BARBADOS

Two **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* nests were found with one fledging three young in February 1995: this is the first record of breeding in the Neotropics and probably the New World¹⁶. An unconfirmed report of a **Little Gull** *Larus minutus* at Pier 3, San Juan Harbour, on 29 January 1995 would be the first for the West Indies¹⁶. A **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus* at Congo Road on 16-23 April 1994 probably represents the second occurrence in the West Indies¹⁶. A **House Crow** *Corvus splendens* arrived in Barbados, providing the first West Indies and confirmed Neotropical record (see *Chile*)¹⁶.

Other records from Barbados include: two **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope* (a male, 4-17 December 1994, and a female 25 January into February 1995, representing the third and fourth

island records); a **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* (10-11 December 1994, second record for the island and fifth for the West Indies); **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* (21 January 1995, second record); and a wintering **Cape May Warbler** *Dendroica tigrina* (third record)¹⁶.

Corrections The Collared

Plover *Charadrius collaris* sightings, previously reported under St Lucia, on 27 June and 25 July 1993, were from Barbados. The first record of **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* was a bird collected in November 1911 having been ringed in Rossitten, Germany, in July 1911.

BERMUDA

A **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* on 3 November 1994 was the first record for 25 years; the second island record of **Whip-poor-will** *Caprimulgus vociferus* was on 16 October 1994; and the first **Say's Phoebe** *Sayornis saya* was videoed on 17 September 1994¹⁶.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

A **Northern Oriole** *Icterus galbula* at Jost Van Dyke on 27 January 1995 was the third for the islands¹⁶.

JAMAICA

The first **Black Skimmer** *Rhynchops niger* on Jamaica was at Parrotte Ponds, from 10-17 September 1995²².

PUERTO RICO

A **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* at San Jacinto mangroves, near Guanica, on the 22 July 1993 was the first record for the West Indies¹⁶

ST THOMAS, US VIRGIN ISLANDS

A **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* south of the island on 21 July 1995 is the first record for the Caribbean proper, previously having been recorded only in the adjacent Atlantic (SL).

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO

An adult light-phase **Collared Forest-falcon** *Micrastur semitorquatus* in the Sierra de Pichachos, Nuevo León state, on 22 January 1995 was the first state record²¹.

PANAMA

An **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* was seen on a pelagic boat trip, c.32 km SSE of Piñas on 27 May 1995⁸. Two **Blue-headed Sapphires** *Hylocharis grayi*, the third country record, were at the Tropic Star Lodge, Piñas Bay, on 26 and 29 May 1995⁸.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Seven new country records. Several **Wedge-tailed Hillstars** *Oreotrochilus adela* were observed and seven mist-netted between 23 and 26 January 1991 at Yavi, Jujuy province¹. The first **Pearled Treerunner** *Margarornis squamiger* was found in the Serranía de las Pavas, on the eastern edge of PN Baritú on 13 November 1992 (BLL,⁵). The first **Rufous-tailed Anthrush** *Chameaza ruficauda* has been found in the collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires: it was collected at Tobuna, Misiones province, on 16 August 1959¹⁵. Two

other new species for Argentina come from PN Baritú, Salta province: a **Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias uropygialis* on 22 August 1993; and a **Slate-throated Redstart** *Mioborus miniatus* on 17 August 1993⁵. The first three records of **Cinnamon Tanager** *Schistochlamys ruficapillus* for Argentina have all been found in the extreme north of Misiones province as follows: the first was a single at the old Iguazú Falls airport on 26 October 1994 (DF), as was the second at the same locality on 5 November 1994 (MC), while the third was of two birds at Colonia Almirante Brown on 13 September 1995 (EA).

Another first for the country, **Flavescent Warbler** *Basil-euterus flaveolus* was found along with an interesting number of provincial records during a survey of PN Río Pilcomayo, Formosa province: a single was collected in gallery forest on 27 March 1993⁹. Three species were new for the province: **Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucus*; **Fuscous Fly-catcher** *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*; and **Sepia-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*⁹. The survey also found the second province record of **Blue-crowned Trogon** *Trogon curucui*⁹.

A review of the status of **Helmeted Woodpecker** *Dryocopus galeatus* has found 51 records (many unpublished) which appear to demonstrate that the species is spreading into new areas and habitats³.

A **Grey-necked Wood-rail** *Aramides cajanea* in Reserva Provincial Chancani on 14 January 1994 was the first for Córdoba province².

BOLIVIA

The first country record of **Giant Snipe** *Gallinago undulata* was of a bird taped while displaying at night on 6 April 1993 in Flor d'Oro, PN Noel Kempff Mercado, Santa Cruz¹⁴.

A first-winter **Diademed Sandpiper-plover** *Phegornis mitchellii* on Cerro Tunari, Cochabamba department, on 18 August 1995 appears to be the first record for the department (JE, JC, BF, RS).

Several new records for Beni department from the Beni Biological Station are: a pair of **Burrowing Owls** *Speotyto cunicularia* at El Porvenir from late July to early September 1995; two **Plain-crested Elaenias** *Elaenia cristata* trapped on 7 and 24 September 1995; four **White-bellied Tyrannulets** *Serpophaga munda* trapped on 18, 19, 21 (two birds) September 1995; and a single **Ashy-headed Greenlet** *Hylophilus pectoralis* trapped on 17 September (though the species has been previously heard in the north of the province but has not been documented) (RB).

BRAZIL

A **King Penguin** *Aptenodytes patagonicus* was found on the beach at Saquarema (22°56'S 42°30'W), Rio de Janeiro, 5 January 1995, and was taken in good condition to the Zoological Gardens of Rio de Janeiro the following day: the record is the first for Brazil and one of only a handful for the Atlantic coast¹⁷.

The first record of **Northern Giant Petrel** *Macronektes halli* was of a bird found freshly dead on a beach at Ilha Comprida, São Paulo state, on 27 September 1994¹³.

A **Rufous-thighed Hawk** *Accipiter erythronemius* on 18 September 1991 at Barra Nova, Ceará, was a northward range extension, there previously being a single record from Bahia¹⁸. Two new records of **White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus*, one from Natal airstrip, Rio Grande do Norte, on 17 November 1993, and one at Tianguá, Ceará, on 18 September 1991, are part of a continuing range expansion of this species in north-eastern Brazil due to deforestation¹⁸. Two or three

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts *Panyptila watertonii* at Dois Irmãos, Pernambuco, on 17 November 1993 are the first state record and only the second for north-eastern Brazil¹⁸. The second to fourth records of **Lettered Araçari** *Pteroglossus inscriptus* for north-eastern Brazil and the first three records for Alagoas were recorded at Passo do Canaragibe, 30 December 1990, Murici Biological Reserve, 4 January 1991 and Rio Largo, 24 October 1994: the species was previously known in north-eastern Brazil from a specimen taken in Pernambuco in 1903¹⁸.

A taped **Spot-backed Antshrike** *Hypodaleus guttatus* at the Murici Biological Reserve, Alagoas, on 28 November 1993 represents a new state record and a northward range extension of c.600 km. Three new sites for **Slender-footed Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius gracilipes* in north-eastern Brazil are the Murici Biological Reserve, Alagoas, 21 October 1990, Pedra Talhada Biological Reserve, Alagoas, 22 October 1990 and Serra de Baturité, Ceará, 16 September 1991 and 19 November 1993: the species was previously known in the region from one specimen from Ceará¹⁸. A **Highland Elaenia** *Elaenia obscura* recorded at Morro do Pai Inácio, near Lençóis, Bahia, is a northward range extension of c.450 km¹⁸.

A new population of the threatened **Fringe-backed Fire-eye** *Pyriglena atra* near Crasto, Sergipe, is a northward range-extension of some 175 km: the population was discovered by Marcelo C. Souza in 1994 and at least six birds were seen along a road bisecting the forest in November 1994¹⁸. An old record of **White-necked Hawk** *Leucopternis lacernulata* from João Pessoa, Paraíba (31 October 1949), is now recognised as a significant range extension northwards of this threatened Atlantic Forest endemic, which has only otherwise

been recorded as far north as Alagoas¹⁸.

The first confirmed reports of **Black-bellied Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* from Rio Grande do Sul are of two flocks totalling 236 birds seen and photographed in May 1991¹⁰.

Correction The **Crested Eagle** *Morphnus guianensis* at Barrolândia, 30 January 1995, was seen by DB, NB, JH and GK.

CHILE

A pair of **Andean Geese** *Chloephaga melanoptera* on Lago Diunca, c.30 km N of Coyhaique, Aisen department, on 30 September 1995 were south of their normal range; and two male **Spectacled Tyrants** *Hymenops perspicillata* at the same locality on the same day were also south of their normal range (JB and JMH).

An unconfirmed report of two birds resembling **House Crows** *Corvus splendens* at Punta Arenas in the austral summer of 1993/1994 would represent the first record for South America (see **Barbados**)²⁰.

ECUADOR

A **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* at the Ecuasal lagoons, Santa Elena peninsula, on 26 April 1991 was possibly the first confirmed record for South America (DL). The species regularly winters in California, there are records from Mexico, and Hayman *et al.*¹² report sightings from Chile and the Galápagos Islands, although these have not been independently verified or published. A new locality for the rare **Imperial Snipe** *Gallinago imperialis* was Cerro Mongus, Carchi province, where at least one male displayed on 5-6 July 1995: this is a northward range extension of c.120 km and is the third known locality in Ecuador (LP). A **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* was at La Selva, Napo province, on 2 January 1990, pre-dating the only other eastern lowland record by four years (RW).

FALKLAND ISLANDS

The second record of **Lake Duck** *Oxyura vittata* was on Pebble Island on 4-5 December 1995. The two largest-ever flocks of **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* for the Falkland Islands were of 15 on Pebble Island on 23 October 1995 and 30 at Fox Point on 31 October 1995. The first records of **Wilson's Phalarope** *Steganopus tricolor* were one on Sea Lion Island on 16 November 1995 and three on Pebble Island on 20 November 1995. A single **White-bellied Seedsnipe** *Attagias malouinus* on Sea Lion Island on 1 December 1995 was the fifth record for the islands (records from AH).

PARAGUAY

Between July and December 1995, ornithological surveys as part of Project YACUTINGA '95 produced much new information on the distribution and status of birds rarely recorded in Paraguay. The major conservation results, including observations on threatened birds, are presented elsewhere in *Cotinga* 5. Brief details are given here on new and noteworthy country records, their importance based on information published in Hayes¹¹.

Five species new to the country were recorded: **Dusky-legged Guan** *Penelope obscura* at Parque Nacional (PN) San Rafael (Dpto. Itapúa) in July; **Russet-crowned Crane** *Laterallus viridis*, the near-threatened **Ocellated Crane** *Micropygia schomburgkii* and **Spot-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus maculicaudus*, all at the Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú (RNBM), Dpto. Canindeyú in September; and **Hellmayr's Pipit** *Anthus hellmayri* at Refugio de Vida Silvestre Yabebyry (Dpto. Misiones) in October. The threatened **White-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus candicans* was also recorded at RNBM, representing the first confirmed record for the country.

An additional eight species

recorded during the survey had only been found to occur in the country since 1992: **Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* at RNBM (which produced the first Paraguayan records in 1994: per A. Madroño Nieto) in September and at the Reserva Privada (RP) Itabó (Dpto. Canindeyú) in August and October; **Black-banded Owl** *Ciccaba huhula* at RP Itabó in October; the threatened **Red-spectacled Amazon** *Amazona pretrei* at the same site in August; **Rufous-throated Sapphire** *Hylocharis sapphirina* at PN Caaguazú (Dpto. Caazapá) in July and RP Sombrero (Dpto. Cordillera) in August; the near-threatened **White-browed Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia amaurotis* at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael in July; **Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* at PN Cerro Corá (Dpto. Amambay), during October (there are no published records of this species in Paraguay, but it was reported from RNBM in August 1995: per A. Madroño Nieto); **Sooty Grassquit** *Tiaris fuliginosa* at Estancia Núnz (Dpto. Caaguazú) in August and RNBM in September; and **Yellow-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila nigricollis* at the Bahía de Asunción (Dpto. Central), in December (RC, EZE; there are no published records of this species in Paraguay but it was seen in the Chaco in November: per MR and KZ).

Other notable records included **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* at RP La Golondrina (Dpto. Pres. Hayes) in November and PN Ypacarai (Dpto. Central) in December (RC, EZE, KZ) (five previous Paraguayan records); **Tiny Hawk** *Accipiter superciliosus* at RNBM in September (three or four previous records; none since 1934); the near-threatened **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* at RP Itabó in August (five previous published records); **Grey-breasted Crane** *Laterallus exilis* on Isla Yacyretá in November (two previous records); **Pheasant**

Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus* at RP Sombrero in August, PN Ybycui in August and November, RVS Yabebyry in October and on Isla Yacyretá in November (only four previous confirmed records, though also recently recorded at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto); **Tawny-browed Owl** *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana* at RP Itabó in October (three previous records); **Mottled Owl** *Ciccaba virgata* at Estancia Núñez in August-September and RP Itabó in October (only four previous published records, but heard frequently at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto); **Rusty-barred Owl** *Strix hylophila* at PN Caaguazú in July (three previous certain records); **Ocellated Poorwill** *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus* at Estancia Núñez in August-September, RNBM in September, Estancia Jiménez (Dpto. Canindeyú) in September-October and RP Itabó in October (only four previous records, but also recorded earlier at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto); the near-threatened **Sickle-winged Nightjar** *Eleothreptus anomalus* at RP Sombrero in August (five previous records); **Black Jacobin** *Melanotrochilus fuscus* at PN Caaguazú in July (only two previous records); **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* at PN San Rafael in July (the southernmost known locality for the species), RP Sombrero in August, RNBM and Estancia Jiménez both in September (only five previous records); **Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle aenea* at Estancia Jiménez in September (only two previous published records, plus others recently at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto, RC); the near-threatened **Canebreak Groundreeper** *Clibanornis dendrocolaptoides* at PN Caaguazú in July (two previous records); **Black-billed Scythebill** *Campylorhampus falcularis* at PN San Rafael (two previous records); **Rufous-capped Antshrike** *Thamnophilus ruficapillus* at

Estancia Núñez and RNBM (four previous records); **Bertoni's Antbird** *Drymophila rubricollis* at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael, both in July, and RP Itabó in August (two previous records); **Large-tailed Antshrike** *Mackenziaena leachii* at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael in July (three previous records; none since 1936); **Speckle-breasted Antpitta** *Hylopezus nattereri* at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael, both in July, and Estancia Núñez in August-September (one previous record in Paraguay; none since 1903; the Núñez records represent the westernmost locality for the species); **Collared Crescent-chest** *Melanopareia torquata* at RNBM in September (one previous published record for Paraguay, but also recorded once previously at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto); **Lesser Elaenia** *Elaenia chiriquensis* at RNBM in September (one previous certain record); the threatened **Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant** *Euscarthmus rufimarginatus* at RP Sombrero (one or two previous records; none since 1944); **Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera* at RVS Yabebyry in October (one or two previous records); **Diademed Tanager** *Stephanophorus diadematus* at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael, both in July (three previous records); the threatened **Black-masked Finch** *Coryphaspiza melanotis* at RNBM (one or two previous records; none since 1930); and **Red-rumped Warbling-finch** *Poospiza lateralis* at PN Caaguazú in July (two previous records; none since 1911).

SOUTH ATLANTIC

A **Mottled Petrel** *Pterodroma inexpectata* was seen SSE of the Falkland Islands on 28 December 1994⁴, and 16 **Cattle Egrets** *Bubulcus ibis* landed on a ship 465 km from the Falkland Islands and 785 km from South Georgia on the 29 May 1993¹⁹.

URUGUAY

The following are all new records for the country: **White-winged Black-tyrant** *Knipolegus aterrimus* mist-netted at Estancia El Rosario, Río Negro, in June 1992 and at Estancia Mafalda, Río Negro, in December 1992; a **Planalto Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias fasciatus* netted at the latter site in December 1992; and a number of **Chestnut Seedeaters** *Sporophila cinnamomea* netted at Estancia El Rosario in 1991 and 1992 (Uruguayan ornithologists *fide* M. Vignale, Oriente Forestal).

A series of visits to "Termas del Río Dayman", Salto department, between 1987 and 1990 produced a series of new departmental records: **Great Black Hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga* (three sightings); a **Spix's Spinetail** *Synallaxis spixi*; **Indigo Grosbeak** *Cyanoloxia glaucocerulea* (several, also the first records for the north of Uruguay); **Red-rumped Warbling-finch** *Poospiza lateralis* (numerous); and **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* (a single, also the first for the north of the country). The same site also produced the third and fourth country records of **Green-winged Saltator** *Saltator similis* (24 May 1987 and 16 June 1989) these representing the first austral winter records, the previous two records being in October and November⁶.

VENEZUELA

A small isolated population of **American Dipper** *Cinclus mexicanus* was discovered in the mountains near San Esteban, Carabobo State. This is not only the first record for Venezuela and South America but is an amazing range extension of 1,600 km⁷.

Observers

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Neotropical Notebook



The records featured below have not been vetted, and have been collected from a variety of published and unpublished sources. They generally represent records of vagrants, significant range extensions, rediscoveries or new localities for threatened or poorly known species. If submitting records for inclusion in future *Neotropical Notebooks*, please include details of species, locality, date, significance of the record and observers. Full details should also be submitted to the relevant national organisations.

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMAS

A pair of white morph **Red-footed Boobies** *Sula sula* with a single chick were photographed on a small cay off San Salvador on 28 April 1995, the first confirmed breeding record for the Bahamas this century, although the species was recorded in the same area in 1986 and there is a possible report from Atwood's Cay²¹. Two records of **Eastern Phoebes** *Sayornis phoebe* on Grand Bahama, one at Rand Nature Center on 25 November 1995 and another at West End Pool the following day, are the first published records from the West Indies since one on Eleuthera, Bahamas in February 1986 (*American Birds* 40: 529) and only the second and third records since 1972¹⁵. The spread of the **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* in the Bahamas continues, the species being recorded daily close to settlements on North Andros Island from 27-31 July 1995²¹ (see *Cotinga* 3: 60).

BERMUDA

A **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* at Spittal Pond from 10 August–20 September 1995 was the first record (*Birding World* 9 (2): 76). The first winter record of **Horned Grebe** *P. auritus* concerned one at Castle Harbour on 1 February 1995, whilst the third island record of **Tundra Swan** *Cygnus c. columbianus* was an immature at Spittal Pond on 27 November–1 December 1994 and the sixth **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* was off Bermuda on 12 January 1995. An **American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* from 29 October 1995 was the seventh record and a **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* the sixth record since 1970 (*Birding World* 9 (2): 76). The first island record of **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* at the Naval Air Station on 25 January 1995 was carefully compared with nearby **American Golden Plovers** *P. dominica*²⁰ and remained until April (*Birding World* 9 (2): 76). The first winter records for Bermuda of **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides* and **Solitary Vireo** *Vireo solitarius* involved a second winter at Bermuda on 2 February 1995 and a single at the same locality from 18 December 1994–February 1995 respectively²⁰. The second **Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* since 1970 was recorded on 11 October and the first **House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* for 10 years on 8 November. A **Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris* at Pembroke Marsh in January 1996 was the first island record, whilst an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* on 30 January was

the second record (*Birding World* 9 (2): 76). A **Philadelphia Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus* was an exceptional island record on 6 February 1995²⁰. Autumn 1995 records included the first **Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum* for 12 years was recorded on 7 October, the fifth **Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis* on 24 November, the fourth **Purple Finch** *Carpodacus purpureus* on 12 November and the second **Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* on 18 October (*Birding World* 9 (2): 76).

CUBA

Over 150 **American Avocets** *Recurvirostra americana* on the coast near Jíbaro, Sancti Spiritus province, between 9–19 June 1995 was the largest number ever reported from the country³. Duque¹² reported two rarities for Cuba: a subadult **Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* collected at Quintana Arriba, north of Meseta de Anafe, on 25 November 1991, and an unusually early **Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* taken north of Havana on 20 September 1995.

DOMINICA

The first **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* for the Lesser Antilles was reported from Roseau in 1987, where 12 were present on 26 May 1995²⁰.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Three **West Indian Whistling-ducks** *Dendrocygna arborea* at Laguna del Salodillo on 22 April 1996 appears to be the first published record for the country since 1986¹⁵. A pale morph

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsonii* just south of Montecristi on 22 April 1996 appears to be the first record for the West Indies (CGB, GMK, RSRW).

MONSERRAT

Eurasian Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto is now established at Victoria where it has bred since 1990; this and those reported from Dominica (see above) are the first records from the Lesser Antilles²⁰.

PUERTO RICO

An adult male **Audubon's Oriole** *Icterus graduacauda* at Jobos Beach, near Ramey, on 12 June 1995⁵ was the first record for the Caribbean. Given the species's lack of vagrancy potential, this record suggests an escaped cage bird but a range extension or wandering individual cannot be discounted. A female **Northern (Bullock's) Oriole** *I. galbula bullockii* was at Vieques on 22 December 1994²⁰.

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

In February 1996 up to seven **Common Ground-doves** *Columbina passerina* were present in the Placencia area, on the country's east coast, representing a considerable range extension, perhaps assisted by forest clearance (RDME, SM).

COSTA RICA

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* is not known to breed in Costa Rica; however ten engaged in courtship flights on Isla Santa Catalina on 21 November 1993 suggests that it may do so¹¹.

A **Ruddy Crane** *Laterallus ruber* at Laguna de Lagarto Lodge on 12 November 1995 was about the third country record (JE, DK). A pair of **American Avocets** *Recurvirostra americana* at the mouth of the Parismina River on

19 November 1995 was a rare record and possibly the first for the Caribbean coast (AD, LE, BF). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* at Tarcoles on 10 August 1995 was perhaps injured (PE). **Rufous-browed Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes superciliaris* is now known to be common in the upper Río Tuis valley with a single also being recorded at Rancho Naturalista, providing confirmation of this species's presence in the Talamanca mountains (per JvdG). A female **Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* at Palo Verde National Park on 8 June 1995 (JvdG) and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** *Dendroica virens* in the upper Río Tuis valley on 20 July 1995 (PE) were both unusually late; both birds presumably overwintered.

MEXICO

Contreras-Baldas *et al.*¹⁰ list five new species for Nuevo León state, all in the Univ. Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL) collection: a **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*, an adult female and adult male **Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia*, an adult male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *D. caerulescens* (the first record for continental Mexico), an adult male **Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* and an immature female **Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis*. Additionally a male **Burrowing Owl** *Speotyto cunicularia* in the same collection was the first record from Aguascalientes state.

A series of first records from Tabasco state in 1993 are as follows: **American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana*, **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* (recorded on four dates at El Bosque, with three on 14 September), **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (one, probably a juvenile, on 20 September at El Bosque), **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites*

subruficollis (single juveniles at El Bosque on 5 and 21 September), **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*, **Orange-chinned Parakeet** *Brotogeris jugularis* (four at Atasta on 26 June), **Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*, "**Brewster's Warbler**" *Vermivora pinus* x *V. chrysoptera* (at El Bosque on 27 August), **Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* (recorded on five days at El Bosque with the first on 7 September), **Townsend's Warbler** *D. townsendi* (recorded on two dates at El Bosque with the first on 20 September), **Connecticut Warbler** *Oporornis agilis* (recorded at El Bosque on 26 August), **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnithlypis swainsonii* (recorded on four dates at El Bosque with the first on 5 September), a single **Yellow-backed Oriole** *Icterus chrysater* at Atasta on 27 June and a **Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* at El Bosque on 24 September. Additionally the first breeding record of **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* was obtained and a very recently fledged **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* at Los Idoles on 11 July suggested local breeding, the nearest known breeding sites being in western Veracruz (all records per MG).

PANAMA

At least 15, including three male **Scintillant Hummingbirds** *Selasphorus scintilla* above Cerro Colorado on 18 December 1995 were unusual as the species was only previously known in this area from a single record on Cerro Flores. A pair of **Flame-throated Warblers** *Parula gutturalis* at Cerro Colarado on 18 December 1995 appears to be the first record from eastern Chirique (all records DES).

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

There is just one previous record of **American Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* in Córdoba province; thus three south of Villa

General Belgrano, Calamuchita on 15 January 1994 and one at Casa Grande, Punilla on 7 March 1994 were significant²⁷. Since November 1985 there have been several observations of **Grey-necked Wood-rail** *Aramides cajanea* at four localities in Córdoba province, and the species has also been tape-recorded at one site, providing the first province records²⁷. A total of 8,988 **Horned Coots** *Fulica cornuta* were counted on lagoons in the Vilama and Pululos area, Jujuy province, in October 1995, with 180 nests also located⁷. The world population was previously estimated at c. 5,000 birds⁹. A single **Surfbird** *Aphriza virgata* was on Rio Grande beach, Tierra del Fuego on 17 and 22 February 1995; this species is usually restricted to the Pacific coast of South America in winter¹⁹, but is annual at this site (M. P. Pearman pers. comm.).

BOLIVIA

Recent records from Tarija department in the extreme south of the country include the first departmental records of **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* (five on the Rio Tarija just north of Tarija town on 14 December 1994 and five on the Rio Salinas between Entre Ríos and La Cueva on the same date), **Andean Goose** *Chloephaga melanoptera* (nine between Pasajes and Laguna Grande on 5 December 1995), **White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonarius* (at least 50 over Tarija airport on 14 December 1994) and **Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus borealis* (one by the Rio Emboroazu on 3 December 1995 – apparently the southernmost record in South America, just 10 km from the Argentinian border). Confirmation of species first recorded by Mayer¹⁸ in Tarija involved an immature **Fasciated Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma fasciatum* at the southern edge of Reserva Nacional Tariquia (date not

provided), frequent sightings of **Band-tailed Pigeons** *Columba fasciata* in forest west of Narvaez on 21 and 23 November 1995, three **Rufous-bellied Saltators** *Saltator rufiventris* in the Erquis valley near Tarija between 2,300–2,500 m, on 14 December 1994 and two in the Río La Huerta valley, near Camacho on 18 December 1994, while **Plumbeous Sierra-finch** *Phrygilus unicolor* was found to be common on the Cuesta de Sama, between Tarija and Iscayachi, in December 1994 and upriver of La Palca on 1 December 1995 (all records SJT, LT).

RB reports at least 16 **Military Macaws** *Ara militaris* south of Buena Vista and immediately north of the current boundary of Amboró National Park, Santa Cruz, on 5 April 1996, with at least 60 in the same area on 8 April 1996, the second or third Bolivian and Noel Kempff Mercado National Park record of **Rufous-tailed Attila** *Attila phoenicurus* at Flor de Oro on 11 April 1996, and a total of about ten of the threatened **Black-and-tawny Seedeater** *Sporophila nigrorufa* at Flor de Oro on 11 April 1996 with several, including two males, still there on 13 April 1996.

BRAZIL

Pacheco²² documents the first occurrence of several new species in the Mamirauá Reserve (EEM) near the junction of the Rio Japurá and Rio Solimões, western Amazonas during fieldwork between January 1993 and September 1994. **Brown-throated Parakeet** *Aratinga pertinax* was noted on the northern border of the reserve on several occasions, which along with a record from Igarapé Belém¹ provide the first reports from the rio Solimões basin. **Olive-spotted Hummingbird** *Leucippus chlorocercus* was found to be common; elsewhere in Brazil it is known only from Ilha Marchantaria, near Manaus, and

elsewhere on the Solimões near Tabatinga on the Colombian border. Both **Yellow Tyrannulet** *Capsiempis flaveola* and **River Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga hypoleuca* were confirmed to occur, the former a westwards range extension of 600 km. The latter was only previously known in Brazil from a single record in Roraima and the lower Rio Madeira, south of the Amazon. Two records of **Little Ground-tyrant** *Muscisaxicola fluviatilis*, on 1 and 15 July 1993, were significant. The species is only known in Brazil from recent sight records in Rondônia and single records at Maruins, Rondônia, in June 1908 and on the upper Rio Madeira in November 1829. **Dull-capped Attila** *Attila bolivianus* was common at EEM, the first records north of the Amazon in Brazil, and **White-shouldered Antbird** *Myrmeciza melanocephala* was found in the westernmost sector of the reserve, an eastwards range extension of 500 km. The **White-bellied Spinetail** *Synallaxis propinqua* was discovered to be fairly common in EEM, whilst **Orange-fronted Plushcrown** *Metopothryx aurantiacus* was uncommon there; only two specimens and one sight record exist for Amazonian Brazil. A single **Blue-and-white Swallow** *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* at EEM on 25 August 1994 and four at Macapá, Amapá, on 10 January 1994 are only the second and third documented records in Amazonian Brazil. **Orange-fronted Yellow-finch** *Sicalis columbiana* was regular at EEM, a westward range extension of 400 km.

Whittaker³⁰ documents the first **Dwarf Cuckoo** *Coccyzus pumilus* for Brazil; a single on Maracá island, Roraima, on 23 December 1987. The same observer discovered three new species for Brazil during a survey of the upper Rio Juruá, near Boca de Tejo, Acre, in December 1995: **Rufous-fronted Anthrush**

Formicarius rufifrons, **Round-tailed Manakin** *Pipra chloromeros* and **Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis* (AW). Jaú National Park continues to provide interesting records: **Tawny-tufted Toucanet** *Selenidera spectabilis*, **Lanceolated Monklet** *Micromonacha lanceolata*, **Yellow-throated Antwren** *Myrmotherula ambigua* and **Chestnut-crested Antbird** *Rhegmatorhina cristata* have all been recorded recently, representing substantial range extensions from the upper Rio Negro (SB, ACa, MCH, MH). At the same locality AW recorded **Zimmer's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus minimus*, previously known in Brazil only from south of the Amazon and east of the Rio Madeira. **Pelzeln's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus inornatus* was discovered at a new site on the upper Rio Negro, near São Gabriel de Cachoeira, and a singing male **White-naped Seedeater** *Dolospingus fringilloides*, 150 km north of Manaus, on the Rio Apuau on 23 August 1995 was a range extension of c. 850 km from the upper Rio Negro (AW).

Three **Golden Parakeets** *Guaruba guarouba* in terra firme forest at Alta Floresta on 14 June 1991 were the first record from Mato Grosso state¹⁷. Collar⁸ reports the possible occurrence of **Blue-cheeked Amazon** *Amazona dufresniana* in Brazil, based on the comments of hunters to the late Jean-Luc Dujardin; they claimed to have shot the species across the Oyapock in Amapá.

During a 12-day trip to Amapá TG and AW recorded an adult **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* in gallery forest and cerrado north of Porto Grande (previous records from Amapá are all historical), a single **Campo Flicker** *Colaptes campestris* 20 km north of Macapá was the first record from north of the Amazon, while in terra firme forest between Serra

do Navio and Porto Grande **Todd's Antwren** *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus* was found to be very common in canopy flocks, it being both observed and tape-recorded (the third Brazilian record). At the same locality both **Glossy-backed Becard** *Pachyramphus surinamus* and **Olive-green Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes virescens* represented considerable range extensions from the nearest populations in French Guiana and around Manaus, **Ash-throated Crane** *Porzana albicollis* was heard in the surrounding grassland and **Smoky-fronted Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum fumifrons* was the first state record. The same observers recorded three pairs of **Great Xenops** *Megaxenops parnaguae* in disturbed caatinga near Lagoa Grande, Pernambuco, a new locality for the species.

Straube & Bornschein²⁸ report on a number of significant new records from north-western Paraná and adjacent areas. The following species were new records for Paraná: **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus*, **Greater Thornbird** *Phacellodomus ruber* and **Rusty-fronted Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum latirostre*. New species for southern Brazil were as follows: **Long-billed Starthroat** *Heliomaster longirostris*, **Blue-crowned Motmot** *Momotus momota*, **Slaty Antshrike** *Thamnophilus punctatus*, **White-thighed Swallow** *Neochelidon tibialis* and **Yellow-billed Cardinal** *Paroaria capitata*. Additionally new species for Mato Grosso do Sul were also reported: **Ash-coloured Cuckoo** *Coccyzus cinereus*, **White-tailed Goldenthrout** *Polytomus guainumbi*, **Little Woodpecker** *Veniliornis passerinus* and **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa*.

Pacheco & Maciel²³ report the second record of **Cory's**

Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* in Rio de Janeiro state; two found dead at Praia do Sul Biological Reserve, Ilha Grande, on 3 June 1994. A dead **Sickle-winged Nightjar** *Eleothreptus anomalus* was found at Fazenda Santa Rita, Paraná, only the fourth Brazilian record in the last 30 years⁴.

CHILE

During visits to Chañaral Island, Atacama, in 1988-90 a colony of **Red-billed Tropicbirds** *Phaethon aethereus* was located, the first breeding record for Chile and the southernmost ever. The birds arrived in October and departed in late March or early April; it is possible that the colony became established as a result of displacement from more northerly breeding areas during the 1982-3 El Niño²⁹.

COLOMBIA

The following observations were submitted by EK. A **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* was at a White-necked Heron *A. cocoi* colony along the Río Cauca at Laguna de Sonso on 10 August 1994 (there are only three previous summer records), whilst a **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* at the same locality on the same date may have overwintered. An **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* also at Laguna de Sonso on 10 August 1994 may also have overwintered; previous records are from September to December¹³. Four adult **Collared Plovers** *Charadrius collaris* with a single downy young at the same site represented perhaps the first breeding record for Colombia, whilst 25 **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** *Calidris pusilla*, also at Laguna de Sonso, may have overwintered and were only the third inland record¹³. Two **Orange-chinned Parakeets** *Brotogeris jugularis* at

Club Farallones on the outskirts of Cali on 6 August 1994 were the first record from the Cauca Valley. A well-watched **Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant** *Pogonotriccus ophthalmicus* at Belo Horizonte on 15-16 August 1994 is apparently the first record east of the Colombian Andes. Two adult **Red-capped Cardinals** *Paroaria gularis* at Club Farallones on 6 August 1994 and an immature on Laguna de Sonso on 10 August 1994 were the first records from the Cauca Valley but were possibly the result of escaped or released cage birds.

A group of 25 **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus* with White-collared Swifts *Streptoprocne zonaris* at 3200 m in the Ucumari Reserve, west central Andes, in July 1995 appears to be a range extension (CD, JH, DSe).

ECUADOR

A **Rufous Potoo** *Nyctibius bracteatus* was roosting approximately two hours south-east of Coca on 14 December 1994, whilst the second male **Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* in west Ecuador was recorded at the same locality as the first, Mindo, on 10 December 1994 (both records SH).

GUYANA

Five **White-winged Potoos** *Nyctibius leucopterus* were found in the Iwokrama Rainforest Reserve in late July, providing further confirmation of the species's presence in Guyana (DJA). The only previous record was of two in the Kanuku Mountains in February 1993²⁴.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Prince & Croxall²⁶ report on 20 species new to South Georgia since the publication of the current checklist²⁵: **Royal Penguin** *Eudyptes schlegeli* (singles in February 1984 and December 1992; the former was captured and photographed), **Royal**

Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* (six records), **Atlantic Petrel** *Pterodroma incerta* (nine records involving 13 individuals), **White-headed Petrel** *P. lessonii* (four records), **Great-winged Petrel** *P. macroptera* (singles in April 1977, February 1980 and March 1985), **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis* (singles in March 1985 and February 1986), **Yellow-billed Teal** *Anas flavirostris* (small breeding population established in the Cumberland Bay area and six records from Bird Island), **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* (six records, including one photographed, since 1991, although perhaps only three individuals involved), **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* (singles in April 1986 and August 1991), **Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyryla alleni* (corpse found in December 1984), **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* (one photographed in October-November 1994), **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* (one photographed in October 1983), **South Polar Skua** *Catharacta maccormicki* (16 records of 19 birds), **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* (adult photographed in January 1984), **Dolphin Gull** *Larus scoresbii* (one in April 1985 and one, then three in February-March 1986), **Brown-hooded Gull** *L. maculipennis* (single in May 1987), **Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* (single in April 1992 was ship-assisted), **Dark-faced Ground-tyrant** *Muscisaxicola macloviana* (single photographed in September 1994), **Chilean Swallow** *Tachycineta leucopyga* (two in April 1982 were previously identified as European House Martin *Delichon urbica*) and **Long-tailed Meadowlark** *Sturnella loyca* (single in April 1987).

In addition the same authors report a number of other significant records: **Emperor**

Penguin *Aptenodytes forsteri* (eighth record), **Adelie Penguin** *Pygoscelis adeliae* (fifth to eighth records), **Magellanic Penguin** *Spheniscus magellanicus* (fourth to seventh records), **Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta salvini* (second record), **Sooty Albatross** *Phoebastria fusca* (second to fifth records), **Broad-billed Prion** *Pachyptila vittata* (second and third records), **White-bellied Storm-petrel** *Fregatta grallaria* (probable in May 1975, no confirmed records), **Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* (fifth record), **Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula* (third record), **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (191 birds recorded since first record in 1977), **Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix* (sixth record), **Purple Gallinule** *Porphyryla martinica* (second record), **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* (8th-17th records), **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C. melanotos* (third to sixth records) and **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* (third inshore record).

A moribund **Black-necked Swan** *Cygnus melanocoryphus* found at Rothera Base, Adelaide Island, inside the Antarctic Circle on 8 January 1996 was the southernmost record ever (*Birding World* 9 (6): 214).

VENEZUELA

Three breeding-plumaged **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* were at a tidal lagoon at Chichiriviche on 25 April 1995 (NA); there are no published records from the country. Kirwan¹⁴ documents two recent sight and tape-recorded occurrences of **Amazonian Pygmy-owl** *Glaucidium hardyi* from Bolívar; a third record was of one heard in the Imataca Forest Reserve, east of El Palmar, on 17 July 1995 (AC, NC, DS *et al.*). **Bar-winged Cinclodes** *Cinclodes fuscus* was recorded for the first time at the Páramo de Tamá, on the Colombian-Venezuelan border at 3,100 m on

19 February 1992, with a second bird caught at the same altitude in May 1994⁶.

Barrowclough *et al.*² report on their observations on the Cerro Tamacuarí area, Amazonas, in March 1988 and January and March 1989, an area previously unsampled by ornithologists. The principal ornithological highlights were as follows: **Little Chachalaca** *Ortalis motmot* was heard calling daily (unknown from the nearby Duida or Neblina tepuís), **Dusky Spinetail** *Synallaxis macconnelli* was common (one specimen from Neblina, unrecorded from Duida), two **Plain Antvireos** *Dysithamnus mentalis* were collected (recorded at Neblina but not at Duida), **Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock** *Rupicola rupicola* was commonly encountered (unrecorded from Duida), **Pale-eyed Thrush** *Platycichla leucops* was common (unrecorded from Duida), **Speckled Tanager** *Tangara guttata* was common (unrecorded from Duida) and **Blue-naped Chlorophonia** *Chlorophonia cyanea* was also common (unrecorded from Neblina).

Neotropical Notebook:
compiled by **Guy Kirwan**

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook

The records featured below have not been vetted, and have been collated from a variety of published sources. They generally represent records of vagrants, significant range extensions, rediscoveries or new localities for threatened^{9,10} or poorly known species. The editors would welcome reprints of published work which contain records suitable for inclusion in future *Neotropical Notebooks*. Full details should also be submitted to the relevant national organisations.

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas

A **Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* at Wellfields on 20 April 1996 was the second island record; an **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* was at Brown's Point on 22 April 1996 and **American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* wintered for the first time in 1995–96, remaining at Wilson Pond to at least 8 March²⁹.

Bermuda

An **American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* wintered for the first time in 1995–96; a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* on 3 December 1995, surviving until March, was the first ever winter report; and a **Bicknell's Thrush** *Catharus bicknelli* at Port Royal from 31 December into February 1996 was the first winter record. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tuberculifer* at Outer Lea Farm on 30 January was only the second-ever record, whilst a **Solitary Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*

on 31 December and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** *V. flavifrons* on 14 February were only the second winter records for the island²⁹.

Cayman Islands

An immature male **Gadwall** *Anas strepera* and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* wintering on Grand Cayman in January–February 1996 were first records²⁹.

Dominican Republic

Ottenwalder³¹ reports on the current conservation status of **West Indian Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna arborea* in the country, identifying populations in six lowland areas, four coastal and two inland ranges. Dod¹² reports the first country record of **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* at Calderas on 19 November 1995, and subsequently between 11 February–24 March 1996 when it was photographed. Smith⁴¹ documents the presence of **Olive-throated Parakeet** *Aratinga nana*-like birds in xeric vegetation at lower altitudes in the Sierra de Batoruco in late March 1996; their origin is unknown and the author advises the collection of a small series to establish their identity.

Guadeloupe

Barré *et al.*⁵ consider Guadeloupe to be the centre of the reported Lesser Antillean range of **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*, originating from birds first released there in 1976.

Jamaica

A brief stop at Montego Bay wetlands on 26 April 1996

produced the following observations of interest: a single **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*, three **White-rumped Sandpiper** *C. fuscicollis* and c.21 **Stilt Sandpiper** *C. himantopus* (Gosse *Bird Club Broadsheet* 67: 32).

Puerto Rico

Up to 18 **Plain Pigeon** *Columba inornata* were at Lago de Cidra on 9 December 1996 – the total population is estimated to be only about 700²⁹.

St Kitts Nevis

Francis¹⁵ records the first records of **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* on Nevis: six at Montpelier Plantation Inn between 28 March–9 April 1995, and four including a mating pair in the same place on 29 March–11 April 1996.

Tobago

Hayes *et al.*¹⁹ report on surveys of the threatened **White-tailed Sabrewing** *Campylopterus ensipennis* in March and December 1995 which located 45 birds along 39.2 km of trails, primarily in the Main Ridge Forest Reserve with some evidence of seasonal movements; they suggest that the population has made a remarkable recovery since Hurricane Flora destroyed much of the species' habitat in 1963.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Guatemala

The first breeding observations of **Grey-headed Kite** *Leptodon cayanensis* in Central America are described by Thorstrom⁴³, with three nesting attempts made in Tikal National Park in 1991 and 1993. Only one nest and

two clutches had previously been described.

El Salvador

Komar & Rodríguez²¹ report the first breeding **Lesser Nighthawks** *Chordeiles acutipennis* in the country, a colony of between 8–15 pairs at the mouth of the Río Lempa, Depto. San Vicente on 4 June 1994, with another nest at Arcos del Espino, Depto. Usulután on 13 June 1994. These records also constitute the first documented evidence that the species breeds on beaches in association with terns and plovers.

Panama

First records, recently published, are as follows: **Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens* at Aguadulce salt pans on 21 September–2 November 1996 (*El Tucan* 22 (10): 9). **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* at Costa del Este on 22 September 1996¹³, **Common Teal** *A. crecca* at Rodman Spill Ponds on 25 December 1996–1 January 1997 (*El Tucan* 23 (1): 4) and a **Grey-headed Manakin** *Piprites griseiceps* mist-netted on Cerro Guaba, Bocos del Toro. A pair of **Black-and-white Becard** *Pachyrhamphus albogriseus* at Fortuna on 6 July 1996 was a significant report, as was a **Green-fronted Lancebill** *Doryfera ludovicae* at Cerra Bruja on 25 May 1996 (*El Tucan* 22 (8): 8–9). The rare **White-crested Coquette** *Lophornis adorabilis* was seen at Chorogo on the Burica Peninsula, a female on 4–5 May 1996, and a male **Peg-billed Finch** *Acanthidops bairdi*, unrecorded in Panama since 1979, was mist-netted in Volcán N. P. on 11 March 1996 with a female **Slaty Finch** *Spodiornis rusticus* netted at the same site the previous day. Also significant was the first **Northern Parula** *Parula americana* away from the Atlantic coast of central Panama, at Old

Gamboa Road on the late date of 26 April 1996 (*El Tucan* 22 (6): 3–4). **Stub-tailed Spadebill** *Platyrrinchus cancrominus* was found to be numerous on Cayo Nancy, near Bocas, on 1–2 September 1996 and also in September a pair of **Great Currasow** *Crax rubra* was seen with two chicks on Pipeline Road (*El Tucan* 22 (9): 8–9). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens* at Cerro Campaña on 29 September 1996 was the 10th record in Panama (*El Tucan* 22 (10): 10).

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Saibene *et al.*³⁸ report the occurrence of nine species new to Argentina at Parque Nacional Iguazú: of these only **Sun Parakeet** *Aratinga solstitialis* (an escape on 7 May 1992) and **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird** *Eupetomena macroura* (on 22 July 1993) have not been mentioned previously in *Cotinga*. In addition, five species are recorded for the first time in Misiones province: **Rufous-chested Dotterel** *Charadrius modestus*, **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*, **White-tailed Goldenthrout** *Polytmus guainumbi*, **Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatius* and **Purple Martin** *Progne subis*.

Ordano & Bosisio³⁰ provide new specimen records of six threatened and nine near-threatened species, as defined by Collar *et al.*⁹, all collected in Santa Fé province (unless otherwise stated) and based on the collection of the Museo Provincial de Ciencias Naturales “Florentino Ameghino”, Santa Fé, Argentina: three specimens of **Greater Rhea** *Rhea americana*, one **Solitary Tinamou** *Tinamus solitarius* (from Misiones province), two **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* (one from Santiago del Estero), one **Harpy Eagle** *Harpyja*

(from Misiones), one **Black-fronted Piping-guan** *Pipile jacutinga* (from Misiones), one **Speckled Crane** *Coturnicops notata*, one **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*, two **Red-capped Parrot** *Pionopsitta pileata* (from Chaco), two **Black-bodied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus schulzi* (one from Chaco), one **Helmeted Woodpecker** *D. galeata* (from Misiones), one **Shear-tailed Grey-tyrant** *Muscipira vetula* (from Misiones), three **Strange-tailed Tyrant** *Alectrurus risora* (all from Corrientes), four **Black-masked Finch** *Coryphaspiza melanotis*, three **Chestnut Seedeater** *Sporophila ruficollis* and one **Marsh Seedeater** *S. palustris* (from Entre Ríos).

Nores & Salvador³⁸ report the occurrence of three species new to San Juan province in February 1991: **Puna Canastero** *Asthenes sclateri*, **Suiriri Flycatcher** *Suiriri suiriri* and **Band-tailed Sierra-finch** *Phrygilus alaudinus*.

Babarskas *et al.*⁹ report the occurrence of eight species between 1990 and 1995 new to Neuquen province, with a further nine species for which specific details were previously lacking: **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*, **Black-headed Duck** *Heteronetta atricapilla*, **Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*, **White-throated Hawk** *Buteo albigula*, **White-backed Stilt** *Himantopus melanurus*, **Picazuro Pigeon** *Columba picazuro*, **Spot-winged Pigeon** *Columba maculosa*, **Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas*, **Brown Cacholote** *Pseudoseisura lophotes*, **Vermilion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*, **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*, **White-tipped Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rutila*, **Southern Martin** *Progne elegans*, **Chalk-browed Mockingbird** *Mimus saturninus*, **Saffron Finch**

Sicalis flaveola, **Cinnamon Warbling-finch** *Poospiza ornata* and **Bay-winged Cowbird** *Molothrus badius*.

Bornschein⁶ reports a **Spot-winged Falconet** *Spizapteryx circumcinctus* in Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, Santa Cruz on 11 January 1991, 1,000 km south of its documented range in Entre Ríos. Chiurla⁸ places on record two new records of **Magellanic Plover** *Pluvianellus socialis* from Buenos Aires province: a juvenile at Mar Chiquita on 17 July 1994, and two adults in the same place on 7 August 1994. Lando & Haene²³ document the confirmed occurrence of **White Woodpecker** *Melanerpes candidus* in Buenos Aires province with records since 1981–1995, and Haene¹⁸ the first record of **Bare-eyed Ground-dove** *Metriopelia morenoi* in San Juan province in October 1995. On 18 April 1992, a single **Black-winged Ground-dove** *M. melanoptera* was photographed in Parque Nacional Lihue Calel, La Pampa². Delhey & Pérez¹¹ report an observation of **Ochre-flanked Tapaculo** *Eugralla paradoxa* in Río Negro province, an adult at Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi on 18 January 1993, although there are specimen records from this area.

Bolivia

Krabbe *et al.*²² report significant new records from Chuquisaca Department in 1995: five **Whistling Heron** *Syrigma sibilatrix* 15 km north of Sopachuy at 2,500 m (previously recorded to 1,700 m); six observations of **Red-fronted Macaw** *Ara rubrogenys* on 13–19 March; the first departmental record of **Cloud-forest Screech-owl** *Otus hoyi* (a specimen obtained on 9 April); a **Blue-capped Puffleg** *Eriocnemis glaucopoides* in *Podocarpus* forest (previously unrecorded in this habitat); a **Spot-backed**

Puffbird *Nystalus maculatus* north of Presto at 2,600 m on 11 March (previously recorded to 2,000 m and one of the few departmental records); a male **Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Piculus rubiginosus* at 3,000 m (previously recorded to 2,300 m); **Cream-backed Woodpecker** *Campephilus leucopogon* at 2,450 m (previously unrecorded above 1,730 m); a **Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer* collected at 2,400 m (previously known to c.2,000 m); three **Rufous-bellied Saltator** *Saltator rufiventris* at Portillo on 10 April; **Citron-headed Yellow-finch** *Sicalis luteocephala* was found to be common (recorded from 23 sites) and breeding; recently fledged **Common Diuca-finches** *Diuca diuca* collected on 1 and 7 April, the first proven breeding records in Bolivia and first departmental records; and five singing **Grassland Sparrow** *Ammodramus humeralis* at 2,500 m, an upward altitudinal range extension of 750 m. In addition the same authors note the first record of **White-backed Stilt** *Himantopus melanurus* from Potosí department.

Helme²⁰ records a **Giant Snipe** *Gallinago undulata* flushed in flooded grassland in the Pampas del Heath, La Paz, on 29 July 1995, only the second record for Bolivia, and an **Olive-striped Flycatcher** *Mionectes olivaceus* specimen obtained in the same area on 25 July 1995, also a second record for the country. The same author also notes the following first records for La Paz department, all from Pampas del Heath in 1995: a pair of **Plumbeous Ibis** *Theristicus caerulescens* on 27–28 July, a pair of **Yellow-headed Caracara** *Milvago chimachima* on 22 July, **Swallow-tailed Hummingbird** *Eupetomena macroura* which was locally common on 23–29 July and **Grey Monjita** *Xolmis*

cinerea which was common in grassland 20 July–6 August.

Brazil

Bornschein & Reinert⁷ report a previously unpublished specimen record of **Andean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus andinus*, a juvenile collected at Jaraguá do Sul, north-east Santa Catarina in 1952, and a photograph of three adults at Lagoa do Peixe, Rio Grande do Sul in autumn 1992, the third and fourth dated Brazilian records. Galetti *et al.*¹⁶ report six recent records of **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* and four of **Crested Eagle** *Morphnus guianensis* from the Brazilian Atlantic forest. Rodrigues *et al.*³⁶ analyse previous records of reported breeding by **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* in north-east Brazil, presenting new records from Maranhão in September 1991 and May–June 1992 and conclude that the species is a rare breeding bird in the country with other records from Bahia and Alagoas. Range extensions have been reported for four species of cotingas in April 1995 in the Parque Estadual Guaraja-Mirim, Rondonia, the most notable being for **Purple-breasted Cotinga** *Cotinga cotinga* 1,050 km south-west of its nearest known locality⁴⁵.

Chile

A whole series of significant new observations have recently been published in *Boletín Chileno de Ornitología*. Tabilo *et al.*⁴² document the occurrence of three immature **Rockhopper Penguin** *Eudyptes chrysocome* at Punta de Talca, IV Region in January 1994, unusually far north; a pair of **Bay-winged Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* at Pastos Largos in January 1995 unusually high at 3,800 m; **Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus* regularly observed in Coquimbo bay, IV Region since

spring 1987 (there are only two other Chilean records, near Arica and Valparaíso); **Moustached Turca** *Pteroptochos megapodius*, previously known to 3,000 m, was recorded at 3,750 m at Cancha de los Indios, III Region in January 1994; **White-fronted Ground-tyrant** *Muscisaxicola albifrons* in IV Region (in valle del Huasco and valle del Elqui in January 1994) and III Region (valle del río Huasco in October 1994); **Yellow-bridled Finch** *Melanodera xanthogramma* in III Region in October 1994; and **Black Siskin** *Carduelis atrata* in III Region in summer 1994.

Large numbers of **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* were recorded in 1995–96 in central Chile, with two records involving 1,000 birds (at El Tranque San Rafael) and another of 500 individuals (at Embalse Los Molles)¹⁷, and further south two were at playa del Pelluco, X Region on 11 October 1995, the second record for Llanquihue province²⁴. Other interesting records from X Region include: breeding **Speckled Teal** *Anas flavirostris* at Pelluco, Puerto Montt in September and October 1995²⁵, and the third record of **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* in this region, at Cucao, Isla Grande de Chiloe on 8 December 1995²⁶. A female or juvenile **Southern Martin** *Progne modesta* recorded at Antofagasta, Region II on 20 February 1996, the fifth record in Chile²⁷. Seeger & Aguirre⁴⁰ present additional distributional information for **White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica* in Chile: the species has been regularly observed and breeding proven at Copiapo, III Region in 1992, and two pairs were seen 20 km south of Coquimbo, IV Region on 12 September 1995, indicating that the species is rapidly expanding its range southwards.

Aguirre & Seeger¹ present a number of recent observations of **Tawny-throated Dotterel** *Oreopholus ruficollis* in central

Chile, where the species is scarce, in IV Region (a total of 297 birds) and VII Region (11 birds) between May and August in 1990 and 1994–95. There are now three records of **Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor* in Chile, all in III Region: 2–3 birds around Pan de Azúcar island in summer of 1990 and 1992 and one photographed at Isla Chañaral de Aceituno in January 1995⁴⁴.

Ecuador

Pople *et al.*³³ report the following significant observations from Guayas: up to six **Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* at Reserva Ecológica Manglares-Churute (REM-C) (now only erratically recorded as far south as Guayas); **Red-throated Caracara** *Daptrius americanus* recorded at most study sites (previously known in west Ecuador from a few records in Esmeraldas); the second province record of **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*; **Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula* at c.350 m at REM-C (a downward altitudinal range extension of c.150 m); the first lowland records of **Line-cheeked Spinetail** *Craniolaeca antisimensis* at REM-C on 28–29 August 1996; **Collared Antshrike** *Sakesphorus bernardi* in semi-deciduous woodland at REM-C (a westward range extension from more arid zones); **Russet Antshrike** *Thamnistes anabatinus* at REM-C (only one other non-Andean Ecuadorian locality); two **Spotted Antbird** *Hylophylax naevioides* at REM-C on 30 August 1996 (previously recorded by Prior³⁴ at the same locality, the first reliable reports south of Pichincha province); one of the few recent records south of Pichincha of **Bicoloured Antbird** *Gymnopithys leucaspis* at REM-C; a **White-throated Thrush** *Turdus assimilis* at REM-C on 24 August 1996 (the first modern record south of Pichincha); **Crimson-breasted Finch** *Rhodospingus cruentus* at

c.400 m in REM-C (previously known only to c.300 m); and one of the few Ecuadorian records of **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, a female-plumaged bird at Chedraui on 22 July 1996. Significant observations of the following species considered threatened¹⁰ were also made: **Grey-backed Hawk** *Leucopternis occidentalis*, **Rufous-headed Chachalaca** *Ortalis erythroptera*, **Ochre-bellied Dove** *Leptotila ochraceiventris*, **Great Green Macaw** *Ara ambigua*, **Blackish-headed Spinetail** *Synallaxis tithys*, **Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner** *Hylocryptus erythrocephalus*, **Pacific Royal Flycatcher** *Onychorhynchus occidentalis*, **Grey-breasted Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* and **Saffron Siskin** *Carduelis siemiradzkii*.

Schulenberg & Awbrey³⁹ report on significant observations from the Cordillera del Cóndor in July–August 1993 and 1994 (see also Peru below). At Achupallas interesting records included the near-threatened **Orange-banded Flycatcher** *Myiophobus lintoni*, **Andean Potoo** *Nyctibius maculosus* and **Golden-plumed Parakeet** *Leptosittaca branickii*, of which this locality may harbour an important population. Coangas held an unidentified *Pyrrhura* parakeet, considered most likely to be the threatened **White-necked Parakeet** *P. albipectus*, the threatened **Spot-winged Parrotlet** *Touit stictoptera* and the recently described **Subtropical Pygmy-owl** *Glaucidium parkeri*. The most significant finding at Miazis was **Orange-throated Tanager** *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron*, known from only one other locality in Ecuador.

Falkland Islands

A number of significant recent records from the archipelago have been published in *Warrah* 9: 4–6.

A **Rockhopper Penguin** *Eudyptes chrysocome* showing characteristics of the race *moseleyi*, which breeds on Tristan da Cunha, Gough, Amsterdam and St Paul Islands, was at Macbride Head in December 1995 (the first record of this race), and an apparent hybrid **Rockhopper x Macaroni Penguin** *E. chrysolophus* was at New Island on 7 December 1995. Single **Great Grebes** *Podiceps major* were at Burnside on 10 November 1995 and in Chabot Creek, Johnson's Harbour from 19 December 1995–8 January 1996 at least. A **Great Egret** *Egretta alba* was at Felton stream, Stanley in December 1995 and single **Buff-necked Ibis** *Theristicus caudatus* were at Fox Bay on 2–5 January 1996 and around Stanley on 6–7 and 10 April 1996. One, possibly two **Chilean Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* were around the islands between 1–21 December 1995 and two **Coscoroba Swan** *Coscoroba coscoroba* were on Pebble Island from 29 November 1995–15 January 1996. Other wildfowl included a single **Ashy-headed Goose** *Chloephaga poloicephala* at Douglas Station from 14 September–end of October 1995, an adult male **Red Shoveler** *Anas platalea* on Pebble Island on 15 January 1996 with an adult female and immature male on the same island next day, and an adult male **Lake Oxyura vittata** or **Ruddy Duck** *O. jamaicensis* also on Pebble Island from late November–9 December 1995, with perhaps the same bird there on 16 January 1996. Single **Cinereous Harrier** *Circus cinereus* and **White-winged Coot** *Fulica leucoptera* were also reported from the same island between 29 November–9 December 1995. Record numbers of **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* were on the islands between 20 October–9 November 1995, with six records involving

up to 86 birds being reported. Other interesting shorebirds were: three records of **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* between 23 October–29 November 1995, 32 **Sanderling** *Calidris alba* in the Bertha's Beach area in late November 1995, two **Baird's Sandpiper** *C. bairdii* on Sea Lion Island on 14 January 1996, 1–3 **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* also on Sea Lion Island on 16–20 November 1995 and 16 January 1996, with a single on Pebble Island on 15 January 1996, and only the third 20th century record of **White-bellied Seedsnipe** *Attagis malouinus* on Sea Lion Island on 1 December 1995 (the others being in 1981 and 1991). Three **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* were in the Bertha's Beach area on 26 November 1995 with another sighting there a week later. An **Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* was on Fitzroy Road East on 12 March 1996. Vagrant passerines reported included a **Fire-eyed Diucon** *Pyrope pyrope* on Beaver Island in the second half of November 1995 and a male **Rufous-backed Negrito** *Lessonia rufa* on Tea Island in early November 1995.

Paraguay

Comparing their field research with Hayes (1995), and presenting data from a large unpublished collection of Paraguayan birds made by C. C. Olrog which is stored at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Ericson & Amarilla¹⁴ provide significant new distributional data for 12 species. A female **Black-banded Owl** *Ciccaba huhula* collected in Parque Nacional Caaguazú, Departamento Caazapá on 30 September 1993 was the first confirmed country record, although Brooks *et al.* (1995, *Orn. Neotrop.* 6: 129–134) present aural records for the previous year. Other records are as follows: the first documented

records of **Red-winged Tinamou** *Rhynchotus rufescens* from the Alto Chaco geographical region (three males and five females collected by Olrog in western Dpto. Presidente Hayes in the austral winter of 1947); the first **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* in the Bajo Chaco geographical region (a female collected c. 40 km east of Pozo Colorado, Dpto. Presidente Hayes on 23 November 1946); the second and third country records of **Blue-crowned Motmot** *Momotus momota* (male collected near Bella Vista, Dpto. Amambay on 12 November 1994, and two specimens from the Parque Nacional Defensores del Chaco, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 26–27 March 1995); the first documented **Rusty-backed Antwren** *Formicivora rufa* from the Matogrosense region (an adult male collected 5 km north of Bahía Negra, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 16 September 1994); the first Paraguayan record of **Bran-coloured Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus* west of the Río Paraguay (a juvenile collected in Parque Nacional Defensores del Chaco, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 25 March 1995); an adult male **Russet-winged Spadebill** *Platyrinchus leucoryphus* collected at Parque Nacional Caaguazú, Dpto. Caazapá on 6 October 1993; two male and a female **Strange-tailed Tyrant** *Alectrurus risora* collected at Estancia San José, Dpto. Presidente Hayes on 28 September 1994; the first record of **White-naped Xenopsaris** *Xenopsaris albinucha* from the Bajo Chaco region (a male collected by Olrog at Estancia Hermosa, c. 40 km east of Pozo Colorado, Dpto. Presidente Hayes on 22 November 1946); the first record of **Golden-billed Saltator** *Saltator aurantiirostris* from the Matogrosense region (a female collected at Estancia Doña Julia, 5 km north of Bahía Negra, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 13

September 1994); the first record of **Ultramarine Grosbeak** *Cyanocompsa brissonii* from the Campos Cerrados region (one collected near Bella Vista, Dpto. Amambay on 13 October 1994); one of the few records of **Saffron-cowled Blackbird** *Agelaius flavus* in Paraguay (four males by Ruta General Bruguez, Dpto. Presidente Hayes on 3 March 1995); and the first record of **Troupial** *Icterus icterus* in the Matogrosense region (an adult male, of an apparent pair, collected 5 km north of Bahía Negra, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 17 September 1994).

Peru

Barnes *et al.*⁴ place on record significant new distributional records from the Cordillera de Colán, Amazonas department in northern Peru, in July and August 1994. **White-eyed Parakeet** *Aratinga leucophthalmus*, previously known to 500 m, was regularly recorded up to 1,950 m; five **White-tipped Sicklebill** *Eutoxeres aquila* were the first records south of the Marañón valley; six records of **Russet-mantled Softtail** *Thripophaga berlepschi* were made at 1,800–1,950 m, a downward altitudinal range extension of 650 m; nine **Barred Anthrush** *Chaemaeza mollissima* at 2,300–2,600 m appeared intermediate in plumage characteristics between the nominate and *yungae* subspecies, suggesting that the Marañón valley does not form a clear divide between the two subspecies as previously considered; a **Chestnut Antpitta** *Grallaria blakei* was found at 1,700 m, a downward altitudinal range extension of 450 m; records of **Rusty-tinged Antpitta** *G. przewalskii* spanned 1,700–2,650 m, when previously it was only known from as low as 2,200 m (Ridgely & Tudor³⁵); six records of **Black-chested**

Fruiteater *Pipreola lubomirskii* were the first south of the Marañón valley; one certain record of **Red-billed Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius cinereicapillus* at 1,800 m was the first from the north Peruvian Andes (although predicted by Ridgely & Tudor³⁵) and an upward altitudinal range extension of 600 m; and two records of **Black-chested Mountain-tanager** *Buthraupis eximia* were the first south of the Marañón valley.

Amongst significant records reported from the Cordillera del Cóndor by Schulenberg & Awbrey³⁹, in July–August 1993 and 1994 (see Ecuador above), are the first Peruvian records of **Barred Hawk** *Leucopternis princeps*, **White-chested Swift** *Cyseloides lemosi*, the threatened **Coppery-chested Jacamar** *Galbula pastazae*, **White-streaked Antvireo** *Dysithamnus leucostictus* and **Rufous-browed Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes superciliiaris*, all in the upper Comainas valley. The same locality also provided the following second Peruvian records: **Napo Sabrewing** *Campylopterus villavicensio*, **White-tailed Hillstar** *Urochroa bougueri* and **Plain-backed Antpitta** *Grallaria haplonota*. A population of **Mouse-coloured Thistletail** *Schizoeaca griseomurina* at 2,150 m was significant, as were records of **Cinnamon Screech-owl** *Otus petersoni* in ridge-top forest and **Bar-winged Wood-wren** *Henicorhina leucoptera*, which was locally common from 1,500 m to elfin forest at the summit of Cerro Machinaza.

Venezuela

Rodriguez & Lentino³⁷ document the first record of **Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum* in Venezuela and only the second in mainland South America³²; one photographed by Mucubaji Lake,

Merida state on 29 June 1995, an exceptional instance of overwintering by a Nearctic passerine migrant previously almost unknown in South America.

Neotropical Notebook: compiled by **Guy Kirwan** and **Jon Hornbuckle**.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook now contains three sections. The first is a series of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions will be published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish records to appear.

Short Notes

Two sightings of Banded Ground-cuckoo *Neomorphus radiolosus* in Ecuador

During a survey of the birds in Jatun Sacha Bilsa Reserve, in the Mache-Chindul hills of north-west Ecuador (00°22'N 79°45'W), I had prolonged close views of two Banded Ground-Cuckoo *Neomorphus radiolosus*, on 6 and 15 September 1996. The first was in a partly replanted, relatively open area close to the reserve buildings. It was initially seen walking / hopping along a cleared area between sapling trees and then heard bill-snapping and observed hunting for food in the adjacent undergrowth, entirely alone. The second, presumed to be a different bird, was in primary wet forest 3 km away, feeding with antbirds in association with an army antswarm. Both sites were at approximately 500–600 m elevation.

I watched the second bird for nearly an hour in total at various times of the day, as close as 6–7 m, in full view of it most of the time. It spent long periods

perched almost motionless, either on the ground or on a fallen log, sometimes raising or lowering its crest, and sporadically dashing a short distance to grab an insect disturbed by the ants. In contrast to the accompanying and more active *Gymnopathys leucaspis* and *Phaenostictus mcleannani* antbirds, it was silent throughout. It narrowly avoided a mist-net on one occasion. The antswarm was located on the following two days in the same general area but the ground-cuckoo was not seen, although it could have been present as little time was spent observing the swarm, it being in a less accessible locality.

The only other record of this endangered species^{1,2} in Ecuador since 1936 was by Niels Krabbe of one bird 20 km west of Alto Tambo on 13–15 February 1992: this bird had apparently been attracted by snapping noises, and bill-snapped in close proximity to the observer while raising and lowering its crest (N. Krabbe pers. comm.). The only other recent, published reports are of three in Colombia in 1988–89², but local hunters in Nariño in the 1990s reported it as fairly common at two localities, with its “extreme shyness” blamed for the paucity of records¹, a view not supported by Ecuadorian experience.

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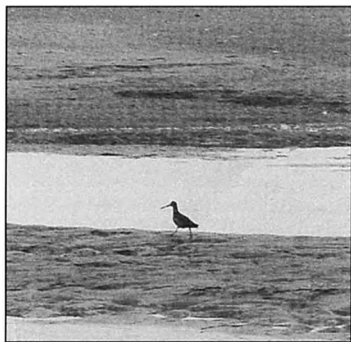
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The first dowitcher *Limnodromus* sp. in Chile

From 18–22 November 1996, the author visited Tongoy (30°15'S 71°30'W), c. 40 km south-west of Coquimbo and 1,330 km south of the Chile–Peru border. I had an excellent view over the mudflats near the mouth of the river Tongoy. Fifteen species of waders, some gulls, Elegant Terns *Sterna elegans* and Black Skimmers *Rhynchops niger* were feeding at the locality.

On 19 November, a wader, which immediately reminded me of a dowitcher (I observed a Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* in Germany three months earlier), was located. It was watched over the following days down to 100 m with the light from behind, through a 27 x 60 telescope, and compared with other waders, including Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Hudsonian *Limosa haemastica* and Marbled Godwits *L. fedoa* (Pearman¹ mentions only four records of the latter in Chile up until 1993). Three photos were taken with a 135 mm-lens (sufficient to see the structure of the bird). It remained in the area until 15 January 1997 (W. Morgan pers. comm.). The following notes were made.



Dowitcher *Limnodromus* sp. at Tongoy, a first for Chile. (Klemens

Structure: larger and thicker-headed than Red Knot, the body more round-shaped, like a Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Bare parts: bill c. 1 + the length of the head, more or less straight, perhaps very slightly downcurved, blackish with a lighter basal third; legs greenish yellow.

Upperparts: upperwing with scaled appearance, feathers dark brown with light (buffish to whitish) fringes, more contrasting than in any other wader present.

Underparts: general colour of neck and breast bright rufous, much warmer and more reddish than Marbled Godwit; centre of belly to undertail-coverts whitish with a very slight reddish tinge obvious in the late afternoon sun; breast sides with blackish dots, merging to bands at the sides of the belly and flanks (at least to the legs), giving scaled or barred

appearance to sides of body (looking greyish barred at longer distance); undertail-coverts with dark spots.

Head: upper head brownish, sides of head bright rufous; darkish lores; slightly darkish earpatch; supercilium clearly marked, in front of and above eye buff, becoming reddish just behind eye; chin whitish, throat reddish.

Flight: seen flying from c. 300 m distance with 10x binoculars: no wingbar but white trailing edge to secondaries obvious; white oval patch on centre of back, similar to Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*.

The bird was a first-winter, which was indicated by the bright coloured plumage. Adult dowitchers moult into more or less greyish non-breeding plumage in August². The bird was probably a Short-billed Dowitcher *L. griseus*, presumably of the subspecies *caurinus*, which winters along the Pacific coast from California to Peru^{2,5}, but it was not possible to be sure of the specific identification.

William Morgan who is very familiar with the waders occurring in the area had not seen a dowitcher at this site during the last 16 years.

This observation is the first record of a dowitcher in Chile^{1,3,4}. In winter it reaches as far south as the Pacific coast in Peru³, c. 1,800–2,000 km north-west of Tongoy.

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Third record of Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* for Argentina

Together with Guy Kirwan, we observed a single Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* in Parque Nacional Iguazú on 16 March 1997. The bird was closely observed by RSRW and NW in flight and perched at the confluence of a small side-stream and the main river, c. 1 km above the falls. This constitutes the third record for both the Parque Nacional and the country (Juan Mazar Barnett pers. comm.).

Robert S. R. Williams and Natasha White

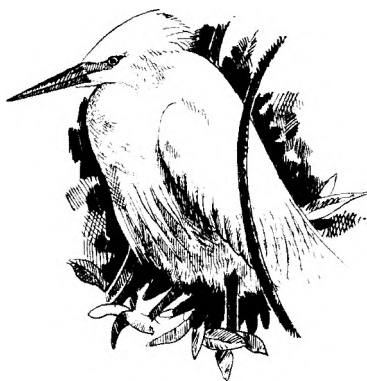
6 Waldeck Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7PG, UK.

Fourth record of Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* for Chile

A Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* was observed at 40°05'S 74°05'W (west-south-west of Valdivia) on 3 November 1996. It was watched down to 10 m, when flushed by the ship. Size, shape and colour were similar to White-chinned Petrel *P. aquinoctilais* but the black tip to the bill was clearly visible. This represents the fourth Chilean and fifth South American record.

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Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (Lyn Wells)

First record of Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* for Guyana

A Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* was observed on the Mahaicony River, c. 15 km south of its mouth, from a boat at c. 10 m in good light on 19 January 1997. The lores were greenish grey, not yellow and the feet were plain yellow not golden-yellow. The legs appeared distinctly heavier than those of Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*, the rear of the legs could not be observed because of intervening foliage. Neck length could not be compared as the bird was hunched-up and did not move. It was in non-breeding plumage. Several Snowy Egrets were in the area but direct comparison was not possible. Although some supporting features were not noted, the lore colour is believed to be diagnostic. This represents the first record for Guyana, though it is not unexpected as the Barbados breeding colony now numbers at least 20 pairs and there is a recent record from Suriname (Paul Buckley pers. comm.).

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Published records from the literature

Caribbean

Bahamas

On 14–18 November 1996, a first-winter **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* was photographed at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, the second record from the archipelago³³.

Cuba

Muñoz & Bowles²² document a pair of **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* at Macizo Montañoso Guamuhaya, Cuba on 1 March 1994. This is apparently the second record for Cuba, the first being one collected in March 1965 in central Cuba.

Garrido¹² reports the first record of **Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* for the island, and Duque & Garrido¹⁰ the first record of **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* of the race *gambelli*, captured in Havana province in November 1995. There is one previous record of **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* in Cuba (one collected in Havana on 9 October 1963); thus additional records of singles in Havana province in late October 1986 and on 5 December 1996, with another between Soplillar and Molina in Matanzas province in October 1995 are significant⁹. Blanco & Pérez⁵ review Cuban records of **Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*, and list the fourth and fifth for Havana province and the 22nd for Cuba in the last 30 years.

Dominica

Few data on pelagic birds exist from the central Lesser Antilles, thus observations by Keith & Ward¹⁶ in the deep water west of Dominica are of interest: **Audubon's Shearwater** *Puffinus lherminieri* (one on 23 January 1997); **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* (singles on 22 and 23 January 1997); **Brown Booby** *Sula*

leucogaster (small groups of 3–8 birds on 16, 21 and 23 January 1997); **skua** *Catharacta* sp. (one on 19 January 1997 was thought to be **South Polar Skua** *C. maccormicki*); **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* (singles on 21 and 23 January 1997); **Pomarine Skua** *S. pomarinus* (c. 30 between 15–23 January 1997); **Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima* (four on 19 January 1997); and **Sooty Tern** *S. fuscata* (c. 4 on 21 January 1997).

Dominican Republic

Rivas²⁹ reports on a number of interesting country records: nine **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* in May 1996; observations in September and December 1996 of **Wilson's Phalaropus** *tricolor* and **Red-necked Phalaropes** *P. lobatus*; a juvenile **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* photographed between Oviedo and Pedernales (no date); and a **skua** *Stercorarius* sp. near Montecristi on 6 January 1997. Rivas & López³⁰ document the first records of **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* in the Dominican Republic: one at Bahía de Calderas, near Bani with a flock of **Common Terns** *Sterna hirundo* from 31 August 1996 (the flock being last seen in early November) with another at Laguna de Oviedo, near Barahona on 26 October 1996. Latta¹⁷ reports on two other new species for Hispaniola: a **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* photographed, also at Bahía de Calderas, near Bani on 16 February 1997 and a **Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina* mist-netted and photographed in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park on 15 November 1996.

Latta *et al.*¹⁸ and Hess¹⁵ confirm the presence of **Olive-throated Parakeet** *Aratinga nana* in the country, reporting on new observations from Sierra da Bahoruco National Park since at least July 1995 and a singles in Santo Domingo city in July 1995

and December 1996 to January 1997. The origin of these birds remains unknown.

Jamaica

Bird Notes in the Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet 68 (March 1997) lists several notable records. A **Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* was observed at "Coconuts" on 2–3 February 1997. At least three **Golden Swallow** *Tachycineta euchrysea* were at Hardwar Gap on 8 June 1989, the first record since 1982.

Central America

Honduras

One and eight **Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* at Laguna El Faro and Laguna El Jicarito on 19 and 20 October 1994 were the first records of this species on the Pacific coast²⁰.

Mexico

Rodríguez-Estrella *et al.*³¹ report the first nesting by **European Starlings** *Sturnus vulgaris* in southern Baja California in May 1995, c. 800 km south of their previous known range in the state.

Panama

Among recent sightings is the first published country record of **Plumbeous Pigeon** *Columba plumbea*; it was found to be common on the Serranía de Jungurado from sea-level to 1,000 m and with two specimens collected in August 1997). Of the Darien highland endemics, only **Pirre Warbler** *Basileuterus ignotus* was not found in the Jungurado range. Along the Río Sambu on 24 August 1997 several **White-winged Swallows** *Tachycineta albiventer* were observed, a species only recently (1996) reported in Panama. Other interesting records include: a female **Peg-billed Finch** *Acanthidops bairdii* and up to ten **Slaty Finches** *Haplospiza rustica* at Los Quetzales near

Cerro Punta on 4 July 1997; an unusually early **Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius* in Panama City on 13 July 1997; further records of **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* suggesting that the species is successfully colonising the country; **Cattle Tyrant** *Machetornis rixosus* was confirmed to breed in Panama, when a juvenile was noted begging food from two adults at Ford Amador on 19 August 1997; and 30 pairs of **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* were noted building nests south of Lake Bayano, the first breeding record in Panama (all Angehr³).

South America

Argentina

A **Spot-winged Falconet** *Spizapteryx circumcinctus* was on Isla Martín García, north-eastern Buenos Aires on 24 April 1993¹¹. The species was previously only known from the extreme south-west of the province.

Christie & Rubulis⁶ report the second specimen of **Ochre-flanked Tapaculo** *Eugralla paradoxa* from Argentina, near Nahuel Huapi National Park on 10 August 1995, which represents the sixth published record. A few other unpublished records exist from nearby.

The first nesting report of **Crowned Slaty-flycatcher** *Empidonomus*

aurantioatrocristatus for Río Negro was a nest found near Chimpay on 20 January 1995²⁵.

Reggio & de la Orden²⁸ provide the first records of **South American Painted-snipe** *Nycticryphes semicollaris* for San Juan, based on a pair found at 2,750 m in the Reserva Natural Estricta El Leoncito on 24 January 1995 and a previously unpublished observation by W. H. Partridge on the río Jáchal in November 1963.

Saggese *et al.*³² review published and unpublished records of **Osprey** *Pandion*

haliaetus in Argentina and Uruguay resulting in 38 and 15 citations respectively.

A **Cape Gannet** *Morus capensis* in the Beagle Channel, Tierra del Fuego on 21 January 1995 represents the second record in Argentina and South America²⁷.

De Lucca⁸ reports the first successful nest of **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* in the country between 1990 and 1992, where a single fledging remained for at least 10 months in the area.

Two **Sooty Grassquits** *Tiaris fuliginosa* collected in Iguazú National Park on 29 September and 18 October 1994 represent the first country record²¹.

de la Peña²³ gives details of the nests of **Grey Elaenia** *Myiopagis caniceps* at Rosario de la Frontera, Salta, on 10 December 1991 (previously unknown), **Slaty Elaenia** *E. strepera* in the same place on 13 December 1991, **Purple-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia chlorotica* at Romang, Santa Fé on 7 October 1995 and **Carbonated Sierra-finch** *Phrygilus carbonarius* at Península Valdés on 1 January 1987. In a second paper, the same author²⁴ reports observations of the following species, new for Santa Fé province: **Green Ibis**

Mesembrinibis cayennensis near Romang on 4 April 1992 and near Florencia on 29 November 1995; **Collared Forest-falcon**

Micrastur semitorquatus tape-recorded at Las Claritas on 10 August 1990; a **Pale-crested Woodpecker** *Celeus lugubris*

near Villa Guillermina on 28 November 1995; a **Dinelli's Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx dinellianus* seen and tape-

recorded south of Wildermuth on 3 November 1992; a **Boat-billed Flycatcher** *Megarhynchus pitangua* on 2 November 1995;

two pairs of **Chestnut-vented Conebill** *Conirostrum speciosum* east of Villa Ocampo on 21 October 1992 and 4 October 1995;

an **Ornate Warbling-finch** *Poospiza ornata* near Grütly on 1 May 1989. Other noteworthy records for Santa Fé are: a pair of **Dusky-legged Guans** *Penelope obscura* near Tacuarendí and another at Las Claritas on 27 July 1995; two and one **Yellow-breasted Crakes** *Poliolimnas flaviventer* at Saladero Cabal on 20 October 1986 and west of Los Amores on 8 November 1989; a nesting **Rufous Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufus* east of Villa Ocampo on 1 November 1991; two **Toco Toucans** *Ramphastos toco* north of Villa Guillermina on 28 November 1995; **Grey-headed Tyrannulets** *Serpophaga griseiceps* south of Wildermuth on 23 February 1991 and 1 March 1992, and north of Calchaquí on 3 May and 10 June 1992, and 15 July 1993; a pair of **Blue-billed Black-tyrants** *Knipolegus cyanirostris* close to Aguara Grande on 24 November 1983; a pair of **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa* east of Los Amores on 3 October 1990; several **Blue-hooded Euphonias** *Euphonia aureata* at Cayastá on 13 May 1988; a pair and a male **Purple-throated Euphonia** *E. chlorotica* at Los Amores on 13 June 1976 and 1 October 1989, and a pair west of Calchaquí on 14 April 1989; a male **Lined Seedeater** *Sporophila lineola* at Villa Ana on 9 February 1978 and a pair at río Salado on 4 February 1994; **White-bellied Seedeaters** *S. leucoptera* were at El Rabón on 25 September 1972, near Tacuarendí on 15 November 1986, at Reconquista on 16 May 1992, at Romang on 7 October 1995 and east of La Florencia on 29 November 1995; two lone and a breeding pair of **Ringed Warbling-finches** *Poospiza torquata* at Esperanza on 4 June 1972, 30 April 1989 and 10 November 1995, and another at Pozo Borrado on 27 January 1988. For Entre Ríos province, noteworthy records include: three **Least Grebes** *Tachybaptus*

dominicus at Colonia Villa Nueva on 13 July 1993; **Plumbeous Ibis** *Theristicus caerulescens* at San Jaime and Paso Telégrafo on 19 September 1993 and 10 October 1993; two **Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures** *Cathartes burrovianus* at Arroyo Yacaré on 18 December 1991; an **Osprey** at Puerto Campichuelo on 5 March 1993; several **Dusky-legged Guans** north of La Barranca on 15 January 1993 and at Puerto Campichuelo on 8 February and 5 March 1993; **American Golden Plovers** *Pluvialis dominicus* at Lucas Norte and near Gualeguay on 13 and 27 November 1991; several **Upland Sandpipers** *Bartramia longicauda* at Sauce Sud on 27 November 1991 and La Armonía and Moreira on 4 March 1993; **Snowy-crowned Terns** *Sterna trudeaui* at El Emplame on 17 September 1991 and Villaguay on 12 October 1992; four **Blue-headed Parakeets** *Aratinga acuticaudata* at Villa Urquiza on 24 September 1992; several **White-eyed Parakeets** *A. leucophthalmus* at San Victor and Concordia on 18 December 1991 and 4 November 1993; single **Southern Scrub-flycatchers** *Sublegatus modestus* at Paso Telégrafo on 10 October 1993; several **Sand Martins** *Riparia riparia* at Puerto Campichuelo on 5 March 1993; and two **Many-coloured Chaco-finches** *Saltatricula multicolor* at Alvear on 16 October 1979.

Bolivia

Herzog *et al.*¹⁴ report on the results of avifaunal research in Andean dry forest localities throughout Bolivia, during May–October 1995. New information on the following species is presented: **Band-tailed Pigeon** *Columba fasciata* (records from 800 m and 1,500 m are below the usual elevational range); **Maroon-chested Ground-dove** *Claravis mondetoura* (500 m below its usual elevational

range); **Red-fronted Macaw** *Ara rubrogenys* (just one bird during a survey of the Río Caine, Potosí department, four at Novillero, Cochabamba and up to 116 birds at Hacienda Uyuni, Potosí in late June and early July); **Canary-winged Parakeet** *Brotogeris versicolurus* (first records for La Paz department); **Montane Screech-owl** *Otus hoyi* (records from between 1,100–1,250 m at Río Azero, Chuquisaca department); **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrisii* (records from two new localities suggest that the species may be more widespread in deciduous forests in Bolivia than previously suspected); **Band-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus longirostris* (pair at 800 m is well below the usual altitudinal range of this species east of the Andes); **Amethyst Woodstar** *Calliphlox amethystina* (two males at 800 m were 100 m above the usual altitudinal limit and apparently the first report from an Andean valley); **Striped Woodpecker** *Picoides lignarius* (the first records from La Paz department); **Green-barred Flicker** *Colaptes melanochloros* (the first reports from La Paz department); **Bolivian Earthcreeper** *Upucerthia harterti* (the first records for Potosí and La Paz departments); **Berlepsch's Canastero** *Asthenes berlepschi* (pair at 2,300 m were 300 m below their known altitudinal limit and other observations increase its known range to 200 km²); **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata* (regularly seen at 1,000 m at Río Azero, 300 m below its known altitudinal range); **Spot-billed Ground-tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maculiostris* (one bird 700 m below known altitudinal limits of the species); **Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (one at 2,300 m was 600 m above its previously known altitudinal limit); **Lemon-**

browed Flycatcher *Conopias cinchoneti* (single sight records from two localities in La Paz department were the first records from Bolivia); **White-naped Xenopsaris** *Xenopsaris albinucha* (one in Santa Cruz department; the species is known from only a handful of sites in Bolivia); **White-lined Tanager** *Tachyphonus rufus* (the first record for La Paz department); **Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea melanonota* (pair at 500 m were unusually low on the east Andean slope); **Chestnut-vented Conebill** *Conirostrum speciosum* (recorded to 1,500 m, 500 m above its usual altitudinal range); **Cinereous Conebill** *C. cinereum* (recorded at 1,300, unusually low on the east Andean slope); and **Epaulet Oriole** *Icterus cayanensis* (pair at 1,500 m, 500 m above its usual altitudinal range).

Brazil

Aleixo² documents a record of **Large-headed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon megacephala* from the Xavante Indian Reserve of São Marcos, 120 km north-west of Barro do Garças, Mato Grosso state, central Brazil. This is a range extension of 700 km south-east from the nearest known locality at Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, and is almost equidistant from south-east Brazilian populations.

Chile

Porteous²⁶ reports the occurrence of both the little-known **Markham's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma markhami* and **Hornby's Storm-petrel** *O. hornbyi* off Arica in late October 1995.

Ecuador

Noticias de Galápagos 57 (1997) documents the first Galápagos record of **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*, observed and photographed by Hernán Vargas at Pozo de Claudio Cruz in the

highlands of Floreana on 28 March 1996. It also lists the second record of **Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* for the islands, one observed by Diego Andrade Torres and Paul Coopmans with a birdwatching group on Santa Fé on 9 June 1997.

Paraguay

Fieldwork in the Reserva Natural de Bosque Mbaracayú, Paraguay, from June 1994 to February 1996, resulted in the following noteworthy observations presented in Madroño & Esquivel¹⁹. Records of **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax unicinatus* were the first for the Department (breeding suspected), and those of **Ornate Hawk-eagle** *Spizeatus ornatus* the first certain Paraguay records since 1939 and the first for the Department: indigenous Ache hunters reported finding a nest. Several records of **Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizeatus tyrannus* confirm the species' presence in Paraguay, it previously having been treated as hypothetical¹³. Several records of **Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* on the Jejuími river confirm the species' status in the reserve, where it was listed without documentation by Acevedo *et al.*¹; there are only two previous confirmed and five unconfirmed reports for Paraguay. **Red-legged Seriema** *Carima cristata* has been observed several times, although not previously listed for central Paraguay¹³. Further records of **Scaled Pigeon** *Columba speciosa* confirm it to be an uncommon resident in the reserve. Five records of **Pheasant Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx phasianellus* are the first for the Department. Records of **Ocellated Poorwill** *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*, including an incubating bird on 27 October 1994, supplement the four previous records for Paraguay and single Department record. **Silky-tailed Nightjar**

Caprimulgus seriocaudatus was recorded seven times, having previously been known from just three country records. **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* was regularly observed and an active nest found, it was previously known from only four records in Paraguay. Three sightings of **Pygmy Kingfisher** *C. aenea*, including a pair, are the first for Oriental Paraguay and the third for the country. Several pairs of **Collared Crescentchest** *Melanopareia torquata*, previously known from a single 1938 record in Paraguay, were found. Several records of **Sharp-tailed Tyrant** *Culicivora caudacuta* are the first in Paraguay since 1932. Groups of up to ten **Curl-crested Jay** *Cyanocorax cristatellus* were the first in Paraguay outside Concepción Department. Three records of **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* were the first for the Department. A **Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* was the third for Oriental Paraguay. Three singing male **Temminck's Seedeater** *Sporophila falcirostris* were located in June 1995, having previously been known in Paraguay from a single 1977 record. **Marsh Seedeater** *S. palustris*, although erroneously reported for the Parque^{7,13}, was recorded for the first time when three males were observed with a flock of transient *Sporophila* seedeaters. The same flock also contained two male **Dark-throated Seedeater** *S. ruficollis*, one male **Rufous-rumped Seedeater** *S. hypochroma*, both new for the Department, and up to three male **Chestnut Seedeater** *S. cinnamomea*, the second record for the Department. Two additional records of **Sooty Grassquit** *Tiaris fuliginosa* follow the first Paraguayan record at the same locality.

Peru

Wilkinson & Smith³⁴ describe the first nests, eggs and nestlings of **Sooty Antbird** *Myrmeciza fortis* to be discovered, in Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park in September 1991 and October 1994.

Venezuela

Barrowclough *et al.*⁴ report new records for the summit of Auyán-tepui, Bolívar state from a month long survey (1 February–1 March 1994). They recorded 21 new species for the summit avifauna including two especially noteworthy records. **Tepui Tinamou** *Crypterellus ptaritepui* observations and four specimens, represent a range extension of 50 km for this threatened species⁷. A single **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrisii* was collected, the easternmost record of the nominate northern race.

Other records received**South Georgia**

A **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* found in an old building at 54°18'S 36°30'W by postmaster Gordon Liddle on 8 August 1997 was the first island record.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Rare bird records from Trinidad & Tobago in 1997

The proliferation of records during the last two decades has led to a large amount of data, often emanating from visitors to Trinidad & Tobago, who are largely unfamiliar with the local avifauna. In order to rationalise the situation, a committee has been established to rigorously assess all records submitted to it. The results of the first selection of such records are given here. Those accepted have been subjected to close scrutiny by a panel of experienced ornithologists, following the usual international standards. It is the committee's hope that publication will encourage all serious field workers to submit their records (including any from the past) for assessment.

Results

We present acceptable records for 23 species, some supported by photographic evidence: these include three first records for Tobago. Records for nine other species were rejected.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*
Individuals on 3 July 1994 flying

near boats in the Gulf of Paria west of Trinidad, and just south of Crown Point, Tobago (FEH). The latter is a first record for Tobago.

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

One at sea just off the north coast of Trinidad on 3 July 1994 (FEH). The species is rarely recorded near Trinidad.

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

Individuals on the north side of St Giles Islands, Tobago on 29 September 1995 and 20 February 1996 (RPff, Mff, AC). This species, which breeds in the West Indies south to the Grenadines, has only recently begun to appear in the Tobago area.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (Lyn Wells)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Birds at Buccoo marsh and Speyside, Tobago on 23 December 1993, 7 November 1994 and 20–21 January 1995 (FEH *et al.*, DWF). Records of this Old World species have now become fairly regular on both islands; it has also recently been found nesting on Barbados.

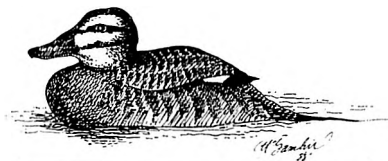
Black-bellied Whistling-duck

Dendrocygna autumnalis
Adults with small ducklings at Buccoo marsh, Tobago on 31

December 1985 (GW). The species is now regular on Tobago, but this appears to be the first breeding record.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

A female at Arena Reservoir, Trinidad on 14 January 1995 (DWF). The species is an uncommon winter visitor to both islands.



Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*
(Charles Gambill)

Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*

Up to three birds at Buccoo marsh, Tobago on 15–17 January 1993, 22 February 1993 and 21 January 1995 (DWF, GW, AW). These appear to be the first 20th century records on Tobago of this secretive species.

American Oystercatcher

Haematopus palliatus

One or two birds on mudflats at Waterloo between 7–21 October 1995 and on 11 January 1996 (GW *et al.*, BO). Only one previous record for Trinidad.

Double-striped Thick-knee

Burhinus bistriatus

Individuals were seen at Orange Grove, Trinidad on 14 August 1991 (GW, ZW) and at Petite Trou, Tobago on 16 August 1995 (ER *et al.*). These constitute the second record for Trinidad and the first for Tobago.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

One at Bon Accord Lagoon, Tobago on 13 February 1983 (DF

et al.). The first (and only) record for Tobago (see elsewhere in this issue). The species has also been recorded occasionally on Barbados, but is very rare in the New World.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

One at Caltoo Trace, Nariva on 15 September 1991 and another at Caroni Rice Project on 27 September 1992 (GW, ZW). The species is an uncommon passage migrant through Trinidad, usually in small groups or lone individuals.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

Individuals at Waterloo mudflats on 7 and 19 October 1995 and 10 March 1996 (GW *et al.*). The species is a rare passage migrant through Trinidad, most records occurring in autumn.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Up to two birds off Crown Point, Tobago on 15–16 January 1996 (BO). Very few birds of this species have been identified off Tobago, but this probably reflects paucity of observers rather than the species' genuine rarity.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A probable juvenile of this species off Crown Point, Tobago on 16 January 1996, at approximately the same time as one of the previous species (BO). The species appears slightly more common in waters off Trinidad & Tobago than its congener.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

An adult and a young bird at Waterloo mudflats on 26 December 1993 (GW, AW), and another, probably subadult, at the same location on 11 January 1996 (BO). There are only a few records of this species from Trinidad & Tobago, but records are becoming more regular.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

One photographed at Buccoo marsh, Tobago on 9–10 July 1994

(FEH). The species, though presumably resident, has only rarely been recorded on Tobago.

Rufous-shafted Woodstar

Chaetocercus jourdanii

An immature or female at Blanchisseuse Road on 3 August 1995 (RPff *et al.*); although there are a fair number of sight records from Trinidad (almost all in the Northern Range), mostly during January–June, the status of this tiny hummingbird on the island remains obscure.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

One on 1 October 1994 at Trincity sewage ponds (FEH *et al.*). This is the earliest fall record of this species on Trinidad, where it has only been rarely recorded previously.

Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonota*

Three at Trincity sewage ponds on 17 January 1995 (DWF *et al.*). There have only been three previous records from Trinidad.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Dendroica pensylvanica

An immature at Simla, Trinidad on 13 January 1995 (DWF *et al.*) was the sixth record for Trinidad.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

A subadult male at Waterloo on 11 May 1994 (GW, ZW). The species is an uncommon winter visitor to Trinidad, and this spring record is considerably later than previous ones.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

An adult male near Lagon Bouffe in south-east Trinidad on 28 April 1983 (VQ *et al.*). Only the second record on Trinidad. It seems to be a rare spring migrant: all records for both islands have occurred between March–May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

A female at Chacachacare island on 22 April 1995 (GS). Only the third record for Trinidad of this species, which breeds in North America and winters south to Peru and the Guianas.

Observers: A. Cooley, R. P. & M. ffrench, D. W. Finch, D. Fisher, F. E. Hayes, B. Oddie, V. Quesnel, E. Rooks, G. Seutin, G. A. & Z. White.

The Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee currently consists of seven members, including the present authors, Davis W. Finch, Ian Lambie, William L. Murphy, Victor Quesnel and Graham White. Records to be considered should be sent, preferably on prescribed forms, to F. E. Hayes or Richard ffrench at the addresses below.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

Caribbean

Bahamas

A **Fish Crow** *Corvus ossifragus* at West End, Grand Bahama on 13–16 February 1997 was the first West Indian record. Two overwintering **Kirtland's Warblers** *Dendroica kirtlandii* were found at Abaco on 15 and 17 December 1996²³.



Kirtland's Warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* (David Beadle)

Barbados

Vagrants to the island included a female **Hooded Merganser** *Mergus cucullatus* at Chancery Lane on 4 December 1996 (first record for the island), two **White-**

winged Black Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus* in October 1996, a **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* at Cole's Pasture on 17 November 1996 and a **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* at North Point (first for the Neotropics) from October 1996–January 1997²³.

Bermuda

The first wintering **Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana* since 1970 was recorded in January–February 1997²³.



Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*
(Charles Gambill)

Dominican Republic

The first record of **Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* in the West Indies was a light morph adult 3 km south of Monte Cristi on 22 April 1996⁹.

Guadeloupe

The first record of **Bare-eyed Thrush** *Turdus nudigenis* was reported by Levesque¹⁷: an adult feeding young at 'Petit Marquisat' at the Capesterre Belle-Eau commune on 12 July 1997.

Central America

Honduras

The first breeding records of **Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima* come from Caya Gallina near Isla Cochino Pequeño in 1994 and 1995²⁸.

Mexico

Garrett & Molina¹² report the first record of **Black-tailed Gull** *Larus crassirostris* for the country at El Golfo de Santa

Clara in extreme north-west Sonora province on 7 June 1997.

Erickson & Wurster¹⁰ place on record confirmed breeding of the following species in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, northern Baja California, all of which were previously not known to breed in Mexico: **Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri* (July 1992 and 1993), **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* (July 1992), **Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus* (July 1993) and **Fox Sparrow** *Passerella iliaca* (July 1993). In addition, the same authors provide evidence for the occurrence of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** *Aegolius acadicus* (May 1994), **Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi* (July 1987) and **Hermit Warbler** *Dendroica occidentalis* (July 1993) in the same area in summer. The latter species is not known to nest elsewhere in Mexico.

New data on distribution, presented by Figueron-Esquivel *et al.*¹¹, include the first records in Quintana Roo of: **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* (sight record, October 1992), **White-necked Jacobin** *Florisuga mellivora* (specimen, March 1993; sight record, May 1993), **Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus ochrolaemus* (specimens, April 1992 and February 1993), **Thick-billed Seedfinch** *Oryzoborus funereus* (specimens, August 1992, March and June 1993), **Fuertes' Oriole** *Icterus (spurius) fuertesi* (sight record, February 1993) and **Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* (sight record, June 1993). Additionally, they report three summer records, including a nest, of **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*, which extends the Mexican breeding range significantly northwards.

Panama

El Niño produced some interesting seabird sightings in the country. These included a **Grey Gull** *Larus modestus* between 4–

18 September 1996 (third record), a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* between 6–20 September 1996 (third record) and a **Band-tailed Gull** *Larus belcheri* on 24 September 1996 (fourth record), all at Costa del Este. The second **Grey-hooded Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus* recorded in the country was observed at Costa del Este on 17 October 1997, with the same bird and an **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* still present the following day^{1,2}.

South America

Argentina

The first records of **Buff-banded Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus hellmayri* from Tucumán province were reported by Giannini¹³: at San Javier six were trapped on 4 and 6 January 1995, with several subsequent sightings until January 1996.

Bolivia

Brace & Hornbuckle⁷ report the following interesting records from Beni Biological Station (BBS), dpto. Beni: **Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* (first department record in September 1992), **Tiny Hawk** *Accipiter superciliosus* (second to fourth department records in August 1994, August 1995 and July 1996), **Burrowing Owl** *Speotyto cunicularis* (resident pair in 1995–1996 was the first department record), **Little Nightjar** *Caprimulgus parvulus* (first area records including a nest in August 1995), **Striolated**



P. BEADLE.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*
(David Beadle)

Puffbird *Nystalus striolatus* (second department record in August 1992), **Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens* (new, apparently age-related plumage variation), **Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis* (not uncommon in the area, the only site in lowland Bolivia where the species is known to occur), **Stripe-chested Antwren** *Myrmotherula longicauda* (first department record in September 1992), **Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-manakin** *Neopelma sulphureiventer* (new information apparently confirms that it is not a bamboo specialist), **White-crested Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga subcristata* (four mist-netted, two previous departmental records), **White-bellied Tyrannulet** *S. munda* (five mist-netted in August 1995, no previous departmental records), **Crested Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri* (24 mist-netted at BBS, the second Bolivian locality), **White-naped Xenopsaris** *Xenopsaris albinucha* (singles in August 1994, July 1995 at BBS and at Trinidad in July 1996; scarce in Bolivia), **Ashy-headed Greenlet** *Hylophilus pectoralis* (first department record in August 1995), **Long-tailed Reed-finch** *Donacospiza albifrons* (several records from BBS provide a new Bolivian locality for this species which, in Bolivia, is only known from dpto. Beni), and **Tawny-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila hypoxantha* (several males in August 1996).

Brazil

Zimmer *et al.*³³ report on significant new records from the Alta Floresta region of Mato Grosso. Amongst a host of interesting observations on behaviour and other aspects of life-history for a number of little-known Amazonian species, records of the following species are of distributional interest:

Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet *Touit purpurata* (recorded on at least six occasions between August 1991–September 1995: a significant southerly range-extension); **Brown-banded Puffbird** *Notharchus ordii* (uncommon at Alta Floresta: a little-known species largely known from specimens from northern Amazonian Brazil and south-west Venezuela); **Collared Puffbird** *Bucco capensis* (three of the four state records are from this area); **Cabanis's Spinetail** *Synallaxis cabanisi* (the first Brazilian record and an easterly range extension of 1,200 km was made 25 km north of Alta Floresta in October 1989 and the presumed same pair was seen again in August 1991); **Peruvian Recurvebill** *Simoxenops ucayalae* (discovered at Alta Floresta in 1989, the second Brazilian locality); **Crested Foliage-gleaner** *Anabazenops dorsalis* (discovered in 1993, the second Brazilian locality); **Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* (one seen and tape-recorded in August 1991 and heard in the same area in October 1992 are the second and third records in Brazil); **Manu Antbird** *Cercomacra manu* (locally common at Alta Floresta, the only known Brazilian locality until its discovery near Porangaba, Acre by Andrew Whittaker); **Black-bellied Gnatcatcher** *Conopophaga melanogaster* (male in October 1989: the nearest previous known localities are in Pará and Rondônia); **Purple-throated Cotinga** *Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema* (five records from the area are a significant easterly range extension; it has also been by recorded recently near Ariquemes, Rondônia by R. S. Ridgely); **Cinnamon-crested Spadebill** *Platyrinchus saturatus* (several records in the area are the first for the state and possibly the southernmost ever); **Dusky-tailed Flatbill**

Ramphotrigon fuscicauda (reported on several occasions since 1989, the first records in Brazil); **Large-headed Flatbill** *R. megacephala* (relatively common at Alta Floresta but known from only two other localities in Amazonian Brazil); **Black-and-white Tody-tyrant** *Poecilatriccus capitalis* (a female in November 1989 represents only the third locality in Brazil); **Zimmer's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus minimus* (recorded on several occasions and now also known from both banks of the lower Rio Tapajós, where recorded by B. M. Whitney); **Helmeted Pygmy-tyrant** *Lophotriccus galeatus* (recorded several times since September 1993: only one previous record in Mato Grosso); **Tooth-billed Wren** *Odontorchilus cinereus* (recorded on several occasions since 1989, previously in southern Amazonian Brazil only known from between the Rios Madeira and Xingú); and **Guianan Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila guianensis* (one in October 1989 extends the species' known range south).

From the same volume, Cardoso da Silva *et al.*⁹ report on several interesting observations from the study of an isolated area of upland savanna in Amapá during October–November 1990 including: the first state records of **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*, **Yellow-crowned Parrot** *Amazona ochrocephala*, **Ferruginous Pygmy-owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*, **Horned Sungem** *Heliactin bilopha*, **Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant** *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*, **Smoky-fronted Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum fumifrons*, **White-rumped Monjita** *Xolmis velata*, **Yellowish Pipit** *Anthus lutescens*, **White-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila leucoptera*, **Capped Seedeater** *S. bouvreuil*, and **Ashy-headed Greenlet** *Hylophilus pectoralis*.



Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus* (Jon Field)

Additionally, the authors provide the first specimen evidence for the following species' occurrence in Amapá: **White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus*, **Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata*, **Long-tailed Ground-dove** *Uropelia campestris*, **Fork-tailed Palm-swift** *Tachornis squamata*, **Toucan** *Ramphastos toco*, **White-barred Piculet** *Picumnus cirratus*, **Rusty-backed Antwren** *Formicivora rufa*, **Lesser Elaenia** *Elaenia chiriquensis*, **Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* and **White-banded Tanager** *Neothraupis fasciata*.

Stotz *et al.*²⁹ report on the results from two study sites along the middle Rio Jiparaná, Rondônia in 1986 and 1988. One locality—Cachoeira Nazaré—has the highest species list (459) for a single site in Brazil. Amongst the many important records, the following are of particular interest: **Nocturnal Curassow** *Nothocrax urumutum* (several tape-recorded; the south-easterly most occurrence); **Blackish Rail** *Rallus nigricans* (one record, a 700 km range extension eastward); **Ash-coloured Cuckoo** *Coccyzus cinereus* (two records, the first reports from Amazonian Brazil); **Fiery-tailed Awlbill** *Avocettula recurvirostris* (one mist-netted extends the species' known range 850 km south-west); **Crimson Topaz** *Topaza pella* (significant westward range extension); **Brown Jacamar** *Brachygalba*

lugubris (new westernmost localities); **Collared Puffbird** *Bucco capensis* (southerly range extension of c.600 km); **Rusty-breasted Nunlet** *Nonnula rubecula* (450 km south-easterly range extension); **Spot-throated Woodcreeper** *Deconychura stictolaema* (600 km southerly range extension); **Brown-rumped Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus melanopezus* (450 km easterly range extension); **Rufous-tailed Xenops** *Xenops milleri* (450 km south-easterly range extension); **Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* (first record from Brazil); **Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser** *S. mexicanus* (nearest records are 600 km to the east and 700 km to the south-west); **Black-capped Antwren** *Herpsilochmus atricapillus* (550 km north-westerly range extension); **Chestnut-shouldered Antwren** *Terenura humeralis* (previously known in Brazil only as far east as the Rio Purus); **Plain Tyrannulet** *Inezia inornata* (several records; only three previous records for Amazonian Brazil); **Sepia-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* (250 km south-westerly range extension); **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa* (status uncertain in Amazonia); **Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (uncertain status in western Amazonia); **Dusky-chested Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes luteiventris* (previously known from only two localities in southern Amazonian Brazil); **Crested Becard** *Pachyramphus validus* (two specimens and several sight records are the first records for western Amazonia); **Crimson Fruitcrow** *Haematoderus militaris* (1,400 km south-westerly range extension); **Tooth-billed Wren** *Odontorchilus cinereus* (other southern Amazonian Brazil localities are at Alta Floresta and between the Rios Madeira and

Tapajós); **Guianan Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila guianensis* (new locality for the poorly known subspecies *paraensis*); **Fulvous-crested Tanager** *Tachyphonus surinamus* (significant southerly range extension); **Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak** *Parkerthraustes humeralis* (unusually common at Cachoeira Nazaré); **Slate-coloured Seed-eater** *Sporophila schistacea* (previously known only from one other site in southern Amazonian Brazil).

Six new species are reported for Minas Gerais by Parrini & Pacheco²⁵: **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* at Lagoa do Sossego, Mochambinho on 15 September 1996; **Stripe-backed Bittern** *Ixobrychus involucris* at Januária on the Rio São Francisco, 30 July 1992; two **Broad-tipped Hermits** *Phaethornis gounelli* in caatinga in the Janaúba region on 10 July 1993; **Rufous-backed Antvireo** *Dysithamnus xanthopterus* and **Brown-breasted Bamboo-tyrant** *Hemitriccus obsoletus* since 1986 in the little-visited portion of Itatiaia National Park that lies within the province, and specimens labelled as **Ferruginous Antbird** *Drymophila ferruginea* from Serra de Matapau, Ouro Preto in April 1926 and Parque Nacional do Caraca in November 1974, have been reidentified as **Bertoni's Antbird** *Drymophila rubricollis*. Three new records for Espírito Santo are reported by Bauer *et al.*⁴: **Spot-flanked Gallinule** *Gallinula melanops* at Usina Paineras, Itapemirim on 27 October 1997; three **Little Nightjars** *Caprimulgus parvulus* on the Rio Itabapoana near Praia das Neves, 30 October 1997 and two **Vermilion Flycatchers** *Pyrocephalus rubinus* at the same site in June 1997.

Maurício & Dias²⁰ report on avifaunal work in southern Rio Grande do Sul, principally around Pelotas, which clarifies

our knowledge of the southernmost limits of several Atlantic Forest birds. Fieldwork was conducted between October 1993–July 1996 and resulted in the following discoveries (southward range extensions in parentheses): **Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* (c.200 km), **Barred Forest-falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* (small range extension), **Ruddy Quail-dove** *Geotrygon montana* (c.100 km), **Rusty-barred Owl** *Strix hylophila* (several additional records from the south-eastern hills), **Semi-collared Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* (100 km), **Ashy-tailed Swift** *Chaetura andrei* (c.200 km), **Red-breasted Toucan** *Ramphastos dicolorus* (numerous and breeds in the south-eastern hills), **White-browed Woodpecker** *Piculus aurulentus* (three new localities), **Lineated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus lineatus* (two new localities with breeding confirmed at one), **Robust Woodpecker** *Campephilus robustus* (c.250 km; breeding confirmed), **White-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes albicollis* (residency confirmed; previously considered a summer visitor to the state), **Planalto Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris* (many new records from the south-east), **Rufous-capped Spinetail** *Synallaxis ruficapilla* (c.150 km), **Rufous Gnateater** *Conopophaga lineata* (c.200 km), **Mouse-coloured Tapaculo** *Scytalopus speluncae* (c.100 km east of previous known occurrence and recorded to within 10 m of sea-level), **Planalto Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias fasciatus* (c.100 km), **Rough-legged Tyrannulet** *P. burmeisteri* (c.300 km), **Greenish Tyrannulet** *P. virescens* (c.300 km), **White-throated Spadebill** *Platyrinchus mystaceus* (c.200 km), **Greenish Schiffornis** *Schiffornis virescens* (c.200 km), **Hooded Berryeater** *Carpornis*

cutullatus (clarification of its southernmost limits), **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow** *Pyroderus scutatus* (c.250 km), **Chestnut-headed Tanager** *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps* (c.100 km), **Ruby-crowned Tanager** *Tachyphonus coronatus* (c.250 km), **Violaceous Euphonia** *Euphonia violacea* (c.180 km), and **Green-throated Euphonia** *E. chalybea* (c.200 km).

Bornschein *et al.*⁶ report on new or little-known species in Paraná (PR) and Santa Catarina (SC) states. A list of all known records in PR of **Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris* is given and the authors report several individuals found dead on the beaches of Pontal do Sul in 1985, and at Praia Deserta on 24 February 1991 and 30 August 1991. Skulls of **Yellow-nosed Albatross** *D. chlororhynchos* were found at Pontal do Sul and Ilha de Superagui on December 1987 and June 1993 respectively, being two of only a handful of records in PR. A series of observations of **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* are presented for PR and SC where only scattered records exist. The third PR and southernmost record of **Little Wood-rail** *Aramides mangle* in Brazil is given for Ilha das Pecas, where a bird was seen on 21 April 1992. A record of **Giant Wood-rail** *A. ypecacha* with a previously mistaken locality is given for Parque Nacional do Iguçu on 10 December 1988. Also what is apparently the first record in Mato Grosso do Sul was a bird seen by J. Nacinovic in the 1960s. Several new records are given for **Yellow-breasted Crane** *Poliolimnas (Porzana) flaviventer* in Pontal do Sul, Balneario Barranco, rio Taquara and rio Tibagi, Paraná, together with data on habits and habitat. The 2nd–4th records of **Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* in PR are given for

Barra do Superagui (three on 6 January 1994), Ilha das Pecas (two on 16 October 1992) and Pontal do Sul (one on 4 March 1993). The 3rd–4th records of **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* in PR are one at Coroa on 16 October 1992 and one on Pontal do Sul on 7–8 October 1995. The only records of **Stilt Sandpiper** *Micropalama himantopus* in PR were two on Pontal do Sul on 25 November 1993 and several in the same place between 3–6 November 1995. Details of the only records of the **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* in PR are given: several at Pontal do Sul between September–November 1993 and at Balneario Atami in September 1993. The 3rd–7th records of **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* in PR were birds at Pontal do Sul in September 1993 and October 1996, and at Balneario Atami in September–October 1993. The only records of **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* in PR and SC are three at Balneario Atami on 25–27 November 1993, four at Barra do Superagui on 29 December 1993, and one at Porto Belo, SC on 6 September 1988. Several records of **Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis* are given for eastern PR, from where there was only one previous record. Details of habitat, a nest and a specimen collected are given. The first record of **Austral Negrilo** *Lessonia rufa* in PR was a bird collected at Pontal do Sul on 27 March 1994. The third record of **Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera* in PR was a pair seen at Pontal do Sul on 18–19 September 1993.

The most recent issue—Vol. 5, no. 2—of *Ararajuba* contains interesting new breeding data on Brazilian birds. Marini *et al.*¹⁹ provide additional nesting data for **Large-billed Antwren** *Herpsilochmus longirostris*, **Helmeted Manakin** *Antipodia*

galeata and **White-striped Warbler** *Basileuterus leucophrys*; Naka²² describes the nest and eggs of **Cactus Parakeet** *Aratinga cactorum*; and Leite *et al.*¹⁶ provide significant new information, based on two nests, on the life-history of **Least Nighthawk** *Chordeiles pusillus*. Furthermore, papers in *Ornitología Neotropical* describe the presumed juvenile plumage of **Grey-bellied Spinetail** *Synallaxis cinerascens*⁵; the nest and eggs of **Chestnut-vented Conebill** *Conirostrum speciosum*²⁷; and the nest of **Cream-bellied Gnatcatcher** *Poliptila lactea*³¹.

Barnett³ reports the first Brazilian, and third South American occurrence, of **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*, at Porto Seguro, Bahia on 16 March 1997. Previous records were in Buenos Aires province, Argentina in December 1987–January 1988 and December 1990. Olmos²⁴ reports the third record of Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* from 27°04'S 46°49'W off the coast of Brazil on 28 April 1996.

Chile

A dowitcher sp. (almost certainly **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*) at Estero Tongoy, IV Region on 22 January 1997, was reported as the first sighting of this genus in the country³⁰ but it had been observed a few months earlier at the same locality (see *Cotinga* 8: 90–91). The first country record of **Andean Tit-spinetail** *Leptasthenura andicola* comes from Mamiña, I Region, on 13 August 1996, at 2,700 m²¹.

Paraguay

Lowen *et al.*¹⁸ present first records of 25 species for the geographical regions of eastern Paraguay, principally made during fieldwork in 1995 (regions given in parentheses):

Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens* (Central Paraguay,

Campos Cerrados), **Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis* (Alto Paraná), **Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* (Alto Paraná), **Blackish Rail** *Pardirallus nigricans* (Ñeembucú), **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (Ñeembucú), **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* (Ñeembucú), **Pileated Parrot** *Pionopsitta pileata* (Campos Cerrados), **Pheasant Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx phasianellus* (Ñeembucú), **Variable Screech-owl** *Otus atricapillus* (Alto Paraná), **Striped Owl** *Asio clamator* (Ñeembucú), **Grey Potoo** *Nyctibius griseus* (Ñeembucú), **Grey-rumped Swift** *Chaetura cinereiventris* (Campos Cerrados), **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* (Alto Paraná), **Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet** *Phaemyias murina* (Ñeembucú), **Yellow Tyrannulet** *Capsiempis flaveola* (Campos Cerrados, Ñeembucú), **White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps* (Ñeembucú), **Tawny-crowned Pygmy-tyrant** *Euscarthmus meloryphus* (Campos Cerrados), **Large-headed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon megacephala* (Campos Cerrados), **Piratic Flycatcher** *Legatus leucophaeus* (Ñeembucú), **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* (Alto Paraná), **Blue Dacnis** *Dacnis cayana* (Ñeembucú), **Plumbeous Seedeater** *Sporophila plumbea* (Central Paraguay), **White-bellied Seedeater** *S. leucoptera* (Ñeembucú) and **Giant Cowbird** *Scaphidura oryzivora* (Ñeembucú).

Peru

González & Malaga¹⁵ report a 200 km southward range extension of **Long-tailed Mockingbird** *Mimus longicaudatus* to Majes, Arequipa. The first nest of **Slender-billed Finch** *Xenospingus concolor* was located at Ocucaje, Ica department¹⁴.

Venezuela

Zimmer & Hilty³² report on recent observations from the little-explored (by ornithologists) state of Amazonas, in southern Venezuela. The following observations, all from the area surrounding Junglaven, are especially interesting (the authors also report a number of small northward range extensions): **Zigzag Heron** *Zibribilus undulatus* (recorded along small tributaries of the Ventuari extending its known range northwards in Amazonas: additionally the species has recently been discovered in gallery forest at El Baul, Cojedes state in the llanos, a major range extension); **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (recorded twice each in April 1990 and March 1992: one previous state record); **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* (one on 10–14 October 1993: the first state record); **Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet** *Tuit huetii* (only one previous record in Amazonas); **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* (two reports, the 3rd–4th state records); **Long-tailed Potoo** *Nyctibius aethereus* (records in March 1991 and May 1992 are the first in Amazonas); **Rufous Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufus* (records in December 1992, January and October 1993 provide the third locality in Venezuela south of the Orinoco); **Brown-banded Puffbird** *Notharchus ordii* (observations on the first-described nest of this little-known species are presented); **Pale-bellied Mourner** *Rhytipterna immunda* (apparently fairly common at the study site: the first record in Venezuela); **White-throated Kingbird** *Tyrannus albogularis* (a pair 60 km south of Puerto Ayacucho in February 1994 was the first state record); **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* (four winter records suggest that Amazonas may be

an important wintering area); **Black-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus* (third locality in Amazonas for this species); and **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (one in October 1993 was the first state record).

South Atlantic

South Georgia

Reid²⁶ presents descriptive details of the first **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* at South Georgia—at Freshwater Bay, Bird Island on 20 January 1997.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Bolivia

R. Mitchell reports the first sighting of **Tricoloured Heron** *Egretta tricolor* for Bolivia (north of Trinidad in Beni department, August 1996). From the same region, **Red-breasted Meadowlark** *Leistes militaris* was recorded, further south and east of its known range and in a possible overlap zone with **White-browed Meadowlark** *L. superciliaris*. J. Ohlson reports some presumed new or interesting records for La Paz department observed in Parque Nacional Madidi, in November and December 1996: **Grey-bellied Hawk** *Accipiter poliogaster*, **Festive Coquette** *Lophornis chalybea*, **Black-bellied Thorntail** *Popelairia langsdorffii*, **Gould's Jewelfront** *Polyplancta aurescens*, **Thrush-like Antpitta** *Myrmothera campanisona*, **White-browed Purpletuft** *Iodopleura isabellae*, **Red-billed Pied Tanager** *Lamprospiza melanoleuca*, **Opal-rumped Tanager** *Tangara velia* and **Buff-rumped Warbler** *Phaeothlypis fulvicauda* on the upper Río Yariapo.

Chile

Some interesting seabird sightings were made by S. J. M. Gantlett on pelagic trips in 1997.

Two **Chatham Island Albatrosses** *Diomedea eremita* and two **Westland Petrels** *Procellaria westlandica* were off Vina del Mar, Santiago on 17 November and 15 **Waved Albatrosses** *Diomedea irrorata* (a first country record) c.22 km off Arica on 27 November.

Colombia

TD and LD report a few range extensions resulting from their work in Tambito Nature Reserve, Cauca in August–September 1997: two **Swallow-tailed Nightjars** *Uropsalis segmentata* were the first records from the Pacific slope of Cauca province. Other apparently new province records involved **Pale-eyed Thrush** *Platycichla leucops* and **Black-tailed Flycatcher** *Myiobius atricaudatus*. A **Black-billed Treehunter** *Thripadectes melanorhynchus* was well watched and tape-recorded along the Pasto–Macoa road, Putumayo on 13 October 1997 (JH, GMK, TM)—only the third record for Colombia.

An adult **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* was seen close inshore at Camarones, near Riohacha on 7 January 1998 (GMK)—there are few Colombian records; a **White-tailed Trogon** *Trogon viridis* tape-recorded along the San Lorenzo ridge, Santa Marta on 8 January 1998 was unusually high at 1,700 m (GE, GMK *et al.*), as was a **Broad-billed Sapayoa** *Sapayoa aenigma* at c.1,800 m at La Planada, Pasto on 14 October 1997 (GMK, TM *et al.*).

Ecuador

A **Plumbeous Rail** *Rallus sanguinolentus* just north of Loja on 2 July 1995 extends the known range of this species north from the Vilcabamba region and an adult **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* at Papallacta Pass (3,500 m) on 26 November 1997 is the highest known record (OJ).

Mexico

A **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica* at San Quintin on 21 February 1997 was a first record for Mexico (RH, DE, SNGH).

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Neotropical Notebook: compiled by **Juan Mazar Barnett**, **Guy M. Kirwan** and **Joe Tobias**.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

Short notes

Recent sightings of threatened birds around Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica

During brief fieldwork on the Osa Peninsula, south-west Costa Rica, in May 1998, we recorded two threatened species—Yellow-billed Cotinga *Carpodectes antoniae* and Black-cheeked Ant-tanager *Habia atrimaxillaris*. A minimum of seven male and five female *C. antoniae* were seen in tall mangroves or adjacent lowland evergreen forest along a c.10 km stretch of the Río Sierpe, north of Corcovado National Park. Notable sightings included a flock of five males in canopy forest, and a female carrying small twigs (presumably nesting material) in tall forest on a small hill adjacent to extensive mangrove. One male and up to three females were present in this area, and our boatman commented that the site is well-known to local guides as a regular haunt of the species. *C. antoniae* has been recorded in small numbers from this area previously¹ and its protection should be a conservation priority.

H. atrimaxillaris has a very small range in the Golfo Dulce lowlands of Costa Rica, but was common within Corcovado National Park. Most records were of small groups and family parties (3–6 birds), associating with small flocks in the understorey of dense lowland forest. However, it was not restricted to this habitat type, and small numbers were recorded in palms and beach-front scrub adjacent to the park.

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Published records from the literature

Caribbean

Cuba

Among significant observations reported recently, a juvenile **Giant Kingbird** *Tyrannus cubensis* observed at Monte de Regino, Havana province, on 13 October 1996, with one heard at El Copey, north-east of Caimito, Havana province on 10 September 1996, is one of the most important discoveries¹⁷. Ruiz¹⁵ reports on the second record of **Tundra Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* in Cuba: one collected at Nipe, municipality of Mayarí, Holguín province, on 25 February 1990. The same author also places on record the occurrence of **Black-capped Petrel** *Pterodroma hasitata* at Valle de Yaguanabo, Alturas de Trinidad, Cienfuegos province, from November 1976–January 1990 at least¹⁶. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** *Vermivora celata*, collected on the Guanahacabibes Peninsula in westernmost Cuba, on 11 November 1989, was the first island record⁸.



Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* (Lyn Wells)

Dominican Republic

Three species new to Hispaniola have been documented recently. Rimmer & Mcfarland¹⁵ detail the discovery of **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* at Palo de Agua, in the Sierra de Baoruco National Park (one bird trapped on 10 November 1997 and retrapped on 7 March 1998, with a second bird mist-netted on 9 March 1998) and a **Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* above Vuelta de Quince on the Haitian border in the western Sierra de Neiba, on 15 November 1997. This appears to be the first record in the Caribbean south of the Bahamas (where there are five sight records). Continuing fieldwork in the Dominican Republic by Steven Latta and his colleagues resulted in the discovery of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* at Las Salinas, Bani, on 22 November 1997¹⁰. There are few previous Caribbean records of this species. Separately, Latta & Brown⁹ report on three new species for the Dominican Republic, all in dry forest near Cabo Rojo, Pedernales province: a juvenile female **Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Dendroica pensylvanica* seen and subsequently mist-netted on 14–15 October 1997; a juvenile male **Bay-breasted Warbler** *D. castanea* mist-netted on 23 October 1997; and an adult female **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* trapped on 14 November 1997. In addition, a juvenile **Connecticut Warbler** *Oporornis agilis* was mist-netted on 16 October 1997 and several unringed individuals were recorded until 21 October; and two **Golden-winged Warblers** *Vermivora chrysoptera* were seen on 14 October 1997.

Anguilla

Iliff⁷ summarises observations from a visit to the island in winter 1995–1996. These include the first island records of

Tricoloured Heron *Egretta tricolor* and **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*. In addition, records of the following species considered vagrants to the island were made: **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*, **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*, **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*, **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*, **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* and **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*. The recent colonisation of the island by the **Rock Dove** *Columba livia* was also confirmed.



Tricoloured Heron *Egretta tricolor*
(D. Beadle)

Trinidad and Tobago

From at least 12–14 March 1998, an adult **Pied Lapwing** *Hoploxypterus cayanus* was at Arena Dam, the first Trinidad record (*Birding World* 11: 258). The bird was videotaped (Phil Gaywood *in litt.* 1998).

Hayes⁶ reports on a number of recent vagrant records, all of which remain under consideration by the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Bird Committee: six **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* south of Crown Point, Tobago, on 23 June 1996 (second record for Tobago); a **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* 35 km west-south-west of Crown Point, Tobago, on 17 March 1996 (first record for Trinidad in whose waters it was recorded); a **Cocoi Heron** *Ardea*

cocoi at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago, on 24 March 1996 (second island record); two **Little Egrets** *Egretta garzetta* at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago, on 26 March 1995 (sixth island record); a **Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* at Lowlands, Tobago, on 20 December 1995 (second island record and first this century); a male **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago, on 27 April 1996 (first island record); and single **Marbled Godwits** *Limosa fedoa* at Waterloo, Trinidad, on 10 March 1996 and 19 October 1996 (few previous island records, all in September–October).



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (Lyn Wells)

Central America**Panama**

Further reports of **Grey Gull** *Larus modestus* were as follows: a non-breeding plumaged adult at Costa del Este from 4–20 September 1997, and again on 19 October 1997; one at Panamá Viejo from 13 March–10 April 1998; two near Tocumen Marsh on 25 April 1998; four at Avenida Balboa on 3 May 1998; one at Costa del Este on 17 May 1998; and up to 100 individuals at Costa del Este on 30–31 May 1998¹¹.

South America**Argentina**

Barnett & Navas³ report on the first **Pink-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus creatopus* to be recorded in the Atlantic Ocean: one

collected at the Valdés Peninsula, Chubut, in May 1981 and now housed in the Buenos Aires zoological museum.

Brazil

The distributional limit of the **Grey-headed Attila** *Attila phoenicurus* in the Atlantic forests of south-east Brazil is extended slightly further north (from the previous northernmost locality, Itatiaia National Park) with reports in Fazenda Vale da Revolta near Teresópolis since 1991 and a single bird taped at Macaé de Cima, Nova Friburgo, on 29 November 1996. Both localities lie in the Serra dos Órgãos in Rio de Janeiro state, where extreme dates for the presence of the species were 25 October and 2 March¹³.

A report of **Straight-billed Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus picus* in the mangrove swamps of Vitória, Espírito Santo, in 1987 by Carlos Carvalho, extended its range some 100 km southwards. The species was also found in the same habitat at the mouth of the rio Itabapoana, on the border between Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro, on 16, 17, 24 and 26 June 1997, representing a further range extension of 130 km south. A bird taped on the Rio side of the river on 25 June 1997 represented the first report for the state¹².



Brazilian Merganser *Mergus octosetaceus* (Jon Fjeldså)

Dos Anjos *et al.*² describe the avifauna of the Tibagi river basin in Paraná. Perhaps of most significance are the observations



Black-fronted Piping-guan *Pipile jacutinga* (Jon Fjeldså)

of threatened and near-threatened species made in this 24,530 km² area. Twelve threatened species were recorded: **Brazilian Merganser** *Mergus octosetaceus* (rare), **Black-fronted Piping-guan** *Pipile jacutinga* (rare), **Vinaceous Amazon Amazona vinacea** (considered common), **Blue-bellied Parrot** *Tricharia malachitacea* (common), **White-bearded Antshrike** *Biatas nigropectus* (stable population at one locality), **Cinnamon-vented Piha** *Lipaugus lanioides* (common), **Black-capped Piprites** *Piprites pileatus* (rare), **São Paulo Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes paulistus* (rare), **Ochre-breasted Pipit** *Anthus nattereri* (rare), **Black-legged Dacnis** *Dacnis nigripes* (rare), **Black-backed Tanager** *Tangara peruviana* (stable populations at two localities) and **Temminck's Seedeater** *Sporophila falcirostris* (rare). Nineteen near-threatened species are considered common in the study area: **Solitary Tinamou** *Tinamus solitarius*, **Blue-winged Macaw** *Ara maracana*, **Long-trained Nightjar** *Macropsalis creagra*, **Saffron Toucanet** *Baillonius bailloni*, **Mottled Piculet** *Picumnus*

nebulosus, **Spotted Bamboowren** *Psilorhamphus guttatus*, **Bare-throated Bellbird** *Procnias nudicollis*, **Shear-tailed Grey-tyrant** *Muscipipra vetula*, **Hangnest Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus nidipendulum*, **Southern Bristle-tyrant** *Phylloscartes eximius*, **Oustalet's Tyrannulet** *P. oustaleti*, **Sharp-tailed Tyrant** *Culicivora caudacuta*, **Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila lactea*, **Azure Jay** *Cyanocorax caeruleus*, **Thick-billed Saltator** *Saltator maxillosus*, **Blackish-blue Seedeater** *Amaurospiza moesta* and **Green-throated Euphonia** *Euphonia chalybea*.

Guyana

Agro & Ridgely¹ recently located a female specimen of **Striped Manakin** *Machaeropterus regulus* in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia collection, which was taken at Ourumee, formerly British Guiana, on 10 October 1890. There appear to be no subsequent records from the Guianas, and the authors speculate that the species must be local and rare in Guyana as observers familiar with the species' calls have not reported it.

Uruguay

A pair of **Ochre-faced Tody-tyrants** *Todirostrum plumbeiceps* were collected on 6 October 1997 at Paso Centurión, on the Yaguarón river (32°08'S 53°43'W), on the edge of a clearing in gallery woodland. The pair showed enlarged gonads and it is conceivable that they bred in the area. An **Olivaceous Woodcreeper** *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, showing enlarged testes, was collected on 7 October 1997 at the same locality. These were the first records of both species for Uruguay⁵, although their presence at this locality is unsurprising given the suitable habitat and the fact that both species occur nearby in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Venezuela

Bonaccorsi⁴ reports an observation of **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* in Venezuela: 10–20 birds together with a group of **American Wigeon** *Anas americana* at Chichiriviche, Falcón, in the north of country, on 20–21 February 1993. Both species are apparently rare in Venezuela.

South Atlantic

The third record of **Erect-crested Penguin** *Eudyptes sclateri* in the Falkland Islands was a bird present in a **Rockhopper Penguin** *E. crestatus* colony on Pebble Island in January 1997 and from November–late January at least. A photograph of this bird has been published recently (*Birding World* 11: 258).

Other records received**Netherlands Antilles**

The first **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* for Aruba, a female, was recorded with a party of **Carib Grackles** *Quiscalus lugubris* near Bubali sewage farm on 21 August 1997 (TdK, DM).

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Neotropical Notebook:

compiled by **Juan Mazar Barnett** and **Guy M. Kirwan**.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*. The third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

Short notes

First record of Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* in the Matogrosense region of Paraguay

We observed a Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* in the area of Puerto Bahía Negra (Alto Paraguay department, Paraguay) on 1 and 6 August 1997, on the west bank of the Paraguay River (21°10'S 58°10'W), less than 1 km south of the Bolivian border. Another was seen at the west margin of the Paraguay River (20°12'S 58°08'W), in adjacent Brazil, on 7 August 1997.

There are very few records of this species in Paraguay and no definite sightings from Alto Paraguay department. The closest records to this region date from 1937, 195 km west of Puerto de la Victoria (22°03'S 59°41'W). It is unclear whether this locality is in Boqueron or Alto Paraguay department². The only other records in Paraguay are two from the 1980s³.

These 1997 records are the first in the Matogrosense region of Paraguay and the northernmost in the country. The proximity of the observations to Bolivia, a country where the species is unrecorded¹, is significant and suggest that the species should be looked for there.

Acknowledgements

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Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* in Costa Rica

An Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* was found at Santa Elena, Monteverde, Puntarenas (84°49'N 10°19'W), on 2 July 1996. When discovered, on a road between areas of grazing land, the bird was almost dead: one wing was missing and it was covered with fly larvae. We suspect it may have hit a barbed-wire fence. This is the first specimen record from

Costa Rica and has been deposited in the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, although a desiccated corpse was found, in 1986, on Cerro de la Muerte, in the south of the country. Three other reports are based on feathers or sight records.

This species is distributed from western Guyana west through Venezuela and Colombia, and south to Ecuador and Peru, as well as on Trinidad. *S. caripensis* probably occurs in east Panama¹ and in Costa Rica is considered "accidental"².

The individual found in 1996 was a female and weighed 255 g, which is low compared to the weight of 430 g reported by Stiles & Skutch². Its wing measured 280 mm, tarsus 22 mm, tail 190 mm, and the right ovary 13.2 x 6.8 mm. The bill colour was fleshy brown towards the tip and the feet were flesh coloured. It possessed a relatively significant amount of fat and a few unidentifiable seed fragments (probably palm) in its stomach.

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An apparent influx of Chuck-will's-Widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* along the New River Lagoon, Orange Walk District, Belize

While assisting in a study of crocodiles at New River Lagoon, Orange Walk District, Belize on the night of 9 September 1998, I found three Chuck-will's-Widows *Caprimulgus carolinensis*, perched silently on tree branches along the water's edge. On 11 September 1998, an unknown number of the same species was heard calling before sunrise along Irish Creek, which drains into the south end of the lagoon.

According to Garcia *et al.*¹, this species is accidental in Belize. Martin Meadows (pers. comm.) knows of only 2–3 records of the species in Belize since 1975. However, he added that "no one is looking". A recent avifaunal survey by Vallely & Whitman² at nearby Hill Bank did not record the species; however, their work was limited to January–April.

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Mantled Hawk *Leucopternis polionota* in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Considered globally near-threatened², Mantled Hawk *Leucopternis polionota* is distributed from Alagoas, Brazil south to east Paraguay and Uruguay. Records from Misiones, Argentina, are unconfirmed³. Belton¹, in discussing this species' status in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, mentions a specimen record (presumably from the 1800s), a sight record (east of Porto Alegre in February 1978) and the discovery of a primary

feather at the same site, and presumably time, as the sight record. Together with David D. Beadle and Rod McCann, we observed and photographed a pair of *Leucopternis polionota* circling at close quarters between Camará do Sul and Fortaleza, RS, on 9 February 1997, providing additional confirmation of the species' presence in the state.

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Published records from the literature

Caribbean

Bermuda

Wingate⁴³ reports the first record of **Varied Thrush** *Ixoreus naevicus* on the island, at Paget Marsh, on 9 October 1998. The same author also provides details on the most recent **Cahow** *Pterodroma cahow* nesting season: 55 pairs fledged 29 young in 1997–1998, a new record, despite the loss of three well grown chicks late in the season⁴⁴. Dobson¹³ provides a summary of other recent (1998) interesting bird news from the island: a female **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* at North Pond, on 28 October; a **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* over

Walsingham, on 23 July (the latest ever record); a **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* at Mid-Ocean golf course, from 3 September for several days; a record count of 16 **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* at the airport, on 22 September; a probable **Black Rail** *Laterallus jamaicensis* at North Pond, on 8 October; a very early **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* at St. George's, on 10 October; 13 **Sabine's Gull** *L. sabini* 10 nautical miles north-east of the island, on 27 October (the second record); a **Townsend's Warbler** *Dendroica townsendi* at Fort Scaur, on 4 October; and a **Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus* near Lover's Lake, on 24 October.

Cuba

Rodríguez *et al.*³⁵ add three species to the avifauna of the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago of cays off the northern coast of Cuba, during fieldwork on 24 January–14 February 1998: **Snowy Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*, **Piping Plover** *C. melodus* and **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*. Two new observations of **Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* have been made recently: one at La Guabina, Pinar del Río province, on 8 July 1997⁴⁰, and nine between Havana and Yaguajay, 15 km from the Sancti Spiritus province border, in Cienfuegos province, on 3 February 1998⁴⁵.

Dominican Republic

Rimmer *et al.*³⁴ report sightings of **Bicknell's Thrush** *Catharus bicknelli* in the Sierra de Neiba: at least eight birds in montane broadleaf forest at Vuelta de Quince, on 16–18 February 1997, 12 (of which four birds were banded) in the same area, on 14–15 November 1997, and seven birds in the Monte Bonito area, above Apolinario, on 18–20 February 1998.

Puerto Rico

Pérez-Rivera³¹ reports the appearance of another exotic on the island: **White Cockatoo**

Cacatua alba. Singles were recorded at University of Puerto Rico Botanical Gardens at Rio Piedras, on 16 November 1996, Mayagüez, Zoorico, on 8 October 1997, and Bairoa Park de Caguas, on 27 March 1998.

Tobago

Hayes *et al.*¹⁹ report the rediscovery of **Grey-throated Leaf-tosser** *Sclerurus albigularis* on Tobago. Seven specimens were collected during 1898–1903, but until March 1996, when the species was found nesting south-east of Castara, there were no additional reports from the island. Further observations from the Main Ridge of Tobago followed in August 1997, but the authors conclude that the species' population on the island is small and concentrated in the western portion of the Main Ridge between Mount Dillon and Parlatuvier Bay.

Central America

Mexico

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* has recently reached Mexico. Kluza²² reports the observation of a single male in burnt mangroves at the eastern edge of Rio Celestún town, Yucután on 27 May 1996, and speculates on the potential survival capabilities of local endemics to this range-expanding nest-parasite.

Surveys of wintering shorebirds in the Ensenada Pabellones and Bahía Santa María, Sinaloa, western Mexico, in December 1993 and February 1994 estimated that nearly 40,000 **American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* may use the area during the non-breeding season, nearly 10% of the world population¹⁴.

Belize

Miller & Miller²⁶, in reviewing the status of ornithology in Belize, discuss a number of problematic species which occur or probably occur in the country, but for which documentation is required.

Green-fronted Hummingbird

Amazilia viridifrons was reported at Blue Creek in early 1982 by Hallchurch¹⁸ but the authors consider this record more likely to pertain to **Azure-crowned Hummingbird** *A. cyanocephala*. In addition, a **Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* reported during a Royal Air Force Orn. Soc. expedition in March 1986 also appears unlikely. The following species are either not listed for Belize by Howell & Webb²¹ or are considered to require verification, but for which there is some, sometimes strong, evidence for their presence: **Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*, **Masked Duck** *Oxyura dominica*, **Solitary Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*, **Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*, **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja*, **Crested Caracara** *Caracara plancus*, **Yellow-breasted Crane** *Porzana flaviventer*, **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*, **Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata*, **White-throated Swift** *Aeronautes saxatilis*, **Blue-throated Goldentail** *Hylocharis eliciae*, **Paltry Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius vilissimus*, **Cassin's Kingbird** *Tyrannus vociferans*, **Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*, **Orange-crowned Warbler** *Vermivora celata*, **Tropical Parula** *Parula pitiaiyumi*, **Hermit Warbler** *Dendroica occidentalis*, **Blackpoll Warbler** *D. striata*, **Flame-colored Tanager** *Piranga bidentata*, **Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena* and **Audubon's Oriole** *Icterus graduacauda*.

El Salvador

Although not reporting new species for the country, Komar²³, in reviewing avian diversity in El Salvador, provides an appendix listing 73 species that probably occur there but have not yet been formally reported. Fieldworkers in El Salvador are recommended to consult this listing.

Honduras

Eight new country records and significant new information on

nine other species are reported by Anderson *et al.*³. The new species are as follows: **White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (several reports from both coasts), **Harris' Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus* (an adult near Monjarás, dpto. Choluteca on 16 January 1993), **Ocellated Poorwill** *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus* (a female incubating two eggs 2 km south-west of Las Marias on 16 May 1997 and regularly heard calling at the same locality in 1996 and 1997), **Bronzy Hermit** *Glaucis aenea* (one of the most common hummingbirds in the Plátano River watershed, one was caught and released on 16 February 1996), **Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle inda* (one 2 km north-west of Las Marias on 2 June 1997), **White-vented Euphonia** *Euphonia minuta* (a male seen on several occasions at La Venta, dpto. Olancho in January 1996), **Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* (a population presumed to originate from escapes appears to have become well established on the Swan Islands, 200 km off the Honduran mainland since at least June 1996) and **White-eared Ground-sparrow** *Melospiza leucotis* (observed repeatedly and a nest found on Cerro Agua Buena, dpto. Olancho since February 1993). Other records involved the third country record of **Semi-plumbeous Hawk** *Leucopternis semiplumbea* (six observations of different birds at Las Marias in early 1996); two records of **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* suggesting a breeding population in Honduras; the second and third country records since 1950 of **Black-and-white Hawk-eagle** *Spizastur melanoleucos*; regular observations of **White-throated Crane** *Laterallus albigularis* along the Plátano River, where the species breeds (only one previous record); single specimen and sight records of **Black-and-white Owl** *Ciccaba nigrolineata* (two previous records); a dead nestling **Striped Owl** *Asio clamator* (one previous specimen record); a new population of **Honduran**

Emerald *Amazilia luciae* discovered 30 km north-east of Gualaco in the Agalta Valley where it is common in a 100 ha plot of thorn forest at 500 m; a 450 km northward range extension for **Fulvous-bellied Antpitta** *Hylopezus fulviventris*, which was found to be common along the Plátano River (three specimens were taken); and new observations of **Three-wattled Bellbird** *Procnias tricarunculata* in the Sierra de Agalta that suggest the species breeds there *contra* previous reports.

Panama

Among a handful of reports from the country in late 1998 comes the first record of **Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*, watched closely and well described at Islas Frailes del Norte, Las Monjas, on 12 September. This is the first country record. More regular fare included a pair of **Blue Seedeater** *Amaurospiza concolor* at Cerro Campana, on 8 August, with a male there on 5 September (on which date there was also a **White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus* and several **Red-crowned Ant-tanagers** *Habia rubica* in the same area). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** *Dendroica dominica* was videotaped at Parque Omar, on 6 September, and on 2 August there was a **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* at Soberania National Park⁴.

South America

Argentina

Blendinguer¹⁰ provides details of two **Subtropical Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis* at Agua de las Palomas, on 17–19 December 1987, and two at Los Nacimientos, on 15–19 January 1988, the first records for Catamarca province.

Serracin & Romero³⁸ present several interesting records for La Pampa province: four **Whispering Ibis** *Phimosus infuscatus* at La Arocena, 6 km north-east of General Pico, on 15 June 1996; two **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* in a marsh

near laguna Las Cloacas, 7 km south-east of General Pico, on 23 December 1996, and two on a small pond north-west of laguna Don Tomás, on 18 January 1997; a **Snail Kite** *Rosthramus sociabilis* 12 km from General Pico on ruta provincial 102, on 4 May 1996, two 15 km from Eduardo Castex on ruta nacional 15, on 15 February 1997, and one at laguna La Arocena on the same date; a **Rufous-thighed Hawk** *Accipiter erythronemius* was at laguna La Arocena, on 16 March 1996; a male **Masked Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis aequinoctialis* was 3 km north of Toay, on 21 December 1996 (the third province record); and a male **Chestnut-capped Blackbird** *Agelaius ruficapillus* at laguna La Arocena, on 15 February 1997 (second province record).

Ordano²⁸ presents the first description of a nest of **D'Orbigny's Chat-tyrant** *Ochthoeca oenanthoides*, by the side of a stream at Los Cardones National Park, on 20 November 1994, at 2,600 m.

Piacentini & Acerbo³² report the first reliable records of **Tropical Screech-owl** *Otus choliba* in Río Negro province and the southernmost ever for the species: one at Cervantes, General Roca, in summer 1982; a pair and three young photographed close to General Roca, on 29 August 1987; and another individual photographed at Villa Regina, General Roca (no date).

Ordano²⁸, based on many records throughout the province in all seasons and a male collected whose gonad condition indicated reproductive activity, concludes that **Greater Wagtail-tyrant** *Stigmatura budytoides* is a breeding resident in Formosa province, contrary to much of the previous literature.

Babarskas & Flombaum⁶ present the following records from Chubut province: a **Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris* in the río Chubut, by Estancia La Gloria, on 20 January 1997, is the first province record; up to 10 **White-tipped Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rutila* in the río

Chubut, at Estancia La Gloria, on 16 January 1997, is the third province record; and a pair of **Southern Martin** *Progne modesta* at the same locality, on 17 January 1997, confirms the species' presence in Chubut.

Gonnet & Blendinguer¹⁷ present 15 new distributional records of **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* in west Argentina and identify the area between northern San Luis and Mendoza provinces south through La Pampa as that most suitable to conduct further research and conservation efforts due to the higher density of the species there.

Mazar Barnett *et al.*²⁵ report the first record of **Giant Conebill** *Oreomanes fraseri* in Argentina and the southernmost for the species, based on a single individual found on 26 September 1997, 10 km west of Rodeo Pampa, Salta.

Di Giacomo¹¹ presents the first description of the nest and eggs of **Lesser Grass-finch** *Emberizoides ypirangus* and confirms the presence of the species in Formosa province, based on records at Reserva Ecológica El Bagual. Separately, the same author¹² provides the first breeding record of **Barred Antshrike** *Thamnophilus doliatus* in Argentina: five nests found at Reserva Ecológica El Bagual, Formosa.

Navas & Bo²⁷, based on four specimens collected by W. H. Partridge and deposited at MACN, extend the known range of **Torrent Duck** *Merganetta a. armata* 320 km northward to Las Flores, San Juan. They also found that the Mendoza population of **Crested Duck** *Lophonetta specularioides* (five specimens examined, collected by W.H. Partridge) appears to be intermediate between *alticola* from the north and nominate *specularioides* from the south.

Brazil

Rufous-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis sapphirina* has recently been found to be common at Londrina, Paraná, with an

immature collected on 25 September 1997. Only one previous record of the species existed for the state, and this was regarded as doubtful. In addition, **White-chinned Sapphire** *H. cyanus* was reported for the first time in Paraná, being recorded at Londrina on several occasions, as well as at Parque Estadual Mata dos Godoy and in the Sertaneja district⁵.

Bagno & Rodrigues⁷ discuss the first records of four species in Goiás state. A pair of **White-tufted Grebe** *Rollandia rolland* was at Emas National Park in October 1994. Several records of **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* at Emas are as follows: three in January 1996, one photographed in December 1996 and two in July 1997. Another was found dead at km 25 of road number GO 118 near the border with Federal District. At least three **Band-tailed Nightjars** *Caprimulgus longirostris* were seen and heard at Santuário de Vida Silvestre do Morro Cabeludo. A single **Bay-winged Cowbird** *Molothrus badius* was at Emas in January 1995.

Machado *et al.*²⁴ report the first records of **Pale-throated Serrafinch** *Embernagra longicauda* away from the Espinhaço complex, and the southernmost for the species. It has been found at Serra de São José and Serra do Lenheiro (in the Mantiqueira range), as well as in the Rio Doce basin, at Antonio Dias, Nova Era, and Bela Vista de Minas; in both areas it is resident.

Alvarenga² reports the discovery of a premaxilla of an **Andean Condor** *Vultur gryphus* among bones found near Lagoa Santa, Minas Gerais, and regarded as being c.11,000 years old (the early Holocene).

Chile

Torres-Mura⁴² reports the first records of **Canyon Canastero** *Asthenes pudibunda* in Chile, pre-dating those published by van der Gaast¹⁶: a male collected by R. Kuschel in July 1971 in Putre, Parinacota, I Región, held at Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and mislabelled as a

Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Upucerthia ruficauda*, and a female collected by Torres-Mura in November 1993 at the same locality.

St. Pierre & Davies³⁷ observed a single **Hooded Grebe** *Podiceps gallardoi* within a group of 2,200 **Silvery Grebes** *P. occipitalis* on 5 February 1997 at Monumento Natural Laguna de los Cisnes, Porvenir, XII Región. This is the first report in Tierra del Fuego and the first published Chilean record.

Bernal *et al.*⁹ report an observation of a single **Black-bellied Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* at Reserva Nacional Lago Peñuelas, V Región, on 17 February 1998, the second record in Chile, although the authors do not discard the possibility of the individual being an escape.

Rubio³⁶ discovered three pairs of **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* with young on one of the artificial lakes of a water treatment plant at La Farfana, Maipú, Región Metropolitana during November 1997–April 1998. This record adds to previous ones from the region and the author stresses the need to re-evaluate the status of the species in the area. Toledo⁴¹ photographed a single adult **Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda* at Estero Tongoy, IV Región, on 27 January 1998. The bird flew up to 100 m inland then returned to the sea; the author conjectures that such records may be influenced by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Aguirre & Seeger¹ discovered a single **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* in breeding plumage at the mouth of Estero Cartagena, V Región, on 3 May 1998, the southernmost record of the species in the country, extending its known distribution over 1,000 km.

Peru

Begazo & Valqui⁸ report on six months fieldwork in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve between 1992 and 1996. **Zigzag Heron** *Zebriulus undulatus* was recorded on three occasions

during the period; **Slender-billed Kite** *Rostrhamus hamatus* was frequent and a nest was discovered, 18 m from the ground in a *Pseudobombax munguuba* tree, on 6–9 July; **Wattled Curassow** *Crax globulosa*, unreported for 35 years in Peru, is present in the reserve, known from two birds shot by a hunter near Nueva Esperanza village in August 1996 and two other captive birds; **11 Razor-billed Curassow** *C. mitu* recorded on transects suggests a healthy population is present in the reserve; **21 Common Piping-guan** *Pipile pipile* were observed on transects; groups of 3–11 **Pale-winged Trumpeter** *Psophia leucoptera* were recorded on nine occasions, including six adults accompanied by a juvenile and two young of c.3 weeks, on 23 February; one **Band-tailed Nighthawk** *Nyctiprogne leucopyga* was tape-recorded on 8 June 1995, a range extension of 150 km; a total of five **Rufous-necked Puffbirds** *Malacoptila rufa* was recorded from three sites within the park; **Stripe-chested Antwren** *Myrmotherula longicauda* was discovered to be fairly common at 04°56'S 75°05'W; **Ash-breasted Antbird** *Myrmoborus lugubris* was fairly common on river islands in the Marañón river, a minor range extension from Maipuco on the same watercourse; the highly localised **Black-tailed Antbird** *M. melanurus* was discovered at two localities in the reserve, a significant range extension from the Ucayali river; the first nest of **Ash-throated Gnatcatcher** *Conopophaga peruviana* was discovered on 30 July; **Grey Elaenia** *Myiophobus caniceps* was found to be fairly common in mixed-species canopy flocks; **Yellow Tyrannulet** *Capsiempis flaveola*, which is localised in south and west Amazonia, was found at one locality; one record of **Johannes's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus iohannis* was made; a group of five **Three-striped Flycatcher** *Conopias trivirgata* was recorded near Nuevo Esperanza, on 21–29 June 1995, this species perhaps being a

nomad or more regular migrant in much of Amazonia; and **Grey-chested Greenlet** *Hylophilus semicinereus* was found to be common but localised within the reserve, the first locality in Peru.

Other records received

Puerto Rico

The exotic **Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* is known to have been introduced to many West Indian islands but to survive on only two: Eleuthera (Bahamas) and Cuba³³. One was heard calling in secondary forest at La Parguera, south-west Puerto Rico, on 1 May 1998 (GMK).

Mexico

Arjan & Heidi Boele report a number of interesting records from 1996–1997: a **Pacific Loon** *Gavia arctica pacifica* was photographed at Bahía Banderas, near Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, on 20 December 1996 (south of its normal winter range); a **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* in Banderas Bay, between Islas Marietas and Punta Mita, Nayarit, on 13 March 1997; a female **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* at San Blas harbour, Nayarit, on 16 December 1997 (south of its normal winter range); a **King Rail** *Rallus longirostris* photographed at Manzanillo, Colima, on 20 March 1997; a **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* near Marina Vallarta, Jalisco, on 26 December 1997 (south of its normal winter range); a first-winter **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* photographed at the mouth of the Río Cuale, Jalisco, on 27–28 December 1997 (north of its usual winter range); a male **Mexican Woodnymph** *Thalurania ridgwayi* 3 km east of La Bajada, near San Blas, Nayarit, on 18 December 1997; and single **Chestnut-sided Warblers** *Dendroica pensylvanica* at Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, on 5–9 March 1997, and photographed at La Bajada, near San Blas, Nayarit, on 18 December 1997.

Belize

BM reports the following recent observations of interest. On 18–19 January 1999, up to 18 **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* were at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary; a **Yellow-breasted Crane** *Poliolimnas flaviventer* was apparently seen on Crooked Tree Lagoon on 19 January 1999 by many birders; a male **Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivacea* was seen amongst a flock of White-collared Seedeaters *Sporophila torqueola* and Blue-black Grassquits *Volatinia jacarina* at Gallon Jug on 26 January 1999 (the northernmost record of the species); and several **Slate-coloured Seedeater** *Sporophila schistacea* were seen at both Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug in seeding bamboo from late November to mid-January.

Brazil

Andrew Whittaker (AW) reports a host of recent interesting records (additional observers in parentheses) including: at least four pairs of **Bearded Tachuri** *Polystictus pectoralis* tape-recorded at Boa Vista, Roraima, on 25 August 1998. Another pair was observed c.10–15 km west of the town in natural grassland. In addition, a nesting pair was found near Cuiabá airport, Mato Grosso in late August–early September 1996 and 1997. In the Pantanal, near Pixaim, a male **Rufous-rumped Seedeater** *Sporophila hypochroma* was observed on 4 November 1996. At Chapada dos Guimarães, Mato Grosso, a singing **Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant** *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus* was found in stunted cerrado on 13–14 September 1997, and other records from this site include a **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* on 10 September 1995, an **Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* on 13 September 1996 (Kevin Zimmer), and several migrating flocks, totalling 82 birds, of **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* on 14 November 1996, the second country record. **Alagoas Foliage-gleaner** *Philydor novaesi* has been

rediscovered at Murici reserve, Alagoas, following several years without a confirmed record, a single bird being seen well and tape-recorded on 20 January 1998. In the Benjamin Constant area, Amazonas, **Elusive Antpitta** *Grallaria eludens*, **Black-banded Crane** *Laterallus fasciatus*, **Bar-bellied Woodcreeper** *Hylexetastes stresemanni*, **Red-billed Ground-cuckoo** *Neomorphus pucheranii* and **Rio Suno Antwren** *Myrmotherula sunensis* were all seen on 1–3 December 1997 (Tom Gullick), and, near Itocatiara, in the same state, **Varzea Piculet** *Picumnus varzeae* and **Plain Softtail** *Thriphoga fusciceps* of the race *obidensis* were re-discovered on 8 August 1997. In Rio Grande do Sul, at São Francisco de Paula, five **Red-spectacled Parrot** *Amazona pretrei* were seen on 17 October 1997 and, the next day, three were near Itabezinho. At Itatiaia National Park, Rio de Janeiro, an influx of **Uniform Finch** *Haplospiza unicolor* was registered on 23 October 1997, with at least 30 individuals on bird-tables in the park. Also in the National Park, a pair of **Red-and-white Crane** *Laterallus leucopyrrhus* was seen well, on 21 October 1997.

GMK reports the following species, previously regarded as hypothetical at Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais³⁹, during a visit to the area on 3–5 November 1998: **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*, **Picui Ground-dove** *Columbina picui* and **Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira*.

Chile

Derek Evans has recently submitted many interesting observations from the period 22 February 1997–22 February 1998 (additional observers in parentheses). Five **Westland Petrel** *Procellaria westlandica* were off Valparaíso on 9 September 1997 (SNGH, SW) and one, possibly two, were seen 18 km off Valparaíso, on 2 June 1998 (JMB, MdS, GP). A **Puna Flamingo** *Phoenicoparrus jamesi*

was unusually low at 1,300 m at Tranque Sloman, south of Quillagua on 9 February 1998. At Copiapo rivermouth, on 17 February 1998, seven **Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix* were apparently the first record for region 1 (see Howell²⁰ for definition of Chilean regions used here), a **Cinereous Harrier** *Circus cinereus* there was very rare record in region 1, two **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* in the same place on the same date were perhaps the southernmost record in Chile, and two **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* provided the first record for region 1. An **Andean Avocet** *Recurvirostra andina* at Chañaral on 8 February 1998 is one of a handful of coastal records and perhaps the first such from Chile. Two **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla* at Tranque Sloman on 9 February 1998 was a rare record for region 1, but up to five at Playa Changa, north of Coquimbo, on three dates between 12 September 1997–19 February 1998 (SNGH, SW), with one at Elqui rivermouth on 5 February 1998, were the first records for region 2. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* at Playa Changa, north of Coquimbo, on 10–12 September 1997 (SNGH, SW), was the first record for Chile. Huge numbers of **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* were in the north of the country in early 1998: c.75,600 moved south past Alacrán, on 17 January and c.76,000 were in the Lluta valley below Poconchile, on 19–20 January. A **Great Shrike-tyrant** *Agriornis livida* at the Copiapo rivermouth on 17 February 1997 was the first record for region 1. Single **Eastern Kingbirds** *Tyrannus tyrannus* were at San Miguel de Azapa on 18 January 1998 and at Coya Sur, east of María Elena in the Loa valley on 10 February 1998; Paynter³⁰ notes three previous Chilean records. During 30 December 1997–1 January 1998, the first records of **Rufous-tailed Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rara* were made in region 4: singles at two sites near Torres del Paine

National Park on 30–31 December, and three near Salto Grande and two singles at separate localities in Torres del Paine National Park on 1 January 1998. A **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* observed over fields at the Elqui rivermouth on 5 February 1998 was the first record in region 2. An adult **Austral Thrush** *Turdus falklandii* feeding two young at El Yeso dam, at 3,000 m, on 3 February 1998, was unusually high. A **Yellow-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius thilius* at the mouth of the Copiapo river, on 17 February 1998, was the first record in region 1.

Colombia

Two new species for Colombia, 86 range extensions and 36 altitudinal extensions are reported by Salaman & Donegan in the Serranía de los Churumbelos, Cauca, on the eastern Cordillera of southern Colombia during 14 July–18 August 1998. New species for Colombia were **Foothill Antwren** *Myrmotherula spodiopata* and **White-throated Woodpecker** *Piculus leucolaemus*. A **Band-bellied Owl** *Pulsatrix melanota* trapped during the fieldwork provided the first specific locality for Colombia. A number of second records for Colombia included: **Napo Sabrewing** *Campylopterus villaviscensio* (15 captures), **Pink-throated Brilliant** *Heliodoxa gularis* (three captures), **White-streaked Antvireo** *Dysithamnus leucostictus* (one capture), **Blue-rumped Manakin** *Pipra isidorei* (27 captures), **Fiery-throated Fruiteater** *Pipreola chlorolepidota*, **Grey-tailed Piha** *Lipaugus subalaris* (four captures), **Cinnamon Tyrant** *Neopipo cinnamomea* (one capture), **Yellow-throated Tanager** *Iridosornis analis* and **Vermilion Tanager** *Calochaetes coccineus*. Other notable species included **Ecuadorian Piedtail** *Phlogophilus hemileucurus*, **Gould's Jewelfront** *Heliodoxa aurescens*, **Black-billed Treehunter** *Thripadectes melanorhynchus* (fourth record for

Colombia), **Hairy-crested Antbird** *Rhegmatorhina melanosticta*, **Golden-winged Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum calopterym*, **Orange-crested Flycatcher** *Myiophobus phoenicomitra* (first record for east slope of Colombia) and **Olive Tanager** *Chlorothraupis carmioli*. A list of the 327 species recorded and assessment of ornithological fieldwork is available on the internet at: <http://www.proaxis.com/~salaman/colombia98.html>

Ecuador

J. Flanagan, I. Isherwood and J. Willis report observations in the vicinity of the Centro Shuar de Shaime, Rio Nangaritzza, during 23–27 September 1997: **Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi*, **Oilbird** *Steatornis caripensis*, **Blue-fronted Lancebill** *Doryfera johannae*, **Striolated Puffbird** *Nystalus striolatus*, **Black-crowned Tityra** *Tityra inquisitor*, **Red-crested Finch** *Coryphospingus cucullatus* (the second country record) and **Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius oleucumanus* were all new to the area, and 25 of the globally threatened **White-necked Parakeet** *Pyrrhura albipectus* were recorded close to the village on 27 September.

Guyana

Richard Ryan reports the observation of seven **Bearded Tachuri** *Polystictus pectoralis* at Dadanawa cattle ranch, southern Rupinuni district, in January 1998.

Peru

At Pixiana, near Pevas, **Buckley's Forest-falcon** *Micrastur buckleyi* and **Red-billed Ground-cuckoo** *Neomorphus pucheranii* were seen on 19 May 1998 (AW, David Ascanio). At Yanomono, east of Iquitos, north of the Amazon, a pair of **Lanceolated Monklet** *Micromonacha lanceolata* was observed on 29 May 1998 (AW). On the coast, near Lima, at least 10 **Waved Albatross** *Diomedea irrorata* were seen close inshore on 7 June 1998 (AW).

A. Banwell, N. Bostock, S. Colenutt, G. Engblom, J. Hornbuckle, M. Hunnybun, J. Neilsen, K. Turner and B. Wright report the following observations in the north of the country during 19 August–13 September 1998. Several **Junin Grebe** *Podiceps taczanowskii* were seen on Lake Junín, where the species reportedly enjoyed a successful breeding season due to high water levels. The total population is now estimated to have increased to c.200. **Yellow-faced Parrotlet** *Forpus xanthops* was not uncommon around Chagual, La Libertad but none was recorded elsewhere. Five male **Royal Sunangel** *Heliangelus regalis* were seen at Abra Patricia, San Martín, at c.2,100 m. A pair of **Speckle-chested Piculet** *Picumnus steindachneri* was seen in open dry forest, 39 km north of Leimebamba, San Martín, at c.1,800 m. A pair and three single **Great Spinetails** *Siptornopsis hypochondriacus* were observed and tape-recorded at c.2,200 m in xerophytic-type scrub above Chagual, La Libertad, on the west slope of the Marañón Valley. A possible **Russet-mantled Softtail** *Thriphopaga berlepschi* was seen near the pass at Abra Patricia at c.2,300m. A pair of **Black Bushbird** *Neotantus niger* was c.12 km south of Oracuzar, Amazonas, at c.500 m. They were stripping the vertical stems from plants in the head-downwards position, an action possibly facilitated by their upturned bills. **Peruvian Plantcutter** *Phytotoma raimondii* was discovered to be still relatively numerous at Rafan, Lambayeque. This area, which is the only presently known site for the species, has been bought by an American sugar company for conversion to sugar cane. At least five **Piura Chat-tyrant** *Ochthoeca piurae* were at San Damian, Ancash. **Bar-winged Wood-wren** *Henicorhina leucoptera* appeared to be common at Abra Patricia, at 2,000–2,300 m. A group of four **Orange-throated Tanager** *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron*

was at c.450 m, c.10 km south of Oracuzar, Amazonas, principally feeding in *Cecropia* and uttering loud *tsip* calls. Two **Rufous-backed Inca-finch** *Incaezpiza personata* at c.2,200 m in xerophytic-type scrub above Chagual, La Libertad, on the west slope of the Marañón Valley, represented a small range extension. The commoner and more widespread **Buff-bridled Inca-finch** *I. laeta* was also present in this area. Two **Masked Saltator** *Saltator cinctus* were in a canopy / sub-canopy mixed feeding flock just below the start of the Paty Trail, Huánaco.

BW, CB *et al.* report the following significant sightings from an exploratory trip to the departments of San Martín and Amazonas in the north of the country: **Spot-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus maculicaudus* was recorded near Jesus del Monte (San Martín), on 17–19 September 1998; **Koepcke's Hermit** *Phaethornis koepcke*, which is known from just four localities in Peru, was common near the tunnel 20 km north-east of Tarapoto on the road to Yurimaguas (San Martín), on 13–14 September 1998; a male and female **Napo Sabrewing** *Campylopterus villaviscensio* were recorded in the sandy soil savanna at Jesus del Monte, on 16–18 September 1998 (the only known site for the species in Peru and apparently uncommon there); a female **Rufous-vented Whitetip** *Urostitte ruficrissa* was at Jesus del Monte on 18 September 1998 (the species is known only from a few localities in eastern Ecuador and north-east Peru); 15 **Maroon-tailed (Berlepsch's) Parakeet** *Pyrhura melanura berlepschi* were along the Tarapoto–Yurimaguas road, on 15 September, and four at Jesus del Monte, on 18 September 1998; 4–5 **Slaty Antshrike** *Thamnophilus punctatus* of the subspecies *huallagae* were observed in dry deciduous forest on the slopes of a quebrada 15 km south of Tarapoto (San Martín), on 12 September 1998. Recordings of the vocalisations have been forwarded

to Phyllis and Mort Isler who are analysing the vocal characters to establish the relationships of this population to other forms in the *Thamnophilus punctatus* complex; 6–8 **Ash-throated Antwren** *Herpsilochmus parkeri* were observed near Jesus del Monte, on 16–19 September 1998; a male **Purple-breasted Cotinga** *Cotinga cotinga* was near Jesus del Monte, on 17–18 September 1998 (the second record for Peru and at the same locality as the first); two **Blackish Pewee** *Contopus nigrescens* were along the Tarapoto–Yurimaguas road (San Martín), on 13–14 September 1998 (the species is known from only four localities in Peru); at least three **Ecuadorian Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes qualaquizae* were in roadside forest at Aguas Verdes, below Abra Patricia (San Martín) (this species is known in Peru only from this locality); 8–10 **Bar-winged Wood-wren** *Henicorhina leucoptera* were recorded near Jesus del Monte, on 16–19 September 1998, in a variety of habitats from tall, moist hill forest to fern-covered slopes on white sandy soil savanna woodland; up to 10 **Orange-throated Tanager** *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron* were in the Penas Blanca area, along the Chiriaco–Oracuzar road (Amazonas); and a pair of **Plumbeous Euphonia** *Euphonia plumbea* near the tunnel north-east of Tarapoto along the road to Yurimaguas (San Martín) was apparently the first record for Peru and a considerable range extension.

Another apparently new bird for Peru was a **Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera*, recorded at Pillahuata, on the Manu road, dpto. Cusco, on 2 December 1998, at 2,700 m (G. Engblom, J. Nordin). Paynter³⁰ lists no previous records in the country.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Two notable records of birds for Cozumel Island, Quintana Roo, Mexico

Cozumel Island is located on the Caribbean coast of Mexico, between 20°16' and 20°36'N and 86°44' and 87°02'W, in northern Quintana Roo. The island encompasses c.490 km², being the largest inhabited island of the Yucatan Peninsula. We conducted intensive avifaunal surveys on the island in 1994–1995 (Macouzet *et al.* in prep.), as well as during 1–10 May 1998. During the most recent visit, we surveyed wetlands in the south of the island, between Laguna Colombia and Faro Celarain. We found two species of special interest for the Cozumel avifauna documented here.

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

Flamingos were recorded previously from Cozumel by Griscom¹ during the Manson-Spindel expedition. In the expedition account, Griscom recorded a group of c.600 flamingos. Paynter³ did not find them on the island, but local inhabitants mentioned their presence during winter. In the 1980s, local inhabitants mentioned that flamingos occurred in the island. However,

flamingos have not been recorded on the island since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. During May 1998, in the lagoons in the south of Cozumel, we found a group of 50 birds, some of them juveniles. They remained throughout our visit, moving only among the lagoons or to the mangroves.

American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

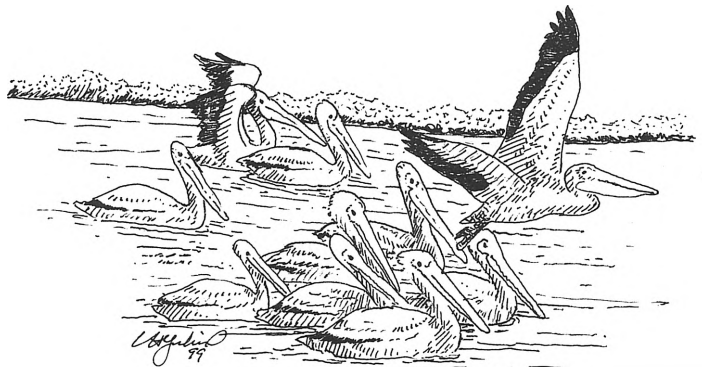
This species has not been previously reported on Cozumel. Paynter³ listed American White Pelican as occurring on the north-west coast of the peninsula. López-Ornat *et al.*² recorded it at localities on the north-east coast of the peninsula, at Ria Lagartos and Las Coloradas. He also mentioned it for the north coast, between Progreso and Dzidzantun

in Yucatan, and at Isla Holbox in Quintana Roo. American White Pelican is a regular winter visitor to the north coast of the peninsula, but this is the first record on Cozumel. We observed a group of c.30 birds in the lagoons in the south of the island.

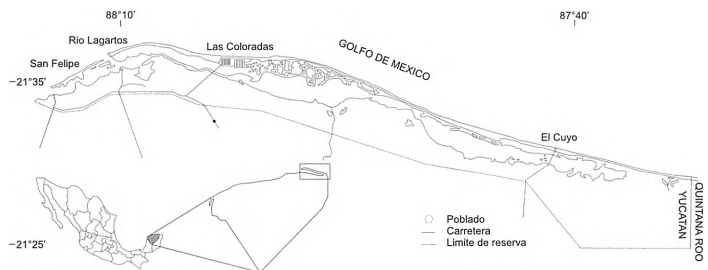
Both records were documented by video footage, deposited at the Colección Nacional de Aves, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Local environmentalist groups on Cozumel are monitoring the presence of these species in Cozumel.

Acknowledgements

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American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (Charles Gambill)



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Verification of rare bird records from Trinidad & Tobago

A second group of records, mainly from 1996–early 1998, but including some from the last 14 years, has been ratified by the Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee, and are presented here. Sixty-one records have been accepted, some with photographic evidence. Records for eight other species were rejected. Those accepted include four first records for Tobago, one of these possibly a

first for the Western Hemisphere, and also two first records for Trinidad.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

One south of Crown Point on 29 June 1997 (FEH) was only the second record for Tobago, although the species has often been found off Trinidad in June.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

One at sea off the north-east coast of Trinidad on 23 February 1997 (FEH). This is only the fourth record of the species from our area, but this Old World species occurs regularly in the Caribbean in November–March.

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

An adult brown-phase bird was seen at sea c.17 km north of Matelot, Trinidad, on 17 March 1996 (FEH, see *Cotinga* 10: 103). Breeds commonly on islands just north-east of Tobago, but rarely recorded off Trinidad.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

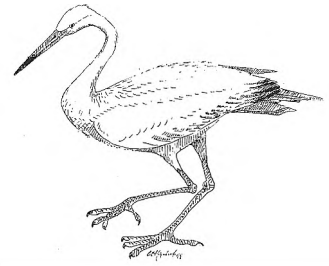
Singles at Buccoo Swamp and Turtle Beach on 24 March 1996 and 12 January 1997 (FEH *et al.*, see *Cotinga* 10: 103). One previous record for Tobago, although well known as an off-season visitor to Trinidad.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Records from Nariva Swamp and Trinity ponds on 13–14 January, 16–17 June, 31 August and 4 September 1997, and Buccoo Swamp on 14 August 1990, 26 March 1995 (see *Cotinga* 10: 103), 18 January, 27 February and 20 March 1997 (DWF, GW, FEH, PJW *et al.*) indicate that the species is becoming well established in the area and may possibly already be breeding in the islands.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

An immature seen and photographed at Buccoo Swamp, Tobago on 3 November 1986 (WSS, AJ); there may have been a second bird present earlier. This



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (Charles Gambill)

is apparently the first record for the Western Hemisphere, although the species occurs occasionally on Atlantic Islands west of Africa.

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

Up to four, all or mostly immatures, at Brickfield mudflats on various dates during 7 December 1996–26 January 1998 (RPff *et al.*, GW, FEH, IS, PJW). The fourth record for Trinidad.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A male and 2 females at Buccoo Marsh on 18 January 1997 (DWF *et al.*); a female at Lowlands on 20 March 1997 (FEH) may have been one of the same birds. The first published record for Tobago, although a pair at the same locality on 18 January 1992 (DWF) may also have been of this species.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

A male at Lowlands, Tobago, on 20 December 1995 (FEH, see *Cotinga* 10: 103). Rare on Tobago.

Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*

Two males at Pitch Lake on 30 January 1993 (GW, RN). This secretive species has been rarely recorded on Trinidad in recent years, probably because of the scarcity of freshwater marshland.

King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

Single adults over Trinity Hills and Aripo Savanna on 20 February 1994 and 14 January 1996 (GW *et al.*, PJT). Rare visitor from the mainland.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
An adult over Little Tobago on 17 January 1997 (DWF *et al.*). Few records from Tobago, although D. Rooks and others have reported individuals occasionally.

Yellow-headed Caracara

Milvago chimachima
An adult at Bon Accord housing estate on 18 January 1997 (DWF *et al.*) was probably breeding. If so, this would be the first such record for Tobago; the species only arrived on the island c.10 years ago.

Trinidad Piping-guan *Pipile pipile*

Two adults at Grande Riviere on 30 May 1997 (FEH *et al.*) and subsequently. There appears to be a population of indeterminate size in the area, and conservation authorities are understandably anxious not to place undue pressure from visitors on the country's only endemic species.

Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*

An apparently tame bird for several months (1993–4) at Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust, but was thought to be wild (FEH, MG, KS). An adult at Buccoo, Tobago, on 30 May 1997 (BG), with another on 19 August and a pair on 21 August (FEH *et al.*). Rare on both islands.

Double-striped Thick-knee

Burhinus bistriatus
One at Waller Field on 8 December 1996 (RPff *et al.*) was only the third record for Trinidad.

American Oystercatcher

Haematopus palliatus
Five at Waterloo on 9 December 1996 (RPff *et al.*) was the fourth record for Trinidad.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*

One of the race *cinnamominus* at Buccoo Marsh on 27 April 1996 (FEH, DB, see *Cotinga* 10: 103); the first record from Tobago of this species, although this race has been found breeding on Trinidad.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Two at Buccoo Bay on 19 August 1997 (FEH, NAT) was the second record for Tobago.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

A first-winter at Buccoo Swamp on 18 January and 27 February 1997 (DWF *et al.*, FEH *et al.*) is the first record for Tobago of this principally Old World species, which is extremely rare in the Caribbean region but has occurred several times on Barbados.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

One at Waterloo mudflats on 19 October 1996 (FEH *et al.*). Rare on passage on Trinidad.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

One photographed at Buccoo Marsh on 11 and 14 August 1990 (GW *et al.*) was approximately the sixth record on Tobago of this Old World species.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

An adult in worn breeding plumage photographed during 4–14 July 1994 near Store Bay, Tobago (FEH *et al.*). There are few records from Tobago of this Old World species, that appears to be becoming established in the New World.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus
A first-winter near Buccoo Reef on 15–16 January 1997 (DWF *et al.*) and 27 February and 20 March 1997 (FEH *et al.*). On the latter date an adult was found nearby at Pigeon Point. There have only been two previous records for Tobago.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

An immature offshore at Blanchisseuse on 17 February 1998 (FG *et al.*) was the first record from Trinidad, although vagrants have been reported from various West Indian islands as far south as St Lucia.

Scaled Dove *Scardafella squammata*

An adult photographed at Nariva Swamp near Bush-Bush Creek on 7 December 1996 (RDM, RR *et al.*) was the first record on Trinidad since G. D. Smooker collected two at Toco in late October 1929.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

Adults at Buccoo Swamp on 18–19 January 1992, 18 January 1997 and 3 July 1997 (DWF, FEH *et al.*) demonstrate that the species is not uncommon on Tobago in suitable habitat.

Grey-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus albigularis*

An adult photographed at its nest-hole at Mount Dillon, Tobago, on 21–22 March 1996, and others seen or heard in this area on 20 August 1997 (FEH, WKH, TOG *et al.*, see *Cotinga* 11: 98). The first records since the 1963 hurricane, which decimated forest areas.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

An adult male photographed at Monos island off north-west Trinidad in late April 1995 (per GG) is the third record for Trinidad; all have been in late spring.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

An adult male at the Asa Wright Nature Centre on 17 June 1997 (NLN *et al.*) is the fourth record for Trinidad, the date being quite late for this passage migrant.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A pair photographed at Caroni on 28 May 1997 (BG, RN) is the first record for Trinidad for this species, well-known in the New World for its tendency to colonise areas via artificial introduction.

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The Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee currently consists of seven members, including the present authors, Davis W. Finch, Geoffrey Gomes, Floyd E. Hayes, William L. Murphy and Victor Quesnel. Records should be sent, preferably on prescribed forms, to either of the authors at the addresses below.

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Notes on scarce species in La Paz department, Bolivia

We present noteworthy observations on threatened, restricted-range and poorly known birds in La Paz department, Bolivia, in October 1997. Further details (including site guides) can be found in our unpublished trip report³, available as part of the Neotropical Bird Club trip report series from the Club address.

Bolivian Spinetail *Cranioleuca henricae*

Recently described⁶ and known from a small number of localities in La Paz department, including Churupampa near Sorata^{2,6}. One was seen in the understorey of a small dry tree-lined valley 1 km north-east of Sorata (15°45'S 68°38'W). Not shy and gave prolonged close views 1–2 m above ground in dense semi-deciduous scrub.

Berlepsch's Canastero *Asthenes berlepschii*

Vulnerable¹ and restricted range⁷. A new site for this species: one seen in roadside scrub c.25 km by road south-east of Sorata, at c.3,400 m. Also seen in a *Eucalyptus* and maize-filled ditch

amidst degraded scrub and cultivation at Sorata, at c.2,800 m. Given tolerance of such habitats, we concur with Herzog *et al.*² that this species is probably not threatened.

Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant

Anairetes alpinus

Endangered¹ and restricted range⁷. Recorded at Choquetanga valley (16°20'S 67°57'W) on the La Paz–Coroico road in 1993 and 1996⁵. We did not find the species here despite intensively searching the few remaining *Polylepis* tracts. None of these were larger than 100 m², and no trees were higher than 1.5 m; they are apparently cut for firewood, presumably by residents of the nearby village of Pongo. Further research should endeavour to



Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes alpinus*
(Jon Fjeldså)

determine whether or not the species is locally extinct.

Giant Conebill *Oreomanes fraseri*

Near-threatened¹. A new site for this species: four birds were seen in *Polylepis* scrub in the Choquetanga valley on the La Paz–Coroico road. Tape-recordings have been deposited in the National Sound Archive, UK.

Golden-collared Mountain-tanager *Iridosornis jelskii*

Restricted range⁷. At Cotapata (16°18'S 67°46'W) on the La Paz–Coroico road, five in forest at c.2,900 m, slightly below the elevational range of 3,000–3,600 m given by Stattersfield *et al.*⁷.

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Primer registro de *Egretta caerulea* para las islas Galápagos

El 18 de Noviembre de 1998 se observó un ejemplar juvenil de la garcita *Egretta caerulea* que representa el primer registro de la especie para las islas Galápagos³. El individuo fue hallado posado en el borde de un manglar en la Bahía Elizabeth, al oeste de la isla Isabela (ver foto

p.85). *Egretta caerulea* se distribuye desde USA hasta Bolivia^{1,6,7} y Argentina, donde se la ha observado recientemente⁴. El ejemplar juvenil es de color blanco⁵, y se parece a las otras especies de garzas blancas que habitan las islas, *Casmerodius albus* y *Bubulcus ibis*³. Sin embargo éste presenta una coloración distintiva en las partes desnudas del cuerpo. El pico se mostraba gris acero en la base y negro en el ápice, y las patas una coloración olivácea. Ambas características permiten la identificación correcta de esta especie. Además el tamaño es menor a *Casmerodius albus*, con la cual sería más fácil de confundir².

Durante los años 1997–1998 se registró el fenómeno de El Niño, cuya influencia sobre el clima local puede contribuir a dar una explicación a la llegada de este individuo a las islas, a más de 900 km de su área de distribución habitual.

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First record of American Coot *Fulica americana* in the Galápagos Islands

On 27–28 February 1999, I photographed at least two American Coots *Fulica americana* at a small freshwater marsh on the island of Isabela, c.3 km north-west of Puerto Villamil, Galápagos Islands. This is the first record of this species for the Galápagos, and perhaps the southernmost record ever of the species. I first observed the birds, without binoculars, during a work-related visit to the site. I only gave them a casual glance (I am very familiar with the species, having lived in the eastern USA for 15 years) and made a mental note to check their status in Castro & Phillips². That evening I was surprised to learn that there were no records of this species in Galápagos. Thus, on 28 February I returned to the site and was able to obtain distant but identifiable photographs, as well as noting the slightly larger size and bulk compared to nearby Common Moorhens *Gallinula chloropus*, the uniform blackish slate plumage, the white undertail-coverts, the white bill with a restricted frontal shield, and the thin white trailing edge to the secondaries. The AOU¹ and del Hoyo *et al.*³. list northern Colombia as the species' southernmost wintering area, and northern Ecuador as the southern limit of the Andean subspecies' range. The site where the birds were seen is a small, artificial (created c.7 years ago) marsh, by the road to Volcan Sierra Negra (c.1 km past the turn to the tortoise-rearing centre). Other birds present included c.20 Greater Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*, a Lesser

Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* and an adult Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. The latter is of interest as Castro & Phillips² list only two previous record in Galápagos, both from the island of Santa Cruz. Unfortunately, being unaware of its status during the observation, I did not document it with photographs or field notes, although I have extensive field experience with this species. Birders visiting Isabela are advised to check this site, as it is one of the few freshwater marshes on Galápagos and has a high potential for attracting migrants and vagrants.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

BERMUDA

Recent sightings in Bermuda have included: the earliest ever spring date for **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* (two on 14 February), a **Northern Gannet** *Sula bassana* in Castle Harbour on 13 February 1999, potential nesting behaviour by **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* on an island on Great Sound (no breeding records are known from Bermuda), six overwintering **Snow Geese** *Chen caerulescens*, a **Common**

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* at Spittal Pond from 6 February 1999, a dead **American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor* at Paget on 2 December 1998, at least two **Glaucous Gulls** *Larus hyperboreus* in February 1999, a **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* in Great Sound from 2–5 January 1999, a **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* on Paget Island on 31 December 1998, and a **Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus* on Nonsuch Island on 2–5 December 1998¹⁰.

CUBA

A **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*, in winter plumage, was found by a park ranger, at 800 m, in the Sierra de Nipe, Pinares de Mayarí, Holguín, on 4 February 1984. The individual, which subsequently died, was collected and deposited at the Museo Municipal Aradio Leyte. A previous specimen of this species exists from Cuba but lacked details of date, locality or collector, and this record must therefore be regarded as the first island record¹⁰.

On 27 November 1990, E. Cables found six nests of **Cuban Emerald** *Chlorostilbon ricordii* on an aggregation of 12 *Euphorbia nivulia* near Buena Ventura, Holguín. Each nest was situated within 30 cm of the next, and all had eggs. No hostility between the nesting birds was recorded. This is remarkable and represents the first record of communal nesting in this hummingbird²¹.

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO

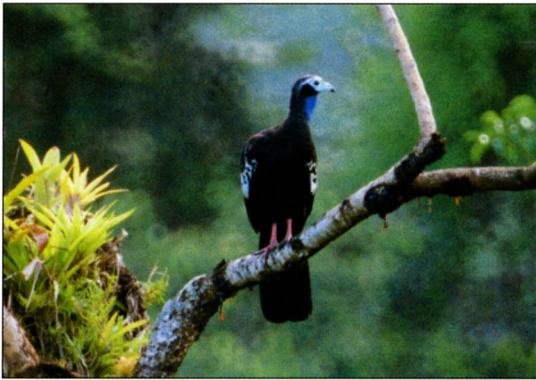
Morales-Pérez¹⁷ provides new distributional information on the birds of Oaxaca, based on a study of specimens retained at the Instituto de Historia Natural de Chiapas. His information updates that in Binford⁷. Data are presented for 30 species: **Bare-throated Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum* (range extension in Atlantic region), **Tricolored Heron** *Egretta*

tricolor (first records for Atlantic region and winter range extension of 300 km north), **Black-crowned Night-heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (breeds in the Atlantic region), **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* (first specimen records for Oaxaca), **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis* (additional specimen records), **Snail Kite** *Rosthramus sociabilis* (additional specimen and range extension north-eastward), **Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber* (200 km range extension), **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* (perhaps resident in Atlantic region), **American Coot** *Fulica americana* (records suggest resident in Atlantic region), **Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* (additional localities in Atlantic region), **Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* (second state record), **Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris* (presence in Atlantic region documented), **Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* (range extension in Atlantic region), **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* (first records for the Atlantic region), **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (first records for the Atlantic region), **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* (first state records), **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* (first records for Atlantic region), **Royal Tern** *S. maxima* (first record in Atlantic region), **Striped Cuckoo** *Tapera naevia* (additional confirmation of presence in the state), **Striped Owl** *Asio clamator* (major intra-state range extension), **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia yucataensis* (second state record), **Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* (presence in Atlantic region confirmed), **Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum sylvia* (presence in Atlantic region confirmed), **Royal Flycatcher** *Onychorhynchus coronatus* (range extension 200 km north-westward), **Couch's Kingbird** *Tyrannus couchii* (second or third state record), **Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus* (eight additional state records), **Grey-throated**

Chat *Granatellus sallaei* (presence confirmed), **Thick-billed Seed-finch** *Oryzoborus funereus* (commoner in Atlantic region than previously supposed), **Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* (presence in Atlantic region confirmed) and **Chestnut-headed Oropendola** *Psarocolius wagleri* (first specimen record for the state).

Elsewhere the same author¹⁶ provides details of a sight record of **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpya* in Chiapas, at Reserva Florestal y Fúnica Selva El Ocote, on 12 March 1991. The record extends its currently known range in Chiapas by nearly 300 km to the west.

Winker *et al.*²⁸ present a host of new data on the birds of the ornithologically little-studied state of Tabasco. Details of nine new species for the state appear: **Whip-poor-will** *Caprimulgus vociferus* (a specimen record from 1984 and an aural record in March 1996), **Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi* (two flocks in March 1996), **Long-tailed Sabrewing** *Campylopterus excellens* (an adult female collected in March 1996), **White-throated Flycatcher** *Empidonax albicularis* (specimens taken in March 1996), **Plain Wren** *Thryothorus modestus* (female collected in March 1989), **Slate-coloured Solitaire** *Myadestes unicolor* (male collected in March 1996), **Black Robin** *Turdus infuscatus* (sight record in March 1996), **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* (female collected in March 1996), and **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* (male collected in March 1996). In addition new information is presented for the following species: **Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*, **Ruddy Crake** *Laterallus ruber*, **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*, **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*, **Least Tern** *S. antillarum*, **Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor*, **Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis*, **Violet Sabrewing** *Campylopterus hemileucurus*, **Pygmy Kingfisher** *Chloroceryle*



Trinidad Piping-guan *Pipile pipile*
(Stephen Culley)



Egretta caerulea, Bahía Elizabeth, isla Isabela, Galápagos, 18
de noviembre de 1998 (Marysabel Mendez Cattacchio)

aenea, **Wedge-billed Woodcreeper** *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, **Ochre-bellied Flycatcher** *Mionectes oleagineus*, **Sepia-capped Flycatcher** *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*, **Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher** *Myiobius sulphureipygius*, **Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*, **Grey-collared Becard** *Pachyrhamphus major*, **Mangrove Vireo** *Vireo pallens*, **Blue-headed Vireo** *V. solitarius*, **Green Jay** *Cyanocorax yncas*, **Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*, **White-throated Robin** *Turdus assimilis*, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata*, **White-winged Tanager** *Piranga leucoptera*, **Orange-billed Sparrow** *Arremon aurantirostris*, **Olive Sparrow** *Arremonops rufivirgatus*, **Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*, and **Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni*.

GUATEMALA

The first record of **Speckled Mourner** *Laniocera rufescens* in Petén department has been published recently: three males at Nakúm on the eastern edge of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, on 21 March 1995²⁶.

COSTA RICA

Young & Zook²⁹ report on nesting by four species, in the La Selva-Braulio Carillo National Park complex, in the north-east of the country, for which little or no

previous information on their breeding habits was available. The first nest of **Great Potoo** *Nyctibius grandis* in Mesoamerica is described; a nest of **Torrent Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga cinerea* was found at 35 m, considerably lower than all previous records; two observations of nesting by **Tawny-chested Flycatcher** *Aphanotriccus capitalis* in cavities or crevices in trees are the first known breeding records of this near-threatened species; and the second known nest of **Sooty-faced Finch** *Lysurus crassirostris* is described.

Among other interesting records reported recently, **Black Swift** *Cypseloides niger* was confirmed to breed in the country in 1997 when three nests, one at least containing an egg, were found in an upper section of the Río Tiribí on 28–31 May. Previous authors have speculated that the species might nest in the country, but this is the first confirmation and extends its breeding range by 1,500 km to the south-east¹⁴. Sánchez *et al.*²⁵ have provided details of several new species for the country: the first **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* was photographed near Trinidad, on 11 April 1993; two **Brown-throated Parakeet** *Aratinga pertinax* were photographed along the Coto river, 22 km west of Paso Canoas, on 19 July 1996; and an adult male **Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet** *Phaeomyias murina* was collected at La Trocha, San José province, on 24 November

1996. In addition, the authors report further records and nesting by **Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives* in the country.

PANAMA

There is one previous record in Panama of **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*; thus one at Cocoli Spoil Pond on 22–23 October 1998 becomes the second country record. The second record for the Atlantic slope in Panama of **Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* involved one along the Punta Pena–Almirante road on 2 November 1998, while 50 **Black Swift** *Cypseloides niger* at Fortuna around the same time was another significant record³.

Angehr⁴ reports the rapid colonisation of the Lake Gatun area of the country by **Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* since 1994, presumably associated with the introduction of apple snails *Pomacea* sp. into the lake in the late 1980s. The colonists have arrived from at least 350 km away.

SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

Among recent records published in *Ararajuba*, Sampaio & Castro²⁴ report three new specimen records of **Light-mantled Sooty Albatross** *Phoebastria palpebrata* in Bahia: singles at Praia de Subaúma and Praia de Baixios, during 28–31 August 1994, and Praia de Conceição, Itaparica

island, on 7 July 1996. During July–September 1997, the first records for Minas Gerais of **Pygmy Nightjar** *Caprimulgus hirundaceus*, of the little-known subspecies *vielliardi*, were made in the vicinity of Aimorés²⁷. Betini *et al.*⁶ present new records of **Henna-capped Foliage-gleaner** *Hylocryptus rectirostris* from south-eastern São Paulo state: at Conchal, 50 km north of Paulínia, in August 1992, at Pontal, c.80 km south-west of Batatais, undated, and a pair at Paulínia, on 30 January 1997.

A **King Penguin** *Aptenodytes patagonicus* wrecked at Saquarema beach, Rio de Janeiro on 5 January 1995 was the first country record. The bird was photographed and taken to Rio Zoo¹⁸. A **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* observed at Itambé do Mato Dentro, Minas Gerais, on 5 April 1996 is one of only a handful of records in the state²². An **Orange-headed Tanager**

Thlypopsis sordida mist-netted at Fazenda Rio Conceição, Paraná, extends the known range of the species c. 440 km to the south-east¹. Two pairs of **Orange-eyed Thornbird** *Phacellodomus erythrophthalmus ferrugineigula* were observed and tape-recorded near Visconde de Mauá on 26 June 1998, and were found living in sympatry with the nominate race. This represents the first record of this subspecies in the state of Rio de Janeiro¹⁹. Andrade *et al.*² report on a nest of **Black-and-white Hawk-eagle** *Spizastur melanoleucus* found at Matozinhos, Minas Gerais, on 7 July 1996. They present new breeding data and one of the few state records.

ECUADOR

Jahn *et al.*¹² describe the occurrence of the first **Connecticut Warbler** *Oporornis agilis* for Ecuador: a single mist-netted and photographed at Playa de Oro, on the Río Santiago, Esmeraldas Province, on 21 November 1996. This record is not unexpected.

PARAGUAY

Fieldwork in a cerrado locality—Parque Nacional Serranía San Luis, dpto. Concepción—during late 1996 produced a number of interesting records, including the first record of **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens* for the country (an immature mist-netted on 30 October), which is also one of the southernmost records in South America. Additional interesting records are: migrant flocks of 154 and 33 **Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis* on 22 and 23 October; the second departmental record of **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*, on 19 October; encouraging numbers of calling **Bare-faced Curassows** *Crax fasciolata*; a specimen of **Rufous Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufus* unassignable to subspecies, being closest to the nominate race on biometrics but nearer *rutilus* in coloration; the first departmental records of **Blue-crowned Motmot** *Momotus momota*; significant numbers of **Bare-throated Bellbird** *Procnias nudicollis* at the western limit of its range, possibly seasonal migrants; and further specimen evidence for hybridisation between **White-bellied Basileuterus** *hypoleucus* and **Golden-crowned Warblers** *B. culicivorus*²³.

URUGUAY

Several new observations of **White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus* are as follows: on 10 January 1994 at Estancia El Pororó, dpto. Lavalleja; two, on 22 February 1996, at Ismael Cortinas, dpto. San José; on 10 April 1995 at Estancia Santa Ema, dpto. Florida; six, on 23 February 1998, at Algorta, dpto. Río Negro and on km 200 of Route 3, when it was photographed⁸. Only four published records existed for the country.

A **Straight-billed Reedhaunter** *Limnortyx rectirostris* seen at Estancia El Pororó, on 6 January 1994, is the first record for dpto. Lavalleja⁹.

Menéndez *et al.* report the first **Bicoloured Hawk** *Accipiter bicolor* for Paysandú, based on a

single bird seen near Paso Andrés Pérez, on 23 February 1998. The species had been recorded from only four other departments in the country.

The first specimen record of **Soft-plumaged Petrel** *Pterodroma mollis* was of an adult and two immatures found dead at Aguas Dulces beach, dpto. Rocha, on 5 and 8 October 1995. The adult and one immature were in sufficiently good condition to be deposited in the collections of Departamento de Vertebrados, Facultad de Ciencias and Museo Nacional de Historia Natural¹¹.

A male **Yellow-legged Thrush** *Platycichla flavipes* observed and photographed at Rincón de los Olivera, dpto. Rocha, during 22 July–20 August 1996 is the first country record. It is suggested that the bird was an overshooting migrant.

Aspiroz⁵ presents information on two species new for the country and the confirmation of a third, plus several other interesting records, all from the Valle del Lunarejo, dpto. Rivera. A pair of **Sharp-tailed Grass-tyrant** *Culicivora caudacuta* was observed and photographed, during February 1996, near La Palma. A male **Uniform Finch** *Haplospiza rustica* was observed briefly in August 1995. Several presumed female and immature **Capped Seedeater** *Sporophila bouvreuil* were seen and photographed adjacent to the first-named species. This is the first confirmed report in the country. A **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* seen by Route 30, in November 1995, was the first departmental record. **Bicoloured Hawks** *Accipiter bicolor* observed in December 1995 and February 1996 are the first for the department¹⁵. **Grey-crowned Slaty-flycatchers** *Grisotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus* were observed on three occasions in October and December 1995.

VENEZUELA

Kirwan & Sharpe¹³ provide new distributional and other

information for 34 species. Ten major range extensions are reported: **Crested Eagle** *Morphus guianensis* (Sucre), **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (Apure), **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* (Apure), **Military Macaw** *Ara militaris* (Barinas / Guárico), **Spot-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus maculicaudus* (Bolívar), **Chapman's Swift** *Chaetura chapmani* (Bolívar), **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* (Miranda), **Black-chested Tyrant** *Taeniotriccus andrei* (Monagas), **Ringed Antpiper** *Corythopis torquata* (Monagas) and **Canada Warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis* (Sucre). In addition, the first South American record of **Lawrence's Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. pinus* was made along the La Azulita road, Mérida on 19 November 1996; attention is drawn to the importance of the Mucubaji Pass, Mérida as a flyway for migrant hirundines; and new state records and lesser range extensions are presented for **Slate-coloured Hawk** *Leucopternis schistacea* (Bolívar), **Black-and-white Hawk-eagle** *Spizastur melanoleucus* (Bolívar, Monagas and Carabobo), **Ornate Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* (Distrito Federal), **Black Hawk-eagle** *S. tyrannus* (Carabobo, Aragua, Miranda and Distrito Federal), **Yellow-breasted Crane** *Poliolimnas flaviventris*



Ornate Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus ornatus* (Marcus England)

(Apure), **Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* (Bolívar), **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (Bolívar), **Saffron-headed Parrot** *Pionopsitta pyrilia* (Barinas), **Pavonine Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx pavoninus* (Aragua, Miranda and Mérida), **Tawny-bellied Screech-owl** *Otus watsonii* (Bolívar), **Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata* (Bolívar), **Black-and-white Owl** *Ciccaba nigrolineata* (Carabobo), **Black-banded Owl** *C. huhula* (Bolívar), **Andean Potoo** *Nyctibius maculosus* (Táchira), **Least Nighthawk** *Chordeiles pusillus* (Bolívar), **Greenish Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias virescens urichii* (Sucre), **Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* (Bolívar), **Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* (Aragua and Mérida), **Black-throated Green Warbler** *Dendroica virens* (Sucre), **Cerulean Warbler** *D. cerulea* (presence beyond February confirmed) and **Paria Whitestart** *Myioborus pariae* (Sucre).

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

CUBA

BM reports some interesting observations in the east of the island. A **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* was at Guardalavaca on 22 December 1998; single **Plain Pigeons** *Columba inornata* were in the same area on 28 December 1998 and 2 January 1999; two **Giant Kingbirds** *Tyrannus cubensis* were at Pinares de Mayarí on 23 December 1998; and 30 of the increasingly localised **Cuban Grassquit** *Tiaris canora* were at El Saltón on 29–30 December 1998 with four at Jiguani on 29 December 1998.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Among recent notable records, there was a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* at Cabo Rojo, on 22 March 1999 (seventh record) (LA), c.100 **Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* at Santo Domingo, on 20

March 1999 (largest ever flock) (GMK *et al.*), and a total of three **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* above Puerto Escondido, on 23–24 March 1999 (very few records) (CR, RS).

BRAZIL

Luis Fábio Silveira (LFS) has recently forwarded a list of further additional records to the list of birds recorded in Serra da Canastra, Minas Gerais (initials of other observers in parenthesis): **Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis* (photographed by LFS, DB in March 1999), **Ocellated Crane** *Micropygia schomburgkii* (tape-recorded by DB in February 1999), **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* (sight record by LFS in March 1999), **Band-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus longirostris* (tape-recorded and photographed by PD, DB in February 1999), **Greenish Schiffornis** *Schiffornis virescens* (tape-recorded by LFS, DB in March 1999), **Eastern Slaty Thrush** *Turdus subalaris* (tape-recorded by JM in December 1998), **Flavescent Warbler** *Basileuterus flaveolus* (tape-recorded by JM in December 1998) and **Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea melanonota* (sight record by LFS, DB in March 1999).

CHILE

MN reports the occurrence of at least 15, possibly many more, **Westland Petrel** *Procellaria westlandica* in the Canal Moraleda, just south of the Golfo de Corcovado, on 27 December 1998.

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Neotropical Notebook: compiled by Juan Mazar Barnett and Guy M. Kirwan.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Interesting gull records from north-east Tamaulipas, Mexico

On 25 November 1998 on a Gulf of Mexico beach in extreme north-east Tamaulipas, we observed and photographed an adult Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* (Fig. 1, see p.68), a first-winter Thayer's Gull *L. thayeri* (Fig. 2) and several Lesser Black-backed Gulls *L. fuscus* in various plumages. Seen, but not photographed, were Franklin's *L. pipixcan* and California Gulls *L. californicus*. The following day we photographed a gull that we have not, as yet, been able to identify. In some respects it is similar to an immature Great Black-backed Gull *L. marinus*, which has not yet been recorded in Mexico (although it is long overdue)¹. However, it may be a hybrid. Constructive comments and opinions on our photographs (Figs. 3–4 on p.68) would be greatly appreciated by the authors. On 21 March 1999, at the same locality, we photographed a first-winter Glaucous Gull *L. hyperboreus*, which we believe is the first Mexican record away from Baja California and the Gulf of California (Fig. 5).

All of these were within a huge concentration of gulls c. 3 km south of a public bathing beach,

called Playa Bagdad, at a place where local fishing boats pull up on the beach to unload and clean their catch. Playa Bagdad is 38 km east of the centre of Matamoros at the eastern terminus of Mexico Highway 2. Fishing activity usually peaks in mid- to late afternoon, therefore the concentration of gulls is usually greatest at that time. When the fishermen are inactive, as during days with high winds, the gulls disperse from the area. We speculate that many regularly visit the Brownsville, Texas, USA, city landfill, which is less than 24 km to the north, especially on days when the fishing boats are inactive. The interesting gulls of Playa Bagdad deserve further study. We hope this note encourages other observers to visit the area.

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First summer record of Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* in Belize

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* is a widespread migrant throughout Central America¹. Some extreme dates of occurrence during spring migration are 18 April for Honduras³ and 10 April for Guatemala². In Belize the latest spring record is a female mist-netted on 22 April 1999 in Lamanai Archaeological Reserve (L. Jones pers. comm.). On 6 July 1999, I mist-netted a female of this species in the southern part

of the same reserve. Several measurements and photographs were taken before the bird was released. A female, probably the same individual, was seen in the same area the next day. No similar species occur in this area. The photos are on file at Lamanai Field Research Center.

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Two new species for Nicaragua

On the basis of information in Stiles & Skutch², I report two new species for Nicaragua: Olive-backed Quail-dove *Geotrygon veraguensis* and Yellow-margined Flycatcher *Tolmomyias assimilis*. Both are recorded from the Caribbean lowlands of north-east Costa Rica south to South America, but neither has apparently been reported north of the río San Juan which separates south-east Nicaragua from Costa Rica. Both species were observed at Refugio Bartola, adjacent to the Gran Reserva Río Indio-Maiz, at the confluence of the río Bartola and río San Juan, Río San Juan province, south-east Nicaragua.

An Olive-backed Quail-dove was watched through 8x10 binoculars for c.30 minutes, on 6 May 1999, at a distance of 3–8 m while it foraged on the forest floor

in front of me. The startlingly conspicuous silvery-white facial stripe was noted, and the forehead was creamy white, tinged buffy, rather than pure white¹.

A single Yellow-margined Flycatcher was observed, on 3 May 1999, at 5–8 m in open secondary scrubland for several minutes while foraging 3–4 m above ground and calling noisily. The vocalisations are well described in Stiles & Skutch². At this range the grey cap and white eye-ring were prominent, and the underparts were seen to be pale grey above and pale yellow below. The latter two field marks, along with the quite different vocalisations, distinguished this species from its relative *T. sulphureus*.

The observation site is near-pristine lowland Caribbean rain forest, at 30 m elevation (10°97'N 84°16'W); the climate is wet tropical, with c.4 m of annual precipitation, and a drier season in February–April during which c.15% of the annual rainfall is recorded. The density and diversity of the vertebrate fauna at this site is impressive, even by Neotropical standards. The University of California's Field Biology Program has visited the site on two occasions, 1994 and 1999. The (combined) bird list is now 255 species; this total can be taken as that of an area of little more than 1 km². Comparisons between years permit an estimate for the site of 298 bird species. The list includes many species typically rare or absent at disturbed sites, e.g. the larger cracids (four species) and *Ara* macaws (two species). Many groups (tinamous, hawks, tanagers, flycatchers) are well represented, and the 19 species of antbird include Wing-banded Antbird *Myrmornis torquata* (not yet recorded in Costa Rica). The wide range of habitats, from riverine edge and gaps to primary forest, contributes to the overall bird diversity. Refugio Bartola is an ideal locale for Neotropical birding—superb habitats, isolated

but not difficult to reach—and the local facilities are excellent and reasonable. For accommodation at Refugio Bartola, contact its director, Daniel Querol, at gme@tmx.com.ni; for further information on the area's avifauna or travel arrangements, contact myself.

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Recent observations of threatened birds in eastern Cuba

During a field trip in eastern Cuba (provinces of Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Holguín), we made a number of interesting observations.

On 4 February 1999, we observed a Gundlach's Hawk *Accipiter gundlachi* over the forest canopy near an isolated village called La Platica (c.800 m), on the north side of the Sierra Maestra, Granma province. The species is known from the Pico Turquino region of the Sierra Maestra, although sightings are scarce¹.

On 8 February 1999, we found a Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli* on a short visit to Pico Cuba, at 1,825 m. The bird was close to the summit on the south side of the mountain, in alpine vegetation (canopy height 1.5 m). This record is the first from eastern Cuba and the third island record (singles were captured in the Jardín Botánico, Havana, in October 1965 and on 26 October 1968²). Bicknell's Thrush is considered by Garrido & Garcia Montaña² to be a rare vagrant

during autumn migration in Cuba. We consider that this observation may signify the presence of a small wintering population in Cuba.

On 10 February 1999, we observed a single Giant Kingbird *Tyrannus cubensis* in the mountains south-east of Moa, Holguín province. The site (c.400 m) is close to a small village known as La Melba (20°27'N 74°49'W), c.25 km south of the main road to Moa. The habitat was low altitudinal cloud forest on serpentine soils. There are only two records from this area, both undated ('mountains south of Moa' and Ojito de Agua¹). Both are apparently from the early 1920s (O. H. Garrido pers. comm.). Few records (the most recent one in June 1986) are available from other parts of this province.

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Scaled Fruiteater *Ampelioides tschudii* in Venezuela

On 12 July 1999, together with Nancy Lyman and Gary Sowell, I observed a pair of Scaled Fruiteater *Ampelioides tschudii* in Parque Nacional Yacambú, Lara state, Venezuela. The observation was made at 1,680 m in good light with the birds perched c.7 m up in a tree close to the road and, at one point, on an open limb. They were obviously large fruiteaters, being noticeably bigger than either Handsome *Pipreola formosa* or Golden-breasted Fruiteaters *P. aureopectus*. The following description was taken: bill noticeably heavy; cap black in male and bronzy olive in female; white loreal area and prominent malar; throat and collar lightly scaled olive, below which there was a narrow black collar reaching from the hindneck to the sides of the lower neck but not meeting on the underparts; underparts pale yellow, heavily scaled olive; back and upwing-coverts black, heavily scaled darker bronzy olive, especially on the coverts; unscaled bronzy-olive patch in the wing; flight feathers blackish with small bronzy-olive tips; tail bronzy olive, barred yellow and black with white tips. This observation extends the species' range north-eastward by c.350 km.

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Additional breeding data for Tanager-finch *Oreothraupis arremonops*

Tanager-finch *Oreothraupis arremonops* is considered Vulnerable¹ and is restricted to the Chocó Endemic Bird Area of north-west Ecuador and south-west Colombia¹. It is patchily distributed in thick undergrowth of montane evergreen forest at 1,200–2,600 m⁴. The few breeding data comprise a male in breeding condition in June, a juvenile following adults the same month², and a nest with a single egg in

November–December². In this context, we detail an observation at Bellavista Lodge, Tandayapa, Pichincha province, Ecuador, where the species has been seen regularly in recent years (see e.g. Lowen unpubl. trip report, available from the Neotropical Bird Club address as part of the NBC trip report series) and where the only known nest was discovered in 1996².

On 26 December 1997, we (together with O. Rodriguez and D. Becker) observed two adults feeding a juvenile 2–3 m up in tangled roadside forest growth. The juvenile was flicking its wings and begging for food. Its plumage was dowdier than that of the adults (but otherwise identical) and thus *contra* Hilty & Brown³, who describe juveniles as 'duller [than adults], mainly brownish with ferruginous back, black wings and tail; and faint head pattern'. The adults were giving a sharp bush-tanager-like *tset* call, as described by Greeney *et al.*² and unlike the whistled, frog-like *wert* known from Colombia³. Taken with the nest record from the same locality, our observation suggests that the breeding season of *Oreothraupis arremonops*, at least in Pichincha province, Ecuador, includes November–December; a surprise given that the only other evidence (from Colombia) would point toward June as the nesting season. It is conceivable that the species is double-brooded. Further fieldwork could obviously help clarify the situation.

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New records and updates for Mindo, Ecuador

The following species have recently been observed by the authors near Mindo, Ecuador, at 00°02'S 78°48'W, at elevations between 1,200 and 1,600 m. Although this area has been subject to considerable ornithological activity, these new records indicate that much is still to be learned about the avifauna of the locality. New locality records were determined by reference to Kirwan & Marlow², while general comments concerning altitude were drawn from standard reference works^{4–6}.

New records

Single Least Grebes

Tachybaptus dominicus were observed in Mindo, at c.1,350 m, on 3 December 1998 and 6 January 1999, feeding in small ephemeral ponds. The species is



1



2



3



4



5

Figure 1. Adult Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 25 November 1998 (Carol E. Edwards)

Figure 2. First-winter Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 25 November 1998 (Carol E. Edwards)

Figure 3. Unidentified gull *Larus* sp., presumed hybrid, with Herring *L. argentatus* and Laughing Gulls *L. atricilla*, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 26 November 1998 (Carol E. Edwards)

Figure 4. Unidentified gull *Larus* sp., presumed hybrid, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 26 November 1998 (Carol E. Edwards)

Figure 5. First-winter Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 21 March 1999 (Carol E. Edwards)

normally found at lower elevations. A **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* was observed at an artificial pond in Mindo on 14 and 22 January 1999, while a single **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* flew over Mindo on 13 January 1999. An **Eared Dove** *Zenaida auriculata* was observed on 15 December 1998; although common at higher elevations, it

has not previously been recorded in this area. **Black-billed Cuckoos** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* were observed during the last week of March and first week of April 1999. One sub-adult, in heavy moult, was mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras on 27 March 1999, at c.1250 m. This Nearctic migrant had not been recorded in Mindo

before. A **White-tipped Sicklebill** *Eutoxeres aquila* was also mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras on 24 August 1999. This species is more common at lower elevations. **White-ringed Flycatchers** *Conopias albouittata* were observed in Mindo town during late March and early April 1999, at c.1,250 m. This species is usually found

below 1,000 m and has not previously been reported at Mindo. A **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* was observed on 15 December 1998 and one found dead, on 19 December 1998, is preserved in the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales. This Nearctic migrant has not previously been recorded on the western slope in Ecuador. A **Great Thrush** *Turdus fuscater* was observed along the entrance road to Mindo on 15 December 1998, and, although common at higher elevations, this was the first area record. A female **Lesser Seed-finch** *Oryzoborus angolensis*, in heavy moult, was mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras on 25 August 1999, at c.1,250 m. Although widely distributed, this species had not been recorded at Mindo previously. A male **Yellow-tailed Oriole** *Icterus mesomelas* was observed, on 4 April 1999, near the main entrance road to the village, at c.1,300 m, singing in an area of second-growth. This species is more common at lower elevations, below 500 m.

Updates

There was a notable influx of **Grey-capped Cuckoos** *Coccyzus lansbergi* into the area in February 1999; one was still present on 8 April, and an adult was mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras, on 15 February 1999. Although recorded in Mindo previously, its occurrence is very sporadic and the species has been unrecorded there for several years. A pair of **Grey-breasted Flycatcher** *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* was observed and one photographed, above Mindo in primary forest, at c.1,450 m, on 16 July 1999. Although previously recorded in the area, records of this threatened species are noteworthy¹. First reported by Perez & Lyons de Perez³, a female **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock** *Rupicola peruviana* was again nesting under the same bridge near Mindo on 28 July 1999¹. This is presumed to be the same bird as was present in September–November 1997.

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More road-killed owls and a new record for Santa Catarina, Brazil

In a previous paper¹, we drew attention to the possibility that road-deaths are an important cause of mortality among large owl species. On 29 June 1999, we found another road-killed *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana* at km 129 of the BR-470, near Lontras, Santa Catarina (sex unknown; wing—301 mm, tail—191 mm; weight—590 g). This section of highway passes through a mosaic of disturbed and human-maintained habitats, including

Pinus plantations, ranches, small forest remnants and second growth. This new finding lends support to our suspicion that road deaths may be a common cause of mortality for this species in southern Brazil. It also appears to indicate that the species is not as reliant on undisturbed or heavily forested areas in Santa Catarina as the few previous records suggest. Additionally, on 4 July, we collected a Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata* at km 12 of highway SC-474, near the rio Putanga, municipality of Massaranduba (female; wing—248.0 mm, tail—149.0 mm; weight—252 g; both specimens are retained at the PUCRS collection, Porto Alegre, RS). This appears to be the first record of this species in Santa Catarina².

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New avifaunal records from the Mostardas peninsula, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Situated on the coastal plain of Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brazil, the long strip of land separating the Laguna dos Patos from the Atlantic Ocean, known as the Mostardas peninsula by Belton¹, is familiar to many birdwatchers because of the Lagoa do Peixe, one of the most important staging and wintering areas for migratory shorebirds in South America. Belton^{1,2} noted the apparent absence in the peninsula of many widespread

passerine species, and also that several non-passerines common in neighbouring areas of Rio Grande do Sul were not recorded there—in some cases unaccountably—by him and other workers^{3,4}. During avifaunal inventories in September 1998 at several localities in the southern half of the peninsula, we recorded 12 species not previously reported in the region. Localities, all in the municipality of São José do Norte, were (from north to south): southern part of Capão da Areia marsh (31°33'S 51°17'W); sandy fields and coastal dunes just east of Lagoa Paurá (31°35'S 51°17'W); environs of Bojuru lighthouse (31°43'S 51°28'W); Barra do Estreito (31°50'S 51°43'W), and the northern part of Estreito marsh (31°51'S 51°46'W). Additionally, GNM made observations farther north within and in the vicinity of the Lagoa do Peixe National Park, municipalities of Mostardas and Tavares (specific localities and coordinates are mentioned in the species accounts).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Many were seen at several locations along the RST-101 road south of the settlement of Bojuru; a few were at Barra do Estreito and near the Estreito marsh on 26 September. Moreover, GNM saw six at Lagoa Capororoca (31°16'S 51°03'W), Tavares, on 18 June 1999. Possibly a recent immigrant, it now appears widespread and well established in the peninsula.

Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus*

An adult male hunting over sandy, partially damp coastal fields dominated by tussocks of *Androtrichum trigynum* (Cyperaceae) at Lagoa Paurá on 25 September.

Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni*

Records of single or paired birds (including a dark morph) at Capão da Areia marsh on 22 and 25 September; Bojuru lighthouse on 24 September, and Estreito

marsh on 26 September, and one seen from the RST-101, in a roadside marsh near the settlement of Estreito, also on 26 September. Additionally, GNM recorded it at two locations within the Lagoa do Peixe National Park: three in an extensive marsh (31°06'S 50°51'W) dominated by *Scirpus giganteus* (Cyperaceae) just north of the road to the beach resort of Mostardas, on 17 June 1999, and one at Lagoa Pai João (31°03'S 50°48'W), in the same municipality, on 18 June 1999.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

One flew between two *Pinus* plantations 2 km north of Bojuru lighthouse, on 24 September.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

At least seven foraging on an extensive sand flat just behind primary dunes near Capão da Areia marsh, on 25 September. Seen at close range and identified by a combination of characters, especially the pale brown plumage and dark-centred rump.

Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail *Spartonoica maluroides* Near-threatened

Eleven within an area of a few ha, in the same location as the Cinereous Harrier, on 25 September. Most were isolated and singing actively from *A. trigynum* tussocks in early and mid-morning (four tape-recorded; all recordings will be archived at the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology). Additionally, GNM recorded one in *S. giganteus* marsh at Lagoa do Peixe National Park, on 17 June 1999.

Sulphur-bearded Spinetail *Craniolaeca sulphurifera*

One seen and tape-recorded in a small *S. giganteus* marsh near Bojuru lighthouse, on 24 September. At least two heard in an extensive reedbed of *Scirpus californicus* at Estreito marsh, on 26 September. Furthermore, GNM heard 1–2 calling in a small marsh (31°10'S 50°57'W) c.9 km

south of Mostardas town, on 16 June 1999. Further north, he recorded 12 birds along c.1 km of the edge of *S. giganteus* marsh at Lagoa do Peixe National Park, on 17 June 1999.

Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris*

This summer resident was uncommon to fairly common in a narrow strip of forest parallel to the coast, on old dunes between Capão da Areia marsh and Lagoa Paurá, on 22–23 September. Some were heard in a small patch of swampy forest near Bojuru lighthouse on 24 September, and 1–2 were at Barra do Estreito, on 26 September.

Crested Doradito

Pseudocolopteryx sclateri

One singing from tall reeds at Estreito marsh, on 26 September.

Warbling Doradito

Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris

On 16 June 1999, GNM observed one in a reedbed just east of Lagoa Capororoca.

Euler's Flycatcher

Lathrotriccus euleri

Relatively common in the forest between Capão da Areia marsh and Lagoa Paurá, where we found several on 22–23 September. On 24 September, a few were heard in the swampy forest near Bojuru lighthouse.

Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri*

Appears widespread in coastal sandy fields and dunes with sparse vegetation in the southern half of the peninsula. We observed and tape-recorded the species at Lagoa Paurá; along the coast just south of Bojuru; at Bojuru lighthouse and at Estreito. Also found by GNM near Lagoa Capororoca, on 18 June 1999.

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The first record of Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis* for the Atlantic Forest

Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis* occurs in the undergrowth of woodland, gallery woodland, savannas with scattered bushes and in chaco scrub, of Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina⁵. Its range in east Paraguay and south-east Brazil includes cerrado vegetation (grassland with dry forest patches)^{2,7}, even in areas with some taller forest, but there are no records in the Atlantic Forest zones^{2,7}. In north-east Argentina, the eastern limit of its range reaches the campos (with forest patches) of southern Misiones, (in

Capital, Candelaria and Apóstoles Departments¹). On 30 July 1998, the authors discovered *S. frontalis* at Iguazú National Park, Argentina (25°36'S 54°22'W). One was observed and tape-recorded on the Timbó trail, in the gently sloping part of a large forest tract. On 16 September 1998 the species' song was heard again nearby. On 7 February 1999, this species was again observed and heard in young second-growth patches in Parque Rolón, Puerto Iguazú, 18 km from Iguazú National Park (J. Protomastro pers. obs.). J. C. Chebez (pers. comm.) also heard *S. frontalis* in Parque Rolón, on the cliffs of the Iguazú River. The Iguazú area lies in the Atlantic Forest region³, and the second-growth forest here has *Nectandra megapotamica*, *Balfourodendron riedelianum*, *Holocalyx balansae*, *Acacia tucumanensis* and *Aspidosperma polyneuron* as the commonest tree species, and dense stands of *Piper gaudichaudianum* with a mixture of *Chusquea ramosissima*, shrubs and small trees in the undergrowth. *Synallaxis frontalis* is obviously a rare species in the Iguazú region, as it was recorded only twice during an eight-month fieldwork period. These observations constitute the first records of *Synallaxis frontalis* in the Atlantic Forest biome and the Iguazú National Park area⁶, and represent a range extension of c.200 km eastward within Argentina^{1,4}.

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Introduced feral mink *Mustela vison* in Patagonia: a plausible cause of population declines in the Austral Rail *Rallus antarcticus*?

Austral Rail *Rallus antarcticus*, recently rediscovered⁴ in Patagonia, has suffered a significant decline in range during the last century². Even if new findings indicate that *Rallus antarcticus* is more common than previously thought, it has apparently disappeared from the northern half of its former range

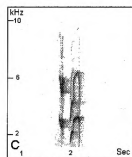
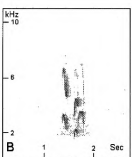
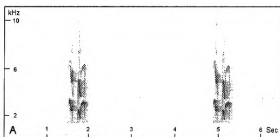


Figure 1. Songs of Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis* recorded in Parque Nacional Iguazú, Argentina.

in Argentina and Chile. During a survey in Chubut Province (see below) informants mentioned the introduced mink *Mustela vison* as a main cause of the decline. In view of the enigmas surrounding the species' decline, I present here evidence suggesting that predation by this introduced semi-aquatic mustelid may indeed have played a role in this process.

I searched for Austral Rail at five localities in a 90 km transect covering different environments of western Chubut Province (Argentina). Surveys were undertaken on 13–19 February 1998, using playbacks of Austral Rail vocalisations. Areas surveyed within *Nothofagus* forest included three marshes and bogs at Los Alerces National Park (Lake Rivadavia, rio Rivadavia and Lake Futalaufquen). I also explored a large lake and associated marsh (Laguna La Coqueta), located at the ecotone between forest and steppe. Finally, I surveyed the extensive permanent marsh at the headwaters of Arroyo Pescado, in typical Patagonian steppe. The habitats surveyed were mostly rushbeds of *Schenoplectus californicus*, identified as a key habitat for the species⁴. No *Rallus antarcticus* were detected in any of the five localities, all in a relatively well-preserved state (I saw several rare birds and mammals during my search).

During the survey I asked local people or landowners about *Rallus antarcticus*, using a field guide depiction⁵. At La Coqueta, an informant of Chilean birth, recognised the rail as the Pídén, mentioning its past existence in the area. The former owner of Arroyo Pescado, Owen Ap Iwan, also remembered having seen *Rallus antarcticus* in the marshes there. He blamed the introduced mink *Mustela vison* for the disappearance of the species and for a decline in the abundance of waterfowl in general. Park rangers in Los Alerces considered this viewpoint plausible, while the rural population in Argentina's Lake District commonly regard the mink as a harmful predator³.

Mink farms were established in north-west Chubut in the early 1940s (at Cholila, 42°31'S 71°27'W), and by 1970 there was an increasing feral population in this area⁶. Mink populations now occur in Los Alerces National Park and at all other localities I surveyed. Mink is a well-known predator of aquatic vertebrates, including waterfowl^{3,6}, but the species has not been studied in Argentina (G. Iglesias pers. comm.). The hypothesis that predation by this introduced mammal threatens the survival of *Rallus antarcticus* deserves consideration. Mink has spread north to Río Negro and Neuquén^{1,3} but may have not yet reached southern Santa Cruz province, the present stronghold of Austral Rail.

Acknowledgements

G. Pugnali provided copies of Austral Rail vocalisations. My research was greatly facilitated by authorities and park rangers at Los Alerces, particularly P. Prieto and F. Nahuelpan. The Ap Iwan family kindly arranged my visit to Arroyo Pescado.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

WEST INDIES

Bermuda

Additional records (see *Cotinga* 11: 97) from late 1998 included the following. A moribund **Leach's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* was discovered at Hamilton Harbour on 19 October; a **Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* was at Talbot estate on 24 October; a **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnithlypis swainsonii* was at Paget Sound on 10–11 November; and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* was at Outer Lea Dairy in October¹².

Bahamas

A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* at Marsh Harbour dump, on 8 September 1998, was the first record for Abaco and perhaps only the fourth in the Bahamas¹².

British Virgin Islands

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*, the first record for this island group, was on Guama Island on 28 October¹².

Barbados

McNair *et al.*¹⁰ report on the results of a mist-net migration

monitoring station at Harrison's Point, St. Lucy, Barbados, from late September to early November 1997. Observations of 14 taxa of Nearctic landbird migrants are presented, most of which are considered to be probably scarce transients. The following eight species are documented or reported for the first time in Barbados (five records, three sight observations): **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, **Grey-cheeked Catharus** *minimus* and **Swainson's Thrushes** *C. ustulatus*, **Golden-winged Vermivora** *chrysoptera*, **Kentucky Oporornis** *formosus* and **Connecticut Warblers** *O. agilis*, **Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* and **Blue Grosbeak** *Guiraca caerulea*.

Lesser Antilles

Feldmann *et al.*⁶ make available, in English, significant new records from the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, that update our knowledge as summarised in the most recent edition of the AOU checklist. Data for 62 species are presented. Among the most significant are the following: the first record of **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* in the Lesser Antilles; a possible record of **American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (first in the Lesser Antilles); the first breeding records in the Lesser Antilles of **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*; the second Lesser Antilles record of **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*; a specimen record of **Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*; the first specific records from the Lesser Antilles of **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*, **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*, **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* and **Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*; the second Lesser Antilles records of **Franklin's Gull** *Larus tripixcan* and **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*; the first record of **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* in the Lesser

Antilles; an unverified report (the first West Indies record) of **White-winged Swallow** *Tachycineta albiventer*; the first Lesser Antilles record of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*; and the first (unverified) records of **Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus* in the Lesser Antilles.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Mexico

A detailed paper⁷ on the birds of El Triunfo, Chiapas, mentions the occurrence of four species—**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*, **Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus*, **Crescent-chested Warbler** *V. superciliosa* and **Melodious Blackbird** *Dives dives*—not previously mapped for the Sierra Madre de Chiapas. The first two species are vagrants to the area, but the latter two are residents.

Costa Rica

An adult and downy young **Paint-billed Crane** *Neocrex erythrops* observed near Golfito, on 5 June 1998, is not only the second confirmed country record and first for the entire Pacific slope of Central America, but also the first observation of the young of this species¹⁸.

Panama

The second record of **Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis* in the country involved two birds below El Choro go on 3 April 1999; the first record was in 1988. A **Scaled Antpitta** *Grallaria guatemalensis* at Cerro Azul, on 25 April 1999, was the first locality record and fills a gap in its known range in the country².

Recent published breeding biology from the country includes the first description of the nest and eggs of **Spotted Wood-quail** *Odontophorus guttatus*¹³ and additional data for **Rufescent Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum*⁴.

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia

Herzog *et al.*⁸ present the results of surveys in the Cordillera Cocapata, dpto. Cochabamba, in 1997–1998. The areas surveyed represent a transition zone between humid and dry intermontane Andean habitats, and consequently provided a number of novel distributional and altitudinal records. The most significant of these are: a number of records of the little known **Stripe-faced Wood-quail** *Odontophorus balliviani*, the first and second departmental records of **Rufous Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufus*, the first record of **Blue-capped Puffleg** *Eriocnemis glaucopoides* in La Paz department, as well as the northernmost records for the species at 3,400 m in Cochabamba (an upslope altitudinal extension of 500 m), significant numbers of the near-threatened **Hooded Mountain-toucan** *Andigena cucullata*, further records of an undescribed subspecies of **Sooty-fronted Spinetail** *Synallaxis frontalis*, the first departmental records of **Bolivian Spinetail** *Cranioleuca henricae* (and the lowest altitudinal record, at 1,800 m), the first record of **Suiriri Flycatcher** *Suiriri suiriri* in La Paz department, further records of a previously undescribed species of *Cnemotriccus* flycatcher, significant numbers of the near-threatened **Rufous-bellied Bush-tyrant** *Myiotheres fusciorufus*, the first departmental records of **White-tailed Shrike-tyrant** *Agriornis andicola* and **Bluish Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa caeruleascens*, and several sightings of an unidentified all-black *Diglossa* flowerpiercer, at 2,700–3,100 m, which is considered to be an undescribed taxon. In addition, a host of new altitudinal and habitat information is presented, involving upslope range extensions for 26 species.

Brazil

A number of new records of **Sickle-winged Nightjar**

Eleothreptus anomalus in south-east Brazil are presented by Kirwan *et al.*⁹: four records at separate localities and involving ten individuals in São Paulo state, and four sight records at Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais. In addition, details of previously unpublished specimen records, both from Santa Catarina, are also presented. The authors suggest that fieldworkers in these regions should actively search this for this, perhaps overlooked, endangered species. Details are provided, by dos Anjos & Schuchmann³, of a nest, subsequently abandoned, of **Chestnut-bellied Euphonia** *Euphonia pectoralis*, near Morretes, Paraná, on 6 March 1997. Previous observations of nesting behaviour in this species were for August and January. Other recently described reproductive behaviour from this country includes a description of the nest, eggs and chicks of **Drab Water-tyrant** *Ochthornis littoralis*, based on observations on the rio Jamari, Rondônia, in October 1988¹, and the first nest of **Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* to be discovered in Brazil, at Viçosa, Minas Gerais, in November 1994¹⁴. The observations confirm that this species nests in trees. Vasconcelos¹⁷ reports the northernmost record of **Black-capped Piprites** *Piprites pileatus* and a range extension for **Grey-backed Tachuri** *Polystictus supercilii*, both records being made at Pico do Papagaio, Minas Gerais, on 9 June 1999.

Colombia

Stiles *et al.*¹⁵ provide details of significant new bird records from the middle Magdalena Valley. Many of these involve examples of open-country species expanding their range southward in response to increased deforestation. The authors also note significant new information for several forest species, most notably: the second and third records of **Black-chested Hawk** *Leucopternis princeps* on the west

slope on the Eastern Andes; the first record of **Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the first Magdalena Valley records of **Barred Forest-falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis*; the first records of **Marbled Wood-quail** *Odontophorus gujanensis* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the second record of **Crested Owl** *Lophotrix cristata* from the Magdalena valley; the first records of **Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the second record of **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus* in the Magdalena Valley; the first record of **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis* in the Magdalena Valley; the first record of **Violet-headed Hummingbird** *Klais guimeti* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes and the Magdalena Valley; the first records east of the Western Andes of **Green Thorntail** *Popelaira conversii*; the first record of **Tody Motmot** *Hylomanes momotula* in the Magdalena Valley; the discovery of a significant population of **White-mantled Barbet** *Capito hypoleucos* in the Serranía de la Quinchas; only the second specimen of **Ruddy Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus rubiginosus sasaimae*; the second and third records of **Slaty Antwren** *Myrmotherula schisticolor* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the first record of **Chestnut-crowned Gnatcatcher** *Conopophaga castaneiceps* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes north of the head of the Magdalena Valley; the first records of **Antioquia Bristle-tyrant** *Phylloscartes lanyoni* east of the rio Magdalena; the first records of **Yellow-margined Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias assimilis* in the Magdalena Valley; the potential importance of the Serranía de las Quinchas for **Turquoise Dacnis-tanager** *Pseudodacnis hartlaubi* is highlighted; the first records of **Dusky-faced Tanager** *Mitrospingus cassinii* in the

Magdalena Valley; and the first record west of the Andes of **Lined Seedeater** *Sporophila lineola*.

Strewe & Kreft¹⁶ report the first records of **Masked Mountain-tanager** *Buthraupis wetmorei* and **Black-backed Bush-tanager** *Urothraupis stolzmanni* for Nariño department; both species were recorded on Volcán Galeras in 1997, the former only on 8 November, but the latter species appears to be fairly common there.

Venezuela

Nebot¹¹ provides information on the establishment of a small population of **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* in the eastern part of Caracas city since 1996. This appears to be the first such population to be reported in mainland South America, although the species has been widely introduced in many other parts of the world.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Falkland Islands

Interesting reports from the archipelago include: a **Tawny-throated Dotterel** *Oreopholus ruficollis*, on Pebble Island, and a **Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera*, at Government House (*Falklands Conservation Newsletter* 36) and a **Trudeau's Tern** *Sterna trudeaui* (first record), on Bleaker Island, in September 1998; and a possible **Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi*, in Stanley Harbour, in early February 1999 (*Falklands Conservation Newsletter* 38). In early April 1999, there was a **Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* on Long Island (*Falklands Conservation Newsletter* 40).

South Shetland Islands

Favero & Silva⁵ report the observation, documented photographically, of a **Least Seedsnipe** *Thinocorus rumicivorus* on Nelson Island, on 1 December 1996, the first record for Antarctica.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Bolivia

Bennett Hennessey reports tape-recording and briefly seeing a **Scaled Fruiteater** *Ampelioides tschudii* in the canopy at Serrania Cuchillo, Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve, dpto. Beni (15°15'S 67°08'W), on 19 October 1998, at 900 m. The species was tape-recorded there again on 21 October 1998. According to the Armonía Bolivian bird database, this is the second record of the species in the country, the first being by Ted Parker at Serranía Bellavista (38 km north of Caranavi), dpto. La Paz (1,675 m), in June 1979.

Brazil

The third record of **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* was a group of at least 200 migrating south over the Transpantaneira Highway, south of Poconé, on 17 October 1997 (HB). In the same area, in March 1999, a **Grey Pileated Finch** *Coryphospingus pileatus* was observed at km 25 on the Transpantaneira Highway, between Poconé and Porto Jofre (PB), the first record for the Pantanal region.

Venezuela

Two new species for Margarita Island are as follows. A female and three juvenile **Saffron Finches** *Sicalis flaveola* were at Laguna Suarez on 23 July 1999, with a male and a juvenile there next day and a single male on 25 July (CF). Older news, from November 1996, concerns a male and two female **Dickcissels** *Spiza americana* trapped locally by the owner of a pet shop, and bought by RR, who released them.

Acknowledgements

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Neotropical Notebook:
compiled by **Juan Mazar Barnett** and **Guy M. Kirwan**.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* and Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* new to Cuba


Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* has previously been reported in several West Indian islands: Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, St. Barthelemy and Guadeloupe³. Here, we report the first records

for Cuba. In the afternoon of 7 April 1999, SMW saw a Franklin's Gull moulting into second alternate plumage on the rocky shore with several Laughing Gulls *Larus atricilla* at Playa El Chivo, near the entrance to the Havana Tunnel, in eastern Havana City. It was watched, at 200–260 m, with binoculars for c.90 minutes and was seen again there for approximately the same period next day. A week later, on 14 April, another was observed at Playa Larga, a tourist resort on the Bay of Pigs (Matanzas Province), 162 km south-east of Havana city. At 10h30, AK, PB and 15 other birdwatchers located a Franklin's Gull among a tight flock of 10 Laughing Gulls flying south-west, and in direct comparison could observe the distinctly smaller body and wings than Laughing Gull. It was apparently an adult in definitive alternate plumage, with a complete black hood and

white on its wingtips, and was identified according to the following features: wings more rounded than Laughing Gull, which are longer and more pointed; general coloration paler, not as dark-mantled as Laughing Gull. Its dorsal surface was seen several times as it flew quite high over the water, and the wing-tip pattern was very distinct, appearing paler than Laughing Gull due to the obvious black and white bands, the broad outer edge was white with a black subterminal band, bordered on the inner side by a white band, which was also very conspicuous. Franklin's Gull breeds in central North America and winters primarily along the Pacific coast of South America, south to southern Chile (also Galápagos). It is less common at this season north to Mexico and rare on high Andean lakes in Peru and Bolivia, and occasionally reaches north to

FRANKLIN'S GULL

14 April 1999
Playa Larga
10:30 AM
clear, breezy.



- wings appeared more rounded than Laughing Gull, which were longer and pointed.
- general coloration paler, not as dark-mantled as Laughing Gull, but only seen a few times on the dorsal surface as it flew quite high over the water.
- wing tip pattern distinctive - appeared paler apart from Laughing Gull, due to obvious black and white pattern; broad outer edge white with subterminal black band, broad and clearly defined. Bordered on inner side of black mark by a white band, also very clearly defined.
- flew with several (c.10) Laughing Gulls in a tight group for side-by-side comparison, body and wings distinctly smaller than Laughing Gull.
- aged as definitive alternate by plumage; black hood and white border to wing tips.

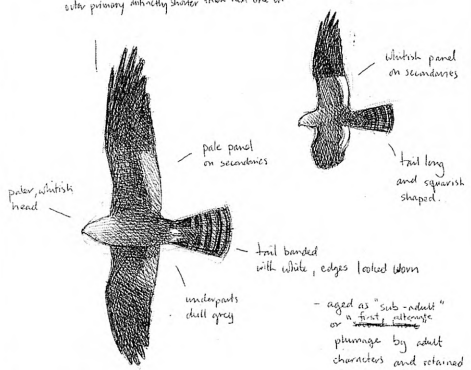
Observers:

Mark Mason	David Redfield
John Keenleyside	Diana Lutz
Bill & Pam Johnson	James Burt
John Sears	Robert Russell
Carol Lewis	Ruth Kress
Peter Thiel	Peter Burke
Margellen Skan	Arbno Kirkconnell
Colin Blodau	Bernard Grano

MISSISSIPPI KITE (3)

Ventral View
outer primary distinctly darker than rest of wing

Dorsal View



- aged as "sub-adult" or a "first alternate plumage" by adult characters and retained tail of juvenile.

April 17, 1999
Location: Boca Juvenco; one kilometer west of Rio Juvenco; Habana Province

- all three birds were immature; they had barred tails, not stark, solid tails that adults would have. They were all soaring and diving into the smoke of a brush fire beside the Highway. We observed them for about half an hour. Photographs were taken. (see ~~attached~~ photos)

Field sketches by Peter Burke

central coastal California and Florida¹.

Our record of Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* represents the first for Cuba and the West Indies. The only kite that regularly migrates through Cuba is Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*. This observation was made 17 April 1999, when three individuals were seen by PB and 15 participants of a commercial birding tour at Boca de Jaruco, 1 km west of Río Jaruco, Havana province. All three were in first alternate plumage with banded tails (not all-dark as in adults); pale whitish heads; dull grey underparts; pale, whitish panel on secondaries; and long, square-tipped tail. They were observed soaring and foraging within the smoke from a brush fire beside the highway for 30 minutes (see sketches). Mississippi Kite breeds in the south-east USA and largely winters in central South America, where it is principally recorded in Paraguay and northern Argentina; scattered sight reports exist in winter north to south Texas and Florida, but the vast majority lack documentation¹.

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The nest of the Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus* in Costa Rica

The breeding biology of the Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus* is almost unknown¹. In April 1999, near the village of Canalete, on the Atlantic slope of the Cordillera de Guanacaste, in north-west Costa Rica near the border with Nicaragua, we found a nest of the species. It was situated in a leafless tree (known locally as *cabillo* or *cabejo*) in a largely deforested area near a dirt road. The adjacent tree, apparently of the same species, was in a full leaf, despite it being the dry season. The nest was 10–12 m above ground and was placed, unobtrusively, in a three-pronged tree fork. It appeared unusually small for the size of the bird, and would have gone unnoticed but for the arrival of the female, which was feeding at least one nestling (seen peering from the nest). Air temperatures at midday, during the dry season, are 37–38°C, making the bird's choice of an unshaded location in which to nest appear rather unusual.

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Primer registro de parasitismo reproductivo en el Cucarachero de Pantano *Cistothorus apolinari* por el Chamón Maicero *Molothrus bonariensis*

A principios de marzo de 1999 durante 30 minutos una pareja del Cucarachero de Pantano *Cistothorus apolinari* alimentando un pichón del Chamón Maicero *Molothrus bonariensis* en la vegetación emergente del humedal La Conejera, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia a 2.600 msnm. Este registro coincide con la época reproductiva de ambas especies¹ y

es el primer registro de parasitismo de *M. bonariensis* en el género *Cistothorus*³.

El Cucarachero de Pantano es un ave endémica de las elevaciones altas (2.400–4.000 msnm) de los departamentos de Cundinamarca y Boyacá (Colombia)^{1,2} y amenazada de extinción por la acelerada destrucción de su hábitat, conformado por la vegetación emergente de humedales y por bosques adyacentes de aliso *Alnus acuminata*¹. Aunque la presencia de *M. bonariensis* en los departamentos mencionados no es reciente (J. Hernández com. pers.), es posible que sus hábitos reproductivos sean bastante negativos sobre las poblaciones del Cucarachero de Pantano, como ya se ha documentado para varias especies en el Caribe⁶. Dado el tiempo de la observación se descarta la posibilidad de que el pichón estuviera siendo alimentado simultáneamente por varios hospederos, como ha sido reportado para *Molothrus ater*⁴.

Dado el delicado estado de conservación del Cucarachero de Pantano, es necesario considerar al Chamón Maicero como una probable amenaza para sus poblaciones como también para las de otras especies endémicas que habitan los humedales como la monjita *Agelaius icterocephalus bogotensis*⁵ y que este factor se debe tener en cuenta en el momento al emprender proyectos de investigativos y/o conservacionistas en la región.

Agradecimientos

Al grupo de Ornitología de la Universidad Nacional junto a quienes se visitó el humedal La Conejera. A F. Gary Stiles y Jorge Botero por la revisión del manuscrito.

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Figures 1–2. Adult Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*, San Cristobal, Galápagos, 9 August 1978 (H. Lee Jones)

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Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* in Venezuela

Very few records of Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* are available from northern South America, although the species has long been known to winter in the southern part of the continent and migrate through Central America. On 12 September 1999, along with Wally and Lois Goldfrank, I observed an adult of this species

among a migrating flock of c.50 Plumbeous *Ictinia plumbea* and 80 Swallow-tailed Kites *Elanoides forficatus*, 20 km north of El Vigía, south-west Mérida. The light was from behind us, and the birds moved slowly over a small hill close to the road we were standing on. The Mississippi Kite had a solid black tail and lacked rufous wing patches, as did the adjacent Plumbeous Kites. I have seen many 100s of these species, with my field experience of *mississippiensis* commencing in 1948 and *plumbea* in 1960.

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First record in the Galápagos Islands of Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

On 9 August 1978, while visiting San Cristobal in the Galápagos, I photographed an adult Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus* in alternate plumage. It was first seen on the beach and subsequently in flight. The following description is from my field notes:

Similar in appearance to Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*; thin bill; body size slightly smaller, slimmer than Lava Gull *L. fuliginosus* with it. White body, pale ('ghost') grey head extending only to hind crown as in *ridibundus*; grey mantle (between Ring-billed *L. delawarensis* and California Gull *L. californicus* in shade); base of outer primaries white; black wing tips with white subterminal spots; legs,

feet, and bill deep red; eye yellow; dusky underwing.

As the species was not included in Harris¹, I assumed that this could represent the first Galápagos record, but that it would turn up in the future, perhaps regularly, as more birders visited this archipelago. When Castro & Phillips² was published in 1996, I was surprised to learn that *L. cirrocephalus* was still unrecorded in the islands. The species is 'recorded very frequently' in coastal Ecuador¹ and is 'fairly common' in coastal Peru¹. It also is found discontinuously in eastern South America, along much of the Atlantic coast, and in the interior along the Amazon River and its tributaries.

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Rediscovery of the Royal Cinclodes *Cinclodes aricomae* in Bolivia

On a trip, organised by EcoBolivia and Wildlife Conservation Society, to the recently created Madidi National Park, in November 1997, colleagues and myself followed an old mule trail from Pelechuco to Apolo through the Cordillera Apolobamba. The trail ascends through passes above 4,700 m. On the stretch between Ucañani and shortly after Puina, just before the descent to the lowlands, several patches of *Polylepis* forest that had escaped logging and fires were noticed, almost hidden by rocky ridges at locations distant from the trail. The largest patches were just above Chullu, at Ucañani but were inaccessible.

At one place, c.3 hours beyond Puina, it was possible to access a small isolated patch of *Polylepis* (c.1 ha). A single Royal Cinclodes *Cinclodes aricomae* was observed over a period of 20 minutes, disappearing into the dense forest on three occasions. It flicked pieces of moss from the ground beneath *Polylepis* trees, leaving obvious marks. An inspection of the area revealed many fresh marks within an undergrowth-free area of c.150 m². The overall size of the woodland suggests that the bird was also using other patches of forest, although no such areas were visible in the vicinity.

Royal Cinclodes was previously known in Bolivia from a specimen taken at Tilo Tilo, La Paz department in 1876. Subsequently, it was collected at a locality in Puno, Peru, in 1931 and rediscovered elsewhere in the same country in the 1980s¹. It is best known from the area around Abra Malaga in Cuzco. Considered highly threatened, due to *Polylepis* deforestation, its population has been estimated to be as low as 100–150². The species' rediscovery in Bolivia offers the hope that it may also be located in other areas. Nonetheless, the population in the Puina area, may be the only such within an officially protected area. Furthermore, the protection of these *Polylepis* forest cannot be taken for granted; on the contrary, they remain highly threatened.

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First records of Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola* and Roraiman Flycatcher *Myiophobus roraimae* in Bolivia

During recent fieldwork in Bolivia we observed two species not previously reported in the country^{1,6}. On 24 June 1996 a flock of c.12 Barred Parakeets *Bolborhynchus lineola* flew low over humid montane forest, at 2,950 m, along the abandoned road from Aguirre to El Palmar (Serranía de Callejas), Carrasco National Park, dpto. Cochabamba (17°10'S 65°35'W). Subsequently, SKH made tape-recordings of an unidentified parakeet on the same road on 27 June (3,300 m), 3 July (2,550 m) and 13 July 1996 (2,000 m), later identified by N. Krabbe (*in litt.*) as *Bolborhynchus lineola*. Prior to this, F. Sagot (pers. comm.) obtained a tape-recording of the species, on 4 April 1996, at Abra la Cruz, Amboró National Park, dpto. Santa Cruz (17°51'S 64°21'W, in humid montane forest at 2,100–2,450 m). Although no bird was seen, the recording is identical to those from Carrasco. SKH's recording of 27 June, as well as that of Sagot, is included in Mayer⁴. These records represent a significant southern range extension for this patchily distributed species, which was previously only known from as far south as Cuzco, Peru^{2,3}.

On 16 June 1997, SKH observed two Roraiman Flycatchers *Myiophobus roraimae* within the understorey of humid montane forest, at 1,050 m, at Cerro Asunta Pata, dpto. La Paz (15°03'S 68°29'W). Single individuals were relocated in the same area, by both authors, later the same day and the following morning. They were seen well for several minutes at eye level and close range and identified by the typical upright *Myiophobus* posture, warm brown upperparts and paler olive-grey underparts, combined with two broad cinnamon-rufous wingbars and conspicuous orange crown-stripe (highly visible in two territorial individuals). The single seen in the afternoon of 16 June was perched at c.1 m, by a small creek within the forest, preening after bathing. Although a slight southerly range extension, the presence of *Myiophobus roraimae* in the northern Bolivian Andes is not unexpected as it is known from dpto. Puno, south-east Peru⁷. However, it appears to be rare and local in the Asunta Pata area, where two previous expeditions (Parker & Bailey⁵ and S. Cardiff and J. V. Remsen *in litt.*) failed to record the species. Contrary to Ridgely & Tudor⁷, it was not found in an area with impoverished soil, but in rather tall forest on clayey soil.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas

An immature **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* at Cable Beach, New Providence on 20–21 January 1999 was the third record for the island group. A **Great Black-backed Gull** *L. marinus* on New Providence on 2–6 March 1998 was the fifth record for the Bahamas. Rarer was a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus* at West End, Grand Bahama, on 15 February 1999, the first record for the West Indies⁵. A **Chuck-will's-widow** *Caprimulgus carolinensis* discovered incubating two eggs, on Grand Bahama, on 1 June 1999 is the first breeding record for the West Indies⁶.

Barbados

All reports refer to 1998. A **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*, initially located at Graeme Hall swamp in autumn, remained for

the winter providing the first record for the West Indies and second in the Western Hemisphere, while three **Grey Herons** *A. cinerea* also wintered in this area from 11 October onwards. A **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*, at Fosters, St. Lucy, on 28 July, was the first West Indian record. Single **Wood Sandpipers** *Tringa glareola* were also on the island on 25 April and during late November to 14 December 1998, and three **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* also overwintered in Barbados. On 5 March an **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* was observed from land. A **Little Gull** *Larus minutus*, last noted on 27 December, was possibly also the first West Indies record, while a **Great Black-backed Gull** *L. marinus* on 13 December was the sixth island record. Finally a **Canada Warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis* trapped on 31 October was the first island and third Lesser Antilles record⁵.

Bermuda

All records refer to 1999. A **Common Teal** *Anas crecca* of the Eurasian race was at Marsh Lane on 20 April, and a **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* at Warwick Pond on 8 March was an exceptional spring record. A **Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola* on Long Island on 6 June was the first summer record in Bermuda. An **American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*, at Jenningsland on 17 July–6 August, was also an exceptional record for summer. A probable **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* was seen at Spittal Pond on 7 November; this species has only been recorded once previously. A probable **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope* was on Nonsuch Island on 10 November. Two **Curlew Sandpipers** *Calidris ferruginea* (the 6–7th records) were present on 17 September–1 October. A **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* arrived in early September and was present until at least 26 September. An **American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor* was flushed at Southampton on 28 October. A **Lark Sparrow**

Chondestes grammacus at Southside on 25 September the fourth Bermudan record; all of have been in the 1990s. A **Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator* at Fort Scour on 14 November was the fifth record for Bermuda and the first for 22 years. An **Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapillus*, on 22 June^{2,3,6} was an unusual summer record.

Cuba

Wallace *et al.*⁸ report interesting records from Cayo Coco, Archipiélago de Sabana-Camagüey (ASC), in 1995–1997. Of principal note were the first West Indian record of **Black-throated Grey Warbler** *Dendroica nigrescens* (photographed on 17 October 1997) and first Cuban occurrence of **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* (immature trapped on 25 December 1995). Other significant Cuban records included: the fourth record of **Audubon's Shearwater** *Puffinus lherminieri* (found dead on 27 February 1996), the eighth record of **Hooded Merganser** *Mergus cucullatus* (two females on 29 November to early December 1996), the largest numbers of **Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus* thus far reported in Cuba, the tenth record of **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* (one photographed on 7 June 1995), the 10–11th records of **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*, three reports of **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*, all involving flocks of 15–49 birds (five previous records in Cuba), the sixth record of **Dunlin** *C. alpina* (four photographed on 20 January 1997), the 8–9th record of **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (juvenile on 17 January 1997), the ninth record of **Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus* (one on 10 November 1995), the sixth record of **Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina* (one trapped and observed on 8–10 February 1997), the third record of **Orange-crowned Warbler** *Vermivora celata* (one trapped on 29 November 1995), a total of 77 individuals of **Swainson's**

Warbler *Limnothlypis swainsoni*, 2–3 **Kentucky Warblers** *Oporornis formosus* during 20 December 1995 to 23 February 1996, the seventh record of **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* (one trapped on 22 November 1995), and the fourth record of **Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* (one on 20 November 1996).

Dominican Republic

The second record of **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* involved two at Las Salinas, Bahía de Las Calderas, on 28 December 1998⁵.

Jamaica

A **Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus*, heard at Caymanas Ponds west of Kingston in January 1999, was apparently only the second island record this decade⁵.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

A **Long-billed Starthroat** *Heliomaster longirostris* seen 0.5 miles south of Mile 40 on the Western Highway, on private property, probably in November, was well described and appears to be the first country record of this species¹.

Costa Rica

The second country record of **Common Teal** *Anas crecca* involved a male at Finca Las Concavas (between Cartago and Paraiso), on 4 January 2000. Three **Southern Lapwings** *Vanellus chilensis* were reported in the San Isidro area on 13 March 2000, one of the very few records in Costa Rica⁴.

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil

Three **Great Blue Herons** *Ardea herodias* on the Anavilhanas Archipelago, on 20 October 1997, were the first country record⁷.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Belize

LJ and JA closely observed a male **Hermit Warbler** *Dendroica occidentalis*, in alternate plumage, at Hidden Valley Falls, Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo District, on 23 March 2000. This is only the second Belize record.

Bolivia

MH informs us of the following. A **Green-backed Becard** *Pachyrhamphus viridis* at Trinidad on 19 September 1998 is the first record in Beni Department, and a **Rusty-necked Piculet** *Picumnus fuscus* at Cutal Lodge, Beni, on 18 September 1998 appears to represent a small range extension. **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant** *Anairetes alpinus* is still present in the Choquetanga Valley; in 1998, up to two were seen on 13 and 15 September. Additional records of **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* in the country involved c.200 between Santa Rosa de La Roca to San Javier, Santa Cruz, in mid-October 1999, and 2,000 in the southern part of Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, 25 km north of Santa Rosa de La Roca, on 8 November 1999 (DR).

Brazil

Two additional reports (about the fourth and fifth country records) of **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* from the Pantanal are as follows: c.20 over the Transpantaneira, between Poconé and the rio Pixiam on 12 October 1999 and a total of 63 at Chapada dos Guimarães on 14 October 1999 (PO).

Chile

A breeding-plumaged **Hooded Grebe** *Podiceps gallardoi* was observed c.10 km east of Porvenir, Region XII, on 30 October 1997. There is only one previous published report from the country (see *Cotinga* 11: 100). Other interesting reports include two **Bank Swallows** *Riparia riparia* at Laguna El Peral, Valparaíso, on

12 November 1997, and two **American Redstarts** *Setophaga ruticilla*, at Putre, Tarapacá province, on 22 November 1997 (MF).

Cuba

A number of interesting records were made during 1999 and early 2000 (all AK, GMK *et al.* unless otherwise stated). Dates refer to 1999 unless otherwise stated. A **Giant Kingbird** *Tyrannus cubensis* was at Hacienda La Vega, west of Trinidad, on 30 October, the first record in Sancti Spiritus province for several decades. Other reports involve the following scarce migrants: single **Blue-winged Warblers** *Vermivora pinus* at Pálpite, Zapata, on 15 February and near Bermejas, Zapata, on 9 February 2000, singles of **Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* and **Wilson's Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla* in Parque Almendares, La Habana on 25 October (GMK, RPM, JP), single **Hooded Warblers** *W. citrina* at El Cenote, Zapata, on 13–14 February and on Cayo Coco, on 6 April 2000 (GMK, FR), a **Kentucky Warbler** *Oporornis formosus* near Playa Girón, Zapata, on 26 October, a **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* in the same area on 27 October, and a **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*, **Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus*, **Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* and **Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*, on Cayo Paredón Grande, on 1 November. Records in 2000 included the 13th Cuban record of **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola*, present on the last-named cay on 14 February. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* was on Cayo Romano, from 5 April to at least mid-month (AJ, AK *et al.*; video-taped), several **Whimbrels** *Numenius phaeopus* on Cayo Guillermo, during 26 March to 6 April (AG *et al.*, GMK, FR), two **Upland Sandpipers** *Bartramia longicauda* at Bermejas, on 24 March (GMK *et al.*), with another in the Sierra de Cubitas, Ciego de Ávila, on 25 March, and a **Black-**



billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (the third Cuban record) on Cayo Coco, on 27 March (per AG). Five **Sand Martins** *Riparia riparia* migrated past Miramar, La Habana, on 31 March (GMK). Another **Orchard Oriole** was at La Güira National Park, Pinar del Río, on 16 April (AJ, AK et al.).

Ecuador

The following records from 1999, by PA and OJ, are of species new for the Podocarpus National Park bird list: a male **Black-throated Brilliant** *Heliodoxa schreibersii* between rio Bombuscaro and Zamora, on 5–6 October; two **White-tailed Hillstar** *Urochroa bougueri* c.5 km upstream from the park headquarters on 15 October; a **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet** *Phaeomyias murina* at La Fragrancia, on the Loja–Zamora road, c.10 km from Zamora, at c.1,100 m, on 12 October; a male **Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater** *Pipreola frontalis* near the park headquarters on 15 October; an **Andean Slaty-thrush** *Turdus nigriceps* near rio Bombuscaro headquarters on 16 October (OJ only); and several records of **Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira* in the rio Bombuscaro and La Fragrancia areas. In addition, a female **Little Woodstar** *Acestura bombus* was seen at flowering *Inga* trees on 5–6 October and records of six other species were apparently new for the rio Bombuscaro section of the park. A **Rufous-browed Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes supercilii* was reported with a mixed-species flock at Bombuscaro, on 23 March 1995 (MF).

On 2 September 1997 a **Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* was collected by H. Onate and JFF in Mindo town (00°05'S 78°46'W, at c.1,300 m) and deposited in the QCAZ Zoology Museum of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (QCAZ 1489). This is a new altitudinal record for this boreal migrant, previously known largely from tropical areas below 1,000 m. Other interesting records

from Mindo include a **Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris*, on 11 March 1995, and an adult male **Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata*, on 10 March 1995 (MF).

Guatemala

WWP reports and describes, the first **Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia* for the country, at Livingston, on the Caribbean coast, on 30 December 1999.

Mexico

TLE reports a **Ross' Goose** *Anser rossii* at La Pesca, Tamaulipas in November 1999. At Puerto Penasco, Sonora on 22–23 November 1999 there was a **Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* at Shrimp Pond, a flock of 20 **Hooded Mergansers** *Mergus cucullatus* at the sewage pond and three **Oldsquaws** *Clangula hyemalis* at Pelican Point (all SG).

St Lucia

A male **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*, the sixth island record, was reported on 18 April 2000 (JG).

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Neotropical Notebook: compiled by **Juan Mazar Barnett** and **Guy M. Kirwan**.

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Was Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes* in Cuba introduced from Mexico?

The Aparecido de San Diego, or Azulito *Cyanerpes cyaneus*, as it is known in Cuba, is a well-established introduction, being common in Sierra del Rosario and Sierra de La Güira, Pinar del Río province, and scattered localities throughout Cuba, but is unknown from the Isle of Pines¹. I have compared long series of specimens from Cuba with those from elsewhere, and consider the Cuban population to unequivocally belong to *C. c. carneipes*. This suggests its presence in Cuba has been insufficiently long to produce morphological differentiation. The origin of its introduction is unknown.

Passuth² notes that Diego Velázquez, governor of Cuba in 1915–1919, instructed Juan de Grijalba to visit Mexico and bring goods to the island. On their return, these expeditions docked in Havana Bay, Trinidad and Santiago de Cuba. The first trip that anchored in Havana Bay was described thus 'The seven small brigantines... disembarked their load in small chalupas consisting of bundles and barrels of spice, unknown birds in cages, tanned furs'.

Cyanerpes cyaneus is one of the few introduced passerines to have become established in Cuba. This beautiful species, easy to capture due to its flocking behaviour, is mainly frugivorous and thus comparatively easily kept in cages at sea. Its disjunct distribution in Cuba³ may suggest that more than one introduction occurred. The citation above provides a plausible origin for its presence in Cuba.

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New distributional records of two tanagers in Mexico

Using the detailed distributional maps provided by Howell & Webb⁶ field workers in Mexico can readily determine possible range extensions. The two tanagers below were observed during visits to Tamaulipas (Tamps.) and San Luis Potosí (SLP) with students from Baker University in midwinter 1990–1997. Coordinates and geographical descriptions are presented for each sighting. In addition, Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) conducted at El Naranjo, SLP and Gómez Farias, Tamps. since 1972 were examined for records of these species.

Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*

One on the east edge of Naranjo town (22°31'N 99°18'W) on 8 January 1997 was in good feather condition, reducing the likelihood that it was a released cage bird. It appeared healthy, foraging in the top of a small papaya and later flying to a nearby utility line. Howell & Webb⁶ list the species for the Xilitla, SLP but not further north. This record extends the range, as depicted in Howell & Webb⁶, north by c.130 km. It was recorded on the El Naranjo CBC in 1974⁴ (two) and was reported in 1981³ (during CBC week) and 1994⁷ (seven), indicating that the species occurs irregularly in north-east SLP, rather than being a vagrant there. It is an easily identified species and the omission of the 1974 and 1981 CBC sightings from Howell & Webb⁶ is an apparent oversight. Northward range extensions by species characteristic of disturbed lowland tropical forest have been documented for several Mexican birds^{5,6}.

Yellow-winged Tanager *Thraupis abbas*

First observed by the author and Greg Griffiths on 30 December 1990 on the Gómez Farias CBC. A flock of 34 individuals was near villa Julio (23°08'N 99°12'W), which is c.15 km by air north-west of Gómez Farias, Tamps. I also observed it at Rancho El Cielito (23°07'N 99°09'W), c.10 km north of Gómez Farias, in 1995 (16 birds) and 1997 (10 individuals). This species was reported on the first Gómez Farias CBC in 1972⁸ and has been seen on every such CBC since, with a maximum of 141 individuals in 1976¹, but usually 2–4 are seen. The author also observed the species at El Salto, SLP (22°35'N 99°23'W), c.10 km north-east of Naranjo: three on 19 January 1992 and singles on

1 January 1996 and 9 January 1997. It was reported on the first El Naranjo, SLP CBC in 1972² and all but three censuses until 1994, with a maximum of 75 in that year⁷, but most years 3–6 were reported. Howell & Webb⁶ record the species' presence in the Xilitla area, but not further north. The records above are the first for Tamaulipas and extend its range north by c.200 km. The species is apparently common in winter as far as the area north of Gómez Farias. It is easily identified and these CBC sightings were apparently omitted from Howell & Webb⁶ by oversight.

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A late November American Golden-plover *Pluvialis dominica* in west Mexico

American Golden-plover *Pluvialis dominica* is rare on the west coast of North America, mainly encountered during autumn migration. In Mexico, at this season, it is considered probably a rare to uncommon transient (mid-August through October) throughout but with 'few specific records'². As the species winters principally in South America, it is seldom encountered in North America after mid-October. There are several winter records in the eastern United States⁴ but all wintering golden-plovers on the west coast have been Pacific Golden-plover *P. fulva*.

On 29 November 1999, I photographed an American Golden-plover at San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico, which Brenda D. Smith and I watched for 30 minutes with a small flock of Grey Plovers *P. squatarola* at Chacalilla shrimp ponds. It was distinctly smaller than the latter (Fig. 1), with a thinner bill, especially at the tip. Its plumage was fresh, without signs moult or heavy wear. Breast grey, lacking distinct buff or yellow tones. Broad whitish supercilium, contrasting with distinctively blackish crown. Mantle dark grey, heavily spangled yellow and white. Long wings distinctive (Fig. 2), with five primary tips visible beyond longest tertial. Underwings wholly grey, lacking black axillaries. No calls heard.

Field identification of *P. dominica* versus *P. fulva* can be problematic, but the San Blas bird

was relatively straightforward. The grey (not buff-yellow) breast, blackish cap, whitish (not yellow) supercilium, and not especially brightly coloured underparts combine to eliminate juvenile Pacific Golden-plover. Most importantly, the long primary extension, probably the single most important field mark¹, clearly established the bird as American Golden-plover.

The 29 November date is fully a month or more later than all previous autumn records in Mexico². Nevertheless, it may not have been wintering locally, as autumn migrants in California have been noted until 24–25 November, in 1977 at Goleta³, and tardy migrants in the eastern USA have perhaps remained into early December⁴. Even so, given the tendency for some to winter in the eastern USA and the relatively hospitable climate of coastal Nayarit, the San Blas individual was potentially the first American Golden-plover attempting to winter in Mexico.

Acknowledgements

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Figure 1. American Golden-plover *Pluvialis dominica* (left) with Grey Plover *P. squatarola* (right), San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico, 29 November 1999. Note smaller size and thinner bill of the golden-plover (Michael A. Patten)



Figure 2. American Golden-plover *Pluvialis dominica*, San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico, 29 November 1999. Note white supercilium, grey breast, and long primary extension (Michael A. Patten)

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Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* documented in Belize

Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* is a common summer resident from Wyoming south through the western USA to the highlands of Mexico as far south as Oaxaca. It winters through much of west and central Mexico with some reports in Guatemala and a very few in Honduras¹. Miller & Miller⁴ summarise several sight reports of the species in Belize, but consider all as requiring verification. Lee Jones (pers. comm.) provided another summary of sight reports of Cassin's Kingbird for Belize and confirmed the lack of a documented record, as do Howell², Howell & Webb³ and Miller & Miller⁵.

These undocumented reports are as follows: W. P. Nickell banded thousands of birds in the Stann Creek District, including two reported Cassin's Kingbirds in 1960, and singles in 1961, 1962 and 1963¹. Walters⁶ reported banding one in 1985 near Belize City, which was disputed by Howell². Singles were reported on

22 December 1985 during the Belize City Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and during the 1986 Belize City CBC. Here, we describe the first fully documented record of Cassin's Kingbird in Belize.

On 22 December 1999, an apparent adult Cassin's Kingbird was discovered by Lasley during the Gallon Jug CBC in the Orange Walk District of north-west Belize. It was initially observed at c.11h30, frequenting a fence at the west end of the airstrip and loosely associating with several Tropical Kingbirds *Tyrannus melancholicus*, Fork-tailed *T. savana* and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers *T. forficatus*. The fence separated a cattle pasture from a two-lane dirt road. An approximately 25 m grass verge flanked the road opposite a habitat mosaic of tropical moist forest, a shade coffee plantation and fallow agricultural fields. The Cassin's Kingbird was initially noted in flight, when its back and tail were noted as distinctly darker than the Tropical Kingbirds common in the area. It was observed at length from c.25 m: the uniformly dark grey breast was obvious, as was a clean white, sharply delineated chin patch; the tail had a squared tip, not notched as is usual in Tropical Kingbird; the belly was yellow and the legs dark, while the back was greyish olive, not greenish olive as in Tropical Kingbird.

During the initial observation,

the status of Cassin's Kingbird in Belize was unknown by Lasley, who is very familiar with the species, but visiting the country for the first time. Upon learning that the species was undocumented for the country, a full description of the bird was made. The bird was relocated in the same area at c.14h45, when several additional observers, including Paul Wood and Jeff Gordon, were present and it was studied at leisure through telescopes for c.10 minutes. Wood and Gordon, professional birding guides familiar with the Gallon Jug area, concurred with the identification. In addition, it was noted (during direct comparison)



Figure 1. Cassin's Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*, Gallon Jug, Orange Walk, Belize, 22 December 1999 (Greg W. Lasley)

that the bill was noticeably shorter than Tropical Kingbird, and that the tail was dark brown to blackish with a very pale tip and pale edges to the outer rectrices. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher harassed the Cassin's Kingbird, whereupon it gave a loud, burry *kbbeeer* immediately recognisable as a typical vocalisation of the species. Eight photographs of the bird were obtained.

Bruce & Carolyn Miller also saw the Cassin's Kingbird on 26 December at c.09h30, on the same fence. It was immediately recognisable by its darker coloration. They observed it for c.15 minutes using binoculars. As it moved from fence to fence, its field marks and darker coloration provided a ready contrast with those of the Tropical Kingbirds using the fences. Further photographic documentation was obtained. On subsequent visits over the next week, it was not encountered, but on 2 March 2000 Victor Emanuel and Barry Zimmer located a Cassin's Kingbird in the same area and obtained additional photographs, as well as tape-recordings of its vocalisations. It is presumed that the March observation was of the same wintering individual.

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Notes on the status of Yucatan Nightjar *Caprimulgus badius* along the New River, Orange Walk District, Belize

Yucatan Nightjar *Caprimulgus badius* has been the subject of much taxonomic and distributional confusion since its description. Endemic to the Yucatán, including Cozumel, its winter movements and distribution south through Belize and northern Honduras (one record) are poorly understood^{1,3}. Difficulties in detection and identification of silent birds, and a lack of nocturnal field work, coupled with erroneous records perpetuated in the literature, have made seasonal movements hard to interpret^{3,4}.

Howell & Webb⁴ consider *C. badius* to breed in Yucatán south to Ambergris Caye, wintering in eastern Belize, south through extreme eastern Guatemala and north-west Honduras. Howell³ reviewed its status in Belize, where the few published records are in January–March (winter and migration), although breeding can be expected in the extreme north. Russell⁵ cited two specimens from Belize: one collected 28 February 1958 on

Half Moon Cay and the type-specimen on 2 January 1907 at Toledo Settlement near Punta Gorda. The latter is the only record for south Belize. Here, we elaborate on the status of *C. badius* as reported by England², 'fairly common' along New River in north-central Belize in December–May, 'while a small number of individuals can be found on most nights through the rest of the year'.

Methods

Field studies have been conducted along New River Lagoon at Lamanai since late 1998. The study area and methods for the landbird programme are described in England². Opportunities to census nocturnal species along New River are possible during Lamanai Outpost Lodge's spotlight river safari, which takes a small number of lodge guests at night on the New River and its tributaries. These trips are operated almost nightly. *C. badius* was easily detected on these trips, as was Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis* and Northern Potoo *Nyctibius jamaicensis*. Yucatan Poorwill *Nyctiphrynus yucatanicus* was also present, but not typically near the water's edge. Identification of *C. badius* was based upon Howell³ and Howell & Webb⁴.

Spotlighting trips usually began at 20h00 and occupied c.2 hours, using a 1.5 million candlepower halogen spotlight, which permits any species with a reflective eyeshine to be spotted at distances in excess of 100 m. Under these conditions, caprimulgids may often be specifically identified by eyeshine color (R. Arevalo pers. comm.; pers. obs.), but the reliability of this feature requires further testing. Once a bird was located, the boat was manoeuvred close enough to allow everyone to see it. This distance depends on the species and—in the guide's experience—its likelihood of flushing. Every effort was made to reduce disturbance to a minimum and caprimulgids were often approached to within several metres.

Results and discussion

Caprimulgids have not been the focus of research at Lamanai. While numbers of *C. badius* observed per night were only infrequently recorded through September 1999, the species' presence or absence was recorded nightly. Highest counts were during January 1999 when a minimum of 12 was recorded per night. Lowest numbers were in June–September, when the maximum count is six on 13 September 1999. Otherwise, the maximum count is two, but at least one was found most nights throughout the year.

It is possible that *C. badius* breeds along New River, although no juveniles have been recorded. Valley & Whitman⁶ report fewer than ten records at Hill Bank, on the south-west shore of New River Lagoon. More specifically, Valley (pers. comm.) noted records of five singles from the vicinity of Hill Bank, between 18 February and 27 March, but nocturnal field work there has been purely opportunistic (A. Valley pers. comm.). Night trips by MCE and BC to Hill Bank to survey Morelet's Crocodile *Crocodylus moreletii* have failed to produce *C. badius*. There is also only one record of *C. badius* along the lagoon shore north of Lamanai, and only one record from Dawson Creek. None of these areas have been sampled as intensively as New River.

We tentatively conclude that the New River watershed constitutes the southernmost point of the summer range—and possibly breeding range—of *C. badius*. Other areas with similar riparian forest habitat in northern Belize should be surveyed for the species in the summer to clarify its range. Increased effort to thoroughly document the species' numbers should help elucidate its status as a non-breeding summer resident or confirm expectations³ that this species may breed in north Belize.

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Possible consumption of a lizard by a Black-headed

Trogon Trogon melanocephalus Remsen *et al.*³ noted that trogons have a mixed diet of fruit and arthropods, or feed primarily on fruit. Few exceptions to this have been reported for New World Trogonidae. Within the genus *Trogon*, Haverschmidt² reports at least one record of foraging on a small lizard by *T. viridis*, while

Skutch⁴ recorded consumption of a small lizard by *T. bairdii*. Stiles & Skutch⁵ report that *Pharomachrus mocinno*, *T. massena* and *T. clathratus* eat frogs and lizards.

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanocephalus* is a common resident of tropical and subtropical forests, and disturbed areas, from southern Mexico to northern Costa Rica¹. On 29 May 1999, in the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve, Belize (17°45'N 88°39'W), we observed an adult male *T. melanocephalus* with a dead lizard (*Anolis* sp.; total length = c.10 cm) in its bill. It perched motionless for c.30 seconds, in full view at a distance of c.3m, at head height. We did not see it obtain the lizard, nor were we able to follow it to witness the lizard's eventual disposition. Although this observation does not prove that *T. melanocephalus* feeds on vertebrate prey, this is the first reported evidence that this species may supplement its diet in this manner.

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First record of Rufous-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis erythroptera* for Colombia

Five Rufous-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis erythroptera* in coastal Nariño, on 22 December 1999, is the first record for Colombia. They were observed during a boat excursion on a branch of the río Mira, c.15 km south-west of Tumacó, at a forest border within an area of tropical lowland forest and patches of mangrove. This range-restricted species occurs in the Tumbesian region (EBA 045) of extreme north-west Peru and west Ecuador (north to dpto. Esmeraldas (pers. obs. at Bilsa Biological Reserve and Río Palenque Scientific Centre), and was expected for Nariño^{2,3}. Due to hunting pressure and severe habitat loss, *Ortalis erythroptera* is considered vulnerable^{1,4}.

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White-chested Swift

Cypseloides lemosi in west Ecuador?

On 13 April 1997, P. Gastezzi and I observed 15 swifts with the features of White-chested Swift *Cypseloides lemosi*. This species, originally known only from Colombia, has recently been sighted in east Ecuador^{1,2,4} as far west as Cordillera de los Huacamayos, Napo Province (BLL, 17 October 1998, unpubl.) and Archidona on the Loreto road, Napo¹. Our sighting in coastal Ecuador, at almost sea level, c.35 km from Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí province, appears to be the first record in west Ecuador, but requires corroboration due to the lack of photographic, specimen, or sound-recording documentation. The following field notes were made: adults, juveniles without chest patch, and individuals in transition between juvenile and adult plumage. Adults (n=8): plumage black with conspicuous white patch only on chest, not reaching the sides of neck or back. Juveniles (n=3): completely black. Birds in transitional plumages, likely subadults (n=4): black with a dusky chest patch similar to adults, which was darker in some

individuals and paler in others. Sides of neck and backs lacked any pale coloration¹.

Juvenile and immature White-collared Swifts *Streptoprocne zonalis* always possess a white collar², which eliminates the possibility of confusion between it and *C. lemosi*, in addition to the differences in size, silhouette and behaviour. The juvenile plumage of *C. lemosi* is unknown³ and my suggestion that the wholly black individuals were such is based on their behaviour pattern and silhouette, although it is possible that they were another *Cypseloides* species.

Acknowledgements

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Registro altitudinal inusual de

La Pava Carunculada *Aburria aburri* en Ecuador

La Pava Carunculada *Aburria aburri* es un crácido raro de bosque que habita a lo largo de las estribaciones y pedemontes andinos desde las montañas de Perijá y Santa Marta, Venezuela y Colombia respectivamente, hasta el sur de Perú^{3,5,6}. En Ecuador es considerada como una especie rara de las estribaciones y subtrópicos del noroccidente y oriente, entre 1.200 y 2.100 m de altitud (P. Coopmans com. pers.), aunque en otros países ocasionalmente alcanza los 600 y 2.500 m^{6,8}.

Esta especie, aparentemente migratoria estacional^{3,6} es conocida de pocas localidades en la estribación oriental de los Andes del Ecuador, y fue reportada por primera vez para el occidente por Marín *et al.*⁷ pese a que se la conocía previamente del Cerro Munchique, suroccidente de Colombia^{1,6}. Del Hoyo *et al.*⁶ erróneamente señala que en Ecuador la especie está restringida a la estribación oriental.

La presente nota reporta el hallazgo de un individuo recientemente muerto (nota del colector) en la cima del volcán Reventador (00°04'S 77°40'W), provincia de Napo, Andes orientales, a 3.500 m de altitud. El espécimen fue colectado por Elisio Tapia en noviembre de 1999 y depositado días más tarde en la colección ornitológica del museo QCAZ, Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (QCAZ 1716).

No es probable que este hallazgo constituya un registro de una población residente, ya que el hábitat en la cima del Reventador está constituido básicamente por páramo herbáceo con helechos y escasos arbustos, debido a erupciones volcánicas recientes (G. Onore com. pers.). *Aburria aburri* tiende a habitar principalmente en bosque montano maduro y bordes del mismo^{5,6}.

Así, sugiero que este registro debe estar relacionado con los movimientos estacionales que *Aburria aburri* aparentemente tiende a

realizar, aunque no puedo especificar si se trata de migración altitudinal o geográfica^{3,5}. Es posible que este registro sea sólo accidental, y corresponda a un individuo extraviado. La posibilidad de que este espécimen haya sido transportado por otras personas o por animales de presa es descartada ya que no existe ningún sendero que permita el tránsito frecuente de gente en la región, y además no se encontraron rastros de heridas superficiales.

Un estudio específico de la migración estacional de *A. aburri* proveerá de mejor evidencia para determinar si está relacionada únicamente con la altitud. Muy poco se conoce de este raro crácido, altamente sensible a alteraciones en su hábitat natural⁹ que ha declinado notoriamente en los últimos diez años, y es considerado en la actualidad como Vulnerable en el país⁵ y casi-amenazado globalmente².

Agradecimientos

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First record of Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* in Galápagos

Although records of summering shorebirds in the Neotropics are relatively commonplace, Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* is considered a rare migrant and winter visitor to coastal Ecuador (Mitch Lysinger pers. comm.).

On 29 June 1999, while participating in a birding tour of the Galápagos, I found a Hudsonian Godwit in full breeding plumage at a small freshwater pond within Puerto Villamil, Isabela Island. I immediately pointed it out to Mitch Lysinger and the other eight tour participants. We watched it feeding as close as 20 m for c.1 hour. Although not fully aware of the significance of the sighting, Randall Siebert and I

obtained a number of photographs (Fig. 1, see p. 66). The bird was immediately recognised by its relatively large size and long, slightly upturned, bicolored bill, pinkish-red with a black tip. Head and neck finely streaked or spotted dark grey and whitish, creating an effect of a pale grey head and neck, contrasting with rich brick-red breast and belly. Pale line above eye and dark line from bill base to eye, a suggestion of black and white scalloping on the breast sides admixed with brick-red, and undertail-coverts barred black and white. Back primarily dark brownish grey with small whitish spots. Wing-coverts obviously paler grey and flight feathers appeared blackish. In flight, tail largely or entirely black, with a white rump patch almost equal in extent to black tail. Primary bases and outer secondaries white, creating a conspicuous bar in flight. Underwings greyish, also with a white bar and conspicuous black underwing-coverts.

The AOU¹ lists the South American wintering range of the species as the coasts of Peru and Chile, with the principal wintering grounds in south-east South America, in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay and the Falklands. Hayman *et al.*⁵ plots a similar winter distribution and describes it as a vagrant to the Falklands, New Zealand, the western USA and Galápagos, among other sites, but cites no reference for a Galápagos record. Neither Castro & Phillips² nor Harris⁴ list this species for the archipelago, and Galápagos is not mentioned within the species' range in del Hoyo *et al.*³. Thus, it appears that the information in Hayman *et al.*⁵ is in error, and there have been no previously published records of Hudsonian Godwit from Galápagos.

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First records of Purple Martin *Progne subis* in coastal Peru

Purple Martin *Progne subis* is a common and widespread breeder in North America that winters in South America. It typically migrates through Venezuela, the Guyanas, Brazil, north Argentina, and parts of Amazonian Peru¹. Migration timing in northern and western South America is not well known. Southbound birds have been reported in south-east USA in late May and early June⁸, there are few records from South America before August¹, and the earliest published reports from Peru are in mid-September⁴. Determination of migratory routes and timing in South America are hampered by the relative lack of specimens (and observers), and possibility of confusion with other species of *Progne*.

During August 1997, LT and AT observed c.45 female-plumaged *Progne subis* at Pantanos de Villa, a coastal wetland on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. They appeared exhausted, as they perched on fences and

permitted extremely close approach. One was photographed (Fig. 1). Over four days in August 1998, 15, again apparently exhausted, individuals were at Pantanos de Villa. These are the first records of *Progne subis* in coastal Peru.

Female Southern Martin *P. modesta murphyi*, which is resident in coastal Peru, lacks the hoary whitish forecrown and collar of *subis*, and is much darker below. Female and immature Purple Martin also resembles Grey-breasted Martin *P. chalybea*, but that species, which is also unknown around Lima, does not have a pale forecrown or collar⁶.

Identification to subspecies level, without specimens, must be considered tentative. Some features of the flock, such as the breadth and extremely pale nuchal collar and forecrown, correspond to *arboricola* or *hesperia*, (according to Ridgway⁷, Phillips⁵, and specimens at Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago), which breed in western North America (British Columbia south to Sonora, Mexico). C. R. (pers. comm. to OG) suggested that the photographs indicate a two-year-old individual, based on the amount of blue in the back and crown; first-year females are largely brown with little blue on the dorsum or head.

Despite occurrence in two consecutive years, we regard Purple Martin as only a vagrant to coastal Peru. Other migrants, primarily found in Amazonia or the east slope of the Andes, which are rare on the Peruvian coast, include Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*, Fork-tailed Flycatcher *T. savana*, Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* and American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*^{2,3}. The austral winter in Lima usually occupies June–September, but 1997–1998 were El Niño years, and coastal Peru had clear sunny 'winters'. Whether these unusual climatic events can be related to records of Purple Martins is unknown.



Figure 1. Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* Puerto Villamil, Isabela, Galápagos, 29 June 1999 (Randall Seibert)

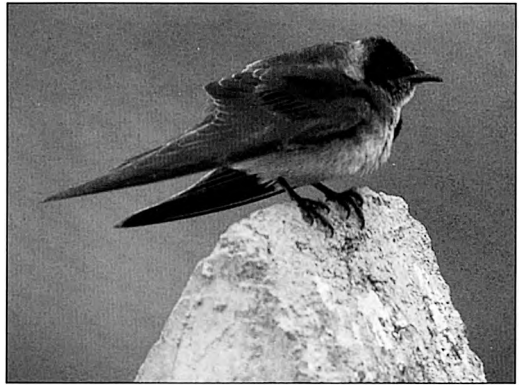


Figure 1. Female Purple Martin *Progne subis*, Pantanos de Villa, Lima, Peru, August 1997 (Luis Torres)

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An observation of Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* on the Peruvian coast

On 14 September 1983, from 08h30 to 09h00, we observed, and NK photographed (Fig. 1, see p. 67), a nearly adult Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* together with Kelp Gulls *Larus dominicanus*, on the beach at Ventanilla, 30 km north of Lima, Peru. The bird was between its third summer (fourth calendar year) and fourth-winter plumage (=adult)¹. The entire primaries, primary-coverts and

alula, and most tail feathers were worn, but it was otherwise fresh plumaged and adult-like.

Immature, mostly first-winter Herring Gulls regularly occur south to both coasts of Panama, where they are rare, in December to late April², and there are a few recent sightings from the Pacific coast of Colombia (anon. reviewer of this manuscript, 16 September 1986) and Venezuelan coast¹. Thus, the occurrence of a nearly adult bird on the Peruvian coast in mid-September is most remarkable. Unless additional future sightings suggest that Herring Gulls do occasionally cross the equator, we consider it most probable that this observed bird had been ship-assisted.

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New bird records from north-east Brazil

During late December 1999 and early January 2000, we made a number of interesting ornithological observations in the states of Sergipe (SE), Alagoas (AL) and Ceará (CE), north-east Brazil. Voucher tape-recordings, made by JMB, have been deposited at the Cornell Laboratory of Natural Sounds, Ithaca, New York, and Arquivo Sonoro Elías Coelho, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro. Significant records are as follows. (All species mentioned for SE, with the exception of Cocoa Thrush *Turdus fumigatus*, had previously been recorded in the same area as our observations by Fry, Souza, Pacheco & Whitney, and Parrini & Minns, but their observations are unpublished.) A group of four **Red-shouldered Macaw** *Ara (Diopsittaca) nobilis* were in forest between Santa Luiza do Itanhi and Crasto, SE, on 27 December 1999. This is the first state record. Although it was considered relatively common in this part of Brazil by Juniper & Parr¹, Teixeira *et al.*¹¹ knew of very few records from coastal regions in this area. The forest near Crasto is principally known for its population of **Fringe-backed Fire-eye** *Pyriglena atra*, discovered in 1994², and it is worth remarking that we found this globally threatened species to be still relatively common, with 8–10 observed and tape-recorded. On the same day, in the same forest, we observed and tape-recorded a single **Pectoral Sparrow** *Arremon taciturnus*. Raposo⁶ provides a list of localities with specimen records of this species. Sergipe is not represented, but its occurrence is wholly expected given the availability of records from all surrounding states. Finally, neither **Little Tinamou** *Crypturellus soui* and **Cocoa Thrush** appear to have been mentioned previously for SE, although we tape-recorded both near Crasto, on 27 December 1999.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* was introduced into São

Paulo in c.1870 and has now been recorded in many parts of eastern Brazil, and as far inland as Manaus⁷. Nonetheless, there are still relatively few published localities in the arid north-east; thus eight tape-recorded at Nascente do Farias, CE, on 3 January 2000 appears to be only the second state record and third published locality in north-east Brazil⁹. Our records of **Rufous Hornero** *Furnarius rufus* at the same locality, on the same date, and at nearby Balneário Caldas, Chapada do Araripe, CE, on 4 January 2000, appear to be the first published localities in the state. This species has been spreading its range in eastern Brazil⁶ and has only recently (1985) reached the north-east¹⁰. A flock of 150–200 **Purple Martin** *Progne subis* roosted, high on a telephone antenna, in Barbalha, CE, on 3–4 January 2000. Sick⁸ mentions no records in north-east Brazil, although Paynter⁴ notes its occurrence in Bahia, and thus our observation appears to be the first state record.

There are few AL records of **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** *Cathartes burrovianus* and **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis*^{2,9,11}. We recorded a single of the latter at Pedra (Serra) Branca, near Murici, on 31 December 1999 and the vulture over Murici, on 1 January 2000. On a previous

visit to AL, GMK *et al.* observed two **Stripe-backed Bittern** *Ixobrychus involucris* at Riacho Salgado, near Palmeira dos Índios, on 4 February 1995. Teixeira *et al.*¹¹ knew of records, in north-east Brazil, from only Maranhão and Sergipe, and it has subsequently occurred in Piauí³.

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Figure 1. Near-adult Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Ventanilla, 30 km north of Lima, Peru, 14 September 1983 (N. Krabbe)

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Bolivian Warbling-finch

Poospiza boliviana in Argentina

On 27 September 1997, we recorded at least three *Poospiza boliviana* in Santa Victoria, Salta province, Argentina (22°15'N 65°00'W; at c.2,250 m). Two were photographed by JMB and published by Mayer³. Although previously reported in the country⁵, this is the first documented record, and the southernmost known for the species.

They were in hedgerows and agricultural fields in the environs of a small village, and formed part of a rather large, loose flock of Rufous-sided Warbling-finch *Poospiza hypochondria* and Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* foraging on the ground and among dense bushes. All observations match previous reports^{1,2}. Fjeldsá & Mayer² comment on the species' poorly understood ecological

niche. One, with a paler reddish chest, was assumed to be an immature.

Poospiza boliviana is a range-restricted species to Endemic Bird Area (EBA) 056 (High Andes of Bolivia and Argentina), which is of critical conservation priority⁶. The principal threats facing the EBA were noted near Santa Victoria, namely habitat conversion and terracing for cultivation, overgrazing and deforestation for firewood, and consequent erosion. In general, this area of north-west Argentina (Salta and Jujuy) constitutes an important part of the EBA, as several species with restricted ranges and of conservation concern have been recorded throughout¹. The national parks, Calilegua and Baritú, only marginally protect relevant habitats in Jujuy and Salta provinces, and conservation strategies for the region should focus on high-elevation montane scrub and *Polylepis* woodlands, combining habitat management, environmental education and designation of protected areas. Problems with the existing delimitation and characterisation of the EBA will be considered elsewhere.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas

The fourth West Indian record of **White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* was at McKinney Pond, Cat Island, but is not dated¹⁸.

Barbados

Both the **Purple Ardea purpurea** and **Grey Herons** *A. cinerea*, previously reported here, remained at Graeme Hall swamp, the former on 3 March–28 April and the latter during 3 March to 16 May 1999. A **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*, photographed at Packers, Christ Church, on 16 May 1999, was the second island record¹⁸.

Cayman Islands

A **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* at Midland Acres, on 22–23 May 1999 was the first record for Grand Cayman and a rare report from this part of the Caribbean¹⁸.

Cuba

The fourth island record of **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* was made in Holguín, in January 1999¹⁷.

Jamaica

Davis & Zonfrillo⁸ report the observation of an erythristic **Yellow-billed Parrot** *Amazona collaria*, in the east of the island, in November 1997.

CENTRAL AMERICA**Mexico**

Louisiana Waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla* was recently recorded for the first time on Cozumel Island¹⁶. Urbina-Torres²⁵ reports on the addition of 34 species to the avifauna of the little-studied interior state of Morelos.

Panama

A **Lined Seedeater** *Sporophila lineola*, near Fort Sherman, on 2 January 2000, is apparently the first record for the country³.

SOUTH AMERICA**Argentina**

In October 1995, **Least Nighthawk** *Chordeiles pusillus* was discovered nesting in Misiones province, in the north-east of the country, the first record in Argentina and a 1,300 km southward range extension¹². Darrieu & Camperi⁷ report the first certain records for Corrientes province of the following species, based on a collection made by William H. Partridge between 1960 and 1962: **Tataupa Tinamou** *Crypturellus tataupa*, **Stripe-backed Bittern** *Ixobrychus involucris*, **Masked Duck** *Nomonyx dominicus*, **Grey-headed Kite** *Leptodon cayanensis*, **Plumbeous Kite** *Ictinia plumbea*, **Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* and **White-throated Hummingbird** *Leucochloris albicollis*. Study of a collection, made by Andor Kovacs, yielded the first records of **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*, **Harris' Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*, **Red Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* and **Greater Yellow-finch** *Sicalis auriventris* in Chubut, and first certain record of **Rufous bellied Seedsnipe** *Attagis gayi* in Río Negro⁶.

Brazil

Whittaker & Oren²⁶, reporting on avifaunal work along the rio Juruá, in western Amazonia, mention the discovery of 12 additions to the Brazilian avifauna: **Black-capped Tinamou** *Crypturellus atrocapillus*, **Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*, **Scarlet-headed Barbet** *Eubucco tucinkae*, **White-lined Antbird** *Percnostola lophotes*, **Rufous-fronted Anthrush** *Formicarius rufifrons*, **Round-tailed Manakin** *Pipra chloromeros*, **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris*, **Black-faced Cotinga** *Coniotoptilon mcilhennyi*, **Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis*, **Casqued Oropendola** *Psarocolius oseryi* and **Black-and-white Seedeater** *Sporophila luctuosa*. The first specimen records for the country of **Blue-headed Macaw** *Ara couloni*, **Emerald Toucanet** *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*, **Manu Antbird** *Cercomacra manu* and **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* were also made. The authors also speculate on the possibly specific status of the *obrieni* subspecies of **Rufous-headed Woodpecker** *Celeus spectabilis*.
 Aleixo *et al.*¹ report on range extensions and new distributional information for the following species in south-east Amazonia: **Silky-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus sericocaudatus*, **Rufous-capped Nunlet** *Nonnula ruficapilla*, **Chestnut-throated Spinetail** *Synallaxis cherriei*, **Peruvian Recurvebill** *Simoxenops ucayalae*, **Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner** *Automolus ochrolaemus*, **Banded Antbird** *Dichrozona cincta*, **Black-chested Tyrant** *Poecilatriccus andrei*, **Large-headed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon megacephala*, **Dusky-tailed Flatbill** *R. fuscicauda*, **Lawrence's Thrush** *Turdus laurencii* and **White-orled Euphonia** *Euphonia chrysopasta*.

Bencke & Kindel⁴, in a forest bird study in the north-east of the state, report range extensions, new species (**Pale-browed Treehunter** *Cichlocolaptes leucophrus*, **Spot-backed Antshrike** *Hypodaedalus guttatus* and **Spotted Bamboowren** *Psiloramphus guttatus*) and the occurrence of several globally threatened species in Rio Grande do Sul. Previously unpublished details of two eggs of **Sickle-winged Nightjar** *Eleothreptus anomalus*, taken in Rio Grande do Sul, in November 1925 (only the third reported instance of nesting in this species) are presented by Lowen¹⁴. Additionally, in the same journal, Simon *et al.*²³ provide new nesting information for **Rufous-capped Spinetail** *Synallaxis ruficapilla*, based on observations in Minas Gerais. A **Caatinga Black-tyrant** *Knipolegus franciscanus* reported in Campo Formoso municipality, Bahia, in January 1997, represents a 440 km north-eastward range extension from its nearest known locality¹³. Pacheco¹⁹ discusses the possibility and presents evidence that the type-locality of **Cherry-throated Tanager** *Nemosia rourei* could be Macaé de Cima, Rio de Janeiro, rather than the alleged Muriaé, in Minas Gerais.

A review of unpublished records in Bahia yielded first state records of the following species: **Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Diomedea chlororhynchos*, **Thin-billed Prion** *Pachyptila belcheri*, **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*, **Great Shearwater** *P. gravis*, **Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis*, **White-rumped Hawk** *Buteo leucorrhous*, **Dusky-legged Guan** *Penelope obscura*, **Azure Gallinule** *Porphyrio flavirostris*, **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*, **White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris*, **Great Dusky Swift** *Cypseloides senex*, **Saw-billed Hermit** *Ramphodon naevius*, **Brazilian Ruby** *Clytolaema rubricauda*, **Red-breasted Toucan** *Ramphastos dicolorus*, **Checked Woodpecker** *Picoides mixtus*, **Spot-fronted Woodpecker** *Veniliornis*

maculifrons, **Planalto Foliage-gleaner** *Phylidor dimidiatus*, **Giant Antshrike** *Batara cinerea*, **Long-billed Antwren** *Herpsilochmus longirostris*, **Ochre-rumped Antbird** *Drymophila ochropyga*, **Pint-tailed Manakin** *Ilicura militaris*, **Shear-tailed Grey-tyrant** *Muscipipra vetula*, **Sharp-tailed Grass-tyrant** *Culicivora caudacuta*, **Grey-headed Flycatcher** *Mionectes rufiventris*, **White-rumped Swallow** *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*, **Tawny-headed Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx fucata*, **Unicoloured Blackbird** *Agelaius cyanopus*, **White-bellied Warbler** *Basileuterus hypoleucus*, **Chestnut-headed Tanager** *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps*, **Buffy-fronted Seedeater** *Sporophila frontalis* and **Marsh Seedeater** *S. palustris*²⁴.

Chile

Three records of **White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus* in the north of Chiloé Island, X Region, Chile, between 1987 and 1997 are the southernmost records in the country¹⁵. Amado *et al.*² report two *Himantopus himantopus* of the *melanurus* form, on 1 November 1996, at Rinconada de Mejillones, II Region, a northward range extension of c.700 km. One, of the form *mexicanus*, in September 1997, at the mouth of the río Lluta, is the first country record. These authors also report an **Andean Avocet** *Recurvirostra andina* on the coast of Arica. A small colony of **Dolphin Gull** *Larus scoresbii* at Isla Doña Sebastiana, X Region, is the northernmost breeding record in the country⁹. A nest of **Zenaida Dove** *Zenaida meloda* at La Herradura, Coquimbo, in January 1998, is the southernmost breeding of the species²². Some 20 **Austral Rails** *Rallus antarcticus* at Estancia Brazo Norte and neighbouring Pali Aike National Park, XII Región, on 28 January 1999, represent the first record in the country since at least 1951¹¹. An immature **Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor* found in March 1997, at Santo Domingo, V Region, is only the second country

record⁶. A male **White-winged Black-tyrant** *Knipolegus aterrimus* at Reserva Nacional Altos de Lircay, VII Region, on 13 October 1998, is the first country record²⁰.

Venezuela

Hilty¹⁰, in a paper covering range extensions and new behavioural information based on field work during 1986 to 1997, reports the occurrence of three new species to the country: **Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* (Mérida, in February 1992, the first record for South America), **Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper** *Dendrexetastes rufigula* (many sightings in the Río Grande Forestry Reserve, Bolívar) and **Lesser Wagtail-tyrant** *Stigmatura napensis* (records in June 1996 and January 1998 on the same island in the río Orinoco, 25 km south of Puerto Ayacucho). Records of 47 other species are also reported. In addition, Silva²¹ has recently reviewed the distribution of **Northern Helmeted Curassow** *Pauxi pauxi* and **Wattled Guan** *Aburria aburri* in the country.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Colombia

A breeding colony of 10–15 pairs of **Baudó Oropendola** *Gymnostinops cassini* was discovered nest-building and egg-laying in January 2000, near El Valle, Chocó. A female-plumaged **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* was between Mindo and San Lorenzo, Santa Marta, on 24 February 2000, at c.1,100 m. A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Dendroica pensylvanica* was in Tayrona National Park, Magdalena, on 7 March 2000, and a **Rufous-browed Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes superciliaris* was near San Jose de Palmar, Chocó, at c.1,200 m, on 13 February 2000 (all JL).

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*. The third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Recent new gull records from Mexico

Gulls are well known for their propensity to wander and vagrants can turn up seemingly anywhere. The Neotropics, however, remain a relatively gull-poor area, although 20 species have occurred in Mexico^{1,9}. Here we report additional recent records of six species of gulls, from various regions of Mexico (initials of observers other than the authors are noted in Acknowledgements).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

This species is being reported with increasing frequency from east Mexico in winter. Recent records include up to five (all second-winter or older) at Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, on 25–26 November 1998, 21 March, 13 September and 4 December 1999, and 15 February 2000 (JPG, CEE; Fig. 1); up to three (mainly third-winter and older, but one first-winter on 27 November 1996) at Río Lagartos/Las Coloradas, Yucatán, on 27 November 1996 (two; SNGH, JPM), 2–22 December 1997 (up to three; RAB, JLD, RGW), 5 January 1999 (one; RGW), 30 November 1999–15 January 2000 (one; SNGH, DL,

RGW); and an adult near Progreso, Yucatán, 3 January 1999 (RGW). All adults and older immatures possessed characters of the west European race *graellsii*.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

An adult near Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, on 25 November 1998 (Gee & Edwards 2000, Figs. 1–2) was the first state record, and it or another has been seen there on each subsequent visit: 21 March, 13 September and 4 December 1999, and 15 February 2000 (JPG, CEE). Small numbers still occur in the Río Lagartos area of north Yucatán¹⁰, e.g. two adults at Las Coloradas, on 27 November 1996 (SNGH, JPM) and 22 December 1997 (RGW), and a fourth-year or adult at Río Lagartos, on 1 December 1998 (SNGH). Although the AOU¹ considers the occurrence of this species ‘hypothetical’ in North America (including Mexico), there are numerous records and even reports of breeding in Louisiana, as well as hybrid pairs of Kelp x Herring *L. argentatus* gulls².

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*

An adult at San Blas, Nayarit, on 9 January 1998 (SNGH) was studied carefully at close range and had flesh-pink legs with no trace of yellow, a bright yellow bill with a small orange-red gonyx spot, and a bill that was not exceptionally deep or swollen, all characters that help separate Western from Yellow-footed Gull *Larus livens*. The San Blas individual represents only the third record south of Baja California^{3,8,9}, all of which have been adults.

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*

A first-winter in apparently full juvenile plumage^{6,11} was at the mouth of the río Ameca, Nayarit/Jalisco, on 9 January 2000

(SNGH, KB; Figs. 3–4). This latitude ties in with the previous southernmost records of this Pacific Rim gull, from Isla Socorro¹², and is the first record from mainland Mexico south of Baja California⁹.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A juvenile along the waterfront at Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, on 26 November 1999 (DL, SNGH; Fig. 5) constitutes the first state record and only the second from the Yucatán Peninsula^{7,9}.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Single first-winters were at San Blas, Nayarit, on 8 January 1999 (MO'B, SNGH) and at Barra de Navidad, Jalisco, on 13 February 1999 (WR). The San Blas individual frequented the dock and beach where it was studied at close range, while that at Barra was seen well from a boat, flying just off the rocks near town. These records mirror an exceptional invasion of this species to waters off California during the 1998–1999 winter, and interestingly they parallel the two previous southernmost reports from Mexico's Pacific coast⁹.

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Dominance behaviour in toucans

Occasionally avian behaviour is sufficiently strange as to make it worthwhile reporting in the hope that, combined with other observations, a clear pattern and understanding will emerge. On 21 February 2000, in Jardín Botánico Wilson, near San Vito, south Costa Rica (at 1,100 m), our attention was drawn to two adult Chestnut-mandibled Toucans *Ramphastos swainsonii* flying from tree to tree. They were in an area of open canopy at the edge of Las Cruces forest. No obvious size, colour, or bill length differences were noted between the two, which were c.30 m diagonally above us. The following is a composite of our brief observations, edited by the senior author.

One *Ramphastos* had a green fruit and appeared to feed it to the other, a behaviour commonly observed in toucans⁸. We considered this perhaps an example of courtship feeding^{1,5} or of an adult feeding a nearly mature juvenile, but there followed a loud clashing of bills, and the two appeared for perhaps 30 seconds to be involved in a struggle. One individual, considered the original possessor of the fruit, grasped the other behind the eyes, with its bill, causing the fruit to drop. The grasped bird dropped below the individual holding it, keeping its upturned, closed bill largely between the others' mandibles (suggesting that it might have been a female with a shorter bill). For approximately three minutes (partially timed) it dangled completely inert, with the sole exception that it once partly extended its wings for less than a second. The dangling individual was shaken vigorously several

times during the period. Two Fiery-billed Aracari *Pteroglossus frantzii* flew into the same tree, as did two other *Ramphastos*, but the latter did not become involved. One of the *Pteroglossus*, however, suddenly approached the two in combat and appeared to try and climb onto them. This caused the two *Ramphastos* to leave, the lower still grasped by the upper for a second or so. All six individuals departed simultaneously and quickly disappeared from view, the dangling toucan commencing normal flight following a short drop when it was released.

This appears best interpreted as an aggression–submission interaction between individuals within an established dominance hierarchy. Skutch⁷ reports what may have been bill-to-bill pushing dominance contests in *P. frantzii*. 'Dueling' with bills appears widespread among rhamphastids⁹ and their use in social interactions⁶ may prove to be one answer to the ancient puzzle of the function of their giant bills^{7,9}. Strong intraspecific aggression in which the mandible is used to hold a victim during an attack has been reported in Pale-mandibled Aracari *Pteroglossus erythropygius*². Stable interspecific hierarchies related to feeding occur among other frugivores³, and an intraspecific dominance hierarchy has been demonstrated in at least one avian herbivore in the New World tropics, the White-winged Trumpeter *Psophia leucoptera* (although dominance interactions there appear primarily among males for access to females)⁴. To our knowledge, in such hierarchies, subordinate individuals have not exhibited such dramatically submissive behaviour (which presumably helped avoid serious injury) as that we observed.

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- Figure 1. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* in foreground (with Ring-billed Gull *L. delawarensis*) and adult Kelp Gull *L. dominicanus* at rear, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 25 November 1998 (Carol E. Edwards)
- Figure 2. Adult Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* and juvenile Thayer's Gull *L. thayeri*, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 25 November 1998. Note the Kelp's blackish upperparts, heavy bill and pale greenish legs, and the Thayer's relatively slender black bill (Carol E. Edwards)
- Figures 3–4. Juvenile Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*, rio Ameca mouth, Jalisco/Nayarit, 9 January 2000, with Laughing Gulls *L. atricilla* and Brown Pelicans *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Note the overall large size and heavy build, stout black bill and pale wingtips concolorous with the upperparts (Steve N. G. Howell)
- Figure 5. Juvenile Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*, Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, Mexico, 26 November 1999, with Laughing Gull *L. atricilla* and Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandvicensis* (Dan Lane)

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The first Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* in Trinidad and Tobago

Accompanied by Kenny Calderon (a local guide), a small group of British birders and myself visited Trinidad and Tobago, in June–July 1999. On the second day of the trip, 28 June, we were greeted with torrential rain but undeterred we set off for the mudflats at Waterloo. Near the coast, the rain got even heavier and the roads and fields began to flood. Eventually KC announced that we should try to observe shorebirds from a fishing shelter at the edge of the flats. To our great surprise, the shelter proved to be an ideal site to scan the shore. Attention finally turned to the smaller shorebirds, some of which required careful scrutiny. Kenny pointed out a party of c.20 Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, among which I found a few Western Sandpiper *C. mauri*.

After c.20 minutes Peter Wild announced that he had found a bird resembling Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, a species that was known to him solely from field guide illustrations. I regarded this identification as extremely unlikely, but when Terry Marshall located the individual and asked me to study it, I soon realised that PW's original suspicions were entirely correct! KC had, unsurprisingly, never even heard of the species. Realising that it was almost certainly a first record for Trinidad and Tobago, and possibly the Caribbean, I began to make careful mental notes of the relevant features, while trying to ensure that all members of the group saw it. Unfortunately, during the ten minutes that it was under scrutiny, it frequently disappeared behind some vegetation. There was, however, no doubt of the identification: I have previously seen three in England (where it is also rare), one at Eilat, Israel, and six in Goa, India.

It was noticeably larger than the Semipalmated Sandpipers, among which it initially fed c.200 m away, but as it passed close to a Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria*

interpres it was observed to be less bulky but approximately the same size as that species. The crown, upperparts and breast were pale to medium grey, contrasting with the white underparts. The bill was dark, long and distinctly upturned. The orange-yellow legs were relatively short. It had a marked horizontal stance and as it ran forwards it leaned forward and bobbed its rear in the manner of a Spotted *Actitis macularia* or Common Sandpiper *A. hypoleucos*.

Unfortunately, the heavy persistent rain made close approach impossible and after it had finally disappeared from view all the waders took flight and the Terek Sandpiper was not subsequently relocated. Though only a rather 'sketchy' description was obtained, written in my field notebook within a few minutes of the observation, all the main identification features were noted: size, coloration, bill length and shape, leg colour, stance and tail-bobbing action. The record has been accepted by the Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee (Richard French pers. comm.). There are only three previous records in the Neotropics, two in Argentina and one in Brazil¹.

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A new locality for Gold-ringed Tanager *Bangsia aureocincta*

During 1994 I discovered a small population of the poorly known Gold-ringed Tanager *Bangsia aureocincta* at Alto de los Galápagos (04°51'N 75°12'W, 1,800–2,050 m), on the border between the departments of Chocó and Valle del Cauca. Up to six individuals, including three males, were observed on ten dates between 6 and 25 April. Stiles¹ considered the species to be

currently restricted to the nearby Alto de Pisones. The forest on Alto de los Galápagos has an impressive avifauna, including the following species: Velvet-purple Coronet *Boissonneaua jardini*, White-faced Nunbird *Haploptila castanea*, Toucan Barbet *Semnornis ramphastinus*, Tyrannine Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla tyrannina*, Yellow-breasted Antpitta *Grallaria flavotincta*, Olivaceous Piha (Cotinga) *Snowornis cryptolophus*, Black Solitaire *Entomodestes coracinus* and Black-chinned Mountain-tanager *Anisognathus notabilis*. Unfortunately guerrilla activity currently inhibits ornithological exploration of this area as well as of the implementation of a conservation management plan that has been prepared for the region. If the situation improves I recommend San José de Palmar as a convenient base for anyone seeking to explore the area.

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Behaviour and use of human trail by a Giant Antpitta *Grallaria gigantea*

Giant Antpitta *Grallaria gigantea* is a rare and highly range-restricted species of humid montane and submontane forest, secondary woodland and adjacent muddy clearings in the north-west Andes^{1–4}. The subspecies *hylodroma* of west Ecuador is known from 1,200 to 2,000 m^{3,4}. In contrast, most other observations of *G. gigantea* have been at 2,300–3,000 m^{1,4}. Based on numbers singing, de Soye *et al.*⁴ estimated that c.11.5 individuals/ha may be expected in suitable submontane forest at Mindo, west Ecuador. In contrast, Perez & Lyons (*in litt.*

1999) estimate just two/10 ha. A population of nominate *gigantea* in Napo Province, Ecuador, appears to favour patches of secondary forest, but emerge to feed in adjacent cattle pastures³. The species is currently considered Endangered⁵.

Study site

A *G. g. hylodroma* was observed regularly at Bellavista Reserve from December 1997 until its untimely death in July 1998. Bellavista (00°01'S 78°40'W, c.2,200 m) is on the old Mindo–Nono road, c.10 km west of Tandayapa, north-west Ecuador. Approximately 10% of the 1,600 ha Bellavista reserve is undisturbed primary montane cloud forest or temperate wet forest, while 70% has been selectively logged and the remaining 20% former cattle pasture with scattered trees, living fence posts and some regenerating forest. The *G. gigantea* was observed along two heavily used trails that bisect very steep montane forest slopes which had been selectively logged until c.20 years ago. These trails are used by ecotourists (principally birdwatchers), lodge employees and locals who deliver goods to the lodge on a daily basis.

Observations

The *G. gigantea hylodroma* was first encountered, in December 1997 by TN, along trails H and F at Bellavista. It was easily approached in the early morning, usually at 06h00, and later in the afternoon, near 18h00. Occasionally it was encountered on either trail H or F at noon. Most observations followed a similar pattern: upon being disturbed on the trail, it would hop or run rapidly from the observer along the trail for 10–15 m. Very infrequently, it would fly along the trail. If the observer continued to advance, it would move away likewise, maintaining a 10–15 m distance between it and the observer. On one occasion, TN 'pushed' it in this manner c.250 m along trail H. It was photographed and tape-recorded singing in the

early morning on several occasions. In early June, MRW tape-recorded it singing before sunrise, at c.05h45 along trail H, c.75 m from the lodge. On two occasions TN witnessed it capturing a Giant Earthworm *Glossoscolex giganteus*, when it spent several minutes in a 'tug-of-war' until either the entire earthworm was extracted or the prey was dismembered. TN also witnessed it dissect an earthworm into several smaller pieces before devouring it. We are confident that it hunted earthworms at the muddy intersection of trails H and F because the anaerobic soil conditions forced worms to the surface to gain more oxygen. However, it was killed by the Bellavista milkman, close to the muddy intersection of trails H and F, in July 1998. Since then, no further records of *G. gigantea* at Bellavista have been made, although at least three pairs are resident on the 10 ha Loma Linda property, owned by TN, c.200 m below Bellavista.

Implications

Given these data and similar descriptions in de Soye *et al.*⁴, it is clear that *G. gigantea* readily forages along muddy trails—either within forest or in pastures directly adjacent. Use of trails by *G. gigantea* may increase its detectability leading to higher than average mortality, given that the Ecuadorian population continues to grow at 1.8% per year and that most rural Ecuadorians habitually carry slingshots.

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Records of bird species previously considered uncommon in Santa Catarina state, Brazil

In recent years we have made a number of interesting records of globally threatened species and new southernmost localities for Atlantic Forest endemics within Santa Catarina. Additionally, we have added 11 species to the state list. These records have been published elsewhere⁵. Here we present additional records of species with few previous state records⁷, made during avifaunal work in 1994–2000. Most records come from the following localities: Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural de Volta Velha (c. 26°06'S 48°40'W), a privately owned reserve, near Itapoá, which protects the last remnants of lowland evergreen forest in the state; Ilha de Santa Catarina (27°10'–27°50'S 48°25'–48°35'W), in Florianópolis municipality, a 54 km-long and 18 km-wide island, which possesses some relatively well-preserved Atlantic Forest, as well as patches of mangrove and restinga; Parque Botânico do Morro do Baú (26°47'–26°50'S 48°55'–48°57'W), in Ilhota and Luiz Alves municipalities, a protected area of montane and lower montane evergreen forest (at 200–820 m); Salto do Pirai (26°18'S 48°50'W), near Joinville, which encompasses the waterfall and 400 ha of lower montane,

montane and upper-montane evergreen forest; Urubici and São Joaquim area (c. 27°59'S 49°39'W) comprising mixed planalto woodland with a predominance of *Araucaria* and areas of dense bamboo undergrowth at 900–1,000 m; and Correia Pinto (27°36'S 50°24'W), a privately owned plantation area with large tracts of pines and *Eucalyptus* destined for paper and cellulose production, with some patches of *Araucaria* forest. Many of our records are documented with tape-recordings and these are indicated. They have been deposited at either or both Arquivo Sonoro Elias Coelho—Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, and the Library of Natural Sounds—Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Yellow-crowned Night-heron

Nyctanassa violacea

Single individuals were seen on 10 and 24 October and 20 December 1997, and 17 September and 21 October 1998 in mangroves and marshes in the northern part of Ilha de Santa Catarina (LNN). R. B. A. Silva (pers. comm.) found a pair nesting in mangroves at the Estação Ecológica de Carijós, in the northern part of the same island, in November 1998. It was considered rare in Santa Catarina by Rosário⁷ with only two previous records, both from the littoral.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Two records from Ilha de Santa Catarina: two individuals were seen flying high over rio Tavares, on 3 November 1997, and another perched in mangroves at Ratonas, on 17 September 1998 (LNN). Rosário⁷ mapped the species in only the two southernmost quadrants in the state, and suggested it may be declining due to a decrease in *Pomacea* snails, which constitute its principal food.

White-tailed Hawk *Buteo*

albicaudatus

One was at Salto do Pirai on 4 October 1995 (JAT) and another flew over Morro da Igreja, Urubici, on 14 June 1998 (LNN). Rosário⁷ lists five previous state records, but the Pirai record is the first

from the north-east and only the second from the littoral. Sick⁸ noted that the species is extending its range in eastern Brazil due to deforestation.

Ash-throated Crake *Porzana albicollis*

One was seen well in flight, in the Pirai valley, on 2 October 1995 (JAT). Also found on Ilha de Santa Catarina, where considered a common resident (LNN). Rosário⁷ listed five previous localities, all in the south of the state, though she does not provide details. The Pirai record is the first from northern Santa Catarina.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*

A group of four at Laguna, 80 km south of Ilha de Santa Catarina, in June 1997 (LNN) and another, on Ilha de Santa Catarina, in July 2000, perched on a pier with a group of Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis eurygnatha* (LNN, CAM). Previously known from only three localities in the state⁷.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

At least five of the subspecies *acuflavida*, on 5 March 1998, at Naufragados, the southernmost point of Ilha de Santa Catarina, flying very close to the beach with a group of the *eurygnatha* subspecies (LNN). Apparently there are only two other records of this Nearctic subspecies in Brazil (from Rio Grande do Norte and Rio de Janeiro)⁹, this being the southernmost ever in the country and the first state record.

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

One singing in a garden at Cacupé, Ilha de Santa Catarina, on 19 October 1997 (LNN). Subsequently, the species was heard at other places on the island, where it was considered fairly common⁴. One calling at Itapoá, on 15 October 1998 (LNN, MAGA, ALR). There are only two other localities with recent records in the state⁷, but it has probably been overlooked in many areas.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*

At least two were heard, on 7 October 1997, and one seen on 4 April 1998, at Costa de Dentro, Ilha de Santa Catarina (LNN, MAGA). There are only three previous state records, all from the Atlantic Forest region⁷. Probably this is another species that has been overlooked in Santa Catarina.

Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenidera maculirostris*

Three were seen at Salto do Pirai on 4 October 1995 (JAT). Single individuals were seen at Morro do Baú on 20 April 1997 (unrecorded there by Marterer³) and Salto do Pirai on 26 April 1997, and up to four at Itapoá on 21 April 1998 (LNN). Rosário⁷ considered it rare in Santa Catarina, with the most recent record from 1968, at Camboriú, although it was subsequently recorded at Salto do Pirai².

Pale-breasted Spinetail*Synallaxis albescens*

One in a shrubby, degraded area by the road to Salto do Pirai, on 9 April 1997 (JMB). Known from just three localities in the state, all in the western third, and with the most recent record in 1989⁷. It is presumably more widespread in the state, especially given increasing deforestation.

Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser*Sclerurus scansor*

One at Morro da Lagoa, Ilha de Santa Catarina, in March 1994 (JMB) was in mature secondary woodland. Subsequently, the species was observed in most forest remnants on the island, where now considered a fairly common resident⁴. On 9 April 1997, a pair at Salto do Pirai was associating with a loose mixed-species flock (JMB). There are only five other state records, one of which involves a specimen (held in Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro [MNRJ]) collected near Pirai in 1928⁷. The species was considered rare in Santa Catarina⁷ and uncommon in northern Rio Grande do Sul¹.

Pale-browed Treehunter*Cichlocolaptes leucophrus*

Records from Salto do Pirai are as follows: three on 4 October 1995, two on 5 October 1995 in mixed-species flocks (JAT) and two on 9 April 1997, in foothill forest (JMB). These last birds chased each other noisily close to a mixed-species flock, which they appeared to be following. The calls were tape-recorded. At Volta Velha, Itapoá, three separate individuals (one tape-recorded) on 16 July 2000. These are the 6–9th state records from where only three recent localities, all in the north-east, are known⁷. Previously recorded at Joinville⁸.

Dusky-tailed Antbird *Drymophila malura*

One seen in Três Barras, near the Paraná border, in June 1996 (Denize A. Machado, LNN). There are only three other recent records in the state, where it is considered rare¹.

Bay-ringed Tyrannulet*Phylloscartes sylviolus*

All records were at Salto do Pirai: three on 4 October 1995, two on 5 October 1995 (JAT) and a pair was observed outside the reserve on 10 April 1997 (JMB). These birds, which were tape-recorded, moved high in the canopy of a tree at the forest edge by the access road. Recorded only twice previously in the state, once at this locality, when it was collected⁹, but there were no subsequent records⁷.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*

On 10 April 1997, a single bird was observed on the edge of secondary forest at Salto do Pirai (JMB). A pair was observed nesting in a tree stump at the same locality, on 29 October 1998 (GMK *et al.*). There are also a number of records from Ilha de Santa Catarina, where it appears to be migratory, with the first records being from October and the last ones from March (1998)⁴. There appear to be just three published records for the state, all from the littoral, with the most

recent in October 1986⁷, but we suspect the species has been overlooked and is commoner than these records suggest.

Highland Elaenia *Elaenia obscura*

One with an active nest at Urubici on 11 February 1997 (GMK *et al.*). At Volta Velha, Itapoá, up to four were seen and tape-recorded, in a low restinga clearing, on 15–18 July 2000 (JMB, DB, LNN, MAGA, CAM, ALR). It was also found to be a common resident at Ilha de Santa Catarina⁴. There are only six other localities in the state⁷, and the Volta Velha records are the first from the north-east.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*

One was tape-recorded in the canopy of edge forest at Volta Velha, Itapoá, in mid-July 2000 (JMB, DB). Four previous localities in the state, all in the north-east⁷.

Vermilion Flycatcher*Pyrocephalus rubinus*

At Volta Velha, Itapoá, at least one male and a female, tape-recorded in fields and gardens around the reserve headquarters, in mid-July 2000 (JMB, DB, LNN, MAGA, CAM, ALR). Considered a rare Neotropical migrant at Ilha de Santa Catarina, where there are a number of records, all in August–March⁴. There are only four other recent records in the state, all in the eastern third⁷.

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris*

At Volta Velha, Itapoá, in mid-July 2000, one individual apparently followed a mixed-species flock at a forest edge (JMB, DB). One previous state record, at Estrada do Quiriri, Joinville, in October 1992⁷.

Long-billed Gnatwren*Ramphocoenus melanurus*

Two singles seen on 21 May 1998 and on 15 October 1998, at Volta Velha, Itapoá, both following mixed-species flocks in the mid-storey (LNN). There is only one recent record in the state (from

1980), at Itapiranga near the Argentine border, in the westernmost part of the state⁷. The only other record involves a specimen from Joinville, taken in 1928, housed in MNRJ⁷. Sick⁸ listed the species' coastal range in Brazil as being from Pará to Santa Catarina, while Ridgely & Tudor⁵ described its coastal range as Pernambuco to southern São Paulo.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

One seen and heard at Salto do Pirai on 4 October 1995 (JAT) appears to be the fifth state record⁷, and the first from the north-east.

Long-billed Wren *Thryothorus longirostris*

Many at Ilha do Porto Belo in 1997 (LNN, ALR). At Volta Velha, Itapoá, two separate individuals were tape-recorded, on 16 July 2000 (JMB, DB), at a woodland edge with a marshy area, and on the banks of a stream within open forest. Only four other previous sight records in the state, most in the littoral⁷.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*

A group, on 22 May 1998, at Volta Velha, Itapoá (LNN, MAGA) and heard at the same locality in July 2000 (LNN, CAM). There are only four other recent records in the state⁷.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Mitchell *et al.*³⁵ examine the current status of **Fernandina's Flicker** *Colaptes fernandinae*, mapping all recent localities and comparing these with its historical distribution. The first specimens of **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* for the island were two exhausted migrants at Cabo de San Antonio, Pinar del Río, on 22 October 1998⁵¹.

Dominica

A first-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* at Mahaut, on 9 March 1999, was the first island record, and only the third for the eastern Caribbean⁴⁷.

Haiti

The first record of **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* in Hispaniola involved two, with a dramatic movement of **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*, over Gonaïves Bay, on 28 August 1999²¹.

Jamaica

The fourth **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* for the island was at Aylsham, St. Andrew, from 3 February 2000 for at least a month²⁵. Two **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* were at Falmouth in winter 1998⁶.

St. Vincent & Grenadines

Smith & Smith⁵⁰ recently (May 1998) reconfirmed the presence of **Rufous-vented Chachalaca** *Ortalis ruficauda* on Union Island and Bequia, its only known localities in the West Indies.

CENTRAL AMERICA**Costa Rica**

There have been a number of records, since 1989, of **Blue-tailed Hummingbird** *Amazilia cyanura* at Monteverde, Palo Verde and Carara, for which photographic evidence exists of at least one; a male **Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor* was at Monteverde from at least late January to mid-March 2000; records of **Wedge-tailed Grassfinch** *Emberizoides herbicola* and **Bay-winged Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*, at Isla Damas just north of Quepos, in early 2000 represent intra-country range extensions; and two potential new country records involve a **Clapper Rail** *Rallus longirostris* sighting, at the edge of mangroves along the Gulf of Nicoya, near Costa de Pájaros, and a **Swallow-tailed Gull** *Creagrus furcatus*, off Golfito, from the M/V Temptress²⁵. Subsequent reports in 2000 included a **Pine Warbler** *Dendroica pinus* on 9 September and a male **Prairie Warbler** on 25 September just east of Paraiso (other individuals of the former were present in the same area in early October 1999 and at Tortuguero on 8 November 1999); an immature **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *D. caerulescens* at La Virgen del Socorro, on 17 September; and a female **Cerulean Warbler** *D. cerulea* in Montezuma during early September²⁶.

Mexico

Morales-Pérez *et al.*³⁷ extend the known range of **Black-banded Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes picumnus* in Chiapas, based on specimen records.

Panama

The first description of the nest and nesting behaviour of **Nightingale Wren** *Microcerculus marginatus* has been published recently from observations in 1996 and 1997¹⁸. Elsewhere, interesting distributional and elevational information for 18 species is presented in a recent paper based on a visit to the Cerro Chucantí, within the Serranía de Majé, in 1996⁴. More recent records include several reports of **Chocó Toucan** *Ramphastos brevis*, potentially the first verifiable country record, at Cana, Darién, in late March to mid-April 2000, and a **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* at Panamá Viejo, on 9 March 2000². Subsequently, the third country record of **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*, a flock of 33 at Las Macanas marsh on 14 July 2000, was made, and other interesting reports included two **Lanceolated Monklet** *Micromonacha lanceolata*, at Santa Fé, on 15 July, one, probably two **Oilbirds** *Steatornis caripensis* at Barro Colorado Monument, on 9–10 July, a **Bare-necked Umbrellabird** *Cephalopterus glabricollis* and **Black-and-white Becard** *Pachyramphus albogriseus*, at Santa Fé, on 15 July, and a **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*, at Aguadulce Salinas, on 14 July, the earliest ever autumn record in the country³.

SOUTH AMERICA**Argentina**

There have been many interesting observations published recently. The second country record of **Wren-like Rushbird** *Phleocryptes melanops schoenobaenus* was made at Abra Pampa, in Jujuy province³², while a **Rough-legged Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias burmeisteri* observed

at 2,710 m at Iruya, Salta province, represents an upward range extension of more than 1,300 m for the species³³. Acerbo¹ details occurrences of **Chiguanco Thrush** *Turdus chiguanco* from Neuquén and Río Negro provinces, where only a few records existed. The second record of **Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus*, first confirmed records of **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius* and **Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* and first record of **Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus (Scaphidura) oryzivorus* were reported from Chaco province¹⁶. **Black-backed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus aureoventris* has been reported for the first time in Chaco province, and for the second in Formosa province¹⁷. A straggler **Chinstrap Penguin** *Pygoscelis antarctica* and one **King Penguin** *Aptenodytes patagonicus* represent the first and fourth records in Buenos Aires province respectively, with both being found near Miramar⁸. A **Magellanic Oystercatcher** *Haematopus leucopodus* observed at Mar de Cobo, Buenos Aires, was the third provincial record⁹. Baigorria¹⁰ reports the first **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* in Mendoza province, at Dique Los Reyunos. The only modern record of **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* and the third of **Many-coloured Chaco-finch** *Saltatricula multicolor* were reported for Buenos Aires province, along with a number of other seldom-recorded species in that province²². Three records, involving immatures, of **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, observed near Colonia Liebig, are the first confirmed reports from Corrientes province¹⁵. Maceda *et al.*²⁹ report the first records of the following species in La Pampa province: **Ringed Teal** *Callonetta leucophrys*, a pair near Santa Rosa; **White-crowned Tern** *Sterna trudeaui*, four observations at Laguna Don Tomás; **Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger*, a single at the same locality; and the first confirmed report of **Bay-capped Wren-spinetail** *Spartonicoa*

maluroides, a pair observed near Santa Rosa. The southernmost record of **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa* was one observed in spring, at Reserva Natural Punta Lara, Buenos Aires province³⁶. **Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma* was reported for the first time in Salta province, at El Rey National Park¹⁹.

Two **Elliot's Storm-petrels** *Oceanites gracilis*, collected in El Bolsón, Rio Negro, 12 years apart, are the first country records³⁴, as were up to four **Chestnut-throated Huet-huet** *Pteroptochos castaneus* found at Reserva Natural Turística Lagunas de Epulauquen, Neuquén⁴⁵. Navas & Bó⁴⁰ report the first concrete records of **White-tipped Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rutila*, **Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera*, **Plain Seedeater** *Catamenia inornata* and **Greater Yellow-finch** *Sicalis auriventris* in San Juan province, and the first **Hellmayr's Pipit** *Anthus hellmayri* in Mendoza province, all based on specimens obtained by W. H. Partridge in 1963. The nest of the **Stripe-headed Brush-finch** *Buarremon torquatus* is described for the first time, from the Baritú National Park, Salta²⁴.

Straneck⁵² presents the following noteworthy records: a male **Green-backed Firecrown** *Sephanoides sephanioides* observed during winter and spring 1998 in Calamuchita, Córdoba, is the second provincial record; the first confirmed reports of **Ash-throated Crake** *Porzana albicollis* for Jujuy and Santa Fe based on tape recordings; and up to three **Black Rails** *Laterallus jamaicensis* in December 1992 near El Bolsón, Rio Negro, are a southward range extension of more than 1,000 km. Two observations of **Mourning Sierra-finch** *Phrygilus fruticeti* near Calamuchita, Córdoba, are the second and third provincial records, and two **Carbonated Sierra-finches** *P. carbonarius* observed near Colonia Belgrano, Santa Fe, represent the first record in that province.

Brazil

Bauer *et al.*¹³ report, in detail, on the rediscovery of **Cherry-throated Tanager** *Nemosia rourei*, in Espirito Santo, in February 1998, and subsequent observations, and Mazar Barnett *et al.*³⁴ similarly on **Kaempfer's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus kaempferi*. Naka *et al.*³⁸ present records of 11 species new to the state of Santa Catarina, as well as observations of 12 species of conservation concern and 14 species for which fewer than three state records previously existed. Maurício & Dias³¹ provide new distributional information for 19 species in Rio Grande do Sul, and document the presence of **Rufous Gnateater** *Conopophaga lineata* in Uruguay for the first time. Borges¹⁴ presents the first country records of **Yapacana Antbird** *Myrmeciza disjuncta*, from Jaú National Park, based on tape-recordings, photographs and two specimens. These extend the species' distribution 500 km southwards. Six records of up to three **White-bellied Storm-petrels** *Fregetta grallaria*, with one photographed, in 1997 from a bottom long-liner, represent the first documentation of the species in Brazil⁴¹. Petry *et al.*⁴⁶ report on three specimens of **Cape Verde Shearwater** *Calonectris edwardsii* found on the coast of Rio Grande do Sul, and also mention a sight record at sea, off São Paulo, in May 1997 and a previous specimen record from Bahia; these are the only country records.

Recent observations published in *Melopsittacus* include the following. Vasconcelos & Roos⁵⁴ provide new records of birds from Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo, São Paulo, while Nascimento & Neto³⁹ present waterbird data, collected in 1992–1994, from the Sobradinho Lake region of Bahia. Information on breeding and the current distribution of the globally threatened **Blue-throated Parakeet** *Pyrrhura cruentata* has been summarised³⁰, while elsewhere the northward spread of **Screaming Cowbird** *Molothrus*

rufoxillaris in Minas Gerais is documented⁵. Elsewhere, Dias²³ reports the first occurrence of the exotic **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* in Brazil, a pair on the Rio Grande do Sul–Uruguay border, at Chuí, on 23–24 February 1998, with further observations in October 1998 and February 1999. Bauer & Pacheco¹¹ provide a useful bird list for the Visconde de Mauá region of the Sierra da Mantiqueira, at the border of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, and Pacheco⁴³ separately updates the avifauna of Amapá state from a new study of the literature, providing novel information for 17 species.

Colombia

Based on field work in Nariño in 1996–1998, Strewé⁵³ presents new departmental and Pacific slope records for 21 species, as well as a new species for Colombia—**Andean Gull** *Larus serranus*—and significant new records for six other species, including an altitudinal range extension, of 350 m downslope, for the globally threatened **Chocó Vireo** *Vireo masteri*. Photographic and sound-recording evidence are presented in support of some species. Having gone unnoticed in the country since 1979, **Moustached Antpitta** *Grallaria alleni* was rediscovered, in late 1995, at Otún-Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, in the Central Andes²⁷.

Ecuador

Moustached Antpitta *Grallaria alleni* was first found in the country in 1990 and has since been recorded at a total of six localities (four in Pichincha province and at single sites in Cotopaxi and Napo provinces) on both slopes of the Andes²⁷. Specimens were taken in 1992 and 1994. Ortiz-Crespo⁴² has described the nest of the **Rainbow Starfrontlet** *Coeligena iris*.

Peru

Another specimen of the little-known **Fine-barred Piculet** *Picumnus subtilis* has recently come to light⁴⁸.

Uruguay

A pair of **Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa* was found nesting in Colonia department⁷. Recent avifaunal work in north-west dpto. Artigas produced the first country records of **Large Elaenia** *Elaenia spectabilis* and **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa*¹⁹. **Rufous Gnateater** *Conopophaga lineata* has recently been added to the list of species reliably recorded from the country (see Brazil above)³¹.

Venezuela

Colvee²⁰ describes the first observations of **Orinoco Softtail** *Thripophaga cherriei* since 1970, three (one male and one pair) in dense riverside forest along the rio Capuana, near Guacharaca Afuera, Amazonas.

SOUTH ATLANTIC**Falkland Islands**

The following interesting records were published in *Falklands Conservation Newsletter* 47 (July 2000). All were made in 2000. A pair of **Great Grebe** *Podiceps major* was on Pebble Island, on 18–23 January at least, while 2–8 **Coscoroba Swan** *Coscoroba coscoroba* are now resident on the same island. A **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* was at Estancia, on 11 February, and on Weddell Island, on 13 February, and an immature **Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi* was at Teal Inlet, on 13 May–4 July. A **Rosy-billed Pochard** *Netta peposaco* was on Saunders Island, in December 1999, moving to Pebble Island, on 27 January–12 February. Other vagrants included an **American Purple Gallinule** *Porphyryula martinica* found dead at Teal Inlet on 4 July, a **White-winged Coot** *Fulica leucoptera* on Pebble Island on 18–29 January at least and a **Red-gartered Coot** *F. armillata* sighted at several localities between 3 June and 16 July. Vagrant shorebirds included up to four **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* on Cape Pembroke, between December 1999 and January 2000, with two on Pebble Island on 23 January, where there

were also up to four **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C. melanotos* on 23–29 January. An **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* was on Saunders Island, on 26 January, and on Pebble Island, on 12 February. In addition, Black *et al.*¹³ provide records of 17 species of seabirds previously considered uncommon in the archipelago's waters.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED**Cuba**

GMK reports the following in 2000. A **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* was c. 20 km south of Matanzas city, on 14 April, a **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* at Pálpite, Matanzas, on 23 July 2000 (the 21st island record and first from the well-watched Zapata region). five **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* near Jagüey Grande, Matanzas, on 24 July 2000, and a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* between Pálpite and Guamá, on 21 July 2000 (the earliest ever autumn record). Potentially the first **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* for Cuba was at Casilda, Trinidad, on 17–18 July 2000, with a **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C. melanotos* there at the same time (JB). A **Bananaquit** was at Las Terrazas, west of Habana, also in July (JB). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*, the second island record, was reported in the Zapata region, on 17 November 2000 (MF).

GW has drawn our attention to some corrections and clarifications to the records presented in *Cotinga* 14: 106–107. The Bananaquit record was the 20th individual to be recorded in Cuba, the Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* was the 9th (or 10th) for Cuba and the Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* was the second (and first documented) record.

Guatemala

PK sent the following records, relating to 1999: two **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata* along the rio Passion, near El Ciebal, on 6 November; four **Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* at Sayaxche, on 6–7 November, perhaps the first Petén record; an **Azure-crowned Hummingbird** *Amazilia cyanocephala* near El Ciebal on 8 November; a female **Lovely Cotinga** *Cotinga amabilis* and a group of six **Band-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* in the same area, on the same date; a female **Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea* on the north-east side of Lake Amatitlán, on 16 October, with 20 in mangroves 1 km east of Ixtapa, on the Pacific coast, on 28 November; a **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* at Tikal, on 5 November; and a pair of **Scarlet-rumped Tanager** *Ramphocelus passerinii* near El Ciebal, on 8 November.

Jamaica

The following observations refer to 1999: a **Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons* was at Marshall's Pen, on 8–9 November at least (GMK, RPM, JP, FR); a **Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii* was tape-recorded at Windsor Caves, on 10 November (GMK, FR) and a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* was at Rocklands, near Montego Bay, on 11 November (GMK, FR).

Mexico

A **Grace's Warbler** *Dendroica graciae* was above Cola de Caballo south of Monterrey, on 3 October and an immature **Prairie Warbler** *D. discolor* was at the Balcon de Montezuma archaeological area, c.20 km south-west of Ciudad Victoria, on 4 October (RH).

St Lucia

Two firsts for the island were recorded in 1999, a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* on 17 March and a **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* the following day (MT).

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*. The third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Recent records from Tambito Nature Reserve and Munchique National Park, south-west Colombia

During research for the Colombian EBA Project, we spent a total of four days (24–27 July 2000) investigating sites at Tambito Nature Reserve and the southern border of Munchique National Park (c.02°30'N 77°00'W; 2,200–2,800 m), on both slopes of the Western Cordillera, dpto. Cauca, Colombia. Observations complement data collected at 1,500–2,200 m, in 1997 and 1998, with some additions to Donegan & Dávalos' noted below.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina*

Previously known from the Western Cordillera only from extreme northern dpto. Antioquia², c.530 km north of Munchique. A pair was observed near the Inderena Cabin (2,200 m), on 6 July 1997, by TMD, and a flock of 100+ at Cerro Munchique (c.3,000 m), on 24 July 2000 by all authors. *N. murina* may have colonised the area recently, as surveys by Hilty and others in the 1980s did not locate the species.

Grey-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps*

In Colombia, known only from the río Cauca and Dagua valleys, mostly at 1,000–1,800 m, although recorded once in the Central Andes to 2,400 m². In dry mature secondary forest, below Cerro Munchique (2,400 m), TMD and JCL observed an individual on the El Tambo road, presenting a local elevation extension.

New records for the reserve

The following species, which did not appear on the reserve's checklist¹, were also observed in Tambito: Greater Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pucheranii*, Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*, Sepia-brown Wren *Cinnycerthia peruana*, Red-hooded Tanager *Piranga rubriceps*, Golden-crowned Tanager *Iridosornis porphyrocephala* and Black-capped Hemispingus *Hemispingus atropileus*. A total of 319 species has now been recorded in the reserve.

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First mainland record of Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* for Colombia

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* breeds in the east USA and Canada and winters south to Panama and the Greater Antilles¹ with smaller numbers in the Lesser Antilles, south to Barbados, and unconfirmed records on Trinidad & Tobago (E. Massiah pers. comm.). There is one specimen from South America, taken at Henri Pittier National Park, Venezuela³ and sight records on Colombia's Caribbean islands, Islas San Andrés and Providencia². There are no previous Colombian mainland records⁴.

On 12 April 2001, we identified a *H. vermivorus* c.0.5 km north-west of Cañaveral in Tayrona National Park, dpto. Magdalena, Colombia (c.74°00'W 11°20'N, 20 m). It was observed at c.3–5 m for c.10 minutes, foraging in the understorey of old second growth, among a flock containing three Golden-fronted Greenlet *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* and a Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*. It made occasional *tsip* calls. TMD had previously observed *H. vermivorus* four months previously in Guatemala.

Atlappetes and *Arremon* aside, the principal confusion species in Colombia is Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*, which has similar coloration, crown stripe and supercilia. But, *B. tristriatus* is overall less warm brown with whiter and narrower head

markings, a yellowish forecrown and less pointed bill, and is a more active and vocal species. Furthermore, it is a non-migratory subtropical species, unlikely to be found in coastal regions, and is replaced in mountains of this region by the distinctive, bright yellow, Santa Marta Warbler *B. basilicus*².

With records in Panama, nearby Caribbean islands and Venezuela, the presence of *H. vermivorus* in northern Colombia is unsurprising. However, with no previous mainland records, it is clear that the species is either a vagrant to the region or winters in only tiny numbers.

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Ring-billed *Larus delawarensis* and Lesser Black-backed Gulls *L. fuscus* in Venezuela

On 9 February 1983, at El Hatillo, at the east end of Lago de Unare, Anzoategui, Venezuela, S. J. M. Gantlett and I found an adult Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*. Also present were two large, dark-mantled gulls considered to be Lesser Black-backed *L. fuscus*. Photographs were taken and, on our return to the UK, the advice of the late P. J. Grant was sought regarding the identification of the dark-mantled individuals. Grant (*in litt.*) had 'no hesitation in identifying one of the birds as Lesser Black-backed Gull, either *graellsii* or *intermedius*, and no reason at all why it isn't *graellsii*.' The photographs of the other individual were of insufficient quality to make a certain identification, but it was thought most likely to be *graellsii*. Two Ring-billed and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed between Boca de Uchire and El Hatillo, on 3–4 April 1993, by B. & P. James, T. J. Toohig and T. J. Wilson, suggesting that both species are not infrequent visitors to the area. Indeed both species were listed, on the basis of sight records and photographs but no specimens, for Venezuela by several recent authors^{1–3}, and M. Lentino and C. Rodner (*in litt.* February 2001) consider both to be regular winter migrants in small numbers. However the subspecific identity of those *L. fuscus* reaching Venezuela remains to be confirmed, although our observations suggest that at least some are *graellsii*.

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The occurrence of the Short-billed Honeycreeper

Cyanerpes nitidus in Surinam

Short-billed Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes nitidus* is not known from Surinam², though it occurs in south Venezuela, south-east Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, west Amazonian Brazil³, and has recently been discovered in Guyana¹. Strangely, it is well known among Surinamese cage-bird lovers. Here, I present evidence for the occurrence of the species in Surinam.

Mr Spong (pers. comm.) caught it many times during the 1970s and 1980s along the Afobaka Road, north of the large lake and near Moengo in north-east Surinam. Mr Robert (pers. comm.) caught the species in the same period several times near the Brownsberg Nature Park. Pieter Teunissen and Jan Hein Ribot (pers. comm.) saw Short-billed Honeycreeper in 1986 in the collections of Messrs. Robert and Hensen. The latter bought his birds from Amerindians of Kwamalasumutu in the south of the country. In June 2000 I saw an adult male, several immature males and a female in a pet shop in Paramaribo. These had been bought from the same source the previous month. On 5 December 2000 I observed an adult male in Brownsberg Nature Park, feeding on ripe fruits in company of three other species of honeycreeper, from a distance of 6 m. It was clearly paler blue than Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, and had a very short bill and pink legs. Michel Clement closely observed a pair of Short-billed Honeycreeper, in October 1996, near Crique Rouge, north-

east of St. Laurent, French Guiana, just 10 km from the Surinam border.

Short-billed Honeycreeper may be widespread within interior Surinam, but it is a canopy species, often found with the much commoner Purple Honeycreeper, with which it is easily confused at a distance.

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A nest of the Ash-throated Gnateater *Conopophaga peruviana* in Amazonian Ecuador

In mid-morning on 16 August 1999, c.9 km upstream of Tiputini Biodiversity Station, in Amazonian Ecuador, I found a nest of Ash-throated Gnateater *Conopophaga peruviana*. No breeding data were previously available for the species (Bret Whitney *in litt.*), which occurs patchily in the Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. Upon my discovery of the nest, the male gnateater flew rapidly into dense undergrowth near the nest, alarm calling. It reappeared on some dead branches in a tree-fall clearing



Figure 1. Nest of Ash-throated Gnateater *Conopophaga peruviana* Tiputini, Ecuador, August 1999 (Niels Poul Dreyer)

c.50–75 m from the nest approximately 10 minutes later. The female was not seen. Other ground-dwellers in the area were Ochre-striped Antpitta *Grallaria dignissima* and Rusty-belted Tapaculo *Liosceles thoracicus*.

Nest description

The nest was located along a creek within closed *terra firme* forest, with no palms in the area, only young saplings with a dbh of up to 30 cm. The nearest large tree was c.30 m distant. The ground was damp following rain, but there was no permanent water within a radius of 50 m of the nest, which was situated 35 cm above ground in a tree sapling, with a dbh of 5–10 cm, and was not concealed by leaves. Vegetation in the vicinity was dense on one side and more open on the other. The nest was within a small fork and consisted of a rather shallow open cup neatly assembled from large dead leaves with tiny twigs in its centre. Two chicks, not yet ready to fledge, were present (Fig. 1).

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Southern range extension for the Parrot-billed Seedeater *Sporophila peruviana*

Parrot-billed Seedeater *Sporophila peruviana* inhabits coastal south-west Ecuador south to Nazca, dpto. Ica¹⁻³. During a

monitoring study of Slender-billed Finch *Xenospingus concolor* in the Yauca valley (15°28'S 74°26'W), dpto. Arequipa, Peru, we observed and trapped three Parrot-billed Seedeaters, 110 km south of the species' previous known southernmost limit and the first departmental record. The first capture was at Fundo Chevalier, a commercial olive plantation in Distrito de Bella Union, on 4 August 2000. The second was in olive trees and riparian thickets at Yauca, on 14 October 2000, where we collected two females, one of which was preserved as a specimen and deposited in Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima (MUSM 21950). Its weight was 14.5 g, without moult, fat low, and it had a brood patch. The avifauna of the northern valleys of dpto. Arequipa is poorly known and more species recorded south only to dpto. Ica may be found with future field work in this area.

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Discovery of a new site for Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes alpinus* in Bolivia

The Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes alpinus*, an endangered high-Andean *Polylepis* forest specialist, was rediscovered in Bolivia, by Sjoerd Mayer, in the Choquetanga valley (16°19'S 67°57'W), in 1996, following a period of over 60 years without records. CV, during avian field work with the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History and Colección Boliviana de Fauna, discovered a new locality for the species, c.10 km north-west of the Choquetanga site, in Cotapata National Park and Integrated Management Area (16°15'S 68°01'W). Prior to this record, Choquetanga was the only known Bolivian site, with three sites known in Peru. Two pairs were found on 4 October 1999 and on two subsequent visits during the following days in the same *Polylepis* forest, at 3,800 m, within the integrated use zone. Small patches of *Polylepis* and *Gynoxys* remain on the almost inaccessibly steep slopes of three small valleys; livestock grazing has largely denuded the rest of the area. Two of the three areas each harboured a pair of Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant, with one pair apparently resident in each forest patch. Pair members remained in each others view and quickly rejoined if separated for more than a few minutes. They were never noted to leave their territories and no interactions were witnessed. Both sites, like most *Polylepis* forests in South America, are highly disturbed through forest burning combined with grazing.

It is possible that other populations exist in the more

extensive, unstudied *Polylepis racemosa* forests (at 3,500–4,000 m) of Bolivia's Cordillera Real (northern Bolivian Andes). Other sites probably exist for the species within the newly expanded Apolobamba Integrated Management Area and Madidi National Park. Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant is a priority species in the Bolivian Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme and the discovery demonstrates the urgency for additional field research at these threatened patches of *Polylepis* forest.

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Additional records of Taczanowski's Tinamou *Nothoprocta taczanowskii* in Bolivia

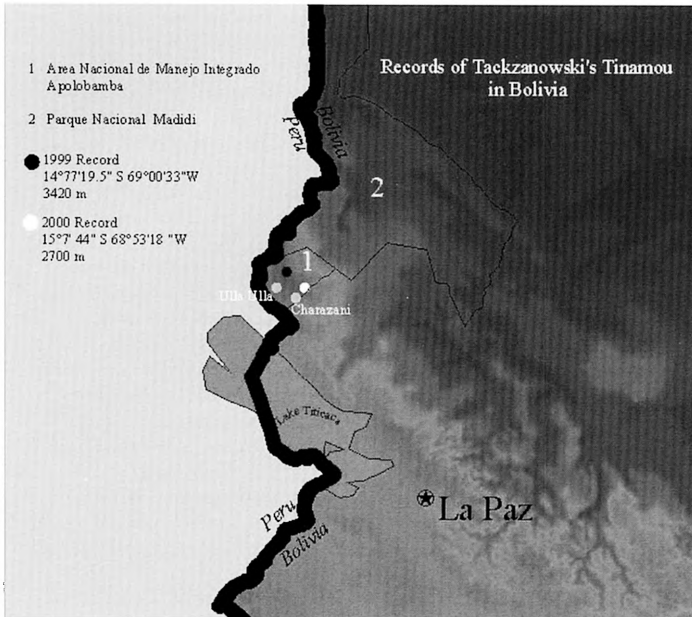
Taczanowski's Tinamou *Nothoprocta taczanowskii* was recorded for the first time in Bolivia, on 21 October 1999, in Area Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional Apolobamba, dpto. La Paz, Bolivia³. The species was previously considered a Peruvian endemic and formerly listed as Vulnerable¹. Taczanowski's Tinamou was found during subsequent survey work at an additional locality within the same protected area in 2000.

On 8–25 November 2000, ornithological surveys were undertaken in the Quelhuacota River valley, near the village of Wakella, provincia Saavedra, dpto. La Paz, at c.2,700 m. The area lies at the base of the north face of Serranía Uyacaya and south face of the Nevado Sanchure (15°07'S 68°53'W), and is significantly more xeric and disturbed than the locality in provincia Franz Tamayo (14°77'S 69°00'W at c.3,420 m)³, where

Taczanowski's Tinamou was discovered in 1999. The landscape near Wakella has been substantially altered by varying degrees of human use, from intensive agriculture to casual exploitation. The number of old farming terraces on the slopes proves that this is not a new phenomenon in the area. The surrounding slopes have little natural vegetation, and the tree-line appears to be entirely determined by human activity. Smaller streams have remnants of humid forest on their banks, creating a gallery forest of secondary humid montane forest, with dense undergrowth of *Chusquea*. Immediately outside these, rank grasses, bracken ferns, *Rhus*, *Puya*, thorny woody shrubs and melastomes of a more semi-humid affinity are found. Abandoned farms occur in more level areas that have regenerated into semi-humid scrub, with the occasional apple, cherry or domestic rose in its midst. These areas are almost impenetrable, the tallest trees being 4–5 m tall and 10–15 cm dbh. Above c.3,200 m, disturbed patches of tall secondary/selectively logged primary forest occur, with dense undergrowth of *Chusquea* and the occasional *Podocarpus* or other tree with a dbh of greater than 1 m.

Nothoprocta taczanowskii was found at the base of Nevado Sanchure and on the Serranía Uyacaya. It was observed on three occasions in early successional pastures or in hedgerows between fields, and identified by the combination of very dark upperparts, (the mantle feathers and scapulars having distinctive pale buffy edgings) and long, slightly decurved bill. Overall impression was of a large, dark tinamou, with a long bill. These characters, combined with the habitat, quickly eliminate possible confusion with any other sympatric tinamou, or *N. kalinowskii*.

The species was initially located on 19 November, on the east bank of the Quelhuacota River, when one was observed crossing a livestock trail in scrub.



Map depicting recent records of Taczanowski's Tinamou *Nothoprocta taczanowskii* in Bolivia

When the individual became aware of the observer, it quickly dashed into the dense undergrowth. One was seen in the same location next day. Three more were seen on 23rd, on the opposite bank of the Quelhuacota River and c.1 km downstream of the earlier sightings. Two were seen together at a distance of 6 m, before they scrambled out of view into a row of peach trees and stone fence posts between potato patches. They flushed as I drew near, gliding a short distance downhill. A third individual was found a few minutes later.

No juveniles were noted at Wakella, the observations being made approximately one month later than the dates for juveniles recorded in provincia Franz Tamayo (21 October 1999)². The present records, in addition to the five seen near Tojoloque, in 1999, appear to indicate that the total number of known specimens (17) is more indicative of the difficulty in procuring specimens than the real abundance of *N. taczanowskii*². Likewise, the individual recorded in the more humid, higher area near Tojoloque indicates that the species' habitat

requirements in Bolivia are governed by the extent of scrub, be it a natural tree-line ecotone, or anthropogenic parkland. Taczanowski's Tinamou is probably an uncommon or locally fairly common species in cultivated areas of the remote highlands of western La Paz. I suspect the species may benefit from farms, regenerating scrub and hedgerows in the area. Effects upon its population from agriculture, as well as direct exploitation as a game bird, are worth investigating. While *N. taczanowskii* may benefit from early successional growth created by intensive subsistence agriculture in the area, the effects of tall-forest clearance upon Hooded Tinamou *Nothocercus nigrocapillus*, which often inhabits adjacent forest in these localities, are also worthy of study.

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A new record of Sandwich Tern *Sterna (s.) sandvicensis*, in Argentina

On 2 January 1998, in Mar del Plata port, Buenos Aires province, I observed a single Sandwich Tern *Sterna (s.) sandvicensis*, in non-breeding plumage, on a rock for several minutes before it was disturbed by fishermen and could not be relocated. It had a mostly white body, pale grey wings and back (with darker primaries), while the forehead and most of the crown were white, with a black crest. The bill (more slender than *Sterna eurygnatha*) was black with a conspicuous and diagnostic yellow tip.

In the Northern Hemisphere winter this species occurs on coasts from Florida, USA, south to Uruguay^{1,5}. It is considered an occasional, non-breeding visitor to Buenos Aires province, where it

has been observed at Costa Bonita (March 1985), Mar del Plata (February 1977), and Punta Rasa (December 1986, 1991, January, November–December 1992)^{6,7,9}. Other authors cite few additional observations of the species in Argentina: doubtfully mentioned for Argentine coasts by Canevari *et al.*², it is also considered a rare spring/summer visitor^{3,8}, and de la Peña⁴ mentions it for Chubut and Santa Cruz province coasts (without quoting specific observations). Burger & Gochfeld¹ mention that mixed pairs of *S. sandvicensis*/*S. eurygnatha* occur in Patagonia, and consider *S. eurygnatha* to be only subspecifically distinct from *S. sandvicensis*. The observation reported here represents the first province record for almost a decade.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas

A **Little Egret** *Egretta alba* was on Grand Bahama on 28 August 1999. There was a **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens* on the same island on 8 October 1999³⁸.

Barbados

Two **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* were present on the island in October 1999 and a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savanna* was there on 24 August 1999. More exciting was the discovery of up to eight **Common House Martin** *Delichon urbica* at Harrison Point, on 30 October–6 November 1999, the first record for the Neotropics³⁸. Elsewhere Frost provides separate reports on the first **Giant Cowbird** *Scaphidura oryzivora* in the West Indies, in March 2000¹⁸, and first **Antillean Nighthawk** *Chordeiles gundlachi* in the Lesser Antilles, in May 2000¹⁹.

Bermuda

A **Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus* was at Castle Roads, on 4 August 1999, the first record since 1978¹³. All other records refer to 2000, unless otherwise stated. Four immature **Brent**

Geese *Branta bernicla horta* were at St. George's Dairy on 31 October, with two remaining into November and one until late February 2001. There have only been three previous records since the first was recorded in the mid-1960s^{14,15}. A **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* was off Gurnet Rock on 21 March 2001, but more importantly a record 33 young **Bermuda Petrel** *Pterodroma cahow* were present in their nesting burrows during the same period¹⁶. The third island record of **Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* was present from 21 November until 11 May 2001 at least^{14,16}. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons* was at Jenningsland, on 6–12 October¹⁴, with another at the Bio Station on 1 December¹⁵. **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* is always scarce, but one was at Fort Scaur on 1 November¹⁴. Interesting sparrow reports included a **Clay-coloured Spizella pallida** on 8 October, at Hog Bay Park, **White-crowned Zonotrichia leucophrys** in late October, at Port Royal Golf Course, a **Fox Passerella iliaca** on 13 November, in Hog Bay Park, a **Swamp Melospiza georgiana** at the Bio Station, on 1 December, and single **Vesper Sparrows** *Pooecetes gramineus* on 13 November, at Hog Bay Park and 2 December, on the Baselands^{14,15}.

British Virgin Islands

The first report of **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* in the Neotropics was in mid-October 1999³⁸.

Cuba

Martínez *et al.*³⁵ report the first records of **Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis* from the Ciénaga de Zapata and Sierra de Anafe in the late 1990s. The globally threatened **Cuban Kite** *Chondrohierax wilsonii* has not been recorded since 1992, but three individuals were videotaped at a locality near Santiago de Cuba, in January 2001³⁰. Rodríguez *et al.*⁴⁰ report new sightings of **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* and **Red Knot** *C. canutus* in Cuba, both in Holguín province,

in May 1999. The second country record of the *salicicola* race of **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens* was recently reported, along with a listing of all previous specimens of the species taken in Cuba²¹. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* was observed on the Isle of Youth, in November 1998⁴¹. Smith & Smith⁴⁸ report the first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* records in Cuba, in November 1998 and 1999, while Kirwan²⁹ reports the first **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* sightings in the West Indies (away from the Cayman Islands), presumably escapes or deliberately introduced birds, in Havana, in April 2000. Shaffer *et al.*⁴⁵ and Sánchez & Rodríguez⁴³ place on record new observations from the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago. Kirwan & Kirkconnell³¹ describe sightings of two leucistic **Crescent-eyed Pewee** *Contopus caribaeus*, an aberration apparently very rare among tyrant flycatchers.

Dominica

At least one **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* was reported on 6 November 1999; the species is rare in the Lesser Antilles³⁸.

Grenada

Probably the first island record of **Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* was made on 31 May 1998; the individual appeared to be of the South American race⁴⁷. Thorstrom *et al.*⁵¹ recently discovered a total of 15 **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus mirus*, principally in the south-west of the island, also locating two nests, and speculate that this endemic form may be more common than recently considered.

Haiti

A **Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* was at Montrouis, near Port-au-Prince, on 11 November³⁸.

Puerto Rico

Salguero-Faría & Roig-Bachs⁴² report on the occurrence of four previously unrecorded exotic psittacines in the island.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

On 30 November 2000, **Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* was discovered in the south-west of the country and during the following weeks, until at least April 2001, there was a total of five sightings of small groups and singles within a few kilometres of the Wilson Botanical Garden, Las Cruces and Coto Brus^{22,23}. The third documented record of **Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* in the country was one photographed in southern Guanacaste province, 1 km west of Abangaritos Bridge, on 6 November 2000²². On 3 October 2000, an **Oilbird** *Steatornis caripensis* was found roosting at km 70 on Cerro de la Muerte²². Interesting migrants reported in 2001 included a **Cape May Warbler** *Dendroica tigrina* at La Colina Lodge, Monteverde, **Hermit Warblers** *D. occidentalis* at several sites, an immature male **Palm Warbler** *D. palmarum* at Lake Cote on 6 February, two **Prairie Warbler** *D. discolor* at Hacienda Los Reyes, La Guácima de Alajuela, from January to mid-April, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* at Playa Coyote, on the Nicoya Peninsula and a **White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* singing at Cahuita, on 11 April²³. A **South Polar Skua** *Catharacta maccormicki* was reported off Mawamba Lodge, Tortuguero, on 14–15 April 2001, nests of both **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** *Scytalopus argentifrons* and **Scaled Antpitta** *Grallaria guatemalensis* were found in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, in April and June 2001 respectively, about the fourth country record of **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* was at San Isidro del General, on 18 May 2001, a **Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* was photographed at Orotoni, on 14 June 2001 and a pair of **Scarlet Macaws** *Ara macao* was at Balsa de Atenas, on 23 June 2001 (the two latter records both being in-country range extensions)²⁴.

Honduras

Anderson³ clarifies the breeding and distribution of **Ocellated Poorwill** *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus* in the country.

Mexico

Hamilton *et al.*²⁶ describe the first record of **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* in Mexico, in the Vizcaino Desert, Baja California, on 18–19 October 1996.

Panama

Significant records reported recently (all from 2000) include a total of three nests of **Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* in parts of Darién and northern Coclé, in April (five previous country records); a **Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* also in Darién, on 1 January (second country record); a **Solitary Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius* at Cana, on 27 March (fewer than 10 previous records); a **Green-winged Teal** *Anas [crecca] carolinensis* at Las Macanas, Herrera, on 19 December (second country record); and a female **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* and 250–300 **Lesser Scaup** *A. affinis* at the same site, on 19–20 December (the former the first province record and the latter an extremely large concentration)⁴.

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia

Alverson *et al.*¹ report on the first confirmed Bolivian records of **Ihering's Antwren** *Myrmotherula iheringi* at 'Pingo del Oro', on the south bank of the río Tahuamanu (between the Tahuamanu and Muyumanu) in far-west Bolivia, in October 1999. (Subsequently JvdW observed a male near Riberalta, Beni province, in the north of the country, in October 2000.) Other significant observations, during the same inventory, included the second Bolivian record of **Rufous-fronted Antthrush** *Formicarius rufifrons*, along the Tahuamanu itself. Vogel *et al.*⁵⁴ recently made the first record of **Taczanowski's Tinamou** *Nothoprocta*

taczanowskii in Bolivia (see pp. 80–81 for subsequent sightings).

Brazil

The run of extraordinary and exciting rediscoveries of 'lost' taxa from the Atlantic Forest region continues; sonograms and a photograph, made in January 1995 near Una, Bahia, of

Stresemann's Bristlefront

Merulaxis stresemanni have been presented recently, though there have been no subsequent records despite some effort⁸. Telino Júnior *et al.*⁴⁹ report on new observations of

Golden-tailed Parrotlet

Touit surda in Pernambuco, the first state records for 42 years.

The arrival of the House

Sparrow *Passer domesticus* in the south-west Amazonian states of Rondonia and Acre, in April 1998 and August 1999, was reported recently²⁵. The first

Snowy Sheathbill

Chionis alba in Pernambuco was recorded in June 1993⁵⁰. **Itatiaia Spinetail** *Schizoeaca moreirae* has been recorded in the state of São Paulo, at Pedra da Mina, in the Serra da Mantiqueira⁴⁴. Anciães *et al.*² present two new localities for the easily overlooked

Elegant

Mourner *Laniisoma elegans* for Minas Gerais state, and the globally threatened

Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant

Euscarthmus rufomarginatus has recently been discovered at Chapada do Catuni in the same state⁵. Azevedo Júnior *et al.*⁷ detail two new localities for the globally threatened

Araripe

Manakin *Antilophia bokermanni*, and Mazar Barnett³⁶ an extralimital record of

Ocellated

Crake *Micropygia schomburgkii* in southern São Paulo.

Hinkelmann & Fiebig²⁷ report on old specimen records of seven species that improve our knowledge of bird distributions in Paraná.

Chile

Marín³⁴ has recently analysed the distribution, origin and spread of **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* in the country. A review of the status of the globally endangered **Westland**

Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* off South America has recently been published: details of a previously unnoticed specimen from Chile and a total of 45 sight reports involving at least 458 individuals, during the period 7 August to 29 April, in 1980–1998, in Argentine and Chilean waters are presented⁹.

Colombia

Recent significant records include the first report of **Greater Schiffornis** *Schiffornis major* in the country away from dpto.

Amazonas, two trapped in La Paya National Park, dpto.

Putumayo, in June 1998¹²; three new records of **Yellow-headed**

Manakin

Chloropipo flavicapilla in dpto. Antioquia, between August 1996 and October 1998³⁹; and a record of **Hooded Tanager** *Nemosia pileata* in dpto.

Santander, in October 1999, at 2,980 m (an extraordinary

altitudinal range extension)¹⁷. There is a recent record of the globally threatened

Red Siskin

Carduelis cucullatus, from

Cúcuta, on 16 February 2000³³. There were previously very few

breeding data available for **Apical Flycatcher** *Myiarchus apicalis*; Kattan *et al.*²⁶ provide a

wealth of new nesting information for the species, and Cadena *et al.*¹⁰ present nesting data for the following species from Tinigua

National Park: **Warbling**

Antbird

Hypocnemis azeitadori,

Black-spotted Bare-eye

Phlegopsis nigromaculata, **Scale-**

backed Antbird *Hylophylax poecilinota*, **Amazonian**

Streaked-antwren

Myrmotherula multostriata and

Striated Antthrush *Chamaeza nobilis*.

Ecuador

News concerning the recently

rediscovered **Pale-headed**

Brush-finch

Atlappetes pallidiceps is encouraging; the

original population has increased to 16 pairs and a second site, with an additional 15 pairs, has

recently been discovered nearby⁶. The southern Ecuadorian

population of the **Streak-backed**

Canastero *Asthenes wyatti* azuay was rediscovered in 1992, when

seven adult males were taken on the Cerro Carboncillo, Loja

province and Altiplano of Tarqui,

Azuay province; comments on

plumage variation and taxonomy

of related taxa within the

Asthenes anthoides superspecies

are presented in the same paper³². Fuhrman²⁰ describes the finding

and presents a photograph of the

nest of **Bicoloured Antvireo**

Dysithamnus occidentalis.

Paraguay

Capper *et al.*¹¹ report on records of 30 species, from observations in

the second half of 1997, including

several for which those presented

are the first country records.

Peru

The first observations for 31 years of **Sira Tanager** *Tangara*

phillipsi were made on the Cerros

del Sira, in the east-centre of the

country, in November 2000. It

appears to be the most numerous

Tangara in its narrow elevational

range (1,350–1,450 m)³⁷. The first

breeding data for **White-**

throated Antbird *Gymnopithys*

salvini and novel nesting

information for **Hairy-crested**

Antbird *Rhegmatorhina*

melanosticta have recently been

published, based on observations

at Cocha Cashu Biological

Station, Madre de Dios, in

November 1998 and September–

October 1999³⁵.

Uruguay

The following species have

recently been reported for the

first time in dpto. Salto: **Lesser**

Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*,

Black Jacobin *Melanotrochilus*

fuscus, **Lesser Canastero**

Asthenes pyrrholeuca, **Chocolate-**

vented Tyrant *Neoxolmis*

rufiventris and **Bearded**

Tachuri *Polystictus pectoralis*⁵³. Vargas & Padilla⁵² describe

records of **Blackish Oyster-**

catcher *Haematopus ater*, in

September 1999 (photographed)

and June 2000.

Venezuela

Sharpe *et al.*⁴⁶ present new range, altitudinal and temporal data for 48 species. In addition, the globally threatened **Plain-flanked Rail** *Rallus wetmorei* was discovered, in August 2000, at a new locality, Las Peonias Lagoon, Maracaibo, Zulia, and the first state record for many years (*World Birdwatch* 23 (2): 5).

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Antigua

RH reports the following in 2001: 20 **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*, 18 **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* (possibly the first record), a **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*, 30 **Caribbean Coot** *Fulica caribaea* and a second-winter **American Herring Gull** *Larus argentus smithsonianus* (also a possible first record) at Potsworks Reservoir on 19 March. Two **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* were at Dark Wood Beach and three at Runaway Bay, also on 19 March, and there was a winter-plumaged female **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* at the latter locality on the same date.

Argentina

The first country record of **Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* involved a single, observed by Steve Hilty and AW, at Calilegua National Park, on 1 November 2000.

Barbados

An adult **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus vetula*, the first for the island, was photographed at North Point, on 6 December 2000, while a 1st-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*, the third island record, was also photographed, at Six Men's Bay, on 7 January 2001 (MF).

Colombia

A pair of **Zimmer's Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus necopinus*, the first country record, was observed on Isla Mocagua, on 15 April 2001 (AW).

Cuba

Three second records for the country were reported in 2001: a **Whip-poor-will** *Caprimulgus vociferus* observed at its daytime roost at Cueva de Jabalí, Cayo Coco, on 26 April and an adult male **American Goldfinch** *Carduelis tristis* tape-recorded and photographed at Turba, Zapata, on 29 April (MD, KE), with a **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* also on Cayo Coco in late April (AK). A **Gadwall** *Anas strepera* on Cayo Coco, on 3 February 2000 is the fourth country record (CM). BM reports eight **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* over Playa Guardalavaca, Holguín, on 1 April 2000, and single **Warbling Vireos** *Vireo gilvus* on two dates at the same site during the period 31 March to 13 April 2000.

Dominican Republic

Two first records for Hispaniola have been reported recently. An



Figure 1. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Saona Island, Dominican Republic, November 2000 (Eladio Fernández)



Figure 2. Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*, Parque del Este, Dominican Republic, 14 October 2000 (Eladio Fernández)

adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* was on Saona Island, from 28 October to late November 2000 at least (EF, EG & PR; Fig. 1), and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* was trapped and photographed (Fig. 2) in Parque del Este, on 14 October 2000 (JA, EF).

Ecuador

During early January 2001 seven breeding-plumage **Esmeraldas Woodstar** *Acestura berlepschi* (four males, three females) were found, at 700 m, in Loma Alta Ecological Reserve, Guayas. They were feeding on *Psychotria alba* (Rubiaceae) flowers. *Psychotria* flowers are very abundant in the reserve during dry years (in November–January). Surveys in Machalilla National Park indicate that *Psychotria* shrubs are not abundant within the park's moist forest sites (DB). A **Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* observed at 4,000 m from the slopes of Cotopaxi, on 18 September 2000 is one of the highest-ever altitudinal records (AvK *et al.*).

Mexico

A male **Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor* was observed on 10 January and 1 February 2001, in the Soconusco region of Chiapas (IS); there appear to be few previous state records.

St. Kitts**Two Pied-billed Grebe**

Podilymbus podiceps were at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond on 23 February 2000 (a possible first record) and a **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* was on Great Salt Pond on 21 March 2001. Other possible first records included an adult male **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* on South Friar's Bay Salt Pond, on 20 February 2000, and six **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond, on 23 and 26 February 2000. Two female **Lesser Scaup** *A. affinis* were at Great Salt Pond on 23 February 2000 and an **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* was off the South Coast Road on the same day, with

another near Frigate Bay on 23 March 2001. Four **American Coot** *Fulica americana* were at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond on 23 February 2000, with three on Frigate Bay Salt Pond in March 2001. Among shorebirds, up to 70 **Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* were at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond in 2000, with roughly the same number at Frigate Bay in 2001, a **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago delicata* near Cockleshell Bay on 20 February 2000, four **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond on 20 and 23 February 2000 and one at Frigate Bay on 17 March 2001, and a **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* at the latter locality on the same date. A **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* was off Basseterre on 17 March 2001 and two **American Herring Gull** *L. argentus smithsonianus* were there on 18 and 23–24 February 2000. One or two first-winter **Black-headed Gull** *L. ridibundus* were also in the same place on 17 March 2001 (a possible first record). A **Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor* was at Caribelle Batik on 22 March 2001. (All records by RH.)

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Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*. The third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

First records of Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* in Colombia

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* breeds in North America and through much of the Antilles, and winters in Middle America south to Panama¹, with one record in South America, from Venezuela (in Mérida during February 1992)². In November 1999 and 2000 we monitored Nearctic raptor migration at Fredonia (05°54'N 75°43'W), dpto. Antioquia, north-west Colombia. While observing large movements of Swainson's *Buteo swainsoni* and Broad-winged Hawks *B. platypterus*, we observed a total of three Red-tailed Hawks *B. jamaicensis*; a solitary adult on 5 November 1999, an adult on 20 March 2000 among a Swainson's Hawk flock, and a lone juvenile on 9 November 2000. The first was flying slowly, c.200 m from the observation point; it had broad, fairly rounded wings, dark mantle with whitish underparts, and a distinct reddish tail from above. The second individual possessed the same plumage pattern, and was heavier bodied than Swainson's Hawk. The juvenile was identified mainly by its grey-brown tail with many blackish bands. These records are the first for Colombia.

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The first White-chested Swift *Cypseloides lemosi* in Amazonian Colombia

White-chested Swift *Cypseloides lemosi* is known from several localities in Colombia, between Cali and Popayán in dptos. Valle and Cauca^{1,3}, several sight records since 1990 mostly in the foothills and subtropical zone of Napo Province, Ecuador^{4,5}, and a recent record from the Cordillera del Condor, Peru⁶. Its ecology is little

known though Stiles & Negret⁷ noted that in late September–October at Las Guacas, dpto. Cauca, Colombia, the first heavy showers of the rainy season trigger the emergence of swarms of small beetles which attract large numbers of swifts including *C. lemosi*. Breeding behaviour is unknown. Eisenmann & Lehmann² reported flocks of 20–25 individuals, occasionally within mixed-species flocks of swifts, and always at 16h30–18h30 in the Cali–Santander area, suggesting 'roosting' aggregations. However, observations above Cali in October 1994–August 1995 revealed such flocks to comprise White-collared *Streptoprocne zonaris*, Chestnut-collared *Cypseloides rutilus* and, twice, White-chinned Swifts *C. cryptus* (CD pers. obs.).

On 8 March 2000 near Leticia, dpto. Amazonas, Colombia (2 km east of km 11 on the main road north of Leticia), we observed a large mixed flock of *Chaetura* swifts, 50–100 m above an area of cleared forest. Interest in the flock stemmed from our previous day's observation of a Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* among Ashy-tailed *C. andrei* and Short-tailed Swifts *C. brachyura*, which is a notable record for Amazonian Colombia. While attempting to relocate the Grey-rumped Swift we noticed a large dark swift with a distinct white (apparently heart-shaped) breast patch, which was its most notable feature. Experience of White-collared Swift and an awareness of the identification features and potential for Biscutate Swift *Streptoprocne biscutate* to occur in Colombia enabled us to quickly eliminate both these. The bird's size and structure were those of a *Cypseloides*. In comparison to the accompanying Ashy-tailed and Short-tailed Swifts it was marginally larger and darker, lacking any pale areas on the

rump and uppertail-coverts, with apparently uniform upperparts and no white collar. It had a proportionately longer tail and longer, blunter wings than the butter-knife-shaped pointed wings of *Chaetura* spp. or the bulging secondaries of Short-tailed Swift.

Sight records at Yuturi Lodge, eastern Napo, Ecuador, in July–August 1996 and August 1998⁵ suggest that movements from the Andes into the Amazonian lowlands, perhaps during post-breeding dispersal, may not be unusual and that our record at Leticia was perhaps to have been expected.

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A possible population of Fasciated Tiger-heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* on the upper Coppename, Surinam

Fasciated Tiger-heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* occurs east of the Andes near fast-flowing mountain streams¹. Here I report the first observations in Surinam. On 22–23 May and 25 June 2001 a *T. fasciatum* was seen near Foengoe islet, in the Coppename River. It was perched on a stone below a bush near the riverbank, hunting for fish by a large rapid, on the two first-named dates, and was seen flying across the river in the same area on 25 June. The bird was mainly dark bluish-grey with finely barred neck-sides, whitish foreneck (marked darker) and belly. The crown was very dark bluish-grey and the bill black with a yellow base. The throat was naked and yellow. Its size and structure were much as Rufescent Tiger-heron *T. lineatum*.

I showed the relevant plate in *The birds of Venezuela*¹ to some Kwinti Bush Negros, who live in this area and whom I regard as fairly good birdwatchers. They recognised the species, stating that it is rarer than *T. lineatum* and that it tends to hide. The Kwinti also reported that it inhabits areas upstream of Foengoe islet along tributaries of the upper Coppename, but had never observed it below Foengoe islet. The area the Kwinti described is part of the 1.6-million ha Central Surinam Nature Reserve and possesses some fast-flowing

streams. My observations, together with the report of the Kwinti, imply that a population of the species occurs on the upper Coppename River. (For distribution maps of *T. fasciatum* and *T. lineatum* in Surinam see <http://www1.nhl.nl/~ribot/php4/verspreiding.htm>.) In addition, Michel Clément observed two *Tigrisoma fasciatum*, at saut Ananas, in the upper Mana River area of French Guiana, during 24 to 30 July 1995, which is just to the east of Surinam.

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Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematoderus militaris* feeding on *Cecropia sciadophylla*

On 29–31 August and 11 November 2001 a male Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematoderus militaris* was recorded near a camp between the Voltzberg and Van Stockum Mountains, within the Central Surinam Nature Reserve. The bird was seen and heard in August but only heard in November. In the morning of 31 August it was observed feeding on seeds of *Cecropia sciadophylla*. Foods of this species, as specifically recorded in the literature, are large insects such as beetles¹ and cicadas², making the present observation of interest and confirming Snow's³ supposition that the species is also a fruit-eater. Interestingly Snow³ also mentions that 'Schomburgk (1848) reported it as a migrant in the Kanuku Mountains of southern Guyana, occurring only in June and July (the wet season) when the fruits that it eats are ripe'.

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New altitudinal record of Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*

Consultation of Ridgely & Greenfield¹ permits researchers in Ecuador to easily determine possible range extensions. On 24 July 2000, we captured a Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* in a mist-net c.1 km north of the protected forest of El Tundo near Sozoranga, Loja, at 2,250 m. The site was dominated by shrub habitat of the Melastomataceae family and within 50 m of the edge of a narrow corridor of riparian forest dominated by Neotropical Walnut *Juglans neotropica* with thickets in the understorey of bamboo *Chusquea* spp. Brown Violetear is rare in southern Ecuador, and has previously been recorded mainly in Zamora-Chinchipe province to the east¹. This record is the first known capture in Loja province, and was also at an elevation much higher than most of those previously recorded¹.

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First nest record of Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii*

Current literature presents very few data on timing of breeding for Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii* and nothing regarding its nesting behaviour. A male in apparent breeding condition was reported in Venezuela in April, and possible nesting from Mato Grosso, Brazil, in September–December^{3,6}. We observed a pair excavating a presumed nest in an arboreal termitarium 2 m above ground on 11 October 2001 near Pantiacolla Lodge, by the río Madre de Dios, Peru. The incomplete cavity was c.15 cm deep and had an entrance hole 8 cm wide; the termitarium itself was quite small, c.50 cm deep and c.30 cm broad. Both individuals excavated over a 20-minute period. The timing (in mid-dry season) coincides with peak breeding activity in most bird species in lowland forests of south-east Peru⁷. Though very few nesting records exist for any *Touit* (many members of this Neotropical genus being inconspicuous or apparently nomadic), nests have been reported in tree holes and arboreal termitaria^{3,6}. It is likely that *Touit* parrotlets, like some *Aratinga* and *Brotogeris* parakeets, regularly breed in the arboreal nests of social insects, joining a rather long list of birds that are known to do so^{1,2,4,5}.

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A new site for Royal Cinclodes *Cinclodes aricomae* and other noteworthy records from the Ilampu Valley, Bolivia

Parque Nacional y Area Manejo Integrado (Cotapata) covers c.60,000 ha in the Andes north-east of La Paz, Bolivia. Encompassing an altitudinal range of 1,100–5,600 m in the Cordillera La Paz (within the Cordillera Real), Cotapata has a rich diversity of ecosystems, one of the most imperilled of which is semi-humid *Polyplepis* woodland.

The Ilampu Valley, in the south-west corner of Cotapata (16°15'S 68°01'W) supports fragments of this fragile ecosystem, of which only c.2% is extant along the entire east slope of the Bolivian

Andes⁴. In Ilampu, at c.4,000 m, single separate mixed *Polylepis/Buddleia* stands are present in three blind canyons, each with a large, deep lake in the centre. Composition is c.50% *Buddleia*, and 50% *Polylepis*, the former tending to be taller and to emerge from the denser *Polylepis* understorey. Fragments are dense, with the tallest trees being c.4 m, and the majority being dwarf shrubs. These canyons possess a much more humid climate than the broader, windswept valley floor, and the woodlands are frequently drenched in mist or in mixed rain and snow.

The conservation significance of Ilampu was recognised in September 1999, during biodiversity surveys conducted by the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH/CBC), and its Bolivian collaborators (Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado), during which time Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes alpinus* was discovered⁹. Ilampu was revisited for eight days in September and 17 days in October 2000, primarily to evaluate the status of *A. alpinus*, map the extent of the *Polylepis* fragments and gather initial ecological data for their management. A remarkable diversity of *Polylepis*-dependent, and other little-known, transition-zone^{5,7} birds was recorded during these visits.

In addition to the Endangered Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant, the Critical² Royal Cinclodes *Cinclodes aricomae* was discovered here in September 2000. Only one was seen; initially flushed from a *Polylepis* thicket, it landed on an exposed boulder nearby. The uniform dark umber upperparts coloration, pale buffy stripe at the base of the remiges (obvious in flight), and long, stout bill were all readily observed. It was, in all respects, quite similar to Stout-billed Cinclodes, much darker and browner than the form of Bar-winged Cinclodes *C. fuscus albiventer* present at Ilampu (CJV pers. obs.), and lacked the

contrasting greyer crown of the latter (in addition to being overall more robust). It then flew downslope, disappearing from view. Presumably the same individual was relocated later that day, flaking moss and exfoliating bark from the bases of *Polylepis* with its bill, in keeping with published descriptions of this characteristic behaviour⁶.

In addition, several species were recorded that have restricted ranges⁸ or were until recently considered Near Threatened², namely Tawny Tit-spinetail *Leptasthenura yanacensis*, Line-fronted Canastero *Asthenes urabambensis*, Scribble-tailed Canastero *A. maculicauda* and Giant Conebill *Oreomanes fraseri*. Furthermore, some uncommon or otherwise poorly known species associated with *Polylepis*, e.g. Rufous-rumped Bush-tyrant *Cnemarchus erythrogygius* and Stripe-headed Antpitta *Grallaria andicola*, both of which had not been recorded at Ilampu in September 1999 or 2000, were very vocal, and territorial in October 2000. Also, quite remarkably, Stygian Owl *Asio stygius* was observed twice, hunting rats among boulder-strewn páramo adjacent to *Polylepis/Buddleia* scrub at dusk. It was readily identifiable, even in poor light, due to its *Asio* proportions, very dark plumage and prominent ear-tufts, all observed as it perch-hunted from large boulders. It was seen to fly up from lower in the valley, presumably spending the day at a slightly lower elevation than the *Polylepis* stands. This little-known owl, uncommon and local throughout the vast majority of its range, is known from a specimen taken in eastern dpto. Santa Cruz¹ and a sight record from similar habitat to the present one from Cochabamba³.

Because the species inhabiting these *Polylepis* fragments, and the fragments themselves, are extremely vulnerable, this area requires conservation attention. Along with the one in the Choquetonga Valley, this is part of the only known population of *A.*

alpinus in a protected area in Bolivia⁹. Presently human activity in Ilampu is moderate and concentrated on the valley's central floor, not in the blind canyons. However, humans exploit the *Polylepis* fragments whose growth is strongly correlated with firebreaks, and, where accessible to livestock, these woodlands are heavily grazed. However, prospects for the conservation of the *Polylepis* fragments in Ilampu are good given the relatively low-density human population, lack of roads and general inaccessibility of the area. If the local inhabitants (only one extended family seasonally inhabits the valley) can be encouraged to coppice and prune, rather than burn³, and livestock grazing patterns are shifted, at least for a time, the interests of all can probably be sustained.

The occurrence of these extremely rare and vulnerable species in such proximity to La Paz (Ilampu is c.30 km from Bolivia's largest city) is noteworthy, and will be the focus of further investigation.

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First record of Grey-breasted Crake *Laterallus exilis* in Corrientes, north-east Argentina

Grey-breasted Crake *Laterallus exilis* inhabits marshy lake edges and wet meadows to 1,200 m in central and northern South America including the Caribbean coast^{1,3}. It is rarely seen due to its elusive habits and because it inhabits dense marshes, rarely entering open or short-grass areas. In Argentina it has recently been reported from the provinces of Chaco and Formosa^{2,4} (pers. obs.). The song is a *dit...ditditditdit*, very different from any other crake in Argentina, but may be confused with the noise given by an insect that inhabits the same habitat. In response to playback it utters a long trill very similar to that of many other crakes, including Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius*, which also inhabits Laguna Iberá (pers. obs.).

On 25 May 2001, we tape-recorded (Fig. 1) a singing Grey-breasted Crake, at 19h00, in marsh at the edge of Laguna Iberá, 2 km from the main entrance of Cnia. Pellegrini town, in Laguna Iberá Provincial Park (28°40'S 57°18'W). This individual did not sing again, but possibly two others responded with the long trill to playback. This is the first record in Corrientes province and a range extension of c.200 km south-east.

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Registro de la Garza Azul *Egretta caerulea* en la provincia de Tucumán, Argentina

El 29 de agosto del 2001 encontramos un individuo adulto y aparentemente solitario de *Egretta caerulea*, en un bañado sobre la ruta provincial 308, entre Juan B.

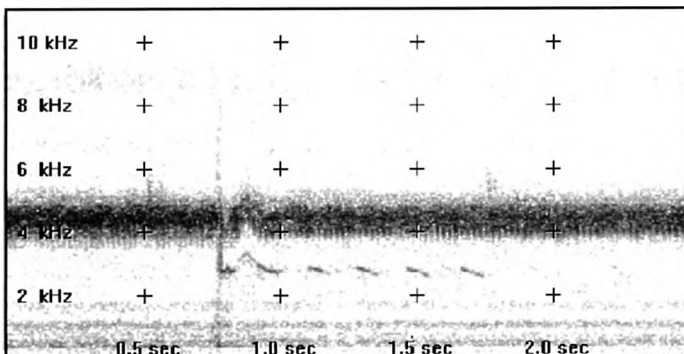


Figure 1. Song of Grey-breasted Crake *Laterallus exilis*, recorded at Laguna Iberá Provincial Park, Corrientes province, Argentina, on 25 May 2001 (Ignacio Roesler)

Alberdi y Graneros, c.27°38'S 65°23'W, provincia de Tucumán. El ejemplar llegó volando a una pequeña laguna, que abarcaba, con vegetación acuática y monte del tipo chaqueño seco bajo a su alrededor, una superficie aproximada de 3 ha. El ejemplar voló y se posó a unos 4 m del suelo y a unos 20 m de la ruta, sobre un Algarrobo *Prosopis* sp. sin follaje. Allí permaneció unos minutos, pudiendo ser fotografiado por HC. El ejemplar pudo ser fácilmente identificado por su distintivo plumaje oscuro, con la cabeza y cuello hasta el comienzo del pecho y espalda rufo-liláceo, y celeste plumizo en el resto de la parte dorsal y alas. Por la incidencia de la luz del sol se observó un notable brillo en todo su plumaje, y resaltó su iris amarillo. El ave parecía bastante desconfiada y en seguida voló alejándose de la laguna. No se pudieron observar otros detalles, pero sí fue posible comparar este individuo con una *Egretta thula* posada no muy lejos, y sus tamaños eran muy similares. Más tarde el ejemplar fue relocalizado en un sector de playa sin vegetación, donde se movía en busca de alimento, pero no permaneció allí mucho tiempo, siendo ésta la última observación. En esta ocasión se observó que el ave por momentos volaba con el cuello parcialmente estirado, comportamiento similar al de *Syrigma sibilatrix*. Este sería el octavo registro publicado para la Argentina¹² y el primero para la provincia de Tucumán.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

WEST INDIES

Bermuda

Reports for 2001 included the fourth record of **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata* at North Pond, on 29 July–6 August, and the first summer record of **American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor* on 1 June, at Dolly's Bay¹⁷.

Cuba

Many interesting records from the island have been published recently. Following recent reports in western Cuba, **Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis* was found at two localities in extreme eastern Cuba, in early January 2001³⁶. Field work in December 2000–January 2001 produced the first January records of **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*, **Chestnut-sided Dendroica** *pensylvanica* and **Blackpoll Warblers** *D. striata*, the fourth and fifth records of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*, the fifth record of **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*, the first records in the Oriente of **White-cheeked Pintail** *Anas bahamensis* and **Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus*, and the first winter record in the West Indies of **Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*³⁸. A leucistic **Yellow-faced Grassquit** *Tiaris olivacea* was found on Cayo Guillermo in January 2001; this plumage aberration is almost wholly unknown within the genus³⁷.

Dominican Republic

The third and fourth **Swainson's Warblers** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* in Hispaniola were trapped in the Sierra de Baoruco, in January 2000 and January 2001⁵⁴. Lithner¹² reports some interesting observations during September 1999, including six

West Indian Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arborea* at Laguna del Rincón, a **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* and **Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* at Cabo Rojo, an **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* and ten **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* at Lago Enriquillo, and **Olive-throated Parakeets** *Aratinga nana* at two localities.

Guadeloupe

The first record of **Antillean Nighthawk** *Chordeiles gundlachi* on the island was in June 2000 and in July the same year two individuals were observed, raising the possibility of the species breeding there⁴¹.

Jamaica

The first **Connecticut Warbler** *Oporornis agilis* for the island was reported at Mason River Game Sanctuary, Clarendon, on 29 November 2000¹⁵.

Puerto Rico

Pérez-Rivera⁵² draws attention to records of **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* on the island between February 1985 and April 1990 and, in a different area, in July–October 1990. Tossas & Delannoy⁵⁸ report on the avifauna of Maricao State Forest, including a number of interesting island records, e.g. a **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* in January 1992 and a **Kentucky Warbler** *Oporornis formosus* in March 1992.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Mexico

The first record of the globally threatened **Bearded Wood-partridge** *Dendrortyx barbatus* in Oaxaca was made in the Sierra Norte, in August 1998¹, while a new breeding locality for **Military Macaw** *Ara militaris* in the same state¹⁶ and the first **King Vulture** *Sarcoromphus papa* for Baja California were also reported recently¹⁸. A recent paper⁵⁷ argues that a mid-1880s specimen of **Giant Kingbird** *Tyrannus cubensis*, which has been

questioned in some of the recent literature dealing with Mexico, should stand as reliable proof of the species' (former) occurrence in the country. The specimen appears to have been taken on 25 February 1886, but the collecting locality (perhaps Isla Mujeres) cannot be certainly identified. **Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* was recently (May 2001) discovered breeding in Oaxaca, a 1,000 km extension south-east of its breeding range²¹. Other observations, recently published in the online journal, *Huitzil*, include the first records of **Cassin's Finch** *Carpodacus cassini* and **Mexican Duck** *Anas platyrhynchos diazi* for Oaxaca²⁹, as well as records of 67 species, principally waterbirds, raptors and shorebirds, which update information for localities in central Oaxaca²².

Costa Rica

A **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* was reported off Tortuguero, on 27 March 2001, and a **Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus* was at Chome, on 15 September 2001. Sightings of **Lovely Cotinga** *Cotinga amabilis* at Los Llanos, near Santa Elena may represent the first records from the Pacific Slope. **Cinnamon Hummingbird** *Amazilia rutila* and **White-throated Magpie-jay** *Calocitta formosa* were reported south of Dominical, representing significant southward extensions of the ranges of both species. Some late reports from Jay VanderGaast include a **Sora** *Porzana carolina* at Carara, on 3 May 1998; a **Paint-billed Crane** *Neocrex erythrops* photographed at Las Palmitas, north of Guacimo, on 27 November 1996, with perhaps three birds present at this time; a breeding-plumaged **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* at Tarcoles, on 3 May 1998; a breeding-plumaged **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* photographed at Playa Azul (no date provided, perhaps the first country record); 20+ **Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina* at Río Birris, on 18 November 1996, and another at Carara in April 2000; a dark-eyed juvenile **White-eyed**

Vireo *Vireo griseus* at EARTH on 5 November 1999; a **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* at Rancho Naturalista, from 20 November 1994; a female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens* at Savegre on 12 December 1996; a male **Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana* at Rancho Naturalista for several days in late 1995; and an **American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens* at Tarcoles, in late 1993²⁶. The third and fourth country records of **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* occurred in late 2001, with a pair at Playa Hermosa, south of Jaco, remaining from 17 December 2001 to at least 8 January 2002. A **White Tern** *Gygis alba* was found moribund at Sierpe de Osa, on 28 October 2001 (and subsequently died). A **Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*, perhaps only the second Costa Rican record, was at Cahuita in mid-November 2001, while perhaps only the third country record of **Black-headed Grosbeak** *Phaeothlypis melanocephalus* involved a female at Monteverde in mid-October 2001. A **White-tailed Emerald** *Elvira chionura* was discovered at 2,200 m at the Savegre Hotel de Montaña on 4 November 2001²⁷.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Orgeira⁵⁰ provides new records and information concerning the at-sea distribution of **Atlantic Petrel** *Pterodroma incerta* off South America, including the discovery of four large concentrations of the species off Buenos Aires province, and other records from the Drake Passage and Weddell Sea. Single **Common Tody-flycatchers** *Todirostrum cinereum* observed on 11 February 2000 and 21 March 2001 at Puerto Iguazú, Misiones province, are the first country records⁵¹. Bodrati⁶ updates the occurrence of ten species in Buenos Aires province, at partidos Baradero and San Pedro. Noteworthy are records of **Plumbeous Ibis** *Theristicus caerulescens*, **Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex*, **White**

Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*, **Short-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus ferox*, **Green-backed Becard** *Pachyrhamphus viridis* and **Many-coloured Chaco-finch** *Saltatricula multicolor*. Bodrati *et al.*⁷ add to these data, with information on **Barred Piculet** *Picumnus cirratus*, **Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper** *Drymornis bridgesii*, **Brown Cacholote** *Pseudoseisura lophotes*, **Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*, and others. The status of 25 species has been updated for Córdoba province, including records of **King Vulture** *Sarcoramphus papa*, **Mitred Parakeet** *Aratinga mitrata* and **Rufous-sided Warbling-finch** *Poospiza hypochondria*⁶¹. The status of 18 species is updated for north-west Buenos Aires province, with details on **Chaco Pipit** *Anthus chacoensis*⁵⁶. A **Nacunda Nighthawk** *Podager nacunda* was observed on 31 January 1997 at Estancia Rincón de los Morros, southern Santa Cruz province; this vagrant record extends the species' range by 1,300 km and represents the southernmost locality³³. A female **White-sided Hillstar** *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus* at Chaltén, Los Glaciares National Park, on 6 February 1993, represents the southernmost locality for this species⁴⁴. The first specimen records in San Juan province have recently been presented for **South American Snipe** *Gallinago paraguayae*, **Mountain Parakeet** *Bolborhynchus aurifrons* and **Swainson's Flycatcher** *Myiarchus swainsoni*, along with other new distributional information, based on a collection by W. H. Partridge from this and Mendoza provinces⁴⁷. Maceda⁴³ updates the status of **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* in La Pampa province. The first record of **Slaty Elaenia** *Elaenia strepera* in Córdoba province was one at Los Cocos on 23–27 December 1997⁶⁰. The second to fifth and subsequent records of **Green-winged Saltator** *Saltator similis* were recently presented for Buenos Aires province⁸.

Bolivia

A specimen of **Fawn-breasted Brilliant** *Heliodoxa rubinoides*, taken in 1982 at Cocapata, north of Cochabamba, has recently been discovered. This record is the first in the country and a range extension of 1,000 km south⁵³.

Brazil

Borges *et al.*⁹ provide a species list and other information for the important Jaú National Park, in Amazonas state. Several first country records have recently been documented, including a **Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda* photographed at the Abrolhos archipelago, Bahia, on 24 September 1997¹⁴, and five specimens of **Amazonian Parrotlet** *Nannopsittaca dachilleae* taken at Serra do Divisor National Park, Acre, on 19 July 1996⁶⁴. Whittaker⁶⁷ presents details of the first confirmed records of **Buckley's Forest-falcon** *Micrastur buckleyi* in Brazil; reports, all documented with tape-recordings, are available from four localities in Acre, between 1992 and 1999. The first documented record of **Scarlet-hooded Barbet** *Eubucco tucinkae* was a male collected in Serra do Divisor National Park on 20 July 1996⁶⁵. The first specimen records of **Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis* involved three taken by the rio Javari, Amazonas, in October 1959⁶⁶. A mention of **Barred Tinamou** *Crypturellus casiquiare* for Brazil is proven to be incorrect as the locality is within Colombia⁵¹.

A review of Brazilian records of **Spectacled Petrel** *Procellaria conspicillata* offers new information on the species in São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul⁴⁹, while other interesting seabird records involve the second to sixth records of **Tristan Albatross** *Diomedea (exulans) dabbenena* in the country, from São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul⁴⁸. A small colony of **Audubon's Shearwaters** *Puffinus lherminieri* found in August 1993 at Itatiaia archipelago, Espírito Santo, represents the first country record²⁰, and a

colony of **Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* near Manoel Viana, in October 1998, was the first breeding record for Rio Grande do Sul and one of the few available in Brazil¹⁹. New records of **Tall-grass Wetland Tapaculo** *Scytalopus iraiensis* are presented from Paraná, where the species is now known from 24 sites¹⁰. Bencke *et al.*⁴ provide novel breeding biology data for **Brown-breasted Pygmy-tyrant** *Hemitriccus obsoletus* and **Striolated Tit-spinetail** *Leptasthenura striolata*. The third record of **Southern Giant Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus* in Paraná was a beached immature found near Matinhos, on 14 September 1999³⁵.

A recent paper examines the distribution and overall bird species associations along two altitudinal transects at 800–1,400 m in the Serra do Cipó, Minas Gerais, between 1994 and 2000⁴⁵. Kirwan *et al.*³⁹ provide details of significant observations made in the rio São Francisco Valley in recent years, including two additions to the Minas Gerais avifauna, **White-browed Guan** *Penelope jacucaca* and **Greater Wagtail-tyrant** *Stigmatura budytoides*. New records of **Orange-headed Tanager** *Thlypsopsis sordida* from Paraná have been reported recently, with observations at four new localities². Vasconcelos *et al.*⁵⁹ present a new locality for **Cipó Canastero** *Asthenes luizae*, the Campina do Bananal, 170 km north of previously known sites, and Willis & Oniki⁶⁸, in reporting on a nest of **Planalto Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris* in São Paulo, point to differences in songs between the nominate form of south-east Brazil and the subspecies *intermedius* from inland dry forests, but acknowledge the existence of intermediate specimens.

Colombia

Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush *Catharus fuscater* has recently been discovered in the country's Central Cordillera, at two sites, near Pereira and Manizales³. The new population

exhibits variation in plumage and soft-parts coloration as well as in that of the irides, suggesting a degree of previously unrecognised geographic variation in the species.

Ecuador

Freile²³ provides details of a new altitudinal record of **Lunulated Antbird** *Gymnopithys lunulata*, from 950 m, in dpto. Pastaza, in November 1999.

Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas

A recently published review of vagrant records from the period 1996 to 2000 includes the first **Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus*, **Stilt Sandpiper** *Micropalama himantopus*, **Elegant Tern** *Sterna elegans* and **Brown-chested Martin** *Phaeoprogne tapera* for the archipelago, as well as possibly the first breeding record of **White-crested Elaenia** *Elaenia albiceps*⁶³.

French Guiana

Ingels³⁴ reports on new observations of birds, principally feeding and breeding behaviours, in the country during November 1999.

Netherlands Antilles

Wells & Childs Wells⁶² report the first observation of **Philadelphia Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus* on Curaçao, on 1 April 2000.

Paraguay

Capper *et al.*¹³ provide new distributional information for 22 species in the country, based on field work between 1995 and 1997, while Lesterhuis & Clay⁴⁰ report the first record of **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*, at Bahía de Asunción, on 7–13 October 2000.

Trinidad and Tobago

The status of **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* in the islands is reviewed, and a list of 33 records presented, by Hayes & White³¹. Elsewhere in *El Pitirre* the first records of **Caribbean Martin** *Progne dominicensis* for Trinidad, in April–May 1999, April–May 2000 and February–April 2001⁴⁶, are

presented, as are the first records of **Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* for Trinidad and Chacachacare Island, in May 1998 and October 1999–January 2000³⁰.

Uruguay

An **Eastern Slaty-thrush** *Turdus subularis* observed at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, dpto. Rocha on 18 November 1999 was the first country record²⁴, while a **Highland Elaenia** *Elaenia obscura* photographed near Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo on 7 November 1997 was also the first country record⁵⁵. The latter species was seen again during the breeding seasons of 1997–1999, with a nest being found on 12 November 1998. Several **Lesser Grass-finch** *Emberizoides ypiranganus* on 5 and 7 July 1999 at Quebrada de los Cuervos, dpto. Treinta y Tres²⁵, and others observed on 13 February 2000 at Reserva de Biosfera Bañados del Este, dpto. Rocha, are the first published country records¹². A **Grass Wren** *Cistothorus platensis* on 9 July 1999, also at Quebrada de los Cuervos, was the second country record²⁵. The second to fifth records of **Green-backed Becard** *Pachyrhamphus viridis* involved one near Laguna Negra, dpto. Rocha, on 10 December 1997, and singles collected at Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo, on 6 April 1998, and at Cerro Pan de Azúcar, dpto. Maldonado, on 2 July 1998, with subsequent sight records there²⁸. Lone male **Entre Rios Seed eaters** *Sporophila zelichi* observed at Reserva de Biosfera Bañados del Este, dpto. Rocha on 13 and 20 February, and 7 March 2000 are among the few available recent records¹².

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Bolivia

KE notes the presence of four **Red-fronted Macaw** *Ara rubrogenys* in Torotoro National Park, dpto. Potosí, on 29 September 2001. Local people report that the species breeds annually in the area, but this

appears to be a 'new' locality for this globally threatened bird. Several observers have apparently failed to locate **Berlepsch's Canastero** *Asthenes berlepschi* at the well-known site of Sorata, dpto. La Paz, most recently KE on 14–15 October 2001, suggesting that this Near-Threatened species may be in local decline.

Brazil

A new locality for the globally threatened **Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant** *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus* (Fig. 2, p.113) was discovered in Bahia, in cerrado beside the BA-349, c.170 km west of Correntina, on 7 February 2002, while only the fifth-known locality for **São Francisco Sparrow** *Arremon franciscanus* was found just north of Montalvânia, Minas Gerais, on 8 February 2002 (DB, AG, GMK, JM).

Chile

A weak immature **Blue-footed Booby** *Sula nebouxii* videotaped on the beach at Arica, on 3 August 2000, appears to be the second or third report for the country (MCH, SML).

Cuba

TM *et al.* submitted some interesting observations from a March 2002 visit. Perhaps (or even probably) the same **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* as mentioned in *Cotinga* 14: 106, was at Cayo Romano on 7 March, while at least 30 **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* (perhaps only the ninth island record) were present on Cayo Coco (with seven on Cayo Guillermo, on 19 February; B&RQ) on the same date. Twenty-seven **Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* were at Las Salinas, Zapata, on 14 March. At least 300 **Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* were at Embalse Maximo, near Los Congilones, Camagüey, on 23 February (B&RQ).

Ecuador

A nest occupied by a female **Little Woodstar** *Chaetocercus bombus* with two eggs was found on 10 January 2001, at 300 m in the Colonche Hills, Comuna Loma Alta. The nest was constructed on

a fork of peripheral branches of a tree, c.2.7 m above ground and overhanging a well-used trail through second growth and scrub. The walls of the nest were 7.6 mm deep and comprised the fibre of *Cecropia* flowers with moss on the exterior. Interior diameter of the nest was 16.75 mm, the total height of the nest 34.25 mm and depth within the cup 16.75 mm (DBe).

Guatemala

IS reports an observation (see Fig. 3, p.113) of an apparent **King Rail** *Rallus elegans* in lakeside vegetation at Lake Petén-Itza, Petén, between 13 and 17 February 1993 by Sidney Samuels. This would be the first country record.

Mexico

Interesting observations from a visit to the country in September–October 2001 included the following (status based on Howell & Webb³² and, for Oaxaca, Binford⁴). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** *Dendroica dominica* at Tacámbaro, Michoacán, on 1 October, appears to be the first state record. Significant reports from Oaxaca included a **Blackburnian Warbler** *D. fusca* at La Soledad, on 8 October (perhaps the state's first autumn record); up to five **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus pacificus* (earliest winter record), an immature **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* (few previous state records), a group of seven unidentified **scoter** *Melanitta* sp. (no previous state records of any scoter) and an **Elegant Tern** *Sterna elegans*, all seen during a pelagic 15 km offshore from Puerto Angel, on 9 October. Another of the last-named species was at Laguna La Ventosa, near Salinas Cruz, on 10 October (only one previous state record for autumn), with a **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* (no previous state records in autumn) at the same locality on the same date. There are few previous state records of **Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Dendroica pensylvanica*; thus one at km 52, above Valle Nacional, on 19 October was

significant, it being the first autumn record. A **Black-and-white Hawk-eagle** *Spizastur melanoleucos*, well watched at the same site on the same date, represents an intra-state range extension, based on Binford⁵. At least one **Cassin's Vireo** *Vireo cassinii* was carefully watched at Cerro Huitepec, near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, on 12 October, with **Blue-headed Vireos** *V. solitarius*. There are apparently no previous state records of this species but, given that the *V. solitarius* complex has only recently been recognised to contain three species-level (rather than subspecies) taxa and the difficulties of specific identification, further and more concrete evidence of this form's occurrence south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is desirable. (All DB, MAE, GMK, RPM.)

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1. Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii*, near Pantiacolla Lodge, rio Madre de Dios, Peru, 11 October 2001 (Joe Tobias; see p. 104)
2. Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*, west of Correntina, Bahia, Brazil, February 2002 (Arthur Grosset; see p. 110)
3. King Rail *Rallus elegans*, Lake Petén-Itza, Petén, February 1993 (Sidney Samuels; see p. 110)

Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*. The third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Description of the first nest of Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* discovered in Cuba

Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* is widespread in the Neotropics, south from Mexico to south Brazil and north Argentina; in the Greater Antilles it has been reported from Hispaniola, is considered casual in Jamaica (where it may have bred in the 19th century) and in Cuba is known from Havana, Matanzas and Las Villas provinces, and probably the Isle of Pines¹, and was recently reported from Guantánamo province⁴, perhaps suggesting that the species may be more widely distributed in the main island than previously supposed. The only detailed field information concerning the species in Cuba was presented by Gundlach³ and Watson⁶.

Breeding biology for the species was most recently summarised by Taylor & van Perlo⁶. No nest data is available for the species from Cuba², although Gundlach³ described one egg (39 mm x 28 mm; white with an ochre wash mainly at the large end, with brown and lilac spots) found close to a dead adult in Zapata Swamp, and another, subsequently laid by a bird that was obtained in a market.

During a visit to Peralta, in the Ciénaga de Zapata, on 17 November 2000, we found a nest of the species, the first to be discovered in Cuba. It was located just above the water level and was attached to an *Annona glabra* (Annonaceae) bush, and consisted of a cup of weeds, with some dead leaves in the rather shallow depression. The overall diameter was 23 cm and the nest was 9 cm deep, while the internal cup measured 8 cm. Nest material comprised 12 species of flowering plants, most of them herbaceous—*Annona glabra*, *Thalia trichocalyx* (Marantaceae), *Conocarpus erectus* (Combretaceae), *Paspalum blodguettii* (Poaceae), *Sporobolus indicus* (Poaceae), *Chara* sp. (Characeae)—with several species of Cyperaceae, namely *Claudium jamaicense*, *Cyperus ligularis*, *Cyperus* sp., *Dichromena colorata*, *Eleocharis cellulosa*, *Rhynchospora cyperoides* and *R. globosa*. The bulk of the nest was constructed of leaves and inflorescences of the two Poaceae species, with some sticks of *Annona glabra*. *A. glabra* and *Thalia trichocalyx* leaves were used to line the nest, along with two *Conocarpus erectus* leaves. The nest contained five subelliptical eggs, creamy white with sparse dark reddish-brown and purple spots and small blotches, typically distributed uniformly, but in one concentrated at the larger end



Figure 1. Nest and eggs of Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus*, Peralta, Zapata Swamp, 17 November 2000 (Chris Bradshaw)

(Fig. 1). Measurements (in mm) were: 36.5 x 25.4, 35.2 x 25.5, 35.4 x 26.4, 36.6 x 26 and 37.2 x 26.5. Confirmation that the nest belonged to a Spotted Rail came when one of the adults (videotaped) came within 5 m of AK while he was measuring the eggs. It was very active, constantly uttering its alarm call and moving around the nest. Incubation was estimated at 20 days; certainly by 9 December the nest was empty, the young having apparently departed.

Acknowledgements

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Juvenile plumage of Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*

On 16 January 2002, Laurie Ness and I observed many Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures *Cathartes burrovianus*, including several juveniles and immatures, with Turkey Vultures *C. aura* and Black Vultures *Coragyps atratus* at Celestún dump, Yucatán, Mexico (20°51'N 90°23'W). The juvenile *C. burrovianus* were overall slightly browner than the adults, with greyish heads. Their primary projection and leg colour were indistinguishable from the adults'. Also like the adults, they lacked the scaly appearance created by the pale fringes to the upperwing-coverts characteristic of North American races of Turkey Vulture of all ages¹. In addition, they appeared to lack the pale fringes to the mantle feathers characteristic of juvenile Turkey Vulture⁴. This plumage has not been adequately described in the literature^{2,3} (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm.). The presence or absence of scaling, particularly on the wings, should distinguish juveniles (and other age classes) of the two species when at rest. Immatures of both species acquire a duller version of the adult head coloration at six months (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm.).

Acknowledgements

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First record of Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* on the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

On 18 January 2002, while accompanied by Laurie Ness, I found a female Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* c.9 km east of Progreso, Yucatán, Mexico (21°17'N 89°33'W). It was swimming and diving in a mangrove lagoon south of the Dzilam de Bravo road, at a flamingo *Phoenicopterus*-viewing pavilion near the site of the narrow track opposite the Los Flamencos sign as described under Site 14.6 in Howell². The bird was loosely associated with two female Lesser Scaup *A. affinis*, permitting good comparative views. Although we were looking into the sun and there was considerable glare, we were, with the aid of a good telescope, able to observe several key identification features.

The bird was obviously a female scaup on the basis of the white patch at the base of the bill, and was slightly longer bodied and stockier than the *A. affinis*. The crown was distinctly flat, highest in front, with a 'double-bump' effect reminiscent of Common Loon *Gavia immer*. In contrast, the crowns of the *A. affinis* clearly had peaks at the rear, sloping to the bill. The bill of the *A. marila* was distinctly longer and broader than those of the *A. affinis* and appeared slightly less curved on the culmen when viewed from the side. The bird had a diffuse but

obvious white patch on the ear-coverts, lacking on the two *A. affinis*; although this feature can be present on *A. affinis*, it tends to be more conspicuous and persistent in *A. marila*⁴ and, in my experience, is considerably more prevalent in the latter. Unfortunately, the distance (never less than c.100 m) and light did not permit comparison of the bill nails, a useful distinguishing characteristic at close range^{4,6}; and none of the birds displayed its wing stripe during the 30-minute observation period. Conditions did not permit photographic documentation.

Although identification of scaup can be problematic and distinguishing features are subtle and somewhat variable⁴, the features we observed were consistent and unambiguous throughout the observation period. Furthermore, I have considerable experience with both species, which are common winter residents in California.

According to Howell & Webb³, *A. marila* is a rare winter visitor to Baja California and Sonora, but the latter authors indicate no Mexican records outside those areas. However, it is also a rare winter visitor to the Texas coast and upper Rio Grande Valley^{1,5,6}, and has been recorded in the vicinity of Matamoros, Tamaulipas⁶. This sighting is the first record of the species on the Yucatán Peninsula. Rare Bird Alerts for winter 2001–02 did not indicate an influx of *A. marila* into Texas or Florida, so this occurrence cannot be considered part of a larger event.

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Wintering 'Lawrence's' Warbler in northern Costa Rica

On 12 December 2001, while canoeing near Laguna del Lagarto Lodge, I found an adult male 'Lawrence's' Warbler. The lodge is situated on the río San Carlos, c.15 km upstream of its confluence with the río San Juan, on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. 'Lawrence's' Warbler is the result of hybridisation between Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* and Golden-winged Warbler *V. chrysoptera*. The 'Lawrence's' phenotype is recessive and usually results from second-generation backcrosses¹. The bird was with a mixed flock comprising a Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher *Todirostrum sylvia*, Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus flavipes*, Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* and Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*, and was regularly observed until 12 February 2002. The composition of the flock that it accompanied changed little during this period.

Adult male 'Lawrence's' Warbler retains the black throat and ear-coverts of Golden-winged Warbler but maintains the body coloration of Blue-winged Warbler, although coloration can be highly variable in some individuals. This individual matched the above description with the exception of the dull olive colour reaching onto the crown, leaving only the forehead bright yellow. The black

throat contained some yellow flecking and the undertail-coverts had a slight yellow wash.

The dominant phenotype in this hybrid complex is referred to as 'Brewster's' Warbler¹. The latter has been recorded around five times in Costa Rica⁴. It would appear not unusual to encounter a hybrid of this complex in the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica, as Golden-winged Warbler is considered an uncommon winter resident and Blue-winged Warbler a very uncommon to very rare winter resident in Costa Rica, but the latter is most frequent in the Caribbean lowlands³. This record is one of the few records of this recessive phenotype on the wintering grounds; Kirwan & Sharpe³ mention a record for Venezuela, and Hilty² three others, which are apparently the only such occurrences in South America. The 'Lawrence's' and 'Brewster's' Warbler phenotypes should be searched for anywhere within the normal wintering range of either Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers.

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Notes on the avifauna of the lower río San Carlos, Costa Rica

La Laguna del Lagarto Lodge is situated on the río San Carlos c.15 km upstream from its confluence

with the río San Juan on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. The lodge property comprises over 480 ha of primary forest, a lesser amount of secondary forest, extensive cattle pasture and palm-heart plantations with scattered almendro *Dipteryx panamensis* trees. There are also several small lakes, 0.4–2.0 ha in size, scattered around the property. I recorded several interesting species and behaviour during a recent, three-month stay in the area.

In December 2001 there were several days of heavy rain, followed by flooding. During this period I recorded four species of larids on the río San Carlos. On the 24th, a flock of six Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* was observed flying south. A winter-plumaged Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*, observed flying north on the same date, may be the first record of this species on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica². On 28 December, I encountered a small flock of gulls on the river, flying north. It comprised two immature, probably second-year, Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* and an adult Ring-billed Gull *L. delawarensis*. The only logical explanation for these arrivals must be the continuous rainstorms that were coming from the Caribbean at the time.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao* was observed on a daily basis on the lodge property. This species was extirpated from the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica by the 1950s, with the exception of the north-west Caribbean slope east to the río Frio². This river is approximately 50 km west of the lodge. Employees of the lodge and local people commented that Scarlet Macaw had recolonised the area two years previously. Each day I encountered 2–4 individuals foraging on the forest edge and in scattered trees within pasture. On the río San Carlos the species was encountered with increasing frequency closer to Nicaragua. A roost tree was located early in December 2001. It was c.32 m-tall almendro, sited within a large cattle pasture, and was utilised regularly from early December

until early February. Thereafter, I surmise the birds began to roost at their nest sites. A maximum of 16 was recorded at the roost tree at one time. The birds had probably arrived from Nicaragua, where they were often observed flying in some numbers on the opposite side of the río San Juan. Increased logging in Nicaragua may be forcing the macaws to seek new areas, including within Costa Rica. In the 1990s logging rates in Nicaragua were ten times those of the Amazon¹. It will be interesting to see if numbers continue to increase given continued destruction of the Nicaraguan forest.

Between eight and ten pairs of Great Green Macaw *Ara ambigua* occurred on and around the lodge property. During early January the birds' faces began to flush deep red, and I rarely encountered more than one pair utilising a feeding tree together. The repertoire of squawks, growls, and other loud calls diversified, and an increase in allpreening was observed. By late January courtship and copulation was regularly observed. In the first week of February, one pair was observed copulating while hanging upside-down from the thin outer branches of a tamarindo *Leucaena leucocephala* tree. The pair faced each other, while inverted, and bill-clacked during copulation. The process lasted c.1 minute, at which time the male took flight, but soon returned and the process was repeated up to three times. This behaviour continued for three days after the initial sighting, and the birds utilised the same branches each time.

Composition of army ant following flocks

I regularly encountered army ant swarms and the birds that associate with them, and spent much time following one such flock in the northern part of the forest, which had little understorey, permitting easy viewing of the flock. It is reasonable to assume that the flock was the same group, as the 'core birds' varied little in species composition and number: namely 2–3 Plain-brown

Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*, 3–4 Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*, a Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*, 6–8 Ocellated Antbird *Phaenostictus mcleannani*, 2–4 Bicoloured Antbird *Gymnopithys bicolor* and two Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides*. Other species were observed on a more sporadic basis. Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii* was observed with the flock approximately 50% of the time. Rufous-winged Woodpecker *Piculus rubiginosus* was observed on two occasions, a solitary individual on the first occasion and subsequently a pair. A single Long-tailed Woodcreeper *Deconychura longicauda* was observed twice, the only times I saw the species descend from its usual haunt in the subcanopy. Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans* was observed once, but was harassed constantly by a pair of Northern Barred Woodcreeper and eventually driven away. By far the strangest species I observed with an ant-following flock was a pair of Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*. The birds were observed walking on the ground and were covered by the ants, but I did not observe the birds pick up anything with their beaks. They mostly focused on the antbirds that were actively feeding in the vegetation surrounding them. Why the parrots descended to the ground is intangible to me; possibly they were attracted to the loud, excited calls of the accompanying antbirds and woodcreepers. The pair spent approximately 45 minutes on the ground before returning the canopy.

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Verification of rare bird records from Trinidad and Tobago

A third group of records, mainly from 1997 to 2001, has been ratified by the Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee, and these are presented here. Records for 92 species have been accepted, some with photographic evidence. Records for 22 species were rejected. Those accepted include 13 first records for Trinidad and ten first records for Tobago. These results reflect much-increased activity among birders in recent years, assisted by improved communication via the Internet. For convenience, taxonomic order and nomenclature generally follow usage in *A guide to the birds of Trinidad and Tobago*, 1991 edition, by Rf.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Dead individuals were found at Manzanilla beach on 29 January 1998, 2 February 2000 and 20 November 2001 (ER, GW, AA). Rarely recorded on Trinidad.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

One was found dead at Manzanilla beach on 14 November 1997 (PB); there are only six records for Trinidad.

White-tailed Tropicbird

Phaethon lepturus

One or two adults have been recorded on a number of occasions at Little Tobago, including in April 1998, on 26 November 2000 and 29 September 2001 (FH, MB, PD *et al.*). Only one previous confirmed record for Tobago.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Single immatures were found at Bon Accord, Tobago on 15 January 1999, and on Trinidad, at Trincity ponds, on 27 September 2001, and at Nariva Swamp, on 16 December 2001 (DF, PD, CR), constituting the first record for Tobago, and the second for Trinidad.

Western Reef-heron *Egretta gularis*

An immature was at Buccoo marsh on 16 December 2000 (MK); it was seen frequently in the area until at least January 2002. First record for Tobago.

Rufescent Tiger-heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*

One was at Cumuto Savannah on 1 August 2000 (MK). Few records on Trinidad.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

One or two were at Caroni rice fields in late June 1999 (RM, SR, FH), constituting only the second record for Trinidad. Also, one was photographed at Buccoo on 30 September–5 October 1998 (SW), the second record for Tobago.

Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari*

One frequented the shore at Orange Valley for some time after 17 August 2001 (MK *et al.*). This is the first record for Trinidad; but the bird's condition cast some doubt on its wild status.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Individuals or small groups were at Caroni rice fields or Diego Martin River in May 1998, on 30 October 1999, in late July 2000 and on 8 January 2001 (GW, MG, MK). Uncommon on Trinidad.

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

An immature was at Caroni rice fields in September 1998, and an adult in the same area in August 1999 (GW *et al.*). Rare on Trinidad.

Greater Flamingo*Phoenicopterus ruber*

Four, including two immatures, were at Brickfield mudflats in early September 1997 (GW). Occasional visitor to Trinidad.

Fulvous Whistling-duck*Dendrocygna bicolor*

An adult was at Buccoo marsh in January–March 1998 (WP, DM, FH, Rf *et al.*). Only the second record for Tobago.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

A female at Caroni rice fields on

9–13 June 2001 (MK, FH) was the first record for Trinidad.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*

An adult male at Buccoo marsh on 23 November 1998 (GW) was the third record for Tobago.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

A female at Caroni rice fields on 4 November 1998 (GW); occasionally winters in Trinidad.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A male and two females at Lowlands pond on 23 November 1998 (GW) and in early 1999 (various observers) constituted the third record for Tobago.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

A male at Caroni rice fields on 9 September 1997 (GG *et al.*) and a group of up to 17 in the same area from mid- to late August 2000 (FH, various observers) are only the third and fourth records for Trinidad, although the species has long been known to local hunters.

Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus*

A pair with two immatures was at Tableland on several occasions between May and December 1998 (GW), indicating probable local breeding. An immature female at Buccoo on 4 January 1998 (FH *et al.*) was only the second record for Tobago.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

An immature was at Nariva Swamp on 1 April 1998 (PDU *et al.*) and an immature at Caroni rice fields on 4 July 2000 and on many occasions in 2001 and 2002 (MK, various observers). This species presumably visits from the continent, but its occurrence is patchy.

White-tailed Hawk *Buteo albicaudatus*

An adult was near Oropouche Lagoon on 6 June 2001 (HK) and an immature at Caroni rice fields in late November 2001 (MK *et al.*). Rare nowadays on Trinidad.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

Records of light-morph adults over north-east Tobago on 17 March 1998 and 21 June 1998 (Rf, GE) are the third and fourth records for Tobago.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*

An adult of this rarely seen species was in Nariva Swamp on 11 October 1998 (GW).

Rufous Crab-hawk *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*

One considered to be a subadult was photographed at Nariva Swamp on 10 February 1996 (BB *et al.*). Very rare on Trinidad.

Black Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

An adult was in the Waller Field area in September 1998–January 1999 (Rf, DF), and an immature was by the Blanchisseuse Road on 18 September 1999 (CR). Rare on Trinidad.

Northern Caracara *Caracara plancus*

An adult was at Galera Point on 10 August 2000 (GW); a rare visitor to Trinidad.

Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus*

A dead individual was found on a road at Carapichaima on 6 July 1997 (GW); quite rare on Trinidad.

Rufous-necked Wood-rail *Aramides axillaris*

One was in mangroves by Blue River, Caroni on 16 September 1998 (Rf *et al.*) and two at Cacandee on 18 December 2000 (MK, GW). Well distributed throughout several islets off north-west Trinidad, but on the main island appears confined to the Caroni mangroves.

Paint-billed Crake *Neocrex erythrops*

One by Caroni rice fields on 16 September 2001 (MK) was only the fourth record for Trinidad (all have occurred between June and September).

Azure Gallinule *Porphyrola flavirostris*

Individuals at Caroni rice fields on 10 May 1999 (GW) and 22 August 2000 (MK) indicate that the species' local range has expanded beyond Nariva Swamp.

American Coot *Fulica americana*

An adult at Bon Accord ponds on 24 March 2001 (MK, GS) was the second record for Tobago. The species is easily confused with Caribbean Coot.

Pied Lapwing *Hoploxypterus cayanus*

An adult by the Arena Dam road on 12 March to early April 1998 (PG *et al.*) was the first record for Trinidad.

American Oystercatcher*Haematopus palliatus*

Up to five on various occasions at Waterloo between late 1997 and March 1999 (various observers).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

One at Waterloo on 28 June 1999 (MT *et al.*) was the first record for Trinidad and north-east South America (see *Cotinga* 16: 66).

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

Three at Brickfield mudflats on 14 September 2001 (NL), one at Caroni rice fields on 19–25 September (MK *et al.*), and one at Hilton golf course, Tobago on 26 October 2001 (NH), the first Tobago record since the 19th century. Records of this species are sparse, but they tend to come in groups.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*

Two at Buccoo marsh on 30 September 1988 (SW) provide the first authentic record of the species for Tobago since a dubious 19th century report.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

An adult photographed on various occasions between 14 September 2000 and 21 January 2001 at Caroni rice fields and Orange

Valley (FH, MK) was the first record for Trinidad and South America (see *Cotinga* 17: 20–22).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

One in non-breeding plumage at Speyside on 7 September 2000 (Rf, PJ) was the first record for Tobago, though it is commonly seen on passage through Trinidad.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper*Tryngites subruficollis*

Several were seen on passage through Trinidad in May/June and September/October 2000 and 2001 (MK); singles at Crown Point on 15 October and at Speyside on 16 October 2000 (MK, FH, BS) are the first records for Tobago since the 19th century.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

An immature at Caroni rice fields on 28 August–12 September 1998 (GG *et al.*) and two in the same location on 1 October 2000 (MK, FH) are the first records for Trinidad.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*

Both immatures and adults have been found on the west coast of Trinidad between Port of Spain and San Fernando on several dates, including 5 January, 7–26 February, 14–20 March 1999, 2–3 December 2000, 22 January and 22 April 2001 (DBM, FH, GW, MK). The first records for Trinidad.

Lesser Black-backed Gull*Larus fuscus*

Several, both adults and immatures, have been found on Trinidad's west coast in December–March in recent years (various observers). The species has clearly become a regular visitor to the area.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

An adult was found at Waterloo on 8 July 2000 (FH, BS), remaining in the area until 1 October; a similar bird was at San Fernando until 10 February 2001 (HK). These constitute the first records for Trinidad (see *Cotinga* 18: 85–88).

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*

An adult and an immature were at the Hilton lakes, Tobago on 20 May 2001 (RT). The first record for Tobago of this tern, which on Trinidad is largely confined to the west coast or adjoining wetlands.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*

Records from Bon Accord (FH) on 1 February 1999 and Lowland ponds (MK) on 7 January 2001 suggest the species is probably resident in small numbers in western Tobago.

Dark-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus melacoryphus*

One was at Todd's Road on 26 August 1998 (GW); rare on Trinidad.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

One at Caroni rice fields on 12 September 2001 (MK) was the first record for Trinidad.

Rufous-shafted Woodstar*Chaetocercus jourdanii*

A female or immature was at Asa Wright Nature Centre on 28 August 2000 (Rf). Very rare on Trinidad.

Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis*

One seen by many observers (Rf, AM *et al.*) at the Asa Wright Nature Centre on 8 April–9 June 1999 was the first record in Trinidad for many years.

Blue-backed Manakin*Chiroxiphia pareola*

Females were seen on nests at Gilpin Trace on 29 March 1998 (Mf) and 12 April 2000 (EC, Rf). These are the second and third breeding records for Tobago.

Variegated Flycatcher*Empidonomus varius*

Two photographed at Asa Wright Nature Centre on 18 November 2001 (RW, RR). Rare in Trinidad.

Venezuelan Flycatcher*Myiarchus venezuelensis*

A pair at a nest in a bamboo stump at Gilpin Trace on 19

March 1998 (Rf) was the first breeding record for Tobago.

Spotted Tody-flycatcher

Todirostrum maculatum

Two at Oropouche Lagoon on 6 March 1999 (GW) were a significant range extension on Trinidad from the Icacos peninsula, where hitherto all previous records have been made.

Slaty Elaenia *Elaenia strepera*

One at Brasso Seco on 21–22 July 1998 (CR, ER) was the first Trinidad record.

White-winged Swallow

Tachycineta albiventer

An adult and an immature at Speyside on 5 September 2000 (I & GB) was the first record for Tobago.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon*

pyrrhonota

Singles were at Trincity ponds on 17 April 2000 (NA), and Caroni rice fields on 3 March and 19 September 2001 (MK). Few records in Trinidad.

White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus*

An immature at Buccoo in early January–February 1998 (WP, DM, FH) and an adult in the same locality on 28 January 1999 (RN) are the first records for Tobago.

Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo*

altiloquus

Singles were at Arena forest on 19 February 2001 (MK) and near Scotland Bay on 28 April 2001 (CR); quite rare on Trinidad.

Golden-winged Warbler

Vermivora chrysoptera

An adult male was at Kings Bay Trail on 20 June 2001 (JK, AJ), an interesting date. The first record for Tobago of a species that has not been recorded in the Lesser Antilles.

Northern Parula *Parula*

americana

Single males were at Buccoo marsh on 9 February 1998 (FH, NT) and at Pointe-a-Pierre on 22 February 1998 (FH, GWi). The

fourth record for Tobago and the first for Trinidad.

Cape May Warbler *Dendroica*

tigrina

An adult male at Trincity ponds area on 31 December 1998–8 April 1999 (WP, DM, and various observers) was the second record for Trinidad, and the first to winter on the island.

Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica*

cerulea

An adult male at Heights of Aripo on 22 November 2000 (MB, CR *et al.*) was the first record for Trinidad.

Blackburnian Warbler

Dendroica fusca

An adult male at Morne Bleu on 26 March 2001 (CR *et al.*) was the sixth record for Trinidad.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Dendroica pensylvanica

One was photographed at Lopinot Valley on 30 December 2000 (RN) and another was at Moka on 17 December 2001 (GW); rarely seen on Trinidad.

Golden-rumped Euphonia

Euphonia cyanocephala

An adult male was at Brigand Hill on 3 March 1999 (PH). This rarely seen euphonia is a much-desired target of bird catchers, so an escape from captivity cannot be ruled out.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga*

olivacea

An adult male was at Aripo Agricultural Station on 18 April 2000 (MK), another at Nariva and a third at Arena forest in April 2001 (CR). All six recent records for Trinidad have been in spring.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

The diagnostic call of this species was heard at Grafton estate on 15 January 1999 (DF *et al.*), the first record for Tobago.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Two males were at Morne Bleu in late January 1999 (KM, CR, FH), the fourth record for Trinidad.

Yellow Grosbeak *Pheucticus*

chrysopeplus

An adult male was at Asa Wright Nature Centre on 8 November 1999 (HB). The first record for Trinidad of this species, whose range in Venezuela extends east to the mountains of Monagas and Sucre. Captive origin is possible, but probably unlikely.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana*

An adult male at Speyside on 13 January 1998 (CA *et al.*) was the first Tobago record.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Flocks up to 50 on several days in October 2000 and 2001, mainly at Caroni rice fields, but also at Galera Point (FH, MK *et al.*); this passage migrant may have been overlooked hitherto.

In addition to the above, records

were accepted for the following 20 species, whose status has already been established: Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*, King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*, Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*, Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*, Trinidad Piping-guan *Pipile pipile*, Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*, Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Ring-billed Gull *L. delawarensis*, Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*, Green-throated Mango *Anthracothorax viridigula*, Short-tailed Pygmy-tyrant *Myiornis ecaudatus*, Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*, Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*, Moriche Oriole *Icterus chryscephalus*, Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis* and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta*. One record was accepted without the species being certainly established, namely a Common *Chordeiles minor* or Antillean Nighthawk *C. gundlachii*, either of which would be a first record for Tobago. Records were accepted for Chukar *Alectoris chukar* and Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, but both were considered

to be escaped captives. Records for 22 species were rejected for a variety of reasons, mostly uncertain identification.

Observers: C. Abrams, A. Adcock, N. Arnold, P. Bacon, M. Bowen, B. Bowman, I. & G. Broadbent, H. Brokaw, E. Clarke, P. Davis, P. Dukes, G. Engblom, M. French, R. French, D. Finch, P. Gaywood, M. Gillespie, G. Gomes, N. Hacking, P. Harris, F. Hayes, A. James, P. Jones, J. Kaplan, M. Kenefick, H. Kilpatrick, N. Lallsingh, C. Lowe, D. B. McNair, D. McRae, J. Mehmel, K. Mellen, A. Mendus, R. Mohammed, R. Neckles, W. Petersen, S. Ramsaran, N. Riches, C. Rooks, E. Rooks, R. Rowlett, I. Samad, B. Sanasie, G. Stephen, M. Taylor, R. Taylor, N. Trimm, S. Warry, R. Webster, G. Wilson, A. White, and G. White.

The Committee presently consists of Martyn Kenefick (Secretary), Richard French, Geoffrey Gomes, Floyd Hayes, William Murphy, Courtenay Rooks and Graham White. Records should be sent to the Secretary at martynkenefick@netscape.net. Copies of the Species Review List and the Rare Bird Report Form are available on the Internet at <http://www.geocities.com/trbc>.

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A unusual altitudinal record of White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* in Ecuador

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* is a widespread Neotropical species, generally associated with coastal habitats, though occurring inland in southern South America, regularly to 2,550 m near Cochabamba, Bolivia, and once at 4,080 m, at Lago Junín, Peru¹. In Ecuador, it is a common resident on the coast and in adjacent lowlands, where it has rapidly expanded its range since the first record in 1953². On

17 March 2002, while censusing waterbirds on Laguna Mica, Napo Province, Ecuador, at 3,900 m, we found an adult White-cheeked Pintail. It was initially located by LL within a flock of 230 Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas spinicauda* roosting in the centre of the lake, and was seen well through a telescope in good light conditions. This is the first record away from the coastal hinterland in Ecuador and appears to be the second-highest altitudinal report ever.

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White-breasted Parakeet

Pyrrhura albipectus: a new record for Peru

White-breasted Parakeet *Pyrrhura albipectus* is considered endemic to Ecuador. In the light of new distributional records, it has been suggested that 'this species is likely to occur in adjacent Peru'¹. Nevertheless, it has not previously been recorded there².

Corporación Ornitológica del Ecuador (CECIA) has recently conducted surveys in the Cordillera del Condor, which forms part of the border between Ecuador and Peru. As part of these, a field visit to an area known as Condor Mirador (03°38'S 78°23'W; at 1,800 m), in Morona-Santiago province, was undertaken. On 19 December

2000, a group of 12–14 White-breasted Parakeet was observed flying 15 m overhead while I was stationed in one of the passes that represents the border between the two countries. The flock flew from the Ecuadorian side of the range into the valley of the Alto Cenepa and forest in Peru. The group was observed without binoculars for c.10 seconds, but the distinctive, broad white band across the breast, extending onto the head- and neck-sides, was clearly seen in the clear, sunny conditions.

The ecology of the cloud forest along the río Cenepa within Peru is identical to that on the Ecuadorian side where this parakeet is relatively uncommon. The entire area has been the subject of conflict between Ecuador and Peru, and, therefore, visiting the Peruvian side of the río Cenepa was politically difficult. This situation and the presence of land mines in the area prohibited visiting this remote Peruvian forest. This sighting is the first observation of the species for Peru.

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Further sightings of Selva Cacique *Cacicus koepckeae* in Manu National Park, Peru

Following its discovery in 1963 at Balta, dpto. Loreto⁴, Selva Cacique *Cacicus koepckeae* was among the most enigmatic of Neotropical birds. It evaded conclusive rediscovery until March–April 1998, when it was found on the upper río Camisea, dpto. Cusco, and later (in October 1998) on the nearby río Manu Chico, dpto. Madre de Dios². In the interim, there were at least two inconclusive reports from Manu

National Park in the 1980s^{1,6}. One of these—from Cocha Cashu Biological Station—was initially considered 'almost certain', and the species was therefore listed as provisional on a site inventory⁶. Despite an enormous amount of field work and mist-netting at this locality, no further observations were made, such that the species was removed from subsequent lists³ and considered unlikely to occur in the immediate vicinity (J. Terborgh pers. comm. 2001).

In September 2001, I found three separate groups of Selva Cacique holding territories along a c.5 km stretch of shallow creek (c.5 m broad) flowing through pristine lowland forest, c.8 km from Cocha Cashu Biological Station (uplands trail). They were always along the creek itself, never in adjacent forest, and appeared to be restricted to disturbed riverine regrowth containing cane, bamboo, dense creepers and some *Heliconia*. All records of the species appear to be along small rivers^{2,4}. The groups apparently comprised adults, and were stable in number (one of four, one of five and one of six individuals) and each tended to be found in the same stretch of creek over a four-week period. Previous sightings have been of 1–4 individuals, usually pairs², and a group of six¹. At Cocha Cashu, the groups ranged from the low understorey to the upper canopy, but spent most time 1–5 m above ground in dense tangles of bamboo or vines. The species was most frequently located by its loud and distinctive vocalisations⁵ (see Fig. 1), which it often gave, although it tended to respond to playback of these calls

by flying away.

These are the first confirmed sightings of Selva Cacique at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, the most accessible locality for the species to date (N. G. Gerhart *in litt.* 2002). They follow 30 years of intensive field work at the site, albeit in a little-visited locale away from the main study grid. The species is not so much skulking as inconspicuous and highly local; knowledge of its vocalisations and habitat requirements will undoubtedly lead to many more records within its small range.

Acknowledgements

I thank INRENA and John Terborgh for permission to work at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru, and Nat Seddon for preparing the sonogram.

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Notes on breeding behaviour in Black-faced Cotinga

Conioptilon mcilhennyi

Black-faced Cotinga *Conioptilon mcilhennyi*—a relatively recently discovered species²—is restricted to tall floodplain forests in south-west Peru¹, with recent records from adjacent Acre, western Brazil, in November 1994⁴, and Pando, northern Bolivia, in July 2001 (Armonía Bolivian Bird Database). As there is no information on its breeding behaviour³ (G. Greene pers. comm. 2002), I describe two nests of this species that I found at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, dpto. Madre de Dios, Peru, in 2001.

A bird was watched nest-building in an isolated streamside tree (*Cecropia* sp.) on 16 September. This nest site—c.15 m above ground—was abandoned for unknown reasons after two days, and another nest was commenced in the same tree at the same height. Nest-building was undertaken by one individual, presumably the female, although the 'male' was in constant attendance. The 'female' visited the site every few minutes through the middle of the day, carrying scraps of fine plant fibre that were wound onto two narrow, open branches at their fork. The 'male' was in constant attendance,

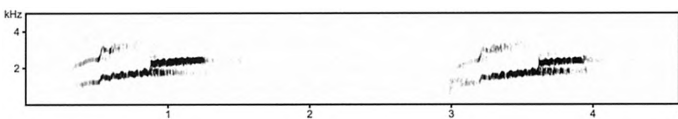


Figure 1. Sonogram of calls of Selva Cacique *Cacicus koepckeae* (probably one individual, although possibly a duet) recorded at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru, in September 2001. This was the only vocalisation given during the study period: two (1–3) high notes followed by two low notes (transcribed as *ching-ching chung-chung*), repeated frequently. Sonogram created with Avisoft-SASLab Pro on standard wide-band settings (FFT = 512, frequency bandwidth = 235 Hz, time resolution = 4 ms).

apparently mate-guarding, but never directly assisted with nest construction. Both individuals frequently called and 'sang' (see Fig. 1), and the nest-building operation was undertaken with little wariness. Nest-building occurred daily, but even after a week the nest itself was barely visible. It was not possible to return to this nest and further details are therefore unavailable.

Another pair was discovered feeding a single nestling c.35 m above ground in an enormous *Ceiba cf. pentandra* (Bombacaceae), on 28–30 September 2001. The nest—sufficiently small as to be invisible—was situated at the fork of two branches. Both adults fed the nestling, often vocalising loudly as they did so, drawing attention to themselves. The nest tree also contained an active nest of Ornate Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*. The young appeared almost uniformly pale grey with no black visible on the head, and the face relatively pale. On closer inspection, this nestling was clearly well developed (almost the size of adults) but covered in down which was mottled pale and black; it was easily mistaken for a patch of lichen until it gaped for food.

These are the first breeding records, and therefore the first description of both nest and nestling for the genus. The main breeding season for most species in south-east Peru commences in August–September, continuing until December–March, and on these grounds *Conioptilon* was accurately predicted to breed at

this time³. Breeding behaviour in the cotinga family in general is extremely poorly known, largely because so many species are difficult to locate when not displaying or vocalising, and because so many of their inconspicuous nests are probably situated in the forest canopy.

Nest structure in *Conioptilon* is apparently typical for the family: most cotingas build open nests, these usually being tiny flimsy-looking saucer-shaped structures³. The dense covering of down in young *Conioptilon* is also a common feature of cotinga nestlings³. In the first *Conioptilon* nest described above, guarding of the female by the male was apparently intense during nest-building (and therefore presumably shortly before the fertile period). This behaviour is common in many temperate bird species but has not been previously reported in the Cotingidae; indeed, males of most cotingas either make no effort to protect their paternity or spend little time with the female during the breeding period³.

Acknowledgements

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Feeding behaviour of herons at sea off the coast of south-east Brazil

The following observations document behaviour by two heron species apparently foraging for waste from fishing boats at sea, near Baía da Ilha Grande, Parati, south-east Brazil, during 30 December 2000 to 18 March 2001. Parati is c.150 km west-southwest of Rio de Janeiro.

In the mid-morning of 18 January 2001, from a beach known as Prahinia, c.8 km north-east of Parati, I observed two Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* around a fishing boat 400–500 m offshore. They were associated with 19 Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*, eight Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* and c.6 terns (probably Royal *Sterna maxima* and Common *S. hirundo*). One of the herons remained high above the surface, the other came low (as did some of the other species), landed on the sea and flew off again.

At mid-morning of 2 February 2001, at the same location, I observed five Black-crowned Night-heron, c.15 terns (Royal or

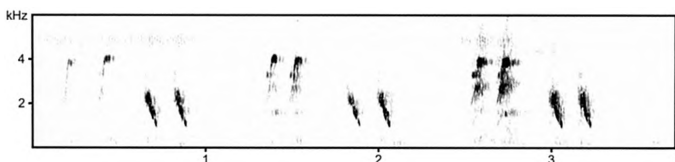


Figure 1. Sonogram of song and calls of Black-faced Cotinga *Conioptilon mcilhennyi*, recorded at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru. The 'song' is loud and distinctive, usually likened to one of the main calls of Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani* or an old-fashioned telephone: an upwardly inflected *brriing*. The call is a simple *pew* note. The two vocalisations were given regularly during nest-building and chick-rearing by both male and female. Sonogram created with Avisoft-SASLab Pro on standard wide band settings (FFT = 512, frequency bandwidth = 235 Hz, time resolution = 4 ms).

Cayenne *Sterna sandvicensis eurygnathus*), four Neotropic Cormorant and a Cocoli Heron *Ardea cocoi* around several fishing boats 400–500 m offshore. The latter flew c.50 m above the surface, then descended with legs outstretched, settled briefly on the sea, before flying low to the shore, where it perched on a boulder.

Finally, at 15h30, on 24 February 2001, from a yacht c.6 km east-northeast of Parati, I observed five Black-crowned Night-heron, which while apparently en route between the mainland and an island c.1 km offshore, circled behind a fishing boat, with 1–2 briefly alighting on the sea.

Although all my observations were at such distance that it was impossible to observe what, if anything, the herons took from the sea, that they briefly settled on the surface strongly suggests that they were feeding. Such behaviour close to fishing boats, which in two cases attracted other species known to scavenge fish waste, indicates that the herons were attracted by the same food resource. Del Hoyo *et al.*¹ and Hancock & Kushlan² mention that herons do forage aerially, albeit rarely, but apparently only in natural circumstances and not while scavenging around fishing boats. The only known instances of either species feeding offshore are recorded for the race *falklandicus* of Black-crowned Night-heron, which visits kelp beds 500 m from land². Indeed, Cocoli Heron has not previously been recorded at sea^{1,2}. A Cocoli Heron was also observed flying across the mouth of the bay at Prahinia, on 5 February, again a few hundred metres out.

Aerial foraging of herons appears not uncommon around Parati, given my observations over less than three months. It is also noteworthy that the behaviour occurred in full daylight, although Black-crowned Night-heron is principally a crepuscular/nocturnal feeder². Several were regularly observed feeding on the mudflats at Parati, but only in late evening. The topography around Parati may have favoured

the development of such behaviour. Baía da Ilha Grande is a large bay (c.50 km x 40 km) of the Atlantic Ocean, with many forested islands of all sizes. Many small boats (c.10 m long) fish the bay, and herons regularly move between the mainland and islands during daylight. Sometimes, on these trips, the birds doubtless fly close to fishing boats, and may, in the past, have been attracted by other bird species congregating around these boats.

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Un nuevo registro del Benteveo *Pitangus sulphuratus* para Chile

El Benteveo *Pitangus sulphuratus* tiene una amplia distribución en Sudamérica, principalmente al este de los Andes, desde el norte de Colombia y por el este desde Venezuela, hacia el sur llegando al centro sur de Argentina, Neuquén y Río Negro, con unos pocos casos de errantes en Chile⁵.

El primer espécimen para Chile fue capturado en las cercanías de Cholguan (37°S), prov. de Ñuble, en julio 1966, por E. Lamothe⁴. Johnson¹ da erróneamente la fecha de este espécimen como enero de 1967 y da la localidad como cerca de los Angeles (c.37°S), prov. Bío-Bío. Luego Johnson² reportó un registro visual el 8 de septiembre de 1969, un poco al sur de Santo Domingo (33°S), prov. San Antonio. El segundo espécimen reportado para Chile, fue capturado en Quebrada de Suca (19°S), prov. de Iquique, el 7 de julio de 1986, por D. Veas³. Luego se reportó un segundo registro visual por J. Rottman en las cercanías de

Talagante (33°S), prov. Talagante, entre el 12 y 27 de abril de 1990⁶. Esta información es repetida de manera incompleta por Sallabery *et al.*⁷. Revisando la colección del difunto Francisco Behn, se encontró un tercer espécimen nunca reportado en la literatura. Este fue colectado por F. Behn, el 10 de febrero de 1968, en Caspana (22°S, 3.200 m), prov. del Loa. Se trata de un macho, pesando 57 g, testis 2.5 x 1 mm (CFB # 934).

Sin duda el Benteveo es una especie errante en Chile, y de momento no hay ningún patrón en estos movimientos, aunque la mayoría son entre el otoño y el invierno austral. No es posible determinar la subespecie, por carecer de material comparativo. En resumen, la especie ha sido encontrada en Chile en los meses de febrero, abril, julio y septiembre, en las regiones I, II, V, Area Metropolitana y VIII, y desde el nivel del mar hasta los 3.200 m de altitud.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

WEST INDIES

Bermuda

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* has recently been added to the Bermuda list, one over Nonsuch Island, on 20 May 2002⁵³. Among other records from spring 2002, most significant were the second island record of **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*, on 24 April to 3 May, the first **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* for about ten years, on 10 June, the latest ever spring record of **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*, on 4 May, the first May record of **Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor*, and the first summer record of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, on 10 June¹⁰. The globally threatened **Cahow** *Pterodroma cahow* enjoyed a record breeding season, 65 pairs succeeded in fledging 36 chicks³³.

Barbados

The wintering grounds of **Caribbean Martin** *Progne dominicensis* are unknown but are presumed to be in South America. Observations in winter 2000/2001 indicate that at least small numbers overwinter on Barbados¹⁴.

Cuba

Winter surveys of high-altitude areas of the Sierra Maestra in 1999 and 2000 revealed the presence of 12 and 19 individuals of **Bicknell's Thrush** *Catharus bicknelli*, demonstrating that the species is apparently a regular wintering bird in this part of the island⁹¹. Wiley *et al.*⁵² provide interesting data from surveys of

mogotes forest in the west of the country in June 2000.

Dominican Republic

A possible hybrid between **Kirtland's Warbler** *Dendroica kirtlandii* and **Blackburnian Warbler** *D. fusca* was trapped and photographed in October 1997²⁸. The use of sea caves for nesting by **Antillean Palm Swift** *Tachornis phoenicobia* has recently been reported²⁷; there are no previously well-documented records of the genus using habitats other than palms in which to breed.

Guadeloupe

Fifteen new species have recently been added to the island list, of which are three are considered unconfirmed²⁹. Particularly notable, among confirmed observations, are those of **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* and **Bare-eyed Robin** *Turdus nudigenis*, which has been proved to breed. **American Coot** *Fulica americana* has recently (February–March 2001) been discovered to breed on the island³⁰.

Puerto Rico

The sixth-ever (and first white-phase) **Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens* in the country was discovered in December 2001⁴³.

St Kitts-Nevis

A recent survey found no evidence for the continued existence of the **West Indian Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna arborea* in St Kitts-Nevis⁴. What was apparently the first **American Coot** *Fulica americana* to be recorded on the latter island was observed on 16 April 2001¹³.

MIDDLE AMERICA

Costa Rica

Among interesting records from early 2002 were a subadult **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* (photographed at an unknown location), perhaps the first **American Avocet** *Recurvirostra americana* on the Caribbean coast of the country, at Tortuguero Canals, on 31 January, a first-winter **Pacific Golden Plover**

Pluvialis fulva and 6–7 **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* at Chomes, on 4 January, still one **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* at Playa Hermosa until 21 February (see *Cotinga* 18: 108), a possible **South Polar Skua** *Catharacta maccormicki* near Carate, on the Osa Peninsula, on 2 January, possibly the first **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* in Costa Rica at Grecia, in December 2001, and at least eight **Cave Swallows** *Hirundo fulva* at La Ensenada Lodge, on 30 January 2002, with several of the same species at Chomes in February¹⁵.

Later in the year, on 19 June, a male **White-tailed Emerald** *Elvira chionura* was at Kiri Lodge, near Tapantí National Park, apparently the first record on the Caribbean side of the Cordillera de Talamanca. Further records of **Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* continue to expand its known range northward in the country, while **Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* is similarly expanding on the east slope. June and early July brought records of **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*, five **Surfbird** *Aphriza virgata* and **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*, the first summer records of these species in the country¹⁶. Elsewhere, Holley *et al.*²² present the first description of the nest and eggs of **Ochre-breasted Antpitta** *Grallaricula flavirostris* from observations in 1999 and 2000.

Mexico

The first record of **Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* in Campeche involved a group of 15 in November 1999⁴⁴. Five new species were recently added to the avifauna of Cozumel Island: **Orange-crowned Warbler** *Vermivora celata*, **Nashville Warbler** *V. ruficapilla*, **Canada Warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis*, **Red-throated Ant-tanager** *Habia fuscicauda* and **Blue-black Grassquit** *Volatinia jacarina*³². **Peregrine Falco peregrinus** has recently been reported breeding up to 390 km north of earlier nesting records in Baja Califor-

nia⁴⁵. New breeding data, including descriptions of the nests and eggs, have recently been provided for **Green-backed Sparrow** *Arremonops chloronotus* and **Grey-throated Chat** *Granatellus sallaei*⁴⁶. Further breeding, distributional and temporal data on 70 species in central Oaxaca are provided by Forcay¹² in the second part of his three-part paper, including observations of ten species not previously reported from or considered rare in the study area.

Nicaragua

Recent field work at El Jaguar, Jinotega, has revealed the presence of four new species in the country: **Green-crowned Brilliant** *Heliodoxa jacula*, **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*, **Plain Antvireo** *Dysithamnus mentalis* and **Bay-headed Tanager** *Tangara gyrola*, while two records of **Golden-cheeked Warbler** *Dendroica chrysoparia*, on 4 and 7 April 2002, are the first Nicaraguan records since 1891².

Panama

The presence of **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*, a rarity in the country, at Tocumen International Airport, one killed in February 1997 and two present between June and July 1999, has been reported recently¹⁹.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

The presence of **Ruby Topaz** *Chrysolampis mosquitus* in Argentina has been confirmed through photographs of a juvenile male and observations of a male at Puerto Iguazú, Misiones, in April–May 2001⁴¹. New breeding records of **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* in Buenos Aires province are presented by Fiameni¹¹, while Di Giacomo *et al.*⁹ note the first confirmed Córdoba reports of **Plumbeous Ibis** *Theristicus caerulescens* and **Ash-throated Crake** *Porzana albicollis*, first confirmed La Pampa record of **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* and first confirmed San Luis records of

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* and **Stripe-capped Sparrow** *Aimophila strigiceps*, as well as a number of range extensions in these and Mendoza province. Details of the distribution of two poorly known raptors, **White-throated Hawk** *Buteo albigula* and **Rufous-tailed Hawk** *B. ventralis* are presented for Neuquén, Río Negro and Chubut provinces^{17,18}. **Silvery Grebe** *Podiceps occipitalis* has recently been proven to breed in Buenos Aires province⁶; previous statements in the literature concerning the species' nesting there have been undocumented.

Brazil

A juvenile **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* was photographed on Ilha Fernando de Noronha during a stay of several weeks in January–February 1999 (K. Hazevoet in *Dutch Birding* 24: 205) and there is a previous record from the island in November 1996 (per J. F. Pacheco), the first records for South America. A recent desk study by Van Remsen⁴² has demonstrated that the true winter range of the **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*, which in the past has been variously considered to encompass much of northern South America east of the Andes, is probably confined to south-central and south-east Brazil, based on specimen analysis. Such studies, which serve to highlight the erroneous nature of previous assumptions concerning winter ranges of Nearctic migrants, may prove highly useful in the conservation of declining North American songbirds. The following species have recently been recorded at Estação Ecológica Uruçuí-Una, Piauí, being in each case the first state record: **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius* (range extension of c.800 km north-west from Chapada Diamantina), **Checkered Woodpecker** *Picoides mixtus* (range extension of c.970 km north from Planaltina, Distrito Federal), **Spotted Puffbird** *Bucco tamatia* (range extension of c.600 km south-east from Couto de Magalhães, Tocantins) and **Sooty**

Grassquit *Tiaris fuliginosa*⁴⁷. Vasconcelos⁴⁸ adds the following new records for Serra da Carapa, Minas Gerais: **Great Black-hawk** *Buteogallus urubitinga*, **Tawny-browed Owl** *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*, **Ferruginous Pygmy-owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*, **Versicoloured Emerald** *Amazilia versicolor*, **Robust Woodpecker** *Campephilus robustus*, **White-throated Woodcreeper** *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*, **Sooty Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga nigricans*, **Hellmayr's Pipit** *Anthus hellmayri* and **Red-rumped Cacique** *Cacicus haemorrhous*. The discovery of **Band-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus longirostris* at Chapada dos Guimarães, Mato Grosso, marks the first record for the state⁴⁹. D'Angelo Neto *et al.*⁷ report three new localities for the globally threatened **Narrow-billed Antwren** *Formicivora itheringi* in Minas Gerais. Within a discussion of the avifauna of the mangroves at Santos-Cubatão, in São Paulo, Olmos & Silva e Silva³⁹ present a number of interesting updates to the status of several birds in the state, most of them migrants or recent colonists.

Chile

The first country records of **Black-backed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus aureoventris* were made in Region I in December 1998²⁵ and February 2000³⁸. The northernmost Chilean record of **Black-necked Swan** *Cygnus melancoryphus* was made at Taltal, in February 1999⁵⁰. **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea* has recently been found to be a resident at a site in Region IV, well south of its known range in the country³⁶. Wilson *et al.* have recently re-identified a specimen of **Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor* taken in central Chile as an adult, not a young bird⁵². The discovery, in February 2000, of a nest containing two chicks of **Giant Conebill** *Oreomanes fraseri* in Region I confirms its resident status in Chile²⁰. A new record of **Wattled Jacana** *Jacana jacana* in the same region was

made in May 1998³⁷. **Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* has been confirmed to occur in Chile, based on specimens taken in the Juan Fernández Islands, in 1875, and the Andes of Curicó, in 1923³⁵, and **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* has recently (September 1999) been observed near Arica, Region I¹⁰. The first record of **Upland Goose** *Chloephaga picta* in the Juan Fernández was made in February 2000²¹, and **White-faced Storm-petrel** *Pelagodroma marina* has recently been confirmed to occur in Chilean waters, based on a specimen and photographs taken near Isla Alejandro Selkirk in February 2000²⁴.

Colombia

The presence of **Ecuadorian Cacique** *Cacicus sclateri* in Tinigua National Park, dpto. Meta, has recently been confirmed with specimens, providing unequivocal documentation of the species' presence in Colombia³. Further information on the species' breeding biology was also collected. During a study of geographical variation within the **Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant** *Poecilotriccus ruficeps* superspecies, Johnson²³ located previously overlooked specimens of *P. r. melanomystax* from Boyacá, in the eastern Andes, as well as Venezuela (see below).

French Guiana

The first country records of **Rufous Potoo** *Nyctibius bracteatus* were made around Saül in September 2000⁵, and the first nest data for **Wing-banded Wren** *Microcerculus bambla* were recently presented by Jullien & Cariveau²⁶. Additional breeding data for **Blackish Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigrescens* were presented recently⁹.

Paraguay

In April 2002, an exceptional concentration of up to 20,000 **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* was present at Estancia Fortín Patria, 30 km north of Bahía Negra, with the last birds being

seen on 24 April (c.1 month later than previous records in the country)¹. **Dusky-legged Guan** *Penelope obscura* has recently been added to the list of species reliably recorded from the country³⁴.

Venezuela

Ned Johnson²³ has located previously unreported specimens of **Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant** *Poecilotriccus ruficeps melanomystax* from Trujillo and Mérida (in this country, the species was previously known only from Táchira), as well as the eastern Andes of Colombia (see above). **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* has been added to the list of species recorded in the country, based on a dead individual found at the Araya Peninsula, in December 1999³¹.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Antigua

GM submitted the following observations relating to 2001: five **Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* at Bird Island on 29 April (perhaps the first record), two **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* at Green Island on 4 May (an uncommon visitor), two **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* over Green Island on 27 May (perhaps the first record), an immature **Common Black-hawk** *Buteogallus anthracinus* at Seatons on 10 May (perhaps the first record), an apparently nest-prospecting **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* at Green Island on 20 May (previously considered only a vagrant), four pairs of **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* and 50–70 **Sooty Tern** *S. fuscata* were nesting on Great Bird Island on 11 May (both are considered uncommon on Antigua), a **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* at Green Island on 4 May (considered a vagrant throughout most of the Lesser Antilles), and a **Philadelphia Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus* at Wallis on 25 May (vagrant to Antigua/Barbuda).

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