

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records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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.

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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 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 *Sarcorampus 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 *Craniroleuca 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 1996³. 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 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). *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 record²⁰.

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** *Rosthamus 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 Fáunica 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 albigularis* (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 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 aurantiirostris*, **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 **Apomado 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** *Limnoctites 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** *Griseotyrannus 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** *Corythopsis 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 Mucubají 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 flaviventer* (Apure), **Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* (Bolívar), **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (Bolívar), **Saffron-headed Parrot** *Pionopsitta pyralia* (Barinas), **Pavonine Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx pavoninus* (Aragua, Miranda and Mérida), **Tawny-bellied Screech-owl** *Otus watsonii* (Bolívar), **Crested Owl** *Lophostrix 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

Luís 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 ruficularis* (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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