

Neotropical Notebook



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 The third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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

SHORT NOTES

Recent 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^{1,9}. 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 Yucatán¹⁰, 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 AOU¹ 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* gulls².

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 gonyx 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^{3,8,9}, all of which have been adults.

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*

A first-winter in apparently full juvenile plumage^{6,11} was at the mouth of the río Ameca, Nayarit/Jalisco, on 9 January 2000

(SNGH, KB; Figs. 3–4). This latitude ties in with the previous southernmost records of this Pacific Rim gull, from Isla Socorro¹², and is the first record from mainland Mexico south of Baja California⁹.

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^{7,9}.

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 coast⁹.

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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 Jardín Botánico 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 toucans⁸. We considered this perhaps an example of courtship feeding^{1,5} 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 others' 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. Skutch⁷ reports what may have been bill-to-bill pushing dominance contests in *P. frantzii*. 'Dueling' with bills appears widespread among rhamphastids⁹ and their use in social interactions⁶ may prove to be one answer to the ancient puzzle of the function of their giant bills^{7,9}. 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*². Stable interspecific hierarchies related to feeding occur among other frugivores³, 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)⁴. 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.

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- 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*, rio 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)

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- 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 undeterred 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 PW's original suspicions were entirely correct! KC had, unsurprisingly, never even heard of the species. Realising that it was almost certainly a first record for Trinidad and Tobago, and possibly the Caribbean, I began to make careful mental notes of the relevant features, while trying to ensure that all members of the group saw it. Unfortunately, during the ten minutes that it was under scrutiny, it frequently disappeared behind some vegetation. There was, however, no doubt of the identification: I have previously seen three in England (where it is also rare), one at Eilat, Israel, and six in Goa, India.
- It was noticeably larger than the Semipalmated Sandpipers, among which it initially fed c.200 m away, but as it passed close to a Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria* *interpres* it was observed to be less bulky but approximately the same size as that species. The crown, upperparts and breast were pale to medium grey, contrasting with the white underparts. The bill was dark, long and distinctly upturned. The orange-yellow legs were relatively short. It had a marked horizontal stance and as it ran forwards it leaned forward and bobbed its rear in the manner of a Spotted *Actitis macularia* or Common Sandpiper *A. hypoleucos*.
- 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 French pers. comm.). There are only three previous records in the Neotropics, two in Argentina and one in Brazil'.
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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 *Boissonneaua jardini*, White-faced Nunbird *Haploptila castanea*, Toucan Barbet *Semnornis ramphastinus*, Tyrannine Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla tyrannina*, Yellow-breasted Antpitta *Grallaria flavotincta*, 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.

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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 Andes^{1–4}. The subspecies *hylodroma* of west Ecuador is known from 1,200 to 2,000 m^{3,4}. In contrast, most other observations of *G. gigantea* have been at 2,300–3,000 m^{1,4}. Based on numbers singing, de Soye *et al.*⁴ 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 pastures³. The species is currently considered Endangered⁵.

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.*⁴, 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.

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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 elsewhere⁵. Here we present additional records of species with few previous state records⁷, 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 Baú (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 Pirai (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 Rosário⁷ 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 Ratonas, on 17 September 1998 (LNN). Rosário⁷ 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 Pirai on 4 October 1995 (JAT) and another flew over Morro da Igreja, Urubici, on 14 June 1998 (LNN). Rosário⁷ lists five previous state records, but the Pirai record is the first

from the north-east and only the second from the littoral. Sick⁸ noted that the species is extending its range in eastern Brazil due to deforestation.

Ash-throated Crake *Porzana albicollis*

One was seen well in flight, in the Pirai valley, on 2 October 1995 (JAT). Also found on Ilha de Santa Catarina, where considered a common resident (LNN). Rosário⁷ listed five previous localities, all in the south of the state, though she does not provide details. The Pirai 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 state⁷.

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)⁹, 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 common⁴. One calling at Itapoá, on 15 October 1998 (LNN, MAGA, ALR). There are only two other localities with recent records in the state⁷, 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 region⁷. Probably this is another species that has been overlooked in Santa Catarina.

Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenidera maculirostris*

Three were seen at Salto do Pirai on 4 October 1995 (JAT). Single individuals were seen at Morro do Baú on 20 April 1997 (unrecorded there by Marterer³) and Salto do Pirai on 26 April 1997, and up to four at Itapoá on 21 April 1998 (LNN). Rosário⁷ considered it rare in Santa Catarina, with the most recent record from 1968, at Camboriú, although it was subsequently recorded at Salto do Pirai².

Pale-breasted Spinetail*Synallaxis albescens*

One in a shrubby, degraded area by the road to Salto do Pirai, 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 1989⁷. It is presumably more widespread in the state, especially given increasing deforestation.

Rufous-breasted Leaf-tosser*Sclerurus scansor*

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 resident⁴. On 9 April 1997, a pair at Salto do Pirai 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 Pirai in 1928⁷. The species was considered rare in Santa Catarina⁷ and uncommon in northern Rio Grande do Sul¹.

Pale-browed Treehunter*Cichlocolaptes leucophrus*

Records from Salto do Pirai 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 known⁷. Previously recorded at Joinville⁸.

Dusky-tailed Antbird *Drymophila malura*

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 rare¹.

Bay-ringed Tyrannulet*Phylloscartes sylviolus*

All records were at Salto do Pirai: 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 collected⁹, but there were no subsequent records⁷.

Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*

On 10 April 1997, a single bird was observed on the edge of secondary forest at Salto do Pirai (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)⁴. There appear to be just three published records for the state, all from the littoral, with the most

recent in October 1986⁷, 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 Catarina⁴. There are only six other localities in the state⁷, 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-east⁷.

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–March⁴. There are only four other recent records in the state, all in the eastern third⁷.

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 1992⁷.

Long-billed Gnatwren*Ramphocaelus 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

1980), at Itapiranga near the Argentine border, in the westernmost part of the state⁷. The only other record involves a specimen from Joinville, taken in 1928, housed in MNRJ⁷. Sick⁸ listed the species' coastal range in Brazil as being from Pará to Santa Catarina, while Ridgely & Tudor⁵ described its coastal range as Pernambuco to southern São Paulo.

Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*

One seen and heard at Salto do Pirai on 4 October 1995 (JAT) appears to be the fifth state record⁷, 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, Itapoá, 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 sight records in the state, most in the littoral⁷.

Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*

A group, on 22 May 1998, at Volta Velha, Itapoá (LNN, MAGA) and heard at the same locality in July 2000 (LNN, CAM). There are only four other recent records in the state⁷.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Mitchell *et al.*³⁵ 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 1998⁵¹.

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 Caribbean⁴⁷.

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 1999²¹.

Jamaica

The fourth **Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* for the island was at Aylsham, St. Andrew, from 3 February 2000 for at least a month²⁵. Two **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber* were at Falmouth in winter 1998⁶.

St. Vincent & Grenadines

Smith & Smith⁵⁰ recently (May 1998) reconfirmed the presence of **Rufous-vented Chachalaca** *Ortalis 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 herbicola* 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 M/V Temptress²⁵. 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. caerulescens* at La Virgen del Socorro, on 17 September; and a female **Cerulean Warbler** *D. cerulea* in Montezuma during early September²⁶.

Mexico

Morales-Pérez *et al.*³⁷ 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** *Microcerculus marginatus* has been published recently from observations in 1996 and 1997¹⁸. Elsewhere, interesting distributional and elevational information for 18 species is presented in a recent paper based on a visit to the Cerro Chucantí, within the Serranía de Majé, in 1996⁴. More recent records include several reports of **Chocó Toucan** *Ramphastos brevis*, potentially the first verifiable country record, at Cana, Darién, in late March to mid-April 2000, and a **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* at Panamá Viejo, on 9 March 2000². Subsequently, the third country record of **Fulvous Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*, a flock of 33 at Las Macanas marsh on 14 July 2000, was made, and other interesting reports included two **Lanceolated Monklet** *Micromonacha 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 glabricollis* and **Black-and-white Becard** *Pachyramphus albogriseus*, 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 country³.

SOUTH AMERICA**Argentina**

There have been many interesting observations published recently. The second country record of **Wren-like Rushbird** *Phleocryptes melanops schoenobaenus* was made at Abra Pampa, in Jujuy province³², 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 species³³. Acerbo¹ details occurrences of **Chiguanco Thrush** *Turdus chiguanco* from Neuquén and Río Negro provinces, where only a few records existed. The second record of **Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus*, first confirmed records of **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius* and **Spectacled Owl** *Pulsatrix perspicillata* and first record of **Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus (Scaphidura) oryzivorus* were reported from Chaco province¹⁶. **Black-backed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus aureoventris* has been reported for the first time in Chaco province, and for the second in Formosa province¹⁷. A straggler **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 Miramar⁸. A **Magellanic Oystercatcher** *Haematopus leucopodus* observed at Mar de Cobo, Buenos Aires, was the third provincial record⁹. Baigorria¹⁰ 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** *Saltatricula multicolor* were reported for Buenos Aires province, along with a number of other seldom-recorded species in that province²². Three records, involving immatures, of **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, observed near Colonia Liebig, are the first confirmed reports from Corrientes province¹⁵. Maceda *et al.*²⁹ 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 trudeaui*, 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** *Spartonicoa*

maluroides, a pair observed near Santa Rosa. The southernmost record of **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa* was one observed in spring, at Reserva Natural Punta Lara, Buenos Aires province³⁶. **Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma* was reported for the first time in Salta province, at El Rey National Park¹⁹.

Two **Elliot's Storm-petrels** *Oceanites gracilis*, collected in El Bolsón, Rio Negro, 12 years apart, are the first country records³⁴, as were up to four **Chestnut-throated Huet-huet** *Pteroptochos castaneus* found at Reserva Natural Turística Lagunas de Epulauquen, Neuquén⁴⁵. Navas & Bó⁴⁰ report the first concrete records of **White-tipped Plantcutter** *Phytotoma rutila*, **Correndera Pipit** *Anthus correndera*, **Plain Seedeater** *Catamenia inornata* and **Greater Yellow-finch** *Sicalis auriventris* in San Juan province, and the first **Hellmayr's Pipit** *Anthus hellmayri* in Mendoza province, all based on specimens obtained by W. H. Partridge in 1963. The nest of the **Stripe-headed Brush-finch** *Buarremon torquatus* is described for the first time, from the Baritú National Park, Salta²⁴.

Straneck⁵² presents the following noteworthy records: a male **Green-backed Firecrown** *Sephanoides sephanioides* observed during winter and spring 1998 in Calamuchita, Córdoba, is the second provincial record; the first confirmed reports of **Ash-throated Crake** *Porzana albicollis* for Jujuy and Santa Fe based on tape recordings; and up to three **Black Rails** *Laterallus jamaicensis* in December 1992 near El Bolsón, Rio Negro, are a southward range extension of more than 1,000 km. Two observations of **Mourning Sierra-finch** *Phrygilus fruticeti* near Calamuchita, Córdoba, are the second and third provincial records, and two **Carbonated Sierra-finches** *P. carbonarius* observed near Colonia Belgrano, Santa Fe, represent the first record in that province.

Brazil

Bauer *et al.*¹³ 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.*³⁴ similarly on **Kaempfer's Tody-tyrant** *Hemitriccus kaempferi*. Naka *et al.*³⁸ 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. Maurício & Dias³¹ 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. Borges¹⁴ presents the first country records of **Yapacana Antbird** *Myrmeciza disjuncta*, from Jaú 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 Brazil⁴¹. Petry *et al.*⁴⁶ 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 *Melopsittacus* include the following. Vasconcelos & Roos⁵⁴ provide new records of birds from Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo, São Paulo, while Nascimento & Neto³⁹ 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** *Pyrrhura cruentata* has been summarised³⁰, while elsewhere the northward spread of **Screaming Cowbird** *Molothrus*

rufoxillaris in Minas Gerais is documented⁵. Elsewhere, Dias²³ reports the first occurrence of the exotic **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* in Brazil, a pair on the Rio Grande do Sul–Uruguay border, at Chuí, on 23–24 February 1998, with further observations in October 1998 and February 1999. Bauer & Pacheco¹¹ 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 Pacheco⁴³ separately updates the avifauna of Amapá state from a new study of the literature, providing novel information for 17 species.

Colombia

Based on field work in Nariño in 1996–1998, Strewé⁵³ 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 alleni* was rediscovered, in late 1995, at Otún-Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, in the Central Andes²⁷.

Ecuador

Moustached Antpitta *Grallaria alleni* 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 Andes²⁷. Specimens were taken in 1992 and 1994. Ortiz-Crespo⁴² 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 light⁴⁸.

Uruguay

A pair of **Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa* was found nesting in Colonia department⁷. Recent avifaunal work in north-west dpto. Artigas produced the first country records of **Large Elaenia** *Elaenia spectabilis* and **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa*¹⁹. **Rufous Gnateater** *Conopophaga lineata* has recently been added to the list of species reliably recorded from the country (see Brazil above)³¹.

Venezuela

Colvee²⁰ 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 **Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi* was at Teal Inlet, on 13 May–4 July. A **Rosy-billed Pochard** *Netta peposaco* was on Saunders Island, in December 1999, moving to Pebble Island, on 27 January–12 February. Other vagrants included an **American Purple Gallinule** *Porphyryula 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.*¹³ 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 serripennis* 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 cyanocephala* 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** *Limnithlypis 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 flavifrons* 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 serripennis* 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 serripennis* on 17 March and a **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* the following day (MT).

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