

New distributional information for some Colombian birds, with a new species for South America

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El siguiente artículo publica las primeras observaciones de *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* en Colombia indicando su presencia en Suramérica. Además incluye extensiones de distribución y altitud de otras 21 especies que he observado en los últimos 11 años.

Here I present information on the first observations of Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* in Colombia indicating its presence in mainland South America, plus notable range or altitudinal extensions and breeding information on a further 21 species observed during the last 11 years.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

A pair on 16 March 1996 was an exceptional record and probably the first for Laguna de Sonso, dpto. Valle. Subsequent visits demonstrated that the species has become increasingly common, with sightings in February 2000 outnumbering the usually commoner Whispering Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus*, although interestingly none was recorded on 4 September 2002. At least 20 were at Ciénaga Grande, dpto. Magdalena, on 17 September 2002. Since the publication of Hilty & Brown², this species has clearly increased dramatically in Colombia.

Rufous-necked Wood-rail *Aramides axillaris*

This species' status on the Pacific coast of Colombia is poorly known, with only a single record near Nuquí, dpto. Chocó². In Ecuador there is only one record for the north-west of the country⁷. On 13 July 1995 a single was observed in a tiny area of mangroves on El Morro Island, dpto. Nariño, the first departmental record. This area is directly adjacent to the major tourist beach on the island and is therefore extremely disturbed with habitation on all sides.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Three were observed among Least *C. minutilla* and Semipalmated Sandpipers *C. pusilla* in the Los Flamencos Sanctuary at Perico, dpto. La Guajira, on 13 September 2002. Hilty & Brown² suggested that the species is probably an uncommon spring and autumn migrant east of the Andes and that it is probably rare in the Caribbean region. The only previous reports from the latter region involved unconfirmed sightings at La Boquilla, dpto. Bolívar^{2,5}.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

An uncommon autumn migrant and rare winter visitor, American Golden Plover is also an extremely rare spring migrant, with records east of the Andes and a single to the west², and a recent record from Santa Marta¹⁰. An adult in winter plumage at Laguna de Sonso, dpto. Valle, on 23 March 1996 is, therefore, only the second spring record west of the Andes and the second at the site, the first being in August 1994³.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

On 23 December 1995 and subsequent dates, an adult was observed below the village of Altaquer. This is the first Pacific slope record, and only the second for Nariño, the first being at Laguna de la Cocha in August 1995 (W. Beltrán pers. comm.).

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

A second-summer individual at Laguna de Sonso, dpto. Valle, on 10 March 2001 was the first departmental record and the first inland record in Colombia. Previous records included two reports from Buenaventura Bay, dpto. Valle² and a single in the Los Flamencos Sanctuary at Camarones, dpto. La Guajira⁴.

Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans*

Known in Colombia from a single record at Buenaventura, dpto. Valle². Until recently its regularity along the Pacific coast had been overlooked. Numerous sightings are now available and several specimens have been taken at Gorgona Island, dpto. Cauca (L. G. Naranjo pers. comm.). Its status in Ecuador, where it is now considered an uncommon to locally fairly common visitor to the entire coast, has also become better known recently⁷. On 5 January 1995 an adult winter was observed in Tumaco Sound among a small group of Royal Terns *S. maxima*, providing the first record for Nariño.

White-throated Quail-dove *Geotrygon frenata*

Unusually, a single was flushed from a track at 3,300 m in Ucumari reserve, dpto. Risaralda, on 13 March 2001 and was then observed in a pasture. This record represents an altitudinal

extension in Colombia from 2,500 m, although it has also been recorded to 3,300 m in Ecuador^{2,7}.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

A single was observed at dusk below the village of Altaquer, dpto. Nariño, on 31 December 1994. This is only the second site where the species has been recorded on the Pacific slope of Nariño⁶.

White-chinned Swift *Cypseloides cryptus*

On numerous occasions between October 1994 and August 1995, on days with low cloud and showers, at Cali I observed low-flying swift flocks, which appeared late afternoon and chiefly comprised White-collared Swifts *Streptoprocne zonaris* and Chestnut-collared Swifts *Cypseloides rutilus*. They usually appeared between 16h00 and 18h00, and always disappeared before the first bats arrived over the Cauca Valley from their roosts. Suitable days for observing these flocks soon became predictable. My interest stemmed from a desire to find White-chested Swift *C. lemosi*, which I failed to find here at least¹. However, twice I found White-chinned Swift *C. cryptus* among the other swifts. Two were present on 4 December 1994, with three on 8 May 1995.

Chapman's Swift *Chaetura chapmani*

A single, loosely associated with White-tipped Swifts *Aeronautes montivagus*, was at Parque Chicaque, dpto. Cundinamarca, on 1 March 2000, and represents the first record for the East Andes of Colombia. Identification to subspecies level was not made at the time, although given the season it is probable that the austral migrant form *viridipennis* was involved (C. T. Collins pers. comm.).

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*

This species' distribution in Colombia is surprisingly little known and sparse, given the ease with which it is identified. Until recently this swift's range was considered restricted to the Andean and Amazonian regions², but on 22–23 September 1998, at 200 m above Quebrada Valencia, dpto. Magdalena, c.5 birds were observed with Cliff Swallows *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* and Chestnut-collared Swifts *Cypseloides rutilus*, and two were observed at 750 m above the Minca Road, Santa Marta, on 20 March 2001, providing the first evidence of its presence in Caribbean Colombia, although it has subsequently been noted at several sites in this region by Strewé & Navarro¹⁰.

Scaled Piculet *Picumnus squamulatus*

In Colombia, the species is known only from the south and west sides of the Santa Marta Mountains^{2,10}. On 18 March 2001 a family party (two adults and three immatures) was observed at

750 m at the Minca Road, in the north-west corner of the Santa Marta Mountains, dpto. Magdalena, and singles were seen on 14 September 2002 at 850 m and 950 m.

Hooded Antpitta *Gallarecula cucullata*

A single was observed singing in dense scrub within a forest clearing near the cabin at La Pastora, Ucumarí reserve, dpto. Risaralda (2,400 m), on 19 September 1998. This is the second reserve record, the first being one mist-netted a few months previously (W. Beltrán pers. comm.).

Snowy-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus niveigularis*

On 4 July 1996 a single was present below Altaquer, dpto. Nariño (1,000 m), only the second site for the species in Colombia². In Ecuador, its presence in the north-west is seasonal, as birds reach the area from further south, suggesting that the species is only present in Colombia as a non-breeding migrant (June–November)⁷. It must, however, be uncommon, as this is the only record I possess from this site in four years of observations at the appropriate season.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx serripennis fulvipennis

On 7 February 1996, together with Marion McAusland and Valerie Cooper at Laguna de Sonso, dpto. Valle, I noticed that several rough-winged swallows feeding over the río Cauca did not show the characteristic pale rump typical of Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, but possessed uniform upperparts, with no obvious contrast between the rump, tail and mantle. In addition, the underparts were uniform pale brown, becoming whitish on the lower belly and vent, and lacked the orange tone to the throat, typical of *S. ruficollis*. We watched them feeding for c.15 minutes, and it was clear during the close views obtained that they were Northern Rough-winged Swallows *S. serripennis* of the Central American race *fulvipennis*. In total, I counted at least five amongst 10+ *S. ruficollis*, which were perched on a dead tree and flycatching over the river. On 4 September 2002 another two were observed feeding together over Laguna de Sonso. There has been some speculation as to the possible occurrence of the species in South America^{2,9,11}, with probably the best evidence to suggest that it could occur in the continent being sightings of what appeared to be transients in Central Panama⁸.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

A rare winter vagrant², thus two at 750 m and a single at 1,700 m on 18 March 2001 in the Santa Marta Mountains, dpto. Magdalena, are notable records for the country.

Pectoral Sparrow *Arremon taciturnus*

On 20 July 1995 an adult of the nominate race was identified at a forest border at San Cipriano (200 m), dpto. Valle. Given that this subspecies' known range lies east of the Andes, its occurrence here is highly unusual. A possible explanation is that it had escaped from cage-bird shipment out of the port of Buenaventura 15 km distant.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*

On 16 March 1996 a first-summer female was at Laguna de Sonso, dpto. Valle, the first departmental record and only the third for Colombia^{2,9}. Its occurrence here is probably the most southerly for this species in South America.

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina*

On 23 March 1996 1–2 females were observed in shrubbery alongside Laguna de Sonso, dpto. Valle. Though frequently recorded in the Santa Marta region, especially in Tayrona National Park, dpto. Magdalena² (D. Gandy pers. comm.), there are no inland reports. My record represents the first for dpto. Valle.

Red-breasted Blackbird *Sturnella militaris*

Found to be common in pastures below Altaquer, dpto. Nariño, with the first record on 31 July 1993. Though predicted for Nariño, previous records near Barbacoas did not eliminate the possibility of Peruvian Meadowlark *Sturnella bellicosa*², making my sightings the first records for Nariño.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A female was observed on a rooftop in Altaquer, dpto. Nariño, on 23 August 1993. This is the first montane record for the species and the first away from its previously described range in the Pacific coastal towns of Tumaco, Guapi and Buenaventura.

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