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records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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 Guadeloupe. 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, but only seen a few feet on the shore of rocky shore. It was spied high over the water, appearing pale 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...
The nest of the Snowy Cottinga Carpodectes nitidus in Costa Rica

The breeding biology of the Snowy Cottinga Carpodectes nitidus is almost unknown. 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.

References

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central coastal California and Florida.

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 Rio 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 pale whitish heads; dull grey tails (not all-dark as in adults); 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 documentation.

References

Gerald Klebanskas and Amalia Pacheco
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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. A F. Gary Stiles y Jorge Botero por la revisión del manuscrito.

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.

Referencias


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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 Goldfank, 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 Cristóbal 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. california* 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.

**References**


H. Lee Jones
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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 1980s. 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 100–150. 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.

References

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. 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 (pers. comm.) as Bolborhynchus lineola. Prior to this, F. Sagot obtained a tape-recording of a 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 (pers. comm.) obtained a tape-recording of the species, on 4 April 1996, at Abra la Cruz, Amboro 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 Mayer. 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.

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 uppersides 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 Peru. However, it appears to be rare and local in the Asunta Pata area, where two previous expeditions (Parker & Bailey and S. Cardiff and J. V. Remsen in litt.) failed to record the species. Contrary to Ridgely & Tudor, it was not found in an area with impoverished soil, but in rather tall forest on clayey soil.

References


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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 Indies. A Chuck-will’s-widow Caprimulgus carolinus discovered incubating two eggs, on Grand Bahama, on 1 June 1999 is the first breeding record for the West Indies.

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 Ardea 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 record.

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 Bermudian record; all of have been in the 1990s. A Pine Grosbeak Pinicola enucleator at Fort Scaur on 14 November was the fifth record for Bermuda and the first for 22 years. An Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapillus, on 22 June was an unusual summer record.

Cuba
Wallace et al. reporting 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 cayennensis (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
Linnotroilys swainsoni, 2–3 Kentucky Warblers
Opornoris 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, Bahia de Las
Calderas, on 28 December 1998.

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

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 species.

Costa Rica
The second country record of Common Teal Anas crecca involved a male at Finca Las
Salinas, Bahia de Las Calderas, on 28 December 1998.

SOUTH AMERICA

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

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 Pachyramphus 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
Panatanal are as follows: c.20 over the Transpantaneira, between
Pocó 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 Cottinga 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 Pápite, 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
Opornoris formosus near Playa
Giron, 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 (AK 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
Avila, on 25 March, and a Black-
billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus (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 río Busombo and Zamora, on 5–6 October; two White-tailed Hillstar Urochroa bouqueri c. 5 km upstream from the park headquarters on 15 October; a Mouse-colored Tyrannulet Phaeomyias murina at La Fragancia, on the Loja–Zamora road, c. 10 km from Zamora, at c. 1,100 m, on 12 October; a male Scarlet-breasted Fruit eater Pipreola frontalis near the park headquarters on 15 October; an Andean Slaty-thrush Turdus nigriceps near río Bombuscaro headquarters on 16 October (OJ only); and several records of Guira Tanager Hemithraupis guira in the río Bombuscaro and La Fragancia 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 río Bombuscaro section of the park. A Rufous-browed Tyrannulet Phylloscartes supercilialis 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 cullatus 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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