

**Cotinga 27**

# Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains two sections. The first summarises records published elsewhere in the literature, following the format previously established in *Cotinga*. The second lists unpublished and undocumented records. Photographs are published where appropriate.

**WEST INDIES****British Virgin Islands**

Surveys have yielded four new species for the archipelago:

**Magnolia Warbler** *Dendroica magnolia* (in 1996), **Golden-winged Warbler** *Vermivora chrysoptera* (1997), **Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* (2000) and **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* (2004)<sup>9</sup>.

**Cuba**

A recent study has provided a detailed résumé of our knowledge of the present-day distribution of the globally threatened **Plain Pigeon** *Patagioenas inornata* in the country<sup>68</sup>. **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* has recently been recorded breeding in the country for the first time<sup>35</sup>.

**Jamaica**

Graves<sup>28</sup> reports the first record of **Audubon's Warbler** *Dendroica coronata auduboni* in Jamaica.

**Puerto Rico**

We recently mentioned the first Western Hemisphere record of **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* (see *Cotinga* 26: 89); two further records, both from Puerto Rico, have now been published<sup>49</sup>. **Piping Plover** *Charadrius melanotos* has been proved to overwinter on the island<sup>39</sup>.

**St Vincent**

Fuller details concerning the first **Western Reef-heron** *Egretta*

*gularis* for St Vincent and the Grenadines (see *Cotinga* 26: 89) have now been published<sup>55</sup>, and Hayes *et al.*<sup>34</sup> report on the status of **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* in this region of the Caribbean.

**US Virgin Islands**

McNair<sup>46</sup> reports on the historical distribution and abundance of the **White-crowned Pigeon** *Patagioenas leucocephala* on St Croix.

**MIDDLE AMERICA****Belize**

Piaskowski *et al.*<sup>61</sup> describe the avifauna of the Sibun riverine forest.

**Costa Rica**

Hanson<sup>33</sup> provides new data on the breeding ecology of **Stripe-breasted Wren** *Thryothorus thoracicus*. Recent observations made available via *The Gone Birding Newsletter*<sup>26,27</sup> include the first documentation of **Swallow-tailed Gull** *Creagrus furcatus* in Costa Rican waters, in April 2006, likewise the first documentation for **American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*, in May 2006 on Cocos Island, the first report of **Mottled Petrel** *Pterodroma inexpectata* in the country, in March 2006, a **Brown-chested Martin** *Progne tapera*, in March 2006, a southward range extension for **Double-striped Thick-knee** *Burhinus bistriatus*, as well as the usual host of sightings of migrants and new locality reports.

**Guatemala**

Eisermann & Avedaño<sup>22</sup> present an updated list of bird species reliably reported in Guatemala, updated distributional information for more than 130 species, an evaluation of vulnerability on a national level using IUCN criteria, a bibliography of more than 1,200 publications on Guatemalan birds from 1577 to 2004, and a list of international museums with holdings of Guatemalan bird specimens.

**Mexico****Flesh-footed Shearwater**

*Puffinus carneipes* has been documented for the country, having been photographed in Baja California, in March 1996<sup>64</sup>, whilst other records from the same peninsula published recently include the first breeding of **Black-bellied Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna autumnalis* in Baja<sup>71</sup> and more bird records from Isla Guadalupe<sup>63</sup>. Observations at a **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri* colony in Colima have been made available<sup>47</sup>. A study of **Thick-billed Parrot** *Rhynchositta pachyrhyncha* nest-site density in Madera, Chihuahua, has revealed that the species is a highly social breeder, which may have important implications for management and conservation of their breeding habitat<sup>51</sup>. New natural history data for another globally threatened endemic,

**Sierra Madre Sparrow**

*Xenospiza baileyi*, have also been published recently<sup>53</sup>. The first records of **Military Macaw** *Ara militaris* in the Sierra Madre del Sur, Guerrero, in 20 years, have made been made since 2004<sup>4</sup>.

**Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* has been recorded for the first time in Jalisco<sup>19</sup>, and further records of **Limpkin** *Aramus guarauna* have also been reported from the same state<sup>56</sup>. Important records of **Grey-headed Kite** *Leptodon cayanensis* (the first in eastern Mexico for almost 100 years) and **Eye-ringed Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris* (second state record) have been reported from Hidalgo<sup>69</sup>. New records of **Banded Quail** *Philortyx fasciatus* have expanded its range in western Mexico<sup>41</sup>. A small range

extension for **Sparking-tailed Hummingbird** *Tilmatura dupontii* in the state of Morelos has been reported<sup>76</sup>. Sandoval *et al.*<sup>70</sup> report the first **Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* for the continental part of the Yucután Peninsula, but overlook a previous record (albeit not documented) mentioned in these pages (see *Cotinga* 20: 99). Peterson & Navarro-Sigüenza<sup>60</sup> provide an interesting comparison between the avifauna of the Valley of Mexico in the present-day and 100 years ago.

#### Panama

Details on the breeding ecology of the *panamensis* subspecies of **Yellow-crowned Parrot** *Amazona ochrocephala* in western Panama have been made available<sup>66</sup>.

### SOUTH AMERICA

#### Argentina

Michelutti & Torres<sup>50</sup> present new records of waterbirds for the centre of the country, including the second record for Santiago del Estero of **Least Grebe** *Tachybaptus dominicus* and the first records for Cordoba of **Andean Goose** *Chloephaga melanoptera*, **Andean Lapwing** *Vanellus resplendens* and **Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma* (the latter also a new species for the country). Savigny *et al.*<sup>72</sup> present the first record for Argentina of **Trindade Petrel** *Pterodroma arminjoniana*, one observed in Golfo San Matías, prov. Río Negro. **Cinnamon Warbling-finches** *Poospiza ornata* has been recorded for the first time in more than two decades in prov. Entre Ríos<sup>67</sup>. Caplonch *et al.*<sup>15</sup> reports the first records of **Yellow-chinned Spinetail** *Certhiaxis cinnamomea* and **Firewood-Gatherer** *Anumbius anumbi*, and provide information concerning **American Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elaenoides forficatus* and **White-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila leucoptera* for prov. Tucumán, as well as presenting new provincial records of **Rufous-**

**capped Antshrike** *Thamnophilus ruficapillus* and new localities for **Salinas Monjita** *Neoxolmis salinarum* in Santiago del Estero. A bird in captivity in 1998 and five observations in 2002–03 were the first records of **Solitary Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius* for prov. Catamarca and a 400-km range extension south<sup>24</sup>. Bodrati<sup>10</sup> reports notable records for nine provinces including several first provincial records: **Cinereous Harrier** *Circus cinereus*, **Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus*, **Grey-breasted Crake** *Laterrallus exilis*, **Crimson-crested Woodpecker** *Campephilus melanoleucus* and **Plain Tyrannulet** *Inezia inornata* for Misiones; singles of **Puna Plover** *Charadrius alticola* in San Juan and Mendoza represent a range extension of c.300 km south and the first records for both provinces. In prov. Chaco **Ash-coloured Cuckoo** *Coccyzus cinereus* and **Common Thornbird** *Phacellodomus rufifrons* were first records, whilst **Bran-coloured Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus* and **White-tipped Dove** *Leptotila verreauxi* were detected in La Pampa, and two **Nacunda Nighthawks** *Podager nacunda* at Puerto Madryn were the first record for Chubut. A sick **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* found in northern Santa Fe was the first provincial record<sup>57</sup>, and a dead **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis* at Golfo Nuevo, prov. Chubut, was also notable<sup>13</sup>. Significant records from Santa Fe presented by Manassero *et al.*<sup>42</sup> include: the second province record of **Hook-billed Kite**; the first records of **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* for dpto. General Obligado; the first province record of **Bat Falcon** *Falco rufigularis* for some years; a **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* (photographed) and a **Least Seedsnipe** *Thinocorus rumicivorus*, in dpto. Rosario, were both second provincial records; **White-throated Hummingbird** *Leucocloris albicollis* in the same department represented the first province record; and several

#### Rufous-rumped Seedeaters

*Sporophila hypochroma* were also the first for the province. The first documented record for prov. Chaco of **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius* was obtained in August 2004<sup>12</sup>. Bodrati & Cockle<sup>11</sup> provide notes on the range and conservation of nine threatened birds of the Atlantic Forest in the north-east of the country, including **São Paulo**

**Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes paulista* and **Swallow-tailed Cotinga** *Phibalura flavirostris*, both of which are known from rather few Argentine records in recent decades. **Orange-backed**

**Troupial** *Icterus croconotus* of the race *strictifrons* has been recorded breeding in Argentina for the first time<sup>45</sup>. A flock numbering 10,000 **Mississippi Kites** *Ictinia mississippiensis* has been observed recently<sup>4</sup>, and the introduced **European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* is apparently expanding its range<sup>59</sup>.

#### Brazil

Pacheco & Olmos<sup>54</sup> have commenced publication of a valuable series of papers detailing new information on the birds of the ornithologically relatively poorly known state of Tocantins; the first part covers the south-east region and details 308 species recorded during three rapid surveys, with accounts for the 17 which represent notable discoveries from either a distributional or conservation standpoint. Another groundbreaking contribution is that by Naka *et al.*<sup>52</sup>, on the state of Roraima, wherein the authors provide information on 38 new state records, including the first Brazilian specimen of **Pale-eyed Pygmy-tyrant** *Atalotriccus pilaris* and second locality in country for **Yapacana Antbird** *Myrmeciza disjuncta*, as well as discussing the avian biogeography of this, the northernmost state in Brazil. Vasconcelos *et al.*<sup>78</sup> present new distributional and natural history data for some 40 species in Minas Gerais, including several new to the state list and some with few records in Brazil. Furthermore, they also provide a new commentary on the relation-

ship between **Rufous Casiornis** *rufus* and **Ash-throated Casiornis** *C. fuscus*. Galetti *et al.*<sup>25</sup> have estimated the population of the globally threatened **Red-tailed Amazon** *Amazona brasiliensis* in São Paulo state at just over 1,200 individuals. New state records reported of late include: the first documentation of **Scaled Dove** *Columbina squammata* for Rio Grande do Sul<sup>74</sup>; the first records of **Maguari Stork** *Ciconia maguari* in Pernambuco<sup>58</sup>; the first records of **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* in São Paulo<sup>75</sup>; the first record of **Cock-tailed Tyrant** *Alectrurus tricolor* in Mato Grosso do Sul<sup>17</sup>; the first nesting record of **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* also in Mato Grosso do Sul<sup>144</sup>; new records of **Ornate Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus ornatus* in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina<sup>48</sup>; and no fewer than eight first records for Santa Catarina, as well as records of six species considered rare there<sup>2</sup>. Piratelli & Blake<sup>62</sup> detail avian communities in the south-east *Cerrado* region, in the country's interior.

### Chile

**Wedge-rumped Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma tethys* has been found breeding in the north of the country<sup>8</sup>; it was previously known only as a non-breeding visitor. Observations from the period March–June 2006 reported recently in the newly launched birdwatchers' bulletin, *La Chiricoca*<sup>7</sup>, include: several inland occurrences of **Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus* in March–April; seven **Black-faced Ibis** *Theristicus melanopis branickii* in Región I (one of the few records of this race in Chile; photograph); the southernmost record in Chile (and perhaps South America) of **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*, in Región VII; two records of **Red Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* in Región III; two **Parasitic Jaegers** *Stercorarius parasiticus* in the Strait of Magellan on 1 April; two **Grey-hooded Gulls** *Larus cirrocephalus* in Región I, in June (photograph); up to three

**Sandwich Terns** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* in Región V, in April (photograph); single records of **Snowy-crowned Terns** *Sterna trudeau* in Región V and Región VI; the southernmost record of **Oasis Hummingbird** *Rhodopis vesper* in the country, in the Región Metropolitan (photograph); as well as a new bird for Chile, a **Tawny-headed Swallow** *Alopochelidon fucata*, in Región III, in March (photograph; see Short Communications, this issue)<sup>73</sup>.

### Colombia

Though currently relatively little visited by foreigners, Colombian ornithology appears to be thriving with many interesting publications appearing in both national and international journals at present. Two new trochilids for the country have been located in a natural history collection: **Many-spotted Hummingbird** *Taphrospilus hypostictus* and **Violet-chested Hummingbird** *Sternoclyta cyanopectus*<sup>20</sup>. The first **Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus* for Colombia was photographed on 16 March 2006 on the north coast; at the same site, on the same day, the same observers found a **Snowy Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*, **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa* and **American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus*, all of which are known in Colombia from few records<sup>14</sup>. In fact the *Numenius* was first observed and photographed the previous day, along with at least one other bird new for Colombia; full details will appear in these pages in due course. New records from the Serranía de las Quinchas, an area subject to much ornithological investigation of late (see, e.g., *Cotinga* 25: 24–32), have been published in the journal *Caldasia*<sup>38</sup>. An ornithological survey of the Páramo de Frontino, in the Western Andes, yielded the first records from this cordillera of **Black-chested Buzzard-eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*, **Rusty-faced Parrot** *Hapalopsittaca amazonina*, **Rufous-bellied Nighthawk** *Lurocalis rufiventris*, **Moustached Antpitta** *Grallaria allenii*, **Ash-coloured Tapaculo** *Myornis senilis* and **Pale-footed Swallow** *Notiochelidon flavipes*, as well as **Swallow-tailed Nightjar** *Uropsalis segmentata*, **White-bellied Woodstar** *Acestrura mulsantii* and **Rufous-breasted Flycatcher** *Leptopogon rufipectus* (previously known from southern Antioquia only on the basis of unpublished observations)<sup>37</sup>. The same study also obtained significant latitudinal range extensions for 23 species and altitudinal extensions of 300 m+ for 26 species. The globally threatened **Masked Mountain-tanager** *Butthraupis wetmorei* has recently been discovered in dptos. Quindío and Tolima, representing a 300-km range extension<sup>3</sup>, whilst the globally threatened **Tolima Dove** *Leptotila conoveri* has been found in dpto. Cauca<sup>16</sup>. New natural history data on the **Cauca Guan** *Penelope perspicax*, another species of considerable conservation concern, have been published<sup>65</sup>. **Peruvian Meadowlark** *Sturnella bellicosa* appears to be expanding its range in the country (where it was first discovered only recently, though apparently overlooked), perhaps in response to increasing deforestation in the Chocó<sup>36</sup>. Three **Elegant Terns** *Sterna elegans*, banded as chicks in southern California, have been recovered on the Pacific coast, augmenting the few definite records of this species in the country<sup>18</sup>. The nest of the **Variegated Bristle-tyrant** *Pogonotriccus poecilotis* has been described<sup>40</sup>. **American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* has recently been recorded from Isla San Andrés in the Caribbean<sup>23</sup>.

### Ecuador

Harold Greeney and colleagues continue to contribute extraordinary quantities of new natural history (especially breeding) data for Ecuador's birds. Recent communications include papers on **Green-fronted Lancebill** *Doryfera ludovicae*<sup>30</sup>, **Moustached Antpitta** *Grallaria allenii*<sup>31</sup>, **Peruvian Antpitta** *Grallaricula*

**peruviana<sup>29</sup>, Long-wattled**

**Umbrellabird** *Cephalopterus penduliger*<sup>32</sup> and **Rufous-breasted Flycatcher** *Leptopogon rufipectus*<sup>21</sup>.

**Netherlands Antilles**

Wells & Childs Wells<sup>79</sup> report the current significance of the island of Bonaire for breeding terns and plovers.

**Paraguay**

Bodrati *et al.*<sup>10</sup> found, in 2001, a **Common Tody-flycatcher** *Todirostrum cinereum* in dpto. Alto Paraná, representing the southernmost record for the country.

**Peru**

Surveys in 2003 of Lake Titicaca, on the Peru/Bolivia border, produced a population estimate of at least 2,582 **Titicaca Flightless Grebes** *Rollandia microptera*, which the authors of the study advise should be considered an underestimate<sup>43</sup>. New data on the breeding ecology of **Green-and-gold Tanager** *Tangara schrankii* have been published<sup>77</sup>.

**Venezuela**

Several new bird records from the state of Falcón have been reported of late<sup>6</sup>, as well as a review of the status and distribution of **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* in the country<sup>5</sup>.

**OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED****Argentina**

IR reported the following in 2006: a **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* and **Lesser Shrike-Tyrant** *Agriornis murina* in dpto. General Villegas (both first records for north-west prov. Buenos Aires).

**Brazil**

One of the most spectacular pieces of news from the period covered here was the rediscovery, by Brazilian ornithologist Advaldo do Prado, of the enigmatic (so-called) **Caatinga (Kaempfer's) Woodpecker** *Celeus obrieni*, which was previously known from a single specimen taken in Piauí in the 1920s and whose taxonomic

status is subject to debate; until very recently, it was regarded as a highly disjunct race of Rufous-headed Woodpecker *C. spectabilis* (see *Neotrop. Birding* 1: 10–11). More information can be found at: <http://arruda.rits.org.br/notitia/servlet/newsstorm.ns.presentation.NavigationServlet?publicationCode=6&pageCode=67&textCode=19739&date=currentDate&contentType=html>. Other recent reports from Brazil include a female **Black-legged Dacnis** *Dacnis nigripes* in the garden of the Hotel Simon, Itatiaia National Park in 2006 (IR), and another observation (the third) of the globally threatened **Forbes's Blackbird** *Curaeus forbesi* at Pirapora, Minas Gerais (a flock of six on 19 November 2006) (GMK, HS).

**Peru**

An **Andean Swift** *Aeronauta andecolus* was observed hawking over the beach at Paracas on 22 July 2004; this record, at sea level, appears to be well below any previous recorded altitude for this species (CB, JH). A **tropicbird** *Phaethon* sp. (thought to be probably a juvenile Red-billed *P. rubricauda*) was seen on a pelagic off Paracas on 23 July 2004 (CB, JH).

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## Bulletin Board

### Xeno-canto: request for recordings

Xeno-canto ([www.xeno-canto.org](http://www.xeno-canto.org)), a website on Neotropical bird sounds, now hosts over 8,000 recordings of c.2,500 species. The main aim is to aid identification of Neotropical birds. Personal collections from recordists brought together form the site's core. Recordings are linked in various ways, using sound characters, and distribution and habitat information from Parker *et al.* (1996, Ecological and distribu-

tional databases for Neotropical birds, in Stotz *et al.* *Neotropical birds: ecology and conservation*, University of Chicago Press) and Natureserve/Infonatura (<http://www.natureserve.org/infonatura/>). To increase its usefulness and scope, xeno-canto is seeking recordings from several areas that are poorly represented: the Caribbean, the southern cone, northern Mexico and the Pacific coast of Peru and Chile, as well as Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia and Guyana.

Furthermore, waterbirds and hummingbirds are also relatively poorly represented. The organisers would very much like to hear from recordists working in those areas or with these families. Recordings from other areas in the Neotropics remain most welcome too. Contact Willem-Pier Vellinga, Groenesteinlaan 12, 9722 BX, Groningen, the Netherlands, e-mail [wpvellinga@tiscali.nl](mailto:wpvellinga@tiscali.nl), or Bob Planqué, Spaarnestraat 27, 2515 VL Den Haag, the Netherlands, e-mail [rplanque@few.vu.nl](mailto:rplanque@few.vu.nl).