



Figures 1–2. Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* young, Cabo Rojo salt flats, Puerto Rico, June 2002 (José A. Colón López)

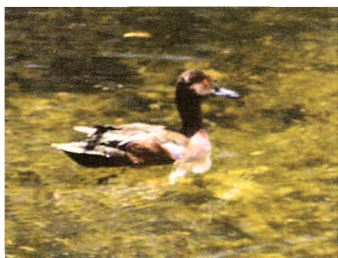


Figure 3. Breeding-plumaged drake Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*, Punta Moreno, Isabela, Galápagos, 15 October 2004 (Michael V. Kostecke)



Figure 4. Grass-green Tanager *Chlorornis riefferii* at the nest, Tandyapa Valley, Ecuador, July 2004 (Murray Cooper)



Figure 5. Andean Teal *Anas andium*, Lagunas Arrebiatadas, prov. San Ignacio, dpto. Cajamarca, Peru, April 2003 (Jessica Amanzo)



Figura 6. Individuo con leucismo parcial de *Saltator aurantiirostris*, Reserva Provincial Las Lancitas, 28 de julio de 2003 (Pablo G. Grilli)

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 The third lists unpublished and undocumented records.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

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana* wintering in Birama swamp, Granma province, Cuba

The Ciénaga de Birama is the second-largest marsh in Cuba (21.9 km²) and is poorly explored by ornithologists, with the exception of Leonero Lagoon. The region is traversed by the río Cauto, the country's longest river, and the marsh is located on the lowest-lying part of the Cauto plain, adjacent to Guacanayabo Bay, Granma province (20°35'N 77°15'W).

On 24 January 2001, at Las Yaguas Lagoon, in the Ciénaga de Birama, two American Avocets *Recurvirostra americana* were photographed. On 12 November 2003 at Birama Lagoon we recorded 16 individuals, then on 18 January 2004 three birds, with four on 16 November 2004 and three (with another found predated) on 10 December 2004. The next day, at Las Yaguas 12 were present.

The species was previously considered a vagrant with only five sight records prior to 2000¹, although one of these involved large numbers². Subsequently, Pérez Cabañas & Blanco Rodríguez¹ noted singles at the Hicacos Peninsula, Matanzas province, in November 2000 and

October 2001. Furthermore, one was present at the mouth of the río Mayarí, Holguín province, in January 2005 (C. Peña pers. comm.), two were observed at La Salinas, Zapata, on 22 April 2004 (*Cotinga* 23: 89), with two also there on 6 February 2005 (O. González). Considering these new records, the result of increased observer effort in recent years, we consider that the species' status in Cuba should be re-evaluated as a rare winter resident (i.e. 1–5 sightings per year expected in the appropriate habitat and season³), which might prove to be locally uncommon at localities such as Birama.

American Avocet winters from south-coastal British Columbia (rarely), but mostly in coastal lowlands from northern California, western Louisiana and coastal Mississippi and Alabama south to southern Mexico and casually to Central America, as well as locally in Delaware and southern Florida. It migrates primarily through the western USA, more rarely through interior and eastern North America, and south to the Gulf coast and Florida¹. In the Greater Antilles, Raffaele *et al.*⁵ considered it a very rare non-breeding resident in the Bahamas (Andros, San Salvador) and Cuba, primarily in July–January and April, and a vagrant to Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St Croix, the Virgins and Caymans, Antigua and Barbados.

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First breeding by Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* in Puerto Rico

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* is a large shorebird with two disjunct breeding populations, in western and eastern North America, and migrates to Central America, the West Indies and South America^{1,2}. Individuals of *C. semipalmatus semipalmatus* are

resident in the Caribbean, but are most common in this region August–November⁴. Breeding in the West Indies has been reported in the Bahamas, Cuba, Isla Beata, Antigua, Guadeloupe, the Caymans, St Croix, Anegada and Los Roques off northern Venezuela, and possibly in Barbuda, St Martin, Anguilla and St Kitts^{1,3,4}. Nesting has not been proven in Puerto Rico, although some evidence is available in the form of pairs exhibiting nest defence behaviour at the appropriate season.

Since 1986, JAC has observed pairs in two locations in south-west Puerto Rico responding to his presence with displays as if they were defending a nesting territory, including distraction behaviour and alarm vocalisations. For instance, he observed pairs exhibiting threat displays suggesting the presence of a nest, in 1986, at Villa Taína, Cabo Rojo, and, in 2001, at Cabo Rojo salt flats. Also, on four occasions in April–May 2002 (15 and 24 April and 4 and 14 May) he observed a pair on the salt flats exhibiting nest defence behaviour, and on 15 June 2002 the same pair had two chicks. The young were photographed with the adults on 25 June and 5 and 25 July (Figs. 1–2, p.80). A pair of adults was photographed at the same location with three young on 14 July 2003.

These sightings provide the first breeding records of Willets from Puerto Rico, offering further support to the resident status of the subspecies in the region. However, the nominate subspecies is still little studied in the West Indies, with information on breeding biology and density estimates lacking.

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Banded Red Knots *Calidris canutus* sighted in Venezuela and Uruguay

Six subspecies of Red Knot *Calidris canutus* are generally recognised, two of which occur in South America^{6,10}. *C. c. rufa* breeds in the central Canadian Arctic and winters in north-east and southern South America, migrating across the westernmost Atlantic, from north-east North America to the Guianas, and thence south to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego⁵. The other subspecies, *C. c. roselaari*, appears to winter on beaches in western Venezuela^{7,9}. Here we report the observation of several banded Red Knots sighted on Margarita Island, north-east Venezuela, and in dpto. Rocha, south-east Uruguay.

On 23 June 2004, a group of 11 Red Knots was observed foraging amongst Ruddy Turnstones *Arenaria interpres* and Western Sandpipers *Calidris mauri* at El Pasadero Lagoon (11°01'N 64°11'W), La Restinga Lagoon National Park (18,862 ha), in western Margarita Island. The park connects the eastern and western parts of the island, and includes a large coastal lagoon with extensive mudflats¹². Seven birds were in non-breeding plumage, whilst the rest were acquiring breeding plumage. Though observed during the breeding season⁵, they were thousands of km south of their breeding grounds and were probably young birds, as age of first breeding is thought to be 2–3 years and immatures remain in the wintering areas⁶. One colour-banded individual (buffy chestnut underparts and black and chestnut upperparts) was banded as a juvenile at Río Grande (53°44'S 67°44'W), Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, on 30 November 2002 (P. M. González *in litt.* 2004). Despite relatively extensive ornithological work on Margarita Island^{4,8,13}, the species has only been reported once previously there (R. McNeil *in litt.* 2004), and ours is the first observation for La Restinga National Park. The species is considered uncommon in Venezuela⁷. On the country's east coast (where *rufa* is expected), the species is considered rare⁷, and there are only isolated records from two other sites: Unare Lagoon (Anzoátegui) and Cumaná (Sucre)⁷.

On 9 March 2005, three groups of Red Knots (c.25–30 birds in each) were observed foraging at La Coronilla (33°54'N 53°30'W), on south-east Uruguay's Atlantic coast. Most were moulting to breeding plumage and, thus, were in the early stages of migration north to the breeding grounds. In one of these groups, five individuals were colour-banded, and four were photographed sufficiently well to subsequently identify them individually. Three had been banded at Delaware Bay,

including at least one in New Jersey in May 2002 and another in Delaware in May 2004. The fourth was banded at Río Grande, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, in November 2004 (P. M. González *in litt.* 2005). The four showed varying degrees of chestnut in the plumage, whilst the fifth individual (unknown banding site) had grey plumage with a few chestnut feathers on the breast. Red Knots are considered uncommon in south-east Uruguay¹, and most observations involve small groups in spring and autumn (ABA pers. obs.).

Recent surveys indicate that populations of *C. c. rufa* declined significantly during the period 1999–2003^{2,3,10}. Additionally, owing to its life-history traits, this taxon may be extremely vulnerable to habitat modification at stopovers and on the wintering grounds¹¹. Both Pasadero Lagoon and Uruguay's Atlantic coast have undergone important habitat alterations. At El Pasadero, the flow of fresh water to the lagoon has been reduced owing to sand mine activities in the area. Other issues include a road that runs through the lagoon and the installation of powerlines very close to the waterbody. The latter has already resulted in the deaths of many waterbirds (ARF pers. obs.). At La Coronilla, an artificial channel flushes agrochemicals and fresh water from nearby marshes and rice fields to the beach, altering the water chemistry of the surrounding area. The site is also affected by coastal development for the tourism industry. Both areas, however, still harbour large concentrations of birds and serve as breeding, stopover and wintering habitat. Hopefully, current conservation and research programmes at both sites will positively affect the long-term viability of both migratory and resident bird populations in these areas.

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First record of Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* in Galápagos
 On 15 October 2004 we photographed a breeding-plumaged drake Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* on a brackish lagoon at Punta Moreno, Isabela, in Galápagos (Fig. 3, p.80). A pair of *A. cyanoptera* was subsequently seen at the same location on 2 November 2004 during a tour by the UK-based birdwatching tour company, The Travelling Naturalist. *A. cyanoptera* is widespread in the Americas, being a breeder, migrant or winterer

throughout western North America, Central America, the Andes of western South America, and the southern third of South America¹. However, our observation is apparently the first for the Galápagos^{2,19}.

Black spots on the breast and flanks are common characteristics of South American races of *A. cyanoptera*^{1,2,8}. The lack of such spotting (Fig. 1) on the bird we observed suggests that it was of the race *septentrionalium*, a Nearctic migrant. Previously, *A. c. septentrionalium* had been observed as far south as Ecuador^{1,2} in December–April⁸, though the species apparently no longer occurs in mainland Ecuador. Although the date of our observation falls outside the range within which *septentrionalium* has been observed in mainland South America, it does fall within the October–March date range when the closely related Blue-winged Teal *A. discors* is most commonly observed in Galápagos⁹. Nearctic migrant *A. discors* have been recorded in Galápagos regularly^{2,4,6,9}. As migrants of *A. cyanoptera* and *A. discors* often associate⁵, it is surprising that the former has not previously been recorded in Galápagos. However, it might have been overlooked, as non-breeding male and female plumages are quite similar to those of *A. discors*⁷.

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Range extension for Scrub Nightjar *Caprimulgus anthonyi* in Ecuador, and a review of specimens from the country

Scrub Nightjar *Caprimulgus anthonyi* is one of the smaller, variegated nightjars in South America and has a restricted range, occurring only in rather dry, open country in western Ecuador and north-west Peru¹. Much of our knowledge concerning its range is based on the small number of specimens deposited in natural history museums. Whilst examining Caprimulgid material in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, I discovered a previously misidentified study skin of *C. anthonyi* from a new locality in Ecuador. The specimen (NMNH 527847) is an immature female, collected by R. G. Mclean, at Puerto Nuevo (on

the río Nuevo near Vincas), Los Rios province, on 21 September 1976. Strangely, the specimen had originally been labelled as a Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*, but can be correctly identified by its small size and diagnostic tawny markings on the outer primaries. It is easily aged as an immature by the somewhat narrow and pointed outer wing- and tail-feathers, and by the pale tips to the outer primaries. Although inland, the environment of Vincas is described as low coastal forest with occasional savannas². This specimen is the first record of *C. anthonyi* for Los Rios and is only the 19th from Ecuador held in museums (see Appendix).

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Appendix. Museum specimens (study skins) of Scrub Nightjar *Caprimulgus anthonyi* collected in Ecuador.

Museum	Age	Sex	Date	Locality	Province	Collector	Notes
AMNH 116785	Adult	Male	3 September 1920	near Portovelo	El Oro	G. K. Cherrie	Holotype
AMNH 477258	Immature	Female	3 September 1901	near Vacquería	Esmeraldas	R. Miketta	
ANSP 181510	Adult	Female	25 August 1989	5 km N of Santa Rosa	El Oro	K. Merg	sea level
ANSP 181511	Immature?	Male	25 August 1990	5 km N of Santa Rosa	El Oro	K. Merg	sea level
ANSP 181512	Adult	Female	25 August 1991	5 km N of Santa Rosa	El Oro	K. Merg	sea level
ANSP 185144	Immature?	Female	17 August 1992	c.10 km E of Mangaurco	Loja	T. J. Davis	750 m
ANSP 185145	Adult	Female	18 August 1992	c.10 km E of Mangaurco	Loja	F. Sornoza	750 m
ANSP 185146	Adult	Female	15 August 1992	c.10 km E of Mangaurco	Loja	F. Sornoza	625 m
ANSP 185147	Adult	Male	20 June 1992	near Represa Jorge Velásquez	Guayas	T. J. Davis	50 m
ANSP 185148	Adult	Male	24 June 1992	c.2 km S of Machalilla	Manabí	F. Sornoza	sea level
ANSP 185149	Adult	Male	24 June 1992	c.2 km S of Machalilla	Manabí	F. Sornoza	sea level
ANSP 185975	Adult	Male	21 June 1992	Represa Jorge Velásquez	Guayas	F. Sornoza	50m
ANSP 186121	Adult	Male	28 January 1993	c.3 km S of Atacames	Esmeraldas	F. Sornoza	sea level
MECN 6012	?	Male	5 March 1992	Puerto López, Machalilla	Manabí	?	150 m
MECN 6305	?	Male	22 June 1992	Represa Jorge Velásquez	Guayas	?	50 m
MECN 6886	?	Male	19 May 1994	5 km N of Punta Carnero	Guayas	?	
MVZ 160492	Adult	Male	2 March 1970	near San Antonio	Guayas	F. I. Ortiz-Crespo	
MNHN CG 1937.114	Adult	Male	19 September 1936	San Mateo	Esmeraldas	C. Ollala	
MNHN 527847	Immature	Female	21 September 1976	Puerto Nuevo	Los Ríos	R. G. Mclean	

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A Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata* successfully defends its nest from *Labidus* army ants

Nest failure due to several species of ants is frequently reported from temperate areas^{1,2,4,6,9}, and army ants (Ecitoninae) have occasionally been reported attacking nests of a variety of Neotropical birds^{5,7,8,11,12}. Here I report an observation of a female Blue-crowned Manakin *Lepidothrix coronata* successfully defending its clutch from a swarm of *Labidus* army ants in Amazonian Ecuador.

On 22 January 2003 at La Selva Lodge (00°29'S 76°22'W, 250 m) in north-east Ecuador, I encountered a female Blue-crowned Manakin incubating a single egg (18.4 × 13.4 mm) in a nest typical of the species^{3,10}, located 30 cm up in the horizontal fork of a small sapling. I videotaped the nest from 13h45 to 17h45, and transcribed the video at a later date. Two hours after commencing filming, the female had not arrived and *Labidus* army ants began crawling onto the nest, traversing the narrow supporting branch. Shortly afterwards, the

female arrived and began pecking ants from the nest lining and surface of the egg whilst repeatedly uttering a soft *zreep!* It was unclear whether the female was eating the ants or flicking them from the nest. She removed 14 ants before settling onto the nest. During the next 30 minutes the female removed 72 ants from the support branch and rim of the nest. During this time she also snapped repeatedly, and occasionally caught and ate, some of the many flying insects often associated with these ant swarms.

Whilst it is unlikely that the ants could have destroyed the manakin's egg, the female's willingness and ability to defend the nest from the swarm suggests that raiding swarms may not always destroy nests they encounter. Nests escaping predation by ants have been noted previously^{5,11}. Skutch¹² reported a Streak-chested Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus* successfully defending its nest by consuming at least a dozen ants as they approached the nest in a similar manner to the Blue-crowned Manakin (perching on the nest and consuming ants). This suggests that successful nest defence against army ants may be more widespread than currently understood, but further observations are needed to determine the

relative importance of army ants as Neotropical nest predators.

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Two nests of Grass-green Tanager *Chlorornis riefferii* on the ground

More than a century ago, Sclater & Salvin³, quoting T. K. Salmon, described the nest of Grass-green Tanager *Chlorornis riefferii* from Colombia as '...of considerable size, made of green moss, lined thickly within, and on the outside prettily

ornamented with long tapering green ferns.' Since then, nothing has been added to our knowledge of the breeding biology of this attractive species. Here we report observations at two nests beside the road (00°01'S 78°41'W; 2,250 m) above Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve, near Tandyapa, Pichincha province, Ecuador.

On 5 July 2004 HFG observed a pair of Grass-green Tanagers carrying moss to an uncompleted nest, 3 m up a 7 m-high bank covered in second growth. Both adults were present, but only one was observed approaching the nest with moss in its bill. Upon HFG's return on 24 August, the nest held a single nestling, with wing-pin feathers having broken their sheaths. Only one egg had been laid by 24 July. The nest was a bulky cup constructed on the ground within an existing clump of moss, such that the latter formed a protective dome over the cup (Fig. 4, p.80). The nest measured 17 cm wide by 15 cm tall on the outside, and the inner cup 9.5 cm wide by 6 cm deep. Both adults fed the nestling. On 11 September 2005 HFG visited a second nest, situated similarly, only 2 m from the first, and 2.1 m above the road. It contained a single nestling, with wing-pin feathers protruding from their sheaths by 5–10 mm. This nest had been found previously by RAG, at which time it had a single egg. On HFG's return, three days later, the nest was empty and adult breast feathers were scattered over the area, suggesting depredation. This nest was 21 cm wide by 12.5 cm tall outside, with inner cup measurements of 9 cm wide by 6.5 cm deep. Both nests were composed primarily of moss, with some fern fronds and black rootlets woven throughout, and both were thickly lined with soft, red-brown tree fern scales. For additional photographs of the nest and nestlings of Grass-green Tanager, see Greeney¹.

Whilst some genera of tanagers (especially *Chlorospingus*) have been

reported nesting on the ground², this appears exceptional rather than the rule within the Thraupidae. The clutch size of one egg, observed in both nests here, agrees with that given by T. K. Salmon³, although he gave no sample size. The small distance between the two nests, between years, suggests that they were built by the same pair of adults, and thus implies high nest-site fidelity by this species.

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Courtship display of the Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa*

Members of the genus *Sporophila* are generally abundant and widespread throughout the Neotropics. Despite this, the complete courtship display of a species has yet to be published. Portions of the courtship behaviour of various *Sporophila* have been included in overall species accounts^{1,4,5,7,8,10-13}. This note details courtship display of a captive pair Black-and-white Seedeaters *S. luctuosa*.

Black-and-white Seedeater is a small finch, principally black dorsally and white ventrally in males (female brownish). The male also has a prominent white speculum⁶. Occurring from Venezuela and Colombia along the Andean range (100–3,200 m) to central Bolivia³, the species is locally common in grassy and brushy habitats, and roadside shrubbery.

On 15 November 2004, I observed the courtship behaviour of a pair of *S. luctuosa* within a 0.5 m × 0.75 m × 0.5 m cage. They had been imported as wild-caught birds from Peru in 2001. Following a short singing bout (Fig. 7), the male fully extended and maintained his wings downward, and began flicking the tail open. The male did not sing but occasionally emitted a chirp call during the display.

After c.1 minute, the male moved to a lower perch to join the female. The female began wing-quivering like a young bird soliciting food, whereupon the male presented a piece of lettuce to the female and thereafter the pair copulated.

Discussion

The spread-wing behaviour clearly displayed the white patch at the base of the primaries and, to a lesser extent, the white fringes to the secondaries (Fig. 8). Wing-spreading by male *S. ruficollis* was described by Sick¹¹, who considered the intent was to display the underparts not the speculum. Sabel¹⁰ provided limited information on the courtship of six species of *Sporophila*. He described male *S. luctuosa* display as vibrating wings held sideways with the tail occasionally spread slightly, but abruptly. He also mentioned vibrating or elevating wings in brief courtship accounts of *S. minuta*, *S. telasco*, *S. lineola* and *S. frontalis*.

Rylander⁹, in a review of passerine courtship displays, described Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* courtship as very similar to that of Black-and-white Seedeater, whilst Barlow² described Lark Sparrows as 'singing with tail at 35° to the ground with head erect, spread tail rectrices and flashing white tips while dropping wings such

that primaries touch or nearly touch ground. Prior to mounting male picks up a small twig, which is passed to female during copulation'. R. Restall (pers. comm.) has described the courtship display of *Catamenia analis* in exactly the same way. Courtship feeding was previously observed in Variable Seedeater *Sporophila aurita*¹² and other Emberizines¹⁵.

As a small number of species of *Sporophila* are maintained in captivity, it is hoped that the courtship display of additional species will be described in the future. Due to the cryptic coloration of many species, their preference for dense vegetation and brevity of courtship, captive studies may provide the best opportunity to document such behaviours.

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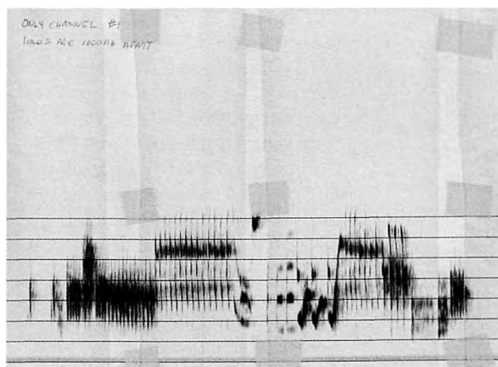


Figure 7. Sonogram of the courtship song, recorded in captivity, 14 November 2005. Analysis utilised Kay Elemetrics Corp. Model 5500, Signal Analysis Workstation. Song duration four seconds, frequency lines 1,000 HZ apart.

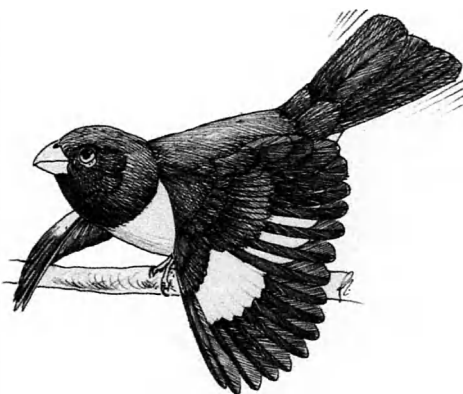


Figure 8. Artistic representation of the courtship display of male *Sporophila luctuosa* (Robin Restall)

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First records of Andean Teal *Anas andium* for Peru

Andean Teal *Anas andium*, considered by some^{1,4,5} a dark-billed subspecies of *A. flavirostris*, inhabits páramos of Venezuela and Colombia south to southernmost prov. Loja, Ecuador⁶ and was always thought likely to inhabit neighbouring northernmost Peru. During April, June–July 2003 and February 2004, as part of two biodiversity assessments, we conducted bird surveys in the basins of the río Tabaconas, in Tabaconas-Namballe National Sanctuary (prov. San Ignacio, dpto. Cajamarca), and the río Chira, in Pacaipampa district (prov. Ayabaca, dpto. Piura). The first study site comprises several lakes named Arrebiatadas (3,200 m; 05°14'S 79°16'W) where four pairs of Andean Teal were recorded, the first pair at the largest lake (Corazón de San Miguel, 3,274 m) on 7 April 2003, a second pair next day at Lago de Victoria (3,244 m), a third pair later the same day at the borders of Lago de Lagarto (3,267 m), and the final pair on a satellite pond of the latter lake. The sites in Pacaipampa are within the Cordillera de Chames (3,200 m; 04°56'S 79°28'W). Here, two pairs were seen in July 2003 and five individuals in February 2004. The first pair was observed on 1 July at the borders of Lago El Tigre (3,220 m). The next day we met two local people who had hunted a pair (possibly the same) at the largest lake in this

cordillera (La Negra, at 3,174 m). We took measurements and sexed the birds (Table 1), and were informed that this was not the only pair in the area. Indeed, next morning, another pair was observed resting on a small, shallow lake in the same cordillera. On 10 February, a pair was seen in flight at Lago La Cruz (3,130 m; 04°58'S 79°28'W) and the same day, at Lago La Negra three birds were seen vocalising and head-dipping. One individual, with a paler and smaller body, appeared to be a juvenile.

Given our observations, this uncommon teal appears to be fairly regular at both sites. As its presence in Peru is now confirmed (Fig. 5, p.80), these records and others^{2,7} further demonstrate the avifauna of northern Peru to be more closely related to that of southern Ecuador than to that of the Peruvian Andes south of the río Marañón^{3,6}.

Table 1. Measurements of a pair of Andean Teal *Anas andium* shot by local hunters on Lago La Negra, Pacaipampa, Peru, July 2003.

Measurements (in mm)	Female *	Male
Total length	370	406
Wing-length	227	232
Wing-chord	740	771
Tarsus	50	52
Bill (nostril to tip)	49	56

* With several eggs

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Leucismo parcial en Pepitero de Collar *Saltator aurantiirostris* en Santa Bárbara, Jujuy, Argentina

El leucismo en las aves es el fenómeno por el cual aparece plumaje blanco sin que existan cambios en la pigmentación de las partes desnudas (pico, patas y ojos), pudiendo afectar la totalidad o solo una parte del cuerpo. El albinismo, en cambio, afecta también la coloración de las partes desnudas y tiene una disposición bilateralmente simétrica¹. Existe en la literatura una serie de menciones de ejemplares con diferentes anomalías que fueron consideradas casos de albinismo, sin embargo es el leucismo es un fenómeno mucho más común que el albinismo en poblaciones naturales¹.

Gross³ ya mencionaba para EEUU una lista de 304 especies de aves con diferentes categorías de albinismo. En el Neotrópico existen varios registros de anomalías en la coloración de algunas especies de aves en estado silvestre^{2,5,7,8}. Sin embargo, en la mayoría de estos casos se está en presencia de individuos con distinto grado de leucismo, y no de albinos propiamente dicho. El 28 de julio de 2003, en matorrales a la vera de la Ruta Provincial N°6, en un área de bosques pedemontanos xeromórficos, en el sur de la Reserva Natural Provincial Las Lancitas (24°10'S 64°23'O), dpto. Santa Bárbara, prov. Jujuy, Argentina, fue hallado de un ejemplar de Pepitero de Collar *Saltator aurantiirostris* con leucismo parcial (Fig. 6, p.80). Al momento de ser detectado se encontraba en compañía de otro ejemplar de *S. aurantiirostris* de coloración normal. Esta anomalía afectaba la totalidad de la cabeza, la garganta, la parte superior del pecho y se extendía en la zona dorsal hasta el lomo, mientras que

en las alas comprometía las primarias más internas y algunas cobertoras alares. El resto de la coloración, tanto del plumaje como de las áreas desnudas era completamente normal. Ambos se movieron entre los arbustos de la zona, manteniéndose en contacto a través de llamadas permanentes. El ejemplar con leucismo parcial fue seguido durante unos 15 minutos hasta que se dio a la fuga perdiéndose en los arbustos de un sector alejado del camino. El leucismo afectaba al ejemplar de una manera similar a la descrita para *Cyanerpes cyaneus* en Costa Rica⁴ y a la del *Phrygilus gayi* observado en Argentina⁶.

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PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

WEST INDIES

Cuba

An extraordinary first record for Cuba and the Western Hemisphere involves a **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*; the specimen was collected in April 2003 in mangroves south of Ciego de Ávila, in the south-centre of the island⁹.

Guadeloupe

Five species are reported as new breeding species for the island by a recent publication²³, namely **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*, **American Coot** *Fulica americana*, **Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia*, **Antillean Nighthawk** *Chordeiles gundlachii* and **Bare-eyed Robin** *Turdus nudigenis*.

Puerto Rico

New breeding data for **Puerto Rican Nightjar** *Caprimulgus noctitherus* and **Antillean Nighthawk** *Chordeiles gundlachii* have recently become available¹⁶.

MIDDLE AMERICA

Costa Rica

An unusual altitudinal record involved several **Band-tailed Pigeons** *Columba (Patagioenas) fasciata* at low elevations of Braulio Carrillo National Park³. Most new distributional records for

the country continue to appear in *The Gone Birding Newsletter*. The July 2005 edition²⁰ contains details of the first photographic record of **American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens* in the country (in late-January 2005), as well as range extensions for **Red-breasted Blackbird** *Sturnella militaris* and **Tropical Mockingbird** *Mimus gilvus*, an unusual seasonal record of **Reddish Egret** *Egretta rufescens*, a new site for the now seemingly established **Southern Lapwing** *Vanellus chilensis*, the first record of **Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* for Cocos Island, records of **Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum* as late as 12 May 2005, a mid-June record of **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*, and details of apparently the first Caribbean-slope observations of **Inca Dove** *Columbina inca*. The October 2005 issue²¹ reports the seemingly already-established arrival of **Shiny Cowbird** *Molothrus bonariensis* in Talamanca, the first Caribbean-slope record of **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*, an out-of-range record of **Pale-breasted Spinetail** *Synallaxis albescens*, several recent sightings of the uncommon **White-tailed Hawk** *Buteo albicaudatus*, the fourth Costa Rican record of **Golden-cheeked Warbler** *Dendroica chrysoparia* and a rare report of a **Blackpoll Warbler** *D. striata*.

Guatemala

Renner¹⁵ presents new data concerning the presence of the **Mountain Guan** *Penelopina nigra* in the Sierra Yalijux.

Mexico

The first country record of **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* involved a single seen from shore in Baja California on 6 February 2003²¹, and the first **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* for Mexico frequented a locality in southern Baja California in April–May 2002 and again in August 2002–February 2003¹⁹. Rojas-Soto *et al.*⁵⁰ present new data for 11 species from the southern part of the Baja California. A recent two-month survey of Isla

Guadalupe produced 36 species, among them two new for the island, **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* and **Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum*⁸. The nest and eggs of the **Bridled Sparrow** *Aimophila mystacalis* have been described⁴.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Winter surveys of the Near-Threatened **Hooded Grebe** *Podiceps gallardoi* since 1998 have further revealed the importance of the Atlantic coast for this species and demonstrated that the Gallegos estuary can be considered a regular locality at this season³⁰. **Yellow-billed Tern** *Sterna superciliaris* has been recorded nesting in Buenos Aires province for the first time³⁷.

Brazil

Cleere¹⁵ provides details of two previously overlooked specimens of **White-winged Potoo** *Nyctibius leucopterus* which presumably relate (based on mensural characteristics) to the until-recently long-lost Atlantic Forest population of the species. Whitney⁶⁰ describes field observations of a pair of bushbirds, apparently the extremely poorly known **Rondônia Bushbird** *Clytoctantes atrogularis*, in southern Amazonas. A **Red-backed Hawk** *Buteo polyosoma* was present on Ilha de Cabo Frio, Rio de Janeiro state, on 13 October 1985; the first Brazilian record, although there are vague mentions in the literature for Mato Grosso (or Mato Grosso do Sul) and coastal Santa Catarina⁴¹. The first observation in Brazil (a sight record) of the globally threatened **Entre Ríos Seedeater** *Sporophila zelichi* has been published, from Rio Grande do Sul, in November 2002⁷. The only specimen of **Broad-billed Prion** *Pachyptila vittata* for Brazil has recently been relocated and its identity confirmed (it being a recently fledged bird)¹⁰. The incidence of the race *solanderi* of **Southern Giant-petrel** *Macronectes giganteus* has been

confirmed through specimen evidence, and three specimens of **Northern Giant-petrel** *M. halli* are reported in the same publication, also from the state of Rio Grande do Sul¹³. A visit to the islets of São Pedro and São Paulo, off Rio Grande do Norte, in early 2005, yielded records of three Old World species new to Brazil: **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*, **Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* and **Lesser Moorhen** *Gallinula angulata* (the latter being the first record for the New World, and is supported by a specimen)⁸. Another, earlier record of a **Northern Royal Albatross** *Diomedea sanfordi* for Brazil (following that reported recently; cf. *Cotinga* 21: 83), caught on a longline off Rio Grande do Sul in August 1999, has come to light¹¹. The young of the recently described (so-called) **Bald Parrot** *Pionopsitta aurantiocephala* have been observed recently in the region of the newly demarcated Parque Nacional do Juruena, on the border between Amazonas and Mato Grosso¹⁴. Willis⁶¹ studied the fragmented cerrados around the town of Itirapina, in São Paulo state, since 1982, recording over 230 species in the grasslands and gallery woodlands, noting the presence of several local and declining grassland specialists (several of which are globally threatened), and the seasonal presence of a number of rare *Sporophila* species (mainly in the earlier years of his study). His results also revealed the loss of several rare species over the years including the globally threatened **Lesser Nothura** *Nothura minor* and **Ochre-breasted Pipit** *Anthus nattereri*. Pacheco & Olmos⁴² report on the exciting results of a rapid avifaunal inventory conducted along the BR163 road, within the rio Tapajós–Xingu interfluvium, Pará, in May 2002: 408 species were recorded and separate accounts are presented for 17 of these, for which data collected by the authors provides new range limits or is informative from a conservation perspective. New data on 15 species of seabirds off Pernambuco

were presented in a recent paper¹². Three species have recently been added to the list of those birds reliably recorded in the Distrito Federal, namely **Bicoloured Hawk** *Accipiter bicolor*, **Ash-coloured Cuckoo** *Coccyzus cinereus* and **Chapada Flycatcher** *Suiriri islerorum*³⁴. Marini & Lopes³⁶ report a new southernmost locality for the **Silvery-cheeked Antshrike** *Sakesphorus cristatus*. **Horned Screamer** *Anhima cornuta* has been documented (with photographs) from the state of Espírito Santo⁶⁴. **Variable Seedeater** *Sporophila americana* has been recorded recently for the first time in the state of Maranhão⁶⁵. Venturini & Paz⁶⁸ report on the first **Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus borealis* in Espírito Santo. Recent records of **Black-banded Owl** *Strix huhula* from the state of Rio de Janeiro come from Tijuca National Park and União Biological Reserve; there is only one other 20th-century record of the species from the state²². Rodrigues *et al.*⁴⁸ present the results of an avian survey of the rio Cipó Valley, Minas Gerais, conducted between May 1998 and November 2002. Agne¹ reports significant records of threatened birds in Rio Grande do Sul, namely: **Helmeted Woodpecker** *Dryocopus galeatus*, at Passo Fundo, **Green Ibis** *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*, at Esmeralda, **Mantled Hawk** *Leucopternis polionotus*, at Caxias do Sul, **Comb Duck** *Cairina moschata* with young, at São Luiz Gonzaga (the first breeding record for the state), and **Robust Woodpecker** *Campephilus robustus*, at Passo Fundo. Azevedo & Ghizoni⁵ mention three new state records for Santa Catarina: **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* at Lagoa do Camacho, **Pavonine Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx pavoninus* at Parque Estadual das Araucárias, São Domingos, and **Austral Negrito** *Lessonia rufa* at Laguna. A new Brazilian locality (only the seventh) for **Dusky-tailed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon fuscicauda* has been published, near Marabá, in Pará³⁷. Silveira &

Belmonte⁵³ provide new data concerning the breeding behaviour of **Golden Parakeet** *Guarouba guarouba*. Novel data concerning the temporal and distributional status of **Black Skimmer** *Rynchops niger* in coastal Santa Catarina have been presented⁹.

Colombia

A host of new distributional information has been published recently including the rediscovery (and taxonomic validation) of **Dusky Starfrontlet** *Coeligena orina*³², new records of **Blue-billed Curassow** *Crax alberti*⁴⁰, a new population of **Wattled Curassow** *C. globulosa*², the first Andean and fourth country record of **Wilson's Warbler** *Wilsonia pusilla*³⁹, records of endemics and globally threatened species from the Coello watershed (Tolima)³⁵, a range extension for **Crescent-faced Antpitta** *Grallaricula lineifrons*⁴⁷, the first breeding records of **Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*³¹, and notes on **Zimmer's Woodcreeper** *Xiphorhynchus kienerii* in Colombian Amazonia⁵⁵.

Ecuador

Harold Greeney and colleagues continue to produce papers providing much new information on the breeding biology of birds in the country, with recent contributions including new data for four species of *Basileuterus* warblers²⁷, **Yellow-whiskered Bush-tanager** *Chlorospingus parvirostris*²³, **Blackish Tapaculo** *Scytalopus latrans*²⁴, **Long-tailed Tapaculo** *S. micropterus*²⁶, **Chusquea Tapaculo** *S. parkeri*²⁸, **Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant** *Poecilotriccus ruficeps*²⁵ and **Slate-crowned Antpitta** *Grallaricula nana*²⁹.

French Guiana

First heard (unknowingly) in the country in 1995, more recent observations (in 2004) and tape-recordings have confirmed the presence of **White-winged Potoo** *Nyctibius leucopterus* at two sites¹⁴.

Guyana

Rice & Milensky⁴⁶ provide new data concerning the nest and

clutch size of the little-known

Wing-banded Antbird

Myrmornis torquata from observations in the south of the country.

Paraguay

The globally threatened **Lesser Nothura** *Nothura minor* has recently been documented in Paraguay, at Laguna Blanca, dpto. San Pedro³⁸.

Peru

Two specimens of **Greenish Puffleg** *Haplophaedia aureliia* have been identified in collections, providing the first records for the country⁵⁹. **Nazca Booby** *Sula granti* has been discovered breeding on the Lobos de Afuera Islands¹⁸, and two new breeding sites for **Wedge-rumped Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma tethys kelsalli* have also been located⁴. The nest of the **Round-tailed Manakin** *Pipra chloromeros* has been described for the first time, based on observations made in Peru¹⁷.

Surinam

New records of birds made in the south of the country include six species not previously recorded in Surinam⁵².

OTHER RECORDS RECEIVED

Brazil

The second Brazilian (and sixth) South American record of **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* was photographed at Parati, Rio de Janeiro, on 2 November 2005 (RW per AW), and was still present on 9 November (GMK). A male **Dark-throated Seedeater** *Sporophila ruficollis* was observed near Itirapina (São Paulo state), on 10 October 2005 (GMK); Willis⁶⁰ only listed a single previous record from this region and the species is generally rare this far north and east. A male **Rufous-rumped Seedeater** *Sporophila hypochroma* was reported from Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais, on 22 October 2005 (RR, A & VH). On 16 September

2005 what appears to be a new site for the globally threatened **Seven-coloured Tanager** *Tangara fastuosa* was located, the CEAC forest, near Satuba, just north-west of Maceió, Alagoas (GMK, RS *et al.*). A **Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*, on the Amazon close to Monte Alegre, Pará, on 8 December 2005, was unusually far upriver (CC, GMK). A short visit to the FLONA do Tapajós, Pará, on 4–7 December 2005, produced the following species new to the list of the area (Henriques *et al.* 2003, *Orn. Neotrop.* 14: 307–338): **Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus*, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi*, **Green-backed Becard** *Pachyrhamphus viridus* and **Yellow-bellied Dacnis** *Dacnis flaviventer* (CC, GMK).

Cuba

Unusually large numbers of two species were encountered in the Birama swamp, Granma province, in December 2004, namely 120 **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* and c.1,000 **Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*; the latter is currently considered a rare transient and winter resident in Cuba (EA, OH, AK & ER).

Ecuador

TM sent the following new altitudinal records (figures in brackets indicate altitudinal limits given in Ridgely & Greenfield 2001): Manta Real, Cañar province, 23 October 2004, **Wedge-billed Hummingbird** *Schistes geoffroyi*, 400 (800) m, and, on 15 September 2005, **White-winged Tanager** *Piranga leucoptera*, 400 (800) m. Chinapintza, Cordillera del Condor, 4 November 2004, **Slate-coloured Grosbeak** *Saltator grossus*, 1,550 (1,200) m (also outside the geographical range in Ridgely & Greenfield 2001); **Chestnut-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila castaneiventris*, 1,600 (1,300) m; **White-sided Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa albilatera*, 1,600 (1,900) m; and **Dusky-billed Parrotlet** *Forpus sclateri*, at Conguimi below Chinapintza, 870

(‘mostly below 500’) m. Podocarpus National Park, Bombuscaro entrance, on 1 November 2004, **Metallic-green Tanager** *Tangara labradorides*, 940 (1,300) m. Several range extensions were also sent by TM: **White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus* at Dos Mangos, near Manglaralto (01°48’S 80°45’W), on 18 December 2004; the southernmost Ecuadorian record; **Black-and-white Seedeater** *Sporophila luctuosa* at Mayaycu near Paquisha, río Nangaritzza (04°00’S 78°36’W, 850 m), on 3 November 2004; c.60 km east of the known range; and **Bran-coloured Flycatcher** *Myiophobus fasciatus* and a **Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus* at Vilcabamba (04°14’S 79°13’W, 1,550 m) on 28 January 2004. The latter species was being fed by a Scrub Blackbird *Dives warszewiczii* due to the absence of pouch-nesting icterids. Whether it has extended its range from the eastern Andes or from the drier west is unknown. Additionally, **Superciliated Wren** *Thryothorus superciliaris* was found at Manta Real (02°33’S 79°22’W) on 23 October 2004 (the northernmost Andean foothill record) and **Golden-faced Tyrannulet** *Zimmerius chrysops* there on 20 November 2004 (the southernmost western Andean foothill record).

The lower río Paute Valley (02°36’S 77°32’W) around Guarumales was visited on 19–20 June 2005 and provided a number of new low-altitude records. Four hummingbirds were found together at 1,620 m: **Collared Inca** *Coeligena torquata* (2,100 m), **Chestnut-breasted Coronet** *Boissonneaua matthewsii* (1,900 m), **Amethyst-throated Sunangel** *Helianthus amethysticollis* (1,900 m) and **Glowing Puffleg** *Eriocnemis vestitus* (2,500 m). Also there was **Masked Flowerpiercer** *Diglossopsis cyanea* at 1,820 (2,400) m and **Glossy Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa lafresnayi* at 2,000 (2,700) m. **Cliff Flycatcher** *Hirundinea ferruginea* at the same locality, at 1,680 m, fills a small gap in

the known distribution. Further east, **Lemon-browed Flycatcher** *Conopias cinchoneti* near Santiago de Mendez was rather low, at 500 (1,000) m. Just north of Limón (General Leonidas Plaza), a **Lineated Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus* was found at 970 (600) m, and, on the Gualaceo–Limón road, **Golden-crowned Tanager** *Iridosornis rufivertex* at 2,100 (2,500) m, on 23 June 2005. On the western Andean slope near Corona de Oro (02°37'S 79°26'W), on 24 June 2005, two species were found at 680 m that are usually higher: **Uniform Antshrike** *Thamnophilus unicolor* (1,000 m) and **Three-striped Warbler** *Basileuterus tristriatus* (1,000 m), the latter also 55 km south of its known range. A **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* was observed on 19 June 2005 at Sevilla de Oro, near Paute, unusually low for mainland Ecuador, at 2,360 (3,000) m, although Freile (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 124: 193) noted the species at 2,200 m at Tiquibuzo.

TM also sent the following new distributional records for the extreme north-west of the country. At Tunda Loma Lodge, on the río Tululbí (c.01°11'N 78°45'W; c.50 m), on 23–26 August 2005, the following were observed: **Pacific Parrotlet** *Forpus coelestis*, **Blue-necked Tanager** *Tangara cyanicollis cyanopygia* (previously reported here by R. Strewé, in October 1997) and **Sooty-crowned Flycatcher** *Myiarchus phaeocephalus*. A **Rufous-brown Solitaire** *Cichlopsis leucogenys* at Tunda Loma was at 90 m, whereas it is not usually recorded below 400 m. A **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*, at Santa Rosa, Fundación Golondrinas (c.00°47'N 78°08'W), was far out of range and in unusual habitat, below overhanging bushes in a river. A **Sooty-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias griseiceps*, also there, was 500 m above its normal altitudinal range, and on 27 August 2005, at Santa Rosa, the following species were recorded outside their usual

altitudinal limits: a **White-sided Flowerpiercer** *Diglossa albilatera* at 1,550 (1,800) m, **Golden-collared Honeycreeper** *Iridophanes pulcherrima* at 1,550 m (only below 650 m in north-west Ecuador) and **Silver-throated Tanager** *Tangara icterocephala* at 1,550 (1,350) m. Further interesting records, by the same observer, are from Cotinga Lodge, near Morán/El Angel (c.00°45'N 78°01'W), on 28–30 August 2005: **Sickle-winged Guan** *Chamaepetes goudotii* with two juveniles, at 2,970 (2,600) m, **White-tailed Tyrannulet** *Mecocerculus poecilocercus* at 2,900 (2,500) m, **Streak-necked Flycatcher** *Mionectes striaticollis* at 3,000 (2,500) m, **Grey-breasted Wood-wren** *Henicorhina leucophrys* at 3,200 (3,000) m, **Brown-capped Vireo** *Vireo leucophrys* at 2,760 (2,600) m and **Chestnut-capped Brush-finch** *Buarremon brunneinucha* at 2,950 (2,500) m. On 2 September, at Mindo Lindo, there was a **Collared Inca** *Coeligena torquata* at 1,700 (2,100) m, and at Chipal, near San Miguel de los Bancos, an **Ashy-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias cinereiceps* at 850 (1,350) m. On 5 November, at Macas, Morona-Santiago province, three **Turquoise Tanagers** *Tangara mexicana* were at 1,000 (600) m, above Macas town there was a **Yellow-green Vireo** *Vireo flavoviridis* at 1,300 (400) m, and in nearby Sucúa a **Ruddy Ground-dove** *Columbina talpacoti* was at 850 (400) m.

Peru

TM sent the following new altitudinal records, as compared with Fjeldsá & Krabbe (1990) and Clements & Shany (2001). The former altitudinal limit is given in brackets. **Baird's Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes bairdii*, near Pariacoto, Ancash, on 11 March 2004, at 1,600 (1,000) m. **Red-crested Cotinga** *Ampelion rubrocristatus* at San Andrés de Cutervo, on 17 August 2004, at 2,230 (2,500) m. **Black-and-white Seedeater** *Sporophila luctuosa* at Mitupampa, near Huancabamba, dpto. Piura, on 26 August 2004, at

2,760 (2,500) m (also a slight range extension). **Andean Tit-spinetail** *Leptasthenura andicola* at the pass between Casapalca and Marcapomacocha, dpto. Lima, on 14 March 2005, at 4,780 (4,500) m. **Blue-and-black Tanager** *Tangara vassorii* at Agua Azul, above La Florida, in the upper río Zaña drainage, on 19 March 2005, at 1,580 (2,000) m. New range extensions sent by TM included **Pacific Parrotlet** *Forpus coelestis* at San Jacinto, río Nepeña, dpto. Ancash (09°10'S 78°15'W), on 17 March 2004 (but first confirmed in 2003), and **Speckled Hummingbird** *Adelomyia melanogenys* at Agua Azul, above La Florida, on the río Zaña, on 19 March 2005 (southernmost locality on the western Andean slope).

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