

Two rare albatrosses in southern Peru

I report records of Chatham Albatross *Thalassarche eremita* and Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* in Tacna, the southernmost department in Peru, near the border with Chile. Both species are considered globally threatened.

Chatham Albatross

Thalassarche eremita

One was photographed at sea 57 nautical miles off Tacna (17°40'S 73°15'W) in June 2008 (Fig. 1). In Peruvian waters, Jahncke *et al.*⁵ reported sightings offshore near Chimbote (c.1,300 km further north) and that the species is caught off central and northern Peru by longline fisheries. Spear *et al.*⁸ established its regular occurrence in Peruvian waters, but there is no previously documentation (T. S. Schulenberg *in litt.* 2009), despite that the first Peruvian record was apparently photographed but the image was not published¹.

Waved Albatross

Phoebastria irrorata

A dead individual was found at Ite wetlands (17°56'S 70°55'W) in February 2009 (Fig. 2) during a monthly beached bird survey. Harrison³ stated that this

albatross occurs from Ecuadorian to Peruvian waters, but it is rarer further south⁷ and has only recently been recorded off Arica and Antofagasta in northernmost Chile), where it is known only from sightings⁶. Adult breeders visit the Peruvian upwelling in January–March to feed². In Peru, it was previously reported south to Mollendo and Mejía districts, when the species appeared 'relatively numerous' during the 1983 El Niño Southern Oscillation event⁴, the latter 130 km north of Ite. Fishermen from Ilo (17°38'S 71°20'W) have reported occasional sightings of Waved Albatross at sea off southern Peru, but not off Tacna, making mine the southernmost documented report of the species.

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Figure 1. Chatham Albatross *Thalassarche eremita*, off Tacna, Peru, February 2009 (J. Pizarro-Neyra)



Figure 2. Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata*, Ite, dpto. Tacna, Peru, February 2009 (J. Pizarro-Neyra)