

Neotropical Notebook



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*. The third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish your records to appear.

SHORT NOTES

Recent records from Tambito Nature Reserve and Munchique National Park, south-west Colombia

During research for the Colombian EBA Project, we spent a total of four days (24–27 July 2000) investigating sites at Tambito Nature Reserve and the southern border of Munchique National Park (c.02°30'N 77°00'W; 2,200–2,800 m), on both slopes of the Western Cordillera, dpto. Cauca, Colombia. Observations complement data collected at 1,500–2,200 m, in 1997 and 1998, with some additions to Donegan & Dávalos' noted below.

Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina*

Previously known from the Western Cordillera only from extreme northern dpto. Antioquia², c.530 km north of Munchique. A pair was observed near the Inderena Cabin (2,200 m), on 6 July 1997, by TMD, and a flock of 100+ at Cerro Munchique (c.3,000 m), on 24 July 2000 by all authors. *N. murina* may have colonised the area recently, as surveys by Hilty and others in the 1980s did not locate the species.

Grey-headed Dove *Leptotila plumbeiceps*

In Colombia, known only from the río Cauca and Dagua valleys, mostly at 1,000–1,800 m, although recorded once in the Central Andes to 2,400 m². In dry mature secondary forest, below Cerro Munchique (2,400 m), TMD and JCL observed an individual on the El Tambo road, presenting a local elevation extension.

New records for the reserve

The following species, which did not appear on the reserve's checklist¹, were also observed in Tambito: Greater Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pucheranii*, Green Jay *Cyanocorax yncas*, Sepia-brown Wren *Cinnycerthia peruana*, Red-hooded Tanager *Piranga rubriceps*, Golden-crowned Tanager *Iridosornis porphyrocephala* and Black-capped Hemispingus *Hemispingus atropileus*. A total of 319 species has now been recorded in the reserve.

Acknowledgements

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First mainland record of Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* for Colombia

Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorus* breeds in the east USA and Canada and winters south to Panama and the Greater Antilles¹ with smaller numbers in the Lesser Antilles, south to Barbados, and unconfirmed records on Trinidad & Tobago (E. Massiah pers. comm.). There is one specimen from South America, taken at Henri Pittier National Park, Venezuela³ and sight records on Colombia's Caribbean islands, Islas San Andrés and Providencia². There are no previous Colombian mainland records⁴.

On 12 April 2001, we identified a *H. vermivorus* c.0.5 km north-west of Cañaveral in Tayrona National Park, dpto. Magdalena, Colombia (c.74°00'W 11°20'N, 20 m). It was observed at c.3–5 m for c.10 minutes, foraging in the understorey of old second growth, among a flock containing three Golden-fronted Greenlet *Hylophilus aurantiifrons* and a Tropical Parula *Parula pitiayumi*. It made occasional *tsip* calls. TMD had previously observed *H. vermivorus* four months previously in Guatemala.

Atlappetes and *Arremon* aside, the principal confusion species in Colombia is Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*, which has similar coloration, crown stripe and supercilia. But, *B. tristriatus* is overall less warm brown with whiter and narrower head

markings, a yellowish forecrown and less pointed bill, and is a more active and vocal species. Furthermore, it is a non-migratory subtropical species, unlikely to be found in coastal regions, and is replaced in mountains of this region by the distinctive, bright yellow, Santa Marta Warbler *B. basilicus*².

With records in Panama, nearby Caribbean islands and Venezuela, the presence of *H. vermivorus* in northern Colombia is unsurprising. However, with no previous mainland records, it is clear that the species is either a vagrant to the region or winters in only tiny numbers.

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Ring-billed *Larus delawarensis* and Lesser Black-backed Gulls *L. fuscus* in Venezuela

On 9 February 1983, at El Hatillo, at the east end of Lago de Unare, Anzoategui, Venezuela, S. J. M. Gantlett and I found an adult Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*. Also present were two large, dark-mantled gulls considered to be Lesser Black-backed *L. fuscus*. Photographs were taken and, on our return to the UK, the advice of the late P. J. Grant was sought regarding the identification of the dark-mantled individuals. Grant (*in litt.*) had 'no hesitation in identifying one of the birds as Lesser Black-backed Gull, either *graellsii* or *intermedius*, and no reason at all why it isn't *graellsii*.' The photographs of the other individual were of insufficient quality to make a certain identification, but it was thought most likely to be *graellsii*. Two Ring-billed and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed between Boca de Uchire and El Hatillo, on 3–4 April 1993, by B. & P. James, T. J. Toohig and T. J. Wilson, suggesting that both species are not infrequent visitors to the area. Indeed both species were listed, on the basis of sight records and photographs but no specimens, for Venezuela by several recent authors^{1–3}, and M. Lentino and C. Rodner (*in litt.* February 2001) consider both to be regular winter migrants in small numbers. However the subspecific identity of those *L. fuscus* reaching Venezuela remains to be confirmed, although our observations suggest that at least some are *graellsii*.

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The occurrence of the Short-billed Honeycreeper

Cyanerpes nitidus in Surinam

Short-billed Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes nitidus* is not known from Surinam², though it occurs in south Venezuela, south-east Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, west Amazonian Brazil³, and has recently been discovered in Guyana¹. Strangely, it is well known among Surinamese cage-bird lovers. Here, I present evidence for the occurrence of the species in Surinam.

Mr Spong (pers. comm.) caught it many times during the 1970s and 1980s along the Afobaka Road, north of the large lake and near Moengo in north-east Surinam. Mr Robert (pers. comm.) caught the species in the same period several times near the Brownsberg Nature Park. Pieter Teunissen and Jan Hein Ribot (pers. comm.) saw Short-billed Honeycreeper in 1986 in the collections of Messrs. Robert and Hensen. The latter bought his birds from Amerindians of Kwamalasumutu in the south of the country. In June 2000 I saw an adult male, several immature males and a female in a pet shop in Paramaribo. These had been bought from the same source the previous month. On 5 December 2000 I observed an adult male in Brownsberg Nature Park, feeding on ripe fruits in company of three other species of honeycreeper, from a distance of 6 m. It was clearly paler blue than Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, and had a very short bill and pink legs. Michel Clement closely observed a pair of Short-billed Honeycreeper, in October 1996, near Crique Rouge, north-

east of St. Laurent, French Guiana, just 10 km from the Surinam border.

Short-billed Honeycreeper may be widespread within interior Surinam, but it is a canopy species, often found with the much commoner Purple Honeycreeper, with which it is easily confused at a distance.

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A nest of the Ash-throated Gnateater *Conopophaga peruviana* in Amazonian Ecuador

In mid-morning on 16 August 1999, c.9 km upstream of Tiputini Biodiversity Station, in Amazonian Ecuador, I found a nest of Ash-throated Gnateater *Conopophaga peruviana*. No breeding data were previously available for the species (Bret Whitney *in litt.*), which occurs patchily in the Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. Upon my discovery of the nest, the male gnateater flew rapidly into dense undergrowth near the nest, alarm calling. It reappeared on some dead branches in a tree-fall clearing



Figure 1. Nest of Ash-throated Gnateater *Conopophaga peruviana* Tiputini, Ecuador, August 1999 (Niels Poul Dreyer)

c.50–75 m from the nest approximately 10 minutes later. The female was not seen. Other ground-dwellers in the area were Ochre-striped Antpitta *Grallaria dignissima* and Rusty-belted Tapaculo *Liosceles thoracicus*.

Nest description

The nest was located along a creek within closed *terra firme* forest, with no palms in the area, only young saplings with a dbh of up to 30 cm. The nearest large tree was c.30 m distant. The ground was damp following rain, but there was no permanent water within a radius of 50 m of the nest, which was situated 35 cm above ground in a tree sapling, with a dbh of 5–10 cm, and was not concealed by leaves. Vegetation in the vicinity was dense on one side and more open on the other. The nest was within a small fork and consisted of a rather shallow open cup neatly assembled from large dead leaves with tiny twigs in its centre. Two chicks, not yet ready to fledge, were present (Fig. 1).

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Southern range extension for the Parrot-billed Seedeater *Sporophila peruviana*

Parrot-billed Seedeater *Sporophila peruviana* inhabits coastal south-west Ecuador south to Nazca, dpto. Ica¹⁻³. During a

monitoring study of Slender-billed Finch *Xenospingus concolor* in the Yauca valley (15°28'S 74°26'W), dpto. Arequipa, Peru, we observed and trapped three Parrot-billed Seedeaters, 110 km south of the species' previous known southernmost limit and the first departmental record. The first capture was at Fundo Chevalier, a commercial olive plantation in Distrito de Bella Union, on 4 August 2000. The second was in olive trees and riparian thickets at Yauca, on 14 October 2000, where we collected two females, one of which was preserved as a specimen and deposited in Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima (MUSM 21950). Its weight was 14.5 g, without moult, fat low, and it had a brood patch. The avifauna of the northern valleys of dpto. Arequipa is poorly known and more species recorded south only to dpto. Ica may be found with future field work in this area.

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Discovery of a new site for Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes alpinus* in Bolivia

The Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes alpinus*, an endangered high-Andean *Polylepis* forest specialist, was rediscovered in Bolivia, by Sjoerd Mayer, in the Choquetanga valley (16°19'S 67°57'W), in 1996, following a period of over 60 years without records. CV, during avian field work with the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History and Colección Boliviana de Fauna, discovered a new locality for the species, c.10 km north-west of the Choquetanga site, in Cotapata National Park and Integrated Management Area (16°15'S 68°01'W). Prior to this record, Choquetanga was the only known Bolivian site, with three sites known in Peru. Two pairs were found on 4 October 1999 and on two subsequent visits during the following days in the same *Polylepis* forest, at 3,800 m, within the integrated use zone. Small patches of *Polylepis* and *Gynoxys* remain on the almost inaccessibly steep slopes of three small valleys; livestock grazing has largely denuded the rest of the area. Two of the three areas each harboured a pair of Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant, with one pair apparently resident in each forest patch. Pair members remained in each others view and quickly rejoined if separated for more than a few minutes. They were never noted to leave their territories and no interactions were witnessed. Both sites, like most *Polylepis* forests in South America, are highly disturbed through forest burning combined with grazing.

It is possible that other populations exist in the more

extensive, unstudied *Polylepis racemosa* forests (at 3,500–4,000 m) of Bolivia's Cordillera Real (northern Bolivian Andes). Other sites probably exist for the species within the newly expanded Apolobamba Integrated Management Area and Madidi National Park. Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant is a priority species in the Bolivian Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme and the discovery demonstrates the urgency for additional field research at these threatened patches of *Polylepis* forest.

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Additional records of Taczanowski's Tinamou *Nothoprocta taczanowskii* in Bolivia

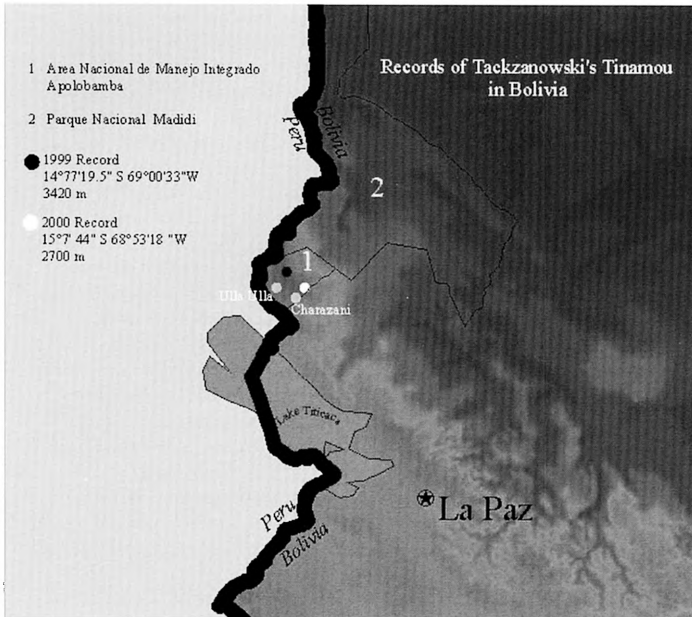
Taczanowski's Tinamou *Nothoprocta taczanowskii* was recorded for the first time in Bolivia, on 21 October 1999, in Area Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional Apolobamba, dpto. La Paz, Bolivia³. The species was previously considered a Peruvian endemic and formerly listed as Vulnerable¹. Taczanowski's Tinamou was found during subsequent survey work at an additional locality within the same protected area in 2000.

On 8–25 November 2000, ornithological surveys were undertaken in the Quelhuacota River valley, near the village of Wakella, provincia Saavedra, dpto. La Paz, at c.2,700 m. The area lies at the base of the north face of Serranía Uyacaya and south face of the Nevado Sanchure (15°07'S 68°53'W), and is significantly more xeric and disturbed than the locality in provincia Franz Tamayo (14°77'S 69°00'W at c.3,420 m)³, where

Taczanowski's Tinamou was discovered in 1999. The landscape near Wakella has been substantially altered by varying degrees of human use, from intensive agriculture to casual exploitation. The number of old farming terraces on the slopes proves that this is not a new phenomenon in the area. The surrounding slopes have little natural vegetation, and the tree-line appears to be entirely determined by human activity. Smaller streams have remnants of humid forest on their banks, creating a gallery forest of secondary humid montane forest, with dense undergrowth of *Chusquea*. Immediately outside these, rank grasses, bracken ferns, *Rhus*, *Puya*, thorny woody shrubs and melastomes of a more semi-humid affinity are found. Abandoned farms occur in more level areas that have regenerated into semi-humid scrub, with the occasional apple, cherry or domestic rose in its midst. These areas are almost impenetrable, the tallest trees being 4–5 m tall and 10–15 cm dbh. Above c.3,200 m, disturbed patches of tall secondary/selectively logged primary forest occur, with dense undergrowth of *Chusquea* and the occasional *Podocarpus* or other tree with a dbh of greater than 1 m.

Nothoprocta taczanowskii was found at the base of Nevado Sanchure and on the Serranía Uyacaya. It was observed on three occasions in early successional pastures or in hedgerows between fields, and identified by the combination of very dark upperparts, (the mantle feathers and scapulars having distinctive pale buffy edgings) and long, slightly decurved bill. Overall impression was of a large, dark tinamou, with a long bill. These characters, combined with the habitat, quickly eliminate possible confusion with any other sympatric tinamou, or *N. kalinowskii*.

The species was initially located on 19 November, on the east bank of the Quelhuacota River, when one was observed crossing a livestock trail in scrub.



Map depicting recent records of Taczanowski's Tinamou *Nothoprocta taczanowskii* in Bolivia

When the individual became aware of the observer, it quickly dashed into the dense undergrowth. One was seen in the same location next day. Three more were seen on 23rd, on the opposite bank of the Quelhuacota River and c.1 km downstream of the earlier sightings. Two were seen together at a distance of 6 m, before they scrambled out of view into a row of peach trees and stone fence posts between potato patches. They flushed as I drew near, gliding a short distance downhill. A third individual was found a few minutes later.

No juveniles were noted at Wakella, the observations being made approximately one month later than the dates for juveniles recorded in provincia Franz Tamayo (21 October 1999)². The present records, in addition to the five seen near Tojoloque, in 1999, appear to indicate that the total number of known specimens (17) is more indicative of the difficulty in procuring specimens than the real abundance of *N. taczanowskii*². Likewise, the individual recorded in the more humid, higher area near Tojoloque indicates that the species' habitat

requirements in Bolivia are governed by the extent of scrub, be it a natural tree-line ecotone, or anthropogenic parkland. Taczanowski's Tinamou is probably an uncommon or locally fairly common species in cultivated areas of the remote highlands of western La Paz. I suspect the species may benefit from farms, regenerating scrub and hedgerows in the area. Effects upon its population from agriculture, as well as direct exploitation as a game bird, are worth investigating. While *N. taczanowskii* may benefit from early successional growth created by intensive subsistence agriculture in the area, the effects of tall-forest clearance upon Hooded Tinamou *Nothocercus nigrocapillus*, which often inhabits adjacent forest in these localities, are also worthy of study.

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A new record of Sandwich Tern *Sterna (s.) sandvicensis*, in Argentina

On 2 January 1998, in Mar del Plata port, Buenos Aires province, I observed a single Sandwich Tern *Sterna (s.) sandvicensis*, in non-breeding plumage, on a rock for several minutes before it was disturbed by fishermen and could not be relocated. It had a mostly white body, pale grey wings and back (with darker primaries), while the forehead and most of the crown were white, with a black crest. The bill (more slender than *Sterna eurygnatha*) was black with a conspicuous and diagnostic yellow tip.

In the Northern Hemisphere winter this species occurs on coasts from Florida, USA, south to Uruguay^{1,5}. It is considered an occasional, non-breeding visitor to Buenos Aires province, where it

has been observed at Costa Bonita (March 1985), Mar del Plata (February 1977), and Punta Rasa (December 1986, 1991, January, November–December 1992)^{6,7,9}. Other authors cite few additional observations of the species in Argentina: doubtfully mentioned for Argentine coasts by Canevari *et al.*², it is also considered a rare spring/summer visitor^{3,8}, and de la Peña⁴ mentions it for Chubut and Santa Cruz province coasts (without quoting specific observations). Burger & Gochfeld¹ mention that mixed pairs of *S. sandvicensis*/*S. eurygnatha* occur in Patagonia, and consider *S. eurygnatha* to be only subspecifically distinct from *S. sandvicensis*. The observation reported here represents the first province record for almost a decade.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas

A **Little Egret** *Egretta alba* was on Grand Bahama on 28 August 1999. There was a **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens* on the same island on 8 October 1999³⁸.

Barbados

Two **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* were present on the island in October 1999 and a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savanna* was there on 24 August 1999. More exciting was the discovery of up to eight **Common House Martin** *Delichon urbica* at Harrison Point, on 30 October–6 November 1999, the first record for the Neotropics³⁸. Elsewhere Frost provides separate reports on the first **Giant Cowbird** *Scaphidura oryzivora* in the West Indies, in March 2000¹⁸, and first **Antillean Nighthawk** *Chordeiles gundlachi* in the Lesser Antilles, in May 2000¹⁹.

Bermuda

A **Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus* was at Castle Roads, on 4 August 1999, the first record since 1978¹³. All other records refer to 2000, unless otherwise stated. Four immature **Brent**

Geese *Branta bernicla horta* were at St. George's Dairy on 31 October, with two remaining into November and one until late February 2001. There have only been three previous records since the first was recorded in the mid-1960s^{14,15}. A **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra* was off Gurnet Rock on 21 March 2001, but more importantly a record 33 young **Bermuda Petrel** *Pterodroma cahow* were present in their nesting burrows during the same period¹⁶. The third island record of **Ash-throated Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cinerascens* was present from 21 November until 11 May 2001 at least^{14,16}. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** *Vireo flavifrons* was at Jenningsland, on 6–12 October¹⁴, with another at the Bio Station on 1 December¹⁵. **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* is always scarce, but one was at Fort Scaur on 1 November¹⁴. Interesting sparrow reports included a **Clay-coloured Spizella** *pallida* on 8 October, at Hog Bay Park, **White-crowned Zonotrichia** *leucophrys* in late October, at Port Royal Golf Course, a **Fox** *Passerella iliaca* on 13 November, in Hog Bay Park, a **Swamp** *Melospiza georgiana* at the Bio Station, on 1 December, and single **Vesper Sparrows** *Pooecetes gramineus* on 13 November, at Hog Bay Park and 2 December, on the Baselands^{14,15}.

British Virgin Islands

The first report of **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* in the Neotropics was in mid-October 1999³⁸.

Cuba

Martínez *et al.*³⁵ report the first records of **Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis* from the Ciénaga de Zapata and Sierra de Anafe in the late 1990s. The globally threatened **Cuban Kite** *Chondrohierax wilsonii* has not been recorded since 1992, but three individuals were videotaped at a locality near Santiago de Cuba, in January 2001³⁰. Rodríguez *et al.*⁴⁰ report new sightings of **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* and **Red Knot** *C. canutus* in Cuba, both in Holguín province,

in May 1999. The second country record of the *salicicola* race of **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens* was recently reported, along with a listing of all previous specimens of the species taken in Cuba²¹. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* was observed on the Isle of Youth, in November 1998⁴¹. Smith & Smith⁴⁸ report the first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* records in Cuba, in November 1998 and 1999, while Kirwan²⁹ reports the first **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* sightings in the West Indies (away from the Cayman Islands), presumably escapes or deliberately introduced birds, in Havana, in April 2000. Shaffer *et al.*⁴⁵ and Sánchez & Rodríguez⁴³ place on record new observations from the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago. Kirwan & Kirkconnell³¹ describe sightings of two leucistic **Crescent-eyed Pewee** *Contopus caribaeus*, an aberration apparently very rare among tyrant flycatchers.

Dominica

At least one **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* was reported on 6 November 1999; the species is rare in the Lesser Antilles³⁸.

Grenada

Probably the first island record of **Ringed Kingfisher** *Megaceryle torquata* was made on 31 May 1998; the individual appeared to be of the South American race⁴⁷. Thorstrom *et al.*⁵¹ recently discovered a total of 15 **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus mirus*, principally in the south-west of the island, also locating two nests, and speculate that this endemic form may be more common than recently considered.

Haiti

A **Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* was at Montrouis, near Port-au-Prince, on 11 November³⁸.

Puerto Rico

Salguero-Faría & Roig-Bachs⁴² report on the occurrence of four previously unrecorded exotic psittacines in the island.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

On 30 November 2000, **Crested Oropendola** *Psarocolius decumanus* was discovered in the south-west of the country and during the following weeks, until at least April 2001, there was a total of five sightings of small groups and singles within a few kilometres of the Wilson Botanical Garden, Las Cruces and Coto Brus^{22,23}. The third documented record of **Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* in the country was one photographed in southern Guanacaste province, 1 km west of Abangaritos Bridge, on 6 November 2000²². On 3 October 2000, an **Oilbird** *Steatornis caripensis* was found roosting at km 70 on Cerro de la Muerte²². Interesting migrants reported in 2001 included a **Cape May Warbler** *Dendroica tigrina* at La Colina Lodge, Monteverde, **Hermit Warblers** *D. occidentalis* at several sites, an immature male **Palm Warbler** *D. palmarum* at Lake Cote on 6 February, two **Prairie Warbler** *D. discolor* at Hacienda Los Reyes, La Guácima de Alajuela, from January to mid-April, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* at Playa Coyote, on the Nicoya Peninsula and a **White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* singing at Cahuita, on 11 April²³. A **South Polar Skua** *Catharacta maccormicki* was reported off Mawamba Lodge, Tortuguero, on 14–15 April 2001, nests of both **Silvery-fronted Tapaculo** *Scytalopus argentifrons* and **Scaled Antpitta** *Grallaria guatemalensis* were found in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, in April and June 2001 respectively, about the fourth country record of **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* was at San Isidro del General, on 18 May 2001, a **Pearl Kite** *Gampsonyx swainsonii* was photographed at Orotoni, on 14 June 2001 and a pair of **Scarlet Macaws** *Ara macao* was at Balsa de Atenas, on 23 June 2001 (the two latter records both being in-country range extensions)²⁴.

Honduras

Anderson³ clarifies the breeding and distribution of **Ocellated Poorwill** *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus* in the country.

Mexico

Hamilton *et al.*²⁶ describe the first record of **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* in Mexico, in the Vizcaino Desert, Baja California, on 18–19 October 1996.

Panama

Significant records reported recently (all from 2000) include a total of three nests of **Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* in parts of Darién and northern Coclé, in April (five previous country records); a **Long-winged Harrier** *Circus buffoni* also in Darién, on 1 January (second country record); a **Solitary Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius* at Cana, on 27 March (fewer than 10 previous records); a **Green-winged Teal** *Anas [crecca] carolinensis* at Las Macanas, Herrera, on 19 December (second country record); and a female **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* and 250–300 **Lesser Scaup** *A. affinis* at the same site, on 19–20 December (the former the first province record and the latter an extremely large concentration)⁴.

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia

Alverson *et al.*¹ report on the first confirmed Bolivian records of **Ihering's Antwren** *Myrmotherula iheringi* at 'Pingo del Oro', on the south bank of the río Tahuamanu (between the Tahuamanu and Muyumanu) in far-west Bolivia, in October 1999. (Subsequently JvdW observed a male near Riberalta, Beni province, in the north of the country, in October 2000.) Other significant observations, during the same inventory, included the second Bolivian record of **Rufous-fronted Antthrush** *Formicarius rufifrons*, along the Tahuamanu itself. Vogel *et al.*⁵⁴ recently made the first record of **Taczanowski's Tinamou** *Nothoprocta*

taczanowskii in Bolivia (see pp. 80–81 for subsequent sightings).

Brazil

The run of extraordinary and exciting rediscoveries of 'lost' taxa from the Atlantic Forest region continues; sonograms and a photograph, made in January 1995 near Una, Bahia, of

Stresemann's Bristlefront

Merulaxis stresemanni have been presented recently, though there have been no subsequent records despite some effort⁸. Telino Júnior *et al.*⁴⁹ report on new observations of

Golden-tailed Parrotlet

Touit surda in Pernambuco, the first state records for 42 years.

The arrival of the House

Sparrow *Passer domesticus* in the south-west Amazonian states of Rondonia and Acre, in April 1998 and August 1999, was reported recently²⁵. The first

Snowy Sheathbill

Chionis alba in Pernambuco was recorded in June 1993⁵⁰. **Itatiaia Spinetail** *Schizoeaca moreirae* has been recorded in the state of São Paulo, at Pedra da Mina, in the Serra da Mantiqueira⁴⁴. Anciães *et al.*²

present two new localities for the easily overlooked **Elegant Mourner** *Laniisoma elegans* for Minas Gerais state, and the globally threatened **Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant**

Euscarthmus rufomarginatus has recently been discovered at Chapada do Catuni in the same state⁵. Azevedo Júnior *et al.*⁷

detail two new localities for the globally threatened **Araripe Manakin** *Antilophia bokermanni*, and Mazar Barnett³⁶ an extralimital record of **Ocellated Crane** *Micropygia schomburgkii* in southern São Paulo.

Hinkelmann & Fiebig²⁷ report on old specimen records of seven species that improve our knowledge of bird distributions in Paraná.

Chile Marin³⁴ has recently analysed the distribution, origin and spread of **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* in the country. A review of the status of the globally endangered **Westland**

Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* off South America has recently been published: details of a previously unnoticed specimen from Chile and a total of 45 sight reports involving at least 458 individuals, during the period 7 August to 29 April, in 1980–1998, in Argentine and Chilean waters are presented⁹.

Colombia

Recent significant records include the first report of **Greater Schiffornis** *Schiffornis major* in the country away from dpto.

Amazonas, two trapped in La Paya National Park, dpto.

Putumayo, in June 1998¹²; three new records of **Yellow-headed Manakin** *Chloropipo flavicapilla* in dpto. Antioquia, between August 1996 and October 1998³⁹, and a record of **Hooded Tanager** *Nemosia pileata* in dpto. Santander, in October 1999, at 2,980 m (an extraordinary altitudinal range extension)¹⁷. There is a recent record of the globally threatened **Red Siskin** *Carduelis cucullatus*, from Cúcuta, on 16 February 2000³³. There were previously very few breeding data available for **Apical Flycatcher** *Myiarchus apicalis*; Kattan *et al.*²⁶ provide a wealth of new nesting information for the species, and Cadena *et al.*¹⁰ present nesting data for the following species from Tinigua National Park: **Warbling Antbird** *Hypocnemis cantator*, **Black-spotted Bare-eye** *Phlegopsis nigromaculata*, **Scale-backed Antbird** *Hylophylax poecilinota*, **Amazonian Streaked-antwren** *Myrmotherula multostriata* and **Striated Antthrush** *Chamaeza nobilis*.

Ecuador

News concerning the recently rediscovered **Pale-headed Brush-finch** *Atlapetes pallidiceps* is encouraging; the original population has increased to 16 pairs and a second site, with an additional 15 pairs, has recently been discovered nearby⁶. The southern Ecuadorian population of the **Streak-backed**

Canastero *Asthenes wyatti azuay* was rediscovered in 1992, when seven adult males were taken on the Cerro Carboncillo, Loja province and Altiplano of Tarqui, Azuay province; comments on plumage variation and taxonomy of related taxa within the *Asthenes anthoides* superspecies are presented in the same paper³². Fuhrman²⁰ describes the finding and presents a photograph of the nest of **Bicoloured Antvireo** *Dysithamnus occidentalis*.

Paraguay

Capper *et al.*¹¹ report on records of 30 species, from observations in the second half of 1997, including several for which those presented are the first country records.

Peru

The first observations for 31 years of **Sira Tanager** *Tangara phillipsi* were made on the Cerros del Sira, in the east-centre of the country, in November 2000. It appears to be the most numerous *Tangara* in its narrow elevational range (1,350–1,450 m)³⁷. The first breeding data for **White-throated Antbird** *Gymnopithys salvini* and novel nesting information for **Hairy-crested Antbird** *Rhegmatorhina melanosticta* have recently been published, based on observations at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Madre de Dios, in November 1998 and September–October 1999⁵⁵.

Uruguay

The following species have recently been reported for the first time in dpto. Salto: **Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*, **Black Jacobin** *Melanotrochilus fuscus*, **Lesser Canastero** *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*, **Chocolate-vented Tyrant** *Neoxolmis rufiventris* and **Bearded Tachuri** *Polystictus pectoralis*⁵³. Vargas & Padilla⁵² describe records of **Blackish Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ater*, in September 1999 (photographed) and June 2000.

Venezuela

Sharpe *et al.*⁴⁶ present new range, altitudinal and temporal data for 48 species. In addition, the globally threatened **Plain-flanked Rail** *Rallus wetmorei* was discovered, in August 2000, at a new locality, Las Peonias Lagoon, Maracaibo, Zulia, and the first state record for many years (*World Birdwatch* 23 (2): 5).

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Antigua

RH reports the following in 2001: 20 **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*, 18 **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* (possibly the first record), a **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*, 30 **Caribbean Coot** *Fulica caribaea* and a second-winter **American Herring Gull** *Larus argentus smithsonianus* (also a possible first record) at Potsworks Reservoir on 19 March. Two **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* were at Dark Wood Beach and three at Runaway Bay, also on 19 March, and there was a winter-plumaged female **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* at the latter locality on the same date.

Argentina

The first country record of **Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* involved a single, observed by Steve Hilty and AW, at Calilegua National Park, on 1 November 2000.

Barbados

An adult **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus vetula*, the first for the island, was photographed at North Point, on 6 December 2000, while a 1st-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*, the third island record, was also photographed, at Six Men's Bay, on 7 January 2001 (MF).

Colombia

A pair of **Zimmer's Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus necopinus*, the first country record, was observed on Isla Mocagua, on 15 April 2001 (AW).

Cuba

Three second records for the country were reported in 2001: a **Whip-poor-will** *Caprimulgus vociferus* observed at its daytime roost at Cueva de Jabalí, Cayo Coco, on 26 April and an adult male **American Goldfinch** *Carduelis tristis* tape-recorded and photographed at Turba, Zapata, on 29 April (MD, KE), with a **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus* also on Cayo Coco in late April (AK). A **Gadwall** *Anas strepera* on Cayo Coco, on 3 February 2000 is the fourth country record (CM). BM reports eight **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* over Playa Guardalavaca, Holguín, on 1 April 2000, and single **Warbling Vireos** *Vireo gilvus* on two dates at the same site during the period 31 March to 13 April 2000.

Dominican Republic

Two first records for Hispaniola have been reported recently. An

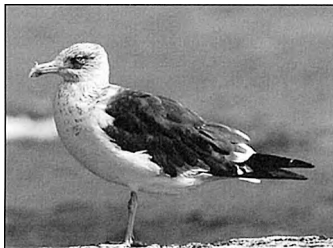


Figure 1. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Saona Island, Dominican Republic, November 2000 (Eladio Fernández)



Figure 2. Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*, Parque del Este, Dominican Republic, 14 October 2000 (Eladio Fernández)

adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* was on Saona Island, from 28 October to late November 2000 at least (EF, EG & PR; Fig. 1), and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens* was trapped and photographed (Fig. 2) in Parque del Este, on 14 October 2000 (JA, EF).

Ecuador

During early January 2001 seven breeding-plumage **Esmeraldas Woodstar** *Acestura berlepschi* (four males, three females) were found, at 700 m, in Loma Alta Ecological Reserve, Guayas. They were feeding on *Psychotria alba* (Rubiaceae) flowers. *Psychotria* flowers are very abundant in the reserve during dry years (in November–January). Surveys in Machalilla National Park indicate that *Psychotria* shrubs are not abundant within the park's moist forest sites (DB). A **Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* observed at 4,000 m from the slopes of Cotopaxi, on 18 September 2000 is one of the highest-ever altitudinal records (AvK *et al.*).

Mexico

A male **Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor* was observed on 10 January and 1 February 2001, in the Soconusco region of Chiapas (IS); there appear to be few previous state records.

St. Kitts**Two Pied-billed Grebe**

Podilymbus podiceps were at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond on 23 February 2000 (a possible first record) and a **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* was on Great Salt Pond on 21 March 2001. Other possible first records included an adult male **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* on South Friar's Bay Salt Pond, on 20 February 2000, and six **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond, on 23 and 26 February 2000. Two female **Lesser Scaup** *A. affinis* were at Great Salt Pond on 23 February 2000 and an **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* was off the South Coast Road on the same day, with

another near Frigate Bay on 23 March 2001. Four **American Coot** *Fulica americana* were at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond on 23 February 2000, with three on Frigate Bay Salt Pond in March 2001. Among shorebirds, up to 70 **Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus mexicanus* were at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond in 2000, with roughly the same number at Frigate Bay in 2001, a **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago delicata* near Cockleshell Bay on 20 February 2000, four **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* at South Friar's Bay Salt Pond on 20 and 23 February 2000 and one at Frigate Bay on 17 March 2001, and a **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* at the latter locality on the same date. A **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* was off Basseterre on 17 March 2001 and two **American Herring Gull** *L. argentus smithsonianus* were there on 18 and 23–24 February 2000. One or two first-winter **Black-headed Gull** *L. ridibundus* were also in the same place on 17 March 2001 (a possible first record). A **Prairie Warbler** *Dendroica discolor* was at Caribelle Batik on 22 March 2001. (All records by RH.)

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