## **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 The third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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

# First records of Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicensis in Colombia

Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicensis breeds in North America and through much of the Antilles, and winters in Middle America south to Panama<sup>1</sup>, with one record in South America, from Venezuela (in Mérida during February 1992)2. In November 1999 and 2000 we monitored Nearctic raptor migration at Fredonia (05°54'N 75°43'W), dpto. Antioquia, north-west Colombia. While observing large movements of Swainson's Buteo swainsoni and Broad-winged Hawks B. platypterus, we observed a total of three Red-tailed Hawks B. jamaicensis; a solitary adult on 5 November 1999, an adult on 20 March 2000 among a Swainson's Hawk flock, and a lone juvenile on 9 November 2000. The first was flying slowly, c.200 m from the observation point; it had broad, fairly rounded wings, dark mantle with whitish underparts, and a distinct reddish tail from above. The second individual possessed the same plumage pattern, and was heavier bodied than Swainson's Hawk. The juvenile was identified mainly by its greybrown tail with many blackish bands. These records are the first for Colombia.

#### Acknowledgements

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

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#### The first White-chested Swift Cypseloides lemosi in Amazonian Colombia

White-chested Swift Cypseloides lemosi is known from several localities in Colombia, between Cali and Popayán in dptos. Valle and Cauca<sup>1,3</sup>, several sight records since 1990 mostly in the foothills and subtropical zone of Napo Province, Ecuador<sup>1,5</sup>, and a recent record from the Cordillera del Condor, Peru<sup>6</sup>. Its ecology is little

known though Stiles & Negret7 noted that in late September-October at Las Guacas, dpto. Cauca, Colombia, the first heavy showers of the rainy season trigger the emergence of swarms of small beetles which attract large numbers of swifts including C. lemosi. Breeding behaviour is unknown. Eisenmann & Lehmann<sup>2</sup> reported flocks of 20-25 individuals, occasionally within mixed-species flocks of swifts, and always at 16h30-18h30 in the Cali-Santander area, suggesting 'roosting' aggregations. However, observations above Cali in October 1994-August 1995 revealed such flocks to comprise White-collared Streptoprocne zonaris, Chestnutcollared Cypseloides rutilus and, twice, White-chinned Swifts C. cryptus (CD pers. obs.).

On 8 March 2000 near Leticia, dpto. Amazonas, Colombia (2 km east of km 11 on the main road north of Leticia), we observed a large mixed flock of Chaetura swifts, 50-100 m above an area of cleared forest. Interest in the flock stemmed from our previous day's observation of a Grev-rumped Swift Chaetura cinereiventris among Ashy-tailed C. andrei and Short-tailed Swifts C. brachvura. which is a notable record for Amazonian Colombia. While attempting to relocate the Greyrumped Swift we noticed a large dark swift with a distinct white (apparently heart-shaped) breast patch, which was its most notable feature. Experience of Whitecollared Swift and an awareness of the identification features and potential for Biscutate Swift Streptoprocne biscutata to occur in Colombia enabled us to quickly eliminate both these. The bird's size and structure were those of a Cypseloides. In comparison to the accompanying Ashy-tailed and Short-tailed Swifts it was marginally larger and darker, lacking any pale areas on the

rump and uppertail-coverts, with apparently uniform upperparts and no white collar. It had a proportionately longer tail and longer, blunter wings than the butter-knife-shaped pointed wings of *Chaetura* spp. or the bulging secondaries of Short-tailed Swift.

Sight records at Yuturi Lodge, eastern Napo, Ecuador, in July—August 1996 and August 1998<sup>5</sup> suggest that movements from the Andes into the Amazonian lowlands, perhaps during postbreeding dispersal, may not be unusual and that our record at Leticia was perhaps to have been expected.

#### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Sean Scalon, Nick Bird and Julie Simmonds for their company in March 2000 and all those we have birded with in Colombia during the last ten years.

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

Fasciated Tiger-heron Tigrisoma fasciatum occurs east of the Andes near fast-flowing mountain streams1. Here I report the first observations in Surinam. On 22-23 May and 25 June 2001 a T. fasciatum was seen near Foengoe islet, in the Coppename River. It was perched on a stone below a bush near the riverbank, hunting for fish by a large rapid, on the two first-named dates, and was seen flying across the river in the same area on 25 June. The bird was mainly dark bluish-grey with finely barred neck-sides, whitish foreneck (marked darker) and belly. The crown was very dark bluish-grey and the bill black with a vellow base. The throat was naked and yellow. Its size and structure were much as Rufescent Tiger-heron T. lineatum.

I showed the relevant plate in The birds of Venezuela<sup>1</sup> to some Kwinti Bush Negros, who live in this area and whom I regard as fairly good birdwatchers. They recognised the species, stating that it is rarer than T. lineatum and that it tends to hide. The Kwinti also reported that it inhabits areas upstream of Foengoe islet along tributaries of the upper Coppename, but had never observed it below Foengoe islet. The area the Kwinti described is part of the 1.6-million ha Central Surinam Nature Reserve and possesses some fast-flowing

streams. My observations, together with the report of the Kwinti, imply that a population of the species occurs on the upper Coppename River. (For distribution maps of *T. fasciatum* and *T. lineatum* in Surinam see http://www1.nhl.nl/~ribot/php4/verspreiding.htm.). In addition, Michel Clément observed two *Tigrisoma fasciatum*, at saut Ananas, in the upper Mana River area of French Guiana, during 24 to 30 July 1995, which is just to the east of Surinam.

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Crimson Fruitcrow

Haematoderus militaris feeding
on Cecropia sciadophylla

On 29-31 August and 11 November 2001 a male Crimson Fruitcrow Haematoderus militaris was recorded near a camp between the Voltzberg and Van Stockum Mountains, within the Central Surinam Nature Reserve. The bird was seen and heard in August but only heard in November. In the morning of 31 August it was observed feeding on seeds of Cecropia sciadophylla. Foods of this species, as specifically recorded in the literature, are large insects such as beetles1 and cicadas2, making the present observation of interest and confirming Snow's supposition that the species is also a fruiteater. Interestingly Snow<sup>3</sup> also mentions that 'Schomburgk (1848) reported it as a migrant in the Kanuku Mountains of southern Guyana, occurring only in June and July (the wet season) when the fruits that it eats are ripe'.

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## New altitudinal record of Brown Violetear Colibri delbhinge

Consultation of Ridgely & Greenfield1 permits researchers in Ecuador to easily determine possible range extensions. On 24 July 2000, we captured a Brown Violetear Colibri delphinae in a mist-net c.1 km north of the protected forest of El Tundo near Sozoranga, Loja, at 2,250 m. The site was dominated by shrub habitat of the Melastomataceae family and within 50 m of the edge of a narrow corridor of riparian forest dominated by Neotropical Walnut Juglans neotropica with thickets in the understorey of bamboo Chusquea spp. Brown Violetear is rare in southern Ecuador, and has previously been recorded mainly in Zamora-Chinchipe province to the east1. This record is the first known capture in Loja province, and was also at an elevation much higher than most of those previously recorded1.

#### Acknowledgements

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

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#### First nest record of Scarletshouldered Parrotlet Touit huetii

Current literature presents very few data on timing of breeding for Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet Touit huetii and nothing regarding its nesting behaviour. A male in apparent breeding condition was reported in Venezuela in April, and possible nesting from Mato Grosso, Brazil, in September-December<sup>3,6</sup>. We observed a pair excavating a presumed nest in an arboreal termitarium 2 m above ground on 11 October 2001 near Pantiacolla Lodge, by the río Madre de Dios. Peru. The incomplete cavity was c.15 cm deep and had an entrance hole 8 cm wide; the termitarium itself was quite small, c.50 cm deep and c.30 cm broad. Both individuals excavated over a 20minute period. The timing (in mid-dry season) coincides with peak breeding activity in most bird species in lowland forests of southeast Peru7. Though very few nesting records exist for any Touit (many members of this Neotropical genus being inconspicuous or apparently nomadic), nests have been reported in tree holes and arboreal termitaria<sup>3,6</sup>. It is likely that Touit parrotlets, like some Aratinga and Brotogeris parakeets, regularly breed in the arboreal nests of social insects, joining a rather long list of birds that are known to do SO1,2,4,5

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#### A new site for Royal Cinclodes Cinclodes aricomae and other noteworthy records from the Ilampu Valley, Bolivia

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Parque Nacional y Area Manejo Integrado (Cotapata) covers c.60,000 ha in the Andes northeast of La Paz, Bolivia.
Encompassing an altitudinal range of 1,100–5,600 m in the Cordillera La Paz (within the Cordillera Real), Cotapata has a rich diversity of ecosystems, one of the most imperilled of which is semi-humid *Polylepis* woodland.

The Ilampu Valley, in the southwest corner of Cotapata (16°15'S 68°01'W) supports fragments of this fragile ecosystem, of which only c.2% is extant along the entire east slope of the Bolivian

Andes4. In Ilampu, at c.4,000 m, single separate mixed Polylepis/ Buddleia stands are present in three blind canyons, each with a large, deep lake in the centre. Composition is c.50% Buddleia. and 50% Polylepis, the former tending to be taller and to emerge from the denser Polylepis understorey. Fragments are dense, with the tallest trees being c.4 m, and the majority being dwarf shrubs. These canyons possess a much more humid climate than the broader, windswept valley floor, and the woodlands are frequently drenched in mist or in mixed rain and snow.

The conservation significance of Ilampu was recognised in September 1999, during biodiversity surveys conducted by the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH/CBC), and its Bolivian collaborators (Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado), during which time Ashbreasted Tit-tyrant Anairetes alpinus was discovered9. Ilampu was revisited for eight days in September and 17 days in October 2000, primarily to evaluate the status of A. alpinus, map the extent of the Polylepis fragments and gather initial ecological data for their management. A remarkable diversity of Polylepisdependent, and other little-known. transition-zone<sup>5,7</sup> birds was recorded during these visits.

In addition to the Endangered Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant, the Critical<sup>2</sup> Royal Cinclodes Cinclodes aricomae was discovered here in September 2000. Only one was seen; initially flushed from a Polylepis thicket, it landed on an exposed boulder nearby. The uniform dark umber upperparts coloration, pale buffy stripe at the base of the remiges (obvious in flight), and long, stout bill were all readily observed. It was, in all respects, quite similar to Stoutbilled Cinclodes, much darker and browner than the form of Barwinged Cinclodes C. fuscus albiventer present at Ilampu (CJV pers. obs.), and lacked the

contrasting greyer crown of the latter (in addition to being overall more robust). It then flew downslope, disappearing from view. Presumably the same individual was relocated later that day, flaking moss and exfoliating bark from the bases of *Polylepis* with its bill, in keeping with published descriptions of this characteristic behaviour<sup>6</sup>.

In addition, several species were recorded that have restricted ranges8 or were until recently considered Near Threatened2. namely Tawny Tit-spinetail Leptasthenura yanacensis, Linefronted Canastero Asthenes urabambensis, Scribble-tailed Canastero A. maculicauda and Giant Conebill Oreomanes fraseri. Furthermore, some uncommon or otherwise poorly known species associated with Polylepis, e.g. Rufous-rumped Bush-tyrant Cnemarchus erythropygius and Stripe-headed Antpitta Grallaria andicola, both of which had not been recorded at Ilampu in September 1999 or 2000, were very vocal, and territorial in October 2000. Also, quite remarkably, Stygian Owl Asio stygius was observed twice. hunting rats among boulderstrewn páramo adjacent to Polylepis/Buddleia scrub at dusk. It was readily identifiable, even in poor light, due to its Asio proportions, very dark plumage and prominent ear-tufts, all observed as it perch-hunted from large boulders. It was seen to fly up from lower in the valley, presumably spending the day at a slightly lower elevation than the Polylepis stands. This little-known owl, uncommon and local throughout the vast majority of its range, is known from a specimen taken in eastern dpto. Santa Cruz<sup>1</sup> and a sight record from similar habitat to the present one from Cochabamba3.

Because the species inhabiting these *Polylepis* fragments, and the fragments themselves, are extremely vulnerable, this area requires conservation attention. Along with the one in the Choquetonga Valley, this is part of the only known population of *A*.

alpinus in a protected area in Bolivia9. Presently human activity in Ilampu is moderate and concentrated on the valley's central floor, not in the blind canyons. However, humans exploit the Polylepis fragments whose growth is strongly correlated with firebreaks, and, where accessible to livestock, these woodlands are heavily grazed. However, prospects for the conservation of the Polylepis fragments in Ilampu are good given the relatively lowdensity human population, lack of roads and general inaccessibility of the area. If the local inhabitants (only one extended family seasonally inhabits the valley) can be encouraged to coppice and prune, rather than burn3, and livestock grazing patterns are shifted, at least for a time, the interests of all can probably be sustained.

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

#### Acknowledgements

Our work was supported by the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in collaboration with the Collección Boliviana de Fauna, La Paz, Bolivia, and made possible by the kind co-operation of PN-ANMI Cotapata, and SERNAP.

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

Grey-breasted Crake Laterallus exilis inhabits marshy lake edges and wet meadows to 1,200 m in central and northern South America including the Caribbean coast<sup>1,3</sup>. It is rarely seen due to its elusive habits and because it inhabits dense marshes, rarely entering open or short-grass areas. In Argentina it has recently been reported from the provinces of Chaco and Formosa<sup>2,4</sup> (pers. obs.). The song is a dit...ditditditdit, very different from any other crake in Argentina, but may be confused with the noise given by an insect that inhabits the same habitat. In response to playback it utters a long trill very similar to that of many other crakes, including Rufous-sided Crake Laterallus melanophaius, which also inhabits Laguna Iberá (pers. obs.).

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

#### Acknowledgements

We thank G. Pugnali for assisting our field work. R. Fraga provided a critical review of the manuscript.

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#### Registro de la Garza Azul Egretto coeruleo en la provincia de Tucumán, Argentina

El 29 de agosto del 2001 encontramos un individuo adulto y aparentemente solitario de *Egretta caerulea*, en un bañado sobre la ruta provincial 308, entre Juan B.

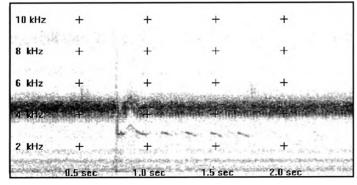


Figure 1. Song of Grey-breasted Crake Laterallus exilis, recorded at Laguna Iberá Provincial Park, Corrientes province, Argentina, on 25 May 2001 (Ignacio Roesler)

Alberdi y Graneros, c.27°38'S 65°23'W, provincia de Tucumán. El ejemplar llegó volando a una pequeña laguna, que abarcaba, con vegetación acuática y monte del tipo chaqueño seco bajo a su alrededor, una superficie aproximada de 3 ha. El ejemplar voló y se posó a unos 4 m del suelo y a unos 20 m de la ruta, sobre un Algarrobo *Prosopis* sp. sin follaje. Allí permaneció unos minutos, pudiendo ser fotografiado por HC. El ejemplar pudo ser fácilmente identificado por su distintivo plumaje oscuro, con la cabeza y cuello hasta el comienzo del pecho y espalda rufo-liláceo, y celeste plomizo en el resto de la parte dorsal y alas. Por la incidencia de la luz del sol se observó un notable brillo en todo su plumaje, y resaltó su iris amarillo. El ave parecía bastante desconfiada y en seguida voló alejándose de la laguna. No se pudieron observar otros detalles, pero sí fue posible comparar este individuo con una Egretta thula posada no muy lejos, y sus tamaños eran muy similares. Más tarde el ejemplar fue relocalizado en un sector de playa sin vegetación, donde se movía en busca de alimento, pero no permaneció allí mucho tiempo, siendo ésta la última observación. En esta ocasión se observó que el ave por momentos volaba con el cuello parcialmente estirado, comportamiento similar al de Syrigma sibilatrix. Este sería el octavo registro publicado para la Argentina<sup>1,2</sup> y el primero para la provincia de Tucumán.

#### Agradiciementos

Agradecemos la colaboración de Mark Pearman, Juan Mazar Barnett, Guy M. Kirwan, Alejandro Bodrati y Rosendo Fraga.

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## PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

#### **WEST INDIES**

#### Bermuda

Reports for 2001 included the fourth record of **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata* at North Pond, on 29 July-6 August, and the first summer record of **American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor* on 1 June, at Dolly's Bay<sup>17</sup>.

#### Cuba

Many interesting records from the island have been published recently. Following recent reports in western Cuba, Northern Potoo Nyctibius iamaicensis was found at two localities in extreme eastern Cuba, in early January 200136. Field work in December 2000-January 2001 produced the first January records of Stilt Sandpiper Calidris himantopus, Chestnut-sided Dendroica pensylvanica and Blackpoll Warblers D. striata, the fourth and fifth records of Lesser Blackbacked Gull Larus fuscus, the fifth record of Marbled Godwit Limosa fedoa, the first records in the Oriente of White-cheeked Pintail Anas bahamensis and Spotted Rail Pardirallus maculatus, and the first winter record in the West Indies of Warbling Vireo Vireo gilvus38. A leucistic Yellow-faced Grassquit Tiaris olivacea was found on Cayo Guillermo in January 2001; this plumage aberration is almost wholly unknown within the genus<sup>37</sup>.

#### Dominican Republic

The third and fourth Swainson's Warblers Limnothlypis swainsonii in Hispaniola were trapped in the Sierra de Baoruco, in January 2000 and January 2001<sup>54</sup>. Lithner 12 reports some interesting observations during September 1999, including six

West Indian Whistling-duck
Dendrocygna arborea at Laguna
del Rincón, a Baird's Sandpiper
Calidris bairdii and Black-billed
Cuckoo Coccyzus
erythropthalmus at Cabo Rojo, an
American Golden Plover
Pluvialis dominica and ten Black
Tern Chlidonias niger at Lago
Enriquillo, and Olive-throated
Parakeets Aratinga nana at two
localities.

#### Guadeloupe

The first record of Antillean Nighthawk Chordeiles gundlachii on the island was in June 2000 and in July the same year two individuals were observed, raising the possibility of the species breeding there<sup>41</sup>.

#### lamaica

The first Connecticut Warbler Oporornis agilis for the island was reported at Mason River Game Sanctuary, Clarendon, on 29 November 2000<sup>15</sup>.

#### **Puerto Rico**

Pérez-Rivera<sup>52</sup> draws attention to records of **Rose-ringed Parakeet** Psittacula krameri on the island between February 1985 and April 1990 and, in a different area, in July-October 1990. Tossas & Delannoy<sup>58</sup> report on the avifauna of Maricao State Forest, including a number of interesting island records, e.g. a **Swainson's Warbler** Limnothlypis swainsonii in January 1992 and a **Kentucky Warbler** Oporornis formosus in March 1992.

#### **CENTRAL AMERICA**

#### Mexico

The first record of the globally threatened Bearded Woodpartridge Dendrortyx barbatus in Oaxaca was made in the Sierra Norte, in August 1998¹, while a new breeding locality for Military Macaw Ara militaris in the same state¹⁵ and the first King Vulture Sarcoramphus papa for Baja California were also reported recently¹⁶. A recent paper⁵¹ argues that a mid-1880s specimen of Giant Kingbird Tyrannus cubensis, which has been

questioned in some of the recent literature dealing with Mexico. should stand as reliable proof of the species' (former) occurrence in the country. The specimen appears to have been taken on 25 February 1886, but the collecting locality (perhaps Isla Mujeres) cannot be certainly identified. Cooper's Hawk Accipiter cooperii was recently (May 2001) discovered breeding in Oaxaca, a 1,000 km extension south-east of its breeding range<sup>21</sup>. Other observations, recently published in the online journal, Huitzil, include the first records of Cassin's Finch Carpodacus cassini and Mexican Duck Anas platyrhynchos diazi for Oaxaca29, as well as records of 67 species, principally waterbirds, raptors and shorebirds, which update information for localities in central Oaxaca<sup>22</sup>.

#### Costa Rica

A Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus was reported off Tortuguero, on 27 March 2001, and a Long-billed Curlew Numenius americanus was at Chome, on 15 September 2001. Sightings of Lovely Cotinga Cotinga amabilis at Los Llanos, near Santa Elena may represent the first records from the Pacific Slope. Cinnamon Hummingbird Amazilia rutila and White-throated Magpie-jay Calocitta formosa were reported south of Dominical, representing significant southward extensions of the ranges of both species. Some late reports from Jay VanderGaast include a Sora Porzana carolina at Carara, on 3 May 1998; a Paint-billed Crake Neocrex erythrops photographed at Las Palmitas, north of Guacimo, on 27 November 1996, with perhaps three birds present at this time; a breeding-plumaged Hudsonian Godwit Limosa haemastica at Tarcoles, on 3 May 1998; a breeding-plumaged Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea photographed at Playa Azul (no date provided, perhaps the first country record); 20+ Violet-green Swallow Tachycineta thalassina at Río Birris, on 18 November 1996, and another at Carara in April 2000; a dark-eyed juvenile White-eyed

Vireo Vireo griseus at EARTH on 5 November 1999: a Nashville Warbler Vermivora ruficapilla at Rancho Naturalista, from 20 November 1994; a female Blackthroated Blue Warbler Dendroica caerulescens at Savegre on 12 December 1996; a male Western Tanager Piranga ludoviciana at Rancho Naturalista for several days in late 1995; and an American Pipit Anthus rubescens at Tarcoles, in late 199326. The third and fourth country records of Southern Lapwing Vanellus chilensis occurred in late 2001, with a pair at Playa Hermosa, south of Jaco, remaining from 17 December 2001 to at least 8 January 2002. A White Tern Gygis alba was found moribund at Sierpe de Osa, on 28 October 2001 (and subsequently died). A Chipping Sparrow Spizella passerina, perhaps only the second Costa Rican record, was at Cahuita in mid-November 2001, while perhaps only the third country record of Black-headed Grosbeak Pheucticus melanocephalus involved a female at Monteverde in mid-October 2001. A White-tailed Emerald Elvira chionura was discovered at 2,200 m at the Savegre Hotel de Montaña on 4 November 200127.

#### **SOUTH AMERICA**

#### Argentina

Orgeira<sup>50</sup> provides new records and information concerning the atsea distribution of Atlantic Petrel Pterodroma incerta off South America, including the discovery of four large concentrations of the species off Buenos Aires province, and other records from the Drake Passage and Weddell Sea. Single Common Tody-flycatchers Todirostrum cinereum observed on 11 February 2000 and 21 March 2001 at Puerto Iguazú, Misiones province, are the first country records11. Bodrati6 updates the occurrence of ten species in Buenos Aires province, at partidos Baradero and San Pedro. Noteworthy are records of Plumbeous Ibis Theristicus caerulescens, Large-billed Tern Phaetusa simplex, White

Woodpecker Melanerpes candidus. Short-crested Flycatcher Myiarchus ferox. **Green-backed Becard** Pachyramphus viridis and Manycoloured Chaco-finch Saltatricula multicolor. Bodrati et al.7 add to these data, with information on Barred Piculet Picumnus cirratus. Scimitarbilled Woodcreeper Drymornis bridgesii, Brown Cacholote Pseudoseisura lophotes, Pearlyvented Tody-tyrant Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer, and others. The status of 25 species has been updated for Córdoba province, including records of King Vulture Sarcoramphus papa, Mitred Parakeet Aratinga mitrata and Rufous-sided Warbling-finch Poospiza hypochondria<sup>61</sup>. The status of 18 species is updated for north-west Buenos Aires province, with details on Chaco Pipit Anthus chacoensis<sup>56</sup>. A Nacunda Nighthawk Podager nacunda was observed on 31 January 1997 at Estancia Rincón de los Morros. southern Santa Cruz province; this vagrant record extends the species' range by 1,300 km and represents the southernmost locality33. A female White-sided Hillstar Oreotrochilus leucopleurus at Chaltén, Los Glaciares National Park, on 6 February 1993, represents the southernmost locality for this species44. The first specimen records in San Juan province have recently been presented for South American Snipe Gallinago paraguaiae, Mountain Parakeet Bolborhynchus aurifrons and Swainson's Flycatcher Mylarchus swainsoni, along with other new distributional information, based on a collection by W. H. Partridge from this and Mendoza provinces<sup>47</sup>. Maceda<sup>43</sup> updates the status of Crowned **Eagle** Harpyhaliaetus coronatus in La Pampa province. The first record of Slaty Elaenia Elaenia strepera in Córdoba province was one at Los Cocos on 23-27 December 199760. The second to fifth and subsequent records of Green-winged Saltator Saltator similis were recently presented for Buenos Aires province<sup>8</sup>.

#### Bolivia

A specimen of **Fawn-breasted Brilliant** *Heliodoxa rubinoides*, taken in 1982 at Cocapata, north of Cochabamba, has recently been discovered. This record is the first in the country and a range extension of 1,000 km south<sup>53</sup>.

#### Brazil

Borges et al.9 provide a species list and other information for the important Jaú National Park, in Amazonas state. Several first country records have recently been documented, including a Redtailed Tropicbird Phaethon rubricauda photographed at the Abrolhos archipelago, Bahia, on 24 September 1997<sup>14</sup>, and five specimens of Amazonian Parrotlet Nannopsittaca dachilleae taken at Serra do Divisor National Park, Acre, on 19 July 199664. Whittaker67 presents details of the first confirmed records of Bucklev's Forestfalcon Micrastur buckleyi in Brazil; reports, all documented with tape-recordings, are available from four localities in Acre. between 1992 and 1999. The first documented record of Scarlethooded Barbet Eubucco tucinkae was a male collected in Serra do Divisor National Park on 20 July 199665. The first specimen records of Yellow-green Vireo Vireo flavoviridis involved three taken by the rio Javari, Amazonas, in October 195966. A mention of Barred Tinamou Crypturellus casiquiare for Brazil is proven to be incorrect as the locality is within Colombia<sup>51</sup>.

A review of Brazilian records of Spectacled Petrel Procellaria conspicillata offers new information on the species in São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul<sup>49</sup>, while other interesting seabird records involve the second to sixth records of Tristan Albatross Diomedea (exulans) dabbenena in the country, from São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul<sup>48</sup>. A small colony of Audubon's Shearwaters Puffinus lherminieri found in August 1993 at Itatiaia archipelago, Espírito Santo, represents the first country record20, and a

colony of Black Skimmer Rynchops niger near Manoel Viana, in October 1998, was the first breeding record for Rio Grande do Sul and one of the few available in Brazil<sup>19</sup>. New records of Tall-grass Wetland Tapaculo Scytalopus iraiensis are presented from Paraná, where the species is now known from 24 sites10. Bencke et al.4 provide novel breeding biology data for Brown-breasted Pygmy-tyrant Hemitriccus obsoletus and Striolated Titspinetail Leptasthenura striolata. The third record of Southern Giant Petrel Macronectes giganteus in Paraná was a beached immature found near Matinhos, on 14 September 199935.

A recent paper examines the

distribution and overall bird

species associations along two

altitudinal transects at 800-1,400 m in the Serra do Cipó, Minas Gerais, between 1994 and 2000<sup>45</sup>. Kirwan et al.39 provide details of significant observations made in the rio São Francisco Valley in recent years, including two additions to the Minas Gerais avifauna, White-browed Guan Penelope jacucaca and Greater Wagtail-tyrant Stigmatura budytoides. New records of Orange-headed Tanager Thlypopsis sordida from Paraná have been reported recently, with observations at four new localities2. Vasconcelos et al.59 present a new locality for Cipó Canastero Asthenes luizae, the Campina do Bananal, 170 km north of previously known sites, and Willis & Oniki68, in reporting on a nest of Planalto  ${\bf Woodcreeper}\, Dendro colaptes$ platyrostris in São Paulo, point to differences in songs between the

#### Colombia

Slaty-backed Nightingalethrush Catharus fuscater has recently been discovered in the country's Central Cordillera, at two sites, near Pereira and Manizales<sup>3</sup>. The new population

nominate form of south-east Brazil

and the subspecies intermedius

from inland dry forests, but

intermediate specimens.

acknowledge the existence of

exhibits variation in plumage and soft-parts coloration as well as in that of the irides, suggesting a degree of previously unrecognised geographic variation in the species.

#### **Ecuador**

Freile<sup>23</sup> provides details of a new altitudinal record of **Lunulated Antbird** *Gymnopithys lunulata*, from 950 m, in dpto. Pastaza, in November 1999.

Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas
A recently published review of
vagrant records from the period
1996 to 2000 includes the first
Black-necked Stilt Himantopus
mexicanus, Stilt Sandpiper
Micropalama himantopus,
Elegant Tern Sterna elegans and
Brown-chested Martin
Phaeoprogne tapera for the
archipelago, as well as possibly the
first breeding record of Whitecrested Elaenia Elaenia
albicens<sup>63</sup>

#### French Guiana

Ingels<sup>34</sup> reports on new observations of birds, principally feeding and breeding behaviours, in the country during November 1999.

#### **Netherlands Antilles**

Wells & Childs Wells<sup>62</sup> report the first observation of **Philadelphia Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus* on Curaçao, on 1 April 2000.

#### **Paraguay**

Capper et al.<sup>13</sup> provide new distributional information for 22 species in the country, based on field work between 1995 and 1997, while Lesterhuis & Clay<sup>40</sup> report the first record of **Ruddy Turnstone** Arenaria interpres, at Bahía de Asunción, on 7–13 October 2000.

#### Trinidad and Tobago

The status of Little Egret Egretta garzetta in the islands is reviewed, and a list of 33 records presented, by Hayes & White<sup>31</sup>. Elsewhere in El Pitirre the first records of Caribbean Martin Progne dominicensis for Trinidad, in April–May 1999, April–May 2000 and February–April 2001<sup>46</sup>, are

presented, as are the first records of **Swainson's Hawk** Buteo swainsoni for Trinidad and Chacachacare Island, in May 1998 and October 1999—January 2000<sup>30</sup>.

#### Uruguay

An Eastern Slaty-thrush Turdus subalaris observed at Refugio de Fauna Laguna de Castillos, doto. Rocha on 18 November 1999 was the first country record24, while a Highland Elaenia Elaenia obscura photographed near Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo on 7 November 1997 was also the first country record55. The latter species was seen again during the breeding seasons of 1997-1999. with a nest being found on 12 November 1998. Several Lesser Grass-finch Emberizoides ypiranganus on 5 and 7 July 1999 at Quebrada de los Cuervos, dpto. Treinta y Tres<sup>25</sup>, and others observed on 13 February 2000 at Reserva de Biosfera Bañados del Este, dpto. Rocha, are the first published country records<sup>12</sup>. A Grass Wren Cistothorus platensis on 9 July 1999, also at Quebrada de los Cuervos, was the second country record<sup>25</sup>. The second to fifth records of Green-backed Becard Pachyramphus viridis involved one near Laguna Negra. dpto. Rocha, on 10 December 1997, and singles collected at Paso Centurión, dpto. Cerro Largo, on 6 April 1998, and at Cerro Pan de Azúcar, dpto. Maldonado, on 2 July 1998, with subsequent sight records there<sup>28</sup>. Lone male Entre Rios Seedeaters Sporophila zelichi observed at Reserva de Biosfera Bañados del Este, dpto. Rocha on 13 and 20 February, and 7 March 2000 are among the few available recent records12.

### OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

#### Bolivia

KE notes the presence of four Red-fronted Macaw Ara rubrogenys in Torotoro National Park, dpto. Potosí, on 29 September 2001. Local people report that the species breeds annually in the area, but this

appears to be a 'new' locality for this globally threatened bird. Several observers have apparently failed to locate **Berlepsch's Canastero** *Asthenes berlepschi* at the well-known site of Sorata, dpto. La Paz, most recently KE on 14–15 October 2001, suggesting that this Near-Threatened species may be in local decline.

#### Brazil

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

#### Chile

A weak immature **Blue-footed Booby** Sula nebouxii videotaped
on the beach at Arica, on 3 August
2000, appears to be the second or
third report for the country (MCH,
SML).

#### Cuba

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

#### **Ecuador**

A nest occupied by a female Little Woodstar Chaetocercus bombus with two eggs was found on 10 January 2001, at 300 m in the Colonche Hills, Comuna Loma Alta. The nest was constructed on

a fork of peripheral branches of a tree, c.2.7 m above ground and overhanging a well-used trail through second growth and scrub. The walls of the nest were 7.6 mm deep and comprised the fibre of *Cecropia* flowers with moss on the exterior. Interior diameter of the nest was 16.75 mm, the total height of the nest 34.25 mm and depth within the cup 16.75 mm (DBe).

#### Guatemala

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

#### Mexico

Interesting observations from a visit to the country in September-October 2001 included the following (status based on Howell & Webb32 and, for Oaxaca, Binford<sup>5</sup>). A Yellow-throated Warbler Dendroica dominica at Tacámbaro, Michoacán, on 1 October, appears to be the first state record. Significant reports from Oaxaca included a Blackburnian Warbler D. fusca at La Soledad, on 8 October (perhaps the state's first autumn record); up to five Wedge-tailed Shearwater Puffinus pacificus (earliest winter record), an immature Red-footed Booby Sula sula (few previous state records), a group of seven unidentified scoter Melanitta sp. (no previous state records of any scoter) and an Elegant Tern Sterna elegans, all seen during a pelagic 15 km offshore from Puerto Angel, on 9 October. Another of the last-named species was at Laguna La Ventosa, near Salinas Cruz, on 10 October (only one previous state record for autumn), with a Red Knot Calidris canutus (no previous state records in autumn) at the same locality on the same date. There are few previous state records of Chestnut-sided Warbler Dendroica pensylvanica; thus one at km 52, above Valle Nacional, on 19 October was

significant, it being the first autumn record. A Black-andwhite Hawk-eagle Spizastur melanoleucos, well watched at the same site on the same date. represents an intra-state range extension, based on Binford<sup>5</sup>. At least one Cassin's Vireo Vireo cassini was carefully watched at Cerro Huitepec, near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, on 12 October, with Blue-headed Vireos V. solitarius. There are apparently no previous state records of this species but, given that the V. solitarius complex has only recently been recognised to contain three species-level (rather than subspecies) taxa and the difficulties of specific identification, further and more concrete evidence of this form's occurrence south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is desirable. (All DB, MAE, GMK, RPM.)

#### Acknowledgements

The following forwarded records:
David Beadle (DB), Dusty Becker
(DBe), Steve Bird, Mark Elwonger
(MAE), Karl Evans (KE), Arthur
Grosset (AG), Megan C. Hall
(MCH), Guy M. Kirwan (GMK),
Steve M. Lister (SML), Tim
Marlow (TM), Rodney Martins
(RPM), Jeremy Minns (JM), Andy
Mitchell, Bill & Rowena Quantrill
(B&RQ), Ivan Samuels (IS) and
Chris Tynan.

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- 1. Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii*, near Pantiacolla Lodge, río Madre de Dios, Peru, 11 October 2001 (Joe Tobias; see p. 104)
- Rufous-sided Pygmy-tyrant Euscarthmus rufomarginatus, west of Correntina, Bahia, Brazil, February 2002 (Arthur Grosset; see p. 110)
- King Rail Raillus elegans, Lake Petén-Itza, Petén, February 1993 (Sidney Samuels; see p. 110)