

# Neotropical Notebook



Neotropical Notebook contains two sections. The first summarises records published elsewhere in the literature, following the format previously established in *Cotinga*. The second lists unpublished and undocumented records. Photographs are published where appropriate.

## PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

### CARIBBEAN

#### Cuba

**Audubon's Shearwater** *Puffinus lherminieri* has recently been confirmed to breed in the country<sup>134</sup>. Kirkconnell & Kirwan<sup>86</sup> review all available bird records from Cayo Paredón Grande, off the north coast of the Cuban mainland, including the first country record of **Bahama Woodstar** *Calliphlox evelynae*.

#### Dominican Republic

Two new species for the country and the island of Hispaniola were found in late 2006 / early 2007, both at the Punta Cana resort, at the extreme east of the island, namely a **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* and a **Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris*<sup>34</sup>. The first robust breeding data for the globally threatened **Golden Swallow** *Tachycineta euchrysea* have been published<sup>157</sup>.

#### Grenada

Thorstrom & McQueen<sup>156</sup> provide information on the nesting and current status of the threatened subspecies of **Hook-billed Kite** *Chondrohierax uncinatus* endemic to the island of Grenada.

#### Puerto Rico

Vilella<sup>166</sup> provides an important update to our understanding of the breeding biology of the globally threatened **Puerto Rican**

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus noctitherus*, based on observations made in the Guánica Biosphere Reserve, in the south-west of the island.

### MIDDLE AMERICA

#### Costa Rica

Only the third nest of the enigmatic **Sharpbill** *Oxyruncus cristatus* to be found, and the first in Central America, has been described and well illustrated recently<sup>115</sup>. Chaves *et al.* describe the eggs of **Golden-browed Chlorophonia** *Chlorophonia callophrys* for the first time<sup>26</sup>. To view recent reports of rarities and other birding news from the country visit [www.angelfire.com/bc/gonebirding/rarebirds.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/bc/gonebirding/rarebirds.htm).

#### Mexico

Eleven new species have recently been reported for the state of Hidalgo, along with one inter-state range extension, namely: **Great Curassow** *Crax rubra*, **Bare-throated Tiger Heron** *Tigrisoma mexicanum*, **White Ibis** *Eudocimus albus*, **Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*, **Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*, **Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*, **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*, **Red-lore Amazon** *Amazona autumnalis*, **Northern Potoo** *Nyctibius jamaicensis*, **Black-capped Vireo** *Vireo atricapillus*, **Band-backed Wren** *Campylorhynchus zonatus* and **Yellow-throated Warbler** *Dendroica dominica*<sup>158</sup>. Danner *et al.*<sup>32</sup> present the first breeding data for the northern subspecies of **Prevost's Ground Sparrow** *Melospiza biarcuata*, based on five nests found in Chiapas. The first records of **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer* for the state of San Luis Potosí have been made since late 1998<sup>137</sup>, whilst **Rufous-backed Robin** *Turdus*

*rufopalliatu*s has also been found in the same state recently<sup>136</sup>, and the first fully documented record of **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* in Yucatán concerns a previously overlooked specimen<sup>97</sup>. **Plain-capped Starthroat** *Heliomaster constantii* has been recorded for the first time in the Distrito Federal<sup>1</sup>. **Blue-grey Tanager** *Thraupis episcopus* has been added to the avifauna of Nuevo León<sup>109</sup>. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* has been found breeding at a new site in the north-west of the country, in central Sinaloa<sup>60</sup>, and details of the seasonal abundance and breeding chronology of a population of **Military Macaw** *Ara militaris* in central Mexico have been presented<sup>133</sup>. Vega Rivera *et al.*<sup>164</sup> have analysed the known range of the Pacific slope endemic **Orange-breasted Bunting** *Passerina leclancherii*.

#### Nicaragua

McCrary & Young<sup>103</sup> present new information on raptor migration through the country during the autumn period.

#### El Salvador

The inaugural issue of the electronic bulletin *Aratinga*, covering the period January–June 2008, includes news of some significant observations in the country. These include the first national record of **White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* (trapped in early March 2008), the first recorded nesting in the country by **Collared Plover** *Charadrius collaris* (in late April 2008) and the second record in El Salvador of **Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus* (in May 2008).

### SOUTH AMERICA

#### Argentina

An unlikely first country record, a male **Black-and-tawny**

**Seedeater** *Sporophila nigrorufa*, was reported recently, based on observations and photographs from La Pampa in January 2008<sup>76</sup>. However, several of the features visible in the published photograph are incorrect for this globally threatened species (see Kirwan & Areta, 2009, *Neotrop. Birding* 4: 69–72). Ortiz & Capllonch<sup>116</sup> have published a review of the migration system of the nominate race of **Double-collared Seedeater** *S. caerulescens* throughout South America. Field work in the Yungas of Argentina (and neighbouring Bolivia) indicates that **Southern Antpipit** *Corythopsis delalandi* should be considered a reasonably widespread if low-density resident, rather than a vagrant, to this region<sup>7</sup>. **Giant Hummingbird** *Patagona gigas* has recently been discovered in the mountains of central Argentina<sup>168</sup>. A team of ornithologists working principally in Santa Cruz province have brought together new data on distribution, migrations, abundance and breeding of **Magellanic Plover** *Pluvianellus socialis*, and suggest that overall numbers may be slightly larger than previously thought<sup>45</sup>. New breeding data for the globally threatened **Pampas Meadowlark** *Sturnella defilippii* have been published<sup>172</sup>. Roesler *et al.*<sup>135</sup> present new records of **Black-and-chestnut Eagle** *Spizaetus isidori* for north-west Argentina, including the southernmost record for the species in Catamarca province, and several more within IBAs, including the first for El Rey National Park, Salta. The authors consider that the species is not as threatened in Argentina as previously thought. Furthermore, Frá *et al.*<sup>48</sup> add six more records of this species from Catamarca province, providing some evidence of breeding at the southern tip of its range.

Records of ten rare species are presented for Santa Fe and Santiago del Estero provinces, as well as two hypothetical for the Argentine list: **Zone-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albonotatus* and **Grey Hawk** *B. nitida*<sup>98</sup>. New records of

the rare white morph of **Southern Giant Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus* from Argentine seas have been published; this morph comprises c.10–15% of the total population, but most breed in Antarctica and thus it is rare in Argentine waters<sup>144</sup>. Grilli & Arellano<sup>75</sup> present the first record for Entre Ríos province and a new record from Buenos Aires of **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus*. Also in Buenos Aires province, several new observations of **Giant Hummingbird** were made at Sierra de la Ventana, mainly individuals at feeders in town<sup>35</sup>.

The first confirmed records of **Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* in north-east Mendoza province could indicate that it is a regular summer visitor to the area and not accidental as previously thought<sup>120</sup>. Also in Mendoza province, Pereyra Lobos & Yacante<sup>121</sup> mention several observations of apparently the same two **Ospreys** *Pandion haliaetus* in 1998 to 2000; one bird remained in the area year-round in 1999. A noteworthy record of **Long-trained Nightjar** *Macropsalis forcipata* has been presented for Corrientes from thorny woodland, a strange habitat for this Atlantic Forest endemic<sup>78</sup>. Bodrati & Sierra<sup>18</sup> present several records of **Green-winged Saltator** *Saltator similis* for Buenos Aires and Entre Ríos provinces, and discuss the species' southward range extensions. Giarduz<sup>57</sup> presents observations of three species of hummingbird in Santa Fe: that of **Green-backed Firecrown** *Sephanoides sephanoides* is the first for the province, whilst those of **Red-tailed Comet** *Sappho sparganura* and **White-throated Hummingbird** *Leucochloris albicollis* are the second provincial records. The first photographic record and the second ever of **Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyura* for Santiago del Estero comes from xeric woodland c.70 km from the previous record. New observations of **Black Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus tyrannus* have been presented from two different localities in Misiones; both

involved potential breeding activity<sup>11</sup>.

Since the first **Amethyst Woodstar** *Calliphlox amethystina* was collected in Argentina there has been a long gap without records, but the species was photographed during 2006–08 in two reserves in Misiones, suggesting that it is a rare summer visitor to Argentina<sup>20</sup>. Eight species new to or rare in Santa Fe have been reported, among them **Barred Forest Falcon** *Micrastur ruficollis* and **Surucua Trogon** *Trogon surrucura*<sup>99</sup>. Erize<sup>40</sup> mentions the third documented record of **Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata* for Argentina, and the first for Corrientes, a male in native woodland at Iberá Marshes. Records of nine individuals of **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrisi dabbenei* from seven new localities are presented, including the first for Catamarca<sup>12</sup>. A new photographic record of a young **Peruvian Pelican** *Pelecanus thagus* comes from a high-Andean dam in Mendoza, representing only the third confirmed record for the country and the first for the province<sup>39</sup>.

Yorio & Efe<sup>171</sup> surveyed **Royal Terns** *Thalasseus maximus* and **Cayenne Terns** *T. sandvicensis eurygnathus* in Argentina and Brazil, finding that Royal Terns have been recorded in at least 22 locations (six in Brazil and 14 in Argentina), whilst Cayenne Terns have been recorded in at least 38 locations (15 in Brazil and 23 in Argentina). Total population size for Royal Terns was estimated as at least 750 pairs in Brazil and less than 5,000 in Argentina, whilst that of Cayenne Tern was estimated as at least 8,000 pairs in Brazil and less than 10,000 in Argentina. Fraga<sup>49</sup> presents information on the nesting of **Chopi Blackbirds** *Gnorimopsar chopi*, with data on cooperative breeding and brood parasitism by Screaming Cowbirds *Molothrus rufoaxillaris*, whilst another nesting contribution from the same country concerns **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*<sup>25</sup>.

### Bolivia

Two recent studies have suggested important rethinks in the conservation status assigned to three globally threatened birds. Herzog *et al.*<sup>79</sup> provide important new data concerning the distribution, natural history and conservation status of **Bolivian Recurvebill** *Simoxenops* (= *Syndactyla*?) *striatus* and **Yungas Antwren** *Myrmotherula grisea*; the authors recommend, on the basis of their findings, that both species be downgraded to Near Threatened. Another study, conducted in 2006, into the status and habitat use of **Wattled Curassow** *Crax globulosa* in Bolivia has found that the species appears to be more or less wholly dependent on water edge habitat within *várzea* forest. As a result, the current global population estimate (of 2,500–9,999 individuals) may be significantly higher than the real total, leading the authors to suggest that the species' conservation status be upgraded from Vulnerable to Endangered<sup>81</sup>. Herzog *et al.*<sup>80</sup> review the status of the globally threatened and declining **Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* and other migrant New World wood warblers in Bolivia. Maillard *et al.*<sup>100</sup> have described the avifauna of the río Manupare, dpto. La Paz, surveys of which yielded three new species for the department: **White-browed Hawk** *Leucopternis kuhli*, **Blue-backed Manakin** *Chiroxiptia pareola* and **Flame-crested Manakin** *Heterocercus linteatus*. The nest and eggs of **Puna Tapaculo** *Scytalopus simonsi* have been described from observations in the country<sup>83</sup>, and notes on the breeding biology of **Giant Conebill** *Oreomanes fraseri* have also been presented<sup>22</sup>.

### Brazil

One of the most exciting and extremely unexpected reports from the period covered by this review is the apparent rediscovery of **White-tailed Tityra** *Tityra leucura*, at Pousada Rio Roosevelt, Amazonas, in April 2006, by Andrew Whittaker<sup>169</sup> (see also pp. 23–46). This taxon has long been

'condemned' to synonymy since Hellmayr (1929), and is otherwise known solely from the type specimen collected in 1829 in the present-day state of Rondônia. A new species for Brazil is **Yellow-cheeked Becard** *Pachyramphus xanthogenys*, which has recently been observed and collected in the state of Acre<sup>5</sup>. The third record for Brazil of **Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis* involved two dark-morph individuals photographed at St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks in February–September 2006<sup>43</sup>.

Vasconcelos *et al.*<sup>161</sup> describe the discovery of **Marsh Tapaculo** *Scytalopus iraiensis* at four sites in the highlands of Minas Gerais, a significant range extension from the nearest localities in eastern Paraná, whilst old specimens of the species from western Paraná have come to light in a European museum<sup>108</sup>. Parallel to this, but even more remarkable, the southern Brazilian endemic **Long-tailed Cinclodes** *Cinclodes pabsti* has also been discovered in Minas Gerais recently, at the Serra do Cipó<sup>64</sup>. An interesting paper by the Brazilian palaeontologist Herculano Alvarenga<sup>6</sup> discusses the historical range of two blue macaws, the presumed extinct **Glaucous Macaw** *Anodorhynchus glaucus* and the very rare but extant **Lear's Macaw** *A. leari*, based on the fossil record, and concludes that given their extremely close osteology and apparently formerly contiguous ranges that they might be best considered as conspecific. Reinert *et al.*<sup>129</sup> review our knowledge of the **Marsh Antwren** *Stymphalornis (Formicivora) acutirostris* and conclude that the population numbers just fewer than 18,000 individuals in Paraná and Santa Catarina states.

### Red-and-black Grosbeak

*Periporphyrus erythromelas* has been discovered well south-west of its known range, close to the confluence of the Roosevelt and Aripuanã rivers in southern Amazonas<sup>44</sup>. Santos & Silva<sup>142</sup> review and list the 306 species known from the savannas of Roraima, Brazil's northernmost state, of which several are endemic

to this region. Aleixo & Poletto<sup>4</sup> reported significant records of 34 species, many of them typical *cerrado* birds far from the previous known ranges, from an open vegetation enclave that straddles the borders of Amazonas and Rondônia states, in the south-west Brazilian Amazon. Another important paper dealing with Amazonian birds published recently is that by Whittaker *et al.*<sup>170</sup>, which provides corrections and additions to the list of species recorded at a study site on the rio Uruçu, Amazonas; species accounts are presented for some 40 species. Krabbe<sup>90</sup> presents details of the itinerary and species collected by an early Danish ornithologist who worked in south-east Brazil in the 19th century.

A review of Brazilian specimens ascribed to **Wandering Albatross** *Diomedea exulans* revealed that one actually refers to **Southern Royal Albatross** *D. epomophora* (which species has only recently been discovered in Brazilian waters), seven are **Tristan Albatrosses** *D. dabbenena*, and that one is probably a **Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta (sensu lato)*<sup>33</sup>. The globally threatened **Minas Gerais Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes roquettei* has been found at an additional seven localities raising the number of known sites to 17<sup>95</sup>. Exciting news from the same state, Minas Gerais, involves the discovery of the globally threatened **Brazilian Merganser** *Mergus octosetaceus* near Ouro Preto<sup>119</sup>. Further, amongst many other interesting records, Vasconcelos & D'Angelo Neto<sup>159</sup> report the following first specimen records from Minas Gerais, based on avifaunal work in the state's *Araucaria* forests: **Rufous-backed Antwren** *Dysithamnus xanthopterus*, **Rufous-tailed Antthrush** *Chamaeza ruficauda*, **Araucaria Tit-Spintail** *Leptasthenura setaria*, **Sharp-billed Treehunter** *Heliobletus contaminatus*, **Brown-breasted Bamboo Tyrant** *Hemitriccus obsoletus*, **Serra do Mar Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes difficilis*, **Black-capped Piprites**

*Piprites pileata*, **Bay-chested Warbling Finch** *Poospiza thoracica* and **Golden-winged Cacique** *Cacicus chrysopterus*. Marini *et al.*<sup>102</sup> present nesting information for some 34 species based on field work in the same state, Minas Gerais. A major paper on our knowledge of the avifauna of the Chapada dos Guiramaes presents, among others, the first documented record of **Band-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus longirostris* for Mato Grosso and the second record of **Fawn-breasted Tanager** *Pipraeidea melanonota* for the state, as well as presenting information on several apparently rare species in the region, namely **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis*, **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Buteo melanoleucus*, **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja*, **Southern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl** *Megascops usta*, **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*, **Point-tailed Palmcreeper** *Berlepschia rikeri*, **Rufous-sided Pygmy Tyrant** *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*, **White-naped Xenopsaris** *Xenopsaris albinucha* and **Cinereous Warbling Finch** *Poospiza cinerea*<sup>96</sup>. Lopes *et al.*<sup>94</sup> report on the avifauna of two municipalities in north-west Minas Gerais; amongst 316 species are several notable records of both Atlantic Forest and *Cerrado* birds. In the same state, the poorly known **Black-banded Owl** *Strix huhula* has been rediscovered in the Belo Horizonte metropolitan area, some 170 years after the last confirmed record there<sup>160</sup>. Specimens of **Pin-tailed Manakin** *Ilicura militaris* have recently come to light from Goiás, the northernmost records ever<sup>87</sup>. Lopes & Braz<sup>93</sup> report the results of a rapid ornithological survey of a locality in central Tocantins; ten species accounts are presented, amongst them unconfirmed records of two species new for the state, **Fiery-tailed Awlbill** *Avocettula recurvirostris* and **Smoke-coloured Pewee** *Contopus fumigatus* (there is only one confirmed record of the latter for Brazil). Separately, Lopes<sup>92</sup> reports that **Lesser Kiskadee**

*Philohydor lictor* can be considered a low-density and somewhat local resident across central Brazil, and that there is no disjunction between coastal Brazilian and Amazonian populations of this species. Dornas *et al.*<sup>36</sup> report records of **Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* in Tocantins and Maranhão, perhaps indicating that the species is expanding its range in eastern Amazonia. Paula de Faria<sup>118</sup> details the rare (two species), globally at risk (five species) and regionally endemic avifauna (eight species) of a relatively urbanised area in the Distrito Federal. **Rufous-capped Anthrush** *Formicarius colma* is rather rare in the state of Minas Gerais, but has recently been found in the important Rio Doce State Park<sup>165</sup>. A minor extension inland to the tiny known range of the globally threatened **Restinga Antwren** *Formicivora littoralis* has been reported recently<sup>163</sup>. The first breeding data for **Henna-capped Foliage-gleaner** *Hylocryptus rectirostris* have been published recently, based on field work in the Serra do Cipó, Minas Gerais<sup>42</sup>, and a new site (importantly within a protected area) has been discovered for **Cipó Canastero** *Asthenes luizae*<sup>162</sup>. The first documented record of **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle** *Geranoaetus melanoleucus* in Mato Grosso do Sul was made recently<sup>104</sup>, as was the first record of **Plain-bellied Emerald** *Amazilia leucogaster* in Espírito Santo<sup>140</sup>. Another new state record involved the head of a **Yellow-breasted Crane** *Porzana flaviventer* found in coastal Bahia, where it had apparently been killed by a Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*<sup>153</sup>. A survey of the globally threatened **Red-browed Amazon** *Amazona rhodocorytha* in the state of Espírito Santo encountered a total of 2,295 individuals, all in areas below 300 m<sup>89</sup>. Silva e Silva & Olmos<sup>151</sup> provide an interesting update on the mangrove avifauna around Santos, in São Paulo state, providing information for 40 species, including three new for

the state: **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*, **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* and **Patagonian Negrito** *Lessonia rufa*. The first nest of the nominate subspecies of **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow** *Pyroderus scutatus* to be found, in November 2004, at Carlos Botelho State Park, São Paulo, has been described<sup>50</sup>. Other new nest descriptions are those for **Pectoral Antwren** *Herpsilochmus pectoralis* and **Caatinga Antwren** *H. sellowi*, both from Rio Grande do Norte<sup>150</sup>, **Collared Crescentchest** *Melanopareia torquata* from the Distrito Federal<sup>74</sup>, and **White-browed Hawk** *Leucopternis kuhli*<sup>88</sup> from Amazonas. Observations at two nests of **Large Elaenia** *Elaenia spectabilis* have been reported from Rio Grande do Sul<sup>82</sup>. **Thrush-like Wren** *Campylorhynchus turdinus* has recently been added to the known avifauna of Paraná<sup>15</sup>, whilst a documented record of **Scarlet Ibis** *Eudocimus ruber* is available from the same state<sup>167</sup> and a nest of **Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* has also been found there recently<sup>155</sup>. Rupp *et al.*<sup>139</sup> provide the first record of the poorly known **Silky-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus sericocaudatus* in Santa Catarina, along with records of other Caprimulgiformes in the same state. Interesting records from Rio de Janeiro state include the first record of **Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata*<sup>123</sup>, the rediscovery after over 100 years without records of **Robust Woodpecker** *Campephilus robustus* in the Serra dos Órgãos<sup>124</sup>, and some recent records of **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis*<sup>146</sup>. From the same state, Mallet-Rodrigues<sup>101</sup> discusses the presumed occurrence of **Rufous-winged Antshrike** *Thamnophilus torquatus*, and Serpa *et al.*<sup>147</sup> present the first documented record of **Great Grebe** *Podiceps major*. **Festive Coquette** *Lophornis chalybeus* has been rediscovered in Santa Catarina<sup>91</sup>, whilst there have been several new records of the globally threatened **Black-capped Piprites** *Piprites pileata* in the same state<sup>143</sup>. Canuto<sup>24</sup> describes a



nest of **Black-and-white Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus melanoleucus* from south-east Brazil. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**

*Nyctanassa violacea* has been discovered breeding as far south as the Lagoa dos Patos in southern Rio Grande do Sul<sup>56</sup>, and new records of **Warbling Doradito**

*Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris* have been presented from the same state<sup>151</sup>. Campos *et al.*<sup>23</sup> provide an update of the species recorded in Laje de Santos Marine State Park, off São Paulo, as well as a detailed review of its breeding terns. Pinho *et al.*<sup>125</sup> describe ten nests of

**Band-tailed Antbirds**

*Hypocnemoides maculicauda* found in the Pantanal during the wet season.

## Chile

A team of ornithologists surveyed the coast of Chile between Isla Terhalten and Isla Leonard for breeding **Rockhopper** *Eudyptes chrysocome* and **Macaroni Penguins** *E. chrysolophus* in 2005. The most important observations were of 1,000 Rockhopper Penguin nests at Isla Terhalten and totals of 158,200 Rockhopper and 3,470 Macaroni Penguins on Isla Noir. The Rockhopper population on Isla Noir had increased significantly from the previous estimate of 70,000 pairs, making this island the most important breeding site for the southern subspecies of Rockhopper Penguin<sup>114</sup>. González-Acuña *et al.*<sup>59</sup> provided details of the nesting of **Cocoi Heron** *Ardea cocoi* in the central south of the country. Post<sup>126</sup> describes a *Pachyptila* (prion) 'wreck' on the coast of Antofagasta, as well as reviewing previously published data from Chile and Peru on such phenomena.

Recent interesting observations published in the online bulletin *La Chiricoca* include the following<sup>13,14</sup>. Three **Patagonian Tinamous** *Tiamotis ingoufi* were observed and photographed in the far south of the country in December 2007. An unusually far north record of **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*, off Valparaíso, was made in January 2008, whilst the southern-

most record of **Juan Fernández Petrel** *Pterodroma externa* came in February 2008 off Region XI.

**Hooded Grebe** *Podiceps gallardoi* has been claimed in the south of the country again, a group of five in Region V in April. There were three records (two of them photographed) of **Brown Pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* in the extreme north of the country in December 2007 and March 2008 (the species is proving increasingly frequent in this region, although it was only recently discovered in Chile for the first time). In the same region, a **Roseate**

**Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja*

remained for a week in late March 2008. A **Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* was photographed in the Metropolitan region in March 2008. A

**Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo*

*swainsoni* was found and photographed in an animal rescue centre in Antofagasta in November 2007. A **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa* was photographed at the Mantagua estuary, in the centre of the country, in February 2008, but probably even more incredible was a **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*, photographed in Region VIII in June 2008, which was more than 1,200 km from its usual range in the extreme north of the country.

Only the third and fourth documented records for Chile of

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris*

*mauri* involved singles photographed in Region IV, also in February 2008, and Region V, in June 2008. There was a new record, also documented with photographs, of **Stilt Sandpiper** *C. himantopus*, from the far north, in late March 2008. In the same month, a **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* was observed at the río Maipo in central Chile. After c.50 years without any records in

the country, there were two records, one involving a dead bird, the other a group of seven, of **Ruddy Ground Dove** *Columbina talpacoti*, in Region III and Region VII, in March and April 2008. A new species for Chile was

photographed on a balcony in Iquique, in the far north of the country, in January 2008, a

**Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**

*Tyrannus savana*, also a rare vagrant, was photographed in Region III in early December 2007, with another record, of two

individuals, at least one of which was photographed, in the extreme north of the country in late March 2008. Another new species for

Chile was a **Western Wood**

**Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus*

photographed in the Chaca Valley in mid-December 2007, with another *Contopus* sp., thought to be probably the same species also

photographed, in the Loa Valley, in November 2007. Even more incredible was another first for Chile, a male **Canada Warbler**

*Wilsonia canadensis* photographed in the Lluta Valley in late May 2008.

## Colombia

Rensen<sup>130</sup> has belatedly placed on record the first specimen records for the country of two river island specialists, both collected in July 1974: **Bay Hornero** *Furnarius*

*torridus* and **Leaden Antwren**

*Myrmotherula assimilis*. A paper by Salaman *et al.*<sup>141</sup> details 16

(more or less) recent additions to the latest Colombia checklist (see

*Cotinga* 30: 91). Strewe *et al.*<sup>154</sup>

have reported the first **Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus*

*cirrocephalus* in Colombia, on the Caribbean coast. More recently

collected data concern the current status of the rare **Wattled**

**Curassow** *Crax globulosa* along the lower río Caquetá<sup>3</sup>. **Spot-**

**fronted Swift** *Cypseloides chieriei*

has recently been observed in the Central Andes<sup>117</sup>, and, even more

exciting, details of the rediscovery of the globally threatened and

extremely poorly known **Recurve-**

**billied Bushbird** *Clytactantes alixii* in the same cordillera have

also been announced<sup>27</sup>. Cuervo *et al.*<sup>30</sup> present new distributional

information for 36 bird species of the cloud forests and páramos in

the Cordillera Central, and separately they present the overall

list of 335 species that they have found in this region and their habitat preferences<sup>31</sup>. The new records reflect the mixed bioge-

graphic affinities of the avifauna of the northern Cordillera Central, which is composed of taxa from the pluvial foothills of the Chocó (e.g. **Indigo Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa indigotica* and **Scarlet-and-white Tanager** *Chrysothlypis salmomi*), Central America and Darién (e.g. **Purple-throated Woodstar** *Calliphlox mitchellii*), and elsewhere in the Andes (e.g. **Semicollared Hawk** *Accipiter collaris* and **Yellow-headed Manakin** *Chloropipo flavicapilla*). In addition, they report the first or second definite Colombian records of **Pavonine Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx pavoninus*, **Cinnamon Screech Owl** *Megascops petersoni* and **Sharpbill** *Oxyruncus cristatus*. **Central American Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium griseiceps* has recently been discovered in the middle Magdalena Valley, further extending its range in the country<sup>111</sup>. New distributional records of **Black-and-chestnut Eagle** *Spizaetus isidori* and **Black Hawk-Eagle** *S. tyrannus* have been presented<sup>28</sup>. Important new breeding data have been presented for the globally threatened **San Andrés Vireo** *Vireo caribaeus*, based on observations made in 2004<sup>58</sup>. The first breeding data for **Yellow-crowned Whitestart** *Myioborus flavivertex* have also been published recently<sup>110</sup>. A year-long study of the globally threatened **Cauca Guan** *Penelope perspicax* has revealed new information concerning its abundance, habitat use and degree of endemism; the authors found the species to be a habitat, diet and nesting generalist<sup>132</sup>. The highly threatened and range-restricted race of **Grasshopper Sparrow** *Ammodramus savannarum caucae* has been discovered to occur in the upper Patía Valley, in the south-west of the country<sup>10</sup>. Johnston-González *et al.*<sup>85</sup> report a range extension for **Spot-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus maculicaudus* in western Colombia. Breeding data, as well as information on foraging and voice, have been presented for the generally poorly known **Greyish Piculet** *Picumnus*

*granadensis*<sup>145</sup>, and the nest and eggs of **Pale-naped Brush Finch** *Atlapetes pallidinucha* have been described<sup>122</sup>. Nesting information has also been published for two subspecies of **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* in the country, for *C. w. beldingi*, from a locality on the Pacific coast, and for *C. w. cinnamominus*, from a site on the Caribbean side<sup>138</sup>.

### Ecuador

Freile<sup>53</sup> presents distributional notes on 19 species of birds in western Ecuador, as well as new records for Isla de La Plata and new sites for globally threatened species. **Military Macaw** *Ara militaris* has recently been discovered breeding in Ecuador, at a colony within the 996,436-ha Gran Sumaco Biosphere Reserve, prov. Orellana<sup>8</sup>. Solano-Ugalde<sup>152</sup> presents information to demonstrate that, at least occasionally, **Ecuadorian Hillstar** *Oreotrochilus chimborazo* nests colonially. There has been the now usual spate of outputs by the ever-prodigious Greeney-led team, including publications on the following species since the appearance of *Cotinga* 30: **Wattled Guan** *Aburria aburri*<sup>73</sup>, **Barred Hawk** *Leucopternis princeps*<sup>55</sup>, **Bronzy Inca** *Coeligena coeligena*<sup>37</sup>, **Dusky Spinetail** *Synallaxis moesta*<sup>63</sup>, **White-browed Spinetail** *Hellmayrea gularis*<sup>67,68</sup>, **Slate-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaricula nana*<sup>66</sup>, **Long-tailed Tapaculo** *Scytalopus micropterus*<sup>51</sup>, **Barred Becard** *Pachyramphus versicolor*<sup>64</sup>, **Western Striped Manakin** *Machaeropterus regulus striolatus*<sup>38</sup>, **Sharpe's Wren** *Cinnycerthia olivascens*<sup>52</sup>, **White-capped Dipper** *Cinclus leucocephalus*<sup>62</sup>, **Andean Solitaire** *Myadestes ralloides*<sup>65</sup>, **Spectacled Whitestart** *Myioborus melanocephalus*<sup>71</sup>, **Grey-and-gold Warbler** *Basileuterus fraseri*<sup>107</sup>, **Black-capped Tanager** *Tangara heinei*<sup>70</sup>, **Beryl-spangled Tanager** *T. nigroviridis*<sup>148</sup> and **Yellow-billed Caticue** *Amblycercus holosericeus*<sup>72</sup>. More general contributions concern a paper on nest architecture of the *Ochthoeca* chat-

tyrants<sup>106</sup>, a comparison of the nesting of **Great Antshrike** *Taraba major* in Costa Rica and Ecuador<sup>149</sup>, a review of our knowledge of the breeding of antpittas<sup>69</sup>, and additional information on *Scytalopus tapaculo* breeding biology<sup>61</sup>.

### Falklands / Islas Malvinas

The archipelago's population of **Southern Giant Petrels** *Macronectes giganteus* appears to be increasing; a recent (2004/05) census estimated numbers at over 19,500 pairs, in 38 colonies around the islands<sup>128</sup>. These results suggest that the species' global conservation status might be revised from Vulnerable to Near Threatened.

### French Guiana

Observations at a nest of **Spangled Cotinga** *Cotinga cayana*, found in the interior of the country, have been recounted<sup>84</sup> (cf. *Cotinga* 29: 187). Further sightings of **Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia* in French Guiana in 2007–08 have already been reported<sup>2</sup>, following the species' initial discovery there as recently as 2006 (cf. *Cotinga* 29: 186).

### Guyana

The recently 're-split' **Todd's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus heterurus* has been recorded in the country for the first time during a Smithsonian Institution research programme visit<sup>105</sup>.

### Paraguay

Recent field work has added 112 species to the list of birds recorded in San Rafael National Park, and of the total of 405 species now known from the area, some 12 are globally threatened and a further 16 Near Threatened, making the area of considerable importance in protecting the southern Atlantic Forest avifauna in the country<sup>41</sup>. Bodrati & Velázquez<sup>19</sup> have updated our knowledge of the status of **Black-billed Scythebill** *Campylorhamphus falcularius* in the Atlantic Forest of Paraguay, based on field observations and museum specimens.

## Peru

Brooks *et al.*<sup>21</sup> provide an inventory totalling 438 species from a site in the Amazon basin, and present species accounts for four species that represent new distributional records, two threatened species, and 26 species of Nearctic and austral migrants. Flanagan & Millen<sup>47</sup> provide the first details of the nest and eggs of the globally threatened **Peruvian Plantcutter** *Phytotoma raimondii*. The fourth-known breeding site for **Wedge-rumped Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma tethys* was discovered recently, when slightly in excess of 400 nesting burrows were counted on Isla Santa<sup>9</sup>. Pratonlongo<sup>127</sup> examines the current status of the remaining and reintroduced populations of the globally threatened **White-winged Guan** *Penelope albipennis*. Hardy & Hardy<sup>77</sup> document the remarkable finding of **White-winged Diuca Finches** *Diuca speculifera* breeding over several years at up to 5,300 m on an ice field in the Peruvian Andes. New data on the breeding biology of **Peruvian Tern** *Sternula lorata* have been published in the journal *Waterbirds*<sup>173</sup>. Figueroa & Stucchi<sup>46</sup> present observations of birds made on the islas Lobos de Afuera during spring 2004.

## Venezuela

Extensive breeding data, based on 40 nests, and other natural history information have been presented recently for **Rusty-breasted Antpitta** *Grallarica ferrugineipectus*, based on observations conducted in Yacambú National Park, Lara state<sup>113</sup>. Muir *et al.*<sup>112</sup> have published the first detailed breeding data for the *granadensis* subspecies of **Red-ruffed Fruiterow** *Pyroderus scutatus* based on several nests also found in Yacambú National Park, whilst the nest and eggs of **Ochre-breasted Brush Finch** *Atlapetes semirufus* have also been described from this protected area<sup>17</sup>. Crease<sup>29</sup> presents the first nesting data for the poorly known **Roraiman Nightjar** *Caprimulgus whitelyi*. A recent study has documented the abundance and home range of

**Yellow-knobbed Curassow** *Crax daubentoni* in the central Venezuelan llanos<sup>16</sup>.

## OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

### Antigua

A first-summer **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* was photographed at St. John's Harbour on 31 March 2009 (JFH; photographs archived on www.surfbirds.com); the species is considered a vagrant to the island.

### Argentina

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* was seen flying south between Villa Paranacito and Ceibas, in southern Entre Ríos, on 13 October 2008, constituting only the second provincial record (IR).

### Bolivia

While hiking into Madidi National Park, on 20 July 2002, ABH observed in dry scrub around Santa Cruz de Valle Ameno (1,600 m), a male **Green-capped Tanager** *Tangara meyerdeschauensei*. The bird was seen well, including the distinctive yellowish coronal area and grey/green back. This record is the second for Bolivia and extends the species' range 60 km eastwards. The area is highly disturbed, mostly with agricultural fields and annually burnt grasslands; only c.20% of the original dry scrub remains, along river and farm plot edges.

### Brazil

The third country record of **Canada Warbler** *Wilsonia canadensis* was made at Serra dos Tucanos Lodge, near Nova Friburgo, on 3 February 2009 (KM & SS *per AF*). Remarkably, all three records of this species in Brazil have come from Rio de Janeiro state and the first was also from the environs of Serra dos Tucanos. RS reports the observation of a male and two female **Unicoloured Blackbirds** *Agelaius cyanopus atroolivaceus* at Mogi das Cruzes, São Paulo, on 11 April 2009, which would appear to be the first state record of this

coastal taxon. Interesting records made during a tour of the south-east of the country include the first-ever nests of **Black-legged Dacnis** *Dacnis nigripes* and **Serra do Mar Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes difficilis* (full details of both in preparation), the former at Intervales State Park, São Paulo, on 26–28 November 2008, the latter at Itatiaia National Park, Rio de Janeiro, on 1 December 2008. Elsewhere, there was a male **Ruby Topaz** *Chrysolampis mosquitus* at Folha Seca, Ubatuba, São Paulo, on 24 November 2008 (according to the owner of the garden where the bird was observed, Jonas D'Abronzio, this species appears at his feeders about once every 2–3 years), and a **Pearly-breasted Cuckoo** *Coccyzus euleri* at the rio das Velhas, south of Pirapora, Minas Gerais, on 6 December 2008 (this species is distinctly rare in the state). Also in Minas Gerais, a pair of **Cinereous Warbling Finches** *Poospiza cinerea*, apparently preparing to breed, was closely observed along one of the entrance roads into Serra da Canastra National Park, on 4 December 2008; this is only the second record from the protected area of this globally threatened bird, following the first in July 2000 (cf. *Cotinga* 26: 92) (all GMK, R & SJ, J & JL, P & JW). Field work in Emas National Park, Goiás, on 22 December 2008, revealed the presence of a female **Fasciated Antshrike** *Cymbilaimus lineatus*, apparently a new record for this protected area and also for the state. Further north, **Collared Crescentchest** *Melanopareia torquata* was found to be reasonably common in *cerrado* on the Pará (left) bank of the rio Araguaia opposite Caseara (in Tocantins), at Barreira do Campo, on 2 January 2009; this appears to be only the third-known locality in the state. A further locality for **Manu Antbird** *Cercomacra manu* was discovered in Tocantins, at Fazenda São João II, 10 km north of Guaraí, on 7 January 2009; this vocally different-sounding population was initially detected in early 2002 (Beadle *et al.*, 2002,



*Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 123: 236–239) (all GMK, JP, WP).

### Cayman Islands

A **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* was a surprise find along the Mastic Trail, Grand Cayman, on 13 March 2009 (GMK, HS); there are only c.11 previous records from the archipelago, the majority from Cayman Brac (Bradley, 2000, *The birds of the Cayman Islands*, British Ornithologists' Union).

### Costa Rica

In addition to reports in Mexico and Panama (see below), as well as in the Caribbean (see Cuba and Dominica, below), there were two records of **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* in March 2009; at the mouth of the Río Tortuguero on 26 March (NM; [www.flickr.com/photos/michel\\_nicole/sets/72157616002114929/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/michel_nicole/sets/72157616002114929/)), with a second bird found south of Limón on 27 March (per NM *in litt.* May 2009 to NEOORN).

### Cuba

In *Cotinga* 30: 92, we erroneously stated that a recent report of a House Crow *Corvus splendens* in Cuba might be the first for the Caribbean; C. Ryall has reminded us of a record on Barbados in 1994 (Ryall, 2002, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 122: 231–240). The 'star' record of the period was a reported **Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus* on Cayo Coco on 10 March (NP); only the

third Cuban record (both previous records are of specimens taken by Gundlach in the second half of the 19th century). Almost equally exciting was the report of a first-summer **Mississippi Kite** *Ictinia mississippiensis* photographed over central Havana, on 20 April 2009 (JAH; cf. Fig. 1); this is the first documented island record and only the third-ever report in the Antilles (cf. *Cotinga* 14: 101–102; 23: 80, 90). Another significant record, part of a spate of occurrences in the Caribbean basin (see also Costa Rica, Dominica, Guyana, Panama and Venezuela) involved four **Black-legged Kittiwakes** *Rissa tridactyla* photographed at Playa Larga, Zapata, on 7 April 2009, with one of the same still present on 8 April (G & BH; [www.flickr.com/photos/31275029@N04/3431633534/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/31275029@N04/3431633534/)); there are only four previous island records. AM observed a flock of c.20+ **Savannah Sparrows** *Passerculus sandwichensis* in rice fields between Aguada de Pasajeros and Zapata swamp, on 7 January 2009. Three **Dunlins** *Calidris alpina* were at Las Salinas, Zapata, on 16 March 2009 (per MP *et al.*) and two **Red Knots** *C. canutus* were on Cayo Guillermo on 11 March 2009 (PB), whilst another **Red Knot** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** *C. melanotos* were on Cayo Guillermo on 19 March 2009 (GMK, HS). The latter island also hosted a **Bay-breasted Warbler** *Dendroica castanea* on 15 March 2009 (the earliest-ever spring

record in Cuba); the same observers also recorded a **Swainson's Warbler** *Limnothlypis swainsonii* and a **Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus* on Cayo Coco on 15 March 2009, indicating a sizeable fallout of migrants at the time (GMK, HS). Another Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Bermejas, in Zapata, on 21 March 2009 (AK, GMK, HS). A **Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca* was at La Güira National Park, Pinar del Río, on 10 April 2009 (GMK, HS). DAS reports that at least two adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** *Larus fuscus* (probably of the race *graellsii*) were still around Cayo Coco in late March 2008 (where at least one was seen in March 2009: GMK, HS), whilst a **Tennessee Warbler** *Vermivora peregrina* was at Soroa, Pinar del Río, on 25 March 2008.

### Dominica

A **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* was apparently washed-up on a beach in February (per FH *in litt.* May 2009 to NEOORN). There were apparently also records of this species on Guadeloupe and Barbados around the same period (per NM *in litt.* May 2009 to NEOORN).

### Dominican Republic

A **Baltimore Oriole** *Oriolus galbula* was seen along the Rabo de Gato trail, near Puerto Escondido, on 7 April 2009 (GMK); Keith *et al.* (2003, *The birds of Hispaniola*, British Ornithologists' Union) mentioned four previous records for the county, as well as four in neighbouring Haiti.

### Ecuador

On 11 June 2008, a group of students hiking in El Cajas National Park, Cuenca, photographed a dead **Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* on the shore of Laguna Toreadora, at c.4,000 m. This is the first exceptionally high record of the species in the Ecuadorian Andes. One can speculate that strong westerly winds, combined with persistent cloud cover below 3,000 m, blew the bird into the Andes,



Figure 1. First-summer Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*, central Havana, Cuba, 20 April 2009 (James Hanlon)



almost 60 km from the coast, where despite presumably finding the largest waterbody in the vicinity, it died, probably from nocturnal temperatures below freezing and exhaustion (*per* TM).

### Galápagos

The following records pertain to sightings of vagrant / irregular species made during a recent (2008) bird tour to the islands. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis* at Lago El Junco, San Cristóbal, on 2 October was still present on 9 October (video-taped), whilst a **Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* was present at the same site on 2 October. A **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* was seen at Puerto Velasio, Floreana, on 4 October, and a flock of 12 female or immature **Purple Martins** *Progne subis* was seen at Lago El Junco, San Cristóbal, on 2 October, with at least one still present on 9 October (all NH).

### Guyana

A **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* was found exhausted between the Baganara Island resort and Bartica on 17 February 2009; it subsequently died and has apparently been prepared as a specimen ([www.guyanachronicle.com/news.html](http://www.guyanachronicle.com/news.html); <http://latinamericabirding.blogspot.com/2009/04/guyana-february-2009.html>). This is the first record for Guyana and only the second to be documented for South America (following one in Peru), but was quickly followed by another record in Venezuela (see below). The status of **Crested Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri* in the country is presently unclear, making the observation of one, on 20 January 2009, at a flooded pond in the savanna by Karanambu Ranch, along with two **Bearded Tachuris** *Polystictus pectoralis*, of potential significance (RK).

### Panama

The first country record of **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* involved a bird photographed at Costa del Este, in



Figure 2. Adult Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Boreil's Lagoon, St. Lucia, 22 June 2008 (Steve Brendon)

Panama City, on 2 April 2009 (D. Robinson, G. Rompre & R. Moore), and in addition there were three immature **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** *L. fuscus* in Panama City in April (the first records since 1998) and a **Kelp Gull** *L. dominicanus*, the first record since 2001 (*per* G. Angehr *in litt.* May 2009 to NEOORN).

### Peru

Interesting records from a two-month photographic trip (by DB, GMK and HS) to north and central parts of the country in mid-September–mid-November 2008 included the following. **Tumbes Tyrant** *Tumbezia salvini* was tape-recorded and photographed further north than its mapped range in Schulenberg *et al.* (2007, *Birds of Peru*, Princeton University Press / Christopher Helm), at Zorritos, dpto. Tumbes, on 8 and 11 October, although since then the species has been found for the first time in Ecuador and there is an old specimen from the border region (*per* N. Athanas *in litt.* 2009). A pair of the so-called **Paynter's Brush Finch** *Atlapetes leucopterus paynteri* found at Pampa del Limón, east of Tabaconas, dpto. Cajamarca, on 20 October, at 1,270 m, were apparently well below the known altitudinal range of this poorly known taxon (Schulenberg *et al.* 2007 list it as occurring at 1,700–2,200 m). Swifts provided plenty of interest, with a flock of c.20 **White-chested Swift**

*Cypseloides lemosi* observed over Muyuna Lodge, dpto. Loreto, on 30 September, whilst both the latter and **White-chinned Swift** *C. cryptus* were photographed east of the pass at Abra Patricia, dpto. San Martín, on 25 October. Both these species are very poorly known and documented in Peru. A **Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* of the boreal migrant race *aestiva* seen along the Soritor Road near Moyobamba, dpto. San Martín, on 1 November, was apparently outside its usual range in Peru.

### St. Lucia

Two first records for the island submitted by CG involve an adult **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* in non-breeding plumage, photographed at Boreil's Lagoon, on 22 June 2008 (Fig. 2), and an immature (perhaps a first-year) **Roseate Spoonbill** *P. ajaja* seen at Cul de Sac on 9 and 18 June 2008 had apparently been present c.3 months (*per* DA). What was presumably the same **Eurasian Spoonbill**, which is one of the few records for the New World, was present at a roadside pond just south of Castries on 1–4 January 2009 (KB). The same observer also reported a **Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis* at the same pond, on 4 January 2009, and a **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* observed during a whale-watching trip offshore on 29 December 2008; these appear to constitute the

fourth and fifth records, respectively, for the island based on Keith (1997, *The birds of St Lucia*, British Ornithologists' Union).

### Venezuela

The most remarkable record of the period was the third documented continental record of **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*, a bird photographed off Kaimare Chico, Zulia, on 3 May 2009 (JGL; [http://www.flickr.com/photos/jg\\_kp\\_leon/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/jg_kp_leon/); see also Guyana). AR sent the following records (all pertaining to 2008, unless otherwise stated), which appear to represent novel information based on Hilty (2003, *Birds of Venezuela*). **Rufous-rumped Tapaculo** *Scytalopus griseicollis* was seen and tape-recorded at the Páramo de Tamá, above Betania, Táchira, on 5 August, representing the first state record and one of the few available for the country as a whole. **Yellow-browed Shrike-Vireo** *Vireolanius eximius* was seen and tape-recorded in the río Frio valley, north of Santa Elena de Arenales (Mérida), on 3 August, apparently the first record for the west Andean slope. **Dull-mantled Antbird** *Myrmeciza laemosticta* was also seen and tape-recorded in the same valley, where at least four singing birds were present, also on 3 August (the only recent evidence for the species' presence in the Andes?). **Brown-capped Tyrannulet** *Ornithion brunneicapillus* was tape-recorded (but not seen) on the east slope of the Páramo de Tamá, on 8 August, perhaps constituting the first record for Táchira. At least one female **Southern Martin** *Progne elegans* was photographed at El Frio, Táchira, on 4 August, perhaps constituting the first documented record for Venezuela. Elsewhere, along the Escalera road (Bolívar), AR observed several forest species outside their usual habitat in scrubby savanna, including **Olive Manakin** *Chloropipo uniformis*, **Peacock Coquette** *Lophornis pavoninus*, **Greater Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa major*, **Velvet-browed Brilliant** *Heliodoxa xanthogonyx* and

### Green-bellied Hummingbird

*Amazilia viridigaster*. In the Orinoco Delta, north of Tucupita, records of **Yellow-browed Tyrant** *Satrapa icterophrys*, **Cattle Tyrant** *Machetornis rixosus*, **Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* and **Red-capped Cardinal** *Paroaria gularis* all appear to represent minor range extensions. In Yacambú National Park, Lara, **Orange-eared Tanager** *Chlorochrysa calliparaea* (also seen in 2007 by AR, and separately by GMK in January of the same year) appears to be a range extension, as does a male **Stripe-tailed Yellow Finch** *Sicalis citrina* at the San Isidro quarry (Barinas).

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