others rare or poorly known in the country.

On 10 November 2004, in the company of David & Kelley Ward, I found a Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* at the Lluta River mouth, Arica province, in northernmost Chile. We observed and photographed the bird for c.1 hour (Figs. 4a–b, p. 80), in the company of Elegant Terns *S. elegans* and other waterbirds. It was in non-breeding plumage and identified readily by its large size and very stout, solidly bright orange bill. I am very familiar with Royal Terns from North and Middle America and immediately recognised the species. On the Pacific coast of the Americas, Royal Tern ranges from southern California to Peru, although it appears to be uncommon or rare by the time one reaches southern Peru[2,3], and there are no previous records from Chile[4–6].

On 23 October 1999, Sophie Webb and I observed a Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* c.50 km off Arica, Arica province (Fig. 4c, p. 80). It was an obvious small tern with smoky grey upperparts (including the rump and cleft tail), and had a distinctive floppy flight, dipping to the surface but not diving for food. The white head and underparts had a black cap, ear-spot and dark bar at the chest-sides, and the flanks were mottled dusky. We have seen thousands of Black Terns previously and the identification, even to subspecies, was straightforward. There is only one previous record from Chile, an old specimen from the central provinces[4–6]. However, Black Terns winter in the Pacific over inshore waters from Mexico to south-west Peru, where it has been recorded in most months and sometimes in large numbers[3], and might be expected to wander occasionally to northernmost Chile.

On 22 October 1999, Sophie Webb and I found a first-cycle Grey-hooded Gull *Larus cirrocephalus* at the Lluta River mouth, Arica province (Fig. 4d, p. 80). It was studied at length in association with Grey Gull *L. modestus*, Franklin's Gull *L. pipixcan* and Andean Gull *L. serranus*, amongst other species. Similar in overall size to Franklin's Gull, but much smaller and more lightly built than Andean Gull, the Grey-hooded was distinguished from Brown-hooded Gull *L. maculipennis* of central and southern Chile by its wingtip pattern: solidly black outer primaries (lacking the white mirrors of Brown-hooded, Andean and other potentially similar gulls) and a broad white upperwing patch on the outer primary bases (Fig. 4d, p. 80). The relatively slight build and slender bill, and the diffuse dusky ear-spot are also differences from typical Brown-hooded Gull, a species with which we are very familiar. Peredo & Amado[7] reported, without documentation, the first record of Grey-hooded Gull from Chile (at the Lluta River mouth), B. Knapton (pers. comm.) has seen the species at the same site on several occasions, and Martinez & Gonzalez[6] mention several records from northern Chile. However, Jaramillo[4] did not mention the species and Marín[5] considered its occurrence in Chile hypothetical. A growing body of evidence indicates that Grey-hooded Gull, which breeds not far to the north in Peru, is a rare visitor to northern Chile.

Also on 23 October 1999, Sophie Webb and I observed a Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, c.10 km off Arica, Arica province (Fig. 4e, p. 80). It was a small, black-and-white shearwater with hurried flight, dark-freckled ear-coverts with a white 'hook' extending into them from below, a narrow pale forehead line across the bill base and a slender dark bill. The tail was relatively short, mostly covered below by the all-white undertail coverts, and the underside to the primaries was silvery grey. The wings appeared fairly worn but were not obviously in moult. The small size, structure and plumage characters are distinctive of Manx Shearwater[1], a species with which we are very familiar. This ostensibly Atlantic species has been reported several times from the Pacific coast of central Chile[4–6] (we also saw one from shore off Las Cruces, San Antonio province, on 5 November 1999), but there are no previous documented records from the far north; all records to date of this species from Chile are sight records.

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Steve N. G. Howell
PRBO Conservation Science, 3820 Cypress Drive #11, Petaluma, CA 94954, USA.

Received 15 May 2006; final revision accepted 24 July 2006

First record of Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata* in Chile

Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata* ranges from eastern Bolivia (Santa Cruz and northern Cochabamba), to southern Brazil (southern Mato

Grosso to Goiás and Minas Gerais) and northern Argentina (south to Mendoza and Buenos Aires)[8]. Birds in the south of this range are migratory and disappear in April–July[9]. Their wintering grounds are unknown but might lie in southern Brazil where the species appears to be more abundant during the austral winter[1]. During pre-breeding migration, the species sometimes wanders as far as Neuquén in Argentina[10] and the Falklands[11]. In Peru the species is known from two specimens[12] and two sight records: a small group of 10–15 observed by B. Walker, in July 1990, near Pilcopata, dpto. Cusco (B. Walker *in litt*. 2006), and a small flock seen by F. Lambert, in March 2003, at 800 m elevation, at Pantiacolla lodge, dpto. Madre de Dios (B. Walker *in litt*. 2006). These occurrences probably concern vagrants, but a small breeding population cannot be excluded (T. S. Schulenberg *in litt*. 2006). The origin of birds found in Colombia and Venezuela is also unclear. There is probably a small breeding population in the Gran Sabana[4], but records on the Venezuelan coast and in Colombia may refer to vagrants[4,5].

On 19 March 2006, Rodrigo Barros, AC, Rodrigo Gonzalez, José Miguel Hernández and FS found a Tawny-headed Swallow at the Huasco estuary, 2 km north of the town of Huasco, prov. Huasco (c.28°30'S), Región III, Chile. The río Huasco is in southern Región III, and is formed by the confluence of the ríos Transito and Carmen[3]. Draining an area of 9,850 km^2, the Huasco is an important oasis in the semi-arid zone through which it flows. The bird (Fig. 5, p. 80) was found in a flat depression between sand dunes, c.200 m from the Pacific Ocean. This area was covered by the predominant halophyte, *Sarcocornia fruticosa*, and an unidentified grass, which supported an abundant insect population. The swallow was hunting flying insects together with five Chilean Swallows *Tachycineta meyeni*, 1–10 m above ground. It remained in an area of c.2 ha during the 90 minutes of observation. Field characteristics which permitted identification were: same size as *T. meyeni*; uniform pale brown upperparts with a lighter rump; white belly and undertail; head, throat and nape tawny rufous; and dark lores. This is the first record of the species for Chile[7], but considering the migrant population in adjacent Argentina, its occasional appearance in Chile might be expected. It is also interesting to note that *A. fucata* was found in the estuary of a river flowing through a semi-arid area. These rivers are a focus for fauna and flora on the Pacific coast and are very attractive for migrants. As already suspected[6], these green lines in the Peruvian–Chilean desert or semi-desert are very good vagrant traps.

Acknowledgements
Barry Walker generously provided unpublished data, Thomas S. Schulenberg commented on the status of *A. fucata* in Peru, Diego Calderón Franco and Jorge Veiga assisted with references, and Bruce Bartrug kindly corrected the note.

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Fabrice Schmitt and Antonio Canepa
Andres de Fuenzalida 98, dpto. 904, Providencia, Santiago de Chile, Chile. E-mail: fabrschmitt@yahoo.com.ar.

Received 14 August 2006; final revision accepted 12 November 2006