

## Southernmost record of Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*, in Chile

Juan C. Torres-Mura and Fritz Hertel

Received 22 February 2005; final revision received 23 February 2006  
Cotinga 26(2006): 8–9

Se documenta la observación de la Reinita verdilla *Vermivora peregrina* en Putre (3.600 msnm), en los Andes de la Región de Tarapacá, norte de Chile, a través de la captura de un ejemplar en noviembre de 1996. Esta ave es un migrante boreal que se reproduce en Norteamérica e inverna en el norte de Sudamérica; el presente registro constituye el más austral de la especie.

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* is a Nearctic species that breeds widely across northern North America, from southern Alaska to central Québec and southern Labrador, and south to the northern USA, and winters from southern Mexico to northern South America<sup>2,6,12,13,15</sup>. Ridgely & Greenfield<sup>11</sup> reported that since 1980 a few individuals have appeared with some regularity in northern Ecuador between October and March, and the species was recently recorded as far south as prov. Loja<sup>9</sup>. Accidentals have reached the Faeroe Islands, Greenland and Great Britain<sup>3,4</sup>. When breeding, Tennessee Warbler inhabits deciduous and open-mixed forests, brushy slopes, and coniferous forests, but in winter prefers semi-open and secondary forests, plantations and gardens. In addition, its summer diet of insects changes to fruits and nectar in the Neotropics<sup>3</sup>.

Here we report the southernmost record of this species, in northern Chile, c.2,000 km south of its previously recorded range. On 17 November 1996, during a bird survey in Putre (Tarapacá, 18°11'S 69°33'W; 3,500 m), one was trapped in a mist-net and released after taking voucher photographs (Fig. 2). The area comprises pre-Andean brushy steppe (*sensu* Gajardo<sup>5</sup>, see also Stattersfield *et al.*<sup>14</sup>), rocky ravines with dense brush dominated by *Fabiana densa*, *Ephedra breana*, *Atriplex imbricata* and *Baccharis boliviensis*. In some ravines, the abundant Solanaceae *Dunalia spinosa*, with fruits and flowers rich in nectar, attracts many birds. In the nearby town are several eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) trees.

The Tennessee Warbler was identified using Dunn & Garrett<sup>4</sup> and by comparing photographs with specimens in the collections of the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, and The Natural History Museum (Tring). Tennessee Warbler is olive-green above, the head greyish with a grey ocular streak and a pale supercilium; the underparts vary from whitish to pale yellow or olive on the throat; the breast and undertail-coverts are whitish. The bird at Putre had the following characters: upperparts olive-green, a yellowish supercilium and narrow grey ocular ring, throat and breast pale yellow, whitish abdomen and undertail-coverts, wings olivaceous with narrow yellow wingbars (tips to the median and greater wing-coverts), and primaries with small white tips (Fig. 2). This description corresponds with a first basic plumage of either sex<sup>4</sup>. Tennessee Warbler differs from the similar Orange-crowned Warbler *V. celata* in having a longer primary extension and a relatively short tail with white (vs. orange) undertail-coverts. Also, warblers of the genus *Vermivora* have fine, sharply pointed bills that differ somewhat from *Dendroica*, *Basileuterus* and other potentially confusing warbler genera.

Northern migrants such as Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*, Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*, Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* and Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* have all been recorded just once in Chile<sup>1,10,16</sup>, but others such as American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*, observed a few years ago for the first time in Arica, have appeared more frequently, and are regularly observed during the austral summer in Putre<sup>7</sup> in the same area as the



Figure 1. Eggs of Atlantic Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus swainsoni* from São Bento, Santa Catarina (above), and of Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus mexicanus* from Guatemala (below left) and Costa Rica (below right). See pp. 6–8.



Figure 2. Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*, Putre, Tarapacá, northern Chile, 17 November 1996 (J. C. Torres-Mura)

Tennessee Warbler. Future surveys will indicate whether Tennessee Warbler is expanding its winter range in the Southern Hemisphere, or whether it is just extremely rare and erratic in the southernmost part of its wintering range.

#### Acknowledgements

We thank Kimball Garrett (Natural History Museum, Los Angeles County) for helpful comments, Jon Fjeldså (Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen) and Robert Prŷs-Jones (Natural History Museum, Tring) for access to collections in their care; and Kimball Garrett, Jon Fjeldså and Manuel Marín for specimen verification. The survey in Putre and travel to European museums were made possible through Fondecyt 195/0087. The use of mist-nets for the bird survey complied with the Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero.

#### References

1. Araya, B. & Millie, G. (2000) *Guía de campo de las aves de Chile*. Santiago: Ed. Universitaria.
2. Curson, J., Quinn, D. & Beadle, D. (1994) *Warblers of the Americas*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.
3. DeGraaf, R. M. & Rappole, J. H. (1995) *Neotropical migratory birds*. Ithaca, NY: Comstock Publishing Associates.
4. Dunn, J. L. & Garrett, K. L. (1997) *A field guide to warblers of North America*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.
5. Gajardo, R. (1994) *La vegetación natural de Chile, clasificación y distribución geográfica*. Santiago: Ed. Universitaria.
6. Hilty, S. L. & Brown, W. L. (1986) *A guide to the birds of Colombia*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
7. Jaramillo, A. (2003) *The birds of Chile*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
8. Meyer de Schauensee, R. (1982) *A guide to the birds of South America*. Philadelphia, PA: Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia.
9. Mischler, T. (2005) The southernmost Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*. *Cotinga* 23: 81.
10. Philippi-B., R. A. (1964) Catálogo de las aves chilenas con su distribución geográfica. *Inv. Zool. Chilenas* 11: 1–179.
11. Ridgely, R. S. & Tudor, G. (1989) *The birds of South America*, 1. Austin: University of Texas Press.
12. Ridgely, R. S. & Greenfield, P. J. (2001) *The birds of Ecuador*, 1. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
13. Ridgely, R. S., Greenfield, P. J. & Guerrero, M. (1998) *Aves del Ecuador continental*. Quito: Fundación Ornitológica del Ecuador.
14. Stattersfield, A. J., Crosby, M. J., Long, A. J. & Wege, D. C. (1998) *Endemic Bird Areas of the world: priorities for biodiversity conservation*. BirdLife International (Conservation Series 7).
15. Stotz, D. F., Fitzpatrick, J. W., Parker, T. A. & Moskovits, D. K. (1997) *Neotropical birds: ecology and conservation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
16. Torres-Mura, J. C., Lemus, M. L. & Garín, C. (2003) Registro del Turpial Norteño (*Icterus galbula*, Aves: Icteridae) en Calama, II Región, Chile. *Not. Mens. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. (Chile)* 351: 9–12.

#### Juan C. Torres-Mura

Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Casilla 787 Santiago, Chile. E-mail: jtorres@mnhn.cl.

#### Fritz Hertel

Department of Biology, California State University, Northridge, California, USA.