Neotropical Notebook

These recent reports generally refer to new or second country records, rediscoveries, notable range extensions, and new localities for threatened or poorly known species. These have been collated from a variety of published and unpublished sources, and therefore some records will be unconfirmed. We urge that, if they have not already done so, contributors provide full details to the relevant national organisations.

BELIZE
There are five new records for the country as follows: a light phase Pomarine Jaeger Stercorarius pomarinus seen by the fisheries pier, Belize City, 1 May 1992; several Fulvous Whistling-duck Dendrocygna bicolor seen at Cox Lagoon in November 1986, up to 20 at Crooked Tree in March 1988, and again on 3 May 1992; a Chuck-will’s Widow Caprimulgus carolinensis collected at San Ignacio, Cayo District, 13 October 1991; Spectacled Foliage-gleaner Anabacerthia variegaticeps recently recorded on an expedition to the highest point in Belize (16°30’N 89°W) at 1,160 m (without further details); and a male Slate-coloured Seedeater Sporophila schistacea trapped and banded between Blue Creek and San Antonio, Toledo District, 28 January 1989, with subsequent records from Chan Chin Lodge, Orange Walk District, and along the Sibun River, Monkey Bay Sanctuary (Miller & Miller 1992). Nesting records of Yellow-faced Grassquit Tiaris olivacea were from Caracol, in the Chiibal uplands, 1989–1992 inclusive, with sight records along the Macal River (Miller & Miller 1992): the species was previously known only in Belize from just one record, believed to be accidental.

CUBA
The first nesting record of Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus this century was made on 9 April 1993 by O. H. Garrido and a group of British Birdwatchers at Cayo Sabinal, in the north of Prov. Camagüey (Garrido 1993).

PANAMA
Three new country records come from the region of Laguna de Chiriquí, during fieldwork between 1987 and 1991, representing a disjunct population from that of Mexico to north-western Costa Rica (Olson 1993). Red-throated Caracara Daptrius americanus has been rediscovered in western Panama, with several seen and heard on 26 August 1993 around the indian village of Teribe (Toucan 1993: 5).

COLOMBIA
Recent expeditions and increasing interest in this country has produced a wealth of new information, including 12 new country records. A Cambridge-RHBNCC expedition to Serranía de Nariño, Amazonas, in July–August 1992 found 4 new country records as follows: Rusty Tinamou Crypturellus brevirostris observed at an ant-swarm at Caño Ima, 12 August; Brown-banded Puffbird Notharchus tricolor observed in riverside trees between Mahimachi and Caño Colorado [no date]; and a male Guianan Gnatcatcher Polioptila guianensis observed at close range in a mixed flock at Caño Rico, 2 August (Amazon 1992).

Pearman (1993) reported 5 new country records as follows: a Point-tailed Palmcreeper Berlepschia rikeri was located in a palm grove, 10 km north of Leticia, Amazonas, 28 February 1987, and subsequently at the same locality in August and September 1989 when breeding was confirmed; a Citron-bellied Attila Attila citriniventris photographed at P. N. Amacayacú, Amazonas, 24 September 1990 was the first documented record, but recently 9 old museum specimens have been uncovered (F. G. Stiles verbally), and the species was found to be fairly common around Mitú, Vaupés in August 1993 (DW, MP); a Wilson’s Warbler Wilsonia pusilla seen at 1,250 m on Cerro Tacarcuna, northern Chocó, 9 October 1990 was the first South American record, previously known as far south as central Panama, but generally wintering in large numbers in the Chiriqui region of western Panama; a Palm Warbler Dendroica palmarum observed near Turbo, north Antioquia, 13 October 1990 also represents the first record for South America, as does a Green-naped Tanager Tangara fucosa seen at c.1,220 m near the ridge of Cerro Tacarcuna, northern Chocó, 8 October 1990.

Two new country (sight) records come from the eastern slope of the East Andes on the Río Guamá, near Orito, Dept. Putumayo in late August 1993 (Salaman & Gandy 1993) as follows: several Fiery-throated Fruiteaters Pipreola chlorolepidota on at least five occasions, and at least 2 Grey-tailed Piha Lipaugus subalaris. Stotz (1990) uncovered two previously unpublished specimens of Striated Antbird Dendrophaeus devillei at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; a male collected, 7 October 1967 at Guascayaco, Dept. Putumayo, and a female collected (probably) from
San Antonio Guamuez, Dept. Putumayo, 30 October 1969, these representing the first and only Colombian records.

Notable range extensions from the Serranía de Naquén, Amazonas, in July-August 1992 include: one or two sight records of White Hawk Lestocryptus albicolis, previously only recorded north of Puerto Inirida, but known from Amazonian Brazil; and up to 10 White-tipped Swift Aeronauta macroura, all previous Colombian records coming from the Andes; Grey-bellied Antbird Myrmeciza pelzelni found to be common at Caño Ima, previously known in Colombia from the west bank of the Río Guianza, opposite the mouth of the Río Casiquiare; a male Yapana Antbird Myrmeciza disjuncta at Caño Ima, 14 August 1992 was only the fourth record ever of the species, previously known in Colombia from a female netted near Puerto Inirida; and a White-throated Kingbird Tyrannus albogularis observed on 4 July is previously known in Colombia only from sight records at Leticia (Amazonas) (1992).

Other notable records come from Patro (on the Río Ñambi), Dept. Nariño where a pair of the threatened Yellow-green Bush-tanager Chlorospingus flavovirens were seen on various dates in mid-July 1993 at the same fruiting tree (Salaman & Gandy 1993), this species being previously known from one Ecuadorian and two Colombian localities; and the poorly known White-bellied Dacnis Dacnis albiventris, was found to be common in the vicinity of Mitú, Dept. Vaupés, where flocks of up to 6 individuals were seen daily between 23-29 August 1993 (DW, MP and BF).

ECUADOR

Five new country records are as follows: up to 3 roding Imperial Snipe Gallinago imperialis in P.N. Podocarpus, Prov. Loja by MP et al. from 7-10 December 1990, subsequently by GK and TM, and by EH on many occasions; the species was also discovered on the northern slope of Volcán Pichinchá at Loma Yanayacu, Prov. Pichincha on 17 and 19 December 1990, and subsequently there in January and March 1991 (Krabbe 1992); single Pale-rumped Swifts Chaetura elegans found in flocks of 5-7 Grey-rumped Swift C. cinereiventris at Tayunta, Prov. Morona-Santiago in July and August 1987, with 1 specimen taken (Marin et al. 1992); Nariño Tapaculo Scytalopus vicinior appears to have been long overlooked in Ecuador, but tape-recordings from between 1,650-1,775 m on the Pacific slope in Prov. Carchi in August 1988, and subsequent tape-recordings and specimens from the north-west slope of Volcán Pichinchá, from 2,350 m on the Pacific slope in Prov. Carchi and 1,800 m in the Cordillera de Toison, Prov. Imbabura (Krabbe 1992), indicate that the species may be locally common; a male Buff-throated Tody-tyrant Hemitriccus rufigularis was collected at Pachucutta, 1,000 m, Valle de Nangaritza, Prov. Zamora-Chinchipe on 27 July 1989, extending the known distribution of both species 400 km north from Dept. San Martín, Peru (Krabbe 1992); an adult female from Isla Yapacana, Dept. Loreto, 22 July 1984; a juvenile male from Tono, Dept. Cuzco, 29 November 1985; and a juvenile male from Pakitza, Manu National Park, Dept. Madre de Dios, 11 October 1989 (Servat 1993).

PERU

The first documented records of Yellow Tyrannulet Capssemis flavoeola in Peru (including 3 specimens) were recently published as follows: an adult female from Isla Pasto, c.80 km north-east of Iquitos, Dept. Loreto, 22 July 1984; a juvenile male from Tono, Dept. Cuzco, 29 November 1985; and a juvenile male from Pakitza, Manu National Park, Dept. Madre de Dios, 11 October 1989 (Servat 1993).

BOLIVIA

Six new country records come from chaco scrub at Estancia Perforación, Prov. de Cordillera, Dept. Santa Cruz during 1990 as follows: a group of 6 Black-hooded Parakeet Nandayus nanday in June, and flocks of 5 and 7 in September; 3 Rufous-legged Owl Strix ruficipo on 17 and 18 June and again 3 in September; a pair of Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper Drymornis bridgesii observed in June and September, and a male collected; Chaco Earthcreeper Upercerthia certhioides found to be fairly common in June and September, the nearest previous records being 300 km to the south in western Paraguay; Little Thornbird Phacellodomus sibilatrix found to be a common resident; and groups of 2-8 Stripe-capped Sparrow Atmophila stigriceps recorded frequently in June and September (Krabbe et al. 1993).
ARGENTINA

A total of 14 new records for the country are as follows: (Prov. Misiones) Pygmy Kingfisher Chloroceryle aenea and Brown-breasted Pygmy-tyrant Hemitricus obsoletus were recently recorded from the north by M. Castelino (CS); Long-tailed Potoo Nyctibius aethereus was tape-recorded at Parque Provincial Uruguai-1 in September 1986 and September 1989 (Straneck & Johnson 1990); a single Blue-bellied Parrot Triclaria malachitacea accompanying a flock of Reddish-bellied Parakeet Pyrrhura frontalis was observed at P.N. Igazú, April 1984 (Rumboll 1990), and subsequently a single bird was observed at Arroyo Uruguaí-1, November 1986 (Canevari et al. 1991); 2 Sharpbill Oxruncus cristata were located in P.N. Igazú, 19 July 1987 (Finch 1991), and subsequently by other observers, where the majority of records come from the Cabo Mendez trail; and a Palm Tanager Thraupis palmarum was observed at the international hotel in P.N. Igazú, 20 July 1989 (Finch 1991);

(the north-west) a Pearled Treerunner Marginornis squamiger was observed in a mixed species flock at P.N. Barítu, Prov. Salta, and a Golden-crowned Flycatcher Myiodynastes chrysocephalus was also observed there (B. Lopez Lanus in press); a pair of Rufous-webbed Tyrant Poliornis rufipennis observed at Lagunillas, Prov. Jujuy, October 1986 (Rumboll 1990), and subsequently at the same locality by FL, 2 White-tipped Swift Aemonautes montivagus photographed at P.N. Calilegua, Prov. Jujuy by FM; Grey-bellied Flower-piercer Diglossa carbonaria recently recorded at Santa Ana, Prov. Jujuy by FM, this species previously regarded a Bolivian endemic; and a population of Citron-headed Yellow-finch Sicalis luteocephala, also previously regarded a Bolivian endemic, was located near La Quiaca, Prov. Jujuy, 2 April 1989 (Pearman 1989), and subsequently there by numerous other observers;

(the south) a Jackass Penguin Spheniscus demersus was photographed in the Magellanic Penguin S. magellanicus colony at Punta Tombo, Prov. Chubut, 27 December 1986 (Rumboll 1990); and video footage and photographs were taken of 2 Westland Petrel Procellaria westlandica in the Beagle Channel, east of Ushuia in December 1991 (Whitney & Stejskal in press), representing the second record for South America and the first in Argentine waters (see also under Chile).

Other notable observations include: a pair of Thrush-like Wren Campylorhynchus turdinus at P.N. Pilcomayo, Prov. Formosa, 27 November 1988 (Finch 1991), the second Argentine record; a juvenile King Penguin Aptenodytes patagonica located at Balneario Reta, southern Prov. Buenos Aires, January 1991 (Fiameni 1992), a remarkable accidental record but surprisingly the second for the province; and 3 adult male White-bellied Seed-eater Sporophila leucoptera trapped and released at Alpachí, southern Prov. Tucuman, 9 November 1987 (Loughead 1991), the first record from north-east Argentina.

BRAZIL

Two records of Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea, a winter-plumaged male, 27 December 1984 at Parque
Laranjeiras, Manaus, Amazonas, and another winter-plumaged male near this locality, 19 December 1987 (Stotz et al. 1992) are the first records for Brazil. Other new records for Amazonian Brazil were made by Stotz et al. (1992) as follows: at least 3 records of Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica, between September and December 1990, at Ilha da Marchantaria, along the Rio Branco north of Boa Vista, and between Manaus and Manacapuru; a calling Alder Flycatcher Empidonax alnorum in Manaus on 15 December was apparently only the second Brazilian record; a spring-plumaged male Blackburnian Warbler Dendroica fusca, 19 March 1983 at the BDFF reserve (Fazenda Esteio) was the third Brazilian record, the fourth being an adult female collected at Chapada do Araripe, Ceará, 21 March 1989 (Teixeira et al. 1993); and a first year male and a female American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla were observed near Manaus, 20 April 1983 and November 1991 respectively.

Other interesting records from north-east Brazil include: some vagrant Plumbeous Ibis Harpiorion caerulescens observed at a dam near Iguaçu, southern Ceará, 31 October 1989, with the nearest previous records coming from Mato Grosso State; 3 records of Yellow-billed Pintail Anas georgica in Ceará involved 7 birds from Massapê in April 1979, Jaguaribe in March 1983 and Aracati in May 1983, this species previously known as far north at São Paulo State, with a single record from the Rio Uaracuana, Roraima State in the 1960s; and a young Wood Pewee Contopus virens collected at Chapada do Araripe, Ceará, 24 March 1989, previously recorded only from west Amazonian Brazil (Teixeira et al. 1993). Another noteworthy range extension is Oustlet’s Tyrannulet Phylloscartes oustaleti at Boa Nova, Bahia, 1 August 1993, representing a considerable northward extension from Espirito Santo State (JT, RW and MC).

VENEZUELA

The second and third records of Semicollared Hawk Accipiter collaris for Venezuela are as follows: a single at 1,600 m along the Rio Chiquito Valley, P.N. El Tama, Táchira on 12 September 1990 (MP); and a single along the San Isidro Tunnel road, Mérida on 14 January 1993 (GG).

The Neotropical Notebook was compiled by Mark Pearman

Records were collated from the published and unpublished references cited below, and from observations and contributions by the following: Miguel Castelino (MC), Mike Catsis (MC), Graeme Green (GG), Peter Hayman (FH), Frank Lambert (FL), Flavio Moschione (FM), Mark Pearman (MP), Robert S. Ridgely (RRS), Graham Riley (GR), Carlos Salerno (CS), Joe Tobias (JT), Rob Williams (RW), David Willis (DW).


Records constitute published material, mostly from the period 1993–1994, including papers from a variety of poorly known journals, together with personal communications submitted to the editors. Subject matters include new country records, rediscoveries, range extensions of over 250 km, and significant new localities for rare or threatened species. Some records may, on occasion, require further confirmation while their authenticity is vetted, as far as possible, by the editors.

CARIBBEAN

JAMAICA
A Spotted Rail Pardirallus maculatus observed by NM and SS at the Upper Black River Morass on 19 January 1994 was the third record for the island; the first record in 1977 also came from this locality indicating that a small population may be present.

BAHAMA ISLANDS
Three notable records, all firsts for the Bahamas, are as follows: a male Hooded Warbler Wilsonia citrina was present at Graeme Hall Swamp from February through to 9 March 1993 (Norton 1993); a Virginia’s Warbler Vermivora virginiae was observed at Dover Sound Observation Hill, Grand Bahama on 8 March 1993 (Smith et al. 1994), being only the second record for the West Indies; and a Wilson’s Phalarope Steganopus tricolor was located at Lake Rosa, Great Inagua on 4 April (Norton 1993).

ANTIGUA
A White Stork Ciconia ciconia was photographed at Cook’s Dump, outside St. John’s on 14 August 1993 (Gricks 1994a), representing the first record for the Americas. The bird, seen by several observers, appears to be a genuine vagrant and had no leg rings or wing tags, and was not present on the next day. A Ruff Philomachus pugnax on 23-24 September 1993 at Jolly Harbour (Gricks 1994b) was also the first record for the Antigua-Bermuda group.

BARBADOS
Norton (1993) reported the first record of Pacific Golden Plover Pluvialis fulva in the West Indies, which involved a bird photographed at Golden Grove Swamp on 24 April 1993. Frost (1993) published the second record of Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola observed at Graeme Hall Swamp, St. Philip on 28 November 1992, present til at least 19 April 1993; and the second record of Little Egret Egretta garzetta, present from 1-27 April 1993, was made at the same locality. Amazingly the bird was joined by another on the latter date (Norton 1993) and the records represent the sixth for the Caribbean, the seventh for the Neotropics and only the ninth for the Americas. A female Ruddy Duck Oxyura jamaicensis observed at Greenland, St. Andrew on 24 April 1993 is one of a small number of records this century in the Lesser Antillas (Norton 1993).

SAINT VINCENT
A sighting of a single White-crowned Pigeon Columba leucocephala in March 1993, was possibly the first island record (Norton 1993).

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO
A juvenile-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica was photographed at Ensenada, Baja California on 12 September 1992 (Radamaker & Ludden 1993), representing the first conclusive record for Mexico, the species being previously known from an 1882/1883 specimen of questionable identity.

BELIZE
New country records include Crested Owl Lophostrix cristata and Slaty Antwren Myrmotherula schisticolor, both found at the Columbia River Forest Reserve, Toledo District in April 1993, along with an observation of Black-billed cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus on 8 April 1993 (Parker et al. 1993), previously listed as hypothetical in Belize. Another important find was that of a fairly large population of the rare Keel-billed Motmot Electron carinatum in the Columbia River Forest Reserve, Toledo District in April 1993 with at least 20 individuals located (Parker et al. 1993).

GUATEMALA
Up to 12 Pomarine Jaeger Stercorarius pomarinus were observed, over three days, between 26-29 March 1992 from the Puerto Barrios to Livingston boat service, c. 22 km off the Guatemalan coast (Byrom 1993). This record, backed up with photographic evidence, is the first from the Caribbean coast of Guatemala.

HONDURAS
The isolated population of Yellow-crowned Parrot Amazona ochrocephala in the Sula Valley has been rediscovered having not been seen since 1962; a flock of 75 were located by SL and AM on 16 and 17 February 1994 in the Punta Sal area.
COLOMBIA

New country records are as follows: Chimborazo Hillstar Oreotrochilus chimborazo, previously known only from Ecuador as far north Imbabura Province has been located at El Tambo (3,550 m) on the Pacific slope in Nariño by CD and AF, with at least two pairs observed, including a pair netted and photographed on 12 July 1991 and a female at 3,600 m; and a Capuchinbird Perissocephalus tricolor, accidentally omitted from Cottinga 1, was observed in riverside trees between Mahimachi and Cano Colorado, Serranía de Naquen, Amazonas in July/August 1992 (Amazon 1992).

GUYANA

Three recently discovered new country records were published in Parker et al. (1993b) as a result of fieldwork undertaken along Maipaima Creek, in the western Kanuku Mountains, south-west Guyana, in February 1993 as follows: 2 White-winged Potoo Nyctinius leucopterus were heard on numerous occasions, and tape-recorded, in early February, the song being very similar to that of the recently discovered Manaus population; and tape-recorded evidence of Barred Forest-falcon Micrastur ruficollis and Tawny-bellied Sreecch-owl Otus watsonii provided first country records, although both species are common in adjacent countries.

ECUADOR

A total of seven new country records have recently come to light. Ellen & Steijn (1994) reported four American Avocet Recurvirostra americana located on a marshy coastal lake 12 km south of Atacames, Esmeraldas province on 10 January 1991, and a single was photographed by G. Speight and M. Coverdale at the Salinas saltpans, Guayas province on 26 August 1992, providing the first records for mainland South America. Three new records come from a recent expedition to the central portion of the Cordillera del Condor, province of Zamora-Chinchipe in September 1990 (Krabbe & Sornoza 1994): firstly, two Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner Syndactyla rufosuperciliata, were collected at 1,700 m, the species previously known from the southern end of this cordillera in Peru; four specimens of the extremely localised Cinnamon-breasted Tody-tyrant Hemitriccus cinnamomeapectus, previously known from only from three localities either side of the Marañón River, northern Peru, were also collected at this site; and the recently described Bar-winged Wood-wren Henicorhina leucoptera was found to be fairly common at La Punta, 1,700 m and recorded up to Chinapinza at 1,900 m, extending the known distribution by 100 km northward. From Utuana, southern Loja Province come records of a pair of Black-crested Tit-tyrant Anairetes nigrocrisatus on 14 September 1989, and again a pair and two single males in the same are on 6 February 1991 (Best et al. 1993), the species was previously known only from Piura Department, Peru (close to the Ecuadorian border) south to Ancash Department; and Black-eared Hemispingus Hemispingus melanotis was found to be fairly common at Utuana with groups of 3-8 observed in September 1989, but could not be located thereafter during searches in 1991, when a considerable portion of the cloud forest and bamboo had been burned (Best et al. 1993). Photographic and tape-recorded evidence of a pair of Three-striped Flycatcher Conopias trivirgata at Pacuya, Napo Province (Cygnus Tour group) was made in both 1992 and 1993. The Crescent-faced Antpitta Grallaricula lineifrons, recently rediscovered (see Cottinga 1:27, should read August 1991 not August 1992) in the province of Cañar, has been found at two additional localities (Robins et al. 1994) as follows: from 14-24 March 1992, it was found fairly commonly between 3,225 and 3,400 m in humid temperate forest along the western slope of Cerro Mongus, extreme eastern Carchi province, and three birds were located between 28 March - 1 April 1992 at 3100 m in the Cordillera de Cordocinci, Loja Province, with birds again singing at this locality in September and November 1992, indicating that the species is widely distributed between 3,000 and 3,400 m along the eastern Ecuadorian Andes. Two interesting range extensions, also made by Best et al. (1993), were the second record of Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant Poecilotriccus ruficeps on the Andean west slope at Utuana, Loja Province, extending the known range on that slope by c.250 km southward, while this and a 1968 specimen from Loja may prove to represent the nominate race from the east Andean slope; and records of several Dusky Bush-tanager Chlorospingus semifuscus from Buenaventura, El Oro Province in February and March 1991, extend the known distribution southward by c.300 km, although these records are likely to be seasonal as the species has gone unrecorded by the numerous observers who have visited this well known site.

PERU

A vagrant adult Black-legged Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla photographed at Pucusana, 60 km southeast of Lima, Department of Lima in (no date given) 1987 (Haase 1993) represents the first South American record.

PARAGUAY

The recent conservation initiative of the Cambridge University expedition Project Canopy '92 (Brooks et al. 1993) provides us with substantial new information on the status of many birds in this underwatched country. With the comparatively well studied Atlantic Forest areas in nearby Misiones, Argentina and Paraná, Brazil, recent field work in the forest remnants of the Paraguayan Atlantic Forest from July - September 1992 close to the Argentine and Brazilian borders has, not surprisingly, revealed a number of species previously unrecorded within Paraguay or known from sparsely documented records (Brooks et al. 1993) as follows: four sightings of up to 3 Plumbeous Pigeon Columba plumbea on four dates in September 1992 at Lagunita; two aurial records of Black-banded Owl Ciccaba huhula were made at Estancia Itabó, Department of Canindeyu in August; Sooty Swift Cypseloides
**COTINGA 2**

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Asthenes pyrrholeuca Tamarugos (CE in prep.). The good news is that the population of *Prosopis tamarugo* was recorded at Estancia San Antonio, Department of Alto Paraná, and Estancia Itabó, Estancia La Golondrina II, and Reserva Natural de Bosque Mbaracayú, Department of Canindeyú; Grey-rumped Swift Chaetura cinereiventris was found to be relatively common at Estancia La Golondrina, Department of Caazapa, Estancia Itabó, and Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú; a sighting of a Rufous-throated Sapphire Hylorchis saphirina at San Antonio on 26 July and two at Itabó on 7 August; observations of the threatened Red-spectacled Amazon Amazona petrel, a single at Itabó, likely to be a wandering individual, on 15 August 1992; a single White-browed Foliage-gleaner Philydor amaurotis was recorded at Estancia La Golondrina I on 8 July, and up to three daily over a period of four days in late July at Estancia San Antonio; single Mouse-coloured Tapaculo Scytalopus speluncace records on four dates in mid July at Estancia La Golondrina I; and a single Sooty Grassquit Tiaris fuliginosa netted at Lagunita on 12 September provided a considerable range extension from central Brazil. The fourth Paraguayan record of the near-threatened Canebrake Groundcreeper Clibanornis dendrocolaptoides comes from Estancia La Golondrina I with a bird netted and photographed on 11 July 1992. Other noteworthy records in Paraguay come from a study of austral migrants in Paraguay (Hayes et al. 1994) as follows: two Bar-winged Cinclodes Cinclodes fuscus and three Short-billed Pipit Anthus furcatus observed at San Juan de Neembucu, Department of Neembucu on 6 June 1991 were second records for Paraguay; five male Marsh Seedeater Sporophila palustris at Zapahuira (3500 m), Tarapaca Province in 13 July 1977, two males at Estancia Nu Pora, Department of Caaguazu on 24 March 1989, a single male at Estancia La Fortuna, Department of Canindeyú on 17 October 1990, and a male southwest of San Juan Bautista, Department of Misiones on 2 October 1990, and a male northwest of San Juan Bautista, Department of Misiones on 2 March 1991 provide only the second documented records in Paraguay of this threatened species; observations of several male Chestnut Seedeater Sporophila cinnamomea at Estancia Nu Pora, Department of Misiones on 24 March 1989 and at Estancia La Fortuna, Department of Canindeyú on 2 October 1990 provide the only records in Paraguay since this near-threatened species was collected in 1930; two Lesser Canastero Asthenes pyrrholeuca, to the north of Filadelfia, Department of Boqueron, on 16 January 1990 represent the third record for the country; and a male White-winged Black-tyrant Knipolegus aterrimus observed west of Portin Teniente Agripino Enciso, Department of Neuquén Asunción also provided the third Paraguayan record.

**CHILE**

A new and substantial population of the poorly known and ‘threatened’ Tamarugo Conebill Conirostrum tamarugensis was discovered at Pampa del Tamarugal National Reserve, Tarapaca province in October 1993 (CE in prep.). The good news is that the population found, albeit restricted to two localities of planted Tamarugos Prosopis tamarugo, consists of several thousand birds and that the first breeding data has been obtained. Additionally, a sight record of this species near Toconao, Antofagasta province on 25 February 1988 (Sallaberry et al. 1992) also represents a considerable range extension southward.

Six new country records are as follows: a Band-tailed Earthcreeper Eremobius phoenicurus collected c.4 km south-east of O’Higgins (= 34 km by road southwest of Monte Aymond), Magallanes Province on 28 November 1988 (Vuilleumier et al. 1993), previously known only from Argentine Patagonia; a single Slender-billed Miner Geositta tenueirostris observed in a bog near Chucuyo, PN Lauca, Tarapaca province in February 1990 (Sallaberry et al. 1992); a Cliff flycatcher Hirundinea ferruginea located at Temuco bus station by AJ, present from 19-20 February 1992; a Tropical Kingbird Tyrannus melancholicus present from 20-31 December 1992 at Laguna de Batuco, Santiago province (Aguirre & Egli 1993); a first summer male American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla observed in the Azapa Valley, Arica, Tarapaca Province by AJ on 8 May 1986, and a female/immature located at the nearby Lluta Valley in February 1989 (Sallaberry et al. 1992); and 3 Giant Conebill Oreomanes fraseri located at Zapahuira (3500 m), Tarapaca Province in December 1991 (Sallaberry et al. 1992) in a Polyplepis grove, and again at the same locality on 1 December 1992 (Howell & Webb unpubl. 1992).

A record of a Brown Noddy Anous stolidus at Punta Concon, Prov. Valparaíso on 4 January 1992 is the first for the Chilean mainland (Gonzalez et al. 1993) while the species is known to breed as close as San Félix and San Ambrosio (to Chile), some 600 km offshore. Three second records for the country included reports of 3 White-faced Whistling-duck Dendrocygna viduata near Cerro La Cruz, Calama on 11 March 1989, two of which were captured on 16 May, and another reported from Valdivia (Sallaberry et al. 1992); a pair of Southern Pochard Netta erythrophthalma were observed at Tranque San Rafael, Santiago province on 5 April 1992 (Aguirre et al. 1992); and a Sparkling Violetear Colibri coruscans observed at Putre, Tarapaca province in November 1988, followed by another in vicinity of Socoroma, Tarapaca province in January 1981 (Sallaberry et al. 1992) and a spate of records since, at the former locality, by a number of observers.

Other interesting records include: a Green Heron Butorides striatus observed at Punta Teatinos at the extreme northern end of La Serena Beach on 5 January 1989 (Sallaberry et al. 1992) representing the third Chilean record; a Roseate Spoonbill Ajaja ajaja observed at Estero de Tamarugal, Constitution, in September 1989 was the first Chilean record for many years (Sallaberry et al. 1992); a Puna Plover Charadrius aliticola located at Embalse El Yeso, Santiago province (3000m) in December 1989 (Sallaberry et al. 1992) was c.500 km south of its known range; a Band-tailed Gull Larus belcheri, previously known in Chile as far south as Coquimbo, was located at 400 km to the south at Las Cruces, Valparaíso province in July 1988 (Sallaberry et al. 1992); Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica, previously thought to be a...
rare summer visitor has been observed in groups of 16-22 on a regular basis in the months of December and January since 1987 in the Calama Valley (Demetrio 1993); Cliff Swallow Hirundo pyrrhonota, previously known from a handful of records, has also been observed in numbers on a regular basis since 1990 at the same locality between December and March (Demetrio 1998a); and a Sand Martin Bank Swallow Riparia riparia, collected 2 km south of San Juan on the Brunswick Peninsula (c. 65 km south of Punta Arenas), in the extreme south of Magallanes Province, on 12 November 1989 (Vuilleumier et al. 1993), represents a remarkable vagrant record considering the species was not previously recorded south of Valdivia, in Chile (but see recent records from the Falklands/ Malvinas).

ARGENTINA

A Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus in breeding plumage was present at Punta Rasa, Buenos Aires province from 1-8 January 1993 (AJ in prep.) and appears to represent the first confirmed record of the species in Argentina.

Further details on three species previously reported new to Argentina in Cottinga 1 are as follows: the record of White-tipped Swift Aeronautes monticagus referred to a sighting of 12 individuals at F.N. Calilegua, Jujuy on 26 June 1991 (Moschione 1993); the first and second records of Brown-breasted Pygmy-tyrant Hemitriccus obsoletus were both made at P.N. Iguaçu, Misiones on 4 May 1991 and later, tape-recorded, on 21 July 1991 (Saibene and Castelino 1993); and the Grey-bellied Flowerpiercer Diglossa carbonaria record referred to two individuals at 3440 m, Arroyo San Sana (not Santa Ana as previously stated), 3 km east of La Quiaca, Jujuy on 6 June 1988 (Moschione and San Cristobal 1993).

The wintering range of the rare Magellanic Plover Pluvianellus socialis has been extended northward by c. 400 km from the Valdes Peninsula, Rio Negro to southern Buenos Aires province; where five separate records, involving three singles, a group of 3 and a group of 7, were made in the austral winters of 1983, 1988 and 1991 at Mar Chiquita, Salitral de la Vidriera, 23 km west of Bahia Blanca, Salinas Chicas, 20 km north-east of Medaños, and near Villalonga (Narosky et al. 1993).

Other interesting records, of vagrant birds, made by AJ at Punta Rasa, southern Buenos Aires province, include: an Andean Flamingo Phoenicoparrus andinus from 16-26 December 1991 (photographed); single Black Terns Chlidonias nigra on 26 December 1991, and 31 December 1992; a Short-tailed (Chestnut-bellied) Nighthawk Lurocalis nattereri from 11-12 November 1992; an Ashy-tailed Swift Chaetura andrei was also reported on 11 November by S.Hilty and M.Rumboll; an Eastern Kingbird Tyrannus tyrannus on 6 November 1992; and a male Blue-black Grassquit Volatina jacarina on 7 January 1992.

FALKLAND ISLANDS/ISLAS MALVINAS

A large number of vagrant records have recently been published (Gregory 1994, Henry 1994) including the following eleven new records for the islands. Several Royal Penguins Eudyptes (chrysophalus) schlegeli were found in a Rockhopper Penguin colony on West Falkland (no dates given), representing a huge range extension from Macquarie Island, and a Snares Crested Penguin Eudyptes robustus from New Zealand was also present, and photographed, in a Rockhopper colony on West Falkland, and later photographed at the Snares, on 10 December 1988. A Georgian Diving-petrel Pelecanoides georgicus was present at Stanley swimming pool from 26 March until 31 March 1990, when found dead, although the species may have been previously overlooked in and around the islands. An unconfirmed record of a juvenile Lake Duck Oxyura vittata was reported near Stanley Airport on 7 March 1994. A dark-morph Long-winged Harrier Circus buffoni observed near Stanley on 25 February 1989 and an Aplomado Falcon Falco femoralis on Sea Lion Island from 21-22 February 1993 represent first records for the islands. Four other firsts were an American Golden plover Pluvialis dominica at Sea Lion Island from 4-13 January 1994; a Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca at the Frying Pan, Mount Pleasant between 11 November and 5 December 1989, an adult winter-plumaged Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis at Bertha’s Beach on 28 November and 27 December 1989 and three records of Sand Martin Bank Swallow Riparia riparia; two at Stanley on 13 October 1988 and one on Beaver Pond, Pebble Island on 18 December 1988. A vagrant Tufted Tit-tyrant Anairetes parulus was recorded on Beaver Island on 16 May 1993 representing yet another first.

Seabird records provide a number of other interesting sightings as follows: an Antarctic Petrel Thalassoica antarctica picked up between Brookfield and Port Louis on 15 September 1990 was the fifth record for the islands; a Great-winged Petrel Pterodroma macroptera between 110 and 150 km east-south-east of Cape Pembroke on 5 February 1990 provides the third record; a single Manx Shearwater Puffinus puffinus within Falklands waters on 5 February 1990 was the third record; a Little Shearwater Puffinus assimilis 110-150 km east-south-east of Cape Pembroke on 24 February 1990, and another 185 km east-south-east of Cape Pembroke on 3 March 1990 were the second and third records; a White-bellied Storm-petrel Fregetta grallaria on 24 February 110-150 km east-south-east of Cape Pembroke was the third record; and a Magellan Diving-petrel Pelecanoides magellani caught and photographed aboard M.V. Stena Seaspray in the Falkland Sound in June 1990 was the fourth record for the islands.

Sporadically recorded vagrant non passerines from recent years include a Snowy Egret Egretta thula at Bertha’s pond on 21 May 1989, one at Kidney Cove in February 1993 and another, or the same, at Stanley on 12 may 1993, representing the fourth and fifth records for the islands; a Roseate Spoonbill Ajaja aja at Monty Dean’s Bridge from 29 May to 1 June 1989, found dead in late August, was the fifth record; a Chilean Flamingo Phoenicopterus chilensis at Fox
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Point in February 1989 was the fourth record; a Chimango Caracara Milvago chimango on cape Pembroke in autumn 1988 was the third or fourth record; a Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes at Cape Pembroke from 31 October - 1 November 1993 may represent only the fifth island record; and a Tawny-throated Dotterel Eudromias ruficollis on Stanley Common on 15 September 1989 represents the third island record.

Recent vagrant passerine records include: a male Rufous-backed Negrito Lessonia rufa aboard the Falklands Right at c.30 nautical miles west south-west of Cape Meredith on 11 October 1988, and another on New Island in late November 1990, representing the second and third records for the islands; two White-crested Elaenias Elaenia albiceps present on Sea Lion Island on 16 February 1993 was the second record; an adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus savana at Gipsy Cove on 2-3 April 1989 was the fourth record; and a Cliff Swallow Petrochelidon pyrrhonota along Cape Pembroke on 8 December 1989, and two at Stanley airport on 14-15 November 1990 provided the second and third records for the islands.

URUGUAY

An important wintering population of the threatened Pampa’s Meadowlark Sturnella militaris, involving c.100 individuals, was located by EA at 90 km west of Tacuarembó on the road to Salto, Department of Tacuarembó on 19 July 1993, and represents the first Uruguayan record since 1958.

BRAZIL

Two important rediscoveries were made in 1992. The first was a pair of Chestnut-headed Nunlet Nonnula amaurocephala observed, by A. Whittaker, foraging for around five minutes along the northern bank of the Unini River, inside the northern limits of Jau National Park, Amazonas State (date unknown: report to follow). The species had not been recorded since it was collected in 1921 near Manacapuru, c. 200 km to the south-west of Manaus. Hoary-throated Spinetail Poecillura kollarii has been rediscovered with a pair observed at Conceicao do Mau, Roraima on 22 July 1992 (Forrester 1993; Forrester in prep.), the species last being recorded in 1956, but also been recently in Guyana (report to follow).

Five new country records have been reported as follows: a Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus was recorded by AW (pers. comm. to BF) at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, in 1992 (no date given); three Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant Atalotorcicus pilaris were observed on 21 July 1992 in north Roraima (Forrester 1993), the species also recently located just over the border but in Guyana; and a single (?) Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher Myiodynastes luteiventris was reported by AW at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre in 1992; and the first record of the scarce Casqued Oropendola Psarocolius oseryi (number unknown) was made in 1992 (no date given) at Eirunepe, Rio Juruá, Amazonas by AW; and Black-and-white Seedeater Sporophila luctuosa (numbers and sexes unknown) was recorded at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, in 1992 (no date given) by the same observer. The latter two species were to be expected in Amazonian Brazil as both have been recorded in neighbouring Colombia, Peru, and the former from Bolivia also.

Three Formicariidae sightings represent second records for Brazil as follows: Rio Suno Antwren Myrmoderus sunensis were observed at Placido do Castro, Acre on 16 July 1992 (first collected in 1902 along the middle Rio Jurua); at least 3 Spotted Antwren Herpsilochmus sticturus were observed near Porto Grande, Amapa, on 11 August 1992 (Forrester 1993), previously recorded from Obidos, Para; and at least 1 Todd’s Antwren H. stictocephalus was recorded at the same locality on the same date (Forrester 1993), first collected from Rio Paru de Oeste, Para in June 1960.

Other range extensions from north to south are as follows: two new state records for Amapa were a Sparkling Violetear Colibri coruscans, near Porto Grande on 7 August 1992; a Sooty-headed Tyrannulet Phyllophogon griseiceps was observed near Porto Grande on 7 August 1992 (Forrester 1993); 3 Cinnamon Manakin Neopipo cinnamomea records include a single at Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre, in 12 July 1992, 1 at Placido do Castro, Acre on 16 July and 1 at Boa Vista, Roraima on 19 July 1992 all believed to represent new state records (Forrester 1993). Other new state records for Acre were: 4 Striped Manakin Machaeropeterus regulus at Cruzeiro do Sul on 11 July 1992; at least 4 Yellow-crested Tanager Tachyphonus rufiventris at the same locality on 12-13 July 1992; a pair of Bluish-slate Antshrike Thamnomanes schistogynus at Placido do Acre on 16 July 1992, a pair of Slaters Antwren Myrmoderus slateri at the same locality on 15 and 17 July 1992, 5 Yellow-browed Antbird Hypocnemis hypoxantha at Cruzeiro do Sul on 12 July 1992; 2 Johanne’s Tody-tyrant Hemitriccus johannis at Placido do Castro on 16 July 1992, and 2 Plain Tyrannulet Inezia inornata at the same locality on 15-16 July 1992. In Minas Gerais RS observed up to 6 Southern Pochard Netta erythropthalmus at Lagos Pampulha, Belo Horizonte between 24 August and 7 September 1993, representing what appears to be a new state record and range extension of c.400 km west of Rio de Janeiro where this highly localised species is still present in numbers; and the same observer photographed a group of up to 10 Unicoloured Blackbird Agelaius cyanopus at the same locality on 28 August 1993, a similar range extension west of Rio de Janeiro, and c.490 km to the northeast. From Sao Paulo State, a single Wilson’s Plover Charadrius wilsonia at Ilha Comprida beach, in December 1993 (Ridgely unpublished 1993) was the first state record, and the first south of Bahia. Finally, Rusty-fronted Tody Flycatcher Todiocrostrum latirostre has been observed at Turvo State Forest Reserve and Nonoai State Forest Reserve, Rio Grande do Sul in August 1993 (Clements unpublished 1993).

VENEZUELA

After the recent report of two Grey-headed Warblers Basileuterus griseiceps at Cerro Negro (Cotinga 1: 10), this threatened and little known species has again
been observed at the same locality by PB with up to 3 individuals on 2 and 4 February 1994, along with a *Venezuelan Flowerpiercer Diglossa venezuelensis*, another threatened species. Single individuals of both species were also located at a new site, by BC, JF, GS and BW, in a finger of semi-degraded forest in an area dominated by coffee plantations along a tributary of the Rio Caripe, at 12 km east of Teresen (= 17 km east of Caripe) on two consecutive days, 19 and 20 December 1993.

**Neotropical Notebook:**
compiled by Mark Pearman

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**References:**


Records constitute published material, mostly from the period 1993–1994 (unless otherwise stated) and personal communications submitted to the editor. Subject matter includes new country records, rediscoveries, range extensions of over 250 km and significant new localities or records of threatened and near-threatened species. Some records may, on occasion, require further confirmation while their authenticity is vetted, as far as possible, by the editors.

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMA ISLANDS

A Virginia Rail Rallus limicola reported by an experienced observer near Lucayan National Park, Grand Bahama on 4 November 1994 (see\textsuperscript{14}) apparently represents only the second record for the West Indies. Up to 5 Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis were observed regularly, between 13-30 July 1994, near Staniard Creek, North Andros Island\textsuperscript{1} (also Neotropical News). The spread continues and these records are apparently the first for Bahamas. A sub-adult Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus recorded at New Plymouth Harbour, Green Turtle Cay, Abaco Islands on 19 February 1994 (see\textsuperscript{14}) apparently represents the first record for Bahamas. The reported Hooded Warbler Wilsonia citrina (Cotinga 2: 26, 1994) is apparently not unusual on the Bahamas (SL), the species more likely an occasional winter visitor and does not represent the first record for the islands contra Norton\textsuperscript{13}.

JAMAICA

Two more sightings of a Spotted Rail Pardirallus maculatus at the Upper Black River Morass in 1994\textsuperscript{10} apparently refer to the same individual reported as the third country record reported in Cotinga 2: 26, 1994 although further details are not available.

ANTIGUA

Gricks\textsuperscript{7} reported a winter plumage Wilson’s Phalarope Steganopus tricolor (first island record) at McKinnon’s salt pond, present from 8-14 March 1994; and a Ruff Philomachus pugnax (second island record) at Potworks Dam on 19 February 1994 and at McKinnon’s salt lake on 14 and 19 March 1994. The White Stork Ciconia ciconia (see Cotinga 2: 26, 1994) first reported near St John’s in August 1993 was re-located on 31 March 1994\textsuperscript{7} and was still present on 8 July 1994 with a sighting at Potworks Dam (CG).

ST. LUCIA

An Alpine Swift Tachymarptis melba photographed at the Moule a Chique headland on 19 August 1992\textsuperscript{2} represents the third record for the Americas, after a specimen collected on Barbados in 1955 and a record at Desecheo Island, off Puerto Rico in July 1987. One or possibly two Collared Plover Charadrius collaris at Arch Pond on 27 June 1993 and Green Pond on 25 July 1993 (see\textsuperscript{14}) represents only the fourth island record.

BARBADOS

A first-winter Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus at Congo Road on 5 December 1993 (see\textsuperscript{14}) appears to represent the first record for the island.

TRINIDAD

ffrench\textsuperscript{6} (also RF) presented numerous recent records of interest including four new records for Trinidad and nine for Tobago as follows: a Sooty Shearwater Puffinus griseus picked up dead at Manzanilla Beach, near Nariva Swamp on 12 December 1991 was the first record for Trinidad; an adult Northern Gannet Sula bassana observed less than 100 m off Speyside, Tobago on 29 November 1991 was the first record for Tobago; 12 Masked Booby Sula dactylatra were observed at St. Giles Islands on 20 January 1993, with 4 being photographed there in March 1993 representing the first records for Tobago; an adult Jabiru Jabiru mycteria at Caroni on 12 May 1990 was the first Trinidad record; a pair of Ring-necked Duck Aythya collaris and a female and 2 immature Masked Duck Oxyura dominica at Buccoo Marsh on 18-19 January 1992 and 13 February
1994 respectively both represent a first record and a first record this century for Tobago; a female **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* photographed at Speyside on 13-14 August 1992 was the first record for Tobago; a **Savanna Hawk** *Heterospizias meridonialis* reported at the Lowlands Estate, Tobago in August 1990 was the first for the island; an immature male **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* observed at Grafton Estate and near Crown Point Airport on 9/10 February 1991 is the first record for Tobago; a **Double-striped Thick-knee** *Burhinus bistriatus* at Orange Grove on 14 August 1991 was the second record for Trinidad; a **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* seen at Buccoo Reef on 19 January 1992 was a first for Tobago; a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *L. fuscus* at Turtle Beach on 19 January 1992 was only the second record for Tobago; the first record of **Burrowing Owl** *Speotyto cunicularia* for Trinidad relates to a single and later a pair (photographed) in April–July 1992 at Point Lisas Industrial Estate which, after excavating a burrow, later abandoned it due to industrial activity; a group of **Oilbirds** *Steatornis caripensis* observed at Hillsborough Dam, Tobago in September 1988 is the first record for Tobago and the first instance of the species undertaking a sea crossing of up to 30 km, from Trinidad, where the species is a well known breeder; three records of **Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* at Kilgwyn Lake on 6 December 1990, Buccoo Beach on 7 February 1991 and Port of Spain sewage ponds on 15 January 1992 represent the first records for Trinidad; a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens* at Aripo Heights on 22 March 1992 was the second record for Trinidad; a male **Bay-breasted Warbler** *D. castanea* photographed at Aripo on 6 April 1993 was the seventh record for Trinidad; a male **Gold-ringed Tanager** *Bangsia aureocincta* photographed at Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad on 18 December 1993 was the first record for Trinidad; a **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* on Little Tobago in March 1992 was the third record for the island.

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

**COSTA RICA**
In November 1992 an **Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* was found 3 km from the entrance to Tapanti Biological Reserve, perched on a dead tree on a heavily wooded steep hillside (MR). An unconfirmed sighting near La Selva is the only other record in the last 30 years. At Tapanti also comes the report of **Latticed-tailed Trogan** *Trogan clathratus* at 1,550 m, extending the altitudinal range for the species by 450 m. Two very localised hummingbirds, **Black-crested Coquette** *Lophornis helenae* and **Snowcap** *Microchera albocoronata*, generally regarded as altitudinal migrants, have been found year-round at Rancho Naturalista, near Turrialba (MR).

**BELIZE**
Groups of 7 and 12 **White-naped Swift** *Streptoprocne semicollaris* were observed along the upper Rio Raspaculo (520 m) during April and May 1993 by the JSSEUR expedition, representing the first records for the country. The species was previously believed to be endemic to Mexico although there are unconfirmed reports from Honduras. An immature **Rufescent Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum* on 14 April 1994, observed by a group from Manomet Bird Observatory at Chan Chich Creek appears to be the first record for Belize.

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**FRENCH GUIANA**
A male **American Wigeon** *Anas americana*, present from 3 to 10 January 1994 at a man-made lake near Kourou was the first record for the country and the most southerly record of the species.

**COLOMBIA**
A new locality for the recently rediscovered **Gold-ringed Tanager** *Bangsia aureocincta* has been found at Alto de Los Galápagos, Chocó/Valle department border (JF) with records of six males, three females/juveniles between 1,800-2,100 m in March 1994. **Tanager-finch** *Oreothraupis arremonops* was also recorded there, representing a new locality for this seldom seen and poorly known species.

**ECUADOR**
A recently published report of the Amaluza Project concerning threatened avifaunal surveys in southern Ecuador in 1990 and 1991 provide a number of interesting records as follows: an **Andean Tinamou** *Notoprocta pentlandii* near Chachaco (c,1,600 m), south of Cariamanga, Loja province is believed to be the first record of the species in Ecuador for over 50 years; **Mountain Caracara** *Phalcoboenus megalopterus* was...
found to be fairly common on the Cordillera de Sybanilla near Amaluza in 1990, apparently representing the first Ecuadorian records with more recent records from the Cordillera de Quichiragua, close to the Peruvian border; a **Marañón Spinetail** *Synallaxis gujanensis* was mist-netted in lush roadside vegetation at 1,100 m near Palanda on 4 August 1991 representing the first Ecuadorian record, with more recent sightings from the Zumba region, Zamora-Chinchipe (ANSP expedition); and an **Ovenbird** *Seturus auricapillus* netted at Río Bombuscaro, P.N. Podocarpus on 27 November 1991 was the second record for Ecuador.

A second-winter **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* photographed at Lago de Colta (c.3,250 m), near Santiago de Quito, Prov. Chimborazo on 20 November 1991 represents a new altitude record for the species and the southernmost far inland occurrence in South America. Other noteworthy records for Ecuador (RC, SJ and JPV) include a **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* at Sua, Esmeraldas province on 10 March 1994, the first record for western Ecuador; a first-year **Grey-hooded Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus* at Atacames, Esmeraldas on 11 March 1994, the most northern record of the species; and a male **Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* at Mindo, Pichincha on 15 March 1994, apparently also the first record for western Ecuador.

**PERU**

A recent expedition to the Cordillera de Colán, Amazonas department (also Neotropical News) in July 1994 produced a number of interesting records as follows: the recently described (1975) **Royal Sunangel** *Heliangelus regalis*, previously known from only two localities (in Cajamarca and San Martín departments) was found to be common, primarily in elfin scrub, above San Cristobal; a **White-faced Nunbird** *Hapaloptila castanea* at 2,600 m on a ridgetop above Comboca on 30 July is a new locality for this scarce species; and **Barred Antthrush** *Chamaeza mollissima* was recorded with regularity above Comboca, representing the first known locality south of the Marañón River in northern Peru.

**BOLIVIA**

A **Giant Snipe** *Gallinago undulata* tape-recorded at Flor d’Oro, PN Noel Kempff Mercado, Santa Cruz department, while displaying two hours after dusk on 6 April 1993 (SM) is the first record for Bolivia. An adult male **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* at Laguna Alalay (2,250 m), Cochabamba department on 6 December 1991 is another new record for Bolivia. A number of interesting records representing northward range extensions and new departmental records come from the Vallegrande–Masicuri road, Santa Cruz department as follows; several pairs of the near-threatened **Red-faced Guan** *Penelope dabbenei* were located in January and February 1993 at 2,350–2,500 m; the near-threatened **Alder Amazon** *Amazona tucumana* was found to be common on various visits November 1991–February 1993 at 2,200–2,500 m.

The poorly known **Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant** *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus* has been found in numbers along the Riberalta–Guayamirim road, Santa Cruz department in April 1994 where it was the commonest bird species present in roadside cerrado and natural grassland (SM). A pair of **Straw-backed Tanagers** *Tangara argyrofenges* were discovered 25 km north-west of Entrerios on the Tarija–Villa Montes road, Tarija department on 10 November 1994 (SM) representing at least a 300 km southward range extension.

**BRAZIL**

Among a spate of unexpected finds at the southern Bahian hotspot of Boa Nova come recent sightings of the threatened **Fork-tailed Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus furcatus*; a pair 12 km east of Boa Nova on 16 March 1992 (FL) and again a single on 17 December 1993 (CB) representing a huge northward range extension of over 1,000 km; and an **Oustalet’s Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes oustaleti* on 17 March 1992 (FL), a northward range extension of c.500 km.

**ARGENTINA**

In September 1994, J. Mazar and J. Herrera (A.P.N. wardens) collected the first specimens of **Sooty Grassquit** *Tiaris fuliginosa* (a male and female) close to the falls in P.N. Iguazú, Misiones (*fide* EA), representing the first record of the species in Argentina. This is a remarkable record with the nearest known populations in the Atlantic Forest of coastal São Paulo and far to the north in central Minas Gerais.

The wintering range of the poorly known and recently described (1974) **Hooded Grebe** *Podiceps gallardoi* has been discovered on the Atlantic coast of Santa Cruz province with 462 grebes located in the Coyle Estuary, north of Río Gallegos in the austral winter of 1994. More detailed surveys of coastline are likely to reveal...
the rest of the estimated 3,000-5,000 population (see Neotropical News).

FALKLAND ISLANDS/ISLAS MALVINAS

A Tawny-headed Swallow Stelgidopteryx fucata was reported at 52°42'S, 61°30'W on 9 November 1993, some 1,200 km south of its known range and represents the first record for the island group. A number of other important records, all referring to 1992, have recently come to light in Curtis as follows: 2 adult Shy Albatross Diomedea cauta cauta with trawlers 80 nautical miles south of Falkland Sound on 27 January represents the seventh record for the Falklands/Malvinas; an adult summer plumage Grey-headed Gull Larus cirrocephalus near South Jason Island on 25 March was a first record for the island group, as was a winter plumage Trudeau’s Tern Sterna trudeaui near Steeple Jason Island on 30 April; at Bertha’s Beach a Pectoral Sandpiper Calidris melanotos on 30 March appears to be the fourth record; and a Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres on 29 March appears to be the first record since unconfirmed records prior to 1921; a Surfbird Aphriza virgata on Kukri Island on 8 March is an exceptional record (and a first) as the species is only known to migrate along the Pacific coast of South America to Tierra del Fuego; and 2 American Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica at Mare Harbour on 12 April represents yet another first record for the islands.

SOUTH GEORGIA/ISLAS GEORGIAS DEL SUR

A recently published record of 4 Grey Petrel Procellaria cinerea at 6 nautical miles north of Bird Island on 7 April 1992 constitutes the first record in Georgian waters.

Neotropical Notebook: compiled by Mark Pearman

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References

The records featured below have not been vetted, they have been collected from a variety of published and unpublished sources. They generally represent records of vagrants, significant range extensions, rediscoveries, or new localities for threatened or poorly known species. If submitting records for inclusion in future Neotropical Notebooks please include details of species, locality, date, significance of the record and observers. Full Details should also be submitted to the relevant national organisations.

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS
A Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* was near Sam Lord’s Castle on 8 July 1994 (Norton 1994), this record and the Guadeloupe one documented below are the eighth and ninth for the Neotropics and part of a continuing increase in records in the New World.

DOMINICA
Two Cory’s Shearwaters *Calonectris diomedea* recorded in spring 1994 were the second Island record and the third for the eastern Caribbean. Also recorded in spring 1994 were; a White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*, the first for almost a century, the first country breeding record of Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* and the first island record of Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*. (All PE in litt.)

GUADALOUPE
A Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* in breeding plumage was at Dugomier on 30 July 1994 (Norton 1994). A Wilson’s Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* at Grande Salinas, Pointe-de-Chateau on 31 July 1994 was the first record for the Island (Norton 1994). An Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* at Grand Anse’s beach on 18 April 1987 was the first record for Guadeloupe and the fourth for the western hemisphere (Feldman and Pavis 1995).

CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO
Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*, Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* and Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* were all new records for Isla Guadalupe, Baja California during a visit on 9 April 1994 (Pyle et al. 1994). A Parasitic Jaeger/Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* at Pamul, Quintana Roo on 28 July 1993 was the fourth Yucatan record and unseasonal (Duncan 1994). A flock of six Lapland Longspurs *Calcarius lapponicus* near Las Barranca, 25 km south of Verracruz city, Verracruz on 25 and 26 February 1985 was the fourth and most southerly ever record for Mexico (Howell and Webb 1994).

COSTA RICA
A single Band-rumped Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma castro* was positively identified from about twenty individuals believed to have been this species seen about 250 km off the coast en route to Cocos Island on 16 March 1995. A Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla* was at Rancho Naturalista on 20 and 21 November 1994. A pair of Melodious Blackbirds *Dives dives* there on 9 January 1995 probably represent the southern-most extent of their range on the Caribbean slope (All JV).

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA
A Cape Gannet *Sula capensis* at Banco Reparo, Patagonia on 7 November 1992 was the first for Argentina, this was followed by a second sighting of possibly the same bird at los Alamos (c. 10 km SW of Banco Reparo) on 12 November (Bergkamp 1995). Three single Westland Petrels *Procellaria westlandica* were seen east of the mouth of the Beagle Channel on 3 December 1994, being the second to
fourth Argentine records (Howell and Webb 1995).

**BOLIVIA**

A nesting pair of Blackish Nightjars Caprimulgus nigrecens was seen in Caatinga at Morro de Beri, near Tefé (3°20'S 66°53'W) on 28 September 1989, the second Bolivian record outside Beni (JP-H). Two sightings of a Flame-crowned Manakin Heterocercus lineatus near Los Fierros, Noel Kempff N.P., Santa Cruz on the 26 and 30 August 1994 are only the second record for Bolivia and represent a southerly range extension (JP-H).

**BRAZIL**

A Crested Eagle Morpus guianensis at Barrolândia, near Porto Seguro on 30 January 1995, represents a new site record and is unusual in the east of Brazil (DS, JW, RM). A Buff-fronted Owl Aegolius harrissi was seen in daytime at Boa Nova on 21 October 1994 (DS, JW, RM). The first inland Amazonian record of Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus was of a pair at Machantaria Island, near Manaus, Amazons, from the 3-19 November 1994, as was a Gull-billed Tern Sterna nilotica also in November (SW). The island also had 114 Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica on the 25 October (SW). Great Xenops Megaxenops parnaguae was seen in Caatinga at Morro de Chappeau on 9 October 1994, although a documented site this is the first record in recent years (DS, JW, RM). Two records of Glossy-backed Becard Pachyramphus surinamus from Amazons represent considerable westward range extensions for the species (Whittaker 1995). The first was of a pair nest-building at Alvarães, near Tefé (3°20'S 64°53'W) on 28 September 1989, the second was in Jut N.P. in July 1993. A Black-bellied Seedeater Sporophila melanogaster was foraging with Double-collared Seedeaters S. caerulescens in Emas N.P., Goias on 17 October 1993, representing a considerable range extension (DB).

A trip to Acre province in November and December 1994 produced several good records, most notably four new species for Brazil: Black-capped Tinamou Crypturellus atrocipillus, Scarlet-hooded Barbet Eubucco tucinake, White-lined Antbird Pernostola lophotes and Black-faced Cotinga Conopitlon mcvilleney on the upper Rio Tejo and Rio Juruá in the Extractive Reserve of the upper Rio Juruá near Taumaturgo. All but the Tinamou were previously thought to be south-east Peruvian endemics. Other interesting records included: The third Brazilian Blue-headed Macaw Ara couloni, the fourth Emerald Toucanet Aulacorynchus prasinus, the first Acre record and second inland Amazonian record of Laughing Gull Larus atricilla, the second Brazilian Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher Myiodynastes luteiventris in 21 November, the second Alder Flycatcher Empidonax alnorum on 20 November, the second Casqued Oropendola Psarocolius osery with a breeding colony found and the fourth Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea with several birds seen. (All AW and DO). A second visit to the area in May 1995 provided two more Brazilian firsts: Elusive Antpitta Grallaria eludens and Rufous-headed Woodpecker Celeus spectabilis (AW). A trip to Jaú National Park in July 1993 found several species never before recorded west of the Rio Negro (a range extension of about 250 km). The most notable being the recently rediscovered White-winged Potoo Nyctibius leucopus, also Cherrie’s Antwren Myrmotherula cherriei was a considerable southward range extension. Others such range extensions were Slaty Antshrike Thamnophilus punctatus, Spot-backed Antwren Herpsilochmus dorsimaculatus, Glossy-backed Becard Pachyramphus surinamus (All AW). Similar range extensions were also recorded at the same locality for Capuchinbird Perissoccephalus tricolor and Plain-winged Antshrike Thamnophilus schistaceus (AC). A Dwarf Cuckoo Coccyzus pumilus recorded on Maracá Island, northern Roraima on 23 December 1987 was the first Brazilian record (A. Whittaker in press). A female Firey-tailed Awlbill Avocettula recurvirostris 80 km north of Manaus on the 5 November 1993 significantly extends the species range (AW and VE). The second record of Merlin Falco columbarius was an immature
female recorded on the Rio Negro north of Manaus on 21 October 1990 (AW, RR, GT), a third was seen in Jaú N.P. in late Autumn 1994 (FP and AC).

Two significant range extensions were found in a survey of Parque Estadual Guarajá-Mirim, Rondônia in April 1995, a Purple-breasted Cotinga Cotinga cotinga representing a range extension of some 1050 km south-west from the mouth of the Río Madeira and a male Black-necked Red-Cotinga Phoenicircus nigricollis (AW).

CHILE

A Mottled Petrel Pterodroma inexpectata 130 nautical miles SSE of Cape Horn (55°45'S 65°30'W) was the second record since 1848. The first, of several individuals on 18 and 19 September 1964, may have involved misidentified Stejnér's Petrels P. longirostris or White-necked Petrels P. externa (Meltofte and Horneman 1995).

Two Northern Giant Petrels Macronectes halli were about 5 nautical miles south of Cape Horn on 18 December 1994. Two records of Westland Petrel Procellaria westlandica, a single on 2 December 1993 and a pair on 8 November 1994 were both c. 15 km west of Valpariso, Valpariso province, these constitute the third and fourth Chilean records of the species. Three Great Shearwaters Puffinus gravis were 2-5 km south of Cape Horn on 18 December 1994. Manx Shearwaters P. puffinus were recorded on three occasions: 150 at the eastern entrance to the Straits of Magellan on 28 November 1992, 2 there on the 24 November 1994 and a single 5 km east of Cape Horn on the 18 December 1994, these records are the third to fifth for the country but it seems likely that the species is a regular visitor in small numbers in the austral summer. Two Little Blue Herons Egretta caerulea were an adult at San Pedro de Atacama, El Loa on 22 November 1993 and an immature at La Ligua, Petorca on 29 November 1993, these records are some 370 km and 1450 km south of other Chilean vagrant records for this species. The desiccated remains of a Black Crake Laterallus jamaicensis were found at La Ligua, Petorca on 29 October 1994, being the first Chilean record for 25 years. A single Marbled Godwit Limosa fedoa, probably a female was at La Ligua, Petorca on 29 November 1993, was the third and southernmost Chilean record. A fourth Chilean record of Sparkling Violetear Colibri coruscans was of one singing at Putre, Parinacota from 2-6 December 1992. Two Peruvian Sheartails Thaumastura cora were in the Azapa Valley, Arica on the 30 November and 1 December 1992, this is the second record for Chile and some 21 years after the first in the same area. Two Band-tailed Earthcreepers Eremius phoenicurus, 10 km south-east of Kimiri Aike on the road to Punta Delgada, Magallanes on the 24 November 1994 are the second Chilean record, the first being a bird collected a few kilometres away in November 1988. A Giant Conebill Oreomanes fraseri 14 km south-west of Putre at 3300 m on 1 December 1992 was the second Chilean record. (All Howell and Webb 1995).

ECUADOR

A Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias on the Río Napo near Yuturi village on 29 December 1994 was the third record for the mainland and the first in the Oriente (RW). A White Hawk Leucopernis albicollis at Cajanuma, Podocarpus N.P., Loja was unusually high at 2500 m (PT, DJ, PS, JR). A second-winter Laughing Gull Larus atricilla at Coca, Napo on 30 December 1994 was unusual east of the Andes (RW). The first Ecuador record of Bluetailed Starthroat Heliomaster furcifer was at Yuturi Lodge, Río Yuturi, Napo on the 27-29 December 1994 (RW). Two Hoary Pufflegs Haplophaedia lugens were on the Guacamayos ridge above Archidona on 25 August 1994 providing a southward range extension (NG).

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

A White-faced Storm-Petrel Pelagodroma marina recorded 7 km north of Isabella Island on 7 August 1994 is the first record within the Archipelago though the species has twice been recorded at sea near Galápagos (Merlen, 1995). A pair of Masked Ducks Oxyura dominica were seen with a chick on El Junco Lake, San Cristobal on 15 December 1994 constituting the first record for the Islands (JWe).

FALKLAND ISLANDS/MALVINAS

A Chilean Flamingo Phoenicopterus chilensis was on Pebble Island from 20 to 31 December 1994, the seventh record for the Islands. A
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* at Port Stanley on 22 April 1993 was the fifth, a Maguiri Stork *Ciconia maguari* on Dundar on 1 March was the second. A Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango* at Port Stephens on 31 December 1991 was the fifth record. Two Pectoral Sandpipers *Calidris melanotus* on Pebble Island on 31 December 1994 were the fourth record. The third White-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagas malouinus* was on Bertha's Beach on 28 April 1991. A Grey Gull *Larus modestus* in Port Stanley for three weeks in June 1991 was the second. The Falkland Desire provided a resting spot for the islands first Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti* on January 12 1993. A Bar-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus* on Carcass Island on 21 September 1991 was a new species for the Islands, a male Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa* there on the same day was the fourth record. A White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps* on Sedge Island on 27 December 1994 was the fourth record. The sixth and seventh records of Fork-tailed Flycatchers *Tyrannus savana* were on Sea Lion Island on 9 January 1993 and on Saunders Island in December 1994 respectively. (All AH in litt.)

PARAGUAY

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizeatus tyrannus* has been found at Mbaracayú, although there are three prior reported records of the species for Paraguay the species was treated as hypothetical by Hayes (1995). This is the first confirmed record and was closely followed by a pair seen displaying at the same site (AM, DP, RD and RC). Ornate Hawk-Eagle *S. ornatus* has also been found at Mbaracayú, extending the known range in Paraguay to the west (AM, EE). American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chlororceryle aenea* has also been found at this site in late 1994 and early 1995 (EE and RC). The second country record of Collared Crescentchest *Melanopareia torquata* was found just east of Mbaracayú on 9 February 1995 and also extends its known distribution to the south (AM). Curl-crested Jay *Cyanocorax cristatellus* has also been found in the reserve at Mbaracayú significantly extending its range to the south (EE and AM). A Mato Grosso Antbird *Cercomacra melanaria* trapped on 28 July 1990 a few km south of Cerro Léon, P.N. Defensores del Chaco, Alto Chaco (20°20'S 60°25'W) is a westward range extension in Paraguay and the first outside the Mato Grosso (AM).

VENEZUELA

A single Black-chested Tyrant *Taenotriccus andrei* was seen well at Caño Colorado on 13 March 1995, this species is very rare and virtually unknown in life (GK, NB, CGB, JH). A specimen of Pale-footed Swallow *Notiochelidon flavipes* collected in 1951 and previously erroneously identified as a Blue-and-white Swallow *N. cyanoleuca* has been found in a museum collection. This now constitutes the first Venezuelan record and a northward range extension of about 150 km. Pale-footed Swallows have since been seen in Mérida City, Mérida and a specimen taken at the Páramo de Tamá, Táchira, both in 1985 (Ryan and Lentino 1995).

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References:


The records featured below have not been vetted, and have been collected from a variety of published and unpublished sources. They generally represent records of vagrants, significant range exten-sions, rediscoveries, or new localities for threatened or poorly known species. If submitting records for inclusion in future Neotropical Notebooks, please include details of species, locality, date, significance of the record and observers. Full details should also be submitted to the relevant national organisations.

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMAS

The country's first Sharp-tailed Sparrow *Ammodramus caudacutus* was videoed on 13 October 1994.

BARBADOS

Two Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* nests were found with one fledging three young in February 1995: this is the first record of breeding in the Neotropics and probably the New World. An unconfirmed report of a Little Gull *Larus minutus* at Pier 3, San Juan Harbour, on 29 January 1995 would be the first for the West Indies.

BERMUDA

A Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* on 3 November 1994 was the first record for 25 years; the second island record of Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* was a bird collected in November 1911 having been ringed in Rossitten, Germany, in July 1911.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

A Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* at JostVanDyke on 27 January 1995 was the third for the islands.

JAMAICA

The first Black Skimmer *Rhynchops niger* on Jamaica was at Parrotte Ponds, from 10–17 September 1995.

MEXICO

An adult light-phase Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus* in the Sierra de Pichachos, Nuevo León state, on 22 January 1995 was the first state record.

PANAMA

An Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* was seen on a pelagic boat trip, c.32 km SSE of Piñas on 27 May 1995. Two Blue-headed Sapphires *Hylocharis grayi*, the third country record, were at the Tropic Star Lodge, Piñas Bay, on 26 and 29 May 1995.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Seven new country records. Several Wedge-tailed Hillstars *Oreotrochilus adela* were observed and seven mist-netted between 23 and 26 January 1991 at Yavi, Jujuy province. The first Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger* was found in the collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires: it was collected at Tobuna, Misiones province, on 16 August 1959. Two

ST THOMAS, US VIRGIN ISLANDS

A Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* south of the island on 21 July 1995 is the first record for the Caribbean proper, previously having been recorded only in the adjacent Atlantic (SL).

CENTRAL AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Seven new country records. Several Wedge-tailed Hillstars *Oreotrochilus adela* were observed and seven mist-netted between 23 and 26 January 1991 at Yavi, Jujuy province. The first Pearled Treerunner *Margarornis squamiger* was found in the collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires: it was collected at Tobuna, Misiones province, on 16 August 1959. Two

PUERTO RICO

A Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* at San Jacinto mangroves, near Guanica, on the 22 July 1993 was the first record for the West Indies
other new species for Argentina come from PN Barítu, Salta province: a Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet Phyllosciurus uropygialis on 22 August 1993; and a Slate-throated Redstart Myioborus miniatus on 17 August 1993. The first three records of Cinnamon Tanager Schistochlamys ruficapillus for Argentina have all been found in the extreme north of Misiones province as follows: the first was a single at the old Iguazú Falls airport on 26 October 1994 (DF), as was the second at the same locality on 5 November 1994 (MC), while the third was of two birds at Colonia Almirante Brown on 13 September 1995 (EA).

Another first for the country, Flavescent Warbler Basiluterus flaveolus was found along with an interesting number of provincial records during a survey of PN Río Pilcomayo, Formosa province: a single was collected in gallery forest on 27 March 1993. Three species were new for the province: Crimson-crested Woodpecker Campephilus melanololius; Fuscous Flycatcher Cnemotriccus fusciatus; and Sepia-capped Flycatcher Leptopogon amaurocephalus. The survey also found the second province record of Blue-crowned Trogon Trogon curucui.

A review of the status of Helmed Woodpecker Dryocopus galeatus has found 51 records (many unpublished) which appear to demonstrate that the species is spreading into new areas and habitats.

A Grey-necked Wood-ral Aramides cajanea in Reserva Provincial Chancani on 14 January 1994 was the first for Córdoba province.

BOLIVIA

The first country record of Giant Snipe Gallinago undulata was of a bird taped while displaying at night on 6 April 1993 in Flor d’Oro, PN Noel Kempff Mercado, Santa Cruz. A first-winter Diademated Sandpiper-plover Phegornis mitchelli on Cerro Tunari, Cochabamba department, on 18 August 1995 appears to be the first record for the department (JE, JC, BF, RS).

Several new records for Beni department from the Beni Biological Station are: a pair of Burrowing Owls Spectyo cunicularia at El Porvenir from late July to early September 1995; two Plain-crested Elaenias Elaenia cristata trapped on 7 and 24 September 1995; four White-bellied Tyrannulets Serpophaga munda trapped on 18, 19, 21 (two birds) September 1995; and a single Ashy-headed Greenlet Hylophilus pectoralis trapped on 17 September (though the species has been previously heard in the north of the province but has not been documented) (RB).

BRAZIL

A King Penguin Aptenodytes patagonicus was found on the beach at Saquarema (22°56'S 42°30'W), Rio de Janeiro, 5 January 1995, and was taken in good condition to the Zoological Gardens of Rio de Janeiro the following day: the record is the first for Brazil and one of only a handful for the Atlantic coast.

The first record of Northern Giant Petrel Macronectes halli was of a bird found freshly dead on a beach at Ilha Comprida, São Paulo state, on 27 September 1994.

A Rufous-thighed Hawk Speotyto cunicularia at El Porvenir from late July to early September 1995 appears to be the first record for the department (JE, JC, BF, RS).

A second at the same locality on 5 November 1994; four White-bellied Tyrannulets Serpophaga munda trapped on 18, 19, 21 (two birds) September 1995; and a single Ashy-headed Greenlet Hylophilus pectoralis trapped on 17 September (though the species has been previously heard in the north of the province but has not been documented) (RB).

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts Panyptila watertoni at Dois Irmãos, Pernambuco, on 17 November 1993 are the first state record and only the second for north-eastern Brazil. The second to fourth records of Lettered Araçari Pteroglossus inscriptus for north-eastern Brazil and the first three records for Alagoas were recorded at Passo do Canaragibe, 30 December 1990, Murici Biological Reserve, 4 January 1991 and Rio Largo, 24 October 1994: the species was previously known in north-eastern Brazil from a specimen taken in Pernambuco in 1903.

A taped Spot-backed Antshrike Hypoedaleus guttatus at the Murici Biological Reserve, Alagoas, on 28 November 1993 represents a new state record and a northward range extension of c.600 km. Three new sites for Slender-footed Tyrannulet Zimmerius gracilipes in north-eastern Brazil are the Murici Biological Reserve, Alagoas, 21 October 1990, Pedra Talhada Biological Reserve, Alagoas, 22 October 1990 and Serra de Baturité, Ceará, 16 September 1991 and 19 November 1993: the species was previously known in the region from one specimen from Ceará. A Highland Elaenia Elaenia obscura recorded at Morro do Pai Inácio, near Lençóis, Bahia, is a northward range extension of c.450 km.

A new population of the threatened Fringe-backed Fire-eye Pyriglena atra near Crasto, Sergipe, is a northward range-extension of some 175 km: the population was discovered by Marcelo C. Souza in 1994 and at least six birds were seen along a road bisecting the forest in November 1994. An old record of White-necked Hawk Leucopternis lacernulata from João Pessoa, Paraíba (31 October 1949), is now recognised as a significant range extension northwards of this threatened Atlantic Forest endemic, which has only otherwise
been recorded as far north as Alagoas 18.

The first confirmed reports of Black-bellied Whistling-duck Dendrocygna autumnalis from Rio Grande do Sul are of two flocks totalling 226 birds seen and photographed in May 1991 19.

**Correction** The Crested Eagle Morphnus guianensis at Barrolândia, 30 January 1995, was seen by DB, NB, JH and GK.

### CHILE

A pair of Andean Geese Chloephaga melanoptera on Lago Diunca, e.30 km N of Coyhaique, Aisen department, on 30 September 1995 were south of their normal range; and two male Spectacled Tyrants Hymenops perspicillata at the same locality on the same day were also south of their normal range (JB and JMH).

An unconfirmed report of two birds resembling House Crows Corvus splendens at Punta Arenas in the austral summer of 1993/1994 would represent the first record for South America (see Barbados 10).

### ECUADOR

A Pacific Golden Plover Pluvialis fulva at the Ecuasal lagoons, Santa Elena peninsula, on 26 April 1991 was possibly the first confirmed record for South America (DL). The species regularly winters in California, there are records from Mexico, and Hayman et al. 12 report sightings from Chile and the Galápagos Islands, although these have not been independently verified or published. A new locality for the rare Imperial Snipe Gallinago imperialis was Cerro Mongus, Charchi province, where at least one male displayed on 5–6 July 1995: this is a northward range extension of c.120 km and is the third known locality in Ecuador (LP). A Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias was at La Selva, Napo province, on 2 January 1990, pre-dating the only other eastern lowland record by four years (RW).

### FALKLAND ISLANDS

The second record of Lake Duck Oxyura vittata was on Pebble Island on 4–5 December 1995. The two largest-ever flocks of Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica for the Falkland Islands were of 15 on Pebble Island on 23 October 1995 and 30 at Fox Point on 31 October 1995. The first records of Wilson’s Phalarope Steganopus tricolor were one on Sea Lion Island on 16 November 1995 and three on Pebble Island on 20 November 1995. A single White-bellied Seedsnipe Attagias malouinus on Sea Lion Island on 1 December 1995 was the fifth record for the islands (records from AH).

### PARAGUAY

Between July and December 1995, ornithological surveys as part of Project YACUTINGA '95 produced much new information on the distribution and status of birds rarely recorded in Paraguay. The major conservation results, including observations on threatened birds, are presented elsewhere in Cotinga 5. Brief details are given here on new and noteworthy country records, their importance based on information published in Hayes 11.

Five species new to the country were recorded: Dusky-legged Guan Penelope obscura at Parque Nacional (PN) San Rafael (Dpto. Itapúa) in July; Russet-crowned Crake Laterallus viridis, the near-threatened Ocellated Crane Micropygia schomburgkii and Spot-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus maculcepus, all at the Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú (RNBIM), Dpto. Canindeyú in September; and Hellmayr's Pipit Anthus hellmayri at Refugio de Vida Silvestre Yaberry (Dpto. Misiones) in October. The threatened White-winged Nightjar Caprimulgus candicans was also recorded at RNBIM, representing the first confirmed record for the country.

An additional eight species recorded during the survey had only been found to occur in the country since 1992: Black Hawk-eagle Spizaetus tyrannus at RNBIM (which produced the first Paraguayan records in 1994: per A. Madróño Nieto) in September and at the Reserva Privada (RP) Itabó (Dpto. Canindeyú) in August and October; Black-banded Owl Ciccaba huhula at RP Itabó in October; the threatened Red-spectacled Amazon Amazona pretrei at the same site in August; Rufous-throated Sapphire Hylocharis sapphirina at PN Caaguazú (Dpto. Caazapá) in July and RP Sombredo (Dpto. Cordillera) in August; the near-threatened White-browed Foliage-gleaner Anabacerthia amaurotis at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael in July; Masked Titiry Titrya semifasciata at PN Cerro Corá (Dpto. Amambay), during October (there are no published records of this species in Paraguay, but it was reported from RNBIM in August 1995: per A. Madroño Nieto); Sooty Grassquit Tiaris fuliginosa at Estancia Núñez (Dpto. Caaguazú) in August and RNBIM in September; and Yellow-bellied Seedeater Sporophila nigricolis at the Bahía de Asunción (Dpto. Central), in December (RC, EZE; there are no published records of this species in Paraguay but it was seen in the Chaco in November: per MR and KZ).

Other notable records included Least Bittern IXobrychus exilis at RP La Golondrina (Dpto. Pres. Hayes) in November and PN Ypacarai (Dpto. Central) in December (RC, EZE, KZ) (five previous Paraguayan records); Tiny Hawk Accipiter superciliosus at RNBIM in September (three or four previous records; none since 1934); the near-threatened Harpy Eagle Harpia harpyja at RP Itabó in August (five previous published records); Grey-breasted Crane Laterallus exilis on Isla Yacyretá in November (two previous records); Pheasant...

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Cuckoo Dromococcyx phasanellus at RP Sombrero in August, PN Ybycui in August and November, RVS Yabebyry in October and on Isla Yacyretá in November (only four previous confirmed records, though also recently recorded at RNB: per A. Madroño Nieto); Tawny-browed Owl Pulsatrix koeniswaldi at RP Itabó in October (three previous records); Mottled Owl Cicaba virgata at Estancia Núñez in August-September and RP Itabó in October (only four previous published records, but heard frequently at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto); Rusty-barred Owl Strix hylophila at PN Caaguazú in July (three previous certain records); Ocellated Poowill Nyctiphrynus ocellatus at Estancia Núñez in August-September, RNB in September, Estancia Jiménez (Dpto. Canindeyú) in September-October and RP Itabó in October (only four previous records, but also recorded earlier at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto); the near-threatened Siege-winged Nightjar Eleothepterus anomalus at RP Sombrero in August (five previous records); Black Jacobin Melanotrichus fuscus at PN Caaguazú in July (only two previous records); Green-and-rufous Kingfisher Chloroceryle inda at PN San Rafael in July (the southernmost known locality for the species), RP Sombrero in August, RNB and Estancia Jiménez both in September (only five previous records); Pygmy Kingfisher Chloroceryle aenea at Estancia Jiménez in September (only two previous published records, plus others recently at RNB: per A. Madroño Nieto, RC); the near-threatened Canebrake Groundcreeper Clibanornis dendrocolaptoides at PN Caaguazú in July (two previous records); Black-billed Saythbill Campylorhampus fulcarius at PN San Rafael (two previous records); Rufous-capped Antshrike Thamnophilus ruficapillus at Estancia Núñez and RNB (four previous records); Bertoni’s Antbird Drymophila rubricollis at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael, both in July, and RP Itabó in August (two previous records); Large-tailed Antshrike Mackenziaena leachii at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael in July (three previous records; none since 1936); Speckle-breasted Antpitta Hypepeus nattereri at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael, both in July, and Estancia Núñez in August-September (one previous record in Paraguay; none since 1903; the Núñez records represent the westernmost locality for the species); Collared Crescent-chest Melanopareia torquata at RNB in September (one previous published record for Paraguay, but also recorded once previously at RNBM: per A. Madroño Nieto); Lesser Elaenia Elaenia chiriquensis at RNB in September (one previous certain record); the threatened Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant Eucharthis rufimarginatus at RP Sombrero (one or two previous records; none since 1944); Correndera Pipit Anthus correndera at RVS Yabebyry in October (one or two previous records); Diademed Tanager Stephanophrus diadematus at PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael, both in July (three previous records); the threatened Black-masked Finch Coryphaspiza melanotis at RNB (one or two previous records; none since 1930) and Red-rumped Warbling-finch Poospiza lateralis at PN Caaguazú in July (two previous records; none since 1911).

**ARGENTINA**

URUGUAY

The following are all new records for the country: White-winged Black-tyrant Knipolegus aterrimus mist-netted at Estancia El Rosario, Rio Negro, in June 1992 and at Estancia Mafalda, Rio Negro, in December 1992; a Planalto Tyrannulet Phyllomyias fasciatus netted at the latter site in December 1992; and a number of Chestnut Seedeaters Sporophila cinnamomea netted at Estancia El Rosario in 1991 and 1992 (Uruguayan ornithologists fide M. Vignale, Oriente Forestal).

A series of visits to “Termas del Rio Dayman”, Salto department, between 1987 and 1990 produced a series of new departmental records: Great Black Hawk Buteogallus urubitinga (three sightings); a Spix’s Spinetail Synallaxis spixi; Indigo Grosbeak Cyanoloxia glaucocaerulea (several, also the first records for the north of Uruguay); Red-rumped Warbling-finch Poospiza lateralis (numerous); and Greenfinch Carduelis chloris (a single, also the first for the north of the country). The same site also produced the third and fourth country records of Green-winged Saltator Saltator similis (24 May 1987 and 16 June 1989) these representing the first austral winter records, the previous two records being in October and November.

**VENEZUELA**

A small isolated population of American Dipper Cinclus mexicanus was discovered in the mountains near San Esteban, Carabobo State. This is not only the first record for Venezuela and South America but is an amazing range extension of 1,600 km².
Observers
Esteban Abadie (EA), Dave Beadle (DB), Neil Bostock (NB), John Bowler (JB), Robin Brace (RB), Miguel Castelino (MC), John Clark (JC), Rob Clay (RC), John Eyre (JE), Estela Esquivel (EZE), Davis Finch (DF), Brian Foster (BF), Alan Henry (AH), Jon Hornbuckle (JH), J. M. Hunter (JMH), Guy Kirwan (GK), Durwyn Liley (DL), Bernabé López Lanús (BLL), Steve Lister (SL), Lars Petersson (LP), Mark Robbins (MR), Ralph Simpson (RS), Richard Webb (RW), Kristof Zykowski (KZ).

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References
Neotropical Notebook

The records featured below have not been vetted, and have been collected from a variety of published and unpublished sources. They generally represent records of vagrants, significant range extensions, rediscoveries or new localities for threatened or poorly known species. If submitting records for inclusion in future Neotropical Notebooks, please include details of species, locality, date, significance of the record and observers. Full details should also be submitted to the relevant national organisations.

CARIBBEAN

BERMUDA
A Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis at Spittal Pond from 10 August–20 September 1995 was the first record (Birding World 9 (2): 76). The first winter record of Horned Grebe P. auritus concerned one at Castle Harbour on 1 February 1995, whilst the third island record of Tundra Swan Cygnus columbianus was an immature at Spittal Pond on 27 November–1 December 1994 and the sixth Surf Scoter Melanitta perspicillata was off Bermuda on 12 January 1995. An American Avocet Recurvirostra americana from 29 October 1995 was the seventh record and a Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica the sixth record since 1970 (Birding World 9 (2): 76). The first island record of Pacific Golden Plover Pluvialis fulva at the Naval Air Station on 25 January 1995 was carefully compared with nearby American Golden Plovers P. dominica and remained until April (Birding World 9 (2): 76). The first winter records for Bermuda of Iceland Gull Larus glaucous and Solitary Vireo Vireo solitarius involved a second winter at Bermuda on 2 February 1995 and a single at the same locality from 18 December 1994–February 1995 respectively. The second Brown Noddy Anous stolidus since 1970 was recorded on 11 October and the first House Wren Troglodytes aedon for 10 years on 8 November. A Marsh Wren Cistothorus palustris at Pembroke Marsh in January 1996 was the first island record, whilst an Ash-throated Flycatcher Myiarchus cinerascens on 30 January was the second record (Birding World 9 (2): 76). A Philadelphia Vireo Vireo philadelphicus was an exceptional island record on 6 February 1995. Autumn 1995 records included the first Brown Thrasher Toxostoma rufum for 12 years was recorded on 7 October, the fifth Red-brested Nuthatch Sitta canadensis on 24 November, the fourth Purple Finch Carpodacus purpureus on 12 November and the second Lark Sparrow Chondestes grammacus on 18 October (Birding World 9 (2): 76).

CUBA

DOMINICA
The first Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto for the Lesser Antilles was reported from Roseau in 1987, where 12 were present on 26 May 1995.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Three West Indian Whistling-ducks Dendrocygna arborea at Laguna del Salodillo on 22 April 1996 appears to be the first published record for the country since 1986. A pale morph...
**Swainson’s Hawk** *Buteo swainsonii* just south of Montecristi on 22 April 1996 appears to be the first record for the West Indies (CGB, GMK, RSRW).

**Monserrat**

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* is now established at Victoria where it has bred since 1990; this and those reported from Dominica (see above) are the first records from the Lesser Antilles.

**Puerto Rico**

An adult male Audubon’s Oriole *Icterus graduacauda* at Jobos Beach, near Ramey, on 12 June 1995 was the first record for the Caribbean. Given the species’ lack of vagrancy potential, this record suggests an escaped cage bird but a range extension or a single record suggests an escaped cage bird but a range extension or clearance (RDME, SM).

**Central America**

**Belize**

In February 1996 up to seven Common Ground-doves *Columbina passerina* were present in the Placencia area, representing a considerable range extension, perhaps assisted by forest clearance (RDFM, SM).

**Costa Rica**

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aetherus* is not known to breed in Costa Rica; however ten engaged in courtship flights on Isla Santa Catalina on 21 November 1993 suggests that it may do so.

A Ruddy Crake *Laterallus ruber* at Laguna de Lagarto Lodge on 12 November 1995 was about the third country record (JE, DK).

A pair of American Avocets *Recurvirostra americana* at the mouth of the Parismina River on 19 November 1995 was a rare record and possibly the first for the Caribbean coast (AD, LE, BF).

A Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* at Tarcoles on 10 August 1995 was perhaps injured (PE). Rufous-browed *Tyrrannulet Phylloscartes supercilias* is now known to be common in the upper Rio Tuis valley with a single also being recorded at Rancho Naturalista, providing confirmation of this species’ presence in the Talamanca mountains (per JvdG). A female Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* at Palo Verde National Park on 8 June 1995 (JvdG) and a Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* in the upper Rio Tuis valley on 20 July 1995 (PE) were both unusually late; both birds presumably oversummered.

**Mexico**

Contreras-Balda et al., list five new species for Nuevo León state, all in the Univ. Autonoma de Nuevo León (UANL) collection: a Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, an adult female and adult male Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*, an adult male Black-throated Blue Warbler *D. caerulescens* (the first record for continental Mexico), an adult male Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* and an immature female Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus novaboracensis*. Additionally a male Burrowing Owl *Speotyto cunicularia* in the same collection was the first record from Aguascalientes state.

A series of first records from Tabasco state in 1993 are as follows: American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus* (recorded on four dates at El Bosque, with three on 14 September), Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (one, probably a juvenile, on 20 September at El Bosque), Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (single juveniles at El Bosque on 5 and 21 September), Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*, Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis* (four at Atasta on 26 June), Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*, “Brewster’s Warbler” *Vermivora pinus* x *V. chrysoptera* (at El Bosque on 27 August), Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea* (recorded on five dates at El Bosque with the first on 7 September), Townsend’s Warbler *D. townsendi* (recorded on two dates at El Bosque with the first on 20 September), Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* (recorded at El Bosque on 26 August), Swainson’s Warbler *Limothlypis swainsonii* (recorded on four dates at El Bosque with the first on 5 September), a single Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysaetus* at Atasta on 27 June and a Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* at El Bosque on 24 September. Additionally the first breeding record of Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* was obtained and a very recently fledged Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* at Los Idoles on 11 July suggested local breeding, the nearest known breeding sites being in western Veracruz (all records per MG).

**Panama**

At least 15, including three male Scintillant Hummingbirds *Selasphorus scintilla* above Cerro Colorado on 18 December 1995 were unusual as the species was only previously known in this area from a single record on Cerro Flores. A pair of Flame-throated Warblers *Parula gutturalis* at Cerro Colarado on 18 December 1995 appears to be the first record from eastern Chirique (all records per DES).

**South America**

**Argentina**

There is just one previous record of American Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* in Córdoba province; thus three south of Villa
General Belgrano, Calamuchita on 15 January 1994 and one at Casa Grande, Punilla on 7 March 1994 were significant8. Since November 1985 there have been several observations of Grey-necked Wood-raft Aramides cajanea at four localities in Córdoba province, and the species has also been tape-recorded at one site, providing the first province records9. A total of 8,988 Horned Coots Fulica cornuta were counted on lagoons in the Vilama and Pululos area, Jujuy province, in October 1995, with 180 nests also located7. The world population was previously estimated at c. 5,000 birds9. A single Surfbird Aphriza virgata was on Rio Grande beach, Tierra del Fuego on 17 and 22 February 1995; this species is usually restricted to the Pacific coast of South America in winter19, but is annual at this site (M. P. Pearman pers. comm.).

BOLIVIA
Recent records from Tarija department in the extreme south of the country include the first departmental records of Snowy Egret Egretta thula (five on the Rio Tarija just north of Tarija town on 14 December 1994 and five on the Rio Salinas between Entre Ríos and La Cueva on the same date), Andean Goose Chlorisge phaga melanoptera (nine between Pasajes and Laguna Grande on 5 December 1995), White-collared Swift Streptoprocnezonarius (at least 50 over Tarija airport on 14 December 1994) and Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus borealis (one by the Rio Embrózuo on 3 December 1995 – apparently the southernmost record in South America, just 10 km from the Argentinian border). Confirmation of species first recorded by Mayer10 in Tarija involved an immature Fasciated Tiger-heron Tigrisoma fasciatum at the southern edge of Reserva Nacional Tariquía (date not provided), frequent sightings of Band-tailed Pigeons Columba fasciata in forest west of Narvaez on 21 and 23 November 1995, three Rufous-bellied Saltators Saltator rufiventris in the Erquis valley near Tarija between 2,300-2,500 m, on 14 December 1994 and two in the Río La Huerta valley, near Camacho on 18 December 1994, while Plumeous Sierra-finch Phrygillus unicornor was found to be common on the Cuesta de Sama, between Tarija and Iscayachi, in December 1994 and upriver of La Palca on 1 December 1995 (all records SJT, LT).

RB reports at least 16 Military Macaws Ara militaris south of Buena Vista and immediately north of the current boundary of Amboró National Park, Santa Cruz, on 5 April 1996, with at least 60 in the same area on 8 April 1996, the second or third Bolivian and Noel Kempff Mercado National Park record of Rufous-tailed Attila Attila phoenicurus at Flor de Oro on 11 April 1996, and a total of about ten of the threatened Black-and-tawny Seedeater Sporophila nigrorufa at Flor de Oro on 11 April 1996 with several, including two males, still there on 13 April 1996.

BRAZIL
Pacheco8 documents the first occurrence of several new species in the Mamirauá Reserve (EEM) near the junction of the Rio Japurá and Rio Solimões, western Amazonas during fieldwork between January 1993 and September 1994. Brown-throated Parakeet Aratinga pertinax was noted on the northern border of the reserve on several occasions, which along with a record from Igarapé Belém1 provide the first reports from the rio Solimões basin. Olive-spotted Hummingbird Leucippus chlorocerca was found to be common; elsewhere in Brazil it is known only from Ilha Marchantaria, near Manaus, and elsewhere on the Solimões near Tabatinga on the Colombian border. Both Yellow Tyrannulet Capiensps flavoala and River Tyrannulet Serophaga hypoleuca were confirmed to occur, the former a westwards range extension of 600 km. The latter was only previously known in Brazil from a single record in Roraima and the lower Rio Madeira, south of the Amazon. Two records of Little Ground-tyrant Muscisaxicola fluvialitis, on 1 and 15 July 1993, were significant. The species is only known in Brazil from recent sight records in Rondônia and single records at Maruins, Rondônia, in June 1908 and on the upper Rio Madeira in November 1829. Dull-capped Attia Attia bolivianus was common at EEM, the first records north of the Amazon in Brazil, and White-shouldered Antbird Myrmeciza melanoceps was found in the westernmost sector of the reserve, an eastwards range extension of 500 km. The White-bellied Spinetail Synallaxis propingua was discovered to be fairly common in EEM, whilst Orange-fronted Plushcrone Metopothryx aurantiacus was uncommon there; only two specimens and one sight record exist for Amazonian Brazil. A single Blue-and-white Swallow Notiochelidon cyanoleuca at EEM on 25 August 1994 and four at Macapá, Amapá, on 10 January 1994 are only the second and third documented records in Amazonian Brazil. Orange-fronted Yellow-finch Sicalis columbiana was regular at EEM, a westward range extension of 400 km.

Whittaker30 documents the first Dwarf Cuckoo Coccyzus pamulis for Brazil, a single on Maracá island, Roraima, on 23 December 1987. The same observer discovered three new species for Brazil during a survey of the upper Rio Juruá, near Boca de Teje, Acre, in December 1995: Rufous-fronted Antthrush
Macapá was the first record from Harpy Eagle. TG and AW recorded an adult at Porto Grande (previous records from terra firme forest between Serra de Cachoeira, and a singing male was discovered at a new site on the upper Rio Negro, near São Gabriel de Cachoeira, and a singing male) at the same locality for the species. The following observations were submitted by EK. A Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias was at Laguna de Sonso, may 1994 (there are only three previous summer records), whilst a Blue-winged Teal Anas discors at the same locality on the same date may have oversummed. An American Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica also at Laguna de Sonso on 10 August 1994 may also have oversummed; previous records are from September to December. Four adult Collared Plovers Charadrius collaris with a single downy young at the same site represented perhaps the first breeding record for Colombia, whilst 25 Semi-palmed Sandpipers Calidris pusilla, also at Laguna de Sonso, may have oversummed and were only the third inland record. Two Orange-chinned Parakeets Brotogeris jugularis at...
Club Farallones on the outskirts of Cali on 6 August 1994 were the first record from the Cauca Valley. A well-watched Marble-faced Bristle-tyrant Pogonotriccus ophthalminus was at Belo Horizonte on 15-16 August 1994 is apparently the first record east of the Colombian Andes. Two adult Red-capped Cardinals Pareaoria gularis at Club Farallones on 6 August 1994 and an immature at Laguna de Sonso on 10 August 1994 were the first records from the Cauca Valley but were possibly the result of escaped or released cage birds.

A group of 25 White-tipped Swift Aeroneta montivagus with White-collared Swifts Stereoprocne zonaris at 3200 m in the Ucumarí Reserve, west central Andes, in July 1995 appears to be a range extension (CD, JH, DSe).

ECUADOR

A Rufous Potoo Nyctibius bracteatus was roosting approximately two hours south-east of Coca on 14 December 1994, whilst the second male Cerulean Warbler Dendroica cerulea in west Ecuador was recorded at the same locality as the first, Mindo, on 10 December 1994 (both records SH).

GUYANA

Five White-winged Potoos Nyctibius leucotarsus were found in the Ivokrama Rainforest Reserve in late July, providing further confirmation of the species’s presence in Guyana (DJA). The only previous record was of two in the Kanuku Mountains in February 1993.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Prince & Croxall26 report on 20 species new to South Georgia since the publication of the current checklist.25 Royal Penguin Eudyptes schlegeli (singles in February 1984 and December 1992; the former was captured and photographed), Royal Albatross Diomedea epomophora (six records), Atlantic Petrel Pterodroma incerta (nine records involving 13 individuals), White-headed Petrel P. lessonii (four records), Great-winged Petrel P. macropetra (singles in April 1977, February 1980 and March 1985), Little Shearwater Puffinus assimilis (singles in March 1985 and February 1986), Yellow-billed Teal Anas flavirostris (small breeding population established in the Cumberland Bay area and six records from Bird Island), Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura (six records, including one photographed, since 1991, although perhaps only three individuals involved), Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus (singles in April 1986 and August 1991), Allen’s Gallinule Porphyrylula allelu (corps found in December 1984), Baird’s Sandpiper Calidris bairdii (one photographed in October-November 1994), Wilson’s Phalarope Phalaropus tricolor (one photographed in October 1983), South Polar Skua Catharacta maccormicki (16 records of 19 birds), Long-tailed Skua Stercorarius longicudus (adult photographed in January 1984), Dolphin Gull Larus scoresbii (one in April 1985 and one, then three in February-March 1986), Brown-hooded Gull L. maculipennis (single in May 1987), Eared Dove Zenaida auriculata (single in April 1992 was ship-assisted), Dark-faced Ground-tyrant Muscicaxica macloviana (single photographed in September 1994), Chilean Swallow Tachycineta leucopyga (two in April 1982 were previously identified as European House Martin Delichon urbica) and Long-tailed Meadowlark Sturnella loyca (single in April 1987).

In addition the same authors report a number of other significant records: Emperor Penguin Aptenodytes forsteri (eight record), Adelie Penguin Pygoscelis adeliae (fifth to eighth records), Magellanic Penguin Spheniscus magellanicus (fourth to seventh records), Shy Albatross Diomedea cauta salvini (second record), Sooty Albatross Phoebetria fusca (second to fifth records), Broad-billed Prion Pachyptila vitatta (second and third records), White-bellied Storm-petrel Fregatta grallaria (probable in May 1975, no confirmed records), Great Egret Casmerodius albus (fifth record), Snowy Egret Egretta thula (third record), Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis (191 birds recorded since first record in 1977), Chiloe Wigeon Anas sibilatrix (sixth record), Purple Gallinule Porphyrylula martinica (second record), White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis (8th-17th records), Pectoral Sandpiper C. melanotis (third to sixth records) and Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea (third inshore record).

A moribund Black-necked Swan Cygnus melanocephalus found at Rothera Base, Adelaide Island, inside the Antarctic Circle on 8 January 1996 was the southernmost record ever (Birding World 9 (6): 214).

VENEZUELA

Three breeding-plumaged Dunlin Calidris alpina were at a tidal lagoon at Chichiriviche on 25 April 1995 (NA); there are no published records from the country. Kirwan24 documents two recent sight and tape-recorded occurrences of Amazonian Pygmy-owl Glaucidium hardyi from Bolivar; a third record was of one heard in the Imataca Forest Reserve, east of El Palmar, on 17 July 1995 (AC, NC, DS et al.). Bar-winged Cinclodes Cinclodes fuscus was recorded for the first time at the Páramo de Tamá, on the Colombian–Venezuelan border at 3,100 m on
19 February 1992, with a second bird caught at the same altitude in May 1994. Barrowclough et al.  report on their observations on the Cerro Tamacuari area, Amazonas, in March 1988 and January and March 1989, an area previously unsampled by ornithologists. The principal ornithological highlights were as follows: Little Chachalaca Ortilas motmot was heard calling daily (unknown from the nearby Duida or Nebína tepuis), Dusky Spinetail Synallaxis macconnelli was common (one specimen from Nebína, unrecorded from Duida), two Plain Antireos Dysithamnus mentalis were collected (recorded at Nebína but not at Duida), Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock Rupicola rupicola was commonly encountered (unrecorded from Duida), Pale-eyed Thrush Platychelcha leucops was common (unrecorded from Duida), Speckled Tanager Tangara guttata was common (unrecorded from Duida) and Blue-naped Chlorophonia Chlorophonia cyanea was also common (unrecorded from Nebína).

Neotropical Notebook: compiled by Guy Kirwan

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References


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CARIBBEAN
Bahamas
A Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* at Wellfields on 20 April 1996 was the second island record; an American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* was at Brown's Point on 22 April 1996 and American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* wintered for the first time in 1995–96, remaining at Wilson Pond to at least 8 March.

Bermuda
An American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* wintered for the first time in 1995–96; a Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* on 3 December and a Yellow-throated Vireo *V. flavifrons* on 14 February were only the second winter records for the island.

Cayman Islands
An immature male Gadwall *Anas strepera* and a female Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* wintering on Grand Cayman in January–February 1996 were first records.

Dominican Republic
Ottenwalder reports on the current conservation status of West Indian Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arborea* in the country, identifying populations in six lowland areas, four coastal and two inland ranges. Dod reports the first country record of Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* at Calderas on 19 November 1995, and subsequently between 11 February–24 March 1996 when it was photographed. Smith documents the presence of Olive-throated Parakeet *Aratinga nana*-like birds in xeric vegetation at lower altitudes in the Sierra de Bahoruco in late March 1996; their origin is unknown and the author advises the collection of a small series to establish their identity.

Guadeloupe
Barré et al. consider Guadeloupe to be the centre of the reported Lesser Antillean range of Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, originating from birds first released there in 1976.

Jamaica
A brief stop at Montego Bay wetlands on 26 April 1996 produced the following observations of interest: a single Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, three White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis* and c.21 Stilt Sandpiper *C. himantopus* (Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet 67: 32).

Puerto Rico
Up to 18 Plain Pigeon *Columba inornata* were at Lago de Cidra on 9 December 1996 – the total population is estimated to be only about 700.

St Kitts Nevis
Francis records the first records of Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* on Nevis: six at Montpelier Plantation Inn between 28 March–9 April 1995, and four including a mating pair in the same place on 29 March–11 April 1996.

Tobago
Hayes et al. report on surveys of the threatened White-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus ensipennis* in March and December 1995 which located 45 birds along 39.2 km of trails, primarily in the Main Ridge Forest Reserve with some evidence of seasonal movements; they suggest that the population has made a remarkable recovery since Hurricane Flora destroyed much of the species' habitat in 1963.

CENTRAL AMERICA
Guatemala
The first breeding observations of Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayansis* in Central America are described by Thorstrom, with three nesting attempts made in Tikal National Park in 1991 and 1993. Only one nest and
two clutches had previously been described.

El Salvador
Komar & Rodriguez\(^3\) report the first breeding Lesser Nighthawks \textit{Chordeiles acutipennis} in the country, a colony of between 8–15 pairs at the mouth of the Río Lempa, Depto. San Vicente on 4 June 1996, with another nest at Arcos del Espino, Depto. Usulután on 13 June 1994. These records also constitute the first documented evidence that the species breeds on beaches in association with terns and plovers.

Panama
First records, recently published, are as follows: Reddish Egret \textit{Egretta rufescens} at Aguadulce salt pans on 21 September–2 November 1996 \((\text{El Tucan} 22 (10): 9)\), White-cheeked Pintail \textit{Anas bahamensis} at Costa del Este on 22 September 1996 \((\text{El Tucan} 22 (10): 10)\) and a Grey-headed Manakin \textit{Piprites griseiceps} mist-netted on Cerro Guaba, Bocos del Toro. A pair of Black-and-white Becard \textit{Pachyramphus albogriseus} was seen at Chorogo on 4–5 May 1996, and a Peg-billed Finch \textit{Acanthidops bairdi}, unrecorded in Panama since 1979, was mist-netted in Volcán N. P. on 11 March 1996 with a female Slaty Finch \textit{Spodipenis rusticus} netted at the same site the previous day. Also significant was the first Northern Parula \textit{Parula americana} away from the Atlantic coast of central Panama, at Old Gamboa Road on the late date of 26 April 1996 \((\text{El Tucan} 22 (6): 3–4)\). Stub-tailed Spadebill \textit{Platyrinchus cancrinomus} was found to be numerous on Cayo Nancy, near Bocas, on 1–2 September 1996 and also in September a pair of Great Currasow \textit{Crax rubra} seen with two chicks on Pipeline Road \((\text{El Tucan} 22 (19): 8–9)\). A Black-throated Blue Warbler \textit{Dendroica caerulescens} at Cerro Camapña on 29 September 1996 was the 10th record in Panama \((\text{El Tucan} 22 (10): 10)\).

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina
Saibene et al.\(^3\) report the occurrence of nine species new to Argentina at Parque Nacional Iguazú: of these only Sun Parakeet \textit{Aratinga solstitialis} (an escape on 7 May 1992) and Swallow-tailed Hummingbird \textit{Eupetomena macroura} on 22 July 1993 have not been mentioned previously in Cotinga. In addition, five species are recorded for the first time in Misiones province: Rufous-chested Dotterel \textit{Charadrius modestus}, Common Tern \textit{Sterna hirundo}, White-tailed Goldenthroat \textit{Polynnis guainumbi}, Barred Antshrike \textit{Thamnophilus doliatus} and Purple Martin \textit{Progne subis}.

Orondo & Bosisco\(^1\) provide new specimen records of six threatened and nine near-threatened species, as defined by Collar et al.\(^9\), all collected in Santa Fé province (unless otherwise stated) and based on the collection of the Museo Provincial de Ciencias Naturales “Florentino Ameghino”, Santa Fé, Argentina: three specimens of Greater Rhea \textit{Rhea americana}, one Solitary Tinamou \textit{Tinamus solitarius} (from Misiones province), two Crowned Eagle \textit{Harpia harpyja} (from Misiones), one Black-fronted Piping-guan \textit{Pipile jacutinga} (from Misiones), one Speckled Crane \textit{Coturnicops notata}, one Hudsonian Godwit \textit{Limosa haemastica}, two Red-capped Parrot \textit{Pionopsitta pileata} (from Chaco), two Black-bodied Woodpecker \textit{Dryocopus schulzi} (one from Chaco), one Helmeted Woodpecker \textit{D. galeatus} (from Misiones), one Shear-tailed Grey-tyrant \textit{Musicipipra vetula} (from Misiones), three Strange-tailed Tyrant \textit{Alecturus risora} (all from Corrientes), four Black-masked Finch \textit{Coryphaspiza melanotis}, three Chestnut Seedeeater \textit{Sporophila ruficollis} and one Marsh Seedeeater \textit{S. palustris} (from Entre Ríos).

Nores & Salvador\(^2\) report the occurrence of three species new to San Juan province in February 1991: Puna Canastero \textit{Asthenes scelater}, Suiriri Flycatcher \textit{Suiriri suiriri} and Band-tailed Sierra-finch \textit{Phrygillus alaudinus}.

Sicalis flaveola. Cinnamon Warbling-finch Poospiza ornata and Bay-winged Cowbird Molothrus badius.


Bolivia
Krabbe et al. report significant new records from Chuquisaca Department in 1995: five Whistling Heron Syrigma sibilatrix 15 km north of Sopachuy at 2,500 m (previously recorded to 1,700 m); six observations of Red-fronted Macaw Ara rubrogenys on 13–19 March; the first departmental record of Cloud-forest Screech-owl Otus hoyi (a specimen obtained on 9 April); a Blue-capped Puffleg Eriocnemis glaucopoides in Podocarpus forest (previously unrecorded in this habitat); a Spot-backed Puffbird Nyctalus maculatus north of Presto at 2,600 m on 11 March (previously recorded to 2,000 m and one of the few departmental records); a male Golden-olive Woodpecker Piculus rubiginosus at 3,000 m (previously recorded to 2,300 m); Cream-backed Woodpecker Campephilus leucopogon at 2,450 m (previously unrecorded above 1,730 m); a Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant Hemitriccus margaritaceiventris collected at 2,400 m (previously known to c.2,000 m); three Rufous-bellied Saltator Saltator rufiventris at Portillo on 10 April; Citron-headed Yellow-finch Sicalis luteocephala was found to be common (recorded from 23 sites) and breeding; recently fledged Common Diuca-finches Diuca diuca collected on 1 and 7 April. the first proven breeding records in Bolivia and first departmental records; and five singing Grassland Sparrow Ammodramus humeralis at 2,500 m, an upward altitudinal range extension of 750 m. In addition the same authors note the first record of White-backed Stilt Himantopus melanurus from Potosí department.

Helme reports a Giant Snipe Gallinago undulata flushed in flooded grassland in the Pampas del Heath, La Paz, on 29 July 1995, only the second record for Bolivia. and an Olive-striped Flycatcher Mionectes olivaceus specimen obtained in the same area on 25 July 1995, also a second record for the country. The same author also notes the following first records for La Paz department, all from Pampas del Heath in 1995: a pair of Plumbeous Ibis Theristicus caerulescens on 27–28 July, a pair of Yellow-headed Caracara Milvago chimachima on 22 July, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird Eupetomena macroura which was locally common on 23–29 July and Grey Monjita Xolmis cinerea which was common in grassland 20 July–6 August.

Brazil
Bornschein & Reinert report a previously unpublished specimen record of Andean Flamingo Phoenicopterus andinus, a juvenile collected at Jaraguá do Sul, north-east Santa Catarina in 1952, and a photograph of three adults at Lagoina do Peixe, Rio Grande do Sul in autumn 1992, the third and fourth dated Brazilian records. Galetti et al. report six recent records of Harpy Eagle Harpia harpyja and four of Crested Eagle Moranus guianensis from the Brazilian Atlantic forest. Rodrigues et al. analyse previous records of reported breeding by Wilson's Plover Charadrius wilsonia in north-east Brazil, presenting new records from Maranhão in September 1991 and May–June 1992 and conclude that the species is a rare breeding bird in the country with other records from Bahia and Alagoas. Range extensions have been reported for four species of cotogas in April 1995 in the Parque Estadual Guaraja-Mirim, Rondonia, the most notable being for Purple-breasted Cotogina Cotogina catonga 1,050 km south-west of its nearest known locality.

Chile
A whole series of significant new observations have recently been published in Boletín Chileno de Ornitología. Tabibo et al. document the occurrence of three immature Rockhopper Penguin Eudyptes chrysocome at Punta de Tulca, IV Region in January 1994, unusually far north: a pair of Bay-winged Hawk Parabuteo unicinctus at Pastos Largos in January 1995 unusually high at 3,800 m; Striated Heron Butorides striatus regularly observed in Coquimbo bay, IV Region since
Tawny-throated Dotterel

The number of recent observations of the species is rapidly expanding, indicating that two pairs were seen 20 km south of Copiapó, III Region in 1992, and Dove information for this region, at Cucao, Isla Grande de Chiloé on 8 December 1995, and the third record of this species considered threatened were also made: Grey-backed Hawk (Leucopternis occidentalis), Rufous-headed Chacalaca (Orthalis erythroptera), and grey-breasted Flycatcher (Myioborus lintoni, Andean Potoo (Nyctibius maculosus), and Golden-plumed Parakeet (Leptosittaca branickii), of which this locality may harbour an important population. Coangas held an unidentified Pycrha parakeet, considered most likely to be the threatened White-necked Parakeet (P. albipectus), the threatened Spot-winged Parrotlet (Touit stictoptera), and the recently described Subtropical Pygmy-owl (Glaucidium parkeri). The most significant finding at Mui is the Orange-throated Tanager (Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron), known from only one other locality in Ecuador.}

Falkland Islands

A number of significant recent records from the archipelago have been published in Warrah 9: 4–6.
A Rockhopper Penguin
*Eudyptes chrysocome* showing characteristics of the race *moseleyi*, which breeds on Tristan da Cunha, Gough, Amsterdam and St Paul Islands, was at Macbride Head in December 1995 (the first record of this race), and an apparent hybrid Rockhopper x Macaroni Penguin *E. chrysolophus* was at New Island on 7 December 1995. Single Great Grebes *Podiceps major* were at Burnside on 10 November 1995 and in Chabot Creek, Johnson’s Harbour from 19 December 1995–8 January 1996 at least. A Great Egret *Egretta alba* was at Felton stream, Stanley in December 1995 and single Buff-necked Ibis *Theristicus caudatus* were at Fox Bay on 2–5 January 1996 and around Stanley on 6–7 and 10 April 1996. One, possibly two Chilean Flamingos *Phoenicopterus chilensis* were around the islands between 1–21 December 1995 and two Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba* were on Pebble Island from 29 November 1995–15 January 1996. Other wildfowl included a single Ashy-headed Goose *Chloephaga poliocephala* at Douglas Station from 14 September–end of October 1995, an adult male Red Shoveler *Anas platalcea* on Pebble Island on 15 January 1996 with an adult female and immature male on the same island next day, and an adult male Lake *Oxyura vittata* or Ruddy Duck *O. jamaicensis* also on Pebble Island from late November–9 December 1995, with perhaps the same bird there on 16 January 1996. Single Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus* and White-winged Coot *Fulica leucopareia* were also reported from the same island between 29 November–9 December 1995. Record numbers of Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* were on the islands between 20 October–9 November 1995, with six records involving up to 86 birds being reported. Other interesting shorebirds were: three records of Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* between 23 October–29 November 1995, 32 Sandpiper *Calidris alba* in the Bertha’s Beach area in late November 1995, two Baird’s Sandpiper *C. bairdii* on Sea Lion Island on 14 January 1996, 1–3 Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* also on Sea Lion Island on 16–20 November 1995 and 16 January 1996, with a single on Pebble Island on 15 January 1996, and only the third 20th century record of White-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis maluvinus* on Sea Lion Island on 1 December 1995 (the others being in 1981 and 1991). Three Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* were in the Bertha’s Beach area on 26 November 1995 with another sighting there a week later. An Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* was on Fitzroy Road East on 12 March 1996. Vagrant passerines reported included a Fire-eyed Diucon *Pyrope pyrope* on Beaver Island in the second half of November 1995 and a male Rufous-backed Negrito *Lessoria rufa* on Tea Island in early November 1995.

**Paraguay**
Comparing their field research with Hayes (1995), and presenting data from a large unpublished collection of Paraguayan birds made by C. C. Olrog which is stored at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Ericson & Amarilla14 provide significant new distributional data for 12 species. A female Black-banded Owl *Ciccaba hukula* collected in Parque Nacional Caaguazú, Departamento Caazapá on 30 September 1993 was the first confirmed country record, although Brooks et al. (1995, *Orn. Neotrop.* 6: 129–134) present aural records for the previous year. Other records are as follows: the first documented records of Red-winged Tinamou *Rhynchotus rufescens* from the Alto Chaco geographical region (three males and five females collected by Olrog in western Dpto. Presidente Hayes in the austral winter of 1947); the first Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* in the Bajo Chaco geographical region (a female collected c. 40 km east of Pozo Colorado, Dpto. Presidente Hayes on 23 November 1946); the second and third country records of Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota* (male collected near Bella Vista, Dpto. Amambay on 12 November 1994, and two specimens from the Parque Nacional Defensores del Chaco, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 26–27 March 1995); the first documented Rusty-backed Antwren *Formicivora rufa* from the Matogrosense region (an adult male collected 5 km north of Bahía Negra, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 16 September 1994); the first Paraguayan record of Bran-coloured Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus* west of the Rio Paraguay (a juvenile collected in Parque Nacional Defensores del Chaco, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 25 March 1995); an adult male Rust-se-winged Spadebill *Platyrinchus leucoryphus* collected at Parque Nacional Caaguazú, Dpto. Caazapá on 6 October 1993; two male and a female Strange-tailed Tyrant *Alectrurus risora* collected at Estancia San José, Dpto. Presidente Hayes on 28 September 1994; the first record of White-naped Xenopsar*is Xenopsaris albinucha* from the Bajo Chaco region (a male collected by Olrog at Estancia Hermosa, c. 40 km east of Pozo Colorado, Dpto. Presidente Hayes on 22 November 1946); the first record of Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantirostris* from the Matogrosense region (a female collected at Estancia Doña Julia, 5 km north of Bahía Negra, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 13
September 1994; the first record of *Ultramarine Grosbeak* *Cyanocompsa brissonii* from the Campos Cerrados region (one collected near Bella Vista, Dpto. Amambay on 13 October 1994); one of the few records of *Saffron-cowled Blackbird* *Agelaius flaveus* in the Matogrosense region (an adult male, of an apparent pair, collected 5 km north of Bahía Negra, Dpto. Alto Paraguay on 17 September 1994).

**Peru**

Barnes et al.\(^1\) place on record significant new distributional records from the Cordillera de Colán, Amazonas department in northern Peru, in July and August 1994. **White-eyed Parakeet** *Aratinga leucophthalmus*, previously known to 500 m, was regularly recorded up to 1,950 m; five **White-tipped Sicklebill** *Eutoxeres aquila* were the first records south of the Marañón valley; six records of **Russet-mantled Softtail** *Thripophaga berlepschi* were made at 1,800–1,950 m, a downward altitudinal range extension of 650 m; nine **Barred Anthrush** *Chaemaeca mollissima* at 2,300–2,600 m appeared intermediate in plumage characteristics between the nominate and *yungae* subspecies, suggesting that the Marañón valley does not form a clear divide between the two subspecies as previously considered; a **Chestnut Antpitta** *Graullaria blakei* was found at 1,700 m, a downward altitudinal range extension of 450 m; records of **Rusty-tinged Antpitta** *G. przewalskii* spanned 1,700–2,650 m, when previously it was only known from as low as 2,200 m (Ridgely & Tudor\(^3\)); six records of **Black-chested Fruiteater** *Pipreola lubomirskii* were the first south of the Marañón valley; one certain record of **Red-billed Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius cinereicapillus* at 1,800 m was the first from the north Peruvian Andes (although predicted by Ridgely & Tudor\(^4\)) and an upward altitudinal range extension of 600 m; and two records of **Black-chested Mountain-tanager** *Buthraupis eximia* were the first south of the Marañón valley. Amongst significant records reported from the Cordillera del Condor by Schulenberg & Awbrey\(^5\), in July–August 1993 and 1994 (see Ecuador above), are the first Peruvian records of **Barred Hawk** *Leucopernis princeps*, **White-chested Swift** *Cyselloides lemosi*, the threatened **Coppery-chested Jacamar** *Galbula pastazae*, **White-streaked Antvireo** *Dysithamnus leucostictus* and **Rufous-browed Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes superciliaris*, all in the upper Comainas valley. The same locality also provided the following second Peruvian records: **Napo Sabrewing** *Campylopterus villavicensio*, **White-tailed Hillstar** *Urochroa bouvieri* and **Plain-backed Antpitta** *Graullaria haplonota*. A population of **Mouse-coloured Thistletail** *Schizoeaca griseomurina* at 2,150 m was significant, as were records of **Cinnamon Screech-owl** *Otus petersoni* in ridge-top forest and **Bar-winged Wood-wren** *Henicorhina leucoptera*, which was locally common from 1,500 m to elfin forest at the summit of Cerro Machinaza.

**Venezuela**

Rodriguez & Lento\(^7\) document the first record of **Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum* in Venezuela and only the second in mainland South America\(^8\); one photographed by Mucubaji Lake, Merida state on 29 June 1995, an exceptional instance of oversummering by a Nearctic passerine migrant previously almost unknown in South America.

Neotropical Notebook: compiled by Guy Kirwan and Jon Hornbuckle.

**References**


Neotropical Notebook now contains three sections. The first is a series of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions will be published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of Cotinga, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records. Please indicate, with submissions, in which section you wish records to appear.

**Short Notes**

**Two sightings of Banded Ground-cuckoo Neomorphus radiolosus in Ecuador**

During a survey of the birds in Jatun Sacha Bilsa Reserve, in the Mache-Chindul hills of north-west Ecuador (00°22'N 79°45'W), I had prolonged close views of two Banded Ground-Cuckoo *Neomorphus radiolosus*, on 6 and 15 September 1996. The first was in a partly replanted, relatively open area close to the reserve buildings. It was initially seen walking / hopping along a cleared area between sapling trees and then heard bill-snapping and observed hunting for food in the adjacent undergrowth, entirely alone. The second, presumed to be a different bird, was in primary wet forest 3 km away, feeding with antbirds in association with an army antswarm. Both sites were at approximately 500–600 m elevation.

I watched the second bird for nearly an hour in total at various times of the day, as close as 6–7 m, in full view of it most of the time. It spent long periods perched almost motionless, either on the ground or on a fallen log, sometimes raising or lowering its crest, and sporadically dashing a short distance to grab an insect disturbed by the ants. In contrast to the accompanying and more active *Gymnopithys leucaspis* and *Phaenostictus mcleannani* antbirds, it was silent throughout. It narrowly avoided a mist-net on one occasion. The antswarm was located on the following two days in the same general area but the ground-cuckoo was not seen, although it could have been present as little time was spent observing the swarm, it being in a less accessible locality.

The only other record of this endangered species in Ecuador since 1936 was by Niels Krabbe of one bird 20 km west of Alto Tambo on 13–15 February 1992: this bird had apparently been attracted by snapping noises, and bill-snapped in close proximity to the observer while raising and lowering its crest (N. Krabbe pers. comm.). The only other recent, published reports are of three in Colombia in 1988–89, but local hunters in Nariño in the 1990s reported it as fairly common at two localities, with its “extreme shyness” blamed for the paucity of records, a view not supported by Ecuadorian experience.

**References**


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**The first dowitcher Limnodromus sp. in Chile**

From 18–22 November 1996, the author visited Tongoy (30°15'S 71°30'W), c. 40 km south-west of Coquimbo and 1,330 km south of the Chile–Peru border. I had an excellent view over the mudflats near the mouth of the river Tongoy. Fifteen species of waders, some gulls, Elegant Terns *Sterna elegans* and Black Skimmers *Rhynchops niger* were feeding at the locality.

On 19 November, a wader, which immediately reminded me of a dowitcher (I observed a Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* in Germany three months earlier), was located. It was watched over the following days down to 100 m with the light from behind, through a 27 × 60 telescope, and compared with other waders, including Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Hudsonian *Limosa haemastica* and Marbled Godwits *L. fedoa* (Pearman mentions only four records of the latter in Chile up until 1993). Three photos were taken with a 135-mm lens (sufficient to see the structure of the bird). It remained in the area until 15 January 1997 (W. Morgan pers. comm.). The following notes were made.
Dowitcher Limnodromus sp. at Tongoy, a first for Chile. (Klemens Steiof)

Structure: larger and thicker-headed than Red Knot, the body more round-shaped, like a Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago.

Bare parts: bill c. 1 + the length of the head, more or less straight, perhaps very slightly downcurved, blackish with a lighter basal third; legs greenish yellow.

Upperparts: upperwing with scaled appearance, feathers dark brown with light (buffish to whitish) fringes, more contrasting than in any other wader present.

Underparts: general colour of neck and breast bright rufous, much warmer and more reddish than Marbled Godwit; centre of belly to undertail-coverts whitish in the late afternoon sun; breast sides with blackish dots, merging to bands at the sides of the belly and flanks (at least to the legs), giving scaled or barred appearance to sides of body (looking greyish barred at longer distance); undertail-coverts with dark spots.

Head: upper head brownish, sides of head bright rufous; darkish lores; slightly darkish earpatch; supercilium clearly marked, in front of and above eye buff, becoming reddish just behind eye; chin whitish, throat reddish.

Flight: seen flying from c. 300 m distance with 10x binoculars: no wingbar but white trailing edge to secondaries obvious; white oval patch on centre of back, similar to Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus.

The bird was a first-winter, which was indicated by the bright coloured plumage. Adult dowitchers moult into more or less greyish non-breeding plumage in August. The bird was probably a Short-billed Dowitcher L. griseus, presumably of the subspecies caurinus, which winters along the Pacific coast from California to Peru, but it was not possible to be sure of the specific identification.

William Morgan who is very familiar with the waders occurring in the area had not seen a dowitcher at this site during the last 16 years.

This observation is the first record of a dowitcher in Chile. In winter it reaches as far south as the Pacific coast in Peru, c. 1 km above the falls. This constitutes the third record for both the Parque Nacional and the country (Juan Mazar Barnett pers. comm.).

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Fourth record of Westland Petrel Procellaria westlandica for Chile
A Westland Petrel Procellaria westlandica was observed at 40°05'S 74°05'W (west-south-west of Valdivia) on 3 November 1996. It was watched down to 10 m, when flushed by the ship. Size, shape and colour were similar to White-chinned Petrel P. aequinoctialis but the black tip to the bill was clearly visible. This represents the fourth Chilean and fifth South American record.

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Published records from the literature

Caribbean

Bahamas
On 14–18 November 1996, a first-winter Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus was photographed at Governor’s Harbour, Eleuthera, the second record from the archipelago.38

Cuba
Muñoz & Bowles22 document a pair of Bananquit Coereba flaveola at Macizo Montañoso Guanahaya, Cuba on 1 March 1994. This is apparently the second record for Cuba, the first being one collected in March 1965 in central Cuba.

Garrido12 reports the first record of Saffron Finch Sicalis flaveola for the island, and Duque & Garrido16 the first record of White-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia leucophrys of the race gambelli, captured in Havana province in November 1995. There is one previous record of Nashville Warbler Vermivora ruficapilla in Cuba (one collected in Havana on 9 October 1963); thus additional records of singles in Havana province in late October 1986 and on 5 December 1996, with another between Soplillar and Molina in Matanzas province in October 1995 are significant.4 Blanco & Pérez5 review Cuban records of Piping Plover Charadrius melodus, and list the fourth and fifth for Havana province and the 22nd for Cuba in the last 30 years.

Dominica
Few data on pelagic birds exist from the central Lesser Antilles, thus observations by Keith & Ward19 in the deep water west of Dominica are of interest: Audubon’s Shearwater Puffinus tenuirostris (one on 23 January 1997); White-tailed Tropicbird Phaethon lepturus (singles on 22 and 23 January 1997); Brown Booby Sula leucogaster (small groups of 3-8 birds on 16, 21, and 23 January 1997); skua Catharacta sp. (one on 19 January 1997 was thought to be South Polar Skua C. maccormicki); Long-tailed Skua Stercorarius longicaudus (singles on 21 and 23 January 1997); Pomarine Skua S. pomarinus (c. 30 between 15–23 January 1997); Royal Tern Sterna maxima (four on 19 January 1997); and Sooty Tern S. fuscata (c. 4 on 21 January 1997).

Dominican Republic
Rivas28 reports on a number of interesting country records: nine Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus in May 1996; observations in September and December 1996 of Wilson’s Phalaropus tricolor and Red-necked Phalaropes P. lobatus; a juvenile Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus forfatus photographed between Oviedo and Pedernales (no date); and a skua Stercorarius sp. near Montecristi on 6 January 1997. Rivas & López30 document the first records of Black Tern Chlidonias niger in the Dominican Republic: one at Bahía de Calderas, near Bani with a flock of Common Terns Sterna hirundo from 31 August 1996 (the flock being last seen in early November) with another at Laguna de Oviedo, near Barahona on 26 October 1996.

Latta17 reports on two other new species for Hispaniola: a Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla photographed, also at Bahía de Calderas, near Bani on 16 February 1997 and a Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina mist-netted and photographed in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park on 15 November 1996.

Latta et al.18 and Hess15 confirm the presence of Olivethroated Parakeet Aratinga nana in the country, reporting on new observations from Sierra de Bahoruco National Park since at least July 1995 and a singles in Santo Domingo city in July 1995.
and December 1996 to January 1997. The origin of these birds remains unknown.

Jamaica

Bird Notes in the Gosse Bird Club Broadsheet 68 (March 1997) lists several notable records. A Double-crested Cormorant Phalacrocorax auritus was observed at “Coconuts” on 2–3 February 1997. At least three Golden Swallow Tachycineta euchrysea were at Hardwar Gap on 8 June 1989, the first record since 1982.

Central America

Honduras

One and eight Jabiru Jabiru mycteria at Laguna El Faro and Laguna El Jicarito on 19 and 20 October 1994 were the first records of this species on the Pacific coast.

Mexico

Rodríguez-Estrella et al. report the first nesting by European Starlings Sturnus vulgaris in southern Baja California in May 1995, c. 800 km south of their previous known range in the state.

Panama

Among recent sightings is the first published country record of Plumbeous Pigeon Columba plumbea; it was found to be common on the Serrania de Jungurado from sea-level to 1,000 m and with two specimens collected in August 1997. Of the Darien highland endemics, only Pirre Warbler Basileuterus ignotus was not found in the Jungurado range. Along the Río Sambu on 24 August 1997 several White-winged Swallows Tachycineta albiventer were observed, a species only recently (1996) reported in Panama. Other interesting records include: a female Peg-billed Finch Acanthidops bairdii and up to ten Slaty Finches Haplospiza rustica at Los Quetzales near Cerro Punta on 4 July 1997; an unusually early Orchard Oriole Icterus spurius in Panama City on 13 July 1997; further records of American Kestrel Falco sparverius suggesting that the species is successfully colonising the country; Cattle Tyrant Machetornis rixosus was confirmed to breed in Panama, when a juvenile was noted begging food from two adults at Ford Amador on 19 August 1997; and 30 pairs of Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias were noted building nests south of Lake Bayano, the first breeding record in Panama (all Angehr).

South America

Argentina

A Spot-winged Falconet Spizapteryx circumcinctus was on Isla Martin Garcia, northeaster Buenos Aires on 24 April 1993. The species was previously only known from the extreme south-west of the province.

Christie & Rubulis report the second specimen of Ochre-flanked Tapaculo Eupraria paradoxa from Argentina, near Nahuel Huapi National Park on 10 August 1995, which represents the sixth published record. A few other unpublished records exist from nearby.

The first nesting report of Crowned Slaty-flycatcher Empidonax aurantioatrocristatus for Río Negro was a nest found near Chimpay on 20 January 1995.

Reggio & de la Orden provide the first records of South American Painted-snipe Nycticryphes semicollaris for San Juan, based on a pair found at 2,750 m in the Reserva Natural Estricta El Leoncito on 24 January 1995 and a previously unpublished observation by W. H. Partridge on the río Jáchal in November 1963.

Saggese et al. review published and unpublished records of Osprey Pandion haliatus in Argentina and Uruguay resulting in 38 and 15 citations respectively.

A Cape Gannet Morus capensis in the Beagle Channel, Tierra del Fuego on 21 January 1995 represents the second record in Argentina and South America.

De Lucca reports the first successful nest of Harpy Eagle Harpia harpyja in the country between 1990 and 1992, where a single fledging remained for at least 10 months in the area.

Two Sooty Grassquits Tiaris fuliginosa collected in Iguazu National Park on 29 September and 18 October 1994 represent the first country record.

de la Peña gives details of the nests of Grey Elaenia Myiopagis caniceps at Rosario de la Frontera, Salta, on 10 December 1991 (previously unknown), Slaty Elaenia E. stropera in the same place on 13 December 1991, Purple-throated Euphonia Euphonia chlorotica at Romang, Santa Fé on 7 October 1995 and Carbonated Sierra-finch Phrygillus carbonarius at Peninsula Valdés on 1 January 1987. In a second paper, the same author reports observations of the following species, new for Santa Fé province: Green Ibis Mesembrinibis cayennensis near Romang on 4 April 1992 and near Florencia on 29 November 1995; Collared Forest-falcon Microstur semitorquatus tape-recorded at Las Claritas on 10 August 1990; a Pale-crested Woodpecker Celeus lugubris near Villa Guillermina on 28 November 1995; a Dinelli’s Doradito Pseudocolopteryx dinellianus seen and tape-recorded south of Wildermuth on 3 November 1992; a Boat-billed Flycatcher Megarhynchus pitangua on 2 November 1995; two pairs of Chestnut-vented Conebill Conirostrum speciosum east of Villa Ocampo on 21 October 1992 and 4 October 1995;

**Bolivia**

Herzog et al. report on the results of avifaunal research in Andean dry forest localities throughout Bolivia, during May–October 1995. New information on the following species is presented: Band-tailed Pigeon Columba fasciata (records from 800 m and 1,500 m are below the usual elevational range); Red-fronted Macaw Ara rubrogenys (just one bird during a survey of the Rio Caine, Potosí department, four at Novillero, Cochabamba and up to 116 birds at Hacienda Yuni, Potosí in late June and early July); Canary-winged Parakeet Brotogeris versicolorus (first records for La Paz department); Montane Scrееch-owl Otus hoyi (records from between 1,100–1,250 m at Río Azero, Chuquisaca department); Buff-fronted Owl Aegolius harrisii (records from two new localities suggest that the species may be more widespread in deciduous forests in Bolivia than previously suspected); Band-winged Nightjar Caprimulgus longirostris (pair at 800 m is well below the usual altitudinal range of this species east of the Andes); Amethyst Woodstar Calliphlox amethystina (two males at 800 m were 100 m above the usual altitudinal limit and apparently the first report from an Andean valley); Striped Woodpecker Picoides lignarius (the first records from La Paz department); Green-barred Flicker Colaptes melanochloros (the first reports from La Paz department); Bolivian Earthcreeper Upucerthia harterti (the first records for Potosí and La Paz departments); Berlepsch’s Canastero Asthenes berlepschi (pair at 2,300 m were 300 m below their known altitudinal limit and other observations increase its known range to 200 km²); Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner Syndactyla rufospersiculata (regularly seen at 1,000 m at Río Azero, 300 m below its known altitudinal range); Spot-billed Ground-tyrant Muscicaxicola maculirostris (one bird 700 m below known altitudinal limits of the species); Brown-crested Flycatcher Myiarchus tyrannulus (one at 2,300 m was 600 m above its previously known altitudinal limit); Lemon-
browed Flycatcher *Conopias cinchoneti* (single sight records from two localities in La Paz department were the first records from Bolivia); White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha* (one in Santa Cruz department; the species is known from only a handful of sites in Bolivia); White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus* (the first record for La Paz department); Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota* (pair at 500 m were unusually low on the east Andean slope); Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum* (recorded to 1,500 m, 500 m above its usual altitudinal range); Cinereous Conebill *C. cinererum* (recorded at 1,300, unusually low on the east Andean slope); and Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis* (pair at 1,500 m, 500 m above its usual altitudinal range).

**Brazil**

Aleixo2 documents a record of Large-headed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon megacephala* from the Xavante Indian Reserve of São Marcos, 120 km north-west of Barro do Garças, Mato Grosso state, central Brazil. This is a range extension of 700 km south-east from the nearest known locality at Alta Floresta, Mato Grosso, and is almost equidistant from south-east Brazilian populations.

**Chile**

Porteous26 reports the occurrence of both the little-known Markham’s Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma markhami* and Hornby’s Storm-petrel *O. hornbyi* off Arica in late October 1995.

**Ecuador**

Noticias de Galápagos 57 (1997) documents the first Galápagos record of Green Heron *Butorides virescens*, observed and photographed by Hernán Vargas at Pozo de Claudio Cruz in the highlands of Floreana on 28 March 1996. It also lists the second record of Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* for the islands, one observed by Diego Andrade Torres and Paul Coopmans with a birdwatching group on Santa Fé on 9 June 1997.

**Paraguay**

Fieldwork in the Reserva Natural de Bosque Mbaracayú, Paraguay, from June 1994 to February 1996, resulted in the following noteworthy observations presented in Madroño & Esquivel19. Records of Hook-billed Kite *Chondrohierax uncinatus* were the first for the Department (breeding suspected), and those of Ornate Hawk-eagle *Spizeatus ornatus* the first certain Paraguay records since 1939 and the first for the Department: indigenous Ache hunters reported finding a nest. Several records of Black Hawk-eagle *Spizeatus tyrannus* confirm the species’ presence in Paraguay, it previously having been treated as hypothetical19. Several records of Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica* on the Jepúmi river confirm the species’ status in the reserve, where it was listed without documentation by Acevedo et al.1; there are only two previous confirmed and five unconfirmed reports for Paraguay. Red-legged Seriema *Carima cristata* has been observed several times, although not previously listed for central Paraguay15. Further records of Scaled Pigeon *Columba speciosa* confirm it to be an uncommon resident in the reserve. Five records of Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus* are the first for the Department. Records of Ocellated Poorwill *Nyctiphrurus ocellatus*, including an incubating bird on 27 October 1994, supplement the four previous records for Paraguay and single Department record. Silky-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus seriocaudatus* was recorded seven times, having previously been known from just three country records. Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda* was regularly observed and an active nest found, it was previously known from only four records in Paraguay. Three sightings of Pygmy Kingfisher *C. aenea*, including a pair, are the first for Oriental Paraguay and the third for the country. Several pairs of Collared Crescentchest *Melanopareia torquata*, previously known from a single 1938 record in Paraguay, were found. Several records of Sharp-tailed Tyrant *Culicivora caudacuta* are the first in Paraguay since 1932. Groups of up to ten Curl-crested Jay *Cyanocorax cristatellus* were the first in Paraguay outside Concepción Department. Three records of Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola* were the first for the Department. A Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo* was the third for Oriental Paraguay. Three singing maleTemminck’s Seedeeater *Sporophila falcirostris* were located in June 1995, having previously been known in Paraguay from a single 1977 record. Marsh Seedeeater *S. palustris*, although erroneously reported for the Parque7,13, was recorded for the first time when three males were observed with a flock of transient *Sporophila* seedeaters. The same flock also contained two male Dark-throated Seedeeater *S. ruficollis*, one male Rufous-rumped Seedeeater *S. hypochroma*, both new for the Department, and up to three male Chestnut Seedeeater *S. cinnamomea*, the second record for the Department. Two additional records of Sooty Grassquit *Tiaris fuliginosa* follow the first Paraguayan record at the same locality.

References

Peru
Wilkinson & Smith describe the first nests, eggs and nestlings of Sooty Antbird Myrmeciza fortis to be discovered, in Cocha Cashu Biological Station. Manu National Park in September 1991 and October 1994.

Venezuela
Barrowclough et al. report new records for the summit of Auyántepui, Bolívar state from a month long survey (1 February–1 March 1994). They recorded 21 new species for the avifauna including two especially noteworthy records: Tepui Tinamou Crypturellus paritapei observations and four specimens, represent a range extension of 50 km for this threatened species. A single Buff-fronted Owl Aegolius harrisii was collected, the easternmost record of the nominate northern race.

Other records received

South Georgia
A Barn Owl Tyto alba found in an old building at 54°18'S 36°30'W by postmaster Gordon Liddle on 8 August 1997 was the first island record.

Acknowledgements
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References


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

**SHORT NOTES**

**Rare bird records from Trinidad & Tobago in 1997**

The proliferation of records during the last two decades has led to a large amount of data, often emanating from visitors to Trinidad & Tobago, who are largely unfamiliar with the local avifauna. In order to rationalise the situation, a committee has been established to rigorously assess all records submitted to it. The results of the first selection of such records are given here. Those accepted have been subjected to close scrutiny by a panel of experienced ornithologists, following the usual international standards. It is the committee's hope that publication will encourage all serious field workers to submit their records (including any from the past) for assessment.

**Results**

We present acceptable records for 23 species, some supported by photographic evidence: these include three first records for Tobago. Records for nine other species were rejected.

**Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*

Individuals on 3 July 1994 flying near boats in the Gulf of Paria west of Trinidad, and just south of Crown Point, Tobago (FEH). The latter is a first record for Tobago.

**Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus*

One at sea just off the north coast of Trinidad on 3 July 1994 (FEH). The species is rarely recorded near Trinidad.

**Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*

Individuals on the north side of St Giles Islands, Tobago on 29 September 1995 and 20 February 1996 (RPff, Mff, AC). This species, which breeds in the West Indies south to the Grenadines, has only recently begun to appear in the Tobago area.

**Masked Duck** *Nomonyx dominicus*

Up to three birds at Buccoo marsh, Tobago on 15–17 January 1993, 22 February 1993 and 21 January 1995 (DWF, GW, AW). These appear to be the first 20th century records on Tobago of this secretive species.

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*

One or two birds on mudflats at Waterloo between 7–21 October 1995 and on 11 January 1996 (GW et al., BO). Only one previous record for Trinidad.

**Double-striped Thick-knee** *Burhinus bistriatus*

Individuals were seen at Orange Grove, Trinidad on 14 August 1991 (GW, ZW) and at Petite Trou, Tobago on 16 August 1995 (ER et al.). These constitute the second record for Trinidad and the first for Tobago.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

One at Bon Accord Lagoon, Tobago on 13 February 1983 (DF...
et al.). The first (and only) record for Tobago (see elsewhere in this issue). The species has also been recorded occasionally on Barbados, but is very rare in the New World.

**Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica**

One at Caltoo Trace, Nariva on 15 September 1991 and another at Caroni Rice Project on 27 September 1992 (GW, ZW). The species is an uncommon passage migrant through Trinidad, usually in small groups or lone individuals.

**Marbled Godwit Limosa fedoa**

Individuals at Waterloo mudflats on 7 and 19 October 1995 and 10 March 1996 (GW et al.). The species is a rare passage migrant through Trinidad, most records occurring in autumn.

**Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus**

Up to two birds off Crown Point, Tobago on 15–16 January 1996 (BO). Very few birds of this species have been identified off Tobago, but this probably reflects paucity of observers rather than the species' genuine rarity.

**Arctic Skua Stercorarius parasiticus**

A probable juvenile of this species off Crown Point, Tobago on 16 January 1996, at approximately the same time as one of the previous species (BO). The species appears slightly more common in waters off Trinidad & Tobago than its congener.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus**

An adult and a young bird at Waterloo mudflats on 26 December 1993 (GW, AW), and another, probably subadult, at the same location on 11 January 1996 (BO). There are only a few records of this species from Trinidad & Tobago, but records are becoming more regular.

**Mangrove Cuckoo Caccyzus minor**

One photographed at Buccoo marsh, Tobago on 9–10 July 1994 (FEH). The species, though presumably resident, has only rarely been recorded on Tobago.

**Rufous-shafted Woodstar Chaetocerus jourdanii**

An immature or female at Blanchisseuse Road on 3 August 1995 (RPff et al.); although there are a fair number of sight records from Trinidad (almost all in the Northern Range), mostly during January–June, the status of this tiny hummingbird on the island remains obscure.

**Bank Swallow Riparia riparia**

One on 1 October 1994 at Trincity sewage ponds (FEH et al.). This is the earliest fall record of this species on Trinidad, where it has only been rarely recorded previously.

**Cliff Swallow Hirundo pyrrhonota**

Three at Trincity sewage ponds on 17 January 1995 (DWF et al.). There have only been three previous records from Trinidad.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica**

An immature at Simla, Trinidad on 13 January 1995 (DWF et al.) was the sixth record for Trinidad.

**Summer Tanager Piranga rubra**

A subadult male at Waterloo on 11 May 1994 (GW, ZW). The species is an uncommon winter visitor to Trinidad, and this spring record is considerably later than previous ones.

**Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea**

An adult male near Lagon Bouffe in south-east Trinidad on 28 April 1983 (VQ et al.). Only the second record on Trinidad. It seems to be a rare spring migrant: all records for both islands have occurred between March–May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak Pheucticus ludovicianus**

A female at Chacachacare island on 22 April 1995 (GS). Only the third record for Trinidad of this species, which breeds in North America and winters south to Peru and the Guianas.


The Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee currently consists of seven members, including the present authors, Davis W. Finch, Ian Lambie, William L. Murphy, Victor Quesnel and Graham White. Records to be considered should be sent, preferably on prescribed forms, to F. E. Hayes or Richard ffrench at the addresses below.

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**PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE**

**Caribbean**

**Bahamas**

A Fish Crow Corvus ossifragus at West End, Grand Bahama on 13–16 February 1997 was the first West Indian record. Two overwintering Kirtland’s Warblers Dendroica kirtlandii were found at Abaco on 15 and 17 December 1996.

**Barbados**

Vagrants to the island included a female Hooded Merganser Mergus cucullatus at Chancery Lane on 4 December 1996 (first record for the island), two White-
winged Black Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus* in October 1996, a Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* at Cole's Pasture on 17 November 1996 and a Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* at North Point (first for the Neotropics) from October 1996–January 199723.

**Bermuda**
The first wintering Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* since 1970 was recorded in January–February 199723.

**Dominican Republic**
The first record of Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* in the West Indies was a light morph adult 3 km south of Monte Cristi on 22 April 19969.

**Guadeloupe**
The first record of Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus nudigenis* was reported by Levesque12: an adult feeding young at 'Petit Marquisat' at the Capesterre Belle-Eau commune on 12 July 1997.

**Central America**

**Honduras**
The first breeding records of Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* come from Caya Gallina near Isla Cachino Pequeño in 1994 and 199528.

**Mexico**
Garrett & Molina12 report the first record of Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* for the country at El Golfo de Santa Clara in extreme north-west Sonora province on 7 June 1997.

Er fascination & Wurster10 place on record confirmed breeding of the following species in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, northern Baja California, all of which were previously not known to breed in Mexico: Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri* (July 1992 and 1993), Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* (July 1992), Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus* (July 1993) and Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* (July 1993). In addition, the same authors provide evidence for the occurrence of Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadius* (May 1994), Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi* (July 1987) and Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis* (July 1993) in the same area in summer. The latter species is not known to nest elsewhere in Mexico.

New data on distribution, presented by Figueron-Esquivel *et al.*11, include the first records in Quintana Roo of: Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* (sight record, October 1992), White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora* (specimen, March 1993; sight record, May 1993), Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Autonomus ochraemus* (specimens, April 1992 and February 1993), Thick-billed Seedfinch *Oryzoborus funereus* (specimens, August 1992, March and June 1993), Fuertes' Oriole *Icterus (spurius) fuertesi* (sight record, February 1993) and Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* (sight record, June 1993). Additionally, they report three summer records, including a nest of Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*, which extends the Mexican breeding range significantly northwards.

**Panama**
El Niño produced some interesting seabird sightings in the country. These included a Grey Gull *Larus modestus* between 4–18 September 1996 (third record), a Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* between 6–20 September 1996 (third record) and a Band-tailed Gull *Larus belcheri* on 24 September 1996 (fourth record), all at Costa del Este. The second Grey-hooded Gull *Larus cirrocephalus* recorded in the country was observed at Costa del Este on 17 October 1997, with the same bird and an Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* still present the following day1,3.

**South America**

**Argentina**
The first records of Buff-banded Tyrannulet *Mecocerculus heilmayri* from Tucumán province were reported by Giannini13: at San Javier six were trapped on 4 and 6 January 1995, with several subsequent sightings until January 1996.

**Bolivia**
Brace & Hornbuckle7 report the following interesting records from Beni Biological Station (BBS), dpto. Beni: Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii* (first department record in September 1992), Tiny Hawk *Accipiter superciliosus* (second to fourth department records in August 1994, August 1995 and July 1996), Burrowing Owl *Speotyto cunicularis* (resident pair in 1994–1996 was the first department record), Little Nightjar *Caprimulgus parvulus* (first area records including a nest in August 1995), Striolated ...
Puffbird Nystalus striolatus (second department record in August 1992), Pale-breasted Spinetail Synallaxis albescens (new, apparently age-related plumage variation), Plain Antvireo Dysthamnus mentalis (not uncommon in the area, the only site in lowland Bolivia where the species is known to occur), Striped-chested Antwren Myrmotherula longicauda (first department record in September 1992), Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-manakin Neopelma sulphureiventer (new information apparently confirms that it is not a bamboo specialist), White-crested Tyrannulet Seropogha subseristata (four mist-netted, two previous departmental records), White-bellied Tyrannulet S. munda (five mist-netted in August 1995, no previous departmental records), Crested Doradito Pseudocolopteryx sclateri (24 mist-netted at BBS, the second Bolivian locality), White-naped Xenopsaris Xenopsaris albinucha (singles in August 1994, July 1995 at BBS and at Trinidad in July 1996; scarce in Bolivia), Ashy-headed Greenlet Hylophilus pectoralis (first department record in August 1995), Long-tailed Reed-finch Donacospiza albifrons (several records from BBS provide a new Bolivian locality for this species which, in Bolivia, is only known from dpto. Beni), and Tawny-bellied Seedeeater Sporophila hypoxantha (several males in August 1996).

Brazil
Zimmer et al.3 report on significant new records from the Alta Floresta region of Mato Grosso. Amongst a host of interesting observations on behaviour and other aspects of life-history for a number of little-known Amazonian species, records of the following species are of distributional interest:

Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet Touit purpurata (recorded on at least six occasions between August 1991–September 1995: a significant southerly range-extension); Brown-banded Puffbird Notharchus ordii (uncommon at Alta Floresta: a little-known species largely known from specimens from northern Amazonian Brazil and south-west Venezuela); Collared Puffbird Bucco capensis (three of the four state records are from this area); Cabanis's Spinetail Synallaxis cabanisi (the first Brazilian record and an easterly range extension of 1,200 km was made 25 km north of Alta Floresta in October 1989 and the presumed same pair was seen again in August 1991); Peruvian Recurvebill Simoxenops ucyalae (discovered at Alta Floresta in 1989, the second Brazilian locality); Crested Foliage-gleaner Anabazenops dorsalis (discovered in 1993, the second Brazilian locality); Grey-throated Leaf-tosser Scelurus albigularis (one seen and tape-recorded in August 1991 and heard in the same area in October 1992 are the second and third records in Brazil); Manu Antbird Cercomacra manu (locally common at Alta Floresta, the only known Brazilian locality until its discovery near Porangaba, Acre by Andrew Whittaker); Black-bellied Gnateater Conopophaga melanogaster (male in October 1989: the nearest previous known localities are in Pará and Rondônia); Purple-throated Cotinga Porphyroloema porphyroloema (five records from the area are a significant easterly range extension; it has also been recorded recently near Aruquemes, Rondônia by R. S. Ridgely); Cinnamon-crested Spadebill Platyrinchus saturatus (several records in the area are the first for the state and possibly the southernmost ever); Dusky-tailed Flatbill Ramphotrigon fuscicaua (reported on several occasions since 1989, the first records in Brazil); Large-headed Flatbill R. megacephala (relatively common at Alta Floresta but known from only two other localities in Amazonian Brazil); Black-and-white Tody-tyrant Pectilotriccus capitalis (a female in November 1989 represents only the third locality in Brazil); Zimmer's Tody-tyrant Hemitriccus minimus (recorded on several occasions and now also known from both banks of the lower Rio Tapajós, where recorded by B. M. Whitney); Helmeted Pygmy-tyrant Lophotriccus galeatus (recorded several times since September 1993: only one previous record in Mato Grosso); Tooth-billed Wren Odontorchilus cinereus (recorded on several occasions since 1989, previously in southern Amazonian Brazil only known from between the Rios Madeira and Xingú); and Guianan Gnaticatcher Polioptila guianensis (one in October 1989 extends the species’ known range south).

From the same volume, Cardoso da Silva et al.3 report on several interesting observations from the study of an isolated area of upland savanna in Amapá during October–November 1990 including: the first state records of Swallow-tailed Kite Elanoides forficatus, Yellow-crowned Parrot Amazona ochrocephala. Ferruginous Pygmy-owl Glaucidium brasilianum, Horned Sungem Heloictin bilopha, Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant Euscarthmus rufomarginatus, Smoky-fronted Tody-flycatcher Tidirostrum fumifrons, White-rumped Monjita Xolmis velata, Yellowish Pipit Anthus lutescens, White-bellied Seedeeater Sporophila leucoptera, Capped Seedeeater S. bouvreuil, and Ashy-headed Greenlet Hylophilus pectoralis.
Additionally, the authors provide the first specimen evidence for the following species’ occurrence in Amapá: White-tailed Hawk *Buteo albigularis*, Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*, Long-tailed Ground-dove *Uroplelia campestris*, Fork-tailed Palm-swift *Tachornis squamata*, Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco*, White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*, Rusty-backed Antwren *Formicivora rufa*, Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriqvensis*, Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* and White-banded Tanager *Neothraupis fasciata*.

Stota et al. report on the results from two study sites along the middle Rio Jiparana, Rondônia in 1986 and 1988. One locality—Cachoeira Nazaré—has the highest species list (459) for a single site in Brazil. Amongst the many important records, the following are of particular interest: Nocturnal Curassow *Nothocrax urumutum* (several tape-recorded: the south-easternmost occurrence); Blackish Rail *Rallus nigricans* (one record, a 700 km range extension eastward); Ash-coloured Cuckoo *Coccyzus cinereus* (two records, the first reports from Amazonian Brazil); Fiery-tailed Awbill *Avoettula recurvirostris* (one mist-netted extends the species’ known range 850 km south-west); Crimson Topaz *Topaza pella* (significant westward range extension); Brown Jacamar *Brachygalba lugubris* (new westernmost localities); Collared Puffbird *Bucco capensis* (southerly range extension of c.600 km); Rusty-breasted Nunlet *Nonnula rubecula* (450 km south-easterly range extension); Spot-throated Woodcreeper *Deconychura stictolaema* (600 km southerly range extension); Brown-rumped Foliage-gleaner *Automolus melanopeus* (450 km easterly range extension); Rufous-tailed Xenops *Xenops milleri* (450 km south-easterly range extension); Grey-throated Leaffoaser *Sclerus albigularis* (first record from Brazil); Tawny-throated Leaffoaser *S. mexicanus* (nearest records are 600 km to the east and 700 km to the south-west); Black-capped Antwren *Herpsilochmus atricapillus* (550 km north-westerly range extension); Chestnut-shouldered Antwren *Terenura humeralis* (previously known only from the Rio Purus); Plain Tyrannulet *Inezia inornata* (several records; only three previous records for Amazonian Brazil); Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus* (250 km south-westerly range extension); Rufous Casiornis *Casiornis rufa* (status uncertain in Amazonia); Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (uncertain status in western Amazonia); Dusky-chested Flycatcher *Myioborus luteiventris* (previously known from only two localities in southern Amazonian Brazil); Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus* (two specimens and several sight records are the first records for western Amazonia); Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematornis militaris* (1,400 km south-westerly range extension); Tooth-billed Wren *Odontorchilus cinereus* (other southern Amazonian Brazil localities are at Alta Floresta and between the Rios Madeira and Tapajós); Guianan Gnatchatcher *Polioptila guianensis* (new locality for the poorly known subspecies *paraensis*); Fulvous-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus surinamensis* (significant southerly range extension); Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak *Parkeothraustes humeralis* (unusually common at Cachoeira Nazaré); Slate-coloured Seedeater *Sporophila schistacea* (previously known only from one other site in southern Amazonian Brazil).

Six new species are reported for Minas Gerais by Parrini & Pacheco: Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* at Lagoa do Rosso, Mochambinho on 15 September 1996; Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris* at Januária on the Rio São Francisco, 30 July 1992; two Broad-tipped Hermits *Phaethornis gounelli* in caatinga in the Janaúba region on 10 July 1993; Rufous-backed Antvireo *Dysithamnus xanthopterus* and Brown-breasted Bamboo-tyrant *Hemitriccus obsoletus* since 1986 in the little-visited portion of Itatiaia National Park that lies within the province, and specimens labelled as Ferruginous Antbird *Drymophila ferruginea* from Serra de Matapau, Ouro Preto in April 1926 and Parque Nacional do Caraca in November 1974, have been reidentified as Bertoni’s Antbird *Drymophila rubricollis*. Three new records for Espírito Santo are reported by Bauer et al. Spot-flanked Gallinule *Gallinula melanops* at Usina Paineras, Itapemirim on 27 October 1997; three Little Nightjars *Caprimulgus parvulus* on the Rio Itapapoana near Praia das Neves, 30 October 1997 and two Vermilion Flycatchers *Pyrocephalus rubinus* at the same site in June 1997.

Maurício & Dias report on avifaunal work in southern Rio Grande do Sul, principally around Pelotas, which clarifies...
our knowledge of the southernmost limits of several Atlantic Forest birds. Fieldwork was conducted between October 1993–July 1996 and resulted in the following discoveries (southward range extensions in parentheses): Short-tailed Hawk Buteo brachyrurus (c. 200 km), Barred Forest-falcon Microstur ruficol s (small range extension), Rudy Quail-dove Geotrygon montana (c. 100 km), Rusty-barred Owl Strix hylophila (several additional records from the south-eastern hills), Semi-collared Nighthawk Lurocalis semitorquatus (100 km), Ashytailed Swift Chaetura andrei (c. 200 km), Red-breasted Toucan Ramphastos dicolorus (numerous and breeds in the south-eastern hills), White-browed Woodpecker Piculus aurulentus (three new localities), Lineated Woodpecker Dryocopus lineatus (two new localities with breeding confirmed at one), Robust Woodpecker Campephilus robustus (c. 250 km; breeding confirmed), White-throated Woodcreeper Xiphocolaptes albicolis (residency confirmed; previously considered a summer visitor to the state), Planalto Woodcreeper Dendrocloptes platyrostris (many new records from the south-east), Rufous-capped Spinetail Synallaxis ruficapilla (c. 150 km), Rufous Gnateater Conopophaga lineata (c. 200 km), Mouse-coloured Tapaculo Scytalopus speluncae (c. 100 km east of known occurrence and recorded to within 10 m of sea-level), Planalto Tyrannulet Phyllophius fasciatus (c. 100 km), Rough-legged Tyrannulet P. burmeisteri (c. 300 km), Greenish Tyrannulet P. virescens (c. 300 km), White-throated Spadebill Platyrinchus mystaceus (c. 200 km), Greenish Schifflornis Schifflornis virescens (c. 200 km), Hooded Berryeater Carpornis cucullatus (clarification of its southernmost limits), Red-ruffed Fruitcrow Pyroderus scutatus (c. 250 km), Chestnut-headed Tanager Pyrrhocoma ruficeps (c. 100 km), Ruby-crowned Tanager Tachyphonus coronatus (c. 250 km), Violaceous Euphonia Euphonia violacea (c. 180 km), and Green-throated Euphonia E. chalybea (c. 200 km).

Bornschein et al.5 report on new or little-known species in Paraná (PR) and Santa Catarina (SC) states. A list of all known records in PR of Black-browed Albatross Diomedia melanophris is given and the authors report several individuals found dead on the beaches of Pontal do Sul in 1985, and at Praia Deserta on 24 February 1991 and 30 August 1991. Skulls of Yellow-nosed Albatross D. chlororhynchos were found at Pontal do Sul and Ilha de Superagui on December 1987 and June 1993 respectively, being two of only a handful of records in PR. A series of observations of Fulvous Whistling-duck Dendrocygna bicolor are presented for PR and SC where only scattered records exist. The third PR and southernmost record of Little Wood-rail Aramides mangle in Brazil is given for Ilha das Pecas, where a bird was seen on 21 April 1992. A record of Giant Wood-rail A. speca ch a with a previously mistaken locality is given for Parque Nacional do Iguacu on 10 December 1988. Also what is apparently the first record in Mato Grosso do Sul was a bird seen by J. Nacinovic in the 1960s. Several new records are given for Yellow-breasted Crane Polioptila flavicollis (Porzana) flavicollis in Pontal do Sul, Balneario Barranco, rio Taquara and rio Tibagi, Paraná, together with data on habits and habitat. The 2nd–4th records of Black-bellied Plover Pluvialis squatarola in PR are given for Barra do Superagui (three on 6 January 1994), Ilha das Pecas (two on 16 October 1992) and Pontal do Sul (one on 4 March 1993). The 3rd–4th records of Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres in PR are one at Coroa on 16 October 1992 and one on Pontal do Sul on 7–8 October 1995. The only records of Stilt Sandpiper Micropalama himantopus in PR were two on Pontal do Sul on 25 November 1993 and several in the same place between 3–6 November 1995. Details of the only records of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper Tryngites subruficollis in PR are given: several at Pontal do Sul between September–November: 1993 and at Balneario Atami in September 1993. The 3rd–7th records of Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda in PR were birds at Pontal do Sul in September 1993 and October 1996, and at Balneario Atami in September–October 1993. The only records of Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus in PR and SC are three at Balneario Atami on 25–27 November 1993, four at Barra do Superagui on 29 December 1993, and one at Porto Belo, SC on 6 September 1988. Several records of Lesser Nighthawk Chordeiles acutipennis are given for eastern PR, from where there was only one previous record. Details of habitat, a nest and a specimen collected are given. The first record of Austral Negrito Lessonia rufa in PR was a bird collected at Pontal do Sul on 27 March 1994. The third record of Correndera Pipit Anthus correndera in PR was a pair seen at Pontal do Sul on 18–19 September 1993.

The most recent issue—Vol. 5, no. 2—of Ararajuba contains interesting new breeding data on Brazilian birds. Marini et al.19 provide additional nesting data for Large-billed Antwren Herpsilochmus longirostris, Helmeted Manakin Antilophia.
N e o t r o p i c a l N o t e b o o k

August 1996, at 2700 m21. records of 25 species for the of from Mamiña, I Region, on 13 Leptasthenura andícola comes Paraguay, principally made during fieldwork in 1995 (regions given in parentheses): Plumbeous Ibis Theristicus caerulescens (Central Paraguay, Campos Cerrados), Black-collared Hawk Busarellus nigricollis (Alto Paraná), Black Hawk-eagle Spizaetus tyrannus (Alto Paraná), Blackish Rail Pardirallus nigricans (Neembucú), Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda (Neembucú), White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicolis (Neembucú), Pileated Parrot Pionopsitta pileata (Campos), Pheasant Cuckoo Dromococcyx phasianellus (Neembucú). Variable Screech-owl Otus atricapillus (Alto Paraná), Striped Owl Asio clamator (Neembucú), Grey Potoo Nyctibius griseus (Neembucú), Grey-rumped Swift Chaetura cinereiventris (Campos Cerrados), Green-and-rufous Kingfisher Chloroceryle inda (Alto Paraná), Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet Phaeomyias murina (Neembucú), Yellow Tyrannulet Capsiempis flavopectus (Campos Cerrados), Neembucú), White-crested Elaenia klaea albiceps (Neembucú), Tawny-crowned Pygmy-tyrant Euscathmus meloryphus (Campos Cerrados), Large-headed Flatbill Ramphotrichon megacephala (Campos Cerrados), Piratic Flycatcher Legatus leucophaeus (Neembucú), Bank Swallow Riparia riparia (Alto Paraná), Blue Dacnis Dacnis cayana (Neembucú), Plumbeous Seedeater Sporophila plumbea (Central Paraguay), White-bellied Seedeater S. leucoptera (Neembucú) and Giant Cowbird Scaphidura oryzivora (Neembucú).

Venezuela Zimmer & Hilty25 report on recent observations from the little-explored (by ornithologists) state of Amazonas, in southern Venezuela. The following observations, all from the area surrounding Junglaven, are especially interesting (the authors also report a number of small northward range extensions): Zigzag Heron Zebrilus undulatus (recorded along small tributaries of the Ventuari extending its known range northwards in Amazonas); additionally the species has recently been discovered in gallery forest at El Baul, Cojedes state in the llanos, a major range extension); Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda (recorded twice each in April 1990 and March 1992: one previous state record); White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicolis (one on 10–14 October 1993: the first state record); Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet Toux huetii (only one previous record in Amazonas); Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus (two reports, the 3rd–4th state records); Long-tailed Potoo Nyctibius aethereus (records in March 1991 and May 1992 are the first in Amazonas); Rufous Nightjar Caprimulgus rufus (records in December 1992, January and October 1993 provide the third locality in Venezuela south of the Orinoco); Brown-banded Puffbird Napharchus ordii (observations on the first-described nest of this little-known species are presented); Pale-bellied Mournor Rhutipterna immunda (apparently fairly common at the study site: the first record in Venezuela); White-throated Kingbird Tyrannus alborogularis (a pair 60 km south of Puerto Ayacucho in February 1994 was the first state record); Grey-cheeked Thrush Catharus minimus (four winter records suggest that Amazonas may be

Chile A dowitcher sp. (almost certainly Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus) at Estero Tongoy, IV Region on 22 January 1996, was reported as the first sighting of this genus in the country20 but it had been observed a few months earlier at the same locality (see Cotinga 8: 90–91). The first country record of Andean Tit-spinetail Leptasthenura andicola comes from Mamiña, I Region, on 13 August 1996, at 2,700 m21.

Paraguay Lowen et al.18 present first records of 25 species for the geographical regions of eastern Paraguay, principally made during fieldwork in 1995 (regions given in parentheses): Plumbeous Ibis Theristicus caerulescens (Central Paraguay, Campos Cerrados), Black-collared Hawk Busarellus nigricollis (Alto Paraná), Black Hawk-eagle Spizaetus tyrannus (Alto Paraná), Blackish Rail Pardirallus nigricans (Neembucú), Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda (Neembucú), White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicolis (Neembucú), Pileated Parrot Pionopsitta pileata (Campos), Pheasant Cuckoo Dromococcyx phasianellus (Neembucú). Variable Screech-owl Otus atricapillus (Alto Paraná), Striped Owl Asio clamator (Neembucú), Grey Potoo Nyctibius griseus (Neembucú), Grey-rumped Swift Chaetura cinereiventris (Campos Cerrados), Green-and-rufous Kingfisher Chloroceryle inda (Alto Paraná), Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet Phaeomyias murina (Neembucú), Yellow Tyrannulet Capsiempis flavopectus (Campos Cerrados, Neembucú), White-crested Elaenia klaea albiceps (Neembucú), Tawny-crowned Pygmy-tyrant Euscathmus meloryphus (Campos Cerrados), Large-headed Flatbill Ramphotrichon megacephala (Campos Cerrados), Piratic Flycatcher Legatus leucophaeus (Neembucú), Bank Swallow Riparia riparia (Alto Paraná), Blue Dacnis Dacnis cayana (Neembucú), Plumbeous Seedeater Sporophila plumbea (Central Paraguay), White-bellied Seedeater S. leucoptera (Neembucú) and Giant Cowbird Scaphidura oryzivora (Neembucú).

Peru González & Malaga15 report a 200 km southward range extension of Long-tailed Mockingbird Mimus longicaudatus to Majes, Arequipa. The first nest of Slender-billed Finch Xenospingus concolor was located at Ocuaje, Ica department14.

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an important wintering area); Black-whiskered Vireo Vireo altiloquus (third locality in Amazonas for this species); and Bobolink Dolichonyx oryzivorus (one in October 1993 was the first state record).

South Atlantic

South Georgia
Reid6 presents descriptive details of the first Franklin’s Gull Larus pipixcan at South Georgia—at Freshwater Bay, Bird Island on 20 January 1997.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Bolivia
R. Mitchell reports the first sighting of Tricoloured Heron Egretta tricolor for Bolivia (north of Trinidad in Bení department, August 1996). From the same region, Red-breasted Meadowlark Leistes militaris was recorded, further south and east of its known range and in a possible overlap zone with White-browed Meadowlark L. supercilias. J. Ohlson reports some presumed new or interesting records for La Paz department observed in Parque Nacional Madidi, in November and December 1996: Grey-bellied Hawk Accipiter poliochelaster, Festive Coquette Lophornis chalybea, Black-bellied Thorntail Popelairia langsdorffii, Gould’s Jewelfront Polyplanta aureescens, Thrush-like Antpitta Myrmothera campanisosa, White-browed Purpletuft Iodopileura isabelliae, Red-billed Pied Tanager Lamprospiza melanoleuca, Opal-rumped Tanager Tangara velia and Buff-rumped Warbler Phaeoliprypis fulvicapa on the upper Río Yaripao.

Chile
Some interesting seabird sightings were made by S. J. M. Gantlett on pelagic trips in 1997. Two Chatham Island Albatrosses Diomedea eremita and two Westland Petrels Procellaria westlandica were off Vina del Mar, Santiago on 17 November and 15 Waved Albatrosses Diomedea irrorata (a first country record) c.22 km off Arica on 27 November.

Colombia
TD and LD report a few range extensions resulting from their work in Tambito Nature Reserve, Cauca in August–September 1997: two Swallow-tailed Nightjars Uropsalis segmentata were the first records from the Pacific slope of Cauca province. Other apparently new province records involved Pale-eyed Thrush Platycichla leucops and Black-tailed Flycatcher Myiobius atricaudatus. A Black-billed Treehunter Thripadectes melanorhynchus was well watched and tape-recorded along the Pasto–Macoa road, Putumayo on 13 October 1997 (JH, GMK, TM)—only the third record for Colombia.

An adult Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis was seen close inshore at Camarones, near Riohacha on 7 January 1998 (GMK)—there are few Colombian records; a White-tailed Trogon Trogon viridis tape-recorded along the San Lorenzo ridge, Santa Marta on 8 January 1998 was unusually high at 1,700 m (GE, GMK et al.), as was a Broad-billed Sapayoa Sapayoa aenigma at c.1,800 m at La Planada, Pasto on 14 October 1997 (GMK, TM et al.).

Ecuador
A Plumebeau Rain Ratllus sanguinolentus just north of Loja on 2 July 1995 extends the known range of this species north from the Vilcabamba region and an adult Laughing Gull Larus atricilla at Papallacta Pass (3,500 m) on 26 November 1997 is the highest known record (OJ).

Mexico
A Black-throated Diver Gavia arctica at San Quintín on 21 February 1997 was a first record for Mexico (RH, DE, SNGH).

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Neotropical Notebook: compiled by Juan Mazar Barnett, Guy M. Kirwan and Joe Tobias.

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7. Brace, R. C. & Hornbuckle, J. (1998) Distributional records and identification notes on birds of the Beni Biological Station, Beni,


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

Recent sightings of threatened birds around Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica
During brief fieldwork on the Osa Peninsula, south-west Costa Rica, in May 1998, we recorded two threatened species—Yellow-billed Cotinga Carpodectes antonioe and Black-cheeked Ant-tanager Habia atrimaxillaris. A minimum of seven male and five female C. antonioe were seen in tall mangroves or adjacent lowland evergreen forest along a 10 km stretch of the Rio Sierpe, north of Corcovado National Park. Notable sightings included a flock of five males in canopy forest, and a female carrying small twigs (presumably nesting material) in tall forest on a small hill adjacent to extensive mangrove. One male and up to three females were present in this area, and our boatman commented that the site is well-known to local guides as a regular haunt of the species. C. antonioe has been recorded in small numbers from this area previously1 and its protection should be a conservation priority.

H. atrimaxillaris has a very small range in the Golfo Dulce lowlands of Costa Rica, but was common within Corcovado National Park. Most records were of small groups and family parties (3–6 birds), associating with small flocks in the understory of dense lowland forest. However, it was not restricted to this habitat type, and small numbers were recorded in palms and beachfront scrub adjacent to the park.

Reference

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Published records from the literature

Caribbean
Cuba
Among significant observations reported recently, a juvenile Giant Kingbird Tyrannus cubenensis observed at Monte de Regino, Havana province, on 13 October 1996, with one heard at El Copey, north-east of Caimito, Havana province on 10 September 1996, is one of the most important discoveries15. Ruiz15 reports on the second record of Tundra Swan Cygnus columbianus in Cuba: one collected at Nipe, municipality of Mayari, Holguin province, on 25 February 1990. The same author also places on record the occurrence of Black-capped Petrel Pterodroma hastata at Valle de Yaguanabo, Alturas de Trinidad, Cienfuegos province, from November 1976–January 1990 at least16. An Orange-crowned Warbler Vermivora celata, collected on the Guanahacabibes Peninsula in westernmost Cuba, on 11 November 1989, was the first island record8.

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Reference
Dominican Republic

Three species new to Hispaniola have been documented recently. Rimmer & McFarland detail the discovery of Swainson's Warbler Limnothlypis swainsonii at Palo de Agua, in the Sierra de Baoruco National Park (one bird trapped on 10 November 1997 and retrapped on 7 March 1998, with a second bird mist-netted on 9 March 1998) and a Song Sparrow Melospiza melodia above Vueltas de Quince on the Haitian border in the western Sierra de Neiba, on 15 November 1997. This appears to be the first record in the Caribbean south of the Bahamas (where there are five sight records). Continuing fieldwork in the Dominican Republic by Steven Latta and his colleagues resulted in the discovery of a Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus at Las Salinas, Bani, on 22 November 1997. There are few previous Caribbean records of this species. Separately, Latta & Brown report on three new species for the Dominican Republic, all in dry forest near Cabo Rojo, Pedernales province: a juvenile female Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica seen and subsequently mist-netted on 14–15 October 1997; a juvenile male Bay-breasted Warbler D. castanea mist-netted on 23 October 1997; and an adult female Nashville Warbler Vemivora ruficapilla trapped on 14 November 1997. In addition, a juvenile Connecticut Warbler Oporornis agilis was mist-netted on 16 October 1997 and several unringed individuals were recorded until 21 October; and two Golden-winged Warblers Vemivora chrysoptera were seen on 14 October 1997.

Anguilla

Iliiff summarises observations from a visit to the island in winter 1995–1996. These include the first island records of Tricoloured Heron Egretta tricolor and Stilt Sandpiper Calidris himantopus. In addition, records of the following species considered vagrants to the island were made: White-cheeked Pintail Anas bahamensis, Blue-winged Teal Anas discors, Merlin Falco columbarius, American Oystercatcher Haematopus palliatus, Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca and Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago. The recent colonisation of the island by the Rock Dove Columba livia was also confirmed.

Tricoloured Heron Egretta tricolor

Central America

Panama

Further reports of Grey Gull Larus modestus were as follows: a non-breeding plumaged adult at Costa del Este from 4–20 September 1997, and again on 19 October 1997; one at Panamá Viejo from 13 March–10 April 1998; two near Tocumen Marsh on 25 April 1998; four at Avenida Balboa on 3 May 1998; one at Costa del Este on 17 May 1998; and up to 100 individuals at Costa del Este on 30–31 May 1998.

South America

Argentina

Barnett & Navas report on the first Pink-footed Shearwater Puffinus creatopus to be recorded in the Atlantic Ocean: one
collected at the Valdés Peninsula, Chubut, in May 1981 and now housed in the Buenos Aires zoological museum.

**Brazil**

The distributional limit of the **Grey-headed Attila Attila phoenicurus** in the Atlantic forests of south-east Brazil is extended slightly further north (from the previous northernmost locality, Itatiaia National Park) with reports in Fazenda Vale da Revolta near Teresópolis since 1991 and a single bird taped at Macaé de Cima, Nova Friburgo, on 29 November 1996. Both localities lie in the Serra dos Órgãos in Rio de Janeiro state, where extreme dates for the presence of the species were 25 October and 2 March.

A report of **Straight-billed Woodcreeper Xiphorhynchus picus** in the mangrove swamps of Vitória, Espírito Santo, in 1987 by Carlos Carvalho, extended its range some 100 km southwards. The species was also found in the same habitat at the mouth of the rio Itabapoana, on the border between Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro, on 16, 17, 24 and 26 June 1997, representing a further range extension of 130 km south. A bird taped on the Rio side of the river on 25 June 1997 represented the first report for the state.

**Brazilian Merganser Mergus octosetaceus**

Dos Anjos et al. describe the avifauna of the Tibagi river basin in Paraná. Perhaps of most significance are the observations of threatened and near-threatened species made in this 24,530 km² area. Twelve threatened species were recorded: Brazilian Merganser *Mergus octosetaceus* (rare), Black-fronted Piping-guan *Pipile jacutinga* (rare), Vinaceous Amazon *Amazona viridescens* (considered common), Blue-belied Parrot *Tricoloria malacoides* (stable population at one locality), Cinnamon-vented Piha *Lipaia lanioides* (common), Black-capped Piprites *Piprites pileatus* (rare), São Paulo Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes paulistus* (rare), Ochre-breasted Pipit *Anthus nattereri* (rare), Black-legged Dacnis *Dacnis nigripes* (rare), Black-backed Tanager *Tangara peruviana* (stable populations at two localities) and Temminck’s Seedeeater *Sporophila falcostris* (rare). Nineteen near-threatened species are considered common in the study area: Solitary Tinamou *Tinamus solitarius*, Bluewing Macaw *Ara maracana*, Long-trained Nightjar *Macropsalis creagra*, Saffron Toucanet *Baillonius bailloni*, Mottled Piculet *Picumnus nebulosus*, Spotted Bamboowren *Psilorhamphus guttatus*, Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicolli*, Shear-tailed Grey-tyrant *Musciipipra vetula*, Hangnest Toddy-tyrant *Hemitrigonex nidipendulum*, Southern Bristle-tyrant *Phylloscartes eximius*, Oustalet’s Tyrannulet *P. oustaleti*, Sharp-tailed Tyrant *Culicivora caudacuta*, Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher *Polioptila lactea*, Azure Jay *Cyanocorax caeruleus*, Thick-billed Saltator *Saltator maximus*, Blackish-blue Seedeeater *Amaurospiza moesta* and Green-throated Euphonia *Euphonia chalybea*.

**Guyana**

Agro & Ridgely recently located a female specimen of Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus regulus* in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia collection, which was taken at Ourumee, formerly British Guiana, on 10 October 1890. There appear to be no subsequent records from the Guianas, and the authors speculate that the species must be local and rare in Guyana as observers familiar with the species’ calls have not reported it.
Uruguay
A pair of Ochre-faced Tody-tyrants Todirostrum plumbeiceps were collected on 6 October 1997 at Paso Centurión, on the Yaguaron river (32°08'S 53°43'W), on the edge of a clearing in gallery woodland. The pair showed enlarged gonads and it is conceivable that they bred in the area. An Olivaceous Woodcreeper Sittasomus griseicapillus, showing enlarged testes, was collected on 7 October 1997 at the same locality. These were the first records of both species for Uruguay, although their presence at this locality is unsurprising given the suitable habitat and the fact that both species occur nearby in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Venezuela

South Atlantic
The third record of Erect-crested Penguin Eudyptes sclateri in the Falkland Islands was a bird present in a Rockhopper Penguin E. crestatus colony on Pebble Island in January 1997 and from November–late January at least. A photograph of this bird has been published recently (Birding World 11: 258).

Other records received

Netherlands Antilles
The first Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis for Aruba, a female, was recorded with a party of Carib Grackles Quiscalus lugubris near Bubali sewage farm on 21 August 1997 (TdK, DM).

Acknowledgements
Thanks to the following who forwarded or commented on records: Tyron de Kort, Dick Meijer and J. F. Pacheco.


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

Short notes

First record of Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* in the Matogrosense region of Paraguay

We observed a Pinnated Bittern *Botaurus pinnatus* in the area of Puerto Bahía Negra (Alto Paraguay department, Paraguay) on 1 and 6 August 1997, on the west bank of the Paraguay River (21°10'S 58°10'W), less than 1 km south of the Bolivian border. Another was seen at the west margin of the Paraguay River (20°12'S 58°08'W), in adjacent Brazil, on 7 August 1997.

There are very few records of this species in Paraguay and no definite sightings from Alto Paraguay department. The closest records to this region date from 1937, 195 km west of Puerto de la Victoria (22°03'S 59°41'W). It is unclear whether this locality is in Boquerón or Alto Paraguay department. The only other records in Paraguay are two from the 1980s.

These 1997 records are the first in the Matogrosense region of Paraguay and the northernmost in the country. The proximity of the observations to Bolivia, a country where the species is unrecorded, is significant and suggest that the species should be looked for there.

Acknowledgements

The observations were made during the Acciones de Formación, Apoyo Institucional y Desarrollo Sostenible en Bahía Negra y Parque Nacional del Río Negro project directed by Asociación Amigos de Doñana and Hombre y Naturaleza: Paraguay. Our deepest thanks go to Manuel Español and Sonja Bielskis for their help.

References


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Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* in Costa Rica

An Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis* was found at Santa Elena, Monteverde, Puntarenas (84°49'N 10°19'W), on 2 July 1996. When discovered, on a road between areas of grazing land, the bird was almost dead: one wing was missing and it was covered with fly larvae. We suspect it may have hit a barbed-wire fence. This is the first specimen record from Costa Rica and has been deposited in the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, although a desiccated corpse was found, in 1986, on Cerro de la Muerte, in the south of the country. Three other reports are based on feathers or sight records.

This species is distributed from western Guyana west through Venezuela and Colombia, and south to Ecuador and Peru, as well as on Trinidad. *S. caripensis* probably occurs in east Panama and in Costa Rica is considered "accidental".

The individual found in 1996 was a female and weighed 255 g, which is low compared to the weight of 430 g reported by Stiles & Skutch. Its wing measured 280 mm, tarsus 22 mm, tail 190 mm, and the right ovary 13.2 x 6.8 mm. The bill colour was fleshy brown towards the tip and the feet were flesh coloured. It possessed a relatively significant amount of fat and a few unidentifiable seed fragments (probably palm) in its stomach.

References


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An apparent influx of Chuck-will’s-Widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* along the New River Lagoon, Orange Walk District, Belize

While assisting in a study of crocodiles at New River Lagoon, Orange Walk District, Belize on the night of 9 September 1998, I found three Chuck-will’s-Widows *Caprimulgus carolinensis*, perched silently on tree branches along the water’s edge. On 11 September 1998, an unknown number of the same species was heard calling before sunrise along Irish Creek, which drains into the south end of the lagoon.

According to Garcia et al.¹, this species is accidental in Belize. Martin Meadows (pers. comm.) knows of only 2–3 records of the species in Belize since 1975. However, he added that “no one is looking”. A recent avifaunal survey by Vallely & Whitman² at nearby Hill Bank did not record the species; however, their work was limited to January–April.

References


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Mantled Hawk *Leucopternis polionota* in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Considered globally near-threatened³, Mantled Hawk *Leucopternis polionota* is distributed from Alagoas, Brazil south to east Paraguay and Uruguay. Records from Misiones, Argentina, are unconfirmed³. Belton¹, in discussing this species’ status in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, mentions a specimen record (presumably from the 1800s), a sight record (east of Porto Alegre in February 1978) and the discovery of a primary feather at the same site, as the sight record. Together with David D. Beadle and Rod McCann, we observed and photographed a pair of *Leucopternis polionota* circling at close quarters between Camará do Sul and Fortaleza, RS, on 9 February 1997, providing additional confirmation of the species’ presence in the state.

References


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Published records from the literature

Caribbean

Bermuda

Wingate⁴ reports the first record of *Ixoreus naevius* on the island, at Paget Marsh, on 9 October 1998. The same author also provides details on the most recent *Cahow* *Pterodroma cahow* nesting season: 55 pairs fledged 29 young in 1997–1998, a new record, despite the loss of three well grown chicks late in the season⁵. Dobson⁶ provides a summary of other recent (1998) interesting bird news from the island: a female *Surf Scoter* *Melanitta perspicillata* at North Pond, on 28 October; a *Swallow-tailed Kite* *Elanoides forficatus* over Walsingham, on 23 July (the latest ever record); a *Curlew Sandpiper* *Calidris ferruginea* at Mid-Ocean golf course, from 3 September for several days; a record count of 16 *Whimbrel* *Numenius phaeopus* at the airport, on 22 September; a probable *Black Rail* *Laterallus jamaicensis* at North Pond, on 8 October; a very early *Black-headed Gull* *Larus ridibundus* at St. George’s, on 10 October; 13 *Sabine’s Gull* *L. sabini* 10 nautical miles north-east of the island, on 27 October (the second record); a *Townsend’s Warbler* *Dendroica townsendi* at Fort Scur, on 4 October; and a *Lapland Longspur* *Calcarius lapponicus* near Lover’s Lake, on 24 October.

Cuba

Rodriguez et al.⁷ add three species to the avifauna of the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago of cays off the northern coast of Cuba, during fieldwork on 24 January–14 February 1998: *Snowy Plover* *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Piping Plover* *Charadrius melodus* and *Ring-billed Gull* *Larus delawarensis*. Two new observations of *Black Vulture* *Coragyps atratus* have been made recently: one at La Guabina, Pinar del Río province, on 8 July 1997⁸, and nine between Havana and Yaguajay, 15 km from the Saneti Spiritus province border, in Cienfuegos province, on 3 February 1999⁹.

Dominican Republic

Rimmer et al.¹⁰ report sightings of *Bicknell’s Thrush* *Catharus bicknelli* in the Sierra de Neiba: at least eight birds in montane broadleaf forest at Vuelt a de Quince, on 16–18 February 1997, 12 (of which four birds were banded) in the same area, on 14–15 November 1997, and seven birds in the Monte Bonito area, above Apolinario, on 18–20 February 1998.

Puerto Rico

Pérez-Rivera¹¹ reports the appearance of another exotic on the island: *White Cockatoo*
Cacatua alba. Singles were recorded at University of Puerto Rico Botanical Gardens at Rio Piedras, on 16 November 1996, Mayagüez, Zoorico, on 8 October 1997, and Bairoa Park de Caguas, on 27 March 1998.

Tobago

Hayes et al.19 report the rediscovery of Grey-throated Leaffosser Sclerurus albogularis on Tobago. Seven specimens were collected during 1898–1903, but until March 1996, when the species was found nesting south-east of Castara, there were no additional reports from the island. Further observations from the Main Ridge of Tobago followed in August 1997, but the authors conclude that the species’ population on the island is small and concentrated in the western portion of the Main Ridge between Mount Dillon and Parlatuvier Bay.

Central America

Mexico

Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis has recently reached Mexico. Kluzu22 reports the observation of a single male in burnt mangroves at the eastern edge of Río Celestán town, Yucatán on 27 May 1996, and speculates on the potential survival capabilities of local endemics to this range-expanding nest-parasite.

Surveys of wintering shorebirds in the Ensenada Páballones and Bahía Santa María, Sinaloa, western Mexico, in December 1993 and February 1994 estimated that nearly 40,000 American Avocet Recurvirostra americana may use the area during the non-breeding season, nearly 10% of the world population14.

Belize

Miller & Miller25, in reviewing the status of ornithology in Belize, discuss a number problematic species which occur or probably occur in the country, for which documentation is required.

Green-fronted Hummingbird Amazilia viridifrons was reported at Blue Creek in early 1982 by Hallchuch10 but the authors consider this record more likely to pertain to Azure-crowned Hummingbird A. cyanocephala. In addition, a Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus reported during a Royal Air Force Orn. Soc. expedition in March 1986 also appears unlikely. The following species are either not listed for Belize by Howell & Webb23 or are considered to require verification, but for which there is some, sometimes strong, evidence for their presence: Cinnamon Teal Anas cyanoptera, Masked Duck Oxyura dominica, Solitary Eagle Harpyhaliaetus solitarius, Swainson’s Hawk Buteo swainsoni, Harpy Eagle Harpia harpyja, Crested Caracara Caracara plancus, Yellow-breasted Crake Porzana flaviventris, Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scolopaceus, Forster’s Tern Sterna forsteri, Crested Owl Cacatua alba.

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Emerald Amazilia luciae
discovered 30 km north-east of
Gualaco in the Agalta Valley
where it is common in a 100 ha
plot of thorn forest at 500 m; a
450 km northward range
extension for *Fulvous-bellied
Antpitta* Hylaezus fulvinictris,
which was found to be common
along the Platano River (three
specimens were taken); and new
observations of *Three-wattled
Bellbird* Procnias tricolorunculata
in the Sierra de Agalta that
suggest the species breeds there
contra previous reports.

Panama
Among a handful of reports from
the country in late 1998 comes
the first record of *Black Noddy
Anous minutus*, watched closely
and well described at Islas Frailes
del Norte, Las Monjas, on 12
September. This is the first
country record. More regular fare
included a pair of *Blue
Seedeater* Amaurispiza concolor
at Cerro Campana, on 8 August,
with a male there on 5 September
(on which date there was also a
*White-tailed Hawk Buteo
albicaudatus* and several *Red-
crowned Ant-tanagers Habia
rubica* in the same area). A
*Yellow-throated Warbler
Dendroica dominica* was
videotaped at Parque Omar, on 6
September, and on 2 August there
was a *Hook-billed Kite
Chondrohierax uncinatus*
South America

Argentina
Blendinguer" provides details of
two *Subtropical Doradito
Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis* at
Agua de las Palomas, on 17–19
December 1987, and two at Los
Nacimientos, on 15–19 January
1988, the first records for
Catamarca province.
Serracín & Romero present
several interesting records for La
Pampa province: four *Whisper-
ing Ibis Phimosus infuscatus* at
La Arocena, 6 km north-east of
General Pico, on 15 June 1996;
two *Fulvous Whistling-duck
Dendrocygna bicolor* in a marsh
near laguna Las Cloacas, 7 km
south-east of General Pico, on 23
December 1996, and two on a
small pond north-west of laguna
Don Tomás, on 18 January 1997; a
*Snail Kite Rostrhamus sociabilis*
defined from General Pico on ruta
provincial 102, on 4 May 1996,
two 15 km from Eduardo Castex
on ruta nacional 15, on 15
February 1997, and one at laguna
La Arocena on the same date; a
*Rufous-thighed Hawk Accipiter
erithronemius* at laguna La
Arocena, on 16 March 1996; a
*Masked Yellowthroat
Geothlypis aequinoctialis* was 3
km north of Toay, on 21 December
1996 (the third province record);
and a male *Chestnut-capped
Blackbird Agelaius ruficapillus*
at laguna La Arocena, on 15
February 1997 (second province
record).

Ordano presents the first
description of a nest of
*D'Orbigny's Chat-tyrant
Ochthoeca oenanthoiides*, by the
side of a stream at Los Cardones
National Park, on 20 November
1994, at 2,600 m.

Piacentini & Acerbo report
the first reliable records of
*Tropical Screech-owl Otus
clohbi* in Río Negro province and
the southernmost ever for the
species: one at Cervantes, General
Roca, in summer 1982; a pair and
three young photographed close
to General Roca, on 29 August 1987;
and another individual
photographed at Villa Regina, General
Roca (no date).

Ordano, based on many
records throughout the province
in all seasons and a male
collected whose gonad condition
indicated reproductive activity,
concludes that *Greater Wagtall-
tyrant Stigmatura budyclodes* is a
breeding resident in Formosa
province, contrary to much of the
previous literature.

Babarskas & Flombaum present
the following records from
Chubut province: a *Collared
Plovers Charadrius collaris* in
the rio Chubut, by Estancia La
Gloria, on 20 January 1997, is the
first province record; up to 10
*White-tipped Plantcutter
Phytotoma rutula* in the rio
Chubut, at Estancia La Gloria, on
16 January 1997, is the third
province record; and a pair of

Southern Martin Progne
modesta at the same locality, on
17 January 1997, confirms the
species' presence in Chubut.

Gonnet & Blendinguer present 15 new
distributional records of
*Crowned Eagle
Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* in west
Argentina and identify the area
between northern San Luis and
Mendoza provinces south through
La Pampa as that most suitable
to conduct further research and
conservation efforts due to the
higher density of the species
there.

Mazar Barnett et al. report
the first record of *Giant
Conebill Oreomanes fraseri* in
Argentina and the southernmost
for the species, based on a single
individual found on 26 September
1997, 10 km west of Rodeo
Pampa, Salta.

Di Giacomo presents the first
description of the nest and eggs of
Lesser Grass-finch
Emberizoides pyrrhops* and
confirms the presence of the
species in Formosa province,
based on records at Reserva
Ecológica El Bagual. Separately,
the same author provides the
first breeding record of *Barred
Antshrike Thamnophilus
dolius* in Argentina: five nests
found at Reserva Ecológica El
Bagual, Formosa.

Navas & Bo based on four
specimens collected by W.H.
Partridge and deposited at
MACN, extend the known range of
*Torrent Duck Merganetta a.
armata* 320 km northward to Las
Flores, San Juan. They also found
that the Mendoza population of
*Crested Duck Lophonetta
specularioides* (five specimens
examined, collected by W.H.
Partridge) appears to be
intermediate between austral and
nominate *specularioides* from the
south.

Brazil
*Rufous-throated Sapphire
Hylorhychus sapphirina* has
recently been found to be common
at Londrina, Paraná, with an

99
immediate collected on 25 September 1997. Only one previous record of the species existed for the state, and this was regarded as doubtful. In addition, White-chinned Sapphire *H. cyanus* was reported for the first time in Paraná, being recorded at Londrina on several occasions, as well as at Parque Estadual Mata dos Godoy and in the Sertaneja district.

Bagno & Rodrigues discuss the first records of four species in Goiás state. A pair of White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland* was at Emas National Park in October 1994. Several records of Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* at Emas are as follows: three in January 1996, one photographed in December 1996 and two in July 1997. Another was found dead at km 25 of road number GO 118 near the border with Federal District. At least three Band-tailed Nightjars *Caprimulgus longirostris* were seen and heard at Santuário de Vida Silvestre do Morro Cabeludo. A single Bay-winged Cowbird *Molothrus badius* was at Emas in January 1995.

Machado et al. report the first records of Pale-throated Serrafinch *Embernagra longicauda* away from the Espinhaco complex, and the southernmost for the species. It has been found at Serra de São José and Serra do Lenheiro (in the Mantiqueira range), as well as in the Rio Doce basin, at Antonio Dias, Nova Era, and Bela Vista de Minas; in both areas it is resident.

Alvarenga reports the discovery of a premaxilla of an Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus* among bones found near Lagoa Santa, Minas Gerais, and regarded as being c.11,000 years old (the early Holocene).

**Chile**

Torres-Mura reports the first records of Canyon Canastero *Aethes pygibunda* in Chile, pre-dating those published by van der Gaast: a male collected by R. Kuschel in July 1971 in Putre, Parinacota, I Region, held at Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and mislabelled as a Straight-billed Earthcreeper *Upucerthia ruficauda*, and a female collected by Torres-Mura in November 1993 at the same locality.

St. Pierre & Davies observed a single Hooded Grebe *Podiceps gallardoi* within a group of 2,200 Silvery Grebes *P. occipitalis* on 5 February 1997 at Monumento Natural Laguna de los Cisnes, Porvenir, XII Region. This is the first record in Tierra del Fuego and the first published Chilean record.

Bernal et al. report an observation of a single Black-bellied Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* at Reserva Nacional Lago Peñuelas, V Región, on 17 February 1998, the second record in Chile, although the authors do not discard the possibility of the individual being an escape.

Rubio discovered three pairs of White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* with young on one of the artificial lakes of a water treatment plant at La Farfana, Maipú, Región Metropolitana during November 1997–April 1998. This record adds to previous ones from the region and the author stresses the need to re-evaluate the status of the species in the area. Toledo photographed a single adult.

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* at Estero Tongoy, IV Región, on 27 January 1998. The bird flew up to 100 m inland then returned to the sea; the author conjectures that such records may be influenced by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Aguirre & Seeger discovered a single Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* in breeding plumage at the mouth of Estero Cartagena, V Región, on 3 May 1998, the southernmost record of the species in the country, extending its known distribution over 1,000 km.

**Peru**

Begazo & Valquir report on six months fieldwork in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve between 1992 and 1996. Zigzag Heron *Zeburis undulatus* was recorded on three occasions during the period; Slender-billed Kite *Rostrhamus hamatus* was frequent and a nest was discovered, 18 m from the ground in a Pseudobombax munguuba tree, on 6–9 July; Wattled Curassow *Crax globulosa*, unreported for 35 years in Peru, is present in the reserve, known from two birds shot by a hunter near Nueva Esperanza village in August 1996 and two other captive birds; 11 Razor-billed Curassow *C. mitu* recorded on transects suggests a healthy population is present in the reserve; 21 Common Piping-guan *Pipile pipile* were observed on transects; groups of 3–11 Pale-winged Trumpeter *Psophia leucoptera* were recorded on nine occasions, including six adults accompanied by a juvenile and two young of c.3 weeks, on 23 February; one Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga* was tape-recorded on 8 June 1995, a range extension of 150 km; a total of five Rufous-necked Puffbirds *Malacoptila rufa* was recorded from three sites within the park; Stripe-chested Antwren *Myrmotherula longicauda* was discovered to be fairly common at 04°56'S 75°05'W; Ash-breasted Antbird *Myrmoborus lugubris* was fairly common on river islands in the Marañón river, a minor range extension from Maipú on the same watercourse; the highly localised Black-tailed Antbird *M. melanurus* was discovered at two localities in the reserve, a significant range extension from the Ucayali river; the first nest of Ash-throated Gnateater *Conopophaga peruaviana* was discovered on 30 July; Grey Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps* was found to be fairly common in mixed-species canopy flocks; Yellow Tyrannulet *Cupaeomis flavesca*, which is localised in south and west Amazonia, was found at one locality, one record of Johannes's Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus iohannis* was made; a group of five Three-striped Flycatcher *Conopias trivirgata* was recorded near Nuevo Esperanza, on 21–29 June 1995, this species perhaps being a
nomad or more regular migrant in much of Amazonia; and Grey-chested Greenlet Hylophilus seminicerus was found to be common but localised within the reserve, the first locality in Peru.

Other records received

Puerto Rico
The exotic Ring-necked Pheasant Phasianus colchicus is known to have been introduced to many West Indian islands but to survive on only two: Eleuthera (Bahamas) and Cuba. One was heard calling in secondary forest at La Parguera, south-west Puerto Rico, on 1 May 1998 (GMK).

Mexico
Arjan & Heidi Boele report a number of interesting records from 1996–1997: a Pacific Loon Gavia arctica pacifica was photographed at Bahia Banderas, near Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, on 20 December 1996 (south of its normal winter range); a Red-footed Booby Sula sula in Banderas Bay, between Islas Marietas and Punta Mita, Nayarit, on 13 March 1997; a female Surf Scoter Melanitta perspicillata at San Blas harbour, Nayarit, on 16 December 1997 (south of its normal winter range); a King Rail Rallus longirostris photographed at Manzanillo, Colima, on 20 March 1997; a Red-necked Phalarope Phalaropus lobatus near Marina Vallarta, Jalisco, on 26 December 1997 (south of its normal winter range); a first-winter Franklin’s Gull Larus pipixcan photographed at the mouth of the Rio Cuale, Jalisco, on 27–28 December 1997 (north of its usual winter range); a male Mexican Woodnymph Thalurania ridgwayi 3 km east of La Bajada, near San Blas, Nayarit, on 18 December 1997; and single Chestnut-sided Warblers Dendroica pensylvanica at Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, on 5–9 March 1997. and photographed at La Bajada, near San Blas, Nayarit, on 18 December 1997.

Belize
BM reports the following recent observations of interest. On 18–19 January 1999, up to 18 Ring-necked Duck Aythya collaris were at Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary; a Yellow-breasted Crake Polioptila flaviventris was apparently seen on Crooked Tree Lagoon on 19 January 1999 by many birders; a male Yellow-faced Grassquit Tiaris olivacea was seen amongst a flock of White-collared Seedeaters Sporophila torquela and Blue-black Grassquits Volatinia jacarina at Gallon Jug on 26 January 1999 (the northernmost record of the species); and several Slate-coloured Seedeater Sporophila schistacea were seen at both Chan Chich Lodge and Gallon Jug in seeding bamboo from late November to mid-January.

Brazil
Andrew Whittaker (AW) reports a host of recent interesting records (additional observers in parentheses) including: at least four pairs of Bearded Tachuri Polystictus pectoralis tape-recorded at Boa Vista, Roraima, on 25 August 1998. Another pair was observed c.10–15 km west of the town in natural grassland. In addition, a nesting pair was found near Cuiabá airport, Mato Grosso in late August–early September 1998 and 1997. In the Pantanal, near Pixaim, a male Rufous-rumped Seedeater Sporophila hypochroma was observed on 4 September 1997. At Chapada dos Guimarães, Mato Grosso, a singing Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant Euscarthus rufomarginatus was found in stunted cerrado on 13–14 September 1997, and other records from this site include a Crowned Eagle Harpyhaliaetus coronatus on 10 September 1995, an Orange-breasted Falcon Falco deiroleucus on 13 September 1996 (Kevin Zimmer), and several migrating flocks, totalling 82 birds, of Mississippi Kite Ictinia mississippiensis on 14 November 1996, the second country record. Alagoas Foliage-gleaner Philydor novaesi has been rediscovered at Muricí reserve, Alagoas, following several years without a confirmed record, a single bird being seen well and tape-recorded on 20 January 1998. In the Benjamin Constant area, Amazonas, Elusive Antpitta Grallaria eludens, Black-banded Crane Laterallus fasciatus, Bar-bellied Woodcreeper Hylexastes strenae, and Red-billed Ground-cuckoo Neomorphus pucheranii and Rio Suno Antwren Myrmotherula sunensis were all seen on 1–3 December 1997 (Tom Gullick), and, near Itacatuira, in the same state, Varzea Piculet Pcinnum varzeae and Plain Softtail Thripophaga fusiceps of the race obidensis were re-discovered on 8 August 1997. In Rio Grande do Sul, at São Francisco de Paula, five Red-spectacled Parrot Amazona pretrei were seen on 17 October 1997 and, the next day, three were near Itabenzinho. At Itaitiaia National Park, Rio de Janeiro, an influx of Uniform Finch Haplospiza uniclor was registered on 23 October 1997, with at least 30 individuals on bird-tables in the park. Also in the National Park, a pair of Red-and-white Crake Laterallus leucopyrrhus was seen well, on 21 October 1997.

GMK reports the following species, previously regarded as hypothetical at Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais, during a visit to the area on 3–5 November 1998: Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda, Picui Ground-dove Columbina picui and Guira Tanager Hemithraupis guira.

Chile
Derek Evans has recently submitted many interesting observations from the period 22 February 1997–22 February 1998 (additional observers in parentheses). Five Westland Petrel Procellaria westlandica were off Valparaiso on 9 September 1997 (SNGH, SW) and one, possibly two, were seen 18 km off Valparaiso, on 2 June 1998 (JMB, MDS, GP). A Puna Flamingo Phoenicoparrus jamesi
was unusually low at 1,300 m at Tranque Sloman, south of Quillagua on 9 February 1998. At Copiapo rivermouth, on 17 February 1998, seven Chinon Wigeon Anas sibilatrix were apparently the first record for region 1 (see Howell for definition of Chilean regions used here), a Cinereous Harrier Circus cinereus there was very rare record in region 1, two Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus in the same place on the same date were perhaps the southernmost record in Chile, and two Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis provided the first record for region 1. An Andean Avocet Recurvirostra andina at Chañaral on 8 February 1998 is one of a handful of coastal records and perhaps the first such from Chile. Two Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla at Tranque Sloman on 9 February 1998 was a rare record for region 1, but up to five at Playa Changa, north of Coquimbo, on three dates between 12 September 1997–19 February 1998 (SNGH, SW), with one at Elqui rivermouth on 5 February 1998, were the first records for region 2. A Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus at Playa Changa, north of Coquimbo, on 10–12 September 1997 (SNGH, SW), was the first record for Chile. Huge numbers of Franklin’s Gull Larus pipixcan were in the north of the country in early 1998: c.75,600 moved south past Alacran, on 17 January and c.76,000 were in the Lluta valley below Poconchile, on 19–20 January. A Great Shrike-tyrant Agriornis livida at the Copiapo rivermouth on 17 February 1997 was the first record for region 1. Single Eastern Kingbirds Tyrannus tyrannus were at San Miguel de Azapa on 18 January 1998 and at Coya Sur, east of Maria Elena in the Loa valley on 10 February 1998; Paynter notes three previous Chilean records. During 30 December 1997–1 January 1998, the first records of Rufous-tailed Plantcutter Phytotoma rara were made in region 4: singles at two sites near Torres del Paine National Park on 30–31 December, and three near Salto Grande and two singles at separate localities in Torres del Paine National Park on 1 January 1998. A Bank Swallow Riparia riparia observed over fields at the Elqui rivermouth on 5 February 1998 was the first record in region 2. An adult Austral Thrush Turdus falklandii feeding two young at El Yeso dam, at 3,000 m, on 3 February 1998, was unusually high. A Yellow-winged Blackbird Agelaius thilii at the mouth of the Copiapo river, on 17 February 1998, was the first record in region 1.

Colombia
Two new species for Colombia, 86 range extensions and 36 altitudinal extensions are reported by Salaman & Donegan in the Serranía de los Churumbelos, Cauca, on the eastern Cordillera of southern Colombia during 14 July–18 August 1998. New species for Colombia were Foothill Antwren Myrmotherula spodionata and White-throated Woodpecker Piculus leucolaemus. A Band-bellied Owl Pulsatrix melanota trapped during the fieldwork provided the first specific locality for Colombia. A number of second records for Colombia included: Napo Sabrewing Campylopterus villaviscensio (15 captures), Pink-throated Brilliant Heliodoxa gularis (three captures), White-streaked Antvireo Dysithamnus leucostictus (one capture), Blue-rumped Manakin Pipra isidorei (27 captures), Fiery-throated Fruitcutter Pipreola chlorolepidota, Grey-tailed Piha Lipaugus subalaris (four captures), Cinnamon Tyrant Neopipo cinnamonae (one capture), Yellow-throated Tanager Iridosornis analis and Vermilion Tanager Calochetes cocineus. Other notable species included Ecuadorian Piedtail Phlogophilus hemileucus, Gould’s Jewelfront Heliodoxa aurescens, Black-billed Treehunter Thrripadectes melanorrhynchus (fourth record for Colombia), Hairy-crested Antbird Rhegmatophorhina melanosticta, Golden-winged Tody-flycatcher Todirostrum calopterus, Orange-crested Flycatcher Myiophobus phoenicomitra (first record for east slope of Colombia) and Olive Tanager Chlorothraupis carmioli. A list of the 327 species recorded and assessment of ornithological fieldwork is available on the internet at: http://www.proaxis.com/~salaman/colombia98.html

Ecuador
J. Flanagan, I. Isherwood and J. Willis report observations in the vicinity of the Centro Shuar de Shaima, Rio Nagaritza, during 23–27 September 1997: Cocol Heron Ardea cocoil, Oilbird Steatornis capensis, Blue-fronted Lancebill Dorfyera johannae, Striolated Puffbird Nystalus striolatus, Black-crowned Tityra preparation, Red-crested Finch Coryphosphingus cucullatus (the second country record) and Crested Oropendola Psarocolius olecanus were all new to the area, and 25 of the globally threatened White-necked Parakeet Pyrrhura albipectus were recorded close to the village on 27 September.

Guyana
Richard Ryan reports the observation of seven Bearded Tachuri Polyactittus pectoralis at Dadanawa cattle ranch, southern Rupununi district, in January 1998.

Peru
At Pixiana, near Pevas, Buckley’s Forest-falcon Microstur buckleyi and Red-billed Ground-cuckoo Neomorphus pucheranii were seen on 19 May 1998 (AW, David Asciano). At Yanonono, east of IQUITOS, north of the Amazon, a pair of Lanceolated Monket Micromonachana lanceolata was observed on 29 May 1998 (AW). On the coast, near Lima, at least 10 Waved Albatross Diomedea irrorata were seen close inshore on 7 June 1998 (AW).
was at c. 450 m, c. 10 km south of Oracuzar, Amazonas, principally feeding in Cecropia and uttering loud tsip calls. Two Rufous-backed Inca-finch Incaspiza personata at c. 2,200 m in xerophytic-type scrub above Chagual, La Libertad, on the west slope of the Marañón Valley, represented a small range extension. The commoner and more widespread Buff-bridled Inca-finch I. laeta was also present in this area. Two Masked Saltator Saltator cinctus were in a canopy/sub-canopy mixed feeding flock just below the start of the Paty Trail, Huánapo.

BW, CB et al. report the following significant sightings from an exploratory trip to the departments of San Martín and Amazonas in the north of the country: Spot-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus maculicaudus was recorded near Jesus del Monte (San Martín), on 17–19 September 1998; Koepcke's Hermit Phaethornis koepcke, which is known from just four localities in Peru, was common near the tunnel 20 km north-east of Tarapoto on the road to Yurimaguas (San Martín), on 13–14 September 1998; a male and female Napo Sabrewing Campylopterus villaviscensio were recorded in the sandy soil savanna at Jesus del Monte, on 16–18 September 1998 (the only known site for the species in Peru and apparently uncommon there); a female Rufous-vent ed Whitetip Urosticte ruficrissa was at Jesus del Monte on 18 September 1998 (the species is known only from a few localities in eastern Ecuador and north-east Peru); 15 Maroon-tailed (Berlepsch's) Parakeet Pyrrhura melanura berlepschi were along the Tarapoto–Yurimaguas road, on 15 September, and four at Jesus del Monte, on 18 September 1998; 4–5 Slaty Antshrike Thamnophilus punctatus of the subspecies huallagae were observed in dry deciduous forest on the slopes of a quebrada 15 km south of Tarapoto (San Martín), on 12 September 1998. Recordings of the vocalisations have been forwarded to Phylis and Mort Isler who are analysing the vocal characters to establish the relationships of this population to other forms in the Thamnophilus punctatus complex; 6–8 Ash-throated Antwren Herpsilochmus parkeri were observed near Jesus del Monte, on 16–19 September 1998; a male Purple-breasted Cottinga Cotinga cotinga was near Jesus del Monte, on 17–18 September 1998 (the second record for Peru and at the same locality as the first); two Blackish Pewee Contopus nigrescens were along the Tarapoto–Yurimaguas road (San Martín), on 13–14 September 1998 (the species is known from only four localities in Peru); at least three Ecuadorian Tyrannulet Phylloscartes qualiquizae were in roadside forest at Aguas Verdes, below Abra Patricia (San Martín) (this species is known in Peru only from this locality); 8–10 Bar-winged Wood-wren Henicorhina leucoptera were recorded near Jesus del Monte, on 16–19 September 1998, in a variety of habitats from tall, moist hill forest to fern-covered slopes on white sandy soil savanna woodland; up to 10 Orange-throated Tanager Wetrothereus sternopterus were in the Penas Blanca area, along the Chiricuco–Oracuzar road (Amazonas); and a pair of Plumbeous Euphonia Euphonia plumbea near the tunnel north-east of Tarapoto along the road to Yurimaguas (San Martín) was apparently the first record for Peru and a considerable range extension.

Another apparently new bird for Peru was a Golden-winged Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera, recorded at Pillahuata, on the Manu road, dpto. Curco, on 2 December 1998, at 2,700 m (G. Engblom, J. Nordin). Paynter lists no previous records in the country.

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References


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

SHORT NOTES

Two notable records of birds for Cozumel Island, Quintana Roo, Mexico

Cozumel Island is located on the Caribbean coast of Mexico, between 20°16' and 20°36'N and 86°44' and 87°02'W, in northern Quintana Roo. The island encompasses c.490 km², being the largest inhabited island of the Yucatan Peninsula. We conducted intensive avifaunal surveys on the island in 1994–1995 (Macouzet et al. in prep.), as well as during 1–10 May 1998. During the most recent visit, we surveyed wetlands in the south of the island, between Laguna Colombia and Faro Celerain. We found two species of special interest for the Cozumel avifauna documented here.

Greater Flamingo
Phoenicopterus ruber
Flamingos were recorded previously from Cozumel by Griscom during the Manson-Spindel expedition. In the expedition account, Griscom recorded a group of c.500 flamingos. Paynter did not find them on the island, but local inhabitants mentioned their presence during winter. In the 1980s, local inhabitants mentioned that flamingos occurred in the island. However, flamingos have not been recorded on the island since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. During May 1998, in the lagoons in the south of Cozumel, we found a group of 50 birds, some of them juveniles. They remained throughout our visit, moving only among the lagoons or to the mangroves.

American White Pelican
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
This species has not been previously reported on Cozumel. Paynter listed American White Pelican as occurring on the north-west coast of the peninsula. López-Ornat et al. recorded it at localities on the north-east coast of the peninsula, at Ria Lagartos and Las Coloradas. He also mentioned it for the north coast, between Progreso and Dzidzantun in Yucatan, and at Isla Holbox in Quintana Roo. American White Pelican is a regular winter visitor to the north coast of the peninsula, but this is the first record on Cozumel. We observed a group of c.30 birds in the lagoons in the south of the island.

Both records were documented by video footage, deposited at the Colección Nacional de Aves, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Local environmentalist groups on Cozumel are monitoring the presence of these species in Cozumel.

Acknowledgements
We are thankful to the organisations that provided financial support to our project: United Nations Environment
Sixty-one records have been accepted, some with photographic evidence. Records for eight other species were rejected. Those accepted include four first records for Tobago, one of these possibly a first for the Western Hemisphere, and also two first records for Trinidad.

### Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

One south of Crown Point on 29 June 1997 (FEH) was only the second record for Tobago, although the species has often been found off Trinidad in June.

### Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

One at sea off the north-east coast of Trinidad on 23 February 1997 (FEH). This is only the fourth record of the species from our area, but this Old World species occurs regularly in the Caribbean in November–March.

### Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

An adult brown-phase bird was seen at sea c.17 km north of Matelot, Trinidad, on 17 March 1996 (FEH, see *Cotinga* 10: 103). Breeds commonly on islands just north-east of Tobago, but rarely recorded off Trinidad.

### Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Singles at Buccoo Swamp and Turtle Beach on 24 March 1996 and 12 January 1997 (FEH et al., see *Cotinga* 10: 103). One previous record for Tobago, although well known as an off-season visitor to Trinidad.

### Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Records from Nariva Swamp and Trinity ponds on 13–14 January, 16–17 June, 31 August and 4 September 1997, and Buccoo Swamp on 14 August 1990, 26 March 1995 (see *Cotinga* 10: 103), 18 January, 27 February and 20 March 1997 (DWF, GW, FEH, PJW et al.) indicate that the species is becoming well established in the area and may possibly already be breeding in the islands.

### Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Up to four, all or mostly immature, at Brickfield mudflats on various dates during 7 December 1996–26 January 1998 (RPff et al., GW, FEH, IS, PJW). The fourth record for Trinidad.

### Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A male and 2 females at Buccoo Marsh on 18 January 1997 (DWF et al.); a female at Lowlands on 20 March 1997 (FEH) may have been one of the same birds. The first published record for Tobago, although a pair at the same locality on 18 January 1992 (DWF) may also have been of this species.

### Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

A male at Lowlands, Tobago, on 20 December 1995 (FEH, see *Cotinga* 10: 103). Rare on Tobago.

### Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*

Two males at Pitch Lake on 30 January 1993 (GW, RN). This secretive species has been rarely recorded on Trinidad in recent years, probably because of the scarcity of freshwater marshland.

### King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

Single adults over Trinity Hills and Aripo Savanna on 20 February 1994 and 14 January 1996 (GW et al., PJT). Rare visitor from the mainland.

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**References**


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**Verification of rare bird records from Trinidad & Tobago**

A second group of records, mainly from 1996–early 1998, but including some from the last 14 years, has been ratified by the Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee, and are presented here. Sixty-one records have been accepted, some with photographic evidence. Records for eight other species were rejected. Those accepted include four first records for Tobago, one of these possibly a first for the Western Hemisphere, and also two first records for Trinidad.

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**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (Charles Gambill)**
Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
An adult over Little Tobago on 17 January 1997 (DWF *et al.*). Few records from Tobago, although D. Rooks and others have reported individuals occasionally.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*
An adult at Bon Accord housing estate on 18 January 1997 (DWF *et al.*) was probably breeding. If so, this would be the first such record for Tobago; the species only arrived on the island c.10 years ago.

Trinidad Piping-guan *Pipile pipile*
Two adults at Grande Riviere on 30 May 1997 (FEH *et al.*) and subsequently. There appears to be a population of indeterminate size in the area, and conservation authorities are understandably anxious not to place undue pressure from visitors on the country's only endemic species.

Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*
An apparently tame bird for several months (1993–4) at Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust, but was thought to be wild (FEH, MG, KS). An adult at Buccoo, Tobago, on 30 May 1997 (BG), with another on 19 August and a pair on 21 August (FEH *et al.*). Rare on both islands.

Double-striped Thick-knee *Burhinus bistriatus*
One at Waller Field on 8 December 1996 (RPff *et al.*) was only the third record for Trinidad.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*
Five at Waterloo on 9 December 1996 (RPff *et al.*) was the fourth record for Trinidad.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*
One of the race *cinnamominus* at Buccoo Marsh on 27 April 1996 (FEH, DB, see Cotinga 10: 103); the first record from Tobago of this species, although this race has been found breeding on Trinidad.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*
Two at Buccoo Bay on 19 August 1996 (FEH, NAT) was the second record for Tobago.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
A first-winter at Buccoo Swamp on 18 January and 27 February 1997 (DWF *et al.*, FEH *et al.*) is the first record for Tobago of this principally Old World species, which is extremely rare in the Caribbean region but has occurred several times on Barbados.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*
One at Waterloo mudflats on 19 October 1996 (FEH *et al.*). Rare on passage on Trinidad.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
One photographed at Buccoo Marsh on 11 and 14 August 1990 (GW *et al.*) was approximately the sixth record on Tobago of this Old World species.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*
An adult in worn breeding plumage photographed during 4–14 July 1994 near Store Bay, Tobago (FEH *et al.*). There are few records from Tobago of this Old World species, that appears to be becoming established in the New World.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
A first-winter near Buccoo Reef on 15–16 January 1997 (DWF *et al.*) and 27 February and 20 March 1997 (FEH *et al.*). On the latter date an adult was found nearby at Pigeon Point. There have only been two previous records for Tobago.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*
An immature offshore at Blanchisseuse on 17 February 1998 (FG *et al.*) was the first record from Trinidad, although vagrants have been reported from various West Indian islands as far south as St Lucia.

Sealed Dove *Scardafella squamamata*
An adult photographed at Nariva Swamp near Bush-Rush Creek on 7 December 1996 (RDM, RR *et al.*) was the first record on Trinidad since G. D. Smokker collected two at Toco in late October 1929.

Mangrove Cuckoo *Coccyzus minor*
Adults at Buccoo Swamp on 18–19 January 1992, 18 January 1997 and 3 July 1997 (DWF, FEH *et al.*) demonstrate that the species is not uncommon on Tobago in suitable habitat.

Grey-throated Leafletosser *Selerurus albigularis*
An adult photographed at its nest-hole at Mount Dillon, Tobago, on 21–22 March 1996, and others seen or heard in this area on 20 August 1997 (FEH, WKH, TOG *et al.*, see Cotinga 11: 98). The first records since the 1963 hurricane, which decimated forest areas.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*
An adult male photographed at Monos island off north-west Trinidad in late April 1995 (per GG) is the third record for Trinidad; all have been in late spring.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
An adult male at the Asa Wright Nature Centre on 17 June 1997 (NLN *et al.*) is the fourth record for Trinidad, the date being quite late for this passage migrant.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
A pair photographed at Caroni on 28 May 1997 (BG, RN) is the first record for Trinidad for this species, well-known in the New World for its tendency to colonise areas via artificial introduction.

Notes on scarce species in La Paz department, Bolivia

We present noteworthy observations on threatened, restricted-range and poorly known birds in La Paz department, Bolivia, in October 1997. Further details (including site guides) can be found in our unpublished trip report, available as part of the Neotropical Bird Club trip report series from the Club address.

Bolivian Spinetail *Cranioleuca henricae*

Recently described and known from a small number of localities in the La Paz department, including Churupampa near Sorata. One was seen in the understorey of a small dry tree-lined valley 1 km north-east of Sorata (15°45′S 68°38′W). Not shy and gave prolonged close views 1–2 m above ground in dense semi-deciduous scrub.

Berlepsch’s Canastero *Asthenes berlepschi*

Vulnerable and restricted range. A new site for this species: one seen in roadside scrub c.25 km by road south-east of Sorata, at c.3,400 m. Also seen in a *Eucalyptus* and maize-filled ditch amidst degraded scrub and cultivation at Sorata, at c.2,800 m. Given tolerance of such habitats, we concur with Herzog et al. that this species is probably not threatened.

Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant

*Ainaletes alpinus*

Endangered and restricted range. Recorded at Choquetanga valley (16°20′S 75°07′W) on the La Paz–Coroico road in 1993 and 1996. We did not find the species here despite intensively searching the few remaining *Polylepis* tracts. None of these were larger than 100 m², and no trees were higher than 1.5 m; they are apparently cut for firewood, presumably by residents of the nearby village of Pongo. Further research should endeavour to determine whether or not the species is locally extinct.

Giant Conebill

*Oreomanes fraseri*

Near-threatened. A new site for this species: four birds were seen in *Polylepis* scrub in the Choquetanga valley on the La Paz–Coroico road. Tape-recordings have been deposited in the National Sound Archive, UK.

Golden-collared Mountain-tanager

*Iridosornis jelskii*

Restricted range. At Cotapata (16°18′S 67°46′W) on the La Paz–Coroico road, five in forest at c.2,900 m, slightly below the elevational range of 3,000–3,600 m given by Stattersfield et al.

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Primer registro de *Egretta caerulea* para las islas Galápagos

El 18 de Noviembre de 1998 se observó un ejemplar juvenil de la garcita *Egretta caerulea* que representa el primer registro de la especie para las islas Galápagos. El individuo fue hallado posado en el borde de un manglar en la Bahía Elizabeth, al oeste de la isla Isabela (ver foto)
Durante los años 1997-1998 se registró el fenómeno de El Niño, cuya influencia sobre el clima local puede contribuir a dar una explicación a la llegada de este individuo a las islas, a más de 900 km de su área de distribución habitual.

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First record of American Coot Fulica americana in the Galápagos Islands

On 27–28 February 1999, I photographed at least two American Coots Fulica americana at a small freshwater marsh on the island of Isabela, c.3 km north-west of Puerto Villamil, Galápagos Islands. This is the first record of this species for the Galápagos, and perhaps the southernmost record ever of the species. I first observed the birds, without binoculars, during a work-related visit to the site. I only gave them a casual glance (I am very familiar with the species, having lived in the eastern USA for 15 years) and made a mental note to check their status in Castro & Phillips. That evening I was surprised to learn that there were no records of this species in Galápagos. Thus, on 28 February I returned to the site and was able to obtain distant but identifiable photographs, as well as noting the slightly larger size and bulk compared to nearby Common Moorhens Gallinula chloropus, the uniform blackish slate plumage, the white undertail-coverts, the white bill with a restricted frontal shield, and the thin white trailing edge to the secondaries. The AOU and del Hoyo et al. list northern Colombia as the species’ southernmost wintering area, and northern Ecuador as the southern limit of the Andean subspecies’ range. The site where the birds were seen is a small, artificial (created c.7 years ago) marsh, by the road to Volcán Sierra Negra (c.1 km past the turn to the tortoise-rearing centre). Other birds present included c.20 Greater Flamingos Phoenicopterus ruber, a Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes and an adult Pectoral Sandpiper Calidris melanotos. The latter is of interest as Castro & Phillips list only two previous record in Galápagos, both from the island of Santa Cruz. Unfortunately, being unaware of its status during the observation, I did not document it with photographs or field notes, although I have extensive field experience with this species. Birders visiting Isabela are advised to check this site, as it is one of the few freshwater marshes on Galápagos and has a high potential for attracting migrants and vagrants.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

BERMUDA

Recent sightings in Bermuda have included: the earliest ever spring date for Cory’s Shearwater Calonectris diomedea (two on 14 February), a Northern Gannet Sula bassana in Castle Harbour on 13 February 1999, potential nesting behaviour by Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias on an island on Great Sound (no breeding records are known from Bermuda), six overwintering Snow Geese Chen caerulescens, a Common

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CUBA
A Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus, in winter plumage, was found by a park ranger, at 800 m, in the Sierra de Nipe, Pinares de Mayari, Holguin, on 4 February 1984. The individual, which subsequently died, was collected and deposited at the Museo Municipal Aradio Leyte. A previous specimen of this species exists from Cuba but lacked details of date, locality or collector, and this record must therefore be regarded as the first island record.

On 27 November 1990, E. Cables found six nests of Cuban Emerald Chlorostilbon ricordii on an aggregation of 12 Euphorbia nivulia near Buena Ventura, Holguin. Each nest was situated within 30 cm of the next, and all had eggs. No hostility between the nesting birds was recorded. This is remarkable and represents the first record of communal nesting in this hummingbird.

CENTRAL AMERICA
MEXICO
Morales-Pérez provides new distributional information on the birds of Oaxaca, based on a study of specimens retained at the Instituto de Historia Natural de Chiapas. His information updates that in Binford. Data are presented for 30 species: Bare-throated Tiger-heron Tigrisoma mexicanum (range extension in Atlantic region), Tricolored Heron Egretta tricolor (first records for Atlantic region and winter range extension of 300 km north), Black-crowned Night-heron Nycticorax nycticorax (breeds in the Atlantic region), Fulvous Whistling-duck Dendrocygna bicolor (first specimen records for Oaxaca), Ruddy Duck Oxyura jamaicensis (additional specimen records), Snail Kite Rostrhamus sociabilis (additional specimen and range extension north-eastward), Ruddy Crane Laterallus ruber (200 km range extension), Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus (perhaps resident in Atlantic region), American Coot Fulica americana (records suggest resident in Atlantic region), Sungrebe Helianis fulica (additional localities in Atlantic region), Black-bellied Plover Pluvialis squatarola (second state record), Collared Plover Charadrius collaris (presence in Atlantic region documented), Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus (range extension in Atlantic region), Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes (first records for the Atlantic region), Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scolopaceus (first records for the Atlantic region), Herring Gull Larus argentatus (first state records), Caspian Tern Sterna caspia (first records for Atlantic region), Royal Tern S. maxima (first record in Atlantic region), Striped Cuckoo Tupaia naevia (additional confirmation of presence in the state), Striped Owl Asio clamator (major infra-state range extension), Buff-bellied Hummingbird Amazilia yucataensis (second state record), Great Antshrike Taraba major (presence in Atlantic region confirmed), Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher Tadirostrum sylvia (presence in Atlantic region confirmed), Royal Flycatcher Onychorhynchus coronatus (range extension 200 km north-westward), Couch's Kingbird Tyrannus couchii (second or third state record), Blue-winged Warbler Vermivora pinus (eight additional state records), Grey-throated Chat Granatellus sallaei (presence confirmed), Thick-billed Seed-finch Oryzoborus funereus (commoner in Atlantic region than previously supposed), Hooded Oriole Icterus cucullatus (presence in Atlantic region confirmed) and Chestnut-headed Oropendola Psarocolius wagleri (first specimen record for the state).

Elsewhere the same author provides details of a sight record of Harpy Eagle Harpia harpyja in Chiapas, at Reserva Florestal y Fábrica del Otoe, on 12 March 1991. The record extends its currently known range in Chiapas by nearly 300 km to the west.

Winker et al. present a host of new data on the birds of the ornithologically little-studied state of Tabasco. Details of nine new species for the state appear: Whip-poor-will Caprimulgus vociferus (a specimen record from 1984 and an aural record in March 1996), Vaux's Swift Chaetura vauxii (two flocks in March 1996), Long-tailed Sabrewing Campylopterus excellens (an adult female collected in March 1996), White-throated Flycatcher Empidonax albogularis (specimens taken in March 1996), Plain Wren Thryothorus modestus (female collected in March 1989), Slate-coloured Solitaire Myiastes unicolor (male collected in March 1996), Black Robin Turdus infuscatus (sight record in March 1996), Nashville Warbler Vermivora ruficapilla (female collected in March 1996), and Swainson's Warbler Limnothlypis swainsonii (male collected in March 1996). In addition new information is presented for the following species: Broad-winged Hawk Buteo platypterus, Ruddy Crane Laterallus ruber, Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago, Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis, Least Tern S. antillarum, Mangrove Cuckoo Coccyzus minor, Pauraque Nyctidromus albicollis, Violet Sabrewing Campylopterus excellens, Pygmy Kingfisher Chloroceryle.

GUATEMALA
The first record of Speckled Mourner \textit{Laniocera rufescens} in Petén department has been published recently: three males at Nakum on the eastern edge of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, on 21 March 1995.

COSTA RICA
Young & Zook report on nesting by four species, in the La Selva-Braulio Carillo National Park complex, in the north-east of the country, for which little or no previous information on their breeding habits was available. The first nest of Great Potoo \textit{Nyctibius grandis} in Mesoamerica is described; a nest of Torrent Tyrannulet \textit{Serpophaga cinerea} was found at 35 m, considerably lower than all previous records; two observations of nesting by Tawny-chested Flycatcher \textit{Aphanotriccus capitalis} in cavities or crevices in trees are the first known breeding records of this near-threatened species; and the second known nest of Sooty-faced Finch \textit{Lysurus crassirostris} is described.

Among other interesting records reported recently, Black Swift \textit{Cypseloides niger} was confirmed to breed in the country in 1997 when three nests, one at least containing an egg, were found in an upper section of the Rio Tiribí on 28–31 May. Previous authors have speculated that the species might nest in the country, but this is the first confirmation and extends its breeding range by 1,500 km to the south-east.

Sánchez et al. have provided details of several new species for the country: the first Southern Lapwing \textit{Vanellus chilensis} was photographed near Trinidad, on 11 April 1993; two Brown-throated Parakeet \textit{Aratinga pertinax} were photographed along the Coto river, 22 km west of Paso Canos, on 19 July 1996; and an adult male Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet \textit{Phaeomyiias murina} was collected at La Trocha, San José province, on 24 November 1996. In addition, the authors report further records and nesting by Melodious Blackbird \textit{Dives dives} in the country.

PANAMA
There is one previous record in Panama of Fulvous Whistling-duck \textit{Dendrocygna bicolor}; thus one at Cocoli Spoil Pond on 22–23 October 1998 becomes the second country record. The second record for the Atlantic slope in Panama of Aplomado Falcon \textit{Falco femoralis} involved one along the Punta Pena–Almirante road on 2 November 1998, while 50 Black Swift \textit{Cypseloides niger} at Fortuna around the same time was another significant record.

Angehr reports the rapid colonisation of the Lake Gatun area of the country by Snail Kite \textit{Rostrhamus sociabilis} since 1994, presumably associated with the introduction of apple snails \textit{Pomacea} sp. into the lake in the late 1980s. The colonists have arrived from at least 350 km away.

SOUTH AMERICA
BRAZIL
island, on 7 July 1996. During July–September 1997, the first records for Minas Gerais of *Pygmy Nightjar* *Caprimulgus hirundaceus*, of the little-known subspecies *vieliardi*, were made in the vicinity of Aimorés.27 Betini et al. present new records of *Henna-capped Foliage-gleaner* *Hylocryptus rectirostris* from south-eastern São Paulo state: at Conchal, 50 km north of Paulinia, in August 1992, at Pontal, c.80 km south-west of Batatais, undated, and a pair at Paulinia, on 30 January 1997.

A *King Penguin* *Aptenodytes patagonicus* wrecked at Saquarema beach, Rio de Janeiro on 5 January 1995 was the first country record. The bird was photographed and taken to Rio Zoo. A *Crowned Eagle* *Harpodyinae coronatus* observed at Itambe do Mato Dentro, Minas Gerais, on 5 April 1996 is one of only a handful of records in the state.22 An *Orange-headed Tanager* *Thlypopsis sordida* mist-netted at Fazenda Rio Conceição, Paraná, extends the known range of the species c.440 km to the south-east.23 Two pairs of *Orange-eyed Thorntail* *Phacellodomus erythropthalmus*, *ferrugineigula* observed and tape-recorded near Visconde de Mauá on 26 June 1998, and were found living in sympathy with the nominate race. This represents the first record of this subspecies in the state of Rio de Janeiro.23 Andrade et al. report a nest of *Black-and-white Hawk-eagle* *Spizastur melanoleucus* found at Matozinhos, Minas Gerais, on 7 July 1996. They present new breeding data and one of the few state records.

**ECUADOR**

Jahn et al. describe the occurrence of the first *Connecticut Warbler* *Oporornis agilis* for Ecuador: a single mist-netted and photographed at Playa de Oro, in the Río Santiago, Esmeraldas Province, on 21 November 1996. This record is not unexpected.

**PARAGUARY**

Fieldwork in a cerrado locality—Parque Nacional Serrania San Luis, dpto. Concepcion—during late 1996 produced a number of interesting records, including the first record of *Veery Carthusius fuscescens* for the country (an immature mist-netted on 30 October), which is also one of the southernmost records in South America. Additional interesting records are: migrant flocks of 154 and 33 *Snail Kite* *Rostrhamus sociabilis* on 22 and 23 October; the second departmental record of *Crowned Eagle* *Harpodyinae coronatus*, on 19 October; encouraging numbers of calling *Bare-faced Curassow* *Crax fasciata*; a specimen of *Rufous Nightjar* *Caprimulgus rufus* unassignable to subspecies, being closest to the nominate race on biometrics but nearer rutilus in coloration; the first departmental records of *Blue-crowned Motmot* *Momotus momota*; significant numbers of *Bare-throated Bellbird* *Procnias nudicollis* at the western limit of its range, possibly seasonal migrants; and further specimen evidence for hybridisation between *White-bellied Basileuterus hypoleucus* and *Golden-crowned Warblers* *B. culicivorus*.24

**URUGUAY**

Several new observations of *White-tailed Hawk* *Buteo albicaudatus* are as follows: on 10 January 1994 at Estancia El Pororó, dpto. Lavalleja; two, on 22 February 1996, at Ismael Cortinas, dpto. San Jose; on 10 April 1995 at Estancia Santa Ema, dpto. Florida; six, on 23 February 1998, at Algorta, dpto. Río Negro and on km 200 of Route 3, when it was photographed. Only four published records existed for the country.

A *Straight-billed Reedhaunter* *Limnocetes rectirostris* seen at Estancia El Pororó, on 6 January 1994, is the first record for dpto. Lavalleja.

Menéndez et al. report the first *Bicoloured Hawk* *Accipiter bicolor* for Paysandú, based on a single bird seen near Paso Andrés Pérez, on 23 February 1998. The species had been recorded from only four other departments in the country.

The first specimen record of *Soft-plumaged Petrel* *Pterodroma mollis* was of an adult and two immatures found dead at Aguas Dulces beach, dpto. Rocha, on 5 and 8 October 1995. The adult and one immature were in sufficiently good condition to be deposited in the collections of Departamento de Vertebrados, Facultad de Ciencias and Museo Nacional de Historia Natural.

A *male Yellow-legged Thrush* *Platyccichla flavipes* observed and photographed at Rincon de los Olivera, dpto. Rocha, during 22 July–20 August 1996 is the first country record. It is suggested that the bird was an overshooting migrant.

Aspiroz presents information on two species new for the country and the confirmation of a third, plus several other interesting records, all from the Valle del Lunarejo, dpto. Rivera. A pair of *Sharp-tailed Grass-tyrant* *Culicivora caudacuta* was observed and photographed, during February 1996, near La Palma. A male *Uniform Finch* *Haplospiza rustica* was observed briefly in August 1995. Several presumed female and immature *Capped Seedeater* *Sporophilus bouvreuil* were seen and photographed adjacent to the first-named species. This is the first confirmed report in the country. A *Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture* *Cathartes burrovianus* seen by Route 30, in November 1995, was the first departmental record. *Bicoloured Hawks* *Accipiter bicolor* observed in December 1995 and February 1996 are the first for the department. *Grey-crowned Slaty-flycatchers* *Griseotyrannus aurantoaurocristatus* were observed on three occasions in October and December 1995.

**VENEZUELA**

Kirwan & Sharpe provide new distributional and other...
information for 34 species. Ten major range extensions are reported: Crested Eagle Morphas guianensis (Sucre), Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres (Apure), Stilt Sandpiper Calidris himantopus (Apure), Military Macaw Ara militaris (Barinas / Guárico), Spot-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus maculicollis (Bolívar), Chapman’s Swift Chaetura chapmani (Bolívar), Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift Paspalium minulli (Bolívar) and new range extensions are presented for: Aragua, Miranda and Distrito Federal, Black Hawk-eagle Spizaetus ornatus (Barinas), Black-and-white Hawk-eagle Spizaetus ornatus (Carabobo, Bolívar, Miranda), Black-chested Tyrant Tyrannus dominicensis (Carabobo, Miranda, and Mérida), Ringed Antpitta Corythopis torquata (Monagas) and Canada Warbler Wilsonia canadensis (Sucre). In addition, the first South American record of Lawrence’s Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera × V. pinus was made along the La Azulita road, Mérida on 19 November 1996; attention is drawn to the importance of the Mucubaji Pass, Mérida as a flyway for migrant hirundines; and new state records and lesser range extensions are presented for: Slate-coloured Hawk Leucopternis schistacea (Bolívar), Black-and-white Hawk-eagle Spizaetus melanoleucus (Bolívar, Monagas and Carabobo), Ornate Hawk-eagle Spizaetus ornatus (Distrito Federal), Black Hawk-eagle S. tyrannus (Carabobo, Aragua, Miranda and Distrito Federal), Yellow-breasted Crane Bolsolimnas flaviventris (Apure), Sungrebe Helornis fulica (Bolívar), Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda (Bolívar), Saffron-headed Parrot Psopsittica pyralis (Barinas), Pavonine Cuckoo Dromococcyx pavoninus (Aragua, Miranda and Mérida), Tawny-bellied Screech-owl Otus watsonii (Bolívar), Crested Owl Lophostrix cristata (Bolívar), Black-and-white Owl Ciccaba nigrolinea (Carabobo), Black-banded Owl C. kuhula (Bolívar), Andean Potoo Nyctibus maculosus (Táchira), Least Nighthawk Chordeiles pusillus (Bolívar), Greenish Tyranulet Phyllomyias virescens urichi (Sucre), Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia (Bolívar), Golden-winged Warbler Vermivora chrysoptera (Aragua and Miranda), Black-throated Green Warbler Dendroica virens (Sucre), Cerulean Warbler D. cerulea (presence beyond February confirmed) and Paria Whitestart Mytoborus pariae (Sucre).

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

CUBA

BM reports some interesting observations in the east of the island. A Swainson’s Warbler Limnothlypis swainsonii was at Guardalavaca on 22 December 1998; single Plain Pigeons Columba inornata were in the same area on 28 December 1998 and 2 January 1999; two Giant Kingbirds Tyrannus cubensis were at Pinares de Mayari on 23 December 1998; and 30 of the increasingly localised Cuban Grassquit Tiaris canora were at El Saltón on 29–30 December 1998 with four at Jiguani on 29 December 1998.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Among recent notable records, there was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx serripennis at Cabo Rojo, on 22 March 1999 (seventh record) (LA), c. 100 Tree Swallow Tachycineta bicolor at Santo Domingo, on 20 March 1999 (largest ever flock) (GMK et al.), and a total of three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Pheucticus ludovicianus above Puerto Escondido, on 23–24 March 1999 (very few records) (CR, RS).

BRAZIL

Luís Fabio Silveira (LFS) has recently forwarded a list of further additional records to the list of birds recorded in Serra da Canasta, Minas Gerais (initials of other observers in parenthesis): Bat Falcon Falco rufgularis (photographed by LFS, DB in March 1999), Ocellated Crake Micropygia schomburghii (tape-recorded by DB in February 1999), Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus (sight record by LFS in March 1999), Band-winged Nightjar Caprimulgus longirostris (tape-recorded and photographed by PD, DB in February 1999), Greenish Schiffornis Schizophornis virescens (tape-recorded by LFS, DB in March 1999), Eastern Slaty Thrush Turdus subalaris (tape-recorded by JM in December 1998), Flavescent Warbler Basileuterus flavolus (tape-recorded by JM in December 1998) and Fawn-breasted Tanager Pipraeidea melanotus (sight record by LFS, DB in March 1999).

CHILE

MN reports the occurrence of at least 15, possibly many more, Westland Petrel Procellaria westlandica in the Canal Moraleda, just south of the Golfo de Corcovado, on 27 December 1998.

Acknowledgements

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References


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

SHORT NOTES

Interesting gull records from north-east Tamaulipas, Mexico

On 25 November 1998 on a Gulf of Mexico beach in extreme north-east Tamaulipas, we observed and photographed an adult Kelp Gull Larus dominicanus (Fig. 1, see p.68), a first-winter Thayer’s Gull L. thayeri (Fig. 2) and several Lesser Black-backed Gulls L. fuscus in various plumages. Seen, but not photographed, were Franklin’s L. pipixcan and California Gulls L. californicus. The following day we photographed a gull that we have not, as yet, been able to identify. In some respects it is similar to an immature Great Black-backed Gull L. marinus, which has not yet been recorded in Mexico (although it is long overdue)1. However, it may be a hybrid. Constructive comments and opinions on our photographs (Figs. 3–4 on p.68) would be greatly appreciated by the authors. On 21 March 1999, at the same locality, we photographed a first-winter Glaucous Gull L. hyperboreus, which we believe is the first Mexican record away from Baja California and the Gulf of California (Fig. 5).

All of these were within a huge concentration of gulls c. 3 km south of a public bathing beach, called Playa Bagdad, at a place where local fishing boats pull up on the beach to unload and clean their catch. Playa Bagdad is 38 km east of the centre of Matamoros at the eastern terminus of Mexico Highway 2. Fishing activity usually peaks in mid- to late afternoon, therefore the concentration of gulls is usually greatest at that time. When the fishermen are inactive, as during days with high winds, the gulls disperse from the area. We speculate that many regularly visit the Brownsville, Texas, USA, city landfill, which is less than 24 km to the north, especially on days when the fishing boats are inactive. The interesting gulls of Playa Bagdad deserve further study. We hope this note encourages other observers to visit the area.

Reference


First summer record of Ruby-throated Hummingbird Archilochus colubris in Belize

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Archilochus colubris is a widespread migrant throughout Central America1. Some extreme dates of occurrence during spring migration are 18 April for Honduras2 and 10 April for Guatemala3. In Belize the latest spring record is a female mist-netted on 22 April 1999 in Lamanai Archaeological Reserve (L. Jones pers. comm.). On 6 July 1999, I mist-netted a female of this species in the southern part of the same reserve. Several measurements and photographs were taken before the bird was released. A female, probably the same individual, was seen in the same area the next day. No similar species occur in this area. The photos are on file at Lamanai Field Research Center.

References


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Two new species for Nicaragua

On the basis of information in Stiles & Skutch4, I report two new species for Nicaragua: Olive-backed Quail-dove Geotrygon veraguensis and Yellow-margined Flycatcher Tolmomyias assimilis. Both are recorded from the Caribbean lowlands of north-east Costa Rica south to South America, but neither has apparently been reported north of the rio San Juan which separates south-east Nicaragua from Costa Rica. Both species were observed at Refugio Bartola, adjacent to the Gran Reserva Rio Indio-Maiz, at the confluence of the rio Bartola and rio San Juan, Río San Juan province, south-east Nicaragua. An Olive-backed Quail-dove was watched through 8x10 binoculars for c.30 minutes, on 6 May 1999, at a distance of 3–8 m while it foraged on the forest floor...
in front of me. The startlingly conspicuous silvery-white facial stripe was noted, and the forehead was creamy white, tinged buffy, rather than pure white.1

A single Yellow-margined Flycatcher was observed, on 3 May 1999, at 5–8 m in open secondary scrubland for several minutes while foraging 3–4 m above ground and calling noisily. The vocalisations are well described in Stiles & Skutch2. At this range the grey cap and white eye-ring were prominent, and the underparts were seen to be pale grey above and pale yellow below. The latter two field marks, along with the quite different vocalisations, distinguished this species from its relative T. sulphurescens.

The observation site is near-pristine lowland Caribbean rain forest, at 30 m elevation (10°97'N 84°16'W); the climate is wet tropical, with c.4 m of annual precipitation, and a drier season in February–April during which c.15% of the annual rainfall is recorded. The density and diversity of the vertebrate fauna at this site is impressive, even by Neotropical standards. The University of California's Field Biology Program has visited the site on two occasions, 1994 and 1999. The (combined) bird list is now 255 species; this total can be taken as that of an area of little more than 1 km². Comparisons between years permit an estimate for the site of 298 bird species. During a field trip in eastern Cuba (provinces of Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Holguín), we made a number of interesting observations.

On 4 February 1999, we observed a Gundlach's Hawk Accipiter gundlachi over the forest canopy near an isolated village called La Platica (c.800 m), on the north side of the Sierra Maestra, Granma province. The species is known as La Melba (20°27'N 74°49'W), c.25 km south of the main road to Moa. The habitat was low altitudinal cloud forest on serpentine soils. There are only two records from this area, both undated ("mountains south of Moa' and Ojito de Agua"). Both are apparently from the early 1920s (O. H. Garrido pers. comm.). Few records (the most recent one in June 1986) are available from other parts of this province.

**References**


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**Scaled Fruiteater Ampelioïdes tschudii in Venezuela**

On 12 July 1999, together with Nancy Lyman and Gary Sowell, I observed a pair of Scaled Fruiteater *Ampelioïdes tschudii* in Parque Nacional Yacambú, Lara state, Venezuela. The observation was made at 1,680 m in good light with the birds perched c. 7 m up in a tree close to the road and, at one point, on an open limb. They were obviously large fruiteaters, being noticeably bigger than either Handsome *Pipreola formosa* or Golden-breasted Fruiteaters *P. aureopectus*. The following description was taken: bill noticeably heavy; cap black in male and bronzyl olive in female; white loral area and prominent malar; throat and collar lightly scaled olive, below which there was a narrow black collar reaching from the hindneck to the sides of the lower neck but not meeting on the underparts; underparts pale yellow, heavily scaled olive; back and upperwing-coverts black, heavily scaled darker bronzyl olive, especially on the coverts; unscaled bronzyl-olive patch in the wing; flight feathers blackish with small bronzyl-olive tips; tail bronzyl olive, barred yellow and black with white tips. This observation extends the species' range north-eastward by c.350 km.

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**Additional breeding data for Tanager-finch Oreothraupis arremonops**

Tanager-finch *Oreothraupis arremonops* is considered Vulnerable¹ and is restricted to the Choco Endemic Bird Area of north-west Ecuador and south-west Colombia⁴. It is patchily distributed in thick undergrowth of montane evergreen forest at 1,200–2,600 m. The few breeding data comprise a male in breeding condition in June, a juvenile following adults the same month, and a nest with a single egg in November–December¹. In this context, we detail an observation at Bellavista Lodge, Tandayapa, Pichincha province, Ecuador, where the species has been seen regularly in recent years (see e.g. Lowen unpbl. trip report, available from the Neotropical Bird Club address as part of the NBC trip report series) and where the only known nest was discovered in 1996⁶.

On 26 December 1997, we (together with O. Rodríguez and D. Becker) observed two adults feeding a juvenile 2–3 m up in tangled roadside forest growth. The juvenile was flicking its wings and begging for food. Its plumage was dowdier than that of the adults (but otherwise identical) and thus contra Hilty & Brown², who describe juveniles as 'duller [than adults], mainly brownish with ferruginous back; black wings and tail; and faint head pattern’. The adults were giving a sharp bush-tanager-like "tset" call, as described by Greeney et al.² and unlike the whistled, frog-like "wert" known from Colombia¹. Taken with the nest record from the same locality, our observation suggests that the breeding season of *Oreothraupis arremonops*, at least in Pichincha province, Ecuador, includes November–December: a surprise given that the only other evidence (from Colombia) would point toward June as the nesting season. It is conceivable that the species is double-brooded. Further fieldwork could obviously help clarify the situation.

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**New records and updates for Mindo, Ecuador**

The following species have recently been observed by the authors near Mindo, Ecuador, at 00°02'S 78°48'W, at elevations between 1,200 and 1,600 m. Although this area has been subject to considerable ornithological activity, these new records indicate that much is still to be learned about the avifauna of the locality. New locality records were determined by reference to Kirwan & Marlow², while general comments concerning altitude were drawn from standard reference works³–⁶.

**New records**

Single Least Grebes *Tachybaptus dominicus* were observed in Mindo, at c.1,350 m, on 3 December 1998 and 6 January 1999. Feeding in small ephemeral ponds. The species is...
normally found at lower elevations. A Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* was observed at an artificial pond in Mindo on 14 and 22 January 1999, while a single Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* flew over Mindo on 13 January 1999. An Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata* was observed on 15 December 1998; although common at higher elevations, it has not previously been recorded in this area. Black-billed Cuckoos *Coccyzus erythropthalmus* were observed during the last week of March and first week of April 1999. One sub-adult, in heavy moult, was mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras on 27 March 1999, at c.1250 m. This Nearctic migrant had not been recorded in Mindo before. A White-tipped Sicklebill *Eutoxeres aquila* was also mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras on 24 August 1999. This species is more common at lower elevations. White-ringed Flycatchers *Conopias albivittata* were observed in Mindo town during late March and early April 1999, at c.1,250 m. This species is usually found...
below 1,000 m and has not previously been reported at Mindo. A Grey-cheeked Thrush Catharus minimus was observed on 15 December 1998 and one found dead, on 19 December 1998, is preserved in the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales. This Nearctic migrant has not previously been recorded on the western slope in Ecuador. A Great Thrush Turdus fuscater was observed along the entrance road to Mindo on 15 December 1998, and, although common at higher elevations, this was the first area record. A female Lesser Seed-finch Oryzoborus angolensis, in heavy moult, was mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras on 25 August 1999, at c.1,250 m. Although widely distributed, this species has not been recorded at Mindo previously. A male Yellow-tailed Oriole Icterus mesomelas was observed, on 4 April 1999, near the main entrance road to the village, at c.1,300 m, singing in an area of second-growth. This species is more common at lower elevations, below 500 m.

**Updates**

There was a notable influx of Grey-capped Cuckoos Coccyzus lansbergi into the area in February 1999; one was still present on 8 April, and an adult was mist-netted at Reserva Las Tangaras, on 15 February 1999. Although recorded in Mindo previously, its occurrence is very sporadic and the species has been unrecorded there for several years. A pair of Grey-breasted Flycatcher Lathrotriccus griseicapillus was observed and one photographed, above Mindo in primary forest, at c.1,450 m, on 16 July 1999. Although previously recorded in the area, records of this threatened species are noteworthy1. First reported by Perez & Lyons de Perez2, a female Andean Cock-of-the-Rock Rupicola peruviana was again nesting under the same bridge near Mondo on 28 July 19991. This is presumed to be the same bird as was present in September–November 1997.

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More road-killed owls and a new record for Santa Catarina, Brazil

In a previous paper1, we drew attention to the possibility that road-deaths are an important cause of mortality among large owl species. On 29 June 1999, we found another road-killed Pulsatrix koeniuswaldiana at km 129 of the BR-470, near Lontras, Santa Catarina (sex unknown; wing—301 mm, tail—191 mm; weight—590 g). This section of highway passes through a mosaic of disturbed and human-maintained habitats, including Pinus plantations, ranches, small forest remnants and second growth. This new finding lends support to our suspicion that road deaths may be a common cause of mortality for this species in southern Brazil. It also appears to indicate that the species is not as reliant on undisturbed or heavily forested areas in Santa Catarina as the few previous records suggest. Additionally, on 4 July, we collected a Mottled Owl Ciccaba virgata at km 12 of highway SC-474, near the rio Putanga, municipality of Massaranduba (female; wing—248.0 mm, tail—149.0 mm; weight—252 g; both specimens are retained at the PUCRS collection, Porto Alegre, RS). This appears to be the first record of this species in Santa Catarina.

**References**


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New avifaunal records from the Mostardas peninsula, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Situated on the coastal plain of Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brazil, the long strip of land separating the Laguna dos Patos from the Atlantic Ocean, known as the Mostardas peninsula by Belton1, is familiar to many birdwatchers because of the Lagoa da Peixe, one of the most important staging and wintering areas for migratory shorebirds in South America. Belton1,2 noted the apparent absence in the peninsula of many widespread...
passerine species, and also that several non-passerines common in neighbouring areas of Rio Grande do Sul were not recorded there—in some cases unaccountably—by him and other workers. During avifaunal inventories in September 1998 at several localities in the southern half of the peninsula, we recorded 12 species not previously reported in the region. Localities, all in the municipality of São José do Norte, were (from north to south): southern part of Capão da Areia marsh (31°33’S 51°17’W); sandy fields and coastal dunes just east of Lagoa Paurá (31°35’S 51°17’W); environs of Bojuru lighthouse (31°43’S 51°28’W); Barra do Estreito (31°50’S 51°43’W), and the northern part of Estreito marsh (31°51’S 51°46’W). Additionally, GNM made observations farther north within and in the vicinity of the Lagoa do Peixe National Park, municipalities of Mostardas and Tavares (specific localities and coordinates are mentioned in the species accounts).

Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis
Many were seen at several locations along the RST-101 road south of the settlement of Bojuru; a few were at Barra do Estreito and near the Estreito marsh on 26 September. Moreover, GNM saw six at Lagoa Capororoca (31°16’S 51°03’W), Tavares, on 18 June 1999. Possibly a recent immigrant, it now appears widespread and well established in the peninsula.

Cinereous Harrier Circus cinereus
An adult male hunting over sandy, partially damp coastal fields dominated by tussocks of Androtrichum trigynum (Cyperaceae) at Lagoa Paurá on 25 September.

Long-winged Harrier Circus buffoni
Records of single or paired birds (including a dark morph) at Capão da Areia marsh on 22 and 25 September; Bojuru lighthouse on 24 September, and Estreito marsh on 26 September, and one seen from the RST-101, in a roadside marsh near the settlement of Estreito, also on 26 September. Additionally, GNM recorded it at two locations within the Lagoa do Peixe National Park: three in an extensive marsh (31°06’S 50°51’W) dominated by Scirpus giganteus (Cyperaceae) just north of the road to the beach resort of Mostardas, on 17 June 1999, and one at Lagoa Pai João (31°03’S 50°48’W), in the same municipality, on 18 June 1999.

Sharp-shinned Hawk Accipiter striatus
One flew between two Pinus plantations 2 km north of Bojuru lighthouse, on 24 September.

Baird’s Sandpiper Calidris bairdii
At least seven foraging on an extensive sand flat just behind primary dunes near Capão da Areia marsh, on 25 September. Seen at close range and identified by a combination of characters, especially the pale brown plumage and dark-centred rump.

Bay-capped Wren-Spinetail Sporotroica maluroides
Near-threatened
Eleven within an area of a few ha, in the same location as the Cinereous Harrier, on 25 September. Most were isolated and singing actively from A. trigynum tussocks in early and mid-morning (four tape-recorded; all recordings will be archived at the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology). Additionally, GNM recorded one in S. giganteus marsh at Lagoa do Peixe National Park, on 17 June 1999.

Sulphur-bearded Spinetail Cranioleuca sulphurifera
One seen and tape-recorded in a small S. giganteus marsh near Bojuru lighthouse, on 24 September. At least two heard in an extensive reedbed of Scirpus californicus at Estreito marsh, on 26 September. Furthermore, GNM heard 1–2 calling in a small marsh (31°10’S 50°57’W) c.9 km south of Mostardas town, on 16 June 1999. Further north, he recorded 12 birds along c.1 km of the edge of S. giganteus marsh at Lagoa do Peixe National Park, on 17 June 1999.

Small-billed Elaenia Elaenia parvirostris
This summer resident was uncommon to fairly common in a narrow strip of forest parallel to the coast, on old dunes between Capão da Areia marsh and Lagoa Paurá, on 22–23 September. Some were heard in a small patch of swampy forest near Bojuru lighthouse on 24 September, and 1–2 were at Barra do Estreito, on 26 September.

Crested Doradito Pseudocolopteryx scilateri
One singing from tall reeds at Estreito marsh, on 26 September.

Warbling Doradito Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris
On 16 June 1999, GNM observed one in a reedbed just east of Lagoa Capororoca.

Euler’s Flycatcher Lathrotriccus euleri
Relatively common in the forest between Capão da Areia marsh and Lagoa Paurá, where we found several on 22–23 September. On 24 September, a few were heard in the swampy forest near Bojuru lighthouse.

Hellmayr’s Pipit Anthus hellmayri
Appears widespread in coastal sandy fields and dunes with sparse vegetation in the southern half of the peninsula. We observed and tape-recorded the species at Lagoa Paurá; along the coast just south of Bojuru; at Bojuru lighthouse and at Estreito. Also found by GNM near Lagoa Capororoca, on 18 June 1999.

References
The first record of Sooty-fronted Spinetail Synallaxis frontalis for the Atlantic Forest

Sooty-fronted Spinetail Synallaxis frontalis occurs in the undergrowth of woodland, gallery woodland, savannas with scattered bushes and in chaco scrub, of Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina. Its range in east Paraguay and south-east Brazil includes cerrado vegetation (grassland with dry forest patches), even in areas with some taller forest, but there are no records in the Atlantic Forest zone. In north-east Argentina, the eastern limit of its range reaches the campos (with forest patches) of southern Misiones, (in Capital, Candelaria and Apóstoles Departments). On 30 July 1998, the authors discovered S. frontalis at Iguazu National Park, Argentina (25°36'S 54°22'W). One was observed and tape-recorded on the Timbó trail, in the gently sloping part of a large forest tract. On 16 September 1998 the species' song was heard again nearby. On 7 February 1999, this species was again observed and heard in young second-growth patches in Parque Rolón, Puerto Iguazú, 18 km from Iguazu National Park (J. Protomastro pers. obs.). J. C. Chebez (pers. comm.) also heard S. frontalis in Parque Rolón, on the cliffs of the Iguazú River. The Iguazu area lies in the Atlantic Forest region, and the second-growth forest here has Nectandra megapotamica, Balfourodendron riedelianum, Holocalyx balansae, Acacia tucumanensis and Aspidosperma polyneuron as the commonest tree species, and dense stands of Piper gaudichaudianum with a mixture of Chusquea ramosissima, shrubs and small trees in the undergrowth. Synallaxis frontalis is obviously a rare species in the Iguazu region, as it was recorded only twice during an eight-month fieldwork period. These observations constitute the first records of Synallaxis frontalis in the Atlantic Forest biome and the Iguazu National Park area, and represent a range extension of c.200 km eastward within Argentina.

Figure 1. Songs of Sooty-fronted Spinetail Synallaxis frontalis recorded in Parque Nacional Iguazu, Argentina.

References


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Introduced feral mink Mustela vison in Patagonia: a plausible cause of population declines in the Austral Rail Rallus antarcticus?

Austral Rail Rallus antarcticus, recently rediscovered in Patagonia, has suffered a significant decline in range during the last century. Even if new findings indicate that Rallus antarcticus is more common than previously thought, it has apparently disappeared from the northern half of its former range.
in Argentina and Chile. During a survey in Chubut Province (see below) informants mentioned the introduced mink *Mustela vison* as a main cause of the decline. In view of the enigmas surrounding the species’ decline, I present here evidence suggesting that predation by this introduced semi-aquatic mustelid may indeed have played a role in this process.

I searched for Austral Rail at five localities in a 90 km transect covering different environments of western Chubut Province (Argentina). Surveys were undertaken on 13–19 February 1998, using playbacks of Austral Rail vocalisations. Areas surveyed within *Nothofagus* forest included three marshes and bogs at Los Alerces National Park (Lake Rivadavia, rio Rivadavia and Lake Futalafuquen). I also explored a large lake and associated marsh (Laguna La Coqueta), located at the ecotone between forest and steppe. Finally, I surveyed the extensive permanent marsh at the headwaters of Arroyo Pescado, in typical Patagonian steppe. The habitats surveyed were mostly rushbeds of *Schenoplectus californicus*, identified as a key habitat for the species4. No *Rallus antarcticus* were detected in any of the five localities, all in a relatively well-preserved state (I saw several rare birds and mammals during my search).

During the survey I asked local people or landowners about *Rallus antarcticus*, using a field guide depiction5. At La Coqueta, an informant of Chilean birth, recognised the rail as the Pidén, mentioning its past existence in the area. The former owner of Arroyo Pescado, Owen Ap Iwan, also remembered having seen *Rallus antarcticus* in the marshes there. He blamed the introduced mink *Mustela vison* for the disappearance of the species and for a decline in the abundance of waterfowl in general. Park rangers in Los Alerces considered this viewpoint plausible, while the rural population in Argentina’s Lake District commonly regard the mink as a harmful predator6.

Mink farms were established in north-west Chubut in the early 1940s (at Cholila, 42°31’S 71°27’W), and by 1970 there was an increasing feral population in this area6. Mink populations now occur in Los Alerces National Park and at all other localities I surveyed. Mink is a well-known predator of aquatic vertebrates, including waterfowl13,6, but the species has not been studied in Argentina (G. Iglesias pers. comm.). The hypothesis that predation by this introduced mammal threatens the survival of *Rallus antarcticus* deserves consideration. Mink has spread north to Rio Negro and Neuquén13 but may have not yet reached southern Santa Cruz province, the present stronghold of Austral Rail.

Acknowledgements

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References


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**PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE**

**WEST INDIES**

**Bermuda**

Additional records (see *Cotinga* 11: 97) from late 1998 included the following. A moribund Leach’s Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* was discovered at Hamilton Harbour on 19 October; a Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* was at Talbot estate on 24 October; a Swainson’s Warbler *Limnothlypis swansoni* was at Paget Sound on 10–11 November; and a Yellow-breasted Chat *Ictera virens* was at Outer Lea Dairy in October12.

**Bahamas**

A female Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthecephalus* was at Marsh Harbour dump, on 8 September 1998, was the first record for Abaco and perhaps only the fourth in the Bahamas12.

**British Virgin Islands**

A Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*, the first record for this island group, was on Guama Island on 28 October12.

**Barbados**

McNair et al.10 report on the results of a mist-net migration
monitoring station at Harrison’s Point, St. Lucy, Barbados, from late September to early November 1997. Observations of 14 taxa of Nearctic landbird migrants are presented, most of which are considered to be probably scarce transients. The following eight species are documented or reported for the first time in Barbados (five records, three sight observations): Northern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx serripennis, Grey-cheeked Catharurus minimus and Swainson’s Thrushes Catharus ustulatus, Golden-winged Vermivora chrysoptera, Kentucky Oporornis formosus and Connecticut Warblers O. agilis, Indigo Bunting Passerina cyanea and Blue Grosbeak Guiraca caerulea.

Lesser Antilles
Feldmann et al. make available, in English, significant new records from the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, that update our knowledge as summarised in the most recent edition of the AOU checklist. Data for 62 species are presented. Among the most significant are the following: the first record of Cory’s Shearwater Calonectris diomedea in the Lesser Antilles; a possible record of American White Pelican Pelecanus erythrorhynchos (first in the Lesser Antilles); the first breeding records in the Lesser Antilles of Least BitternIxobrychus exilis; the second Lesser Antilles record of Gadwall Anas strepera; a specimen record of Northern Lapwing Vanellus vanellus; the first specific records from the Lesser Antilles of Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda, Stilt Sandpiper Calidris himantopus, Buff-breasted SandpiperTryngites subruficollis, Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus and Pomarine JaegerStercorarius pomarinus; the second Lesser Antilles records of Franklin’s Gull Larus pipixcan and Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla; the first record of Caspian Tern Sterna caspia in the Lesser Antilles; an unverified report (the first West Indies record) of White-winged Swallow Tachycineta albiventer; the first Lesser Antilles record of Northern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx serripennis; and the first (unverified) records of Blue-winged WarblerVermivora pinus in the Lesser Antilles.

CENTRAL AMERICA
Mexico
A detailed paper on the birds of El Triunfo, Chiapas, mentions the occurrence of four species—Hermitt Thrush Catharus guttatus, Blue-winged WarblerVermivora pinus, Crescent-chested WarblerV. superciliosa and Melodious Blackbird Dives dives—not previously mapped for the Sierra Madre de Chiapas. The first two species are vagrants to the area, but the latter two are residents.

Costa Rica
An adult and downy young Paint-billed CrakeNeocrex erythropus observed near Golfito, on 5 June 1998, is not only the second confirmed country record and first for the entire Pacific slope of Central America, but also the first observation of the young of this species.

Panama
The second record of Western Kingbird Tyrannus verticalis in the country involved two birds below El Chorogo on 3 April 1999; the first record was in 1988. A Scaled Antpitta Grallaria guatimalensis at Cerro Azul, on 25 April 1999, was the first locality record and fills a gap in its known range in the country.

Recent published breeding biology from the country includes the first description of the nest and eggs of Spotted Wood-Quail Odontophorus guttatus and additional data for Rufescent Tiger-heron Tigrisoma lineatum.

SOUTH AMERICA
Bolivia
Herzog et al. present the results of surveys in the Cordillera Cocopata, dpto. Cochaamba, in 1997–1998. The areas surveyed represent a transition zone between humid and dry intermontane Andean habitats, and consequently provided a number of novel distributional and altitudinal records. The most significant of these are: a number of records of the little known Stripe-faced Wood-quail Odontophorus balliviani, the first and second departmental records of Rufous NightjarCaprimulgus rufus, the first record of Blue-capped PufflegEriocnemis glaucopoides in La Paz department, as well as the northernmost records for the species at 3,400 m in Cochabamba an upslope altitudinal extension of 500 m, significant numbers of the near-threatened Hooded Mountain-toucan Andigena cucullata, further records of an undescribed subspecies of Sooty-fronted SpinetailSynallaxis frontalis, the first departmental records of Bolivian SpinetailCranioleuca hexiraecae (the lowest altitudinal record, at 1,800 m), the first record of SuiririFlycatcher Suiriri suiriri in La Paz department, further records of a previously undescribed species of Cnemotriccus flycatcher, significant numbers of the near-threatened Rufous-bellied Bush-tyrantMyiotheres fuscorufus, the first departmental records of White-tailed Shrike-tyrantAgriornis andicola and Bluish FlowerpiercerDiglossa caerulescens, and several sightings of an unidentified all-black Diglossa flowerpiercer, at 2,700–3,100 m, which is considered to be an undescribed taxon. In addition, a host of new altitudinal and habitat information is presented, involving upslope range extensions for 26 species.

Brazil
A number of new records of Sickle-winged Nightjar
*Eleuthreptus anomalus* in southeast Brazil are presented by Kirwan et al.¹⁰: four records at separate localities and involving ten individuals in São Paulo state, and four sight records at Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais. In addition, details of previously unpublished specimen records, both from Santa Catarina, are also presented. The authors suggest that fieldworkers in these regions should actively search for this, perhaps overlooked, endangered species. Details are provided, by dos Anjos & Schuchmann², of a nest, subsequently abandoned, of *Chestnut-bellied Euphonia Euphonia pectoralis*, near Morretes, Paraná, on 6 March 1997. Previous observations of nesting behaviour in this species were for August and January. Other recently described reproductive behaviour from this country includes a description of the nest, eggs and chicks of *Drab Water-tyrant Ochthornis littoralis*, based on observations on the rio Jamari, Rondônia, in October 1993³, and the first nest of *Short-tailed Nighthawk Lurcosa semitorquata* to be discovered in Brazil, at Vioosa, Minas Gerais, in November 1994⁴. The observations confirm that this species nests in trees. Vasconcelos⁵ reports the northernmost record of *Black-capped Piprites Piprites pileatus* and a range extension for *Grey-backed Tachuri Polydictus superciliosus*, both records being made at Pico do Papagaio, Minas Gerais, on 9 June 1999.

**Colombia**

Stiles et al.⁶ provide details of significant new bird records from the middle Magdalena Valley. Many of these involve examples of open-country species expanding their range southward in response to increased deforestation. The authors also note significant new information for several forest species, most notably: the second and third records of *Black-chested Hawk Leucopternis princeps* on the west slope on the Eastern Andes; the first record of *Black Hawk-eagle Spizaetus tyrannus* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the first Magdalena Valley records of *Barred Forest-falcon Microstur ruficollis*; the first records of *Marbled Wood-quail Odontophorus gujanensis* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the second record of *Crested Owl Lophostrix cristata* from the Magdalena valley; the first records of *Short-tailed Nighthawk Lurcosa semitorquata* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the second record of *White-tipped Swift Aerialus montivagus* in the Magdalena Valley; the first record of *Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift Panyptila cayennensis* in the Magdalena Valley; the first record of *Violet-headed Hummingbird Kleis guinerti* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes and the Magdalena Valley; the first records east of the Western Andes of *Green Thorntail Popelaira conversii*, the first record of *Tody Motmot Totmomanes momotula* in the Magdalena Valley; the discovery of a significant population of *White-mantled Barbet Capito hypoleucus* in the Serranía de la Quincha; only the second specimen of *Ruddy Foliage-gleaner Automolus rubiginosus sasaimae*; the second and third records of *Slaty Antwren Myrmotherula schisticolor* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes; the first record of *Chestnut-crowned Gnateater Conopophaga castaneiceps* on the west slope of the Eastern Andes north of the head of the Magdalena Valley; the first records of *Antioquia Bristle-tyrant Phylloscarus lanyoni* east of the rio Magdalena; the first records of *Yellow-margined Flycatcher Tolmomyias assimilis* in the Magdalena Valley; the potential importance of the Serranía de las Quinchas for *Turquoise Dacnis-tanager Pseudodacnis hartlaubi* is highlighted; the first records of *Dusky-faced Tanager Mitrospingus cassini* in the Magdalena Valley; and the first record west of the Andes of *Lined Seedeater Sporophila lineola*.

Strewe & Kreft⁷ report the first records of *Masked Mountain-tanager Buthraupis wedmorei* and *Black-backed Bush-tanager Urothraupis stolzmanni* for Nariño department; both species were recorded on Volcán Galeras in 1997, the former only on 8 November, but the latter species appears to be fairly common there.

*Venezuela*

Nebot⁸ provides information on the establishment of a small population of *Rose-ringed Parakeet Psittacula krameri* in the eastern part of Caracas city since 1996. This appears to be the first such population to be reported in mainland South America, although the species has been widely introduced in many other parts of the world.

**SOUTH ATLANTIC**

**Falkland Islands**

Interesting reports from the archipelago include: a *Tawny-throated Dotterel Oreophilus ruficollis*, on Pebble Island, and a *Brown-chested Martin Progne tapera*, at Government House (Falklands Conservation Newsletter 36) and *Trudeau's Tern Sterna trudeaui* (first record), on Bleaker Island, in September 1998; and a possible *Cocoi Heron Ardea cocoi*, in Stanley Harbour, in early February 1999 (Falklands Conservation Newsletter 38). In early April 1999, there was a *Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus* on Long Island (Falklands Conservation Newsletter 40).

**South Shetland Islands**

Favero & Silva⁹ report the observation, documented photographically, of a *Least Seedsnipe Thinocorus rumicivorus* on Nelson Island, on 1 December 1996, the first record for Antarctica.
OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Bolivia
Bennett Hennessey reports tape-recording and briefly seeing a **Scaled Fruiteater** *Ampeleoides tschudii* in the canopy at Serranía Cuchillo, Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve, dpto. Beni (15°15'S 67°08'W), on 19 October 1998, at 900 m. The species was tape-recorded there again on 21 October 1998. According to the Armonía Bolivian bird database, this is the second record of the species in the country, the first being by Ted Parker at Serranía Bellavista (38 km north of Caranavi), dpto. La Paz (1,675 m), in June 1979.

Brazil
The third record of **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* was a group of at least 200 migrating south over the Transpantaneira Highway, south of Poconé, on 17 October 1997 (HB). In the same area, in March 1999, a **Grey Pileated Finch** *Coryphosphenus pileatus* was observed at km 25 on the Transpantaneira Highway, between Poconé and Porto Jofre (PB), the first record for the Pantanal region.

Venezuela
Two new species for Margarita Island are as follows. A female and three juvenile **Saffron Finches** *Sicalis flavoeola* were at Laguna Suarez on 23 July 1998, with a male and a juvenile there next day and a single male on 25 July (CF). Older news, from November 1996, concerns a male and two female **Dickcissels** *Spiza americana* trapped locally by the owner of a pet shop, and bought by RR, who released them.

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Neotropical Notebook:
compiled by Juan Mazar Barnett and Guy M. Kirwan.

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

**SHORT NOTES**

**Franklin’s Gull Larus pipixcan and Mississippi Kite Ictinia mississippiensis new to Cuba**

Franklin’s Gull Larus pipixcan has previously been reported in several West Indian islands: Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, St. Barthelemy and Guadeloupe. Here, we report the first records for Cuba. In the afternoon of 7 April 1999, SMW saw a Franklin’s Gull moulting into second alternate plumage on the rocky shore with several Laughing Gulls Larus atricilla at Playa El Chivo, near the entrance to the Havana Tunnel, in eastern Havana City. It was watched, at 200–260 m, with binoculars for c.90 minutes and was seen again there for approximately the same period next day. A week later, on 14 April, another was observed at Playa Larga, a tourist resort on the Bay of Pigs (Matazans Province), 162 km south-east of Havana city. At 10h30, AK, PB and 15 other birdwatchers located a Franklin’s Gull among a tight flock of 10 Laughing Gulls flying south-west, and in direct comparison could observe the distinctly smaller body and wings than Laughing Gull. It was apparently an adult in definitive alternate plumage, with a complete black hood and white on its wingtips, and was identified according to the following features: wings more rounded than Laughing Gull, which are longer and more pointed; general coloration paler, not as dark-mantled as Laughing Gull, but only seen a few times on the eastern surface at a few yards high overhead.

Field sketches by Peter Burke
The nest of the Snowy Cotinga Carpodectes nitidus in Costa Rica

The breeding biology of the Snowy Cotinga Carpodectes nitidus is almost unknown. In April 1999, near the village of Canaleta, on the Atlantic slope of the Cordillera de Guanacaste, in north-west Costa Rica near the border with Nicaragua, we found a nest of the species. It was situated in a leafless tree (known locally as cabillo or cabejo) in a largely deforested area near a dirt road. The adjacent tree, apparently of the same species, was in a full leaf, despite it being the dry season. The nest was 10–12 m above ground and was placed, unobtrusively, in a three-pronged tree fork. It appeared unusually small for the size of the bird, and would have gone unnoticed but for the arrival of the female, which was feeding at least one nestling (seen peering from the nest). Air temperatures at midday, during the dry season, are 37–38°C, making the bird’s choice of an unshaded location in which to nest appear rather unusual.

Reference

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Primer registro de parasitismo reproductivo en el Cucarachero de PANTANO Cistothorus apolinari por el Chamón Maicero Molothrus bonariensis

A principios de marzo de 1999 durante 30 minutos una pareja del Cucarachero de Pantano Cistothorus apolinari alimentando un pichón del Chamón Maicero Molothrus bonariensis en la vegetación emergente del humedal La Conejera. A F. Gary Stiles y Jorge Botero por la revisión del manuscrito.

Referencias


Mississippi Kite Ictinia mississippiensis in Venezuela
Very few records of Mississippi Kite Ictinia mississippiensis are available from northern South America, although the species has long been known to winter in the southern part of the continent and migrate through Central America. On 12 September 1999, along with Wally and Lois Goldfank, I observed an adult of this species among a migrating flock of c.50 Plumbeous Ictinia plumbea and 80 Swallow-tailed Kites Elanoides forficatus, 20 km north of El Vigía, south-west Mérida. The light was from behind us, and the birds moved slowly over a small hill close to the road we were standing on. The Mississippi Kite had a solid black tail and lacked rufous wing patches, as did the adjacent Plumbeous Kites. I have seen many 100s of these species, with my field experience of mississippiensis commencing in 1948 and plumbea in 1960.

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First record in the Galápagos Islands of Grey-headed Gull Larus cirrocephalus
On 9 August 1978, while visiting San Cristobal in the Galápagos, I photographed an adult Grey-headed Gull Larus cirrocephalus in alternate plumage. It was first seen on the beach and subsequently in flight. The following description is from my field notes:

Similar in appearance to Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus; thin bill; body size slightly smaller, slimmer than Lava Gull L. fuliginosus with it. White body, pale ('ghost') grey head extending only to hind crown as in ridibundus; grey mantle (between Ring-billed L. delawarensis and California Gull L. californicus in shade); base of outer primaries white; black wing tips with white subterminal spots; legs, feet, and bill deep red; eye yellow; dusky underwing.

As the species was not included in Harris¹, I assumed that this could represent the first Galápagos record, but that it would turn up in the future, perhaps regularly, as more birders visited this archipelago. When Castro & Phillips² was published in 1996, I was surprised to learn that L. cirrocephalus was still unrecorded in the islands. The species is 'recorded very frequently' in coastal Ecuador¹ and is 'fairly common' in coastal Peru¹. It also is found discontinuously in eastern South America, along much of the Atlantic coast, and in the interior along the Amazon River and its tributaries.

References

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Rediscovery of the Royal Cinclodes Cinclodes aricomae in Bolivia

On a trip, organised by EcoBolivia and Wildlife Conservation Society, to the recently created Madidi National Park, in November 1997, colleagues and myself followed an old mule trail from Pelechuco to Apolo through the Cordillera Apolobamba. The trail ascends through passes above 4,700 m. On the stretch between Ucañani and shortly after Puina, just before the descent to the lowlands, several patches of Polylepis forest that had escaped logging and fires were noticed, almost hidden by rocky ridges at locations distant from the trail. The largest patches were just above Chullu, at Ucañani but were inaccessible.

At one place, c.3 hours beyond Puina, it was possible to access a small isolated patch of Polylepis (c.1 ha). A single Royal Cinclodes Cinclodes aricomae was observed over a period of 20 minutes, disappearing into the dense forest on three occasions. It flipped pieces of moss from the ground beneath Polylepis trees, leaving obvious marks. An inspection of the area revealed many fresh marks within an undergrowth-free area of c.150 m². The overall size of the woodland suggests that the bird was also using other patches of forest, although no such areas were visible in the vicinity.

Royal Cinclodes was previously known in Bolivia from a specimen taken at Tilo Tilo, La Paz department in 1876. Subsequently, it was collected at a locality in Puno, Peru, in 1931 and rediscovered elsewhere in the same country in the 1980s. It is best known from the area around Abra la Cruz, dpto. Cochabamba (17°10'S 65°35'W). Subsequently, SKH made tape-recordings of an unidentified parakeet on the same road on 27 June (3,300 m), 3 July (2,550 m) and 13 July 1996 (2,000 m), later identified by N. Krakbe (pers. comm.) obtained a tape-recording of the species, on 4 April 1996, at Abra la Cruz, Amboró National Park, dpto. Santa Cruz (17°51'S 64°21'W, in humid montane forest at 2,100–2,450 m). Although no bird was seen, the recording is identical to that of Sagot, SKH's recording of 27 June, as well as that of Sagot, is included in Mayer¹. These records represent a significant southern range extension for this patchily distributed species, which was previously only known from as far south as Cuzco, Peru²³.

On 16 June 1997, SKH observed two Roraiman Flycatchers Myiophobus roraimae within the understorey of humid montane forest, at 1,050 m, at Cerro Asunta Pata, dpto. La Paz (15°03’S 68°29’W). Single individuals were relocated in the same area, by both authors, later the same day and the following morning. They were seen well for several minutes at eye level and close range and identified by the typical upright Myiophobus posture, warm brown uppertails and paler olive-grey underparts, combined with two broad cinnamon-rufous wingbars and conspicuous orange crown-stripe (highly visible in two territorial individuals). The single seen in the afternoon of 16 June was perched at c.1 m, by a small creek within the forest, preening after bathing. Although a slight southerly range extension, the presence of Myiophobus roraimae in the northern Bolivian Andes is not unexpected as it is known from dpto. Puno, south-east Peru. However, it appears to be rare and local in the Asunta Pata area, where two previous expeditions (Parker & Bailey¹ and S. Cardiff and J.V. Remsen in litt.) failed to record the species. Contrary to Ridgely & Tudor¹, it was not found in an area with impoverished soil, but in rather tall forest on clayey soil.

References


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First records of Barred Parakeet Bolborhynchus lineola and Roraiman Flycatcher Myiophobus roraimae in Bolivia

Drivers recent fieldwork in Bolivia we observed two species not previously reported in the country¹². On 24 June 1996 a flock of c.12 Barred Parakeets Bolborhynchus lineola flew low over humid montane forest, at 2,950 m, along the abandoned road from Aguirre to El Palmar (Serranía de Callejas), Carrasco National Park, dpto. Cochabamba (17°10'S 65°35'W). Subsequently, SKH made tape-recordings of an unidentified parakeet on the same road on 27 June (3,300 m), 3 July (2,550 m) and 13 July 1996 (2,000 m), later identified by N. Krakbe (pers. comm.) obtained a tape-recording of the species, on 4 April 1996, at Abra la Cruz, Amboró National Park, dpto. Santa Cruz (17°51’S 64°21'W, in humid montane forest at 2,100–2,450 m). Although no bird was seen, the recording is identical to those from Carrasco. SKH's recording of 27 June, as well as that of Sagot, is included in Mayer¹. These records represent a significant southern range extension for this patchily distributed species, which was previously only known from as far south as Cuzco, Peru²³.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE
CARIBBEAN

Bahamas
An immature Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus at Cable Beach, New Providence on 20–21 January 1999 was the third record for the island group. A Great Black-backed Gull L. marinus on New Providence on 2–6 March 1998 was the fifth record for the Bahamas. Rarer was a Red-bellied Woodpecker Melanerpes carolinus at West End, Grand Bahama, on 15 February 1999, the first record for the West Indies3. A Chuck-will's-widow Caprimulgus carolinensis discovered incubating two eggs, on Grand Bahama, on 1 June 1999 is the first breeding record for the West Indies5.

Barbados
All reports refer to 1998. A Purple Heron Ardea purpurea, initially located at Graeme Hall swamp in autumn, remained for the winter providing the first record for the West Indies and second in the Western Hemisphere, while three Grey Herons A. cinerea also wintered in this area from 11 October onwards. A Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis, at Fosters, St. Lucy, on 28 July, was the first West Indian record. Single Wood Sandpipers Tringa glareola were also on the island on 25 April and during late November to 14 December 1998, and three Ruff Philomachus pugnax also overwintered in Barbados. On 5 March an Arctic Skua Stercorarius parasiticus was observed from land. A Little Gull Larus minutus, last noted on 27 December, was possibly also the first West Indies record, while a Great Black-backed Gull L. marinus on 13 December was the sixth island record. Finally a Canada Warbler Wilsonia canadensis trapped on 31 October was the first island and third Lesser Antilles record6.

Bermuda
All records refer to 1999. A Common Teal Anas crecca of the Eurasian race was at Marsh Lane on 20 April, and a Gull-billed Tern Gelochelidon nilotica at Warwick Pond on 8 March was an exceptional spring record. A Virginia Rail Rallus limicola on Long Island on 6 June was the first summer record in Bermuda. An American Robin Turdus migratorius, at Jenningsland on 17 July–6 August, was also an exceptional record for summer. A probable Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis was seen at Spittal Pond on 7 November; this species has only been recorded once previously. A probable Eurasian Wigeon Anas penelope was on Nonsuch Island on 10 November. Two Curlew Sandpipers Calidris ferruginea (the 6-7th records) were present on 17 September–1 October. A Ruff Philomachus pugnax arrived in early September and was present until at least 26 September. An American Woodcock Scolopax minor was flushed at Southampton on 28 October. A Lark Sparrow Chondestes grammacus at Southside on 25 September the fourth Bermudan record; all of have been in the 1990s. A Pine Grosbeak Pinicola enucleator at Fort Sciaur on 14 November was the fifth record for Bermuda and the first for 22 years. An Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapillus, on 22 June2,3,6 was an unusual summer record.

Cuba
Wallace et al.8 report interesting records from Cayo Coco, Archipiélago de Sabana-Camaguey (ASC), in 1995–1997. Of principal note were the first West Indian record of Black-throated Grey Warbler Dendroica nigrescens (photographed on 17 October 1997) and first Cuban occurrence of Hermit Thrush Catharus guttatus (immature trapped on 25 December 1995). Other significant Cuban records included: the fourth record of Audubon's Shearwater Puffinus lherminieri (found dead on 27 February 1996), the eighth record of Hooded Merganser Mergus cucuscatus (two females on 29 November to early December 1996), the largest numbers of Piping Plover Charadrius melodus thus far reported in Cuba, the tenth record of American Oystercatcher Haematopus palliatus (one photographed on 7 June 1995), the 10–11th records of Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus, three reports of Red Knot Calidris canutus, all involving flocks of 15–49 birds (five previous records in Cuba), the sixth record of Dunlin C. alpina (four photographed on 20 January 1997), the 8–9th record of Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus (juvenile on 17 January 1997), the ninth record of Great Crested Flycatcher Myiarchus crinitus (one on 10 November 1995), the sixth record of Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina (one trapped and observed on 8–10 February 1997), the third record of Orange-crowned Warbler Vermivora celata (one trapped on 29 November 1995), a total of 77 individuals of Swainson's
**Warbler** Limnothlypis swainsonii,
2-3 Kentucky Warblers
Opornis formosus during 20 December 1995 to 23 February 1996,
the seventh record of Yellow-breasted Chat Icteria virens (one trapped on 22
November 1995), and the fourth record of Chipping Sparrow Spizella passerina (one on 20
November 1996).

**Dominican Republic**
The second record of Dunlin Calidris alpina involved two at Las Salinas, Bahía de Las
Calderas, on 28 December 1998.

**Jamaica**
A Spotted Rail Pardirallus maculatus, heard at Caymanas Ponds west of Kingston in January
1999, was apparently only the second island record this decade.

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

**Belize**
A Long-billed Starthroat Heliomaster longirostris seen 0.5 miles south of Mile 40 on the
Western Highway, on private property, probably in November, was well described and appears to
be the first country record of this species.

**Costa Rica**
The second country record of Common Teal Anas crecca involved a male at Finca Las
Concavas (between Cartago and Paraiso), on 4 January 2000.

**Southern Lapwings**
Vanellus chilensis were reported in the San Isidro area on 13
March 2000, one of the very few records in Costa Rica.

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**Brazil**
Three Great Blue Herons Ardea herodias on the Anavilhanas Archipelago, on 20 October 1997,
were the first country record.

**Cuba**
A number of interesting records were made during 1999 and early
2000 (all AK, GMK et al. unless otherwise stated). Dates refer to
1999 unless otherwise stated. A Giant Kingbird Tyrannus
cubensis was at Hacienda La Vega, west of Trinidad, on 30 October,
the first record in Sancti Spiritus province for several decades.
Other reports involve the following scarce migrants: single
Blue-winged Warblers Vermivora pinus at Palpite,
Zapata, on 15 February and near Bermejas, Zapata, on 9 February
2000, singles of Swainson's Thrush Catharus ustulatus and
Wilson's Warbler Wilsonia pusilla in Parque Almendares, La
Habana on 25 October (GMK, RPM, JP), single Hooded
Warblers W. citrina at El Cenote, Zapata, on 13–14 February and on
Cayo Coco, on 6 April 2000 (GMK, FR), a Kentucky Warbler
Opornis formosus near Playa Giron, Zapata, on 26 October, a
Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea in the same area on 27
October, and a Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus, Eastern
Kingbird Tyrannus tyrannus, Prothonotary Warbler
Protonotaria citrea and Orchard Oriole Icterus spurius, on Cayo
Paredón Grande, on 1 November. Records in 2000 included the 13th
Cuban record of Bananquit Coereba flaveola, present on the
last-named cay on 14 February. A Lesser Black-backed Gull
Larus fuscus was on Cayo Romano, from 5 April to at least
mid-month (AJ, AK et al.; video-taped), several Whimbrels
Numenius phaeopus on Cayo Guillermo, during 26 March to 6
April (AG et al., GMK, FR), two Upland Sandpipers Bartramia
longicauda at Bermejas, on 24 March (GMK et al.), with another in the Sierra de Cubitas, Ciego de
Avila, on 25 March, and a Black-

**OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED**

**Belize**
LJ and JA closely observed a male Hermit Warbler Dendroica
occidentalis, in alternate plumage, at Hidden Valley Falls, Mountain
Pine Ridge, Cayo District, on 23
March 2000. This is only the
second Belize record.

**Bolivia**
MH informs us of the following. A Green-backed Becard
Pachyramphus viridis at Trinidad on 19 September 1998 is the first
record in Beni Department, and a Rusty-necked Piculet Picumnus
fuscus at Cutal Lodge, Beni, on 18
September 1998 appears to
represent a small range extension.

**Kentucky Warbler**
A breeding-plumaged Prothonotaria citrea, with another
at Laguna El Peral, Valparaiso, on
12 November 1997, and two American Redstarts Setophaga
rutilcosa, at Putre, Tarapacá
province, on 22 November 1997
(MF).

**Cuba**
A number of interesting records were made during 1999 and early
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Numenius phaeopus on Cayo Guillermo, during 26 March to 6
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longicauda at Bermejas, on 24
March (GMK et al.), with another in the Sierra de Cubitas, Ciego de
Avila, on 25 March, and a Black-
billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus (the third Cuban record) on Cayo Coco, on 27 March (per AG). Five Sand Martins Riparia riparia migrated past Miramar, La Habana, on 31 March (GMK). Another Orchard Oriole was at La Güira National Park, Pinar del Rio, on 16 April (AJ, AK et al.).

**Ecuador**

The following records from 1999, by PA and OJ, are of species new for the Podocarpus National Park - bird list: a male Black-throated Brilliant Heliodoxa schreibersii between río Buscáncaro and Zamora, on 5–6 October; two White-tailed Hillstar Urochroa bouqueri c.5 km upstream from the park headquarters on 15 October; a Mouse-colored Tyrannulet Phaenoyias murina at La Fragancia, on the Loja–Zamora road, c.10 km from Zamora, at c.1,100 m, on 12 October; a male Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater Pipreola frontalis near the park headquarters on 15 October; an Andean Slaty-thrush Turdus nigripeplus near río Buscáncaro headquarters on 16 October (OJ only); and several records of Guira Tanager Hemithraupis guira in the río Buscáncaro and La Fragancia areas. In addition, a female Little Woodstar Acestura bombus was seen at flowering Inga trees on 5–6 October and records of six other species were apparently new for the río Buscáncaro section of the park. A Rufous-browed Tyrannulet Phylloscartes superciliaris was reported with a mixed-species flock at Buscáncaro, on 23 March 1995 (MF).

On 2 September 1997 a Cliff Swallow Hirundo pyrrhonota was collected by H. Onate and JFF in Mindo town (00°05'S 78°46'W, at c.1,300 m) and deposited in the QCAZ Zoology Museum of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (QCAZ 1489). This is a new altitudinal record for this boreal migrant, previously known largely from tropical areas below 1,000 m. Other interesting records from Mindo include a Collared Plover Charadrius collaris, on 11 March 1995, and an adult male Blackpoll Warbler Dendroica striata, on 10 March 1995 (MF).—

**Guatemala**

WWP reports and describes, the first Bonaparte’s Gull Larus philadelphia for the country, at Livingston, on the Caribbean coast, on 30 December 1999.

**Mexico**

TLE reports a Ross’ Goose Anser rossii at La Pesca, Tamaulipas in November 1999. At Puerto Penasco, Sonora on 22–23 November 1999 there was a Horned Grebe Podiceps auritus at Shrimp Pond, a flock of 20 Hooded Mergansers Mergus cucullatus at the sewage pond and three Oldsquaws Clangula hyemalis at Pelican Point (all SG).

**St Lucia**

A male Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea, the sixth island record, was reported on 18 April 2000 (JG).

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to the following who forwarded or commented on records: John Abbott (JA), Pablo Andrade (PA), Dalcio Dacol, Andrew Dobson, Ted Eubanks (TLE), Martin Flack (MF), Juan Fernando Freile (JFF), Steve Ganley (SG), Jeff Gerbracht (JG), Alan Greensmith (AG), Mike Hunter (MH), Ottavio Janni (OJ), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ), Lee Jones (LJ), Arturo Kirkconnell (AK), Guy M. Kirwan (GMK), Bruce W. Miller, Rod Martins (RPM), Patricia O’Neill (PO), W. W. Plomp (WWP), J. Price (JP), Firdous Raja (FR), David Ricalde (DR) and Barry Wright.

**References**

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

SHORT NOTES

Was Red-legged Honeycreeper Cyanerpes cyaneus carneipes from Cuba introduced from Mexico?
The Aparecido de San Diego, or Azulito Cyanerpes cyaneus, as it is known in Cuba, is a well-established introduction, being common in Sierra del Rosario and Sierra de La Güira, Pinar del Río province, and scattered localities throughout Cuba, but is unknown from the Isle of Pines1. I have compared long series of specimens from Cuba with those from elsewhere, and consider the Cuban population to unequivocally belong to C. c. carneipes. This suggests its presence in Cuba has been insufficiently long to produce morphological differentiation. The origin of its introduction is unknown.

Passuth2 notes that Diego Velázquez, governor of Cuba in 1915–1919, instructed Juan de Grijalba to visit Mexico and bring goods to the island. On their return, these expeditions docked in Havana Bay, Trinidad and Santiago de Cuba. The first trip that anchored in Havana Bay was described thus: ‘The seven small brigantines... disembarked their load in small chalupas consisting of bundles and barrels of spice, unknown birds in cages, tanned furs’.

Cyanerpes cyaneus is one of the few introduced passerines to have become established in Cuba. This beautiful species, easy to capture due to its flocking behaviour, is mainly frugivorous and thus comparatively easily kept in cages at sea. Its disjunct distribution in Cuba3 may suggest that more than one introduction occurred. The citation above provides a plausible origin for its presence in Cuba.

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New distributional records of two tanagers in Mexico
Using the detailed distributional maps provided by Howell & Webb5 field workers in Mexico can readily determine possible range extensions. The two tanagers below were observed during visits to Yamaulipas (Tamps.) and San Luis Potosí (SLP) with students from Baker University in midwinter 1990–1997. Coordinates and geographical descriptions are presented for each sighting. In addition, Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) conducted at El Naranjo, SLP and Gómez Farias, Tamps. since 1972 were examined for records of these species.

Blue-grey Tanager Thraupis episcopus
One on the east edge of Naranjo town (22°31’N 99°18’W) on 8 January 1997 was in good feather condition, reducing the likelihood that it was a released cage bird. It appeared healthy, foraging in the top of a small papaya and later flying to a nearby utility line. Howell & Webb6 list the species for the Xilitla, SLP but not further north. This record extends the range, as depicted in Howell & Webb6, north by c.130 km. It was recorded on the El Naranjo CBC in 19744 (two) and was reported in 19817 (during CBC week) and 19944 (seven), indicating that the species occurs irregularly in north-east SLP, rather than being a vagrant there. It is an easily identified species and the omission of the 1974 and 1981 CBC sightings from Howell & Webb6 is an apparent oversight. Northward range extensions by species characteristic of disturbed lowland tropical forest have been documented for several Mexican birds5,6.

Yellow-winged Tanager Thraupis abbas
First observed by the author and Greg Griffiths on 30 December 1980 on the Gómez Farias CBC. A flock of 34 individuals was near villa Julio (23°06’N 99°12’W), which is c.15 km by air north-west of Gómez Farias, Tamps. I also observed it at Rancho El Cielito (23°07’N 99°09’W), c.10 km north of Gómez Farias, in 1995 (16 birds) and 1997 (10 individuals). This species was reported on the first Gómez Farias CBC in 19728 and has been seen on every such CBC since, with a maximum of 141 individuals in 19769, but usually 2–4 are seen. The author also observed the species at El Salto, SLP (22°35’N 99°23’W), c.10 km north-east of Naranjo: three on 19 January 1992 and singles on...
1 January 1996 and 9 January 1997. It was reported on the first El Naranjo, SLP CBC in 1972 and all but three censuses until 1994, with a maximum of 75 in that year, but most years 3–6 were reported. Howell & Webb record the species' presence in the Xilitla area, but not further north. The records above are the first for Tamaulipas and extend its range north by c.200 km. The species is apparently common in winter as far as the area north of Gómez Farias. It is easily identified and these CBC sightings were apparently omitted from Howell & Webb by oversight.

Acknowledgements
I wish to acknowledge financial assistance from Baker University that supported the January student expeditions. I also wish to thank my able field companions, in particular Jan L. Boyd, Jon J. Boyd, Christa Edwards, Norma Gallegos, Greg Griffiths, Scott Kimball, Kristen Mitchell, and Jeff Rupert. The manuscript was improved by comments from Town Peterson and Mark Robbins.

References

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A late November American Golden-plover Pluvialis dominica in west Mexico
American Golden-plover Pluvialis dominica is rare on the west coast of North America, mainly encountered during autumn migration. In Mexico, at this season, it is considered probably a rare to uncommon transient (mid-August through October) throughout but with ‘few specific records’. As the species winters principally in South America, it is seldom encountered in North America after mid-October. There are several winter records in the eastern United States but all wintering golden-plovers on the west coast have been Pacific Golden-plover P. fulva. On 29 November 1999, I photographed an American Golden-plover at San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico, which Brenda D. Smith and I watched for 30 minutes with a small flock of Grey Plovers P. squatarola at Chacalilla shrimp ponds. It was distinctly smaller than the latter (Fig. 1), with a thinner bill, especially at the tip. Its plumage was fresh, without signs moult or heavy wear. Breast grey, lacking distinct buff or yellow tones. Broad whitish supercilium, contrasting with distinctively blackish crown. Mantle dark grey, heavily spangled yellow and white. Long wings distinctive (Fig. 2), with five primary tips visible beyond longest tertial. Underwings wholly grey, lacking black axillaries. No calls heard. Field identification of P. dominica versus P. fulva can be problematic, but the San Blas bird was relatively straightforward. The grey (not buff-yellow) breast, blackish cap, whitish (not yellow) supercilium, and not especially brightly coloured underparts combine to eliminate juvenile Pacific Golden-plover. Most importantly, the long primary extension, probably the single most important field mark, clearly established the bird as American Golden-plover.

The 29 November date is fully a month or more later than all previous autumn records in Mexico. Nevertheless, it may not have been wintering locally, as autumn migrants in California have been noted until 24–25 November, in 1977 at Goleta, and tardy migrants in the eastern USA have perhaps remained into early December. Even so, given the tendency for some to winter in the eastern USA and the relatively hospitable clime of coastal Nayarit, the San Blas individual was potentially the first American Golden-plover attempting to winter in Mexico.

Acknowledgements

References

Cotinga 15

Neotropical Notebook

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Cassin’s Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* documented in Belize

Cassin’s Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans* is a common summer resident from Wyoming south through the western USA to the highlands of Mexico as far south as Oaxaca. It winters through much of west and central Mexico with some reports in Guatemala and a very few in Honduras1. Miller & Miller4 summarise several sight reports of the species in Belize, but consider all as requiring verification. Lee Jones (pers. comm.) provided another summary of sight reports of Cassin’s Kingbird for Belize and confirmed the lack of a documented record, as do Howell2, Howell & Webb3 and Miller & Miller4.

These undocumented reports are as follows: W. P. Nickell banded thousands of birds in the Stann Creek District, including two reported Cassin’s Kingbirds in 1960, and singles in 1961, 1962 and 19631. Walters6 reported banding one in 1985 near Belize City, which was disputed by Howell2. Singles were reported on 22 December 1985 during the Belize City Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and during the 1986 Belize City CBC. Here, we describe the first fully documented record of Cassin’s Kingbird in Belize.

On 22 December 1999, an apparent adult Cassin’s Kingbird was discovered by Lasley during the Gallon Jug CBC in the Orange Walk District of northwest Belize. It was initially observed at c.11h30, frequenting a fence at the west end of the airstrip and loosely associating with several Tropical Kingbirds *Tyrannus melancholicus*, Fork-tailed *T. savana* and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers *T. forficatus*. The fence separated a cattle pasture from a two-lane dirt road. An approximately 25 m grass verge flanked the road opposite a habitat mosaic of tropical moist forest, a shade coffee plantation and fallow agricultural fields. The Cassin’s Kingbird was initially noted in flight, when its back and tail were noted as distinctly darker than the Tropical Kingbirds common in the area. It was observed at length from c.25 m: the uniformly dark-grey breast was obvious, as was a clean white, sharply delineated chin patch; the tail had a squared tip, not notched as is usual in Tropical Kingbird; the belly was yellow and the legs dark, while the back was greyish olive, not greenish olive as in Tropical Kingbird.

During the initial observation, the status of Cassin’s Kingbird in Belize was unknown by Lasley, who is very familiar with the species, but visiting the country for the first time. Upon learning that the species was undocumented for the country, a full description of the bird was made. The bird was relocated in the same area at c.14h45, when several additional observers, including Paul Wood and Jeff Gordon, were present and it was studied at leisure through telescopes for c.10 minutes. Wood and Gordon, professional birding guides familiar with the Gallon Jug area, concurred with the identification. In addition, it was noted (during direct comparison)

Figure 1. Cassin’s Kingbird *Tyrannus vociferans*, Gallon Jug, Orange Walk, Belize, 22 December 1999 (Greg W. Lasley)
that the bill was noticeably shorter than Tropical Kingbird, and that the tail was dark brown to blackish with a very pale tip and pale edges to the outer rectrices. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher harassed the Cassin’s Kingbird, whereupon it gave a loud, burry kbeerer immediately recognisable as a typical vocalisation of the species. Eight photographs of the bird were obtained.

Bruce & Carolyn Miller also saw the Cassin’s Kingbird on 26 December at c.09h30, on the same fence. It was immediately recognisable by its darker coloration. They observed it for c.15 minutes using binoculars. As it moved from fence to fence, its field marks and darker coloration provided a ready contrast with those of the Tropical Kingbirds using the fences. Further photographic documentation was obtained. On subsequent visits over the next week, it was not encountered, but on 2 March 2000 Victor Emanuel and Barry Zimmer located a Cassin’s Kingbird in the same area and obtained additional photographs, as well as tape-recordings of its vocalisations. It is presumed that the March observation was of the same wintering individual.

Acknowledgements
We thank Mark Lockwood, Steve Howell, Cheryl Johnson and Lee Jones for reviewing earlier drafts of this note and making many helpful comments and suggestions.

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Notes on the status of Yucatan Nightjar Caprimulgus badius along the New River, Orange Walk District, Belize
Yucatan Nightjar Caprimulgus badius has been the subject of much taxonomic and distributional confusion since its description. Endemic to the Yucatan, including Cozumel, its winter movements and distribution south through Belize and northern Honduras (one record) are poorly understood1,2. Difficulties in detection and identification of silent birds, and a lack of nocturnal field work, coupled with erroneous records perpetuated in the literature, have made seasonal movements hard to interpret3,4.

Howell & Webb5 consider C. badius to breed in Yucatan south to Ambergris Caye, wintering in eastern Belize, south through extreme eastern Guatemala and north-west Honduras. Howell5 reviewed its status in Belize, where the few published records are in January–March (winter and migration), although breeding can be expected in the extreme north. Russell7 cited two specimens from Belize: one collected 28 February 1958 on Half Moon Cay and the type-specimen on 2 January 1907 at Toledo Settlement near Punta Gorda. The latter is the only record for south Belize. Here, we elaborate on the status of C. badius as reported by England5, ‘fairly common’ along New River in north-central Belize in December–May, ‘while a small number of individuals can be found on most nights through the rest of the year’.

Methods
Field studies have been conducted along New River Lagoon at Lamanai since late 1998. The study area and methods for the landbird programme are described in England5. Opportunities to census nocturnal species along New River are possible during Lamanai Outpost Lodge’s spotlight river safari, which takes a small number of lodge guests at night on the New River and its tributaries. These trips are operated almost nightly. C. badius was easily detected on these trips, as was Common Pooraur Porkypteryx yucatanicus was also present, but not typically near the water’s edge. Identification of C. badius was based upon Howell5 and Howell & Webb5.

Spotlighting trips usually began at 20h00 and occupied c.2 hours, using a 1.5 million candlepower halogen spotlight, which permits any species with a reflective eyeshine to be spotted at distances in excess of 100 m. Under these conditions, caprimulgids may often be specifically identified by eyeshine color (R. Arevalo pers. comm.; pers. obs.), but the reliability of this feature requires further testing. Once a bird was located, the boat was manoeuvred close enough to allow everyone to see it. This distance depends on the species and—in the guide’s experience—it’s likelihood of flushing. Every effort was made to reduce disturbance to a minimum and caprimulgids were often approached to within several metres.
Results and discussion

Caprimulgids have not been the focus of research at Lamanai. While numbers of *C. badius* observed per night were only infrequently recorded through September 1999, the species’ presence or absence was recorded nightly. Highest counts were during January 1999 when a minimum of 12 was recorded per night. Lowest numbers were in June–September, when the maximum count is six on 13 September 1999. Otherwise, the maximum count is two, but at least one was found most nights throughout the year.

It is possible that *C. badius* breeds along New River, although no juveniles have been recorded. Vallely & Whitman\(^4\) report fewer than ten records at Hill Bank, on the south-west shore of New River Lagoon. More specifically, Vallely (pers. comm.) noted records of five singles from the vicinity of Hill Bank, between 18 February and 27 March, but nocturnal field work there has been purely opportunistic (A. Vallely pers. comm.). Night trips by MCE and BC to Hill Bank to survey Morelet’s Crocodile *Crocodylus moreletti* have failed to produce *C. badius*. There is also only one record of *C. badius* along the lagoon shore north of Lamanai, and only one record from Dawson Creek. None of these areas have been sampled as intensively as New River.

We tentatively conclude that the New River watershed constitutes the southernmost point of the summer range—and possibly breeding range—of *C. badius*. Other areas with similar riparian forest habitat in northern Belize should be surveyed for the species in the summer to clarify its range. Increased effort to thoroughly document the species’ numbers should help elucidate its status as a non-breeding summer resident or confirm expectations\(^3\) that this species may breed in north Belize.

Acknowledgements

Mark & Monique Howells, the Lamanai Outpost Lodge and Lamanai Outpost Lodge supported our research. The Forestry Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Belize, permitted field work along New River. Lee Jones, Bruce & Carolyn Miller, and Andrew Vallely made helpful comments on an earlier draft. This is ornithology contribution number 6 of Lamanai Field Research Center.

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Possible consumption of a lizard by a Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanoecephalus*

Remsen *et al.*\(^5\) noted that trogons have a mixed diet of fruit and arthropods, or feed primarily on fruit. Few exceptions to this have been reported for New World *Trogonidae*. Within the genus *Trogon*, Haverschmidt\(^6\) reports at least one record of foraging on a small lizard by *T. viridis*, while Skutch\(^4\) recorded consumption of a small lizard by *T. bairdii*. Stiles & Skutch\(^7\) report that *Pharomachrus mocinno*, *T. massena* and *T. clathratus* eat frogs and lizards.

Black-headed Trogon *Trogon melanoecephalus* is a common resident of tropical and subtropical forests, and disturbed areas, from southern Mexico to northern Costa Rica\(^1\). On 29 May 1999, in the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve, Belize (17°45'N 88°39'W), we observed an adult male *T. melanoecephalus* with a dead lizard (*Anolis* sp.; total length = c.10 cm) in its bill. It perched motionless for c.30 seconds, in full view at a distance of c.3m, at head height. We did not see it obtain the lizard, nor were we able to follow it to witness the lizard’s eventual disposition. Although this observation does not prove that *T. melanoecephalus* feeds on vertebrate prey, this is the first reported evidence that this species may supplement its diet in this manner.

Acknowledgements

We thank Mark and Monique Howells, the Lamanai Outpost Lodge, and Lamanai Field Research Center for supporting our fieldwork, while SGP thanks the Wildlife Conservation Society for its support. Our research would not be possible without the cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Department of Archaeology, Government of Belize. Robert C. Beason, Linnea Hall and two anonymous reviewers made helpful comments on the manuscript. This is ornithology contribution number 7 of the Lamanai Field Research Center.

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First record of Rufous-headed Chachalaca Ortalis erythroptera for Colombia
Five Rufous-headed Chachalaca Ortalis erythroptera in coastal Nariño, on 22 December 1999, is the first record for Colombia. They were observed during a boat excursion on a branch of the río Mira, c. 15 km south-west of Tumacó, at a forest border within an area of tropical lowland forest and patches of mangrove. This range-restricted species occurs in the Tumesian region (EBA 045) of extreme north-west Peru and west Ecuador (north to dpto. Esmeraldas (pers. obs. at Bilbao Biological Reserve and Río Palenque Scientific Centre), and was expected for Nariño2,3. Due to hunting pressure and severe habitat loss, Ortalis erythroptera is considered vulnerable1,4.

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White-chested Swift Cypseloides lemosi in west Ecuador?
On 13 April 1997, P. Gastezzi and I observed 15 swifts with the features of White-chested Swift Cypseloides lemosi. This species, originally known only from Colombia, has recently been sighted in east Ecuador1,2,4 as far west as Cordillera de los Huacamayos, Napo Province (BLL, 17 October 1998, unpubl.) and Archidona on the Loreto road, Napo1. Our sighting in coastal Ecuador, at almost sea level, c. 35 km from Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí province, appears to be the first record in west Ecuador, but requires corroboration due to the lack of photographic, specimen, or sound-recording documentation. The following field notes were made ‘adults, juveniles without chest patch, and individuals in transition between juvenile and adult plumage. Adults (n=8): plumage black with conspicuous white patch only on chest, not reaching the sides of neck or back. Juveniles (n=3): completely black. Birds in transitional plumages, likely subadults (n=4): black with a dusky chest patch similar to adults, which was darker in some individuals and paler in others. Sides of neck and backs lacked any pale coloration1.

Juvenile and immature White-collared Swifts Streptoprocne zonaris always possess a white collar2, which eliminates the possibility of confusion between it and C. lemosi, in addition to the differences in size, silhouette and behaviour. The juvenile plumage of C. lemosi is unknown3 and my suggestion that the wholly black individuals were such is based on their behaviour pattern and silhouette, although it is possible that they were another Cypseloides species.

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Registro altitudinal inusual de
La Pava Carunculada Aburria aburri en Ecuador

La Pava Carunculada *Aburria aburri* es un crácido raro de bosque que habita a lo largo de las estribaciones y pedemones andinos desde las montañas de Perijá y Santa Marta, Venezuela y Colombia respectivamente, hasta el sur de Perú5,6. En Ecuador es considerada como una especie rara de las estribaciones y subtrópicos del noroccidente y oriente, entre 1.200 y 2.100 m de altitud (P. Coopmans com. pers.), aunque en otros países ocasionalmente alcanza los 600 y 2.500 m6,8.

Esta especie, aparentemente migratoria estacional5,6 es conocida de pocas localidades en la estribación oriental de los Andes del Ecuador, y fue reportada por primera vez para el occidente por Marín et al.7 pese a que se la conocía previamente del Cerro Munchique, suroccidente de Colombia1,6. Del Hoyo et al.6 erróneamente señala que en Ecuador la especie está restringida a la estribación oriental.

La presente nota reporta el hallazgo de un individuo recientemente muerto (nota del colector) en la cima del volcán Reventador (00°04'S 77°40'W), provincia de Napo, Andes orientales, a 3.500 m de altitud. El espécimen fue colectado por Elisio Tapia en noviembre de 1999 y depositado días más tarde en la QCAZ, Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (QCAZ 1716).

No es probable que este hallazgo constituyan un registro de una población residente, ya que el hábitat en la cima del Reventador está constituido básicamente por páramo herbáceo con helechos y escasos arbustos, debido a erupciones volcánicas recientes (G. Onore com. pers.). *Aburria aburri* tiene a habitar principalmente en bosque montano maduro y bordes del mismo5,6.

Así, sugiero que este registro debe estar relacionado con los movimientos estacionales que *A. aburri* aparentemente tiene a realizar, aunque no puedo especificar si se trata de migración altitudinal o geográfica5,6. Es posible que este registro sea sólo accidental, y corresponda a un individuo extraviado. La posibilidad de que este especimén haya sido transportado por otras personas o por animales de presa es descartada ya que no existe ningún sendero que permita el tránsito frecuente de gente en la región, y además no se encontraron rastros de heridas superficiales.

Un estudio específico de la migración estacional de *A. aburri* proveerá de mejor evidencia para determinar si está relacionada únicamente con la altitud. Muy poco se conoce de este raro crácido, altamente sensible a alteraciones en su hábitat natural5,6 que ha declinado notoriamente en los últimos diez años, y es considerado en la actualidad como Vulnerable en el país5 y casi-amenzado globalmente2.

**Agradecimientos**

A G. Onore por sus comentarios, a Elisio Tapia por compartir su inmenso interés y conocimiento de la naturaleza, y a F. Ortiz-Crespo y T. de Vries por revisar esta nota.

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**First record of Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica in Galápagos**

Although records of summering shorebirds in the Neotropics are relatively commonplace, *Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica* is considered a rare migrant and winter visitor to coastal Ecuador (Mitch Lysinger pers. comm.).

On 29 June 1999, while participating in a birding tour of the Galápagos, I found a *Hudsonian Godwit* in full breeding plumage at a small freshwater pond within Puerto Villamil, Isabela Island. I immediately pointed it out to Mitch Lysinger and the other eight tour participants. We watched it feeding as close as 20 m for c.1 hour. Although not fully aware of the significance of the sighting, Randall Siebert and I
obtained a number of photographs (Fig. 1, see p. 66). The bird was immediately recognised by its relatively large size and long, slightly upturned, bicolored bill, pinkish-red with a black tip. Head and neck finely streaked or spotted dark grey and whitish, creating an effect of a pale grey head and neck, contrasting with rich brick-red breast and belly. Pale line above eye and dark line from bill base to eye, a suggestion of black and white scalloping on the breast sides admixed with brick-red, and undertail-coverts barred black and white. Back primarily dark brownish grey with small whitish spots. Wing-coverts obviously paler grey and flight feathers appeared blackish. In flight, tail largely or entirely black, with a white rump patch almost equal in extent to black tail. Primary bases and outer secondaries white, creating a conspicuous bar in flight. Underwings greyish, also with a white bar and conspicuous black underwing-coverts.

The AOU lists the South American wintering range of the species as the coasts of Peru and Chile, with the principal wintering grounds in south-east South America, in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay and the Falklands. Hayman et al. plots a similar winter distribution and describes it as a vagrant to the Falklands, New Zealand, the western USA and Galápagos, among other sites, but cites no reference for a Galápagos record. Neither Castro & Phillips nor Harris list this species for the archipelago, and Galápagos is not mentioned within the species' range in del Hoyo et al. Thus, it appears that the information in Hayman et al. is in error, and there have been no previously published records of Hudsonian Godwit from Galápagos.

Acknowledgements

I thank Mitch Lysinger, a member of the Ecuadorian records committee, for his helpful commentary and Randall Siebert for his excellent photos.

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First records of Purple Martin Progne subs in coastal Peru

Purple Martin Progne subs is a common and widespread breeder in North America that winters in South America. It typically migrates through Venezuela, the Guyanas, Brazil, north Argentina, and parts of Amazonian Peru. Migration timing in northern and western South America is not well known. Southbound birds have been reported in south-east USA in late May and early June, there are few records from South America before August, and the earliest published reports from Peru are in mid-September.

Determination of migratory routes and timing in South America are hampered by the relative lack of specimens (and observers), and possibility of confusion with other species of Progne.

During August 1997, LT and AT observed c. 45 female-plumaged Progne subs at Pantanos de Villa, a coastal wetland on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. They appeared exhausted, as they perched on fences and permitted extremely close approach. One was photographed (Fig. 1). Over four days in August 1998, 15, again apparently exhausted, individuals were at Pantanos de Villa. These are the first records of Progne subs in coastal Peru.

Female Southern Martin P. modesta murphyi, which is resident in coastal Peru, lacks the hoary whitish forecrown and collar of subs, and is much darker below. Female and immature Purple Martin also resembles Grey-breasted Martin P. chalybea, but that species, which is also unknown around Lima, does not have a pale forecrown or collar.

Identification to subspecies level, without specimens, must be considered tentative. Some features of the flock, such as the breadth and extremely pale nuchal collar and forecrown, correspond to arboricola or hesperia, (according to Ridgway, Phillips, and specimens at Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago), which breed in western North America (British Columbia south to Sonora, Mexico). C. R. Brown (pers. comm. to OG) suggested that the photographs indicate a two-year-old individual, based on the amount of blue in the back and crown; first-year females are largely brown with little blue on the dorsum or head.

Despite occurrence in two consecutive years, we regard Purple Martin as only a vagrant to coastal Peru. Other migrants, primarily found in Amazonia or the east slope of the Andes, which are rare on the Peruvian coast, include Eastern Kingbird Tyrannus tyrannus, Fork-tailed Flycatcher T. savana, Swainson's Thrush Catharus ustulatus and American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla. The austral winter in Lima usually occupies June—September, but 1997–1998 were El Niño years, and coastal Peru had clear sunny 'winters'. Whether these unusual climatic events can be related to records of Purple Martins is unknown.
An observation of Herring Gull Larus argentatus on the Peruvian coast

On 14 September 1983, from 08h30 to 09h00, we observed, and NK photographed (Fig. 1, see p. 67), a nearly adult Herring Gull Larus argentatus together with Kelp Gulls Larus dominicanus, on the beach at Ventanilla, 30 km north of Lima, Peru. The bird was between its third summer (fourth calendar year) and fourth-winter plumage (=adult). The entire primaries, primary-coverts and alula, and most tail feathers were worn, but it was otherwise fresh plumaged and adult-like.

Immature, mostly first-winter Herring Gulls regularly occur south to both coasts of Panama, where they are rare, in December to late April, and there are a few recent sightings from the Pacific coast of Colombia (anon, reviewer of this manuscript, 16 September 1986) and Venezuelan coast. Thus, the occurrence of a nearly adult bird on the Peruvian coast in mid-September is most remarkable. Unless additional future sightings suggest that Herring Gulls do occasionally cross the equator, we consider it most probable that this observed bird had been ship-assisted.

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New bird records from northeast Brazil

During late December 1999 and early January 2000, we made a number of interesting ornithological observations in the states of Sergipe (SE), Alagoas (AL) and Ceará (CE), northeast Brazil. Voucher tape-recordings, made by JMB, have been deposited at the Cornell Laboratory of Natural Sounds, Ithaca, New York, and Arquivo Sonoro Elias Coelho, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro. Significant records are as follows. (All species mentioned for SE, with the exception of Cocoa Thrush Turdus fumigatus, had previously been recorded in the same area as our observations by Fry, Souza, Pacheco & Whitney, and Parrini & Minns, but their observations are unpublished.) A group of four Red-shouldered Macaw Ara (Diopsittaca) nobilis were in forest between Santa Luiza do Itanhi and Crasto, SE, on 27 December 1999. This is the first state record. Although it was considered relatively common in this part of Brazil by Juniper & Parr, Teixeira et al. knew of very few records from coastal regions in this area. The forest near Crasto is principally known for its population of Fringe-backed Fire-eye Pyriglena atra, discovered in 1994, and it is worth remarking that we found this globally threatened species to be still relatively common, with 8–10 observed and tape-recorded. On the same day, in the same forest, we observed and tape-recorded a single Pectoral Sparrow Arremon taciturnus. Raposo provides a list of localities with specimen records of this species. Sergipe is not represented, but its occurrence is wholly expected given the availability of records from all surrounding states. Finally, neither Little Tinamou Crypturellus soui and Cocoa Thrush appear to have been mentioned previously for SE, although we tape-recorded both near Crasto, on 27 December 1999.

Common Waxbill Estrilda astrild was introduced into São Paulo in c.1870 and has now been recorded in many parts of eastern Brazil, and as far inland as Manaus. Nonetheless, there are still relatively few published localities in the arid north-east; thus eight tape-recorded at Nascente do Farias, CE, on 3 January 2000 appears to be only the second state record and third published locality in north-east Brazil. Our records of Rufous Hornero Furnarius rufus at the same locality, on the same date, and at nearby Balneário Caldas, Chapada do Araripe, CE, on 4 January 2000, appear to be the first published localities in the state. This species has been spreading its range in eastern Brazil and has only recently (1985) reached the north-east. A flock of 150–200 Purple Martin Progne subis roosted, high on a telephone antenna, in Barbalha, CE, on 3–4 January 2000. Sick mentions no records in north-east Brazil, although Paynter notes its occurrence in Bahia, and thus our observation appears to be the first state record.

There are few AL records of Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture Cathartes burrovianus and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift Panyptila cayennensis. We recorded a single of the latter at Pedra (Serra) Branca, near Murici, on 31 December 1999 and the vulture over Murici, on 1 January 2000. On a previous visit to AL, GMK et al. observed two Stripe-backed Bittern Ixobrychus involucris at Riacho Salgado, near Palmeira dos Indios, on 4 February 1995. Teixeira et al. knew of records, in north-east Brazil, from only Maranhão and Sergipe, and it has subsequently occurred in Piauí.

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We are grateful to Morton L. Isler and José Fernando Pacheco for their assistance with this manuscript.

References


Figure 1. Near-adult Herring Gull Larus argentatus, Ventanilla, 30 km north of Lima, Peru, 14 September 1983 (N. Krabbe)


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Bolivian Warbling-finch
*Poospiza boliviana* in Argentina
On 27 September 1997, we recorded at least three *Poospiza boliviana* in Santa Victoria, Salta province, Argentina (22°15'N 65°00'W; at c. 2,250 m). Two were photographed by JMB and published by Mayer. Although previously reported in the country, this is the first documented record, and the southernmost known for the species.

They were in hedgerows and agricultural fields in the environs of a small village, and formed part of a rather large, loose flock of Rufous-sided Warbling-finch *Poospiza hypochondria* and Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis* foraging on the ground and among dense bushes. All observations match previous reports. Fjeldså & Mayer comment on the species' poorly understood ecological niche. One, with a paler reddish chest, was assumed to be an immature.

*Poospiza boliviana* is a range-restricted species to Endemic Bird Area (EBA) 056 (High Andes of Bolivia and Argentina), which is of critical conservation priority. The principal threats facing the EBA were noted near Santa Victoria, namely habitat conversion and terracing for cultivation, overgrazing and deforestation for firewood, and consequent erosion. In general, this area of north-west Argentina (Salta and Jujuy) constitutes an important part of the EBA, as several species with restricted ranges and of conservation concern have been recorded throughout. The national parks, Calilegua and Baritú, only marginally protect relevant habitats in Jujuy and Salta provinces, and conservation strategies for the region should focus on high-elevation montane scrub and *Polylepis* woodlands, combining habitat management, environmental education and designation of protected areas. Problems with the existing delimitation and characterisation of the EBA will be considered elsewhere.

References


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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas
The fourth West Indian record of White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* was at McKinney Pond, Cat Island, but is not dated.

Barbados
Both the Purple *Ardea purpurea* and Grey Herons *A. cinerea*, previously reported here, remained at Graeme Hall swamp, the former on 3 March–28 April and the latter during 3 March to 16 May 1999. A Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, photographed at Packers, Christ Church, on 16 May 1999, was the second island record.

Cayman Islands
A Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* at Midland Acres, on 22–23 May 1999 was the first record for Grand Cayman and a rare report from this part of the Caribbean.

Cuba
The fourth island record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus* was made in Holguin, in January 1999.
Jamaica
Davis & Zonfrillo report the observation of an erythristic Yellow-billed Parrot Amazona ochracea, in the east of the island, in November 1997.

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

Mexico
Louisiana Waterthrush Seiurus motacilla was recently recorded for the first time on Cozumel Island. Urbina-Torres reports on the addition of 34 species to the avifauna of the little-studied interior state of Morelos.

Panama
A Lined Seedeater Sporophila lineola, near Fort Sherman, on 2 January 2000, is apparently the first record for the country.

**SOUTH AMERICA**

Argentina
In October 1995, Least Nighthawk Chordeiles pusillus was discovered nesting in Misiones province, in the north-east of the country, the first record in Argentina and a 1,300 km southward range extension. Darrieu & Camperi report the first certain records for Corrientes province of the following species, based on a collection made by William H. Partridge between 1960 and 1962: Tatuapa Tinamou Crypturellus tatuata, Stripe-backed Bittern Ixobrychus involucris, Masked Duck Nomonx dominicus, Grey-headed Kite Leptodon cayanensis, Plumbeous Kite Ictinia plumbea, Long-winged Harrier Circus cyaneus and White-throated Hummingbird Leucochloris albicollis. Study of a collection, made by Andor Kovacs, yielded the first records of Sooty Shearwater Puffinus griseus, Harris’ Hawk Parabuteo unicinctus, Red Phalarope Phalaropus fulicarius and Greater Yellow-finch Sicalis auriventris in Chubut, and first certain record of Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe Attagis gayi in Rio Negro.

Brazil
Whittaker & Oren, reporting on avifaunal work along the rio Juruá, in western Amazonia, mention the discovery of 12 additions to the Brazilian avifauna: Black-capped Tinamou Cyrturellus atrocapillus, Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus, Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica, Scarlet-headed Barbet Eubucco tucincae, White-lined Antbird Percomotostola lophotes, Rufous-fronted Antthrush Formicarius rufigriss, Round-tailed Manakin Pipra chloromeros, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher Myiodynastes luteiventris, Black-faced Cotinga Conoptydon melihenyi, Yellow-green Vireo Vireo flaviviridis, Casqued Oropendola Psarocolius oseryi and Black-and-white Seedeater Sporophila luclusa. The first specimen records for the country of Blue-headed Macaw Ara couloni, Emerald Toucanet Aulacorhynchus prasinus, Red Antbird Cercomacra manu and Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea were also made. The authors also speculate on the probably specific status of the obrieni subspecies of Rufous-headed Woodpecker Celeus spectabilis.

Alexio et al. report on range extensions and new distributional information for the following species in south-east Amazonia: Silky-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus sericoaodatus, Rufous-capped Nunlet Nonnula ruficapilla, Chestnut-throated Spinetail Synallaxis cherreri, Peruvian Recurvebill Simocephalus cephalus, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner Automolus ochroaemus, Banded Antbird Dicaeornis guttatus, Black-chested Tyrant Poesioliotriccus andrei, Large-headed Flatbill Ramphator trigon megacephala, Dusky-tailed Flatbill R. fuscicuda, Lawrence’s Thrush Turdus lawrencei and White-lored Euphonia Euphonia chrysospapa.

Bencke & Kindel, in a forest bird study in the north-east of the state, report range extensions, new species (Pale-browed Treehunter Cichloclopa amorphus, Spot-backed Antshrike Hypocephalus guttatus and Spotted Bamboowren Psiloramphus guttatus) and the occurrence of several globally threatened species in Rio Grande do Sul. Previously unpublished details of two eggs of Sickle-winged Nightjar Eleutheronyx anomalus, taken in Rio Grande do Sul, in November 1925 (only the third reported instance of nesting in this species) are presented by Lowen. Additionally, in the same journal, Simon et al. provide new nesting information for Rufous-capped Spinetail Synallaxis ruficapilla, based on observations in Minas Gerais. A Caatinga Black-tyrant Knipolegus franciscanus reported in Campo Formoso municipality, Bahia, in January 1997, represents a 440 km north-eastward range extension from its nearest known locality. Pacheco discusses the possibility and presents evidence that the type-locality of Cherry-throated Tanager Nemosia rourei could be Macaé de Cima, Rio de Janeiro, rather then the alleged Muriaé, in Minas Gerais.

Chile

Three records of White-tailed

Kite Elanus leucurus in the north of

Chiloé Island, X Region, Chile, between 1987 and 1997 are the southernmost records in the country19. Amado et al.2 report two

Himantopus himantopus of the melanurus form, on 1 November 1996, at Rinconada de Mejillones, II Region, a northward range extension of c. 700 km. One, of the form mexicanus, in September 1997, at the mouth of the río Lluta, is the first country record. These authors also report an

Andean Avocet Recurvirostra andina on the coast of Arica. A small colony of

Dolphin Gull Larus scoresbii at Isla Doña Sebastiana, X Region, is the northernmost breeding record in the country20. A nest of


Acknowledgements

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References


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 new gull records from Mexico**
Gulls are well known for their propensity to wander and vagrants can turn up seemingly anywhere. The Neotropics, however, remain a relatively gull-poor area, although 20 species have occurred in Mexico. Here we report additional recent records of six species of gulls, from various regions of Mexico (initials of observers other than the authors are noted in Acknowledgements).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus**
This species is being reported with increasing frequency from east Mexico in winter. Recent records include up to five (all second-winter or older) at Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, on 25–26 November 1998, 21 March, 13 September and 4 December 1999, and 15 February 2000 (JPG, CEE; Fig. 1); up to three (mainly third-winter and older, but one first-winter on 27 November 1996) at Río Lagartos/Las Coloradas, Yucatán, on 27 November 1996 (two; SNGH, JPM), 2–22 December 1997 (up to three; RAB, JLD, RGW), 5 January 1999 (one; RGW), 30 November 1999–15 January 2000 (one; SNGH, DL, RGW); and an adult near Progreso, Yucatán, 3 January 1999 (RGW). All adults and older immatures possessed characters of the west European race graellsii.

**Kelp Gull Larus dominicanus**
An adult near Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, on 25 November 1998 (Gee & Edwards 2000, Figs. 1–2) was the first state record, and it or another has been seen there on each subsequent visit: 21 March, 13 September and 4 December 1999, and 15 February 2000 (JPG, CEE). Small numbers still occur in the Río Lagartos area of north Yucatán, e.g. two adults at Las Coloradas, on 27 November 1996 (SNGH, JPM) and 22 December 1997 (RGW), and a fourth-year or adult at Río Lagartos, on 1 December 1998 (SNGH). Although the AOU considers the occurrence of this species 'hypothetical' in North America (including Mexico), there are numerous records and even reports of breeding in Louisiana, as well as hybrid pairs of Kelp x Herring L. argentatus gulls.

**Western Gull Larus occidentalis**
An adult at San Blas, Nayarit, on 9 January 1998 (SNGH) was studied carefully at close range and had flesh-pink legs with no trace of yellow, a bright yellow bill with a small orange-red gonys spot, and a bill that was not exceptionally deep or swollen, all characters that help separate Western from Yellow-footed Gull Larus livens. The San Blas individual represents only the third record south of Baja California, all of which have been adults.

**Glaucous-winged Gull Larus glaucescens**
A first-winter in apparently full juvenile plumage was at the mouth of the río Ameca, Nayarit/Jalisco, on 9 January 2000 (SNHG, KB; Figs. 3–4). This latitude ties in with the previous southernmost records of this Pacific Rim gull, from Isla Socorro, and is the first record from mainland Mexico south of Baja California.

**Sabine's Gull Larus sabini**
A juvenile along the waterfront at Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, on 26 November 1999 (DL, SNGH; Fig. 5) constitutes the first state record and only the second from the Yucatán Peninsula.

**Black-legged Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla**
Single first-winters were at San Blas, Nayarit, on 8 January 1999 (MO'B, SNGH) and at Barra de Navidad, Jalisco, on 13 February 1999 (WR). The San Blas individual frequented the dock and beach where it was studied at close range, while that at Barra was seen well from a boat, flying just off the rocks near town. These records mirror an exceptional invasion of this species to waters off California during the 1998–1999 winter, and interestingly they parallel the two previous southernmost reports from Mexico's Pacific coast.

**Acknowledgements**
We thank Kimberly Baldwin (KB), Robert A. Behrstock (RAB), Jon L. Dunn (JLD), John P. Martin (JPM), Michael O'Brien (MO'B) and Will Russell (WR) for company in the field and sharing their observations with us.

**References**


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Dominance behaviour in toucans
Occasionally avian behaviour is sufficiently strange as to make it worthwhile reporting in the hope that, combined with other observations, a clear pattern and understanding will emerge. On 21 February 2000, in Jardin Botanico Wilson, near San Vito, south Costa Rica (at 1,100 m), our attention was drawn to two adult Chestnut-mandibled Toucans Ramphastos swainsonii flying from tree to tree. They were in an area of open canopy at the edge of Las Cruces forest. No obvious size, colour, or bill length differences were noted between the two, which were c.30 m diagonally above us. The following is a composite of our brief observations, edited by the senior author.

One Ramphastos had a green fruit and appeared to feed it to the other, a behaviour commonly observed in toucans. We considered this perhaps an example of courtship feeding or of an adult feeding a nearly mature juvenile, but there followed a loud clashing of bills, and the two appeared for perhaps 30 seconds to be involved in a struggle. One individual, considered the original possessor of the fruit, grasped the other behind the eyes, with its bill, causing the fruit to drop. The grasped bird dropped below the individual holding it, keeping its upturned, closed bill largely between the other mandibles (suggesting that it might have been a female with a shorter bill). For approximately three minutes (partially timed) it dangled completely inert, with the sole exception that it once partly extended its wings for less than a second. The dangling individual was shaken vigorously several times during the period. Two Fiery-billed Aracari Pteroglossus frantzii flew into the same tree, as did two other Ramphastos, but the latter did not become involved. One of the Pteroglossus, however, suddenly approached the two in combat and appeared to try and climb onto them. This caused the two Ramphastos to leave, the lower still grasped by the upper for a second or so. All six individuals departed simultaneously and quickly disappeared from view, the dangling toucan commencing normal flight following a short drop when it was released.

This appears best interpreted as an aggression–submission interaction between individuals within an established dominance hierarchy. Skutch reports what may have been bill-to-bill pushing dominance contests in P. frantzii. ‘Dueling’ with bills appears widespread among rhamphastids and their use in social interactions may prove to be one answer to the ancient puzzle of the function of their giant bills. Strong intraspecific aggression in which the mandible is used to hold a victim during an attack has been reported in Pale-mandibled Aracari Pteroglossus erythropygius. Stable interspecific hierarchies related to feeding occur among other frugivores, and an intraspecific dominance hierarchy has been demonstrated in at least one avian herbivore in the New World tropics, the White-winged Trumpeter Psophia leucoptera (although dominance interactions there appear primarily among males for access to females). To our knowledge, in such hierarchies, subordinate individuals have not exhibited such dramatically submissive behaviour (which presumably helped avoid serious injury) as that we observed.

Acknowledgements
We thank Gretchen Daily, Jared Diamond, Mercedes Foster, Dick Hutto, Ivan Jimenez, Bette Loiselle, Van Remsen and Gary Stiles for helpful comments.
Figure 1. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* in foreground (with Ring-billed Gull *L. delawarensis*) and adult Kelp Gull *L. dominicanus* at rear, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 25 November 1998 (Carol E. Edwards)

Figure 2. Adult Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* and juvenile Thayer’s Gull *L. thayeri*, Playa Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 25 November 1998. Note the Kelp’s blackish upperparts, heavy bill and pale greenish legs, and the Thayer’s relatively slender black bill (Carol E. Edwards)

Figures 3–4. Juvenile Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*, río Ameca mouth, Jalisco/Nayarit, 9 January 2000, with Laughing Gulls *L. atricilla* and Brown Pelicans *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Note the overall large size and heavy build, stout black bill and pale wingtips concolorous with the upperparts (Steve N. G. Howell)

Figure 5. Juvenile Sabine’s Gull *Larus sabini*, Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, Mexico, 26 November 1999, with Laughing Gull *L. atricilla* and Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandvicensis* (Dan Lane)
The first Terek Sandpiper

_Xenus cinereus_ in Trinidad and Tobago

Accompanied by Kenny Calderon (a local guide), a small group of British birders and myself visited Trinidad and Tobago, in June–July 1999. On the second day of the trip, 28 June, we were greeted with torrential rain but under-terred we set off for the mudflats at Waterloo. Near the coast, the rain got even heavier and the roads and fields began to flood. Eventually KC announced that we should try to observe shorebirds from a fishing shelter at the edge of the flats. To our great surprise, the shelter proved to be an ideal site to scan the shore. Attention finally turned to the smaller shorebirds, some of which required careful scrutiny. Kenny pointed out a party of c.20 Semipalmated Sandpiper _Calidris pusilla_, among which I found a few Western Sandpiper _C. mauri_.

After c.20 minutes Peter Wild announced that he had found a bird resembling Terek Sandpiper _Xenus cinereus_, a species that was known to him solely from field guide illustrations. I regarded this identification as extremely unlikely, but when Terry Marshall located the individual and asked me to study it, I soon realised that PWs original suspicions were entirely correct! KC had, unsurprisingly, never even heard of the species. Realising that it was almost certainly a first record of a Spotted Sandpiper _Actitis macularia_ or Common Sandpiper _A. hypoleucus_.

Unfortunately, the heavy persistent rain made close approach impossible and after it had finally disappeared from view all the waders took flight and the Terek Sandpiper was not subsequently relocated. Though only a rather 'sketchy' description was obtained, written in my field notebook within a few minutes of the observation, all the main identification features were noted: size, coloration, bill length and shape, leg colour, stance and tail-bobbing action. The record has been accepted by the Trinidad & Tobago Rare Birds Committee (Richard ffrench pers. comm.).

There are only three previous records in the Neotropics, two in Argentina and one in Brazil.

Reference


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A new locality for Gold-ringed Tanager

_Bangsia aureocincta_

During 1994 I discovered a small population of the poorly known Gold-ringed Tanager _Bangsia aureocincta_ at Alto de los Galápagos (04°51'N 75°12'W, 1.800–2.050 m), on the border between the departments of Chocó and Valle del Cauca. Up to six individuals, including three males, were observed on ten dates between 6 and 25 April. Stiles1 considered the species to be
Currently restricted to the nearby Alto de Pisones. The forest on Alto de los Galápagos has an impressive avifauna, including the following species: Velvet-purple Coronet Boissonneauda jardini, White-faced Nunbird Hapaloptila castanea. Toucan Barbet Semnornis ramphastinus, Tyrannine Woodcreeper Dendrocincla tyrannina, Yellow-breasted Antpitta Grallaria flavitincta, Olivaceous Piha (Cotinga) Snowornis cryptolophus, Black Solitaire Entomodestes coracinus and Black-chinned Mountain-tanager Anisognathus notabilis. Unfortunately guerrilla activity currently inhibits ornithological exploration of this area as well as of the implementation of a conservation management plan that has been prepared for the region. If the situation improves I recommend San José de Palmar as a convenient base for anyone seeking to explore the area.

Reference

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Behaviour and use of human trail by a Giant Antpitta Grallaria gigantea

Giant Antpitta Grallaria gigantea is a rare and highly range-restricted species of humid montane and submontane forest, secondary woodland and adjacent muddy clearings in the north-west Andes1,2. The subspecies hylodroma of west Ecuador is known from 1,200 to 2,000 m1,3. In contrast, most other observations of G. gigantea have been at 2,300–3,000 m1,4. Based on numbers singing, de Soye et al.3 estimated that c.11.5 individuals/ha may be expected in suitable submontane forest at Mindo, west Ecuador. In contrast, Perez & Lyons (in litt. 1999) estimate just two/10 ha. A population of nominate gigantea in Napo Province, Ecuador, appears to favour patches of secondary forest, but emerge to feed in adjacent cattle pastures5. The species is currently considered Endangered6.

Study site

A G. g. hylodroma was observed regularly at Bellavista Reserve from December 1997 until its untimely death in July 1998. Bellavista (00°01'S 78°40'W, c.2,200 m) is on the old Mindo–Nono road, c.10 km west of Tandayapa, north-west Ecuador. Approximately 10% of the 1,600 ha Bellavista reserve is undisturbed primary montane cloud forest or temperate wet forest, while 70% has been selectively logged and the remaining 20% former cattle pasture with scattered trees, living fence posts and some regenerating forest. The G. gigantea was observed along two heavily used trails that bisect very steep montane forest slopes which had been selectively logged until c.20 years ago. These trails are used by ecotourists (principally birdwatchers), lodge employees and locals who deliver goods to the lodge on a daily basis.

Observations

The G. gigantea hylodroma was first encountered, in December 1997 by TN, along trails H and F at Bellavista. It was easily approached in the early morning, usually at 06h00, and later in the afternoon, near 18h00. Occasionally it was encountered on either trail H or F at noon. Most observations followed a similar pattern: upon being disturbed on the trail, it would hop or run rapidly from the observer along the trail for 10–15 m. Very infrequently, it would fly along the trail. If the observer continued to advance, it would move away likewise, maintaining a 10–15 m distance between it and the observer. On one occasion, TN ‘pushed’ it in this manner c.250 m along trail H. It was photographed and tape-recorded singing in the early morning on several occasions. In early June, MRW tape-recorded it singing before sunrise, at c.05h45 along trail H, c.75 m from the lodge. On two occasions TN witnessed it capturing a Giant Earthworm Glossoscolex giganteus, when it spent several minutes in a ‘tug-of-war’ until either the entire earthworm was extracted or the prey was dismembered. TN also witnessed it dissect an earthworm into several smaller pieces before devouring it. We are confident that it hunted earthworms at the muddy intersection of trails H and F because the anaerobic soil conditions forced worms to the surface to gain more oxygen. However, it was killed by the Bellavista milkman, close to the muddy intersection of trails H and F, in July 1998. Since then, no further records of G. gigantea at Bellavista have been made, although at least three pairs are resident on the 10 ha Loma Linda property, owned by TN, c.200 m below Bellavista.

Implications

Given these data and similar descriptions in de Soye et al.3, it is clear that G. gigantea readily forages along muddy trails—either within forest or in pastures directly adjacent. Use of trails by G. gigantea may increase its detectability leading to higher than average mortality, given that the Ecuadorian population continues to grow at 1.8% per year and that most rural Ecuadorians habitually carry slingshots.

References


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Records of bird species previously considered uncommon in Santa Catarina state, Brazil

In recent years we have made a number of interesting records of globally threatened species and new southernmost localities for Atlantic Forest endemics within Santa Catarina. Additionally, we have added 11 species to the state list. These records have been published elsewhere. Here we present additional records of species with few previous state records, made during avifaunal work in 1994–2000. Most records come from the following localities: Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural de Volta Velha (c. 26°06′S 48°40′W), a privately owned reserve, near Itapoá, which protects the last remnants of lowland evergreen forest in the state; Ilha de Santa Catarina (27°10′–27°50′S 48°25′–48°35′W), in Florianópolis municipality, a 54 km-long and 18 km-wide island, which possesses some relatively well-preserved Atlantic Forest, as well as patches of mangrove and restinga; Parque Botânico do Morro do Bai (26°47′–26°50′S 48°55′–48°57′W), in Ilhota and Luiz Alves municipalities, a protected area of montane and lower montane evergreen forest (at 200–820 m); Salto do Piraí (26°18′S 48°50′W), near Joinville, which encompasses the waterfall and 400 ha of lower montane, montane and upper-montane evergreen forest; Urubici and São Joaquim area (c. 27°59′S 49°39′W) comprising mixed planalto woodland with a predominance of Araucaria and areas of dense bamboo undergrowth at 900–1,000 m; and Correia Pinto (27°36′S 50°24′W), a privately owned plantation area with large tracts of pines and Eucalyptus destined for paper and cellulose production, with some patches of Araucaria forest. Many of our records are documented with tape-recordings and these are indicated. They have been deposited at either or both Arquivo Sonoro Elias Coelho—Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, and the Library of Natural Sounds—Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Yellow-crowned Night-heron Nyctanassa violacea
Single individuals were seen on 10 and 24 October and 20 December 1997, and 17 September and 21 October 1998 in mangroves and marshes in the northern part of Ilha de Santa Catarina (LNN). R. B. A. Silva (pers. comm.) found a pair nesting in mangroves at the Estação Ecológica de Carijós, in the northern part of the same island, in November 1998. It was considered rare in Santa Catarina by Rosário with only two previous records, both from the littoral.

Snail Kite Rostrhamus sociabilis
Two records from Ilha de Santa Catarina: two individuals were seen flying high over rio Tavares, on 3 November 1997, and another perched in mangroves at Ratones, on 17 September 1998 (LNN). Rosário mapped the species in only the two southernmost quadrants in the state, and suggested it may be declining due to a decrease in Pomacea snails, which constitute its principal food.

White-tailed Hawk Buteo albicaudatus
One was at Salto do Piraí on 4 October 1995 (JAT) and another flew over Morro da Igreja, Urubici, on 14 June 1998 (LNN). Rosário lists five previous state records, but the Piraí record is the first from the north-east and only the second from the littoral. Sick noted that the species is extending its range in eastern Brazil due to deforestation.

Ash-throated Crane Porzana albicollis
One was seen well in flight, in the Piraí valley, on 2 October 1995 (JAT). Also found on Ilha de Santa Catarina, where considered a common resident (LNN). Rosário listed five previous localities, all in the south of the state, though she does not provide details. The Piraí record is the first from northern Santa Catarina.

Royal Tern Sterna maxima
A group of four at Laguna, 80 km south of Ilha de Santa Catarina, in June 1997 (LNN) and another, on Ilha de Santa Catarina, in July 2000, perched on a pier with a group of Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis eurygnatha (LNN, CAM). Previously known from only three localities in the state.

Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis
At least five of the subspecies acuflavida, on 5 March 1998, at Naufragados, the southernmost point of Ilha de Santa Catarina, flying very close to the beach with a group of the eurygnatha subspecies (LNN). Apparently there are only two other records of this Nearctic subspecies in Brazil (from Rio Grande do Norte and Rio de Janeiro), this being the southernmost ever in the country and the first state record.

Common Potoo Nyctibius griseus
One singing in a garden at Cacupé, Ilha de Santa Catarina, on 19 October 1997 (LNN). Subsequently, the species was heard at other places on the island, where it was considered fairly common. One calling at Itapoá, on 15 October 1998 (LNN, MAGA, ALR). There are only two other localities with recent records in the state, but it has probably been overlooked in many areas.
Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*
At least two were heard, on 7 October 1997, and one seen on 4 April 1998, at Costa de Dentro, Ilha de Santa Catarina (LNN, MAGA). There are only three previous state records, all from the Atlantic Forest region. Probably this is another species that has been overlooked in Santa Catarina.

Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenedera maculirostris*
Three were seen at Salto do Piraí on 4 October 1995 (JAT). Single individuals were seen at Morro do Bau on 20 April 1997 (unrecorded there by Marterer3) and Salto do Piraí on 26 April 1997, and up to four at Itapoá on 21 April 1998 (LNN). Rosario4 considered it rare in Santa Catarina, with the most recent record from 1968, at Camboriú, although it was subsequently recorded at Salto do Piraí5.

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*
One in a shrubby, degraded area by the road to Salto do Piraí, on 9 April 1997 (JMB). Known from just three localities in the state, all in the western third, and with the most recent record in 19896. It is presumably more widespread in the state, especially given increasing deforestation.

Rufous-breasted Leaftoesser *Sclerurus scapularis*
One at Morro da Lagoa, Ilha de Santa Catarina, in March 1994 (JMB) was in mature secondary woodland. Subsequently, the species was observed in most forest remnants on the island, where now considered a fairly common resident7. On 9 April 1997, a pair at Salto do Piraí was associating with a loose mixed-species flock (JMB). There are only five other state records, one of which involves a specimen (held in Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro [MNRJ]) collected near Piraí in 19288. The species was considered rare in Santa Catarina and uncommon in northern Rio Grande do Sul9.

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*
At least two were heard, on 7 October 1997, and one seen on 4 April 1998, at Costa de Dentro, Ilha de Santa Catarina (LNN, MAGA). There are only three previous state records, all from the Atlantic Forest region.

Pale-breasted Treehunter *Cichlocolaptes leucophorus*
Records from Salto do Piraí are as follows: three on 4 October 1995, two on 5 October 1995 in mixed-species flocks (JAT) and two on 9 April 1997, in foothill forest (JMB). These last birds chased each other noisily close to a mixed-species flock, which they appeared to be following. The calls were tape-recorded. At Volta Velha, Itapoá, three separate individuals (one tape-recorded) on 16 July 2000. These are the 6–9th state records from where only three recent localities, all in the north-east, are known. Previously recorded at Joinville6.

Dusky-tailed Antbird *Drymophila malaia*
One seen in Três Barras, near the Paraná border, in June 1996 (Denize A. Machado, LNN). There are only three other recent records in the state, where it is considered rare.

Bay-ringed Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes sylviolus*
All records were at Salto do Piraí: three on 4 October 1995, two on 5 October 1995 (JAT) and a pair was observed outside the reserve on 10 April 1997 (JMB). These birds, which were tape-recorded, moved high in the canopy of a tree at the forest edge by the access road. Recorded only twice previously in the state, once at this locality, when it was collected, but there were no subsequent records.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*
On 10 April 1997, a single bird was observed on the edge of secondary forest at Salto do Piraí (JMB). A pair was observed nesting in a tree stump at the same locality, on 29 October 1998 (GMK et al.). There are also a number of records from Ilha de Santa Catarina, where it appears to be migratory, with the first records being from October and the last ones from March (1998). There appear to be just three published records for the state, all from the littoral, with the most recent in October 1986, but we suspect the species has been overlooked and is commoner than these records suggest.

Highland Elaenia *Elaenia obscura*
One with an active nest at Urubici on 11 February 1997 (GMK et al.). At Volta Velha, Itapoá, up to four were seen and tape-recorded, in a low restinga clearing, on 15–18 July 2000 (JMB, DB, LNN, MAGA, CAM, ALR). It was also found to be a common resident at Ilha de Santa Catarina. There are only six other localities in the state, and the Volta Velha records are the first from the north-east.

Tropical Pewee *Contopus cinereus*
One was tape-recorded in the canopy of edge forest at Volta Velha. Itapoá, in mid-July 2000 (JMB, DB). Four previous localities in the state, all in the north-east.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
At Volta Velha, Itapoá, at least one male and a female, tape-recorded in fields and gardens around the reserve headquarters, in mid-July 2000 (JMB, DB, LNN, MAGA, CAM, ALR). Considered a rare Neotropical migrant at Ilha de Santa Catarina, where there are a number of records, all in August–March. There are only four other recent records in the state, all in the eastern third.

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris*
At Volta Velha, Itapoá, in mid-July 2000, one individual apparently followed a mixed-species flock at a forest edge (JMB, DB). One previous state record, at Estrada do Quiriri, Joinville, in October 1992.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Rhamphotheca melanurus*
Two singles seen on 21 May 1998 and on 15 October 1998, at Volta Velha, Itapoá, both following mixed-species flocks in the mid-storey (LNN). There is only one recent record in the state (from Neotropical Notebook)
1980), at Itapiranga near the Argentine border, in the westernmost part of the state. The only other record involves a specimen from Joinville, taken in 1928, housed in MNRJ. Sick listed the species' coastal range in Brazil as being from Pará to Santa Catarina, while Ridgely & Tudor described its coastal range as Pernambuco to southern São Paulo.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

One seen and heard at Salto do Piraí on 4 October 1995 (JAT) appears to be the fifth state record, and the first from the north-east.

Long-billed Wren *Thryothorus longirostris*

Many at Ilha do Porto Belo in 1997 (LNN, ALR). At Volta Velha, Itapóa, two separate individuals were tape-recorded, on 16 July 2000 (JMB, DB), at a woodland edge with a marshy area, and on the banks of a stream within open forest. Only four other previous sighting records in the state, most in the littoral.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*

A group, on 22 May 1998, at Volta Velha, Itapóa (LNN, MAGA) and heard at the same locality in July 2000 (LNN, CAM). There are only four other recent records in the state.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Cuba
Mitchell et al.26 examine the current status of Fernandina’s Flicker *Colaptes fernandinae*, mapping all recent localities and comparing these with its historical distribution. The first specimens of Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* for the island were two exhausted migrants at Cabo de San Antonio, Pinar del Río, on 22 October 1998.

Dominica
A first-winter Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* at Mahaut, on 9 March 1999, was the first island record, and only the third for the eastern Caribbean.

Haiti
The first record of Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* in Hispaniola involved two, with a dramatic movement of Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, over Gonaïves Bay, on 28 August 1999.
Jamaica

The fourth Nashville Warbler Verminora ruficapilla for the island was at Aylsham, St. Andrew, from 3 February 2000 for at least a month. Two Greater Flamingo Phoenicopterus ruber were at Falmouth in winter 1998.

St. Vincent & Grenadines

Smith & Smith recently (May 1998) reconfirmed the presence of Rufous-vented Chachalaca Ortilis ruficauda on Union Island and Bequia, its only known localities in the West Indies.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

There have been a number of records, since 1989, of Blue-tailed Hummingbird Amazilia cyanura at Monteverde, Palo Verde and Carara, for which photographic evidence exists of at least one; a male Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor was at Monteverde from at least late January to mid-March 2000; records of Wedge-tailed Grassfinch Emberizoides hercible and Bay-winged Hawk Parabuteo unicinctus, at Isla Damas just north of Quepos, in early 2000 represent intra-country range extensions; and two potential new country records involve a Clapper Rail Rallus longirostris sighting, at the edge of mangroves along the Gulf of Nicoya, near Costa de Pájaros, and a Swallow-tailed Gull Creagrus furcatus, off Golfito, from the MV Tempest. Subsequent reports in 2000 included a Pine Warbler Dendroica pinus on 9 September and a male Prairie Warbler on 25 September just east of Paraiso (other individuals of the former were present in the same area in early October 1999 and at Tortuguero on 8 November 1999); an immature Black-throated Blue Warbler D. caeruleus at La Virgen del Socorro, on 17 September; and a female Cerulean Warbler D. cerulea in Montezuma during early September.

Mexico

Morales-Pérez et al. extend the known range of Black-banded Woodcreeper Dendrocolaptes picumnus in Chiapas, based on specimen records.

Panama

The first description of the nest and nesting behaviour of Nightingale Wren Microcerulus marginatus has been published recently from observations in 1996 and 1997. Elsewhere, interesting distributional and elevational information for 18 species is presented in a recent paper based on a visit to the Cerro Chucanti, within the Serranía de Majé, in '96. More recent records include several reports of Chocó Toucan Ramphastos brevis, potentially the first verifiable country record, at Cana, Darien, in late March to mid-April 2000, and a Dunlin Calidris alpina at Panamá Viejo, on 9 March 2000. Subsequently, the third country record of Fulvous Whistling-duck Dendrocyna bicolor, a flock of 33 at Las Macanas marsh on 14 July 2000, was made, and other interesting reports included two Lanceolated Monket Micronomacha lanceolata, at Santa Fé, on 15 July, one, probably two Oilbirds Steatornis caripensis at Barro Colorado Monument, on 9–10 July, a Bare-necked Umbrellabird Cephalopterus gibrailollis and Black-and-white Becard Pachyramphus albohresius, at Santa Fé, on 15 July, and a Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla, at Aguadulce Salinas, on 14 July, the earliest ever autumn record in the country.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

There have been many interesting observations reported recently. The second country record of Wren-like Rushbird Philecroptes melanops schoenobaenus was made at Abra Pampa, in Jujuy province, while a Rough-legged Tyrannulet Phyllomyias burmeisteri observed at 2,710 m at Iruya, Salta province, represents an upward range extension of more than 1,300 m for the species. Acerbo details occurrences of Chiguancu Thrush Turdus chiguano from Neuquén and Río Negro provinces, where only a few records existed. The second record of Short-tailed Hawk Buteo brachyrurus, first confirmed records of Stygian Owl Asio stygius and Spectacled Owl Pulsatrix perspicillata and first record of Giant Cowbird Molothrus rufus from Chaco province. Black-backed Grosbeak Pheucticus aureovernis has been reported for the first time in Chaco province, and for the second in Formosa province. A struggler Chinstrap Penguin Pygoscelis antarctica and one King Penguin Aptenodytes patagonicus represent the first and fourth records in Buenos Aires province respectively, with both being found near Miramar. A Magellanic Oystercatcher Haematopus leucopodus observed at Mar de Cobo, Buenos Aires, was the third provincial record. Baigorria reports the first Osprey Pandion haliaetus in Mendoza province, at Dique Los Reyunos. The only modern record of Crowned Eagle Harpyhaliaetus coronatus and the third of Many-coloured Chaco-finch Saltatrix multicolor were reported for Buenos Aires province, along with a number of other seldom-recorded species in that province. Three records, involving immatures, of Hook-billed Kite Chondrohierax uncinatus, observed near Colonia Liebig, are the first confirmed reports from Corrientes province. Maceda et al. report the first records of the following species in La Pampa province: Ringed Teal Callonetta leucophrys, a pair near Santa Rosa; White-crowned Tern Sterna jubata, four observations at Laguna Don Tomás; Black Skimmer Rynchops niger, a single at the same locality; and the first confirmed report of Bay-capped Wren-spinetail Spartoina.
maluroides, a pair observed near Santa Rosa. The southernmost record of **Rufous Casionis Casionis rufa** was one observed in spring, at Reserva Natural Punta Lara, Buenos Aires province. Southern Pochard **Netta erythrophtalma** was reported for the first time in Salta province, at El Rey National Park.

Two Elliot’s Storm-petrels **Oceanites gracilis**, collected in El Bolsón, Río Negro, 12 years apart, are the first country records, as were up to four Chestnut-throated Huet-huet **Pteroptochus castaneus** near Calamuchita, Córdoba, are recorded in that province. Santa Fe, represent the first observation near Colonia Belgrano, Sierra-Finch **Sicalis auriventris** during winter and spring 1998 in National Park, Salta. Two **Phytotoma rutila** specimens obtained by W. H. Neuquén, Navas & Bó report the first concrete records of White-tipped Plantcutter **Pyrrhura cruentada**. Near El Bolsón, Río Negro, are a pair observed near Colonia Belgrano, **Casiornis rufa** for the first time, from the Baritú National Park, at El Rey National Park.

The nest of the South American Fiscal **Muscisaxicola striata** was collected in El Bolsón, Río Negro, during winter and spring 1998 in National Park, in late 1995, at Chuí, on 23–24 February 1998, with further observations in October 1998 and February 1999. Bauer & Pacheco provide a useful bird list for the Visconde de Mauá region of the Sierra da Mantiqueira, at the border of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, and Pacheco separately updates the avifauna of Amapá state from a new study of the literature, providing novel information for 17 species.

**Brazil**

Bauer et al. report, in detail, on the rediscovery of Cherry-throated Tanager **Nemosia rourei**, in Espirito Santo, in February 1998, and subsequent observations, and Mazar Barnett et al. similarly on Kaempfer’s Tody-tyrant **Hemitriccus kaempferi**. Nakas et al. present records of 11 species new to the state of Santa Catarina, as well as observations of 12 species of conservation concern and 14 species for which fewer than three state records previously existed. Mauricio & Dias provide new distributional information for 19 species in Rio Grande do Sul, and document the presence of Rufous Gnateater **Conopophaga lineata** in Uruguay for the first time. Borges presents the first country records of **Yapacana Antbird** Myrmeciza disjuncta, from Jau National Park, based on tape-recordings, photographs and two specimens. These extend the species’ distribution 500 km southwards. Six records of up to three White-bellied Storm-petrels **Fregetta grallaria**, with one photographed, in 1997 from a bottom long-liner, represent the first documentation of the species in Brazil. Petry et al. report on three specimens of **Cape Verde Shearwater** *Calonectris edwardsii* found on the coast of Rio Grande do Sul, and also mention a sight record at sea, off São Paulo, in May 1997 and a previous specimen record from Bahia; these are the only country records.

Recent observations published in *Melopitsittacus* include the following. Vasconcelos & Roos provide new records of birds from Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo, São Paulo, while Nascimento & Neto present waterbird data, collected in 1992–1994, from the Sobradinho Lake region of Bahia. Information on breeding and the current distribution of the globally threatened **Blue-throated Parakeet** *Pyrhrhura cristata* has been summarised, while elsewhere the northward spread of Screaming Cowbird **Molothrus rufoxillaris** in Minas Gerais is documented. Elsewhere, Dias reports the first occurrence of the exotic **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* in Brazil, a pair on the Rio Grande do Sul–Uruguay border.

Based on field work in Nariño in 1996–1998, Strewe presents new departmental and Pacific slope records for 21 species, as well as a new species for Colombia—**Andean Gull** *Larus serranus*—and significant new records for six other species, including an altitudinal range extension, of 350 m downslope, for the globally threatened **Chocó Vireo** *Vireo masteri*. Photographic and sound-recording evidence are presented in support of some species. Having gone unnoticed in the country since 1979, Moustached Antpitta **Grallaria allenii** was rediscovered, in late 1995, at Otún-Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, in the Central Andes.

**Ecuador**

Moustached Antpitta **Grallaria allenii** was first found in the country in 1990 and has since been recorded at a total of six localities (four in Pichincha province and at single sites in Cotopaxi and Napo provinces) on both slopes of the Andes. Specimens were taken in 1992 and 1994. Ortiz-Crespo has described the nest of the **Rainbow Starfrontlet** *Coeligena iris*.

**Peru**

Another specimen of the little-known **Fine-barred Piculet** *Picumnus subtilis* has recently come to light.
Uruguay
A pair of Hill Myna Gracula religiosa was found nesting in Colonia department. Recent avifaunal work in north-west dpto. Artigas produced the first country records of Large Elaenia Elaenia spectabilis and Rufous Casionis Casionis rufa. Rufous Gnateater Conopophaga lineata has recently been added to the list of species reliably recorded from the country (see Brazil above).

Venezuela
Colvee describes the first observations of Orinoco Softtail Thripophaga cherriei since 1970, three (one male and one pair) in dense riverside forest along the rio Capuana, near Guacharaca Afuera, Amazonas.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Falkland Islands
The following interesting records were published in Falklands Conservation Newsletter 47 (July 2000). All were made in 2000. A pair of Great Grebe Podiceps major was on Pebble Island, on 18–23 January at least, while 2–8 Coscoroba Swan Coscoroba coscoroba are now resident on the same island. A Great White Egret Egretta alba was at Estancia, on 11 February, and on Weddell Island, on 13 February, and an immature Cooi Heron Ardea cocoi was at Teal Inlet, on 13 May–4 July. A Rosy-billed Pochard Netta pepsaco was on Saunders Island, in December 1999, moving to Pebble Island, on 27 January–12 February. Other vagrants included an American Purple Gallinule Porphyrula martinica found dead at Teal Inlet on 4 July. a White-winged Coot Fulica leucoptera on Pebble Island on 18–29 January at least and a Red-gartered Coot F. armillata sighted at several localities between 3 June and 16 July. Vagrant shorebirds included up to four Baird's Sandpiper Calidris bairdii on Cape Pembroke, between December 1999 and January 2000, with two on Pebble Island on 23 January, where there were also up to four Pectoral Sandpiper C. melanotos on 23–29 January. An Arctic Skua Stercorarius parasiticus was on Saunders Island, on 26 January, and on Pebble Island, on 12 February. In addition, Black et al. provide records of 17 species of seabirds previously considered uncommon in the archipelago's waters.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Cuba
GMK reports the following in 2000. A Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica was c.20 km south of Matanzas city, on 14 April, a Bananaquit Coereba flaveola at Pálpite, Matanzas, on 23 July 2000 (the 21st island record and first from the well-watched Zapata region). Five White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis near Jagüey Grande, Matanzas, on 24 July 2000, and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx rhipidirostris between Pálpite and Guamá, on 21 July 2000 (the earliest ever autumn record). Potentially the first Baird's Sandpiper Calidris bairdii for Cuba was at Casilda, Trinidad, on 17–18 July 2000, with a Pectoral Sandpiper C. melanotos there at the same time (JB). A Bananaquit was at Las Terrazas, west of Habana, also in July (JB). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet Regulus calendula, the second island record, was reported in the Zapata region, on 17 November 2000 (MF). GW has drawn our attention to some corrections and clarifications to the records presented in Cotinga 14: 106–107. The Bananaquit record was the 20th individual to be recorded in Cuba, the Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus was the 9th (or 10th) for Cuba and the Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus was the second (and first documented) record.

Guatemala
PK sent the following records, relating to 1999: two Muscovy Duck Cairina moschata along the rio Passion, near El Ciebal, on 6 November; four Black Skimmer Rynchops niger at Sayaxche, on 6–7 November, perhaps the first Petén record; an Azure-crowned Hummingbird Amazilia cyanosephala near El Ciebal on 8 November; a female Lovely Cotinga Cotinga amabilis and a group of six Band-backed Wren Campylorhynchus zonatus in the same area, on the same date; a female Prothonotary Warbler Protonotaria citrea on the north-east side of Lake Amatitlán, on 16 October, with 20 in mangroves 1 km east of Ixtapa, on the Pacific coast, on 28 November; a Swainson's Warbler Limnothlypis swainsonii at Tikal, on 5 November; and a pair of Scarlet-rumped Tanager Ramphocelus passerinii near El Ciebal, on 8 November.

Jamaica
The following observations refer to 1999: a Yellow-throated Vireo Vireo flavivirgatus was at Marshall's Pen, on 8–9 November at least (GMK, RPM, JP, FR); a Willow Flycatcher Empidonax traillii was tape-recorded at Windsor Caves, on 10 November (GMK, FR) and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx rhipidirostris was at Rocklands, near Montego Bay, on 11 November (GMK, FR).

Mexico
A Grace's Warbler Dendroica graciae was above Cola de Caballo south of Monterrey, on 3 October and an immature Prairie Warbler D. discolor was at the Balcon de Montezuma archaeological area, c.20 km south-west of Ciudad Victoria, on 4 October (RH).

St Lucia
Two firsts for the island were recorded in 1999, a Northern Rough-winged Swallow Stelgidopteryx rhipidirostris on 17 March and a House Sparrow Passer domesticus the following day (MT).
Acknowledgements
The following forwarded or commented on records: John Bell (JB), Dan Brooks, Dalcio Da col, Mark Finn (MF), Rich Hoyer (RH), Peter Kaestner (PK), G. M. Kirwan (GMK), R. P. Martins (RPM), Andy Mitchell, J. Price (JP), F. Raja (FR), Luís Fábio Silveira, Moss Taylor (MT) and George Wallace (GW).


References


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 & Dávalos1 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 *Cinnycrethia peruana*, Red-hooded Tanager *Piranga rubriceps*, Golden-crowned Tanager *Iridosornis porphyrocephala* and Black-capped Hemispingus *Hemispingus atripileus*. A total of 319 species has now been recorded in the reserve.

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First mainland record of *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, Venezuela² and sight records on Colombia’s Caribbean islands, Islas San Andrés and Providencia². There are no previous Colombian mainland records³.

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.

*Atlapetes* 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.  

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 graellsi or intermedius, and no reason at all why it isn’t graellsi.’ The photographs of the other individual were of insufficient quality to make a certain identification, but it was thought most likely to be graellsi. 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 authors1–3, 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 graellsi.

References  

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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 Guyana4. 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 Afboka 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 Gnateteater 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 Gnateteater 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 gnateteater 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 Gnateteater 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. Ica 1–3. 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.

Acknowledgements
The year 2000 Monitoring Program of Slender-billed Finch in Peru was sponsored by Lincoln Park Zoo Neotropic Fund. We thank the mayor of Yauca, Flavio Aranguren, for his hospitality, as well as our field assistants Karen Eckhardt, Juan Diego Dupuy, Enith Terán and Adriana Alvarez del Villar. John P. O’Neill refereed the manuscript.

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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, Bolivia\(^1\). The species was previously considered a Peruvian endemic and formerly listed as Vulnerable\(^1\).

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 Sancche (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), 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 regenrated 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 Sanche 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 uppersparts, (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 tinamous, or N. kalinowski.

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.
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)1. 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. 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 *Sternula sandvicensis*, in Argentina**

On 2 January 1998, in Mar del Plata port, Buenos Aires province, I observed a single Sandwich Tern *Sternula 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 *Sternula 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 Uruguay13. 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). Other authors cite few additional observations of the species in Argentina: doubtfully mentioned for Argentine coasts by Canevari et al., it is also considered a rare spring/summer visitor, and de la Peña mentions it for Chubut and Santa Cruz province coasts (without quoting specific observations). Burger & Gochfeld 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 fuscascens on the same island on 8 October 1999.

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 Neotropics. Elsewhere Frost provides separate reports on the first Giant Cowbird Scaphidura oryzivora in the West Indies, in March 2000, and first Antillean Nighthawk Chordeiles gundlachii in the Lesser Antilles, in May 2000.

Bermuda
A Briddled Tern Sterna anaethetus was at Castle Roads, on 4 August 1999, the first record since 1978. 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. 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 in their nesting burrows during the same period. The third island record of Ash-throated Flycatcher Myiarchus cinerascens was present from 21 November until 11 May 2001 at least. A Yellow-throated Vireo Vireo flaufrons was at Jenningsland, on 6–12 October, with another at the Bio Station on 1 December. Yellow-breasted Chat Icteria virens is always scarce, but one was at Fort Scour on 1 November. Interesting sparrow reports included a Clay-coloured Sparrow Spizella pallida on 8 October, at Hog Bay Park, a White-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia leucophrys in late October, at Port Royal Golf Course, a Fox Sparrow Passerella iliaca on 13 November, in Hog Bay Park, a Swamp Sparrow Melospiza georgiana at the Bio Station, on 1 December, and single Vesper Sparrows Poecetes gramineus on 13 November, at Hog Bay Park and 2 December, on the Baselands.

British Virgin Islands
The first report of Black Kite Milvus migrans in the Neotropics was in mid-October 1999.

Cuba
Martinez et al. report the first records of Northern Potoo Nyctibiis 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 2001. Rodriguez et al. report new sightings of Dunlin Calidris alpina and Red Knot C. canutus in Cuba, both in Holguin 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 species of the species taken in Cuba. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus forficatus was observed on the Isle of Youth, in November 1998. Smith & Smith report the first Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus records in Cuba, in November 1998 and 1999, while Kirwan reports the first Rose-winged Parakeet Psittacula krameri in Havana, in April 2000. Kirkconnell describe sightings of Blackburnian Warbler Dendroica carolinensis in the country, one photographed at Las Cruces and Coto Brus. 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 2000. On 3 October 2000, an Oilbird Steatornis capensis was found roosting at km 70 on Cerro de la Muerte. 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 2 February, two Grassland Warbler D. discolor at Hacienda Los Reyes, La Guacima 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 April. 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 Verrivora rufacapilla was at San Isidro del General, on 18 May 2001, a Pearl Kite Gampsonyx swainsonii was photographed at Orotomi, 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). Honduras Anderson clarifies the breeding and distribution of Ocellated Poorwill Nyctiphrynus ocellatus in the country.

Mexico Hamilton et al. describe the first record of Olive-backed Pipit Anthus hodgsonii 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 Cocle, in April (five previous country records); a Long-winged Harrier Circus buffoni also in Darién, on 1 January (second country record); a Solitary Eagle Harpaulaetus solitarius at Cana, on 27 March (fewer than 10 previous records); a Green-winged Teal Anas crecca 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).
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 effort. Telino Júnior et al. 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 Rondônia and Acre, in April 1998 and August 1999, was reported recently. The first Snowy Sheathbill Chionis alba in Pernambuco was recorded in June 1993. Itatiaia Spinetail Schizoeaca moreirae has been recorded in the state of São Paulo, at Pedra da Mina, in the Serra da Mantiqueira. Anciães et al. present two new localities for the Easily overlooked Elegant Mourner Lanisoma 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 state. Azevedo Júnior et al. detail two new localities for the globally threatened Araripe Manakin Antilophia bokermannii, and Mazar Barnett an extralimital record of Ocellated Crake Micropygia schomburgki in southern São Paulo.

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

Chile
Marín 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 Argentina and Chilean waters are presented.

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 1998; three new records of Yellow-headed Manakin Chloropipo flavicapilla in dpto. Antioquia, between August 1996 and October 1998; and a record of Hooded Tanager Nemosia pileata in dpto. Santander, in October 1999, at 2,980 m (an extraordinary altitudinal range extension). There is a recent record of the globally threatened Red Siskin Carduelis cucullatus, from Cucuta, on 16 February 2000. There were previously very few breeding data available for Apical Flycatcher Myiarchus apicalis; Kattan et al. provide a wealth of new nesting information for the species, and Cadena et al. present nesting data for the following species from Tinigua National Park: Warbling Antbird Hypocnemis cantator, Black-spotted Bare-eye Phlegopsis nigromaculata, Scale-backed Antbird Hypothymis poecilinota, Amazonian Streaked-antwren Myrmotherula multistriata 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 nearby. 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 paper. Fuhrman describes the finding and presents a photograph of the nest of Bicoloured Antvireo Dysithamnus occidentalis.

Paraguay
Capper et al. 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). The first breeding data for White-throated Antbird Gymnopythis salvini and novel nesting information for Hairy-crested Antbird Rhegmatophorina melanosticta have recently been published, based on observations at Cochablos Biological Station, Madre de Dios, in November 1998 and September–October 1999.

Uruguay
The following species have recently been reported for the first time in dpto. Salto: Lesser Nighthawk Chordeiles minor, Black Jacobin Melanotrichilus fuscus, Lesser Canastero Asthenes pyrrholeucus, Chocolate-vent ed Tyrant Neoxolmis rufiventris and Bearded Tachuri Polyctenistes pectoralis. Vargas & Padilla describe records of Blackish Oystercatcher Haematopus ater, in September 1999 (photographed) and June 2000.
Venezuela
Sharpe et al. 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 argentatus 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 Rufus 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 Xiphophyrsichus necopenus, 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, Holguin, 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 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 (Rubiacceae) 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 *Larus argentatus 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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References


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**

First records of Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo Jamaicensis* in Colombia

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo Jamaicensis* breeds in North America and through much of the Antilles, and winters in Middle America south to Panama, with one record in South America, from Venezuela in Mérida during February 1992. In November 1999 and 2000 we monitored Neartic raptor migration at Fredonia (05°54'N 75°43'W), dpto. Antioquia, north-west Colombia. While observing large movements of Swainson's *Buteo Swainsoni* and Broad-winged Hawks *B. platypterus*, we observed a total of three Red-tailed Hawks *B. Jamaicensis*; a solitary adult on 5 November 1999, an adult on 20 March 2000 among a Swainson's Hawk flock, and a lone juvenile on 9 November 2000. The first was flying slowly, c.200 m from the observation point; it had broad, fairly rounded wings, dark mantle with whitish underparts, and a distinct reddish tail from above. The second individual possessed the same plumage pattern, and was heavier bodied than Swainson's Hawk. The juvenile was identified mainly by its grey-brown tail with many blackish bands. These records are the first for Colombia.

**Acknowledgements**

Our observations were made during the 'Migration of North American raptors in northern Colombia' project directed by Dr Marc Bechard and Greg Kalteneker (Boise State University), César Marquez (Instituto von Humboldt) and the authors. We thank those organisations that provided financial support and donations: US National Fish & Wildlife Service, Lincoln Park Zoo Scott Neotropical Fund, Sociedad Antioqueña de Ornitología, Instituto von Humboldt and Birder's Exchange. Paul Salaman commented on an earlier draft of this note.

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The first White-chested Swift *Cypseloides Lemosii* in Amazonian Colombia

White-chested Swift *Cypseloides Lemosii* is known from several localities in Colombia, between Cali and Popayán in dptos. Valle and Cauca, several sight records since 1990 mostly in the foothills and subtropical zone of Napo Province, Ecuador, and a recent record from the Cordillera del Condor, Peru. Its ecology is little known though Stiles & Negret noted that in late September–October at Las Guacas, dpto. Cauca, Colombia, the first heavy showers of the rainy season trigger the emergence of swarms of small beetles which attract large numbers of swifts including *C. Lemosii*. Breeding behaviour is unknown. Eisenmann & Lehmann reported flocks of 20–25 individuals, occasionally within mixed-species flocks of swifts, and always at 16h30–18h30 in the Cali-Santander area, suggesting 'roosting' aggregations. However, observations above Cali in October 1994–August 1995 revealed such flocks to comprise White-collared *Streptoprocne zonaris*, Chestnut-collared *Cypseloides rutilus* and, twice, White-chinned Swifts *C. cryptus* (CD pers. obs.).

On 8 March 2000 near Leticia, dpto. Amazonas, Colombia (2 km east of km 11 on the main road north of Leticia), we observed a large mixed flock of *Chaetura* swifts, 50–100 m above an area of cleared forest. Interest in the flock stemmed from our previous day's observation of a Grey-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris* among Ashy-tailed *C. Andrei* and Short-tailed Swifts *C. Brachyura*, which is a notable record for Amazonian Colombia. While attempting to relocate the Grey-rumped Swift we noticed a large dark swift with a distinct white (apparently heart-shaped) breast patch, which was its most notable feature. Experience of White-collared Swift and an awareness of the identification features and potential for Biscuate Swift *Streptoprocne Biscutata* to occur in Colombia enabled us to quickly eliminate both these. The bird's size and structure were those of a *Cypseloides*. In comparison to the accompanying Ashy-tailed and Short-tailed Swifts it was marginally larger and darker, lacking any pale areas on the
rump and uppertail-coverts, with apparently uniform upperparts and no white collar. It had a proportionately longer tail and longer, blunter wings than the butter-knife-shaped pointed wings of Chaetura spp. or the bulging secondaries of Short-tailed Swift.

Sight records at Yuturi Lodge, eastern Napo, Ecuador, in July–August 1996 and August 1998 suggest that movements from the Andes into the Amazonian lowlands, perhaps during post-breeding dispersal, may not be unusual and that our record at Leticia was perhaps to have been expected.

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A possible population of Fasciated Tiger-heron
Tigrisoma fasciatum on the upper Coppename, Surinam

Fasciated Tiger-heron Tigrisoma fasciatum occurs east of the Andes near fast-flowing mountain streams. Here I report the first observations in Surinam. On 22–23 May and 25 June 2001 a T. fasciatum was seen near Foengoe islet, in the Coppename River. It was perched on a stone below a bush near the riverbank, hunting for fish by a large rapid, on the two first-named dates, and was seen flying across the river in the same area on 25 June. The bird was mainly dark bluish-grey with finely barred neck-sides, whitish foreneck (marked darker) and belly. The crown was very dark bluish-grey and the bill black with a yellow base. The throat was naked and yellow. Its size and structure were much as Rufescent Tiger-heron T. lineatum. I showed the relevant plate in The birds of Venezuela to some Kwinti Bush Negros, who live in this area and whom I regard as fairly good birdwatchers. They recognised the species, stating that it is rarer than T. lineatum and that it tends to hide. The Kwinti also reported that it inhabits areas upstream of Foengoe islet along tributaries of the upper Coppename, but had never observed it below Foengoe islet. The area the Kwinti described is part of the 1.6-million ha Central Surinam Nature Reserve and possesses some fast-flowing streams. My observations, together with the report of the Kwinti, imply that a population of the species occurs on the upper Coppename River. (For distribution maps of T. fasciatum and T. lineatum in Surinam see http://www1.nhl.nl/~ribot/php4/verspreiding.htm.). In addition, Michel Clement observed two Tigrisoma fasciatum, at saut Ananas, in the upper Mana River area of French Guiana, during 24 to 30 July 1995, which is just to the east of Surinam.

Reference

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Crimson Fruitcrow
Haematoderus martialis feeding on Cecropia sciadophylla

On 29–31 August and 11 November 2001 a male Crimson Fruitcrow Haematoderus martialis was recorded near a camp between the Voltzberg and Van Stockum Mountains, within the Central Surinam Nature Reserve. The bird was seen and heard in August but only heard in November. In the morning of 31 August it was observed feeding on seeds of Cecropia sciadophylla. Foods of this species, as specifically recorded in the literature, are large insects such as beetles and cicadas, making the present observation of interest and confirming Snow’s supposition that the species is also a fruit-eater. Interestingly Snow also mentions that Schomburgk (1848) reported it as a migrant in the Kanuku Mountains of southern Guyana, occurring only in June and July (the wet season) when the fruits that it eats are ripe.
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New altitudinal record of Brown Violetear Colibri delphinae
Consultation of Ridgely & Greenfield1 permits researchers in Ecuador to easily determine possible range extensions. On 24 July 2000, we captured a Brown Violetear Colibri delphinae in a mist-net c.1 km north of the protected forest of El Tundo near Sozoranga, Loja, at 2,250 m. The site was dominated by shrub habitat of the Melastomataceae family and within 50 m of the edge of a narrow corridor of riparian forest dominated by Neotropical Walnut Juglans neotropica with thickets in the understorey of bamboo Chusquea spp. Brown Violetear is rare in southern Ecuador, and has previously been recorded mainly in Zamora-Chinchipe province to the east1. This record is the first known capture in Loja province, and was also at an elevation much higher than most of those previously recorded1.

Acknowledgements
We thank Fundación Ecológica Arcoiris for their graciousness and hospitality during our respective stays in Ecuador. We especially thank Sergio Abad, Max Arias and Mauricio Guerrero for their help.

First nest record of Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet Touit huettii
Current literature presents very few data on timing of breeding for Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet Touit huettii and nothing regarding its nesting behaviour. A male in apparent breeding condition was reported in Venezuela in April, and possible nesting from Mato Grosso, Brazil, in September–December23. We observed a pair excavating a presumed nest in an arboreal termitarium 2 m above ground on 11 October 2001 near Pantiacolla Lodge, by the río Madre de Dios, Peru. The incomplete cavity was c.15 cm deep and had an entrance hole 8 cm wide; the termitarium itself was quite small, c.50 cm deep and c.30 cm broad. Both individuals excavated over a 20-minute period. The timing (in mid-dry season) coincides with peak breeding activity in most bird species in lowland forests of south-east Peru1. Though very few nesting records exist for any Touit (many members of this Neotropical genus being inconspicuous or apparently nomadic), nests have been reported in tree holes and arboreal termitaria23. It is likely that Touit parrotlets, like some Aratinga and Brotogeris parakeets, regularly breed in the arboreal nests of social insects, joining a rather long list of birds that are known to do so1343.

References

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A new site for Royal Cinclodes Cinclodes orinocoae and other noteworthy records from the Illampu Valley, Bolivia
Parque Nacional y Area Manejo Integrado (Cotapata) covers c.60,000 ha in the Andes north-east of La Paz, Bolivia. Encompassing an altitudinal range of 1,100–5,600 m in the Cordillera La Paz (within the Cordillera Real), Cotapata has a rich diversity of ecosystems, one of the most imperilled of which is semi-humid Polylepis woodland.

The Illampu Valley, in the south-west corner of Cotapata (16°15’S 68°01’W) supports fragments of this fragile ecosystem, of which only c.2% is extant along the entire east slope of the Bolivian...
Andes. In Ilampu, at c.4,000 m, single separate mixed *Polylepis/ Buddleia* stands are present in three blind canyons, each with a large, deep lake in the centre. Composition is 50% *Buddleia*, and 50% *Polylepis*, the former tending to be taller and to emerge from the denser *Polylepis* understorey. Fragments are dense, with the tallest trees being c.4 m, and the majority being dwarf shrubs. These canyons possess a much more humid climate than the broader, windswept valley floor, and the woodlands are frequently drenched in mist or in mixed rain and snow.

The conservation significance of Ilampu was recognised in September 1999, during biodiversity surveys conducted by the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH/CBC), and its Bolivian collaborators (Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado), during which time Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant *Anairetes alpinus* was discovered. Ilampu was revisited for eight days in September and 17 days in October 2000, primarily to evaluate the status of *A. alpinus*, map the extent of the *Polylepis* fragments and gather initial ecological data for their management. A remarkable diversity of *Polylepis*-dependent, and other little-known, transition-zone birds was recorded during these visits.

In addition to the Endangered Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant, the Critical Royal Cinclodes *Cinclodes aricomae* was discovered here in September 2000. Only one was seen; initially flushed from a *Polylepis* thicket, it landed on an exposed boulder nearby. The uniform dark umber upperparts coloration, pale buffy stripe at the base of the remiges (obvious in flight), and long, stout bill were all readily observed. It was, in all respects, quite similar to Stout-billed Cinclodes, much darker and browner than the form of Bar-winged Cinclodes *C. fuscus albiventer* present at Ilampu (CJV pers. obs.), and lacked the contrasting greyer crown of the latter (in addition to being overall more robust). It then flew downslope, disappearing from view. Presumably the same individual was relocated later that day, flaking moss and exfoliating bark from the bases of *Polylepis* with its bill, in keeping with published descriptions of this characteristic behaviour.

In addition, several species were recorded that have restricted ranges or were until recently considered Near Threatened, namely Tawny Tit-spinetail *Leptasthenura yanacensis*, Line-fronted Canastero *Asthenes urabambensis*, Scribble-tailed Canastero *A. maculicauda* and Giant Conebill *Oreomanes fraseri*. Furthermore, some uncommon or otherwise poorly known species associated with *Polylepis*, e.g. Rufous-rumped Bush-tyrant *Cnemarchus erythropygius* and Stripe-headed Antpitta *Cnemarchus erythropygus* and *C. erythropygus adaptica*, both of which had not been recorded at Ilampu in September 1999 or 2000, were very vocal, and territorial in October 2000. Also, quite remarkably, Stygian Owl *Asio stygius* was observed twice, hunting rats among boulder-strewn páramo adjacent to *Polylepis/Buddleia* scrub at dusk. It was readily identifiable, even in poor light, due to its proportions, very dark plumage and prominent ear-tufts, all observed as it perch-hunted from large boulders. It was seen to fly up from lower in the valley, presumably spending the day at a slightly lower elevation than the *Polylepis* stands. This little-known owl, uncommon and local throughout the vast majority of its range, is known from a specimen taken in eastern dpto. Santa Cruz; and a sight record from similar habitat to the present one from Cochabamba.

Because the species inhabiting these *Polylepis* fragments, and the fragments themselves, are extremely vulnerable, this area requires conservation attention. Along with the one in the Choquetonga Valley, this is part of the only known population of *A. alpinus* in a protected area in Bolivia. Presently human activity in Ilampu is moderate and concentrated on the valley's central floor, not in the blind canyons. However, humans exploit the *Polylepis* fragments whose growth is strongly correlated with firebreaks, and, where accessible to livestock, these woodlands are heavily grazed. However, prospects for the conservation of the *Polylepis* fragments in Ilampu are good given the relatively low-density human population, lack of roads and general inaccessibility of the area. If the local inhabitants (only one extended family seasonally inhabits the valley) can be encouraged to coppice and prune, rather than burn, and livestock grazing patterns are shifted, at least for a time, the interests of all can probably be sustained.

The occurrence of these extremely rare and vulnerable species in such proximity to La Paz (Ilampu is c.30 km from Bolivia's largest city) is noteworthy, and will be the focus of further investigation.

Acknowledgements

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References


First record of Grey-breasted Crake *Laterallus exilis* in Corrientes, north-east Argentina

Grey-breasted Crake *Laterallus exilis* inhabits marshy lake edges and wet meadows to 1,200 m in central and northern South America including the Caribbean coast1,3. It is rarely seen due to its elusive habits and because it inhabits dense marshes, rarely entering open or short-grass areas. In Argentina it has recently been reported from the provinces of Chaco and Formosa2,4 (pers. obs.).

On 25 May 2001, we tape-recorded (Fig. 1) a singing Grey-breasted Crake, at 19h00, in marsh at the edge of Laguna Iberá, 2 km from the main entrance of Cnia. Pellegrini town, in Laguna Iberá Provincial Park (28°40'S 57°18'W). This individual did not sing again, but possibly two others responded with the long trill to playback. This is the first record in Corrientes province and a range extension of c.200 km south-east.

Acknowledgements
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Registro de la Garza Azul *Egretta caerulea* en la provincia de Tucumán, Argentina

El 29 de agosto del 2001 encontramos un individuo adulto y aparentemente solitario de *Egretta caerulea*, en un baño sobre la ruta provincial 308, entre Juan B.
Alberdi y Graneros, c.27°38'S 65°23'W, provincia de Tucumán. El ejemplar llegó volando a una pequeña laguna, que abarcaba, con vegetación acuática y monte del tipo chaqueño seco bajo a su alrededor, una superficie aproximada de 3 ha. El ejemplar voló y se posó a unos 4 m del suelo y a unos 20 m de la ruta, sobre un Algarrobo Prosopis sp. sin follaje. Allí permaneció unos minutos, pudiendo ser fotografiado por HC. El ejemplar pudo ser fácilmente identificado por su distintivo plumaje oscuro, con la cabeza y cuello hasta el comienzo del pecho y espalda rufo-liláceo, y celeste plumizo en el resto de la parte dorsal y alas. Por la incidencia de la luz del sol se observó un notable brillo en todo su plumaje, y resaltó su iris amarillo. El ave parecía bastante desconfiada y en seguida voló alejándose de la laguna. No se pudieron observar otros detalles.

**Referencias**


**PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE**

**WEST INDIES**

**Bermuda**
Reports for 2001 included the fourth record of *Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* Calidris acuminata at North Pond, on 29 July–6 August, and the first summer record of *American Woodcock* Scolopax minor on 1 June, at Dolly's Bay.

**Cuba**
Many interesting records from the island have been published recently. Following recent reports in western Cuba, *Northern Potoo* Nyctibius jamacensis was found at two localities in extreme eastern Cuba, in early January 2001. Field work in December 2000–January 2001 produced the first January records of *Stilt Sandpiper* Calidris himantopus, *Chestnut-sided Dendroica pensylvanica* and *Blackpoll Warblers* D. striata, the fourth and fifth records of *Lesser Black-backed Gull* Larus fuscus, the fifth record of *Marbled Godwit* Limosa fedoa, the first records in the Oriente of *White-cheeked Pintail* Anas bahamensis and *Spotted Rail* Pardirallus maculatus, and the first winter record in the West Indies of *Warbling Vireo* Vireo gilivs. A leucistic *Yellow-faced Grassquit* Tiaris olivacea was found on Cayo Guillermo in January 2001; this plumage aberration is almost wholly unknown within the genus.

**Dominican Republic**
The third and fourth *Swainson's Warblers* Limnothlypis swainsonii in Hispaniola were trapped in the Sierra de Baoruco, in January 2000 and January 2001. Lithner reports some interesting observations during September 1999, including six

**Puerto Rico**
Pérez-Rivera draws attention to records of *Rose-ringed Parakeet* Psittacula krameri on the island between February 1985 and April 1990 and, in a different area, in July–October 1990. Tossas & Delannoy report on the avifauna of Maricao State Forest, including a number of interesting island records, e.g. a *Swainson's Warbler* Limnothlypis swainsonii in January 1992 and a *Kentucky Warbler* Oporornis formosus in March 1992.

**Central America**

**Mexico**
The first record of the globally threatened *Bearded Woodpartridge* Dendrotryx barbatus in Oaxaca was made in the Sierra Norte, in August 1998, while a new breeding locality for *Military Macaw* Ara militaris in the same state and the first *King Vulture* Sarcoramphus papa for Baja California were also reported recently. A recent paper argues that a mid-1880s specimen of *Giant Kingbird* Tyrannus cubensis, which has been
questioned in some of the recent literature dealing with Mexico, should stand as reliable proof of the species' (former) occurrence in the country. The specimen appears to have been taken on 25 February 1886, but the collecting locality (perhaps Isla Mujeres) cannot be certainly identified. Cooper's Hawk Accipiter cooperi was recently (May 2001) discovered breeding in Oaxaca, a 1,000 km extension south-east of its breeding range. Other observations, recently published in the online journal, Huitzil, include the first records of Cassin's Finch Carpodacus cassini and Mexican Duck Anas platyrhynchos diazi for Oaxaca, as well as records of 67 species, principally waterbirds, raptors and shorebirds, which update information for localities in central Oaxaca.

Costa Rica
A Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus was reported off Tortuguero, on 27 March 2001, and a Long-billed Curlew Numenius americanus was at Chone, on 15 September 2001. Sightings of Lovely Cotinga Cotinga amabilis at Los Llanos, near Santa Elena may represent the first records from the Pacific Slope. Cinnamon Hummingbird Amazilia rutila and White-throated Magpie-jay Calocitta formosa were reported south of Dominical, representing significant southward extensions of the ranges of both species. Some late reports from Jay VanderGaast include a Sora Porzana carolina at Carara, on 3 May 1998; a Paint-billed Crake Neocrex erythropus photographed at Las Palmitas, north of Guacimo, on 27 November 1996, with perhaps three birds present at this time; a breeding-plumaged Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica at Tarcoles, on 3 May 1998; a breeding-plumaged Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea photographed at Playa Azul (no date provided, perhaps the first country record); 20+ Violet-green Swallow Tachycineta thalassina at Rio Biris, on 18 November 1996, and another at Carara in April 2000; a dark-eyed juvenile White-eyed Vireo Vireo griseus at EARTH on 5 November 1999; a Nashville Warbler Vernivora ruficapilla at Rancho Naturalista, from 20 November 1994; a female Black-throated Blue Warbler Dendroica caerulescens at Savegre on 12 December 1996; a male Western Tanager Piranga ludovicii at Rancho Naturalista for several days in late 1995; and an American Pipit Anthus rubescens at Tarcoles, in late 1993. The third and fourth country records of Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis occurred in late 2001, with a pair at Playa Hermosa, south of Jaco, remaining from 17 December 2001 to at least 8 January 2002. A White Tern Gygis alba was found moribund at Sierpe de Osa, on 28 October 2001 (and subsequently died). A Chipping Sparrow Spizella passerina, perhaps only the second Costa Rican record, was at Cahuita in mid-November 2001, while perhaps only the third country record of Black-headed Grosbeak Pheucticus melanocephalus involved a female at Monteverde in mid-October 2001. A White-tailed Emerald Elvira chionura was discovered at 2,200 m at the Savegre Hotel de Montaña on 4 November 2001.

SOUTH AMERICA
Argentina
Orgería provides new records and information concerning the atsea distribution of Atlantic Petrel Pterodroma incerta off South America, including the discovery of four large concentrations of the species off Buenos Aires province, and other records from the Drake Passage and Weddell Sea. Single Common Tody-flycatchers Todirostrum cinereum observed on 11 February 2000 and 21 March 2001 at Puerto Iguazu, Misiones province, are the first country records.11 Bodrati updates the occurrence of ten species in Buenos Aires province, at partidos Baradero and San Pedro. Noteworthy are records of Plumbeous Ibis Theristicus caerulescens, Large-billed Tern Phaetusa simplex, White Woodpecker Melanerpes candidus, Short-crested Flycatcher Myiarchus ferox, Green-backed Becard Pachyramphus viridis and Many-coloured Chaco-finch Saltatorica multicolor. Bodrati et al. add to these data, with information on Barred Piculet Picumnus cirratus, Scimitar-billed Woodcreepers Drymornis bridgesii, Brown Cacholote Pseudoseisura lophotes, Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant Hemitrichus margaritaceuent, and others. The status of 25 species has been updated for Córdoba province, including records of King Vulture Sarcoramphus papa, Mitred Parakeet Aratinga mitrata and Rufous-sided Warbling-finch Poospiza hypochondria. The status of 18 species is updated for north-west Buenos Aires province, with details on Chaco Pipit Anthus chacoensis. A Nacunda Nighthawk Fodager nacunda was observed on 31 January 1997 at Estancia Rincón de los Morros, southern Santa Cruz province; this vagrant record extends the species' range by 1,500 km and represents the southernmost locality. A female White-sided Hillstar Oreotrichus leucopleurus at Chaltén, Los Glaciares National Park, on 6 February 1993, represents the southernmost locality for this species. The first specimen records in San Juan province have recently been presented for South American Snipe Gallinago paraguaiae, Mountain Parakeet Bolborhynchus aurifrons and Swainson's Flycatcher Myiarchus swainsoni, along with other new distributional information, based on a collection by W. H. Partridge from this and Mendoza provinces. Maceda updates the status of Crowned Eagle Harpyhaliaetus coronatus in La Pampa province. The first record of Slaty Elaenia Elaenia strepera in Cordoba province was one at Los Cocos on 23–27 December 1999. The second to fifth and subsequent records of Green-winged Saltator Saltator similis were recently presented for Buenos Aires province.
Bolivia
A specimen of Fawn-breasted Brilliant Heliodoxa rubinoides, taken in 1982 at Cocapata, north of Cochabamba, has recently been discovered. This record is the first in the country and a range extension of 1,000 km south.

Brazil
Borges et al. provide a species list and other information for the important Jau National Park, in Amazonas state. Several first country records have recently been documented, including a Red-tailed Tropicbird Phaethon rubricauda photographed at the Abrolhos archipelago, Bahia, on 24 September 1997, and five specimens of Amazonian Parrotlet Nannopsittaca dachilleae taken at Serra do Divisor National Park, Acre, on 19 July 1996. Whittaker presents details of the first confirmed records of Buckley’s Forest-falcon Microstur buckleyi in Brazil; reports, all documented with tape-recordings, are available from four localities in Acre, between 1992 and 1999. The first documented record of Scarlet-hooded Barbet Eubucco tucincae was a male collected in Serra do Divisor National Park on 20 July 1996. The first specimen records of Yellow-green Vireo Vireo flavooidis involved three taken by the rio Javari, Amazonas, in October 1959. A mention of Barred Tinamou Crypturellus casiquare for Brazil is proven to be incorrect as the locality is within Colombia.

A review of Brazilian records of Spectacled Petrel Procellaria conspicillata offers new information on the species in São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, while other interesting seabird records involve the second to sixth records of Tristan Albatross Diomedea (exulans) dabbenea in the country, from São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. A small colony of Audubon’s Shearwaters Puffinus lherminieri found in August 1993 at Itaiaia archipelago, Espírito Santo, represents the first country record, and a colony of Black Skimmer Rynchops niger near Manoel Viana, in October 1998, was the first breeding record for Rio Grande do Sul and one of the few available in Brazil. New records of Tall-grass Wetland Tapaculo Sctyalopus troiani are presented from Paraná, where the species is now known from 24 sites. Bencke et al. provide novel breeding biology data for Brown-breasted Pygmy-tyrant Hemirroccus obsoletus and Striolated Tit-spinetail Leptasthenura striolata. The third record of Southern Giant Petrel Macronectes giganteus in Paraná was a beached immature found near Matinhos, on 14 September 1999.

A recent paper examines the distribution and overall bird species associations along two altitudinal transects at 800–1,400 m in the Serra do Cipó, Minas Gerais, between 1994 and 2000. Kirwan et al. provide details of significant observations made in the rio São Francisco Valley in recent years, including two additions to the Minas Gerais avifauna, White-browed Guan Penelope jacuca and Greater Wagtai-tyrant Stigmatura buditoide. New records of Orange-headed Tanager Thlypis sorrida from Paraná have been reported recently, with observations at four new localities. Vasconcelos et al. present a new locality for Cipó Canastero Asthenes luizae, the Campina do Banaan, 170 km north of previously known sites, and Willis & Oniki, in reporting on a nest of Planalto Woodcreeper Dendrocloaptes platyrostris in São Paulo, point to differences in songs between the nominate form of south-east Brazil and the subspecies intermedius from inland dry forests, but acknowledge the existence of intermediate specimens.

Colombia
Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush Catharus fuscater has recently been discovered in the country’s Central Cordillera, at two sites, near Pereira and Manizales. The new population exhibits variation in plumage and soft-parts coloration as well as in that of the irides, suggesting a degree of previously unrecognised geographic variation in the species.

Ecuador

Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas
A recently published review of vagrant records from the period 1996 to 2000 includes the first Black-necked Stilt Himantopus mexicanus, Stilt Sandpiper Micropalama himantopus, Elegant Tern Sterna elegans and Brown-cheested Martin Phaeoprogne tapera for the archipelago, as well as possibly the first breeding record of White-crested Eлаenia Eлаenia albiceps.

French Guiana
Ingels reports on new observations of birds, principally feeding and breeding behaviours, in the country during November 1999.

Netherlands Antilles
Wells & Childs Wells report the first observation of Philadelphia Vireo Vireo philadelphicus on Curaçao, on 1 April 2000.

Paraguay
Capper et al. provide new distributional information for 22 species in the country, based on field work between 1995 and 1997, while Lesterhuis & Clay report the first record of Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres, at Bahía de Asunción, on 7–13 October 2000.

Trinidad and Tobago
The status of Little Egret Egretta garzetta in the islands is reviewed, and a list of 33 records presented, by Hayes & White. Elsewhere in El Pitirre the first records of Caribbean Martin Progne dominicensis for Trinidad, in April–May 1999, April–May 2000 and February–April 2001, are
presented, as are the first records of Swainson’s Hawk Buteo swainsoni for Trinidad and Chacachacare Island, in May 1998 and October 1999—January 200010.

**Uruguay**

An Eastern Slaty-thrush Turdus subalaris observed at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, dpto. Rocha on 18 November 1999 was the first country record24, while a Highland Eleana Eleana obscura photographed near Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo on 7 November 1997 was also the first country record55. The latter species was seen again during the breeding seasons of 1997–1999, with a nest being found on 12 November 1998. Several Lesser Grass-finch Emberizoides ypiranganus on 5 and 7 July 1999 at Quebrada de los Cuervos, dpto. Treinta y Tres25, and others observed on 13 February 2000 at Reserva de Biosfera Bañados del Este, dpto. Rocha, are the first published country records12. A Grass Wren Cistothorus platensis on 9 July 1999, also at Quebrada de los Cuervos, was the second country record25. The second to fifth records of Green-backed Becard Pachyramphus viridis involved one near Laguna Negra, dpto. Rocha, on 10 December 1997, and singles collected at Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo, on 6 April 1998, and at Cerro Pan de Azúcar, dpto. Maldonado, on 2 July 1998, with subsequent sight records there29. Lone male Entre Rios Seedeaters Sporophila zelichi observed at Reserva de Biosfera Bañados del Este, dpto. Rocha on 13 and 20 February, and 7 March 2000 are among the few available recent records29.

**OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED**

**Bolivia**

KE notes the presence of four Red-fronted Macaw Ara rubrogenys in Torotoro National Park, dpto. Potosí, on 29 September 2001. Local people report that the species breeds annually in the area, but this appears to be a ‘new’ locality for this globally threatened bird. Several observers have apparently failed to locate Berlepsch’s Canastero Asthenes berlepschi at the well-known site of Sorata, dpto. La Paz, most recently KE on 14–15 October 2001, suggesting that this Near-Threatened species may be in local decline.

**Brazil**

A new locality for the globally threatened Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant Euscarthus rufomarginatus (Fig. 2, p.113) was discovered in Bahia, in cerrado beside the BA-349, c.170 km west of Correntina, on 7 February 2002, while only the fifth-known locality for Sáo Francisco Sparrow Arremon franciscanus was found just north of Montalvânia, Minas Gerais, on 8 February 2002 (DB, AG, GMK, JM).

**Chile**

Booby Sula nebouxii videotaped on the beach at Arica, on 3 August 2000, appears to be the second or third report for the country (MCH, SML).

**Cuba**

TM et al. submitted some interesting observations from a March 2002 visit. Perhaps (or even probably) the same Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus as mentioned in Cotinga 14: 106, was at Cayo Romano on 7 March, while at least 30 Red Knot Calidris canutus (perhaps only the ninth island record) were present on Cayo Coco (with seven on Cayo Guillermo, on 19 February; B&RQ) on the same date. Twenty-seven Black Skimmer Rynchops niger were at Las Salinas, Zapata, on 14 March. At least 300 Lesser Scapu Aethya affinis were at Embalse Maximo, near Los Congñones, Camagüey, on 23 February (B&RQ).

**Ecuador**

A nest occupied by a female Little Woodstar Chaetocercus bombus with two eggs was found on 10 January 2001, at 300 m in the Colonche Hills, Comuna Loma Alta. The nest was constructed on a fork of peripheral branches of a tree, c.2.7 m above ground and overhanging a well-used trail through second growth and scrub. The walls of the nest were 7.6 mm deep and comprised the fibre of Cecropia flowers with moss on the exterior. Interior diameter of the nest was 16.75 mm, the total height of the nest 34.25 mm and depth within the cup 16.75 mm (DBe).

**Guatemala**

IS reports an observation (see Fig. 3, p.113) of an apparent King Rail Rallus elegans in lakeside vegetation at Lake Petén-Itza, Petén, between 13 and 17 February 1993 by Sidney Samuels. This would the first country record.

**Mexico**

Interesting observations from a visit to the country in September–October 2001 included the following (status based on Howell & Webb22 and, for Oaxaca, Binford3). A Yellow-throated Warbler Dendroica dominica at Tacámbaro, Michoacán, on 1 October, appears to be the first state record. Significant reports from Oaxaca included a Blackburnian Warbler D. fusca at La Soledad, on 8 October (perhaps the state’s first autumn record); up to five Wedge-tailed Shearwater Puffinus pacificus (earliest winter record), an immature Red-footed Booby Sula sula (few previous state records), a group of seven unidentified scoter Melanitta sp. (no previous state records of any scoter) and an Elegant Tern Sterna elegans, all seen during a pelagic 15 km offshore from Puerto Angel, on 9 October. Another of the last-named species was at Laguna La Ventosa, near Salinas Cruz, on 10 October (only one previous state record for autumn), with a Red Knot Calidris canutus (no previous state records in autumn) at the same locality on the same date. There are few previous state records of Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica; thus one at km 52, above Valle Nacional, on 19 October was
significant, it being the first autumn record. A Black-and-white Hawk-eagle Spizastur melanoleucus, well watched at the same site on the same date, represents an intra-state range extension, based on Binford. At least one Cassin’s Vireo Vireo cassini was carefully watched at Cerro Huitepec, near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, on 12 October, with Blue-headed Vireos V. solitarius. There are apparently no previous state records of this species but, given that the V. solitarius complex has only recently been recognized to contain three species-level (rather than subspecies) taxa and the difficulties of specific identification, further and more concrete evidence of this form’s occurrence south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is desirable. (All DB, MAE, GMK, RPM.)

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References


1. Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii*, near Pantiacolla Lodge, río Madre de Dios, Peru, 11 October 2001 (Joe Tobias; see p. 104)

2. Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*, west of Correntina, Bahia, Brazil, February 2002 (Arthur Grosset; see p. 110)

3. King Rail *Rallus elegans*, Lake Petén-Itza, Petén, February 1993 (Sidney Samuels; see p. 110)
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**

**Description of the first nest of Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* discovered in Cuba**

Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* is widespread in the Neotropics, south from Mexico to south Brazil and north Argentina; in the Greater Antilles it has been reported from Hispaniola, is considered casual in Jamaica (where it may have bred in the 19th century) and in Cuba is known from Havana, Matanzas and Las Villas provinces, and probably the Isle of Pines, and was recently reported from Guantánamo province, perhaps suggesting that the species may be more widely distributed in the main island than previously supposed. The only detailed field information concerning the species in Cuba was presented by Gundlach and Watson.

Breeding biology for the species was most recently summarised by Taylor & van Perlo. No nest data is available for the species from Cuba, although Gundlach described one egg (39 mm x 28 mm; white with an ochre wash mainly at the large end, with brown and lilac spots) found close to a dead adult in Zapata Swamp, and another, subsequently laid by a bird that was obtained in a market.

During a visit to Peralta, in the Ciénaga de Zapata, on 17 November 2000, we found a nest of the species, the first to be discovered in Cuba. It was located just above the water level and was attached to an *Annona glabra* (Annonaceae) bush, and consisted of a cup of weeds, with some dead leaves in the rather shallow depression. The overall diameter was 23 cm and the nest was 9 cm deep, while the internal cup measured 8 cm. Nest material comprised 12 species of flowering plants, most of them herbaceous—*Annona glabra*, *Thalia trichocalyx* (Marantaceae), *Conocarpus erectus* (Combretaceae), *Paspalum blodgettii* (Poaceae), *Sporobolus indicus* (Poaceae), *Chara* sp. (Characeae)—with several species of Cyperaceae, namely *Claudium jamaicense*, *Cyperus ligularis*, *Cyperus sp.*, *Dichromena colorata*, *Eleocharis cellulosa*, *Rhychospora cyperoides* and *R. globosa*. The bulk of the nest was constructed of leaves and inflorescences of the two Poaceae species, with some sticks of *Annona glabra*. *A. glabra* and *Thalia trichocalyx* leaves were used to line the nest, along with two *Conocarpus erectus* leaves. The nest contained five subelliptical eggs, creamy white with sparse dark reddish-brown and purple spots and small blotches, typically distributed uniformly, but in one concentrated at the larger end (Fig. 1). Measurements (in mm) were: 36.5 × 25.4, 35.2 × 25.5, 35.4 × 26.4, 36.6 × 26 and 37.2 × 26.5. Confirmation that the nest belonged to a Spotted Rail came when one of the adults (videotaped) came within 5 m of AK while he was measuring the eggs. It was very active, constantly uttering its alarm call and moving around the nest. Incubation was estimated at 20 days; certainly by 9 December the nest was empty, the young having apparently departed.

**Acknowledgements**

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**References**

Juvenile plumage of Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture Cathartes burrovianus

On 16 January 2002, Laurie Ness and I observed many Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures Cathartes burrovianus, including several juveniles and immatures, with Turkey Vultures C. aura and Black Vultures Coragyps atratus at Celestún dump, Yucatán, Mexico (20°51'N 90°23'W). The juvenile C. burrovianus were overall slightly browner than the adults, with greyish heads. Their primary projection and leg colour were indistinguishable from the adults. Also like the adults, they lacked the scaly appearance created by the pale fringes to the upperwing-coverts characteristic of North American races of Turkey Vulture of all ages. In addition, they appeared to lack the pale fringes to the mantle feathers characteristic of juvenile Turkey Vulture. This plumage has not been adequately described in the literature1,2 (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm.). The presence or absence of scaling, particularly on the wings, should distinguish juveniles (and other age classes) of the two species when at rest. Immatures of both species acquire a duller version of the adult head coloration at six months (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm.).

Acknowledgements

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References

Neotropical Notebook

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Wintering 'Lawrence's' Warbler in northern Costa Rica

On 12 December 2001, while canoeing near Laguna del Lagarto Lodge, I found an adult male 'Lawrence's' Warbler. The lodge is situated on the río San Carlos, c.15 km upstream of its confluence with the río San Juan, on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. 'Lawrence's' Warbler is the result of hybridisation between Blue-winged Warbler Vermivora pinus and Golden-winged Warbler V. chrysoptera. The 'Lawrence's' phenotype is recessive and usually results from second-generation backcrosses1. The bird was with a mixed flock comprising a Slate-headed Tody-flycatcher Todirostrum sylva, Lesser Greenlet Hylophilus flavipes, Yellow-throated Vireo Vireo flavifrons, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler Mniotilta varia and Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica, and was regularly observed until 12 February 2002. The composition of the flock that it accompanied changed little during this period.

Adult male 'Lawrence's' Warbler retains the black throat and ear-coverts of Golden-winged Warbler but maintains the body coloration of Blue-winged Warbler, although coloration can be highly variable in some individuals. This individual matched the above description with the exception of the dull olive colour reaching onto the crown, leaving only the forehead bright yellow. The black throat contained some yellow flecking and the undertail-coverts had a slight yellow wash.

The dominant phenotype in this hybrid complex is referred to as 'Brewster's Warbler'. The latter has been recorded around five times in Costa Rica2. It would appear not unusual to encounter a hybrid of this complex in the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica, as Golden-winged Warbler is considered an uncommon winter resident and Blue-winged Warbler a very uncommon to very rare winter resident in Costa Rica, but the latter is most frequent in the Caribbean lowlands3. This record is one of the few records of this recessive phenotype on the wintering grounds; Kirwan & Sharpe1 mention a record for Venezuela, and Hilty4 three others, which are apparently the only such occurrences in South America. The 'Lawrence's' and 'Brewster's' Warbler phenotypes should be searched for anywhere within the normal wintering range of either Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers.

References


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Notes on the avifauna of the lower rio San Carlos, Costa Rica

La Laguna del Lagarto Lodge is situated on the rio San Carlos c.15 km upstream from its confluence with the rio San Juan on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. The lodge property comprises over 480 ha of primary forest, a lesser amount of secondary forest, extensive cattle pasture and palm-heart plantations with scattered almendro Dipterix panamensis trees. There are also several small lakes, 0.4–2.0 ha in size, scattered around the property. I recorded several interesting species and behaviour during a recent, three-month stay in the area.

In December 2001 there were several days of heavy rain, followed by flooding. During this period I recorded four species of larids on the rio San Carlos. On the 24th, a flock of six Laughing Gull Larus atricilla was observed flying south. A winter-plumaged Caspian Tern Sterna caspia, observed flying north on the same date, may be the first record of this species on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica5. On 28 December, I encountered a small flock of gulls on the river, flying north. It comprised two immature, probably second-year, Herring Gulls Larus argentatus and an adult Ring-billed Gull L. delawarensis. The only logical explanation for these arrivals must be the continuous rainstorms that were coming from the Caribbean at the time.

Scarlet Macaw Ara macao was observed on a daily basis on the lodge property. This species was extirpated from the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica by the 1950s, with the exception of the north-west Caribbean slope east to the rio Frio6. This river is approximately 50 km west of the lodge. Employees of the lodge and local people commented that Scarlet Macaw had recolonised the area two years previously. Each day I encountered 2–4 individuals foraging on the forest edge and in scattered trees within pasture. On the rio San Carlos the species was encountered with increasing frequency closer to Nicaragua. A roost tree was located early in December 2001. It was c.32 m-tall almendro, sited within a large cattle pasture, and was utilised regularly from early December.
until early February. Thereafter, I
surmise the birds began to roost at
their nest sites. A maximum of 16
was recorded at the roost tree at
one time. The birds had probably
arrived from Nicaragua, where they
were often observed flying in some
numbers on the opposite side of the
rio San Juan. Increased logging in
Nicaragua may be forcing the
macaws to seek new areas,
including within Costa Rica. In the
1990s logging rates in Nicaragua
were ten times those of the
Amazon'. It will be interesting to
see if numbers continue to increase
given continued destruction of the
Nicaraguan forest.

Between eight and ten pairs of
Great Green Macaw Ara ambigua
occurred on and around the lodge
property. During early January the
birds' faces began to flush deep
red, and I rarely encountered more
than one pair utilising a feeding
tree together. The repertoire of
squawks, growls, and other loud
calls diversified, and an increase
in allopreening was observed. By
late January courtship and
copulation was regularly observed.
In the first week of February, one
pair was observed copulating
while hanging upside-down from the
thin outer branches of a
tamarindo Leucaena leucocephala
tree. The pair faced each other,
while inverted, and bill-clacked
during copulation. The process
lasted c.1 minute, at which time the
male took flight, but soon
returned and the process was
repeated up to three times. This
behaviour continued for three days
after the initial sightings, and the
birds utilised the same branches
each time.

Composition of army ant
following flocks
I regularly encountered army ant
swarms and the birds that
associate with them, and spent
much time following one such flock
in the northern part of the forest,
which had little understory,
permitting easy viewing of the
flock. It is reasonable to assume
that the flock was the same group,
as the 'core birds' varied little in
species composition and number:
namely 2–3 Plain-brown
Woodcreeper Dendrocincla
fuliginosa, 3–4 Northern Barred
Woodcreeper Dendrocolaptes
sanctithomae, a Black-faced
Antthrush Formicarius analis, 6–8
Ocellated Antbird Phoenostictus
meleananni, 2–4 Bicoloured
Antbird Gymnopithys bicolor and
two Spotted Antbird Hylophylax
naevioides. Other species were
observed on a more sporadic basis.
Rufous Motmot Baryphthengus
martii was observed with the flock
approximately 50% of the time.
Rufous-winged Woodpecker
Piculus rubiginosus was observed
on two occasions, a solitary
individual on the first occasion and
subsequently a pair. A single Long­
tailed Woodcreeper Deconychura
longicauda was observed twice, the
only times I saw the species
descend from its usual haunt in the
subcanopy. Cocoa Woodcreeper
Xiphorkynchus susurrans was
observed once, but was harassed
constantly by a pair of Northern
Barred Woodcreeper and
eventually driven away. By far the
strangest species I observed with
an ant-following flock was a pair of
Mealy Parrot Amazona farinosa.
The birds were observed walking
on the ground and were covered by
the ants, but I did not observe the
birds pick up anything with their
beaks. They mostly focused on the
ants and birds that were actively feeding
in the vegetation surrounding them.
Why the parrots descended to the ground is intangible to me;
possibly they were attracted to the loud, excited calls of the accompa­
nying antbirds and woodcreepers.
The pair spent approximately 45
minutes on the ground before
returning the canopy.

Verification of rare bird
records from Trinidad and
Tobago
A third group of records, mainly
from 1997 to 2001, has been
ratified by the Trinidad & Tobago
Rare Birds Committee, and these
are presented here. Records for 92
species have been accepted, some
with photographic evidence.
Records for 22 species were
rejected. Those accepted include 13
first records for Trinidad and ten
first records for Tobago. These
results reflect much-increased
activity among birders in recent
years, assisted by improved
communication via the Internet.
For convenience, taxonomic order
and nomenclature generally follow
usage in A guide to the birds of
Trinidad and Tobago, 1991 edition,
by Rf.

Cory's Shearwater Calonectris
diomedea
Dead individuals were found at
Manzanilla beach on 29 January
1998, 2 February 2000 and 20
November 2001 (ER, GW, AA).
Rarely recorded on Trinidad.

Manx Shearwater Puffinus
puffinus
One was found dead at Manzanilla
beach on 14 November 1997 (PB);
there are only six records for
Trinidad.

White-tailed Tropicbird
Phaethon lepturus
One or two adults have been
recorded on a number of occasions
at Little Tobago, including in April
1998, on 26 November 2000 and 29
September 2001 (FH, MB, PD et
al.). Only one previous confirmed
record for Tobago.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea
Single immatures were found at
Bon Accord, Tobago on 15 January
1999, and on Trinidad, at Trinity
ponds, on 27 September 2001, and
at Nariva Swamp, on 16 December
2001 (DF, PD, CR); constituting
the first record for Tobago, and the
second for Trinidad.

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Western Reef-heron *Egretta gularis*
An immature was at Buccoo marsh on 16 December 2000 (MK); it was seen frequently in the area until at least January 2002. First record for Tobago.

**Rufescent Tiger-heron** *Tigrisoma lineatum*
One was at Cumuto Savannah on 1 August 2000 (MK). Few records on Trinidad.

**Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria*
One or two were at Caroni rice fields in late June 1999 (RM, SR, FH), constituting only the second record for Trinidad. Also, one was photographed at Buccoo on 30 September–5 October 1998 (SW), the second record for Tobago.

**Maguari Stork** *Ciconia maguari*
One frequented the shore at Orange Valley for some time after 17 August 2001 (MK et al.). This is the first record for Trinidad; but the bird's condition cast some doubt on its wild status.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
Individuals or small groups were at Caroni rice fields or Diego Martin River in May 1998, on 30 October 1999, in late July 2000 and on 8 January 2001 (GW, MG, MK). Uncommon on Trinidad.

**Roseate Spoonbill** *Ajaja ajaja*
An immature was at Caroni rice fields in September 1998, and an adult in the same area in August 1999 (GW et al.). Rare on Trinidad.

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*
Four, including two immatures, were at Brickfield mudflats in early September 1997 (GW). Occasional visitor to Trinidad.

**Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*
An adult was at Buccoo marsh in January–March 1998 (WP, DM, FH, RF et al.). Only the second record for Tobago.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*
A female at Caroni rice fields on 9–13 June 2001 (MK, FH) was the first record for Trinidad.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*
An adult male at Buccoo marsh on 23 November 1998 (GW) was the third record for Tobago.

**Lesser Scaup** *Aytha affinis*
A female at Caroni rice fields on 4 November 1998 (GW); occasionally winters in Trinidad.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aytha collaris*
A male and two females at Lowlands pond on 23 November 1998 (GW) and in early 1999 (various observers) constituted the third record for Tobago.

**Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
A male at Caroni rice fields on 9 September 1997 (GG et al.) and a group of up to 17 in the same area from mid- to late August 2000 (FH, various observers) are only the third and fourth records for Trinidad, although the species has long been known to local hunters.

**Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus*
A pair with two immatures was at Tableland on several occasions between May and December 1998 (GW), indicating probable local breeding. An immature female at Buccoo on 4 January 1998 (FH et al.) was only the second record for Tobago.

**Snail Kite** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*
An immature was at Nariva Swamp on 1 April 1998 (PD et al.) and an immature at Caroni rice fields on 4 July 2000 and on many occasions in 2001 and 2002 (MK, various observers). This species presumably visits from the continent, but its occurrence is patchy.

**White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus*
An adult was near Oropouche Lagoon on 6 June 2001 (HK) and an immature at Caroni rice fields in late November 2001 (MK et al.). Rare nowadays on Trinidad.

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni*
Records of light-morph adults over north-east Tobago on 17 March 1998 and 21 June 1998 (RF, GE) are the third and fourth records for Tobago.

**Black-collared Hawk** *Busarellus nigricollis*
An adult of this rarely seen species was in Nariva Swamp on 11 October 1998 (GW).

**Rufous Crab-hawk** *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*
One considered to be a subadult was photographed at Nariva Swamp on 10 February 1996 (BB et al.). Very rare on Trinidad.

**Black Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus*
An adult was in the Waller Field area in September 1998–January 1999 (RF, DF), and an immature was by the Blanchisseuse Road on 18 September 1999 (CR). Rare on Trinidad.

**Northern Caracara** *Caracara plancus*
An adult was at Galera Point on 10 August 2000 (GW); a rare visitor to Trinidad.

**Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus*
A dead individual was found on a road at Carapichaima on 6 July 1997 (GW); quite rare on Trinidad.

**Rufous-necked Wood-rail** *Aramides axillaris*
One was in mangroves by Blue River, Caroni on 16 September 1998 (RF et al.) and two at Cacandee on 18 December 2000 (MK, GW). Well distributed throughout several islets off north-west Trinidad, but on the main island appears confined to the Caroni mangroves.

**Paint-billed Crake** *Neocrex erythrops*
One by Caroni rice fields on 16 September 2001 (MK) was only the fourth record for Trinidad (all have occurred between June and September).
Azure Gallinule *Porphyra flavirostris*
Individuals at Caroni rice fields on 10 May 1999 (GW) and 22 August 2000 (MK) indicate that the species' local range has expanded beyond Nariva Swamp.

**American Coot** *Fulica americana*
An adult at Bon Accord ponds on 24 March 2001 (MK, GS) was the second record for Tobago. The species is easily confused with Caribbean Coot.

**Pied Lapwing** *Hoploxypterus cayanus*
An adult by the Arena Dam road on 12 March to early April 1998 (PG et al.) was the first record for Trinidad.

**American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus*
Up to five on various occasions at Waterloo between late 1997 and March 1999 (various observers).

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*
One at Waterloo on 28 June 1999 (MT et al.) was the first record for Trinidad and north-east South America (see *Cotinga* 16: 66).

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*
Three at Brickfield mudflats on 14 September 2001 (NL), one at Caroni rice fields on 19–25 September (MK et al.), and one at Hilton golf course, Tobago on 26 October 2001 (NH), the first Tobago record since the 19th century. Records of this species are sparse, but they tend to come in groups.

**Long-billed Curlew** *Numenius americanus*
Two at Buccoo marsh on 30 September 1988 (SW) provide the first authentic record of the species for Tobago since a dubious 19th century report.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*
An adult photographed on various occasions between 14 September 2000 and 21 January 2001 at Caroni rice fields and Orange Valley (FH, MK) was the first record for Trinidad and South America (see *Cotinga* 17: 20–22).

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*
One in non-breeding plumage at Speyside on 7 September 2000 (RF, PJ) was the first record for Tobago, though it is commonly seen on passage through Trinidad.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*
Several were seen on passage through Trinidad in May/June and September/October 2000 and 2001 (MK); singles at Crown Point on 15 October and at Speyside on 16 October 2000 (MK, FH, BS) are the first records for Tobago since the 19th century.

**Wilson’s Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*
An immature at Caroni rice fields on 28 August–12 September 1998 (GG et al.) and two in the same location on 1 October 2000 (MK, FH) are the first records for Trinidad.

**Franklin’s Gull** *Larus pipixcan*
Both immatures and adults have been found on the west coast of Trinidad between Port of Spain and San Fernando on several dates, including 5 January, 7–26 February, 14–20 March 1999, 2–3 December 2000, 22 January and 22 April 2001 (DBM, FH, GW, MK). The first records for Trinidad.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*
Several, both adults and immatures, have been found on Trinidad’s west coast in December–March in recent years (various observers). The species has clearly become a regular visitor to the area.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*
An adult was found at Waterloo on 8 July 2000 (FH, BS), remaining in the area until 1 October; a similar bird was at San Fernando until 10 February 2001 (HK). These constitute are the first records for Trinidad (see *Cotinga* 18: 85–88).

**Large-billed Tern** *Phaetusa simplex*
An adult and an immature were at the Hilton lakes, Tobago on 20 May 2001 (RT). The first record for Tobago of this tern, which on Trinidad is largely confined to the west coast or adjoining wetlands.

**Mangrove Cuckoo** *Coccyzus minor*
Records from Bon Accord (FH) on 1 February 1999 and Lowland ponds (MK) on 7 January 2001 suggest the species is probably resident in small numbers in western Tobago.

**Dark-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus melacoryphus*
One was at Todd’s Road on 26 August 1998 (GW); rare on Trinidad.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*
One at Caroni rice fields on 12 September 2001 (MK) was the first record for Trinidad.

**Rufous-shafted Woodstar** *Chaetocercus jourdani*
A female or immature was at Asa Wright Nature Centre on 28 August 2000 (RF). Very rare on Trinidad.

**Scaled Antpitta** *Grallaria guatemalensis*
One seen by many observers (RF, AM et al.) at the Asa Wright Nature Centre on 8 April–9 June 1999 was the first record in Trinidad for many years.

**Blue-backed Manakin** *Chiroxiphia pareola*
Females were seen on nests at Gilpin Trace on 29 March 1998 (MF) and 12 April 2000 (EC, RF). These are the second and third breeding records for Tobago.

**Variegated Flycatcher** *Empidonax varius*
Two photographed at Asa Wright Nature Centre on 18 November 2001 (RW, RR). Rare in Trinidad.

**Venezuelan Flycatcher** *Myiarchus venezuelensis*
A pair at a nest in a bamboo stump at Gilpin Trace on 19...
Spotted Tody-flycatcher

Todirostrum maculatum

Two at Oropouche Lagoon on 6 March 1999 (GW) were a significant range extension on Trinidad from the Icacos peninsula, where hitherto all previous records have been made.

Slaty Elaenia

Elaenia strepera

One at Brasso Seco on 21–22 July 1998 (CR, ER) was the first Trinidad record.

White-winged Swallow

Tachycineta albiventer

An adult and an immature at Speyside on 5 September 2000 (I & GB) was the first record for Tobago.

Cliff Swallow

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

Singles were at Trincity ponds on 17 April 2000 (NA), and Caroni rice fields on 3 March and 19 September 2001 (MK). Few records in Trinidad.

White-eyed Vireo

Vireo griseus

An immature at Buccoo in early January–February 1998 (WP, DM, FH) and an adult in the same locality on 28 January 1999 (RN) are the first records for Tobago.

Black-whiskered Vireo

Vireo altitoquus

Singles were at Arena forest on 19 February 2001 (MK) and near Scotland Bay on 28 April 2001 (CR); quite rare on Trinidad.

Golden-winged Warbler

Vermivora chrysoptera

An adult male was at Kings Bay Trail on 20 June 2001 (JK, Ad), an interesting date. The first record for Tobago of a species that has not been recorded in the Lesser Antilles.

Northern Parula

Parula americana

Single males were at Buccoo marsh on 9 February 1998 (FH, NT) and at Pointe-a-Pierre on 22 February 1998 (FH, GWi). The fourth record for Tobago and the first for Trinidad.

Cape May Warbler

Dendroica tigrina

An adult male at Trincity ponds area on 31 December 1998–8 April 1999 (WP, DM, and various observers) was the second record for Trinidad, and the first to winter on the island.

Cerulean Warbler

Dendroica cerulea

An adult male at Heights of Aripo on 22 November 2000 (MB, CR et al.) was the first record for Trinidad.

Blackburnian Warbler

Dendroica fusca

An adult male at Morne Bleu on 26 March 2001 (CR et al.) was the sixth record for Trinidad.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Dendroica pensylvanica

One was photographed at Lopinot Valley on 30 December 2000 (RN) and another was at Moka on 17 December 2001 (GW); rarely seen on Tobago.

Golden-rumped Euphonia

Euphonia cyanosephala

An adult male was at Brigand Hill on 3 March 1999 (PH). This rarely seen euphonia is a much-desired target of bird catchers, so an escape from captivity cannot be ruled out.

Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

An adult male was at Aripo Agricultural Station on 18 April 2000 (MK), another at Nariva and a third at Arena forest in April 2001 (CR). All six recent records for Trinidad have been in spring.

Summer Tanager

Piranga rubra

The diagnostic call of this species was heard at Grafton estate on 15 January 1999 (DF et al.), the first record for Tobago.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus

Two males were at Morne Bleu in late January 1999 (KM, CR, FH), the fourth record for Trinidad.

Yellow Grosbeak

Pheucticus chrysopeplus

An adult male was at Asa Wright Nature Centre on 8 November 1999 (HB). The first record for Trinidad of this species, whose range in Venezuela extends east to the mountains of Monagas and Sucre. Captive origin is possible, but probably unlikely.

Dickcissel

Spiza americana

An adult male at Speyside on 13 January 1998 (CA et al.) was the first Tobago record.

Bobolink

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Flocks up to 50 on several days in October 2000 and 2001, mainly at Caroni rice fields, but also at Galera Point (FH, MK et al.); this passage migrant may have been overlooked hitherto.

In addition to the above, records were accepted for the following 20 species, whose status has already been established: Masked Bobby Sula dactylatra, Little Egret Egretta garzetta, Masked Duck Nomonyx dominicus, King Vulture Sarcograpus papa, Yellow-headed Caracara Milvago chimachima, Aplomado Falcon Falco femoralis, Trinidad Piping-guan Piple pipile, Caribbean Coot Fulica caribaea, Marble Godwit Limosa fedoa, Ruff Philomachus pugnax, Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus, Ring-billed Gull L. delawarensis, Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus, Green-throated Mango Anthracothorax viridigula, Short-tailed Pygmy-tyrant Myiornis ecaudatus, Bank Swallow Riparia riparia, Blackpoll Warbler Dendroica striata, Morige Oriole Icterus chrysocephalus, Yellow-bellied Seedeater Sporophila nigricollis and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater Sporophila minuta. One record was accepted without the species being certainly established, namely a Common Chordeiles minor or Antillean Nighthawk C. gundlachii, either of which would be a first record for Tobago. Records were accepted for Chukar Alectoris chukar and Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto, but both were considered
to be escaped captives. Records for 22 species were rejected for a variety of reasons, mostly uncertain identification.


The Committee presently consists of Martyn Kenefick (Secretary), Richard ffrench, Geoffrey Gomes, Floyd Hayes, William Murphy, Courtenay Rooks and Graham White. Records should be sent to the Secretary at martynkenefick@netscape.net.

Copies of the Species Review List and the Rare Bird Report Form are available on the Internet at http://www.geocities.com/ttrbc.

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A unusual altitudinal record of White-cheeked Pintail Anas bahamensis in Ecuador

White-cheeked Pintail Anas bahamensis is a widespread Neotropical species, generally associated with coastal habitats, though occurring inland in southern South America, regularly to 2,550 m near Cochabamba, Bolivia, and once at 4,080 m, at Lago Junin, Peru. In Ecuador, it is a common resident on the coast and in adjacent lowlands, where it has rapidly expanded its range since the first record in 1953. On 17 March 2002, while censusing waterbirds on Laguna Mica, Napo Province, Ecuador, at 3,900 m, we found an adult White-cheeked Pintail. It was initially located by LL within a flock of 230 Yellow-billed Pintail Anas spinicaudta roosting in the centre of the lake, and was seen well through a telescope in good light conditions. This is the first record away from the coastal hinterland in Ecuador and appears to be the second-highest altitudinal report ever.

References

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White-breasted Parakeet Pyrrhura albipectus: a new record for Peru

White-breasted Parakeet Pyrrhura albipectus is considered endemic to Ecuador. In the light of new distributional records, it has been suggested that this species is likely to occur in adjacent Peru. Nevertheless, it has not previously been recorded there.

Corporación Ornitológica del Ecuador (CECIA) has recently conducted surveys in the Cordillera del Condor, which forms part of the border between Ecuador and Peru. As part of these, a field visit to an area known as Condor Mirador (03°38'S 78°23'W; at 1,800 m), in Morona-Santiago province, was undertaken. On 19 December 2000, a group of 12–14 White-breasted Parakeet was observed flying 15 m overhead while I was stationed in one of the passes that represents the border between the two countries. The flock flew from the Ecuadorian side of the range into the valley of the Alto Cenepa and forest in Peru. The group was observed without binoculars for c. 10 seconds, but the distinctive, broad white band across the breast, extending onto the head- and neck-sides, was clearly seen in the clear, sunny conditions.

The ecology of the cloud forest along the rio Cenepa within Peru is identical to that on the Ecuadorian side where this parakeet is relatively uncommon. The entire area has been the subject of conflict between Ecuador and Peru, and, therefore, visiting the Peruvian side of the rio Cenepa was politically difficult. This situation and the presence of land mines in the area prohibited visiting this remote Peruvian forest. This sighting is the first observation of the species for Peru.

References

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Further sightings of Selva Cacique Cacicus coepekeae in Manu National Park, Peru

Following its discovery in 1963 at Balta, dpto. Loreto, Selva Cacique Cacicus coepekeae was among the most enigmatic of Neotropical birds. It evaded conclusive rediscovery until March–April 1998, when it was found on the upper rio Camisea, dpto. Cusco, and later (in October 1998) on the nearby rio Manu Chico, dpto.

Madre de Dios. In the interim, there were at least two inconclusive reports from Manu
National Park in the 1980s. One of these—from Cocha Cashu Biological Station—was initially considered 'almost certain', and the species was therefore listed as provisional on a site inventory. Despite an enormous amount of field work and mist-netting at this locality, no further observations were made, such that the species was removed from subsequent lists and considered unlikely to occur in the immediate vicinity (J. Terborgh pers. comm. 2001).

In September 2001, I found three separate groups of Selva Cacique holding territories along a 5-km stretch of shallow creek (c.5 m broad) flowing through pristine lowland forest, c.8 km from Cocha Cashu Biological Station (uplands trail). They were always along the creek itself, never in adjacent forest, and appeared to be restricted to disturbed riverine regrowth containing cane, bamboo, dense creepers and some Heliconia. All records of the species appear to be along small rivers. The groups apparently comprised adults, and were stable in number (one of four, one of five and one of six individuals) and each tended to be found in the same stretch of creek over a four-week period. Previous sightings have been of 1–4 individuals, usually pairs, and a group of six. At Cocha Cashu, the groups ranged from the low understory to the upper canopy, but spent most time 1–5 m above ground in dense tangles of bamboo or vines. The species was most frequently located by its loud and distinctive vocalisations (see Fig. 1), which it often gave, although it tended to respond to playback of these calls by flying away.

These are the first confirmed sightings of Selva Cacique at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, the most accessible locality for the species to date (N. G. Gerhart in litt. 2002). They follow 30 years of intensive field work at the site, albeit in a little-visited locale away from the main study grid. The species is not so much skulking as inconspicuous and highly local; knowledge of its vocalisations and habitat requirements will undoubtedly lead to many more records within its small range.

Acknowledgements
I thank INRENA and John Terborgh for permission to work at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru, and Nat Seddon for preparing the sonogram.

References

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Notes on breeding behaviour in Black-faced Cottinga Conioptilon mchihennyi
Black-faced Cottinga Conioptilon mchihennyi—a relatively recently discovered species—is restricted to tall floodplain forests in southwest Peru, with recent records from adjacent Acre, western Brazil, in November 1994, and Pando, northern Bolivia, in July 2001 (Armonía Bolivian Bird Database). As there is no information on its breeding behaviour (G. Greene pers. comm. 2002), I describe two nests of this species that I found at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, dpto. Madre de Dios, Peru, in 2001.

A bird was watched nest-building in an isolated streamside tree (Cecropia sp.) on 16 September. This nest site—c.15 m above ground—was abandoned for unknown reasons after two days, and another nest was commenced in the same tree at the same height. Nest-building was undertaken by one individual, presumably the female, although the ‘male’ was in constant attendance. The ‘female’ visited the site every few minutes through the middle of the day, carrying scraps of fine plant fibre that were wound onto two narrow, open branches at their fork. The ‘male’ was in constant attendance,

Figure 1. Sonogram of calls of Selva Cacique Cacicus koepckeae (probably one individual, although possibly a duet) recorded at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru, in September 2001. This was the only vocalisation given during the study period: two (1–3) high notes followed by two low notes (transcribed as ching-ching chung-chung), repeated frequently. Sonogram created with Avisoft-SASLab Pro on standard wide-band settings (FFT = 512, frequency bandwidth = 235 Hz, time resolution = 4 ms).
apparently mate-guarding, but never directly assisted with nest construction. Both individuals frequently called and ‘sang’ (see Fig. 1), and the nest-building operation was undertaken with little wariness. Nest-building occurred daily, but even after a week the nest itself was barely visible. It was not possible to return to this nest and further details are therefore unavailable.

Another pair was discovered feeding a single nestling c.35 m above ground in an enormous Ceiba cf. pentandra (Bombacaceae), on 28–30 September 2001. The nest—sufficiently small as to be invisible—was situated at the fork of two branches. Both adults fed the nestling, often vocalising loudly as they did so, drawing attention to themselves. The nest tree also contained an active nest of Ornate Hawk-eagle Spizaetus ornatus. The young appeared almost uniformly pale grey with no black visible on the head, and the face relatively pale. On closer inspection, this nestling was clearly well developed (almost the size of adults) but covered in down which was mottled pale and black; it was easily mistaken for a patch of lichen until it gaped for food.

These are the first breeding records, and therefore the first description of both nest and nestling for the genus. The main breeding season for most species in south-east Peru commences in August–September, continuing until December–March, and on these grounds Conioptilon was accurately predicted to breed at this time². Breeding behaviour in the cotinga family in general is extremely poorly known, largely because so many species are difficult to locate when not displaying or vocalising, and because so many of their inconspicuous nests are probably situated in the forest canopy.

Nest structure in Conioptilon is apparently typical for the family: most cotingas build open nests, these usually being tiny flimsy-looking saucer-shaped structures³. The dense covering of down in young Conioptilon is also a common feature of cotinga nestlings⁴. In the first Conioptilon nest described above, guarding of the female by the male was apparently intense during nest-building (and therefore presumably shortly before the fertile period). This behaviour is common in many temperate bird species but has not been previously reported in the Cotingidae; indeed, males of most cotingas either make no effort to protect their paternity or spend little time with the female during the breeding period⁵.

Acknowledgements
I thank INRENA and John Terborgh for permission to work at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Bennett Hennessey for providing useful information, and Nat Seddon for preparing the sonogram.

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Figure 1. Sonogram of song and calls of Black-faced Cotinga Conioptilon mcilhennyi, recorded at Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru. The ‘song’ is loud and distinctive, usually likened to one of the main calls of Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani or an old-fashioned telephone: an upwardly inflected bririnng. The call is a simple pew note. The two vocalisations were given regularly during nest-building and chick-rearing by both male and female. Sonogram created with Avisoft-SASLab Pro on standard wide band settings (FFT = 512, frequency bandwidth = 235 Hz, time resolution = 4 ms).
Neotropical Notebook

Cayenne *Sternula sandvicensis eurygnathus*, four Neotropical Cormorant and a Cooi Heron *Ardea cocoi* around several fishing boats 400–500 m offshore. The latter flew c.50 m above the surface, then descended with legs outstretched, settled briefly on the sea, before flying low to the shore, where it perched on a boulder.

Finally, at 15h30, on 24 February 2001, from a yacht c.6 km east-northeast of Parati, I observed five Black-crowned Night-heron, which while apparently en route between the mainland and an island c.1 km offshore, circled behind a fishing boat, with 1–2 briefly alighting on the sea.

Although all my observations were at such distance that it was impossible to observe what, if anything, the herons took from the sea, that they briefly settled on the surface strongly suggests that they were feeding. Such behaviour close to fishing boats, which in two cases attracted other species known to scavenge fish waste, indicates that the herons were attracted by the same food resource. Del Hoyo et al.¹ and Hancock & Kushlan² mention that herons do forage aerially, albeit rarely, but apparently only in natural circumstances and not while scavenging around fishing boats. The only known instances of either species feeding offshore are recorded for the race *falklandicus* of Black-crowned Night-heron, which visits kelp beds 500 m from land². Indeed, Cooi Heron has not previously been recorded at sea¹,². A Cooi Heron was also observed flying across the mouth of the bay around Parati, on 5 February, again a few hundred metres out.

Aerial foraging of herons appears not uncommon around Parati, given my observations over less than three months. It is also noteworthy that the behaviour occurred in full daylight, although Black-crowned Night-heron is principally a crepuscular/nocturnal feeder². Several were regularly observed feeding on the mudflats at Parati, but only in late evening. The topography around Parati may have favoured the development of such behaviour. Baia da Ilha Grande is a large bay (c.50 km x 40 km) of the Atlantic Ocean, with many forested islands of all sizes. Many small boats (c.10 m long) fish the bay, and herons regularly move between the mainland and islands during daylight. Sometimes, on these trips, the birds doubtless fly close to fishing boats, and may, in the past, have been attracted by other bird species congregating around these boats.

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Un nuevo registro del Benteveo *Pitangus sulphuratus* para Chile
El Benteveo *Pitangus sulphuratus* tiene una amplia distribución en Sudamérica, principalmente al este de los Andes, desde el norte de Colombia y por el este desde Venezuela, hacia el sur llegando al centro sur de Argentina, Neuquén y Río Negro, con unos pocos casos de errantes en Chile⁶.

El primer especímen para Chile fue capturado en las cercanías de Cholguan (37°S), prov. de Nuble, en julio 1966, por E. Lamothe⁷. Johnson¹ da erróneamente la fecha de este especímen como enero de 1967 y da la localidad como cerca de los Angeles (c.37°S), prov. Bio-Bio. Luego Johnson² reportó un registro visual el 8 de septiembre de 1969, un poco al sur de Santo Domingo (33°S), prov. San Antonio. El segundo especímen reportado para Chile, fue capturado en Quebrada de Suca (19°S), prov. de Iquique, el 7 de julio de 1986, por D. Veas¹. Luego se reportó un segundo registro visual por J. Rottman en las cercanías de Talagante (33°S), prov. Talagante, entre el 12 y 27 de abril de 1990⁹. Esta información es repetida de manera incompleta por Sallaberry et al.". Revisando la colección del difunto Francisco Behn, se encontró un tercer especimen nunca reportado en la literatura. Este fue colectado por F. Behn, el 10 de febrero de 1968, en Caspana (22°S, 3.200 m), prov. del Loa. Se trata de un macho, pesando 57 g, testis 2.5 x 1 mm (CFB # 934).

Sin duda el Benteveo es una especie errante en Chile, y de momento no hay ningún patrón en estos movimientos, aunque la mayoría son entre el otoño y el invierno austral. No es posible determinar la subspecie, por carecer de material comparativo.

En resumen, la especie ha sido encontrada en Chile en los meses de febrero, abril, julio y septiembre, en las regiones I, II, V, Área Metropolitana y VIII, y desde el nivel del mar hasta los 3.200 m de altitud.

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Referencias
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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

WEST INDIES

Bermuda
Mississippi Kite Ictinia mississippiensis has recently been added to the Bermuda list, one over Nonsuch Island, on 20 May 200223. Among other records from spring 2002, most significant were the second island record of Little Egret Egretta garzetta, on 24 April to 3 May, the first Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus for about ten years, on 10 June, the latest ever spring record of Veery Catharus fuscescens, on 4 May, the first May record of Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor, and the first summer record of Rose-breasted Grosbeak Pheucticus ludovicianus, on 10 June. The globally threatened Cahow Pterodroma cahow enjoyed a record breeding season, 65 pairs succeeded in fledging 36 chicks33.

Barbados
The wintering grounds of Caribbean Martin Progne dominicensis are unknown but are presumed to in South America. Observations in winter 2000/2001 indicate that at least small numbers overwinter on Barbados14.

Cuba
Winter surveys of high-altitude areas of the Sierra Maestra in 1999 and 2000 revealed the presence of 12 and 19 individuals of Bicknell’s Thrush Catharus bicknelli, demonstrating that the species is apparently a regular wintering bird in this part of the island31. Wiley et al.52 provide interesting data from surveys of mogotes forest in the west of the country in June 2000.

Dominican Republic
A possible hybrid between Kirtland’s Warbler Dendroica kirtlandii and Blackburnian Warbler D. fusca was trapped and photographed in October 199728. The use of sea caves for nesting by Antillean Palm Swift Tachornis phoenicobia has recently been reported27; there are no previously well-documented records of the genus using habitats other than palms in which to breed.

Guadeloupe
Fifteen new species have recently been added to the island list, of which are three are considered unconfirmed39. Particularly notable, among confirmed observations, are those of Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola and Bare-eyed Robin Turdus nudigenis, which has been proved to breed. American Coot Fulica americana has recently (February–March 2001) been discovered to breed on the island30.

Puerto Rico
The sixth-ever (and first white-phase) Reddish Egret Egretta rufescens in the country was discovered in December 200142.

St Kitts-Nevis
A recent survey found no evidence for the continued existence of the West Indian Whistling-duck Dendrocygna arborea in St Kitts-Nevis4. What was apparently the first American Coot Fulica americana to be recorded on the latter island was observed on 16 April 200113.

MIDDLE AMERICA

Costa Rica
Among interesting records from early 2002 were a subadult Harpy Eagle Harpia harpyja (photographed at an unknown location), perhaps the first American Avocet Recurvirostra americana on the Caribbean coast of the country, at Tortuguero Canals, on 31 January, a first-winter Pacific Golden Plover Pluvialis fulva and 6–7 Baird’s Sandpiper Calidris bairdii at Chomes, on 4 January, still one Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis at Playa Hermosa until 21 February (see Cotinga 18: 108), a possible South Polar Skua Catharacta maccormicki near Carate, on the Osa Peninsula, on 2 January, possibly the first Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto in Costa Rica at Grecia, in December 2001, and at least eight Cave Swallows Hirundo fulva at La Ensenada Lodge, on 30 January 2002, with several of the same species at Chomes in February15.

Later in the year, on 19 June, a male White-tailed Emerald Elvira chionura was at Kiri Lodge, near Tapanti National Park, apparently the first record on the Caribbean side of the Cordillera de Talamanca. Further records of Pearl Kite Gymnomyxus swainsonii continue to expand its known range northward in the country, while Red-breasted Blackbird Sturnella neglecta is similarly expanding on the east slope. June and early July brought records of Red Knot Calidris canutus, five Surfbird Aphriza virgata and Sanderling Calidris alba, the first summer records of these species in the country39. Elsewhere, Holley et al.22 present the first description of the nest and eggs of Ochre-breasted Antpitta Grallaricula flaviorostris from observations in 1999 and 2000.

Mexico
The first record of Hooded Merganser Lophodytes cucullatus in Campeche involved a group of 15 in November 199944. Five new species were recently added to the avifauna of Cozumel Island: Orange-crowned Warbler Vermivora celata, Nashville Warbler V. ruficapilla, Canada Warbler Wilsonia canadensis, Red-throated Ant-tanager Habia fuscicaua and Blue-black Grassquit Volatinia jacarina28. Peregrine Falco peregrinus has recently been reported breeding up to 390 km north of earlier nesting records in Baja Califor-
noria. New breeding data, including descriptions of the nests and eggs, have recently been provided for Green-backed Sparrow Arrenontomops chloronotus and Grey-throated Chat Granatellus sallae. Further breeding, distributional and temporal data on 70 species in central Oaxaca are provided by Forcey in the second part of his three-part paper, including observations of ten species not previously reported from or considered rare in the study area.

Nicaragua
Recent field work at El Jaguar, Jinotega, has revealed the presence of four new species in the country: Green-crowned Brilliant Heliodoxa jacula, Veery Catharus fuscescens, Plain Antvireo Dysithamnus mentalis and Bay-headed Tanager Tangara gyrola, while two records of Golden-cheeked Warbler Dendroica chrysoparia, on 4 and 7 April 2002, are the first Nicaraguan records since 1891.

Panama
The presence of Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis, a rarity in the country, at Tocumen International Airport, one killed in February 1997 and two present between June and July 1999, has been reported recently.

SOUTH AMERICA
Argentina
The presence of Ruby Topaz Chrysolampis mosquitus in Argentina has been confirmed through photographs of a juvenile male and observations of a male at Puerto Iguazu, Misiones, in April–May 2001. New breeding records of Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica in Buenos Aires province are presented by Fiameni, while Di Giacomo et al. note the first confirmed Córdoba reports of Plumbeous Ibis Thersiticus caerulescens and Ash-throated Crane Porzana albicollis, first confirmed La Pampa record of Fulvous Whistling-duck Dendrocygna bicolor and first confirmed San Luis records of Eastern Kingbird Tyrannus tyrannus and Stripe-capped Sparrow Aimophila strigiceps, as well as a number of range extensions in these and Mendoza province. Details of the distribution of two poorly known raptors, White-throated Hawk Buteo albigula and Rufous-tailed Hawk B. ventralis are presented for Neuquén, Río Negro and Chubut provinces; previous statements in the literature concerning the species’ nesting there have been undocumented.

Brazil
A juvenile Eurasian Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia was photographed on Ilha Fernando de Noronha during a stay of several weeks in January–February 1999 (K. Hazevoet in Dutch Birding 24: 205) and there is a previous record from the island in November 1996 (per J. F. Pacheco), the first records for South America. A recent desk study by Van Remsen has demonstrated that the true winter range of the Veery Catharus fuscescens, which in the past has been variously considered to encompass much of northern South America east of the Andes, is probably confined to south-central and south-east Brazil, based on specimen analysis. Such studies, which serve to highlight the erroneous nature of previous assumptions concerning winter ranges of Nearctic migrants, may prove highly useful in the conservation of declining North American songbirds. The following species have recently been recorded at Estação Ecológica Uruçuí-Una, Piauí, being in each case the first state record: Stygian Owl Asio stygius (range extension of c.800 km north-west from Chapada Diamantina), Checked Woodpecker Picoides mixtus (range extension of c.970 km north from Planaltina, Distrito Federal), Spotted Puffbird Bucuo tamatia (range extension of c.600 km south-east from Couto de Magalhães, Tocantins) and Sooty Tyrannulet Serpophaga nigricans, Hellmayr’s Pipit Anthus hellmayri and Red-rumped Cacique Cacicus haemorrhous. The discovery of Band-winged Nightjar Caprimulgus longirostris at Chapada dos Guimarães, Mato Grosso, marks the first record for the state. D’Angelo Neto et al. report three new localities for the globally threatened Narrow-billed Antwren Formicivora iheringi in Minais Gerais. Within a discussion of the avifauna of the mangroves at Santos-Cubatão, in São Paulo, Olmos & Silva e Silva present a number of interesting updates to the status of several birds in the state, most of them migrants or recent colonists.

Chile
The first country records of Black-backed Grosbeak Pheucticus aureoventris were made in Region I in December 1998 and February 2000. The northernmost Chilean record of Black-necked Swan Cygnus melancoryphus was made at Taltal, in February 1999. Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea has recently been found to be a resident at a site in Region IV, well south of its known range in the country. Wilson et al. have recently re-identified a specimen of Little Penguin Eudyptula minor taken in central Chile as an adult, not a young bird. The discovery, in February 2000, of a nest containing two chicks of Giant Conebill Oreomanes fraseri in Region I confirms its resident status in Chile. A new record of Wattled Jacana Jacana jacana in the same region was...
made in May 1998. Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni* has been confirmed to occur in Chile, based on specimens taken in the Juan Fernández Islands, in 1875, and the Andes of Curico, in 1923, and Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* has recently (September 1999) been observed near Arica, Region 19. The first record of Upland Goose *Chloephaga picta* in the Juan Fernández was made in February 2000, and White-faced Storm-petrel *Pelagodroma marina* has recently been confirmed to occur in Chilean waters, based on a specimen and photographs taken near Isla Alejandro Selkirk in February 2000.

**Colombia**

The presence of Ecuadorian Cacique *Cacicus scletarii* in Tinigua National Park, dpto. Meta, has recently been confirmed with specimens, providing unequivocal documentation of the species' presence in Colombia. Further information on the species' breeding biology was also collected. During a study of geographical variation within the Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant *Poecilotriccus ruficeps* superspecies, Johnson has located previously overlooked specimens of P. r. melanomystax from Tachira, as well as the eastern Andes of Colombia (see above).

French Guiana

The first country records of Rufous Potoo *Nyctibius bracteatus* were made around Saül in September 2000, and the first nest data for Wing-banded Wren *Microcerculus bamba* were recently presented by Julienn & Cariveau. Additional breeding data for Blackish Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigrescens* were presented recently.

Paraguay

In April 2002, an exceptional concentration of up to 20,000 Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* was present at Estancia Fortin Patria, 30 km north of Bahia Negra, with the last birds being seen on 24 April (c.1 month later than previous records in the country). Dusky-legged Guan *Penelope obscura* has recently been added to the list of species reliably recorded from the country.

**Venezuela**

Ned Johnson has located previously unreported specimens of Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant *Poecilotriccus ruficeps melanomystax* from Trujillo and Mérida (in this country, the species was previously known only from Tachira), as well as the eastern Andes of Colombia (see above).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* has been added to the list of species recorded in the country, based on a dead individual found at the Araya Peninsula, in December 1999.

### OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

**Antigua**

GM submitted the following observations relating to 2001: five Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* at Bird Island on 29 April (perhaps the first record), two *Osprey Pandion haliaetus* at Green Island on 4 May (an uncommon visitor), two Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* over Green Island on 27 May (perhaps the first record), an immature Common Black-hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus* at Seatons on 10 May (perhaps the first record), an apparently nest-prospecting American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* at Green Island on 20 May (previously considered only a vagrant), four pairs of Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* and 50–70 Sooty Tern *S. fuscata* were nesting on Great Bird Island on 11 May (both are considered uncommon on Antigua), a Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* at Green Island on 4 May (considered a vagrant throughout most of the Lesser Antilles), and a Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* at Wallis on 25 May (vagrant to Antigua/Barbuda).

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### References

Nuevos registros de aves para el centro de la Argentina. 


