

New and noteworthy bird records from central and northern Colombia

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Si bien Colombia alberga la avifauna más diversa del mundo, la información de distribución publicada de muchas aves es aún incompleta. Numerosas ampliaciones de rangos y descripciones de nuevas especies han resultado de recientes investigaciones en zonas lejanas y aisladas de Colombia. En esta nota aportamos a esta creciente literatura con varios registros de aves nuevos e interesantes. Presentamos el primer registro documentado de *Helmitheros vermivorum* en la porción continental de país, los primeros registros de *Megascops guatemalae*, *Polytmus guainumbi*, *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*, *Turdus nudigenis*, *Habia rubica* y *Tangara cayana* en el valle de Magdalena y el primer registro de *Hirundinea ferruginea* en la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. También documentamos aves acuáticas poco conocidas en Colombia como *Charadrius nivosus*, *Numenius americanus*, *Limosa fedoa*, *Larus argentatus* y *L. fuscus*. Varios de nuestros registros corresponden a especies migratorias, pero también documentamos ampliaciones de distribución de varias especies residentes. Estos registros cubren el centro y norte de Colombia, con un énfasis especial en las tierras bajas y estribaciones de las dos vertientes andinas del valle del Magdalena.

Although Colombia harbours the world's largest avifauna^{22,28,35}, published distributional data remain incomplete for many species. Recent investigations of Colombia's many remote lowland, foothill and montane regions have filled some of these gaps and resulted in both numerous range extensions and the description of several new species^{7–12,14–20,24–26,32–35,37–42}. We add to this growing literature with new and noteworthy distributional records, including the first or second documented photographic records of several species previously known only from sight records in the country. While many of our unusual records are of migrants, we also document range extensions for several residents.

Geographically, our records cover sites in central and northern Colombia, with a special emphasis on the lowlands and foothills of the Magdalena Valley. Considerable recent ornithological attention has been paid to several areas within this valley^{9,14,15,20,38,40}; nevertheless, the region's topographic complexity and the fact that many parts remain poorly surveyed means that much undoubtedly remains undiscovered. Many of our records are from comparatively well-surveyed sites (e.g. the Yariquies^{14–15} and Santa Marta ranges^{41,43}), suggesting that intensive field work will continue to produce novel findings with respect to the distribution and biogeography of Colombian avifauna.

Species accounts

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

A rare migrant in Colombia^{2,5,22}. BGF observed a flock of c.300 moving over Reserva Natural de Aves (RNA) El Paujil, Boyacá, on 4 April 2008 (M.



Figure 1. Mississippi Kites *Ictinia mississippiensis*, RNA Arriero Antioqueño, dpto. Antioquia, Colombia, 9 April 2008 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

Cooper photograph), and dense flocks totalling 250 and c.600 birds moved over RNA Arriero Antioqueño, Antioquia, on 9 April 2008 and 12 April 2010, respectively (Fig. 1).

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

This widespread species is generally confined to lowlands below 800 m in Colombia²². We have observed this distinctive hawk at close range several times at 2,200–2,400 m along the San Lorenzo ridge in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Magdalena.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

The migration routes of raptors in Colombia remain poorly studied, although they are known to use flyways in the Cauca and Magdalena Valleys^{1–2,5}. BGF photographed a single soaring with 12 Broad-

winged Hawks *Buteo platypterus* at RNA Arrierito Antioqueño, Antioquia, on 14 March 2009. TE photographed c.3,000 individuals over Bellavista Reserve, near La Victoria, Caldas, on 26–29 October 2009, with flocks numbering up to 700 birds. BGF photographed c.350 *B. swainsoni* soaring with over 500 *B. platypterus* at Laguna el Hato, near Mariquita, Tolima, on 19 March 2010. All of these birds were initially found perched in trees during a brief rainstorm at 16h00, following which they left, gaining altitude and eventually gliding north-west. SLH & LEU observed even larger numbers at the same site on 24 March 2009, when c.10,000 Swainson's Hawks passed over Laguna el Hato between 16h30 and 17h30 (SLH photograph). They passed steadily overhead, gliding north, with 100 to 1,000+ birds visible at any one time. While migrant Swainson's Hawks pass the Cauca Valley⁵ and both sides of the Magdalena Valley¹, our Laguna el Hato and La Victoria records suggest that the east slope of the Central Andes lies on a major migratory pathway in both spring and autumn.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperi*

Very rare in Colombia, where it is known only from a single old record (also in February)²². BGF observed this migrant in good light for 20 seconds, at 2,600 m on the San Lorenzo Ridge, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Magdalena, on 11 February 2010. It was identified by its relatively large size, slate-blue back and densely rufous-barred underparts.

Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*

We present the first records from the east slope of the Central Andes²², where one was observed in a small patch of secondary forest at 1,700 m near Líbano, Tolima, on 26 January 2009 (LEU sound-recording; Fig. 2). We subsequently found the species at this location on eight occasions in 2009–10. Furthermore, TE has recorded this species at the nearby RNA Ranita Dorada, Tolima.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus*

BGF & A. M. Class observed one at Los Flamencos National Park, Camarones, Guajira, on 7 February 2010 (Fig. 3), while TE observed one at the same site on 16 March 2010. These are apparently the first confirmed Colombian records, although there are several previous sight records for the Caribbean coast^{22,36}.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*

SLH photographed one at Los Flamencos National Park, Camarones, Guajira, on 24 February 2010 (Fig. 4), and observed another on 16 February 2011. There is only one previously published photographic record for the country, also from Guajira¹³.



Figure 2. Barred Forest Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*, Líbano, dpto. Tolima, Colombia, 27 January 2009 (Benjamin G. Freeman)



Figure 3. Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus*, Camarones, dpto. Guajira, Colombia, 7 February 2010 (Alexandra M. Class)



Figure 4. Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*, Camarones, dpto. Guajira, Colombia, 24 February 2010 (Steven L. Hilty)



Figure 5. Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*, Camarones, dpto. Guajira, Colombia, 12 July 2010 (Steven L. Hilty)



Figure 6. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus*, with Royal Terns *Sterna maxima*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* and Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*, Camarones, dpto. Guajira, Colombia, 16 February 2011 (Steven L. Hilty)



Figure 7. Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia castaneiventris*, Reserva Natural de Aves Reinita Cielo Azul, dpto. Santander, Colombia, 16 February 2009 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

SLH observed singles (perhaps the same individual) of this rare Neotropical migrant on 7 February 2010 and 12 July 2010 at Los Flamencos National Park, Camarones, Guajira (Fig. 5). This is apparently the first documented record for Colombia. The species was previously known in the country from several sight records in the Caribbean region^{22,36}.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

TE photographed a single juvenile-plumaged *L. argentatus* at Camarones, Guajira, on 15 March 2010. This is perhaps only the second confirmed record for Colombia and the first confirmed record for the Caribbean coast^{29,32,36}.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

We observed two to three individuals at Los Flamencos National Park, Camarones, Guajira, on 12 December 2009, 7 February 2010 and 15 March 2010 (TE photographs), providing further documentation of the species' presence in Colombia³⁴. It appears to be regular in this region, at least in recent years. In addition, a probable third-winter and a non-breeding adult (plumage close to breeding condition) were present in the same area on 16 February 2011 (Fig. 6).

Vermiculated Screech Owl *Megascops guatemalae centralis*

No documented records from the middle Magdalena Valley of Colombia. N. Athanas discovered it in this region on 4 February 2007, sound-recording a vocal bird at RNA El Paujil, Boyacá (xeno-canto.org: XC10835). Subsequently, the species has been observed regularly at this site (TE photograph, SLH sound-recording) where it is uncommon and noticeably scarcer than the syntopic Tropical Screech Owl *M. choliba*. Based on song, this population pertains to the *centralis* subspecies group, sometimes considered a separate species, Chocó Screech Owl³¹ although retained at present within Vermiculated Screech Owl by Remsen *et al.*³⁰.

Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia castaneiventris*

This endangered species has a very small range on the western slope of the East Andes at their northern end, and in the Serranía de San Lucas^{3,6,7,14,15,27,38}. We observed it >10 times at RNA Reinita Cielo Azul, Santander, in March 2008–April 2010 (Fig. 7). Although documented to occur there and throughout the Chucurí Valley^{14,15}, the species' ecology and seasonal movements are poorly known²⁷. Our observations were all made in coffee or cacao plantations at 1,200–1,400 m, usually in flowering shade trees (e.g. *Erythrina* sp., *Inga* sp.). It was always outnumbered at flowering trees

by other hummingbirds, including Rufous-tailed *Amazilia tzacatl* and Indigo-capped Hummingbirds *A. cyanifrons*, and was frequently (>50% of visits) not observed despite abundant flowering trees. These observations suggest that the population at this site is small. However, on 15 February 2009, BGF observed eight *A. castaneiventris* at a large, unidentified flowering tree at the nearby RNA Pauxi pauxi, Santander, at 1,050 m (photograph). This tree attracted c.30 hummingbirds of eight species, of which *A. castaneiventris* was the most numerous, supporting suggestions that it might be locally fairly common but nomadic^{3,6,7,27}.

White-tailed Goldenthrroat *Polytmus gainumbi*

On 23 May 2010, DCF *et al.* observed one at Pueblo Nuevo (c.700 m), Vereda El Cauca, Ocaña, Norte de Santander. It twice visited (each time for c.15 seconds) low purple flowers in a Verbenaceae-dominated garden, which also attracted Ruby-topaz Hummingbird *Chrysolampis mosquitos*, White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii* and female Red-billed Emerald *Chlorostilbon gibsoni*. DCF observed these hummingbirds at a distance of 4 m and at eye level; the *Polytmus* was clearly identified by body size and shape, the comparatively long reddish decurved bill, conspicuous blackish mask behind the eye between two whitish lines, and graduated tail with whitish tips. DCF has previous experience of the species in north-east Venezuela. This is the first record from the western slope of the East Andes. We have observed other primarily cis-Andean species in this region (e.g., Scaled Piculet *Picumnus squamulatus*, Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica* and Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*), probably due to the presence of relatively low peaks (max. c.1,500 m) in the East Andes in this region.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*

DCF & L. Agudelo observed one attending a nest at Cueva del Condor near Doradal, Antioquia (c.500 m) on 9 December 2010 (photographed). SLH & LEU observed a pair over RNA El Paujil (c.400 m) on 7 February 2009, and BGF & LEU observed one over Laguna Tabacal (c.700–800 m) near La Vega, Cundinamarca, on 8 December 2008. There are few records of this distinctive species in Colombia^{22,38,40,41}.

Rough-legged Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*

In Colombia, this rare tyrannulet is known only from the east slope of the East Andes^{22,28}. Here we present the first records from the west slope of the East Andes. SLH observed a single, vocalising bird at close range near RNA Reinita Cielo Azul, Santander, at 1,400 m, on 30 March 2009 and c.20 km north of San Vicente de Chucurí, Santander, at c.750 m, on 7 June 2009. SLH is familiar with



Figure 8. Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*, Reserva Natural de Aves El Dorado, dpto. Magdalena, Colombia, 30 April 2008 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

this species and its vocalisations from numerous observations in Venezuela; the individual observed on 7 June 2009 was first detected by voice as it uttered a series of c.8 forceful buzzy, hissing notes in fairly rapid succession, which is typical of *P. burmeisteri*.

Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*

The first record for the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta^{22,28} involved one observed in the lodge garden at RNA El Dorado, at 1,950 m, on 1 May 2008 (Fig. 8). Although this area has been well covered by ornithologists^{22,41,43} and is heavily visited by birding tours, we are aware of no other records from the massif. This species is also poorly known on the western slope of the East Andes, where TE photographed one at RNA Reinita Cielo Azul on 8 March 2011. It is known from nearby sites on the east slope of the Yarigués range¹⁶, but this is apparently the first record for the reserve.

Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa*

Common in disturbed lowland habitats^{22,28} and recently found at higher elevations in Colombia⁴⁴. BGF photographed this species at 3,800 m at Nevado de Ruiz, Caldas, on 27 January 2010, while DCF observed one at 2,600 m at Las Baldias Reserve, Antioquia, on 7 September 2011.

Chocó Vireo *Vireo masteri*

Discovered in 1991, *V. masteri* inhabits a small range on the western slope of the West Andes of Colombia and extreme north-west Ecuador^{23,33}. DCF observed this globally threatened species at Montezuma (Tatamá National Park), Pueblo Rico, Risaralda, at 2,100 m, on 8 September 2010, while BGF & TE observed it in very wet montane forest at 1,600–1,800 m in RNA Las Tangaras, near Carmen de Atrato, Chocó (Fig. 9), c.50 km north of Alto de Pisones, Risaralda^{23,33}. The



Figure 9. Chocó Vireo *Vireo masteri*, Reserva Natural de Aves Las Tangaras, dpto. Chocó, Colombia, 19 January 2010 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

species is reasonably well known at these localities (cf. recordings at xeno-canto.org by O. Cortes (XC73394) from Tatamá National Park and by P. Flores (XC753390) from RNA Las Tangaras) but its distribution is apparently patchy, and this easily overlooked canopy-dweller has not been recorded during all surveys of the Tatamá region^{12,19}.

Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus nudigenis*

A common resident on the eastern slope of the East Andes and in the adjacent llanos lowlands^{22,28}, TE photographed one at RNA Reinita Cielo Azul, Santander, at c.1,300 m, on 23 July 2010, while LEU photographed one at the same site on 15 August 2011 (Fig. 10). These appear to be the first records from the western slope of the East Andes¹², although this statement is only true under current taxonomy³⁰, which splits *T. nudigenis* from Ecuadorian Thrush *T. maculirostris* of south-west Colombia to north-west Peru. Our records suggest that these two taxa are separated not only by the Andes, but also by habitat or ecological requirements.

Crested Ant Tanager *Habia cristata*

This Colombian endemic was considered to be restricted to the West Andes²², but is now known from the west slope and north-east end of the Central Andes¹⁰. We documented the species' presence on the east slope of the Central Andes near Libano, Tolima (1,750 m; Fig. 11, LEU & TE voice recordings). TE has also observed this species at the nearby RNA Ranita Dorada, Tolima. Crested Ant Tanager is known from several sites near Ibagué, Tolima (e.g., see sound-recordings by



Figure 10. Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus nudigenis*, Reserva Natural de Aves Reinita Cielo Azul, dpto. Santander, Colombia, 15 August 2011 (Luis Eduardo Urueña)



Figure 11. Crested Ant-Tanager *Habia cristata*, Líbano, dpto. Tolima, Colombia, 26 January 2009 (Benjamin G. Freeman)



Figure 12. Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*, Reserva Natural de Aves Hormiguero de Torcoroma, dpto. Norte de Santander, Colombia, 13 February 2009 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

C. Hesse and H. Arias; XC10263–64 and XC27363–64), and the species probably is an uncommon resident at many locations along the east slope of the Central Andes.

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica*

This species exhibits a disjunct distribution: it is present in Central America and over much of the Amazon basin, as well as the Atlantic Forest of south-east South America, but is apparently absent from the Cauca and Magdalena valleys of Colombia^{22,28}. We present the first records from the latter valley; TE & J. Fagan observed two—an adult and a juvenile—near Ocaña, Norte de Santander, on 25 January 2011 (TE voice recordings) in a brushy gully at c.1,400 m.

Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager *Dubusia taeniata*

We present the first record of this widespread Andean species from the northern end of the West Andes^{22,28}; it is fairly common at Alto Ventanas (2,600–2,900 m) above Jardín, Antioquia (DCF, LEU, SLH photographs). This is a range extension of c.150 km north from the West Andes in Cauca²¹.

Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*

A common resident at RNA Hormiguero de Torcoroma, c.5 km from Ocaña, Norte de Santander (Fig. 12). Although common in the llanos of eastern Colombia²², our records are the first for the western slope of the East Andes. The closely related Scrub Tanager *T. vitriolina* has been observed at the same site (e.g., on 12 February 2009 by SLH & LEU) and this region now represents a zone of overlap, probably as a result of extensive deforestation. It is unknown how long the two species have been in contact; birds observed by us appeared to exhibit pure phenotypes, but it is unknown if any hybridisation between them is occurring in this region.

Orinocan Saltator *Saltator orinocensis*

BGF, TE, C. Olaciregui and A. M Class observed one at Santa Marta airport, Magdalena, on 21 February 2010. Although resident in the Colombian llanos and on the Guajira Peninsula^{22,28}, this is apparently the first sight record west of Tayrona National Park, a range extension of c.100 km to the west.

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum*

BGF & A. M Class photographed one at Pozo Azul, c.2 km above Minca, Magdalena, on 28 March 2010 (Fig. 13). The bird was observed for c.75 seconds at a distance of 20–30 m, foraging in dense tangles 1–6 m above ground, repeatedly probing its bill into hanging clusters of dead leaves. Identification was based on the short tail, buffy underparts, olive upperparts, and dark cap with buff supercilium and crown-stripe. On the South



Figure 13. Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum*, Minca, dpto. Magdalena, Colombia, 28 February 2010 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

American mainland, Worm-eating Warbler is known from a specimen taken in Venezuela²⁰, and sight records in Venezuela and on the Caribbean coast of Colombia^{4,14,21,22}. However, this is the first documented record for mainland Colombia. Additionally, TE observed one near Minca on 10 January 2011. It is noteworthy that these and the only previous mainland records are all from the Caribbean coast, suggesting that the species may be a rare but regular migrant in this region.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

BGF observed one on 7 September 2010 in Camarones, Guajira, and DCF & L. Agudelo observed one in the La Consolata–La America neighbourhood in the city of Medellín, Antioquia, in August 2009. This introduced species was first recorded in Colombia at Buenaventura, Valle, in 1979²², but has been rather slow to expand its range and has not been previously reported away from deforested parts of the Chocó. Somewhat surprisingly, we are aware of no recently published records away from the Pacific coast. The Camarones sighting might represent recent colonisation from coastal Venezuela²¹, whilst the Medellín bird's origin is uncertain.

Venezuelan Troupial *Icterus icterus*

In Colombia, unequivocally wild populations are known only from the Guajira Peninsula and the eastern llanos²². We present the first records west of the East Andes; it is a local resident at Chicamocha Canyon, Santander (e.g., at RNA Cucarachero de Chicamocha, where photographed on 18 February 2009; Fig. 14). It has been observed in several regions of the East Andes in recent years⁴⁴, but we are unaware of published records away from Chicamocha Canyon. It is possible that this population originates from escaped caged birds, as the species is one of the commonest birds



Figure 14. Venezuelan Troupial *Icterus icterus*, Reserva Natural de Aves Cucarachero de Chicamocha, Santander, 21 February 2009 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

in captivity in Colombia and is frequently seen in cages throughout the Andes and Magdalena Valley²⁰. However, several species that are not heavily traded possess disjunct populations in arid habitats of the Magdalena Valley (e.g., Pileated Finch *Coryphospingus pileatus*), perhaps supporting the notion that the Chicamocha Canyon population is native there. Genetic and morphological analyses may assist in answering this question.

Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris*

Not known historically from the Guajira Peninsula or the nearby north-west Venezuelan coast^{21,22}, this species is now common on the Guajira Peninsula (e.g. at Camarones, Guajira), perhaps as a result of recent range expansion associated with anthropogenic modification of this region⁴². In February 2011, TE found the species to be common at roadside truck stops along the entire length of the highway between Santa Marta and Barrancabermeja, and photographed several as far south as Puerto Boyacá, Boyacá. These records demonstrate that the Carib Grackle is rapidly colonising the Magdalena Valley, as various other bird species of disturbed habitats have done⁴⁰.

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus armenti*

BGF observed a male at Camarones, Guajira, on 7 February 2010, a range extension of c.100 km to the east²². This is our only observation at Camarones despite frequent visits to the area, suggesting that the species is either an uncommon resident or occasional visitor to the area.

Additional records

Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*

This widespread species is local and poorly known in Colombia²². TE photographed multiple individuals in flooded fields west of Camarones, Guajira, with a pair present on 19 January 2011 and three females and a male on 29 January 2011. D. Balcázar photographed four on roadside ponds near Bahía Solano, Chocó, on 17 July 2010. BGF observed a female on a small (<100 m²) roadside cattle pond, c.20 km north of San Vicente de Chucurí, Santander, on 5 and 8 April 2010 (P. Roth photograph). It has been previously reported from the Yariguíes region of the East Andes¹⁴.

Bicoloured Hawk *Accipiter bicolor*

TE observed *A. bicolor* on three occasions at RNA El Dorado, Magdalena, at c.1,700 m (e.g., on 24 January 2011), where it appears to be an uncommon resident³⁶. BGF observed one in flight at RNA Arrierito Antioqueño, Antioquia, at 1,800 m, on 12 April 2010. It was identified by its large size and combination of dark grey upperparts and uniformly pale grey underparts. This species is rare in Colombia, and most records are from lowland regions^{22,28}.

White-tailed Hawk *Buteo albicaudatus*

SLH & LEU photographed a pair above Jardín (on the Jardín–Ríosucio road), Antioquia, on 6 March 2010 and 26 February 2011, at c.2,100 and 2,250 m, respectively. Primarily a species of open or semi-open areas at low and mid-elevations^{22,28}, this species is probably expanding its range upslope in response to ongoing deforestation.

Pavonine Cuckoo *Dromococcyx pavoninus*

Recently rediscovered in Colombia at the north-east end of the Central Andes¹⁰. LEU observed and sound-recorded one on the west slope of the East Andes, at 1,650 m in second-growth forest at RNA Reinita Cielo Azul, Santander, on 15 March 2009. The species is now well known from this site (e.g., sound-recording by J. Fagan: XC45016), on which basis it was included in the recent checklist of the Yariquíes¹⁷.

Lazuline Sabrewing *Campylopterus falcatus*

Strewe & Navarro⁴¹ presented the first records for the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Carriker failed to find it while living there in the early 20th century⁴³, which led Strewe & Navarro⁴¹ to speculate that the species might have recently colonised the area. We present further records documenting the species' presence in the north-west of the massif: at the hummingbird feeders in RNA El Dorado, Magdalena, a male was present on 22–26 March 2010 (BGF), two males and one female on 10 July 2010 (SLH photographs), one male on 28–29 July 2010 (DCF), at least two males on 16–17 February, 2011 (SLH), three males and a female on 25 August 2011 (LEU photographs), and one male and two females on 11–12 September 2011 (TE).

Santa Marta Woodstar *Chaetocercus astreans*

This Santa Marta endemic is rather uncommon, its seasonal movements are not well understood, and nearly all observations are of female-plumaged birds²². BGF observed a male and female foraging on blooming coffee bushes at 1,700 m on the San Lorenzo Ridge, Magdalena, on 18 April 2008 (M. Cooper photograph). Single females were in the lodge garden at RNA El Dorado (1,950 m) on 23 February (BGF photograph) and 10 July 2010. BGF

also photographed 3–4 females foraging on blooming coffee bushes and *Inga* trees near Bellavista (1,750 m) on 26 March 2010. A female was observed on 11–14 February 2011 (LEU photograph); reserve staff informed SLH that this species (same individual?) had been present irregularly since November 2010. However, careful observations revealed that the species was generally absent from the El Dorado lodge garden for much of January–June 2010. More recently, LEU photographed a male and a female there on 23–24 August 2011, and TE observed a female on 11–12 September 2011. The species is well known from this location³⁶, but there are few published data concerning its ecology and seasonal movements. Our observations suggest that the species' small local population undertakes frequent local movements, probably in relation to flower availability.

Russet-throated Puffbird *Hypnelus ruficollis*

H. ruficollis inhabits the Magdalena Valley south to Puerto Berrio^{22,28}. We have observed it in the towns of La Victoria and La Dorada, Caldas (DCF photograph) and at Laguna el Hato, near Mariquita, Tolima (BGF, LEU photographs), a c.100 km range extension to the south.

Double-banded Greytail *Xenerpestes minlosi*

Rare throughout its predominately Chocó lowlands distribution; we are aware of no recent records from the Magdalena Valley²². We observed it in cacao plantations at 1,000–1,200 m near San Vicente de Chucurí, Santander (Fig. 15) and in secondary forest at the nearby RNA Pauxi pauxi (TE).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

SLH photographed one of this North American breeding migrant at the Río Claro Reserve (c.300 m) at the eastern base of the Central Andes near Doradal, Antioquia, on 7 February 2011. TE photographed one at Bellavista Reserve, near La Victoria, Caldas, on 27 October 2009. There are few previous Colombian records, most of them in March–April and October²², and the species is possibly overlooked as the very similar Streaked Flycatcher *M. maculatus*, which is a common resident throughout much of Colombia.

Rufous-naped Greenlet *Hylophilus semibrunneus*

SLH & LEU observed a pair at extremely close range in a tropical dry / humid forest border at c.675–700 m on the road from Betulia leading down to the río Cauca, Antioquia (c.5–6 km west-northwest of the confluence of the ríos Cauca and San Juan) on 25 February 2011. Previous records are mainly from above c.1,000 m and generally in more humid forest²², but see Salaman *et al.*³⁸.



Figure 15. Double-banded Greytail *Xenerpestes minlosi*, San Vicente de Chucurí, dpto. Santander, Colombia, 16 February 2009 (Benjamin G. Freeman)

Yellow-browed Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius eximius*

Generally restricted to elevations below 1,500 m^{22,28}, BGF observed individuals in humid montane forest at 1,800 m in RNA Arrierito Antioqueño, Antioquia (BGF).

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*

There are at least three Colombian records of this rare Neotropical migrant²². BGF *et al.* observed one for c.5 minutes at Parque La Florida, Bogotá, Cundinamarca, on 21 March 2010, at a distance of c.20 m as it foraged in brushy vegetation, in association with other Neotropical migrants including Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* and Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus borealis*, all presumably on their northward migration. It was identified by its whitish supercilium, and yellowish throat and breast.

Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*

BGF *et al.* observed this rare Neotropical migrant²² at Laguna Pedropalo, near Tena, Cundinamarca, on 9 December 2010, together with several Mourning Warblers *O. philadelphia*. The Connecticut Warbler was observed for >5 minutes as it foraged on the ground at a distance of <15 m, permitting the observers to witness its terrestrial behaviour, dull

plumage coloration and, most importantly, the complete white eye-ring.

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