

Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains three sections. The first consists of short papers documenting records. Photos and descriptions are published where appropriate. The second section summarises records published elsewhere, following the format established in previous issues of *Cotinga*, and the third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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 Guadeloupe³. 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 (Matanzas 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. Its dorsal surface was seen several times as it flew quite high over the water, and the wing-tip pattern was very distinct, appearing paler than Laughing Gull due to the obvious black and white bands, the broad outer edge was white with a black subterminal band, bordered on the inner side by a white band, which was also very conspicuous. Franklin's Gull breeds in central North America and winters primarily along the Pacific coast of South America, south to southern Chile (also Galápagos). It is less common at this season north to Mexico and rare on high Andean lakes in Peru and Bolivia, and occasionally reaches north to

FRANKLIN'S GULL

14 April 1999
Playa Larga
10:30 AM
clear, breezy.



- wings appeared more rounded than Laughing Gull, which were longer and pointed.
- general coloration paler, not as dark-mantled as Laughing Gull, but only seen a few times on the dorsal surface as it flew quite high over the water.
- wing tip pattern distinctive - appeared paler than Laughing Gull, due to obvious black and white pattern; broad outer edge white with subterminal black band, broad and clearly defined. Bordered on inner side of black mark by a white band, also very clearly defined.
- flew with several (c.10) Laughing Gulls in a tight group for side-by-side comparison, body and wings distinctly smaller than Laughing Gull.
- aged as definitive alternate by plumage; black hood and white border to wing tips.

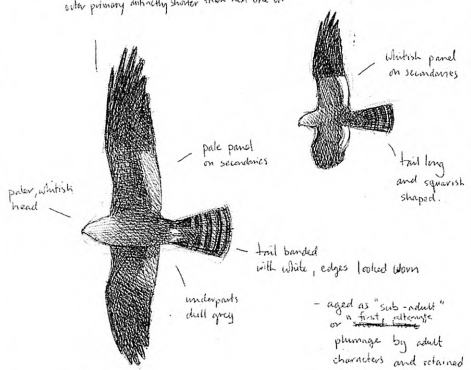
Observers:

Mark Mason	David Redfield
John Keenleyside	Diana Lutz
Bill & Pam Johnson	James Burt
John Sears	Robert Russell
Carol Lewis	Ruth Kress
Peter Thiel	Peter Burke
Margellen Skan	Arburo Kirkcaldy
Colin Blodau	Bernard Grano

MISSISSIPPI KITE (3)

Ventral View
outer primary distinctly darker than rest of wing

Dorsal View



- aged as "sub-adult" or a "first alternate plumage" by adult characters and retained tail of juvenile.

April 17, 1999
Location: Boca Juvenco; one kilometer west of Rio Juvenco; Habana Province

- all three birds were immature; they had barred tails, not dark, solid tails that adults would have.
- they were all soaring and diving into the smoke of a brush fire beside the Highway. We observed them for about half an hour. Photographs were taken. (see ~~attached~~ photos)

Field sketches by Peter Burke

central coastal California and Florida¹.

Our record of Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis* represents the first for Cuba and the West Indies. The only kite that regularly migrates through Cuba is Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*. This observation was made 17 April 1999, when three individuals were seen by PB and 15 participants of a commercial birding tour at Boca de Jaruco, 1 km west of Río Jaruco, Havana province. All three were in first alternate plumage with banded tails (not all-dark as in adults); pale whitish heads; dull grey underparts; pale, whitish panel on secondaries; and long, square-tipped tail. They were observed soaring and foraging within the smoke from a brush fire beside the highway for 30 minutes (see sketches). Mississippi Kite breeds in the south-east USA and largely winters in central South America, where it is principally recorded in Paraguay and northern Argentina; scattered sight reports exist in winter north to south Texas and Florida, but the vast majority lack documentation¹.

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The nest of the Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus* in Costa Rica

The breeding biology of the Snowy Cotinga *Carpodectes nitidus* is almost unknown¹. In April 1999, near the village of Canalete, 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.

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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, Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia a 2.600 msnm. Este registro coincide con la época reproductiva de ambas especies¹ y

es el primer registro de parasitismo de *M. bonariensis* en el género *Cistothorus*³.

El Cucarachero de Pantano es un ave endémica de las elevaciones altas (2.400–4.000 msnm) de los departamentos de Cundinamarca y Boyacá (Colombia)^{1,2} y amenazada de extinción por la acelerada destrucción de su hábitat, conformado por la vegetación emergente de humedales y por bosques adyacentes de aliso *Alnus acuminata*¹. Aunque la presencia de *M. bonariensis* en los departamentos mencionados no es reciente (J. Hernández com. pers.), es posible que sus hábitos reproductivos sean bastante negativos sobre las poblaciones del Cucarachero de Pantano, como ya se ha documentado para varias especies en el Caribe⁶. Dado el tiempo de la observación se descarta la posibilidad de que el pichón estuviera siendo alimentado simultáneamente por varios hospederos, como ha sido reportado para *Molothrus ater*⁴.

Dado el delicado estado de conservación del Cucarachero de Pantano, es necesario considerar al Chamón Maicero como una probable amenaza para sus poblaciones como también para las de otras especies endémicas que habitan los humedales como la monjita *Agelaius icterocephalus bogotensis*⁵ y que este factor se debe tener en cuenta en el momento al emprender proyectos de investigativos y/o conservacionistas en la región.

Agradecimientos

Al grupo de Ornitología de la Universidad Nacional junto a quienes se visitó el humedal La Conejera. A F. Gary Stiles y Jorge Botero por la revisión del manuscrito.

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Figures 1–2. Adult Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*, San Cristobal, Galápagos, 9 August 1978 (H. Lee Jones)

2. Hilty, S. L. & Brown, W. L. (1986) *A guide to the birds of Colombia*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
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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 Goldfrank, 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.

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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 flicked 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 1980s¹. It is best known from the area around Abra Malaga in Cuzco. Considered highly threatened, due to *Polylepis* deforestation, its population has been estimated to be as low as 100–150². The species' rediscovery in Bolivia offers the hope that it may also be located in other areas. Nonetheless, the population in the Puina area, may be the only such within an officially protected area. Furthermore, the protection of these *Polylepis* forest cannot be taken for granted; on the contrary, they remain highly threatened.

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

During recent fieldwork in Bolivia we observed two species not previously reported in the country^{1,6}. 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. Krabbe (*in litt.*) as *Bolborhynchus lineola*. Prior to this, F. Sagot (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 Mayer⁴. These records represent a significant southern range extension for this patchily distributed species, which was previously only known from as far south as Cuzco, Peru^{2,3}.

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 upperparts 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 Peru⁷. However, it appears to be rare and local in the Asunta Pata area, where two previous expeditions (Parker & Bailey⁵ and S. Cardiff and J. V. Remsen *in litt.*) failed to record the species. Contrary to Ridgely & Tudor⁷, it was not found in an area with impoverished soil, but in rather tall forest on clayey soil.

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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 Indies⁵. 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 Indies⁶.

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 record⁵.

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 Scaur on 14 November was the fifth record for Bermuda and the first for 22 years. An **Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapillus*, on 22 June^{2,3,6} was an unusual summer record.

Cuba

Wallace *et al.*⁸ report interesting records from Cayo Coco, Archipiélago de Sabana-Camagüey (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 cucullatus* (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 swainsoni*, 2–3 **Kentucky Warblers** *Oporornis 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 1998⁵.

Jamaica

A **Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus*, heard at Caymanas Ponds west of Kingston in January 1999, was apparently only the second island record this decade⁵.

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 species¹.

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. Three **Southern Lapwings** *Vanellus chilensis* were reported in the San Isidro area on 13 March 2000, one of the very few records in Costa Rica⁴.

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil

Three **Great Blue Herons** *Ardea herodias* on the Anavilhanas Archipelago, on 20 October 1997, were the first country record⁷.

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** *Pachyrhamphus 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. **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant** *Anairetes alpinus* is still present in the Choquetanga Valley; in 1998, up to two were seen on 13 and 15 September. Additional records of **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* in the country involved c.200 between Santa Rosa de La Roca to San Javier, Santa Cruz, in mid-October 1999, and 2,000 in the southern part of Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, 25 km north of Santa Rosa de La Roca, on 8 November 1999 (DR).

Brazil

Two additional reports (about the fourth and fifth country records) of **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* from the Pantanal are as follows: c.20 over the Transpantaneira, between Poconé and the rio Pixiam on 12 October 1999 and a total of 63 at Chapada dos Guimarães on 14 October 1999 (PO).

Chile

A breeding-plumaged **Hooded Grebe** *Podiceps gallardoi* was observed c.10 km east of Porvenir, Region XII, on 30 October 1997. There is only one previous published report from the country (see *Cotinga* 11: 100). Other interesting reports include two **Bank Swallows** *Riparia riparia* at Laguna El Peral, Valparaíso, on

12 November 1997, and two **American Redstarts** *Setophaga ruticilla*, at Putre, Tarapacá province, on 22 November 1997 (MF).

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 Pálpite, 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** *Oporornis formosus* near Playa Girón, 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 **Bananaquit** *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-**



billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (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 Río, 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 rio Bombuscaro and Zamora, on 5–6 October; two **White-tailed Hillstar** *Urochroa bougueri* c.5 km upstream from the park headquarters on 15 October; a **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet** *Phaeomyias murina* at La Fragrancia, 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 nigriceps* near rio Bombuscaro headquarters on 16 October (OJ only); and several records of **Guira Tanager** *Hemithraupis guira* in the rio Bombuscaro and La Fragrancia 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 rio Bombuscaro section of the park. A **Rufous-browed Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes supercilii* was reported with a mixed-species flock at Bombuscaro, 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).

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