

Range extension of Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi* and new observations of Tamarugo Conebill *Conirostrum tamarugense* in northern Chile

During a visit to the high Andes of Atacama (II Región) in northern Chile, on 17 October 2009, en route to El Tatio we paused at Vado de Putana (22°31'S 68°02'W; 4,286 m) where we observed two Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi*. To date, in Chile the species has only been found in I Región, with the southernmost population at Huasco Salar^{1,4}. It mainly inhabits the altiplano region with a few birds descending to the coast at Arica³. Our observation extends the species' range in the altiplano by c.350 km south.

On 18 October 2009, we observed two pairs of Tamarugo Conebill *Conirostrum tamarugense* in the *Prosopis tamarugo* forest by the main road between San Pedro de Atacama and Toconao (22°56'S 68°10'W; 2,399 m). They were observed 10 km south of

San Pedro, constantly vocalising. The species is locally common during the breeding season in the *P. tamarugo* forest inland of Iquique, and it can also be found in oasis valleys near Arica. In the non-breeding season, the species moves to higher altitudes in the pre-puna shrub zone². There is a previous record from the environs of Toconao, an observation in 1988⁵, but the species might be fairly common and could breed there.

References

1. Aguirre, J. C. & Torres, H. (2005) *Aves de los humedales altoandinos del norte de Chile*. Antofagasta: Ed. Armot Dis.
2. Fjeldsá, J. & Krabbe, N. (1990) *Birds of the high Andes*. Copenhagen: Zool. Mus., Univ. of Copenhagen & Svendborg: Apollo Books.
3. Jaramillo, A. (2003) *Birds of Chile*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
4. Goodall, J. D., Johnson, A. W. & Philippi, R. A. (1951) *Las aves de Chile*, 2. Buenos Aires: Platt Establecimientos Gráficos.
5. Sallaberry, M., Aguirre, J. & Yáñez, J. (1992) Adiciones a la lista de aves de Chile: descripción de especies nuevas para el país y otros datos ornitológicos. *Not. Men. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat.* 321: 3–10.

Michel Sallaberry A.

Departamento de Ciencias Ecológicas, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Chile, Las Palmeras 3425, Santiago, Chile. E-mail: msallabe@uchile.cl.

Henry Hirsimäki

E-mail: henry.hirsimaki@telia.com.

Anders Olausson

Magistervägen 24, 432 50 Varberg, Sweden.

Received 4 November 2009; final revision accepted 13 January 2010 (published online 16 March 2010)