

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 The third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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 record of Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* in Guatemala

Spotted Rail *Pardirallus maculatus* is a shy resident of wetlands in Cuba, Hispaniola, Trinidad & Tobago, and locally from southern Mexico through Central America to Argentina and west Peru^{2,4}. It is known from all Central American countries except Guatemala³, having been only recently reported in Honduras, at Lake Yojoa¹.

On 26 April 2004, whilst undertaking a waterbird count at Lake Güija, I photographed an adult Spotted Rail beside the río Ostúa, dpto. Jalapa, Guatemala (14°17'N 89°32'W). The photograph is archived at VIREO (V06/56/001). No vocalisations were heard. The Ostúa forms the border between Guatemala and El Salvador, at the point where it flows into Lake Güija. Vegetation in the area included *Salix humboldtiana*, grasses (Gramineae), and *Eichhornia crassipes*.

Spotted Rail was previously known in El Salvador from single records at Laguna El Jocotal, dpto. San Miguel, and Tasajera Island, dpto. La Paz³, 179 km and 136 km, respectively, from Lake Güija.

Neither the El Salvador records nor the new Guatemala record implies local breeding. Records throughout Central America are widespread but few and the possibility that some or all records from northern Central America are vagrants cannot be eliminated.

Acknowledgements

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New records of Wedge-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus curvipennis* and Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanooides* in Cusuco National Park, Honduras

Cusuco National Park in north-west Honduras is a little-studied protected area in the Merendon Mountains. Here we outline two new observations for the park made during a study of avian diversity and abundance there, in July–August 2004. The national park has a total area of 23,000 ha, although the core zone is only 7,690 ha. The latter includes both pine-dominated and broadleaf-dominated forest, and covers an altitudinal range of 1,200 m to the highest point at 2,242 m (15°29'–15°32'N 88°12'–88°16'W). There is a mosaic of three main habitat types: cloud forest at 1,500–2,242 m, drier pine forest, mainly on south-facing slopes, at 800–1,500 m, and wet deciduous forest mainly on north-facing slopes at 500–1,500 m.

Wedge-tailed Sabrewing *Campylopterus curvipennis*

This sabrewing is a frequent to common resident through eastern Mexico, Belize and northern Guatemala, with two localities known in eastern Honduras^{1–3}. There are no records for western Honduras. During a ten-day period (27 June–5 July 2004) mist-netting around the visitor centre at the national park (15°29'N 88°12'W; 1,630 m), we trapped a single individual in pine-dominated forest edge. The bird had a relatively straight bill and a long, wedge-shaped tail. The face and throat were grey and there was a small, distinct white post-ocular spot. The crown was iridescent violet, tinged with blue, and the neck and upperparts were greenish blue. The tail was similarly coloured, but was

noticeably bluer with the outer rectrices showing black, revealing it to be a male, as females have broad white tips to the outer rectrices. This capture is the first record in western Honduras and a new altitudinal record for *C. curvipennis*, which was previously known only to 1,400 m². Given that the species occurs c.100 km to the north-west and c.400 km to the south-east of the study area, it is unsurprising that the sabrewing has now also been found in the national park.

Blue-black Grosbeak

Cyanocopsa cyanoides

This grosbeak occurs in humid evergreen forest and second growth from Mexico south to Ecuador and Brazil, being common to frequent below 900 m^{1,2} in northern Central America, and common up to 1,200 m in Costa Rica⁴. Our first sighting was in broadleaf forest at 1,710 m on 28 June 2004, when we found a pair singing in dense undergrowth around 2–3 m above ground level in 30–35 m-high canopy forest. Both male and female songs were a slow, descending slurred warble of six notes. The male was very dark with an overall blue-black appearance, and the bill was massive compared to the head. The overall impression was of a stocky, thickset bird. The female was deep brown with a similarly thickset appearance and massive bill. On 2 July 2004, at the same location, we trapped a male (wing length 82 mm, weight 29 g) using a tape lure, confirming the original identification, and revealing the forehead to be a noticeably brighter blue and the black bill to have a pale base to the lower mandible. The bird was photographed, but unfortunately the quality of the photographs was insufficient for publication purposes. Several further observations were made in the same location during subsequent days. Additional sightings were made of a male and a female c.1 km away, in pine-dominated forest and forest edge, at the visitor centre, indicating that the species is fairly widespread at this altitude, and is

not confined to lowland forests. Our observations represent a considerable extension of the species' altitudinal range.

Acknowledgements

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First description of the nest of a Ruddy Treerunner

Margarornis rubiginosus

We discovered a nest of a Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus* at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Puntarenas province, Costa Rica (1,530 m) on 25 April 2004. The nest of this species has not been described previously^{1–3}. It was sited at c.25 m in the crown of a tree adjacent to a suspension bridge along a regularly used trail within mature cloud forest. The nest was on the underside of a thick branch (diameter: 45 cm), which projected from the main trunk at an angle of 20° from vertical. The nest was an oval mass of moss, well

camouflaged on an epiphyte-covered branch (Fig. 1), and was c.30 cm tall and 20 cm wide. The nest entrance, which oriented downwards from the bottom of the nest, had a diameter of c.10 cm, and the entrance tunnel appeared to narrow considerably within. The lip of the nest entrance appeared to be woven of brown and green plant fibres, whereas the remainder of the exterior was of shaggy moss. Moss hung down around the entrance, making it difficult to view into the nest from any angle except directly below. The branch to which the nest was attached, and the nest's structure, protected the interior of the nest from rain. The nest was sited underneath a large, leafy bromeliad and may have been attached to the root structure of the epiphyte.

Nests of Neotropical ovenbirds (Furnariidae) are variable and often highly cryptic⁵. The nest of only one other species of *Margarornis* has been described: that of Pearled Treerunner *M. squamiger*, which is a ball of moss with a side entrance, placed below a limb or rock¹. Hanging nests of moss may prove to be a common feature amongst the four species in this genus.

We observed one or two adults feeding nestlings. During two hours of observation, we witnessed 20 feeding visits, but only one adult was seen per visit, making it impossible to determine whether one or more individuals attended the nest. During each visit, the adult approached the nest in a long flight from below, perched briefly on the lip and then moved up into the nest, where only the tail and rump were visible. We inferred that the interior comprised a passage leading from the entrance to a shelf where the nestlings perched. On exiting, the adult dropped down in a long flight away from the nest. The nestlings begged loudly during each visit, a series of rapidly repeated, high, thin notes (*seet*). From the degree of overlap in begging vocalisations, we believe there were at least two nestlings. The adult occasionally uttered a

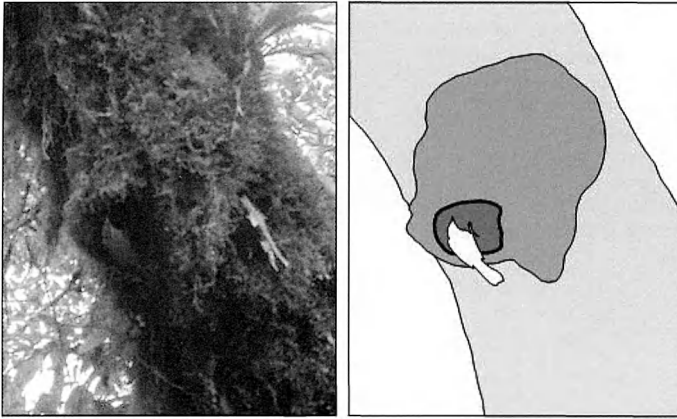


Figure 1. Photograph and line tracing of the nest of a Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus* at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Costa Rica. The globular nest was constructed of moss and plant fibres, and positioned on the underside of a thick branch high in the canopy. The adult delivered food to the nest from the entrance, which is oriented downwards from the bottom of the nest (Daniel J. Mennill)

quiet, thin *seet* at or near the nest. Each visit lasted no more than 2 seconds. On two occasions, we observed the adult carrying prey, presumably an arthropod, the wings of which extended at least 1 cm either side of the bill. The adult visited in bouts, returning every 2–3 minutes during a feeding bout. The longest between-bout interval was 18 minutes.

Directly below the nest, the leaves in the understorey were covered with nestling faecal material. During the two hours of observation, we observed faecal material falling from the nest four times.

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A nest of Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula* depredated by a Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca* *turcosa*

On 26 November 2003 we found a nest of Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula* at Tapichalaca Biological Reserve (04°30'S 79°10'W), north of Valladolid in south-east Zamora-Chinchipe province, Ecuador, at an elevation of c.2,500 m. The nest, which held two entirely turquoise eggs (25.3 x 22.6, 25.4 x 22.5 mm),

was a large mossy cup lined with pale fibres and dark fungal rhizomorphs. It was located 2 m above ground on the side of a mossy tree trunk (12 cm diameter at breast height), supported by a shelf created by an abnormal growth of the tree and epiphytic bromeliads. Its measurements were: inside cup diameter 10 cm, cup depth 6.5 cm, outside diameter 20 cm, and outside height 12 cm. A large quantity of moss was stuffed onto the front of the ledge below the nest, apparently to increase its support. This extended 9 cm below the bottom of the nest. The nest and eggs closely matched the only other nest description for *G. rufula*².

Both adults incubated the clutch and frequently arrived at the nest with fungal rhizomorphs to add to the lining. While incubating, adults sat deep in the nest cup and were not visible above the rim of the nest. Both were observed to stand and rapidly probe into the lining of the nest, frequently consuming small objects, as described for Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis*¹.

On 28 November, during remote filming of the nest, a Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa* arrived while no adults were present. We videotaped the jay eating both eggs, spending c.5 minutes at the nest. It consumed both eggs entirely, breaking them open in the nest and eating small pieces of the shell and yolk with its head below the rim of the nest. No vocalisations were heard from the adult antpittas during this period.

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Third record of Rufous-chested Plover *Charadrius modestus* in Peru

Rufous-chested Plover *Charadrius modestus* breeds in southern South America, in Chile and Argentina^{2,3}. Part of the population is migratory and reaches northern Chile and southern and, exceptionally, south-east Brazil^{2,6} during the austral autumn/winter. Post-breeding migration mainly occurs in March–April and return to the breeding areas is in late August–September³.

On 25 August 1995, C. Chevalier, F. Fontaine, PP and FS observed a Rufous-chested Plover on the beach immediately west of Pisco (dpto. Ica), just 200 m from the sea. It was larger than the nearby Sanderling *Calidris alba* and Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus*, but clearly smaller than American Golden Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* and Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous* present on the same beach. It had the characteristic plover combination of rounded head and relatively short bill. The bird was in breeding plumage, with a rufous chest separated from the white belly by a black bar, and grey cheeks separated from the brown cap by a white supercilium.

Previous records in Peru involve a breeding-plumage female at Playa Ventanilla, north of Lima, on

10–17 June 1972, which was collected on the final date⁴, and an adult male collected on the south-west shore of Paracas Bay, on 22 June 1975⁵. As the species is easily identified and may occur in areas frequently visited by birdwatchers (e.g. Lagunas de Mejia, the Pisco, Paracas and Lima areas), the paucity of records suggests the species is genuinely a vagrant to Peru, rather than being merely overlooking (*contra* Clements & Shany¹).

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An incomplete nest of *Poecilurus kollari* in Roraima, Brazil

The trio of species in the genus *Poecilurus* are often placed in the

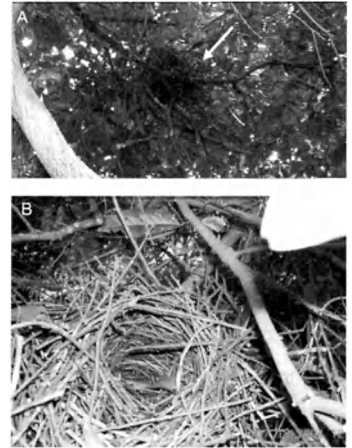


Figure 1. Nest of *Poecilurus kollari* at Alagadiço, Roraima, Brazil. (A) general view of nest placement; (B) close-up showing that it was apparently incomplete and abandoned (note leaves inside).

genus *Synallaxis*¹, or considered a subgenus². Hoary-throated Spinetail *Poecilurus kollari* is endemic to riverine forests along the upper rio Branco and its tributaries, in extreme northern Brazil and adjacent Guyana¹. Its tiny range and ongoing forest loss have meant that *P. kollari* is considered globally threatened³. Nonetheless, the species is poorly known, and none of its known range is formally protected (although a large portion lies within indigenous reserves).

On 4 August 2004, we found a nest of *P. kollari* at Alagadiço, Fazenda Truar , on the west bank of the rio Uraricoera, Roraima, Brazil (03 24'N 60 37'W). The nest was supported from a branch 3 m above ground, in a dense bush c.10 m from the riverbank (Fig. 1A). Two individuals, presumably a male and female, were nest building using twigs from a common vine, locally known as erva de passarinho (Loranthaceae). We revisited the nest 12 days later, on three subsequent days. At that time the nest was not yet lined, and we observed no change in its structure. It was a round cup, 35 cm in external diameter, 11 cm

in internal diameter, and 10 cm deep (Fig. 1B). The inner cavity was a simple tube at a 45° angle. The nest was probably abandoned because it had not been cleaned of leaves and we did not observe the presumed pair. SPN revisited the nest on 27 September 2004 and confirmed it to be abandoned. The nest was collected, and will be deposited in the ornithological collection of the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA), Manaus.

Based on the nest architecture of *Poecilurus candei* and *P. scutatus*, Zyskowski & Prum⁴ defined the nest of the genus as a domed vegetative nest composed of sticks with a thatch, a tubular entrance, and restricted lining. Assuming that *P. kollari* has similar nest architecture, the nest found at Alagadiço was probably incomplete, as it was not domed but a cup with no cover. In July 2001, Grosset & Minns⁵ also found an incomplete nest of *P. kollari* on the east bank of the Uraricoera, in a similar environment but lower (1.5 m). To our knowledge, this is the second record of *P. kollari*'s nest, the first time it has been collected, and the first observation of the probable involvement of male and female in nest building.

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Seabird records from Alagoas and Sergipe states, north-east Brazil

The states of Alagoas (AL) and Sergipe (SE), in north-east Brazil, possess c.390 km of coastline, between c.9–11° S. Although landbirds are relatively well known (at least in AL), little has

been published concerning seabirds in these states. Here we review existing, and present new, data on seabird distributions in AL and SE. Specimens are deposited in the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE), Empresa Ambiental do Pólo Petroquímico de Camaçari (CETREL), Universidade Federal de Alagoas (MHNUFAL), and Universidade Federal de Sergipe (UFSE). We list geographical coordinates for each locality only at its first mention. English names and taxonomy follow del Hoyo *et al.*^{5,6}, except for albatrosses, where we follow Robertson & Nunn¹⁰. Species' global status follows BirdLife International²: EN (Endangered), VU (Vulnerable), NT (Near Threatened) and LC (Least Concern).

Black-browed Albatross

Thalassarche melanophrys (EN) Olmos⁹ reported a specimen banded in the Falklands (South Atlantic) recovered in Maceió (c.09°40'S 35°44'W; AL), but did not mention a precise date (probably in May–September). On 16 March 1993 one was found dead at Praia de Aruana (11°01'S 37°04'W) and on 22 June 2003 another at Praia da Caueira (11°12'S 37°11'W), both in SE.

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* (EN)

Previously known from a juvenile taken off Pontal do Peba (c.10°21'S 36°18'W; AL) on 21 May 1988¹⁴. A juvenile (MHNUFAL 46) was caught by fishermen a few miles off Maceió (09°40'S 35°44'W; AL) on 3 June 1990, and on 7 June 2001 another (CETREL) was found dead at Praia de Pirambu (10°39'S 36°35'W; SE). Additionally, MCS and RTF received the skull of one found near the Vaza Barris estuary (11°07'S 37°08'W; SE) on 30 June 2003.

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (LC)

Azevedo-Júnior¹ reported several dead at Praia de Pirambu (SE) in May 1990, one of which (3403) is retained in UFPE. *F. glacialis* has been recorded further north

(c.5°S), off Rio Grande do Norte^{3,11}.

Soft-plumaged Petrel

Pterodroma mollis (LC)

Occurs off southern Brazil during the austral winter, and occasionally reaches north to Rio de Janeiro¹¹, with one record from Bahia⁷. A single (CETREL) was found at Praia de Pirambu (SE) on 4 May 1999, which appears to be the northernmost record in Brazil.

White-chinned Petrel

Procellaria aequinoctialis (Vu)

During the Dutch occupation of north-east Brazil (in the 17th century), a naturalist from Count Maurice of Nassau-Siegen's court noted this species' presence in the region¹². Two were found dead at Praia da Caueira (SE) on 3 May 2001. *P. aequinoctialis* should occur, at least in small numbers, off AL and SE, as well as elsewhere in north-east, as birds have been recorded in southern Bahia⁷, and even further north, on the Amazon River⁸.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris (diomedea) borealis* (LC)

Azevedo-Júnior¹ reported several at Praia de Pirambu (SE) in May 1990. At the same locality, several were found dead on 10 April 1998, 20–24 May 1998, 3 June 1999, 12 May 2000, 23–24 May 2001, 22 April and 13–15 May 2003, and 2–9 and 15 June 2003. Several specimens are retained in MHNUFAL, UFSE, and the zoological laboratory of Tiradentes University (SE). Moreover, Olmos⁹ mentioned two specimens banded in the Azores recovered in AL and SE.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* (LC)

Azevedo-Júnior¹ reported many dead along Praia de Pirambu (SE) in May 1990, two of which (3399, 3401) are in UFPE. Several were seen following fishing boats off Maceió harbour (09°40'S 35°44'W) on 24 May 1990. At the same locality, one (MHNUFAL 68) was found dead on 26 May 1998, and another (UFSE) was found at Aracaju (10°58'S 37°02'W; SE) on 12 June 1994. RTF found one dead

at Praia de Pirambu (SE) on 23 May 2001, one was found dead at Praia da Capueira (11°12'S 37°11'W; SE) on 22 June 2003, and one at Praia de Aruana on 29 September 2004.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* (LC)

One (MHNUFAL 99) found dead at Praia do Francês (09°58'S 35°45'W; AL) on 27 May 1990. Several were found dead at Santa Isabel Biological Reserve (10°39'S 36°35'W; SE) on 27 May 1990, 6 August 1999 and 23 August 2001. In addition, three were found at Praia de Pirambu on 6 August 1999, 15 July 2001 and 23 August 2001.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* (NT)

On 25 May 1990 one (MHNUFAL 103) was found on the beach at Maceió (AL). In addition, on 30 October 1999 one (CETREL) was found dead at Santa Isabel Biological Reserve (SE).

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (LC)

First noted in the region during the Dutch occupation of north-east Brazil¹². On 3–4 November 1999, six were found dead at Santa Isabel Biological Reserve (SE). Additionally, seven were observed at sea (10°39'S 36°35'W) a few nautical miles off SE on 16 May 2002.

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (LC)

In July 1993 one (UFSE) was found by personnel of the Projeto Tartarugas Marinhas (TAMAR) at Praia de Pirambu (SE).

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (LC)

Apparently not previously recorded in AL or SE. In September 1991 one was seen off Praia de Pirambu, and on 4 July 1998 a juvenile (CETREL) was found dead at Santa Isabel Biological Reserve (both SE).

South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormichi* (LC)

Olmos⁹ reported that one banded in the Antarctic Peninsula, on 23

February 1984, was recovered alive in AL on 14 September 1984. One (MHNUFAL 109) was found by IBAMA (Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis) personnel at an unknown locality in coastal AL, on 15 May 1991. One was found at Praia de Pirambu (SE) on 16 April 2002 and another there on 15 April 2003. Furthermore, MCS and RTF observed several skuas off SE, but were unable to make a certain identification.

Parasitic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (LC)

One bird banded in mainland Shetland, UK (59°30'N 01°18'W) on 9 July 1963 was found dead north of Maceió (AL) on 17 May 1967⁹. On 6 June 1990 three were seen off Maceió harbour, of which one was pursuing Common Terns *Sterna hirundo*. On 14 December 1998 one was pursuing Common Terns off Pontal do Peba (AL).

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (LC)

Apparently not previously recorded in the region. One was observed near the Rio Real estuary (11°25'S 37°20'W) on 10 May 1995.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* (LC)

Apparently not previously recorded in AL and SE, but on 30 October 1999 one (CETREL) was found at Santa Isabel Biological Reserve (SE).

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* (LC)

On 1 March 1998 one was found dead at Santa Isabel Biological Reserve, and on 1 July 2003 another at Praia da Caueira (11°12'S 37°11'W; both SE).

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus* (LC)

One was found on 12 January 1992 at Pontal do Peba (AL), and another on 14 May 2001 at Praia de Pirambu (SE).

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (LC)

First mentioned for the region during the Dutch occupation of north-east Brazil¹². On 8 March

1994 one was seen roosting on a sandbank near mangroves in the rio Sergipe river (10°58'S 37°03'W), Aracajú (SE).

Additional records

The following species are commonly recorded in north-east Brazil. **Magnificent Frigatebird** *Fregata magnificens* (LC): nine at Praia da Pajuçara (09°40'S 35°44'W; AL) on 24 May 1990, and one male at sea (10°52'S 36°56'W), off SE (8 December 2002).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (LC): up to 100 off Maceió harbour (7 October 1990) and Pontal do Peba (14 December 1998), both AL; small flocks near the rio Real estuary (10 May 1995); Praia de Pirambu (30 October 1999, 8 December 2002); and following fishing boats near the rio Sergipe estuary (9 February 2004), all SE.

Cayenne Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis eurygnathus* (LC): previously recorded at Maceió and Pontal do Peba, both AL¹³. Up to 20 off Maceió harbour (7 October 1990); near the rio Real estuary (10 May 1995); and Pontal do Peba (14 December 1998).

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A range extension for Elegant Mourner *Laniisoma elegans* in Brazil

Laniisoma elegans comprises two allopatric populations and subspecies, *L. e. elegans* (Elegant Mourner) in eastern Brazil and *L. e. buckleyi* (Buckley's Mourner) in scattered Andean localities from Venezuela to Peru. It has been suggested that the two populations of this rarely encountered species (of humid forest and tall second growth) might be better treated as species^{1,2}.

On 10–11 October 2004, I observed a male *L. elegans* near Fazenda Jitituba, in Murici Ecological Station, Alagoas. On 10 October I observed one feeding alone in late afternoon at the edge of primary forest. Plumage characters included the yellow underparts, limited upper-breast barring, black cap and very dark green upperparts. The bird was c.3 m above ground and did not vocalise during the observation. Next day, in late morning, perhaps the same bird was at a fruiting tree, c.400 m from the previous sighting, feeding actively and accompanied by Opal-rumped Tanager *Tangara velia*, Red-necked Tanager *T. cyanocephala*, Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea* and Black-capped Antwren *Herpsilochmus atricapillus*. No recordings or photographs were obtained, but further surveys will hopefully yield more definite evidence of this species' presence in the north-east Atlantic Forest.

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First country record of Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis* in the Atlantic Forest of south-east Brazil

Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis* breeds in northern North America, from north-east British Columbia and northern Alberta east to Nova Scotia, as well as south in the Appalachians to northern Georgia¹. Post-breeding it migrates to South America, principally wintering in Colombia and Venezuela south in the Andes to southern Peru, as well as, less commonly, in southern Central America¹.

On 13 November 2004 AF was with Peter Carnell and Mark Gibson in an area of selectively logged Atlantic Forest at c.600 m, close to km 57 of the Rio de Janeiro–Nova Friburgo road (RJ 116). At c.10h30, whilst observing a mixed flock containing Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*, Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus* and Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*, AF noticed an unusual bird 25 m away, foraging at eye level, which he immediately realised was a North American wood warbler. He swiftly drew

the other observers' attention to the bird. The most striking feature noted by AF was a large yellow eye-ring and supraloral, contrasting with a bluish-grey head and back. It also had a dark bill with a yellow throat, and yellow underparts streaked dark from the breast, but not heavily. The pale undertail-coverts were also noticeable, as were the pinkish-orange legs. The bird did not vocalise and none of the observers had a camera. It was watched for c.5 minutes before the bird moved off with the flock. MG, who had previous experience of Canada Warbler in the USA, identified the bird immediately and AF, who had the Dunning² guide to hand, confirmed its identity as a male, presumably an immature. Repeat visits to the same area were made in an effort to relocate the warbler and document the record, but were unsuccessful. The report is the southernmost for the species and the easternmost in South America.

A previous Brazilian record of *W. canadensis* mentioned by Novaes⁴ referred to a female collected by José Hidasi, in April 1962, at Posto Parima B, in the Serra Parima (Roraima). However, in 1973, when Brazil officially demarcated its northern border with Venezuela, this locality became part of the latter country, thus the record was deleted from the official Brazilian list³. However, we predict that the increasing numbers of ornithologists visiting northern Brazil will probably encounter this species again in the highlands of Roraima or Amazonas states.

Recent documentation of Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* from Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro states represented another Nearctic wood warbler new to Brazil⁵. These records were also from montane Atlantic Forest. Such occurrences of Nearctic wood warblers in south-east Brazil, significantly farther south and east of their usual wintering grounds in the Andes, should alert field ornithologists to the

possibility of future similar records. Southern Brazilian records also exist for the following Nearctic parulids: Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (Rio de Janeiro and southern São Paulo states), Cerulean Warbler *D. cerulea* (Rio de Janeiro) and Blackburnian Warbler *D. fusca* (Espírito Santo)⁶. These recent records of Nearctic parulids in the region might suggest that the montane Atlantic Forest is a more regular wintering area for these birds than previously suspected, but it remains to be seen whether this possibility will be confirmed in the future.

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A supposed early specimen of Mantled Hawk *Leucopternis polionotus* from Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil

Mantled Hawk *Leucopternis polionotus* (nomenclature follows David & Gosselin⁶) is a globally Near-Threatened species⁵ that inhabits lowland and mid-elevation forests of eastern Brazil (from Alagoas to Rio Grande do Sul), southern Paraguay and, possibly, north-east Argentina¹¹. The inclusion of Uruguay in the species' range^{5,11} is apparently erroneous, as no recent authority or country list includes it¹⁴. In Rio Grande do Sul (RS), southern Brazil, it is known from a handful of sight records in the highland north-east^{4,9} and was found once in the lowlands just east of Porto Alegre (February 1978), where a primary feather was collected². In addition, Ihering⁷ mentioned a specimen taken in the 1800s in the National Museum of Lisbon, Portugal, probably on the authority of Sousa¹⁰, who listed a specimen of *L. poecilonotus* from RS.

As mentioned by Bencke³, *L. poecilonotus* is a synonym of *L. albicollis* (White Hawk) of the Amazon, not *L. polionotus*. Thus, it was recommended that the identity of this specimen should be confirmed. I requested information from the Lisbon museum (Museu Bocage, Faculdade de Ciências), and Dr Maria G. Ramalhino, head of the vertebrate section, kindly informed me that the specimen was destroyed during a fire in March 1978, together with the entire bird collection. Thus, the identity of the supposed early specimen of *L. polionotus* from RS is now a matter of speculation.

Ihering⁷ also mentioned that the Lisbon museum housed a specimen of Black Caracara *Daptrius ater* from RS. However, this species is

distributed throughout northern South America, south to central Brazil (in Mato Grosso state) and Bolivia¹². Moreover, Ihering & Ihering⁸ listed both *L. albicollis* and *L. palliata* (= *L. polionotus*) for RS. These facts suggest that both the *L. poecilonotus* and the *Daptrius ater* specimens were collected somewhere outside RS (probably in northern Brazil) and were mislabelled³.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

WEST INDIES**South-east Caribbean**

Murphy¹⁶ records observations of a number of pelagic species on voyages between Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles) and the mouth of the rio Orinoco (Venezuela) in 1996–98, and also mentions the sighting of an **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche [chlororhynchos] chlororhynchos* north-west of Tobago in September 1968, a record which is now being considered by the relevant records committee.

MIDDLE AMERICA

Costa Rica

The Gone Birding Newsletter^{20–22} continues to inform of new and rare species for the country: recent sightings include the first **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* (April 2004), a possible **Black-vented Shearwater** *Puffinus opisthomelas* (during a pelagic in July 2004), more records of **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis* (which may now be breeding in the country), the second country record of **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*, the third record of **Golden-cheeked Warbler** *Dendroica chrysoparia* and the second record of **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (all December 2004), along with many interesting migrant records.

Guatemala

Eisermann¹⁵ provides data for six species, including several of conservation concern, recorded during surveys of the Alta Verapaz region of the country, which add to our cumulative knowledge.

Honduras

Anderson *et al.*² present information on the avifauna of the Moskitia region of eastern Honduras. Two appendices list all 358 bird species reliably reported from dpto. Gracias a Dios, as well as 145 species expected to occur there. Species accounts are provided for 12 species, including **Harpy** *Harpia harpyja* and **Crested Eagles** *Morphnus guianensis*. The first description of the nest of **Ocellated Antbird** *Phaenostictus mcleannani* was presented recently, based on observations in the country in June 2002⁶.

Mexico

A recent paper¹⁰ examines the distribution and abundance of **Long-tailed Wood-partridge** *Dendrortyx macroura* at a site in western Michoacán, where the authors estimated almost 2,700 individuals to be present within an area of c.128 km². **Cedar**

Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* was unusually abundant in Mexico in the winter of 2002/03, and a paper by Grosselet & Ruiz Michael³⁰ examines the invasion from the standpoint of Oaxaca records. Martínez-Morales³² reports new records for six species in a cloud forest in northern Hidalgo. Numbers of **American Coot** *Fulica americana* wintering in the country appear to have declined during the last 40 years⁴⁸.

Nicaragua

Two publications by Kjeldsen^{34,35} provide details of several globally threatened species found in the country, including **Keel-billed Motmot** *Electron carinatum*, **Three-wattled Bellbird** *Procnias tricarunculata* and **Golden-cheeked Warbler** *Dendroica chrysoparia*, as well as six new country records, namely **Mountain Pygmy-owl** *Glaucidium gnoma*, **Central American Pygmy-owl** *G. griseiceps*, **Great Jacamar** *Jacamerops aurea*, **Scaly-breasted Foliage-gleaner** *Anabacerthia variegataiceps*, **Slate-throated Whitestart** *Myioborus miniatus* and **Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata*, along with several other notable reports.

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia

Whittaker⁵⁶ mentions the first records for Bolivia of **Pearly-breasted Conebill** *Conirostrum margaritae*, made on an island in the rio Mamoré, in July 2002 and June 2003 (see also Brazil). Brumfield *et al.*⁵ provide a checklist of 195 species recorded in the Laguna Kaucaya area of dpto. Santa Cruz, including the first departmental record of **Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*, with additional notes covering nine other species. Maillard & Catari⁴¹ report on observations of **Yellow-billed Blue Finch** *Porphyrospiza caerulescens* in Bolivia. The first nest of **Versicoloured Barbet** *Eubucco versicolor* was discovered in Madidi National Park in October 2002³².

Brazil

A major paper in *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* by Andrew Whittaker⁵⁶, drawing principally on observations made in Rondônia, presents details of a new species to Brazil (**Subtropical Doradito** *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*) along with notes concerning distribution, breeding, austral migration and taxonomy for 59 other species (several of them very poorly known) from the same state, and occasionally other states in Amazonia, as well as a new species for Bolivia (see above). Other papers recently published in the same journal include records of five new bird species for the state of Roraima⁵¹, the first sight records of **Dull-coloured Grassquit** *Tiaris obscura* in Brazil, in southern Mato Grosso⁵⁷, and the first record (an overlooked specimen) of **Cape Petrel** *Daption capense* from north-east Brazil, in the state of Rio Grande do Norte⁷. A recent study has demonstrated that small numbers of **Kermadec Petrels** *Pterodroma neglecta* breed on Ilha da Trindade, in the southern Atlantic, amidst the colony of Trindade Petrel *P. arminjoniana*; the former species was previously considered to be restricted to the Pacific Ocean as a breeder³³. Two overlooked and mislabeled specimens of the globally threatened **Ochre-breasted Pipit** *Anthus nattereri*, from only the third-known locality in Paraná, have been reported recently¹⁹. Three new localities for the globally threatened **Wied's Tyrant-manakin** *Neopelma aurifrons* have been discovered in Minas Gerais recently³⁵. Stratford⁵³ presents notes on nests of four species from the central Brazilian Amazon, around Manaus: **Ruddy Quail-dove** *Geotrygon montana*, **Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** *Panyptila cayennensis*, **Mouse-coloured Antshrike** *Thamnophilus murinus* and **Scale-backed Antbird** *Hylophylax poeilonotus*. Observations on a nest of **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius* in the Brazilian cerrado have been published¹⁷. Other interesting records published recently include: a new

state record of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* in Bahia³⁹, the first state record of **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis* in Rio Grande do Sul¹, the first documented state record of **Bobolink** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* in Rio de Janeiro (in February 2004)⁴³, the first state records of **Checkered Woodpecker** *Picoides mixtus* in both Pará and Tocantins⁴, a September 2003 record of **Harpy Eagle** *Harpia harpyja* in southern Paraná⁵², and some novel seabird records from Bahia³⁸.

Chile

New data have been published concerning the range (and diet) of **Mountain Caracara** *Phalacrocorax megalopterus* in the country¹⁸, as well as new information on the breeding biology of **Thorn-tailed Rayadito** *Aphrastura spinicauda*⁴⁴.

Colombia

Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia castaneiventris* has been rediscovered in dpto. Boyacá, in April 2004, the first documented record (photographed) for 25 years¹⁴. **Peruvian Meadowlark** *Sturnella bellicosa* has only recently been demonstrated to occur in Colombia, although specimens from 35 years ago have proven to be available, whilst **Red-breasted Blackbird** *S. militaris* has also been recorded in the Amazonian part of the country for the first time⁸. Estelo¹⁶ presents details of four new records of **South Polar Skua** *Catharacta maccormicki* from the Caribbean coast. New observations of the poorly known **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrisi* from the central Andes have been presented¹³. The nest of the secretive **Ocellated Tapaculo** *Acropternis orthonyx* has been described⁹, and notes on the nesting of the very rare **Moustached Antpitta** *Grallaria alleni* have also been made available⁴⁰. **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* has been found breeding on the Pacific coast of Colombia²⁴. Naranjo⁴⁷ discusses the status of **Scarlet Ibis** in dpto. Cauca, based principally on three

recent observations, one of which suggested nesting, and new records of **Torrent Duck** *Merganetta armata* have become available from Antioquia⁴⁵, whilst Strewé⁵⁴ presents new distributional and nesting data for **White-tipped Swift** *Aeronautes montivagus* in the Serranía de Perijá and elsewhere.

French Guiana

Cleere & Ingels¹¹ describe recent unsuccessful searches for the enigmatic **Cayenne Nightjar** *Caprimulgus maculosus* and speculate as to its possible habitat preferences, and in a separate contribution in the same journal, Alauda, provide details of interesting new observations of **Blackish Nightjar** *C. nigrescens* in the same country¹².

Ecuador

The first record of **Pale-legged Hornero** *Furnarius leucopus* involved a specimen taken on the río Morona, Morona-Santiago province, in February 2002³⁷. A host of new nesting data for the country has been published recently, with separate communications covering the following species: **Sickle-winged Guan** *Chamaepetes goudotii*²⁶, **Buff-tailed Sicklebill** *Eutoxeres condamini*⁴⁹, **Barred Puffbird** *Nystalus radiatus*²⁹, **Bicoloured Antvireo** *Dysithamnus occidentalis*²⁵, **Peruvian Antpitta** *Grallaricula peruviana*²⁷, **Fulvous-breasted Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus*²⁸ and **Tropical Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila plumbea*³¹.

Guyana

Robbins *et al.*⁵⁰ present interesting new data from a survey of the southern Rupununi savana, including a checklist of the 456 species recorded at their five study localities, with accounts for 30 species, of which ten were new to Guyana, namely: **Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*, **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*, **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*, **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus*, **Versicoloured Emerald** *Amazilia versicolor*, **Hoary-**

throated Spinetail *Poecilurus kollari*, **Streak-headed Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*, **Rufous-winged Antwren** *Herpsilochmus rufomarginatus*, **Rio Branco Antbird** *Cercomacra carbonaria* and **Crowned Slaty Flycatcher** *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*.

Peru

Gerhart²³ provides novel data, including two new localities, for the poorly known **Selva Cacique** *Cacicus koepckeae*, as well as data on breeding, habitat and vocalisations. Armacost³ presents the first data on the nest, eggs and nestlings of **Castelnau's Antshrike** *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*, based on observations along the río Amazonas, dpto. Loreto, in June–July 2003.

Venezuela

Based on observations in Yacambú National Park, Kofod & Auer³⁶ present the first breeding data for the little-known **Great Antpitta** *Grallaria excelsa*, describing the nest, eggs and young.

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Brazil

A **Purple-winged Ground-dove** *Claravis godefrida* was at Fazenda Angelim, Ubatuba, São Paulo, on 18 October 2004 (GMK); there have been very few recent records in Brazil or elsewhere of this globally threatened species. Several **Least Terns** *Sterna antillarum* were at Praia Seca, Rio de Janeiro, on 18 August 2004 (GMK *et al.*); this species is only casually recorded as far south as the state of Rio (Sick 1997).

French Guiana

Photographs and details surrounding a number of first records for the country have been posted at <http://oiseauxdeguyane.monsite.wanadoo.fr/>: a **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* at Sablière de Kourou, from 19 November 2004; a first-year male **Belted**

Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* at the same place on the same date (but not subsequently); a second-winter **Common Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* at Cayenne old harbour on 1 September 2004 (but probably present since 23 December 2002); an **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche [chlororhynchus] chlororhynchus* c.120 km off the French Guianan coast on 2 September 2004; and a **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* at Cayenne old harbour on 2 February 2005, which represents only the fifth record for South America (see <http://tereksandpiperfg.monsite.wanadoo.fr/>).

Mexico

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea is not mentioned for Guerrero in Howell & Webb (1995), thus a female in mangroves at Aztlan Parque Ecologico, in Ixtapa, on 17 January 2005 (CR, RS), may well be the first state record. Another new species for the same state was a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** *Empidonax flaviventris*, seen just north-west of Ixtapa, on 16 January 2005 (JF, CR, RS).

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