

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records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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<sup>1,2</sup> in Ecuador since 1936 was by Niels Krabbe of one 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<sup>2</sup>, 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<sup>1</sup>, a view not supported by Ecuadorian experience.

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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 x 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<sup>4</sup> 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.

**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 with a very slight reddish tinge obvious 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<sup>2</sup>. 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<sup>2,5</sup>, 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<sup>1,3,4</sup>. In winter it reaches as far south as the Pacific coast in Peru<sup>5</sup>, c. 1,800–2,000 km north-west of Tongoy.

#### References

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#### Third record of Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* for Argentina

Together with Guy Kirwan, we observed a single Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea* in Parque Nacional Iguazú on 16 March 1997. The bird was closely observed by RSRW and NW in flight and perched at the confluence of a small side-stream and the main river, 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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#### First record of Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* for Guyana

A Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* was observed on the Mahaicony River, c. 15 km south of its mouth, from a boat at c.10 m in good light on 19 January 1997. The lores were greenish grey, not yellow and the feet were plain yellow not golden-yellow. The legs appeared distinctly heavier than those of Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*, the rear of the legs could not be observed because of intervening foliage. Neck length could not be compared as the bird was hunched-up and did not move. It was in non-breeding plumage. Several Snowy Egrets were in the area but direct comparison was not possible. Although some supporting features were not noted, the lore colour is believed to be diagnostic. This represents the first record for Guyana, though it is not unexpected as the Barbados breeding colony now numbers at least 20 pairs and there is a recent record from Suriname (Paul Buckley pers. comm.).

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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<sup>33</sup>.

## Cuba

Muñoz & Bowles<sup>22</sup> document a pair of **Bananaquit** *Coereba flaveola* at Macizo Montañoso Guamuhaya, Cuba on 1 March 1994. This is apparently the second record for Cuba, the first being one collected in March 1965 in central Cuba.

Garrido<sup>12</sup> reports the first record of **Saffron Finch** *Sicalis flaveola* for the island, and Duque & Garrido<sup>10</sup> 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<sup>9</sup>. Blanco & Pérez<sup>5</sup> 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 & Ward<sup>16</sup> in the deep water west of Dominica are of interest: **Audubon's Shearwater** *Puffinus lherminieri* (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

Rivas<sup>29</sup> 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** *Phalaropus tricolor* and **Red-necked Phalaropus** *P. lobatus*; a juvenile **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus* photographed between Oviedo and Pedernales (no date); and a **skua** *Stercorarius* sp. near Montecristi on 6 January 1997. Rivas & López<sup>30</sup> 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. Latta<sup>17</sup> 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.*<sup>18</sup> and Hess<sup>15</sup> confirm the presence of **Olive-throated Parakeet** *Aratinga nana* in the country, reporting on new observations from Sierra da 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<sup>20</sup>.

### Mexico

Rodríguez-Estrella *et al.*<sup>31</sup> 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 Serranía 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<sup>3</sup>).

## South America

### Argentina

A **Spot-winged Falconet** *Spizapteryx circumcinctus* was on Isla Martín García, north-eastern Buenos Aires on 24 April 1993<sup>11</sup>. The species was previously only known from the extreme south-west of the province.

Christie & Rubulis<sup>6</sup> report the second specimen of **Ochre-flanked Tapaculo** *Eugralla 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** *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus* for Río Negro was a nest found near Chimpay on 20 January 1995<sup>25</sup>.

Reggio & de la Orden<sup>28</sup> 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.*<sup>32</sup> review published and unpublished records of **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* 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<sup>27</sup>.

De Lucca<sup>8</sup> reports the first successful nest of **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* in the country between 1990 and 1992, where a single fledgling remained for at least 10 months in the area.

Two **Sooty Grassquits** *Tiaris fuliginosa* collected in Iguazú National Park on 29 September and 18 October 1994 represent the first country record<sup>21</sup>.

de la Peña<sup>23</sup> 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. strepera* 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** *Phrygilus carbonarius* at Península Valdés on 1 January 1987. In a second paper, the same author<sup>24</sup> 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** *Micrastur 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; an **Ornate Warbling-finch** *Poospiza ornata* near Grütly on 1 May 1989. Other noteworthy records for Santa Fé are: a pair of **Dusky-legged Guans** *Penelope obscura* near Tacuarendí and another at Las Claritas on 27 July 1995; two and one **Yellow-breasted Crakes** *Poliolimnas flaviventer* at Saladero Cabal on 20 October 1986 and west of Los Amores on 8 November 1989; a nesting **Rufous Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufus* east of Villa Ocampo on 1 November 1991; two **Toco Toucans** *Ramphastos toco* north of Villa Guillermina on 28 November 1995; **Grey-headed Tyrannulets** *Serpophaga griseiceps* south of Wildermuth on 23 February 1991 and 1 March 1992, and north of Calchaquí on 3 May and 10 June 1992, and 15 July 1993; a pair of **Blue-billed Black-tyrants** *Knipolegus cyanirostris* close to Aguará Grande on 24 November 1983; a pair of **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa* east of Los Amores on 3 October 1990; several **Blue-hooded Euphonias** *Euphonia aureata* at Cayastá on 13 May 1988; a pair and a male **Purple-throated Euphonia** *E. chlorotica* at Los Amores on 13 June 1976 and 1 October 1989, and a pair west of Calchaquí on 14 April 1989; a male **Lined Seedeater** *Sporophila lineola* at Villa Ana on 9 February 1978 and a pair at río Salado on 4 February 1994; **White-bellied Seed eaters** *S. leucoptera* were at El Rabón on 25 September 1972, near Tacuarendí on 15 November 1986, at Reconquista on 16 May 1992, at Romang on 7 October 1995 and east of La Florencia on 29 November 1995; two lone and a breeding pair of **Ringed Warbling-finches** *Poospiza torquata* at Esperanza on 4 June 1972, 30 April 1989 and 10 November 1995, and another at Pozo Borrado on 27 January 1988. For Entre Ríos province, noteworthy records include: three **Least Grebes** *Tachybaptus dominicus* at Colonia Villa Nueva on 13 July 1993; **Plumbeous Ibis** *Theristicus caerulescens* at San Jaime and Paso Telégrafo on 19 September 1993 and 10 October 1993; two **Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures** *Cathartes burrovianus* at Arroyo Yacaré on 18 December 1991; an **Osprey** at Puerto Campichuelo on 5 March 1993; several **Dusky-legged Guans** north of La Barranca on 15 January 1993 and at Puerto Campichuelo on 8 February and 5 March 1993; **American Golden Plovers** *Pluvialis dominicus* at Lucas Norte and near Gualeguay on 13 and 27 November 1991; several **Upland Sandpipers** *Bartramia longicauda* at Sauce Sud on 27 November 1991 and La Armonía and Moreira on 4 March 1993; **Snowy-crowned Terns** *Sterna trudeaui* at El Emplame on 17 September 1991 and Villaguay on 12 October 1992; four **Blue-headed Parakeets** *Aratinga acuticaudata* at Villa Urquiza on 24 September 1992; several **White-eyed Parakeets** *A. leucophthalmus* at San Victor and Concordia on 18 December 1991 and 4 November 1993; single **Southern Scrub-flycatchers** *Sublegatus modestus* at Paso Telégrafo on 10 October 1993; several **Sand Martins** *Riparia riparia* at Puerto Campichuelo on 5 March 1993; and two **Many-coloured Chaco-finches** *Saltatricula multicolor* at Alvear on 16 October 1979.

### Bolivia

Herzog *et al.*<sup>14</sup> 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); **Maroon-chested Ground-dove** *Claravis mondetoura* (500 m below its usual elevational range); **Red-fronted Macaw** *Ara rubrogenys* (just one bird during a survey of the Río Caine, Potosí department, four at Novillero, Cochabamba, and up to 116 birds at Hacienda Uyuni, Potosí in late June and early July); **Canary-winged Parakeet** *Brotogeris versicolurus* (first records for La Paz department); **Montane Screech-owl** *Otus hoyi* (records from between 1,100–1,250 m at Río Azero, Chuquisaca department); **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrisi* (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 their 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 km<sup>2</sup>); **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner** *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata* (regularly seen at 1,000 m at Río Azero, 300 m below its known altitudinal range); **Spot-billed Ground-tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maculiostris* (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. cinereum* (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

Aleixo<sup>2</sup> 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

Porteous<sup>26</sup> 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 note-worthy observations presented in Madroño & Esquivel<sup>19</sup>. 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 hypothetical<sup>13</sup>. Several records of **Sungrebe** *Heliornis fulica* on the Jejuími river confirm the species' status in the reserve, where it was listed without documentation by Acevedo *et al.*; 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 Paraguay<sup>13</sup>. 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** *Nyctiphrynus 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 male **Temminck's**

**Seedeater** *Sporophila falcirostris* were located in June 1995, having previously been known in Paraguay from a single 1977 record. **Marsh Seedeater** *S. palustris*, although erroneously reported for the Parque<sup>7,13</sup>, 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 Seedeater** *S. ruficollis*, one male **Rufous-rumped Seedeater** *S. hypochroma*, both new for the Department, and up to three male **Chestnut Seedeater** *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.

## Peru

Wilkinson & Smith<sup>34</sup> 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.*<sup>4</sup> report new records for the summit of Auyán-tepui, Bolívar state from a month long survey (1 February–1 March 1994). They recorded 21 new species for the summit avifauna including two especially noteworthy records. **Tepui Tinamou** *Crypterellus ptaritepui* observations and four specimens, represent a range extension of 50 km for this threatened species<sup>7</sup>. A single **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrisi* 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.

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