

Neotropical Notebook



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 The second lists unpublished and undocumented records.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

PUBLISHED RECORDS FROM THE LITERATURE

CARIBBEAN

Puerto Rico

Villela *et al.*¹⁸¹ have made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the breeding biology of the poorly known **Yellow-breasted Crane** *Porzana flaviventer*.

St. Lucia

No robust data were available concerning the breeding biology of **Grey Trembler** *Cinclocerthia gutturalis*, but a good description of the nest and eggs has been published recently⁸³.

MIDDLE AMERICA

Costa Rica

The first detailed nesting data for **Garden Emerald** *Chlorostilbon assimilis* have been made available¹⁴⁸, as have new observations on the breeding biology of **Yellowish Flycatcher** *Empidonax flavescens*¹⁰¹.

El Salvador

Funes *et al.*⁵⁷ report the first breeding data for **Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana* from Central America, based on observations in the north of the country.

Guatemala

Recent surveys of the globally threatened **Azure-rumped Tanager** *Tangara cabinisi* in the

country have revealed a population of between 8,250 and 23,250 birds, but have recommended that the species maintains its IUCN status of Endangered⁵⁰. As part of the same study, new information has also been published concerning this species' breeding biology⁵¹.

Mexico

Valencia-Herverth *et al.*¹⁷⁸ provide information on 18 species new to the state of Hidalgo, as well as records for an additional 14 species previously recorded but only rarely. Carmona *et al.*³⁰ report records of nine rare waterfowl species in Baja California Sur, among them the first **Ross's Geese** *Chen rossi* for the state (in 2004, 2006 and 2007). **Fulvous Owl** *Strix fulvescens* has recently been confirmed to occur in the state of Oaxaca¹³⁴. Among other new state records published recently are **Yellow-winged Cacique** *Cacicus melanicterus* in Tabasco¹⁴⁶ and the introduced **Tricoloured Munia** *Lonchura malacca* in Chiapas¹¹⁹. **Short-tailed Hawk** *Buteo brachyurus* and **Grey Hawk** *B. nitidus* have recently (2011) been confirmed to occur in Baja California¹¹³, from where a photograph of a possible **Black-capped Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila nigriceps* has also been published¹¹⁴. Bojorges Baños²⁴ mentions records of five species in Oaxaca that augment our knowledge, among them only the second **Rufous-necked Wood Rail** *Aramides axillaris* for the state. **Botteri's Sparrow** *Aimophila botterii* has been discovered in northern Coahuila⁴⁹. The range of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** *Aegolius acadicus* in western Oaxaca has been extended 60 km southwards⁸⁵. **Jabiru** *Jabiru mycteria* has been observed in western Tabasco¹⁴⁷. Three exotics—**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*, **Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus*

and **European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*—have all been found in the city of Querétaro¹²⁹. The first concrete breeding data for **Azure-crowned Hummingbird** *Amazilia cyanocephala* have been published¹²¹, based on observations in Veracruz, and a description of the nest of **Flammulated Flycatcher** *Deltarhynchus flammulatus* has also appeared¹⁸⁰. **Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* has been found breeding further north in Sonora than previously known⁵³.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Pearman¹²⁷ provides documentary evidence of **Biscutate Swift** *Streptoprocne biscutata* in Argentina, in Misiones, in which province a **Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata* has also been observed recently²¹. A possible observation of **Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor* off the coast of Buenos Aires, in January 2007, has been reported⁹³. Blendinger²⁰ reports on the status and distribution of **Toco Toucan** *Ramphastos toco* in the north-west of the country. The globally threatened **Temminck's Seedeater** *Sporophila falcirostris* has been documented at a new site in the north-east of the country. **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*³⁴ and, separately, **Mottled Owl** *Strix virgata*³⁵ have been added to the avifauna of Chaco, while a new record of **Amethyst Woodstar** *Calliphlox amethystina* in Argentina (Misiones) has been documented photographically³¹. Chimento *et al.*³² report range extensions of four species to southern Buenos Aires, and three new records of **Crowned Eagle** *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* have been reported from the same general area⁴². Among introduced species, **Eurasian Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

has recently been recorded in Córdoba⁸², and **Crested Myna** *Acridotheres cristatellus* breeding in Santa Fe¹³. The first substantial data on the breeding biology of **White-collared Swift** *Streptoprocne zonaris* in the country have been published¹²⁵, while Bodrati & Cockle²³ published a detailed study of the breeding of **Scalloped Woodcreeper** *Lepidocolaptes falcinellus*. A colony of up to 14,000 pairs of **Chilean Flamingos** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* has been discovered in Mendoza¹⁶⁶. **Hudson's Black Tyrant** *Knipolegus hudsoni* has been found possibly breeding in San Juan, providing a range extension of this species' known distribution⁹⁵. New breeding data have been provided for **Ruddy Quail-Dove** *Geotrygon montana*⁵ and **Stripe-backed Antbird** *Myrmorchilus strigilatus*²², among others.

Bolivia

Fresh data on the distribution and population of two very rare cracids, **Wattled Curassow** *Crax globulosa* and **Razor-billed Curassow** *Mitu tuberosum*, have been presented and have confirmed the importance of this country in the conservation of the first-named species¹⁴³. Further studies of **Swallow-tailed Cotinga** *Phibalura flavirostris boliviana* have substantially augmented our knowledge of the breeding biology, in particular, of this globally threatened taxon¹⁴¹.

Brazil

First records for the country reported since *Cotinga* 33 include a **Dark-faced Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maclovianus* (in Rio Grande do Sul, in May 2011)¹⁵⁵ and a **Peruvian Pelican** *Pelecanus thagus* (in São Paulo, in March 2008), while a record of **Brown Pelican** *P. occidentalis* in Alagoas, in December 2005, is the first documented record for the eastern Brazilian coast¹²⁶. **Black Swift** *Cypseloides niger* is not currently on the Brazilian list, but a recent study, using geolocators, which tracked the species from its breeding grounds

in the western USA, found that that it winters mainly in western Amazonia, especially in western Brazil¹⁴. A **Red (Grey) Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* photographed in Santa Catarina in January 2011 is only the second record for Brazil⁶⁹. Dias *et al.*⁴³ report new seabird records for six species, including two records of **Snowy Sheathbill** *Chionis albus* (Rio Grande do Sul), the first record of **Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* on the island of Trindade, three or four records of **Franklin's Gull** *L. pipixcan* (two or three in Rio Grande do Sul, one on Trindade), **Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* and **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*. Separately, seven new records of '**shy-type**' albatrosses *Thalassarche cauta* / *T. steadi* have been published, all from the period May–August in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina⁵⁸. Recent observations suggest that **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* might breed within the Amazon Basin, near Manaus, although there are only two current known breeding sites in Brazil, both on the coast⁸¹. Geolocators fitted to five **Veeries** *Catharus fuscescens* found that all of them spent the first half of the winter south of the Amazon in Amazonas, Mato Grosso or Pará, but between early January and early March all five moved further north, some as far as southern Venezuela, prior to the spring migration⁷². Two special issues of the Brazilian Ornithological Society's journal appeared in 2011, one devoted to Amazonia, the other to seabirds. Papers in the first included a survey of two localities in Amapá, which produced three new state records—**White-winged Potoo** *Nyctibius leucopterus*, **Spot-tailed Nightjar** *Hydropsalis maculicaudus* and **Scissor-tailed Nightjar** *H. torquata* (the latter the first Brazilian record from north of the Amazon)¹⁵⁴, and a new avifaunal inventory of Jaú National Park, Amazonas, which added 50 species to the previous list (of c.450 species)²⁶. On the south bank of the Amazon, at the junction of the states of Amazonas and Pará, a

survey of the Juruti region yielded 490 species, of which records of **Nocturnal Curassow** *Nothocrax urumutum*, **Black-faced Hawk** *Leucopternis melanops*, **Hyacinth Macaw** *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, **Peach-fronted Parakeet** *Aratinga aurea*, **Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo** *Neomorphus geoffroyi*, **Rufous Potoo** *Nyctibius bracteatus*, **Brown-chested Barbet** *Capito brunneipectus*, **Várzea Piculet** *Picumnus varzeae*, **Pale-faced Antbird** *Scutchia borbae*, **Harlequin Antbird** *Rhegmatorhina berlepschi*, **Glossy-backed Becard** *Pachyrhamphus surinamus*, **Eastern Wood Pewee** *Contopus virens* and **Blue-backed Tanager** *Cyanicterus cyanicterus* are particularly noteworthy¹⁵⁰. An avifaunal inventory of the FLONA Pau-Rosa, in Amazonas, yielded 269 species including many of the Madeira-Tapajós interfluvium endemics³⁸. Surveys at nine localities within the Belém centre of endemism produced records of 22 species that amplify our knowledge of the distribution of Amazonian birds, among them the first records of **Olive-green Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes virescens* south of the Amazon¹³². In south-west Amazonian Brazil, ongoing field work continues to yield novel data: a survey of localities on the upper Purus River produced at least three species new for Acre, as well as additional localities for others more or less confined, in Brazil, to the state⁷⁰. The adjacent state of Rondônia also represents relative ornithological *terra incognita*, but Olmos *et al.*¹²⁰ recorded 458 species at a handful of localities. Fourteen species were new to the state and records of many others substantially expanded their distributions therein. Santos *et al.*¹⁵¹ also studied a Rondônian locality, the Igarapé Lourdes Indigenous Territory; their short survey yielded 288 species. The Serra do Cachimbo, in southern Pará, has been relatively well studied compared to many Amazonian localities; nonetheless recent work continues to yield

surprises, among them a range extension for **White-crested Guan** *Penelope pileata*¹⁵². Further south in the same state, four surveys of Fazenda Fartura produced a staggering 509 species, making it among the three richest localities in Amazonian Brazil surveyed to date, although considerably less attention has been paid to this locality than to the Serra dos Carajás, also in Pará, and the area around Cristalino Jungle Lodge and Alta Floresta, in neighbouring Mato Grosso¹⁶⁵. One contribution to this volume examines historical records, pointing out how earlier collections (dating from the 1960s) produced records of at least 19 species yet to be recorded again in the state of Tocantins⁴⁶.

An important paper by Aleixo *et al.*⁴ reports the results of avifaunal surveys in five recently established conservation units in northernmost Pará, undertaken between 2008 and 2009. The authors report significant range extensions for 62 species among which the following are some of the most interesting:

Sulphur-breasted Parakeet *Aratinga maculata* (records from two areas), **Red-lored Parrot** *Amazona autumnalis* (first record for Pará), **Sooty Barbthroat** *Threnetes niger* (first records for Pará), **Green-bellied Hummingbird** *Amazilia viridigaster* (first record for Pará), **Golden-olive Woodpecker** *Colaptes rubiginosus* (first records for Pará), **Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus pelzelni* (600 km eastward range extension), **Sooty-headed Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias griseiceps* (fourth and fifth Brazilian localities), **Eastern Wood Pewee** *Contopus virens* (easternmost records in Amazonia), **White-throated Pewee** *C. albogularis* (400 km south-westwards range extension), **Rufous-tailed Attila** *Attila phoenicurus* (second record for the Guiana Shield), **Dusky Purpletuft** *Iodopleura fusca* (one of the few Brazilian records), **Speckled Tangara** *T. varia* (c.350 km southwards range extension for both species),

White-bellied Dacnis *Dacnis albiventris* (1,000 km eastwards range extension north of the Amazon) and **Summer Tanager** *Piranga rubra* (one of the few Brazilian records). In addition, records of the following species, **Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet** *Touit huetti*, **Pheasant Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx phasianellus*, **Pavonine Cuckoo** *D. pavoninus* and **Rufous Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufus* were the first from northern Pará and the eastern Guianan Shield. Elsewhere in the same state, Vasconcelos *et al.*¹⁷⁹ describe the avifauna of Monte Alegre, on the north bank of the Amazon, listing 300 species based on recent field surveys and museum holdings; accounts for ten species are presented, for which new data substantially augments previously published information. In northern Mato Grosso state, an avifaunal inventory of Fazenda São Luiz, in the municipality of Querência, produced a number of interesting observations including range extensions either east or south for species such as **Wing-banded Antbird** *Myrmornis torquata*, **Scale-backed Antbird** *Willisornis poeclinotus*, **White-bellied Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus griseipectus*, **Zimmer's Tody-Tyrant** *H. minimus*, **White-browed Purpletuft** *Iodopleura isabellae*, **Paradise Tanager** *Tangara chilensis*, **Bay-headed Tanager** *T. gyrola*, and **Slaty Thrush** *Turdus subalaris*¹¹¹. New breeding data have been published for the following species based on observations in Brazil: **American Oystercatcher** *Haematopus palliatus* (only the second ever for the country)¹⁰⁹, **Golden Parakeet** *Guaruba guarouba*⁸⁴, **Biscutate Swift** *Streptoprocne biscutate*¹²⁸, **Cipó Canastero** *Asthenes luizae*⁶², **Band-tailed Antwren** *Myrmotherula urosticta*⁸⁸, **Slender Antbird** *Rhopornis ardesiacus*⁸⁹, **Grey-backed Tachuri** *Polystictus supercilii*⁷⁴, **Rufous-tailed Flatbill** *Ramphotrigon ruficauda*⁶¹, **Black-headed Berryeater** *Carpornis melanocephala*¹⁵,

Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops*¹⁷⁶, **Yellowish Pipit** *Anthus lutescens*⁵⁶, **White-banded Tanager** *Neothraupis fasciata*⁴⁸, **Cinereous Warbling Finch** *Poospiza cinerea*¹⁸², **Stripe-tailed Yellow Finch** *Sicalis citrina*⁶⁸, **Black-bellied Seedeater** *Sporophila melanogaster*¹⁴² and **Tawny-bellied Seedeater** *S. hypoxantha*¹⁹.

Ashy-headed Greenlet *Hylophilus pectoralis* has been discovered further south than previously suspected, with records in south-west Minas Gerais, southern Goiás, north-west São Paulo and eastern Mato Grosso do Sul¹²³. Lopes *et al.*⁹² present records of 17 species from the Rio Pandeiros basin in northernmost Minas Gerais, among them poorly known birds such as **Plain-tailed Nighthawk** *Nyctiprogne vielliardi*, **Minas Gerais Tyrannulet** *Phylloscartes roquettei* and **Reiser's Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias reiseri*. Reppenning *et al.*¹³⁶ report records of 50 bird species to some extent dependent on grasslands in north-east Rio Grande do Sul and south-east Santa Catarina, among them such poorly known species as **Giant Snipe** *Gallinago undulata*. **Tawny Piculet** *Picumnus fulvescens* is now known to be more widespread than previously thought, with records even reaching south of the rio São Francisco, in the state of Sergipe¹⁴⁴. Three new species have recently been reported for Rio Grande do Norte, namely **Ochraceous Piculet** *P. limae*, **Silvery-cheeked Antshrike** *Sakesphorus cristatus* and **Yellow-faced Siskin** *Carduelis yarrellii*¹⁵⁹. **Marsh Sporophila palustris** and **Chestnut Seedeaters** *S. cinnamomea* were recorded in the Distrito Federal in early November 2011; both were new records for this region⁷⁸.

Among other new or otherwise interesting records at state level are the following. Bencke¹⁶ reports records of 16 species in Rio Grande do Sul, of which seven are additions to the state list—**Tiny Hawk** *Accipiter superciliosus*, **Plain Parakeet** *Brotogeris tirica*, **Pearly-vented**

Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*, **Grey-capped Tyrannulet** *Phyllomyias griseicapilla*, **Greyish Saltator** *Saltator coerulescens*, **Olive-green Tanager** *Orthogonys chloricterus* and **Lined Seedeater** *Sporophila lineola*—and another seven were previously known from unsubstantiated or poorly documented records, namely **Least Bittern** *Ixobrychus exilis*, **Yellow-chevroned Parakeet** *Brotogeris chiriri*, **Pearly-breasted Cuckoo** *Coccyzus euleri*, **Tawny-crowned Owl** *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*, **Spotted Bamboowren** *Psilorhamphus guttatus*, **Straneck's Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga griseicapilla* and **Rufous-headed Tanager** *Hemithraupis ruficapilla*. Simultaneously, in late 2010, Bencke and colleagues¹⁷ published updates to the checklist of Rio Grande do Sul, wherein they recognised 661 species as having occurred in the state. Meller & Bencke¹⁰⁸ mention the first two records of **Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus* for Rio Grande do Sul. Mainly a vagrant to Brazil, **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* has recently been recorded in São Paulo state¹⁰⁷. Three new localities for the globally threatened **Forbes' Blackbird** *Curaeus forbesi* have been reported from the rio Doce basin of eastern Minas Gerais¹⁰⁶. **Uniform Finch** *Haplopiza unicolor* has been recorded at two localities in north-east Minas Gerais, corresponding to the northernmost sites for the species³⁶. Pinheiro *et al.*¹³⁰ have provided details of 14 new localities in Goiás for another globally threatened bird, **Kaempfer's Woodpecker** *Celeus obrieni*. The first record of **Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo** *Neomorphus geoffroyi* for the Caatinga biome involve bird/s recorded by a camera trap in northern Bahia¹⁴⁰. Pacheco *et al.*¹²² report the first records (from seven localities) of **Sulphury Flycatcher** *Tyrannopsis sulphurea* in southern Goiás and western Minas Gerais. A pair of **Harpy Eagles** *Harpia harpyja*

at a nest was the first record for the Pantanal¹⁷⁵. **Small-billed Tinamou** *Crypturellus parvirostris* has been definitively added to the avifauna of Rio de Janeiro¹⁵⁶, as has **Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana* in Sergipe¹¹⁰, **Spotted Rail** *Pardirallus maculatus* in Mato Grosso do Sul¹²⁴, **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* in Tocantins³⁷, **Willet** *T. semipalmata* in São Paulo¹⁶¹ (cf. Cotinga 33: 158), **Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus* in Espírito Santo¹¹⁶, **Hyacinth Macaw** *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* in Amazonas¹⁰, **Blue-tufted Starthroat** *Heliomaster furcifer*¹⁰⁰, **Black-chested Tyrant** *Taeniotriccus andrei* in Mato Grosso¹⁶⁰, **Sooty Tyrannulet** *Serpophaga nigricans* in Tocantins⁸, **White-naped Xenopsaris** *Xenopsaris albinucha* in Rio Grande do Sul¹³³, **Velvety Black Tyrant** *Knipolegus nigerrimus* in Tocantins⁹, **Masked Tityra** *Tityra semifasciata* in Mato Grosso do Sul⁶⁰, **Red-eyed Thornbird** *Phacelodorus ferrugineigula* in Paraná⁴¹, **Chotoy Spinetail** *Schoeniophylax phryganophilus* in Piauí¹⁴⁹, and **Campo Troupial** *Icterus jamaicaii* in Rio de Janeiro¹⁸. **Dark-winged Trumpeter** *Psophia viridis* and **White-chinned Woodcreeper** *Dendrocincla merula* have been recorded at a locality in Maranhão⁸⁷. A documented record of **Orange-breasted Falcon** *Falco deiroleucus* in Espírito Santo has also been published¹³⁸. Lopes *et al.*⁹² report two records of **Blackish-blue Seedeater** *Amaurospiza moesta* in the *cerrado* of Minas Gerais and the first, and even more remarkable, record in Mato Grosso. Full details of the second **Austral (Patagonian) Negrito** *Lessonia rufa* for São Paulo have now been published¹⁶³ (cf. Cotinga 33: 158), while **Spot-tailed Nightjar** *Hydrospalis maculicuada* has been documented in the same state for the first time in more than a decade¹¹⁵. A range extension for the declining **Great-billed Seed Finch** *Sporophila maximiliani* in Mato Grosso has been reported³. Two new records of **Black-backed Grosbeak**

Pheucticus aureoventris in eastern and south-east Mato Grosso do Sul have been reported⁵². The range of **Cinereous Warbling Finch** *Poospiza cinerea* in Minas Gerais has been extended¹³⁷, as has that of **Hellmayr's Pipit** *Anthus hellmayri*⁹⁰, whilst other interesting observations from the same state include documented records of **Pheasant Cuckoo** *Dromococcyx phasianellus*¹⁰⁵ and **Giant Cowbird** *Molothrus oryzivorus*¹⁶⁷, as well as a new locality for the globally threatened **Dwarf Tinamou** *Taonias nanus*¹⁶⁸. **Tufted Antshrike** *Mackenziaena severa* has been rediscovered in Rio Grande do Sul⁵⁴ and new records of **Amethyst Woodstar** *Calliphlox amethystina* have been reported from the same state⁶. The range of **Buff-bellied Puffbird** *Notharchus swainsoni* in Paraná has been extended²⁹, and some data concerning the only state record of the rare **Crested Eagle** *Morphnus guianensis* have been clarified¹⁷¹. New records of **Stripe-tailed Yellow Finch** for Rio de Janeiro state have been published¹⁵⁷. **Red-cowled Cardinal** *Paroaria dominicana* has been discovered at Palmas, Tocantins, but whether the result of an inopportune introduction or natural expansion, is unclear⁴⁷.

Chile

The first documented record of **Parkinson's Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni* off the Chilean coast was made off Antofagasta in December 2010¹⁵³. Marin¹⁰³ reports the third record (second documented) of **Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta* off the Chilean coast, in April 2009. A review of the avifauna of Easter Island considers 53 species to have been definitely recorded and another four to be hypothetical, and adds **Henderson Pterodroma** *atrata*, **Murphy's P.** *ultima* and **Phoenix Petrels** *P. alba* to the list of breeders (all new to the Chilean breeding avifauna)¹⁰⁴. Separately, the first records of **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* from Easter Island have been reported⁶³, whilst full details of the

first national record of **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** *Myiodynastes luteiventris* (cf. *Cotinga* 33: 156) have also now been reported⁷⁷. A new locality for **Horned Coot** *Fulica cornuta* has been discovered in Antofagasta¹³⁹. Marin¹⁰² studied the breeding biology of **Common Diuca Finch** *Diuca diuca*. Highlight observations from the period March 2010 to February 2011 reported in the online birdwatchers' bulletin, *La Chiricoca*, include the following^{11,12}. A **White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* was again in the Metropolitan Region in August and October 2010, with a **Fulvous Whistling Duck** *D. bicolor* in the same region in December 2010. There were various records, involving up to 13 **King Penguins** *Aptenodytes patagonicus*, mainly in the far south between late October 2010 and February 2011, but one was found as far north as Region V. Singles of **Antipodean (Wandering) Albatross** *Diomedea (exulans) antipodensis* were seen off Valparaíso in early October and late November 2010. One of the most remarkable records of the period was an unidentified *Puffinus*, thought perhaps to be **Tropical Shearwater** *P. bailloni*, photographed off Easter Island in January 2011. A **Great Shearwater** *P. gravis* was photographed from a pelagic out of Valparaíso in June 2010, while up to two **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** *Nyctanassa violacea* were in Arica in early June 2010 and January 2011 (this species has only recently been recorded for the first time in Chile; cf. *Cotinga* 32: 157–158), with a **Tricoloured Heron** *Egretta tricolor* in the same region in August and September 2010, two **Striated Herons** *Butorides striata* in the far north, and several recent records of **Little Blue Heron** *E. caerulea* (some photographed). Also in the far north were a juvenile **Roseate Spoonbill** *Platalea ajaja* in November 2010 (photographed), a **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* in April 2010 and single **Eastern Kingbirds** *Tyrannus tyrannus*

photographed in May and October 2010. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *T. savanna* was seen in Region V in January 2011. Potentially a new species for Chile was a possible **Grey-breasted Martin** *Progne chalybea* photographed in Region IX in October 2010, while a **Peruvian Martin** *P. murphyi* was photographed in Region XV in September 2010. In late September 2010, a **Sayaca Tanager** *Thraupis sayaca* was photographed in Region IX; this species has not previously been recorded in Chile, but the bird could have been an escapee. A **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa* was photographed in Region IV, where it was present between December 2010 and January 2011. **Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*, a species only recently added to the Chilean list, continues to be seen in very small numbers in the extreme north of the country, and several (at least six) **Sandwich Terns** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* were also seen at two localities in this region in early 2011. The second country record of **Dark-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus melacoryphus* involved one in the Metropolitan Region at the end of January 2011. The first record of **Wren-like Rushbird** *Phleocryptes melanops* of the subspecies *schoenobaenus* was made in Region I in January 2011. Late-reported records include an **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* photographed in Region II in March 2009, a **Blue Petrel** *Halobaena caerulea* photographed en route between Valparaíso and isla Robinson Crusoe, in September 2009, and the first record for Chile of **Broad-billed Prion** *Pachyptila vittata* in the far north of the country in July 2009 (also photographed).

Colombia

Donegan *et al.*⁴⁵ provide an update to the Colombian avifauna adding several species (several reported in more detail below), taking the country's list to 1,889 species. However, one species included therein—**Pale-legged Warbler** *Basileuterus signatus*—has since

been proven to be erroneous (the only record being based on a specimen of **Citrine Warbler** *B. luteoviridis*)¹⁷⁰. The presence of **Masked Water Tyrant** *Fluvicola nengeta* has been documented in the country for the first time based on records in the southern department of Nariño⁹⁶. On the opposite side of the Andes, **Rufous-breasted Wood Quail** *Odontophorus speciosus* has been sound-recorded recently, establishing the first national record¹¹⁸. Another new bird for the country's list is **White-bellied Parrot** *Pionites leucogaster*, which has been seen thrice recently and its occurrence documented with photographs in dpto. Amazonas⁹⁷. Luna *et al.*⁹⁸ reports two documented records of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius*, both in the far north of the country (see also pp. 160–161). Donegan & Huertas⁴⁴ demonstrate that the subspecies of **Brown-throated Parakeet** *Aratinga pertinax* occurring (as an introduction) on the island of San Andrés is *aeruginosa* from northern Colombia. The range of the rare **Masked Mountain Tanager** *Buthraupis wetmorei* has been extended to the East Andes, in dpto. Norte de Santander⁸⁶. **Striped Owl** *Pseudoscops clamator* represents an addition to the avifauna of Caldas²⁷. The first detailed data concerning the nest and eggs of **Black-billed Peppershrike** *Cyclarhis nigrirostris* have been published³⁹, as have nesting data for **Empress Brilliant** *Heliodoxa imperatrix*⁵⁵. New records of **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* and **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa* have been reported¹⁴⁵. A visit to Malpelo Island, in February 2010, produced a record of several **Snail Kites** *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, which is remarkable given that the island lies almost 400 km from the nearest land⁹⁴.

Ecuador

New distributional data continue to flow. Buitrón-Jurado²⁸ reports on 28 species recorded in the Amazonian province of Pastaza, including only the fourth record of

Pale-eyed Blackbird *Agelasticus xanthophthalmus* for the country. From the far north-west, Solano-Ugalde¹⁶⁴ provides distributional and natural history data for 14 species, including several of extreme conservation concern, while Bonaccorso *et al.*²⁵ present new range information for 12 species in the Andes, as well as new altitudinal data for an additional seven species. Henry⁷³ presents new altitudinal or range information for some 73 species, many of them common birds but also a few rarities. As always in these reviews, the Greeny *et al.* team continue to expand our knowledge of the breeding ecology of birds in Ecuador. Recently published papers concern the following species: **Pearled Treerunner** *Margarornis squamiger*⁶⁶, **Pale-edged Flycatcher** *Myiarchus cephalotes*⁶⁵, **Fulvous Antshrike** *Frederickena fulva*⁶⁶ and **Smoky Bush Tyrant** *Myiotheretes fumigatus*¹⁶⁹. Additionally, Kirwan⁷⁹ reports interesting breeding observations for five species, among them the first nest of **Black-and-white Tody-Tyrant** *Poecilotriccus capitalis*.

French Guiana

A new species for the country was photographed in July 2010, a **Little Wood Rail** *Aramides mangle*⁷⁵. This species was previously considered to be endemic to Brazil and had never been recorded north of the Amazon. Arguably even more remarkable, the first record of **Black-and-white Tanager** *Conothraupis mesoleuca* was made in the coastal region in March 2011⁸³. On the other hand, **White-bellied Spinetail** *Synallaxis propinqua* has been removed to Category B of the French Guianan list, due to the lack of recent records, despite searches of formerly suitable habitat⁷⁶. Renaudier *et al.*¹³⁵ provide a résumé of **Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* records from continental South America, of which all five, plus one at sea

nearby (all since 1991) have been from French Guiana.

Peru

Graves⁶⁴ has retracted his own record of **Brown Wood Rail** *Aramides wolfei*, made in 1977 and still the only report for Peru, and provided additional notes on the status of **Rufous-necked Wood Rail** *A. axillaris* in the country. A recently published paper reporting observations from as long ago as the 1960s provides distributional, biological and other data for 319 species of birds in the country, and includes many photographs⁹⁹. The Cerros del Sira continues to produce avian surprises; a survey by Harvey *et al.*⁷¹ produced 462 species in this region, among them several new for Ucayali, others of taxonomic interest (including a new species of *Capito* barbet) and some of conservation interest, including the poorly known **Sira Tanager** *Tangara phillipsi*. Recent documented records extend the range of **Dark-fronted Ground Tyrant** *Muscisaxicola maclovianus* in Peru north to Trujillo¹³¹, **Black-fronted Ground Tyrant** *M. frontalis* has recently been recorded in Huancavelica at 4,450 m³. The third country record of **Magellanic Penguin** *Spheniscus magellanicus* involved a bird photographed in September 2011¹. A photographic record of **Stygian Owl** *Asio stygius* is the first for dpto. San Martín, and provided a new lowest altitude for the species in Peru (at 875 m)¹⁷⁴. A new locality for the globally threatened **Peruvian Plantcutter** *Phytotoma raimondii* has been reported in Piura¹⁷³. The publication of the *Birds of Peru* field guide will doubtless encourage many papers adding to our knowledge of the temporal and distributional occurrence of birds in the country. Among such contributions of late, Gibbons *et al.*⁵⁹ provide new elevational data for 19 species. Recent field work has substantially improved our knowledge of the avifauna of the Lobos de Afuera archipelago, off the coast of Lambayeque¹⁷². Following records in southern Amazonian Brazil

(see, e.g., *Cotinga* 18: 77–79), **Black-faced Hawk** *Leucopternis melanops* and **White-browed Hawk** *L. kuhli* have now been found sympatrically in Madre de Dios¹⁵⁸. Details of the first nests of **Cerulean-capped Manakin** *Lepidothrix coeruleocapilla*⁸⁰ and **Silvered Antbird** *Sclateria naevia* have appeared⁴⁰, as have rather fuller data on the breeding biology of **Fulvous-breasted Flatbill** *Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus*¹¹⁷ and **Pectoral Sparrow** *Arremon taciturnus*¹⁷⁷.

Surinam

There have been a couple of important recent publications on the country's avifauna. That by Zyskowski *et al.*¹⁸³ describes the birds associated with the Tafelberg, the easternmost tepui, including details of four new species for the country, namely: **Short-tailed Antthrush** *Chamaeza campanisona*, **Pelzeln's Tody-Tyrant** *Hemitriccus inornatus*, **Pale-eyed Thrush** *Turdus leucops* and **Black-hooded Thrush** *T. olivater*. Five additional species new for the national list were recorded during surveys of the Sipaliwini savanna in the extreme south of the country: **Ocellated Crake** *Micropygia schomburgkii*, **Greenish Elaenia** *Myiopagis viridicata*, **Southern Scrub Flycatcher** *Sublegatus modestus*, **Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin** *Neopelma pallescens* and **White-banded Tanager** *Neothraupis fasciata*¹¹².

Uruguay

Four new species for the country have been reported recently: **Sharp-billed Treehunter** *Heliobletus contaminatus*, **Planalto Woodcreeper** *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*, **Large-tailed Antshrike** *Mackenziaena leachii* and **Yellow-olive Flycatcher** *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*. The same authors⁷ also reported the first evidence for the presence of **Buff-fronted Owl** *Aegolius harrisii* for almost 50 years.

Other records received

Argentina

An apparent moulting **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* was photographed at Estancia La Angostura, prov. Santa Cruz, on 11 January 2012, which would be the first country record and for Patagonia as a whole (RD, FO, RS).

Brazil

A male **Pin-tailed Manakin** *Ilicura militaris* was photographed at Cocalzinho, Goiás, on 8 October 2011 (HSc), which is only the second state record (and the first in recent decades). RS & ES reported two interesting records (both photographed): the fourth record of **White-banded Mockingbird** *Mimus triurus* for the state of São Paulo, on Ilha Comprida on 20 June 2011, and the second **Rufous-chested Plover** *Charadrius modestus* for the state of Rio de Janeiro, at Paraty on 27 June–5 July 2011 at least¹⁶². A male **Dark-throated Seedeater** *Sporophila ruficollis* was observed at a marsh just south of Campinópolis, south-east of Serra da Canastra National Park, on 28 October 2011. Among the most recent additions to the avifauna of the Serra dos Carajás, which now exceeds 610 species, is **Black-bellied Thorntail** *Popelairia langsdorffi*, with for example at least four individuals seen during a visit to the area in the first half of November 2011. Additional records of **White-chinned Swift** *Cypseloides cryptus* in the country, following the first two reported by Whittaker & Araújo Whittaker (2008, *Rev. Bras. Orn.* 16: 398–401), involve one individual observed at close range from the ZF2 tower, north of Manaus, Amazonas, on 26 November 2011, and up to 13 above Iracema Falls, north of Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas, on 27 November 2011 (GMK, NB, JH, AM, MO).

Cayman Islands

A **Red-legged Thrush** *Turdus plumbeus* was seen along the

Mastic Trail, on Grand Cayman, on 13 March 2009 (GMK, HS); the only other records on this island come from the 1960s (Bradley, 2000, *The birds of the Cayman Islands*, British Ornithologists' Union).

Colombia

A number of interesting records were made at Mitú, Vaupés, by SH & AS in 2010, including single **Brown-banded Puffbirds** *Notharchus ordii* on 21–22 January, a **Bar-bellied Woodcreeper** *Hylexetastes stresemanni* seen well on 22 January, and a male **Yellow-throated Antwren** *Myrmotherula ambigua* on 22 January. Elsewhere, four **Marbled Godwits** *Limosa fedoa* at Los Flamencos on 16–17 March 2011 were seen by several groups of birders, and two **Forster's Terns** *Sterna forsteri* were also at Los Flamencos on 16 March 2011, with one seen again on 17 March (one of the few records for South America).

Costa Rica

A **Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda* photographed near Isla Manuelita, Cocos Island, on 14 February 2011, was apparently the first country record (http://uniondeornitologos.com/index.php?option=com_kunena&func=view&catid=8&id=453&Itemid=66#453).

Cuba

SH sent the following records from early 2012. The most exciting record was that of a **Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis* carefully identified at La Güira National Park, Pinar del Río, on 5 January (just one previous sight record in the country). Two male **Redheads** *Aythya americana* (very few previous records) were at a reservoir just west of La Habana on 6 January, with a flock of 3,000 **Ring-necked Ducks** *A. collaris* and at least 50 **Lesser Scaup** *A. affinis*. On Cayo Guillermo, off the north coast, there were c.15 **Dunlins** *Calidris alpina* and c.60 **Red Knots** *C. canutus* on 8 January 2012.

Ecuador

A new species to Ecuador, **Yellow-backed Oriole** *Icterus chrysater* was photographed at Manglares Cayapas-Mataje Reserve, prov. Esmeraldas, on 11 January 2011. Only the second documented record of **Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* in the country was a female at Laguna San Pablo, prov. Imbabura, on 3–7 March, although it had probably been present since February; the first was in 1922. The first field record (photographs and sound-recordings) of **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* was also at Laguna San Pablo on 3–22 March (previously known from two specimens). Full details on all of these sightings are available at www.avesecuador.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=25%3Anews&layout=blog&Itemid=29&lang=en.

A visit to the declining forested fragments of the Bosque Protector Yalaré, prov. Esmeraldas, on 11–13 August 2011, yielded several interesting records. Up to ten **Blue-fronted Parrotlets** *Touit dilectissima* were seen, one of the few records from the country's coastal lowlands, while **Rufous-winged Tanager** *Tangara lavinia* and **Bay-headed Tanager** *T. gyrola* were found in sympatry, apparently for the first time in Ecuador or anywhere (?), although the latter species was more numerous. Overhead, at least one **Chestnut-collared Swift** *Cypseloides rutilus* and 30+ **White-chinned Swifts** *C. cryptus* were seen (the latter species also photographed), providing one of the few records for either species in the province. On 13 August, an adult **Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant** *Myiornis atricapilla* was photographed feeding two fledged juveniles just a few metres above the ground; very few breeding data have been published previously for this species. Nearby, a **Short-tailed Nighthawk** *Lurocalis semitorquatus* was observed at Tundaloma Lodge on 11–12 August; this species is rare and patchily distributed in western Ecuador. At Reserva Buenaventura, prov. El Oro, on

31 July and 2 August, a pair of **Yellow-tufted Dacnis** *Dacnis egregia* was photographed feeding a single young, providing one of the few data on breeding for this species. The juvenile was duller than the adult female, with reduced and less bright yellow on the underside and the wing-bend. Another interesting breeding datum involved a **Grey-capped Cuckoo** *Coccyzus lansbergi* repeatedly visiting the same patch of dense undergrowth at Reserva Jorupe, prov. Loja, on 5 August, where it apparently had a nest (twice observed carrying caterpillars, so presumably feeding young). (All records GMK, HS.)

Falkland Islands

A **Yellow-winged Blackbird** *Agelasticus thilius*, a first record for the archipelago, was found at Cape Pembroke, East Falkland, on 11–12 January 2012, and on the second date a **Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, a very rare vagrant on the islands, was also present. The second record of **Creamy-bellied Thrush** *Turdus amaurochalinus* was present at Magellan Beach, East Falkland, on 6–11 June 2011 at least (the first record, unpublished, was in June 2010). Single **Eastern Kingbirds** *Tyrannus tyrannus* were seen on 12 May and 6 November 2011 (both photographed), probably only the fourth and fifth Falklands records. The seventh **Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio martinica* for the islands was photographed at Yorke Bay Pond on 29 May 2011. A **Chilean Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus chilensis* was photographed on East Falkland on 4–8 January 2012 (AH; see www.surfbirds.com/community-blogs/falklandbirder).

Galápagos Islands

A birding and photography visit to the archipelago in August / September 2011 produced records of two seabirds generally considered to be vagrants to the islands, **Parkinson's Petrel** *Procellaria parkinsoni* (one, photographed) and **Markham's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma markhami* (one), both seen



Figure 1. Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, north of San Cristobal, Galápagos Islands, 13 August 2011 (George Armistead)

south of Puerto Villamil, Isabela, on 4 September (HS). On 13 August 2011, a **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* was photographed c.2 km north of San Cristobal, which is apparently a new species for the archipelago (GA; Fig. 1).

Mexico

In Baja California, a juvenile **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnitilis* was photographed at Punta Banda, Ensenada, on 12 October 2011, providing the first country record (MB, SNGH, JP; cf. *Birding World* 24: 440). A male **Virginia's Warbler** *Oreothlypis virginiae* at Los Humeros, Veracruz, on 5 October 2010, was probably a first state record (SH).

Puerto Rico

A breeding-plumaged male **Bay-breasted Warbler** *Dendroica castanea* was in Maricao State Forest on 23 April 2011 (SH).

Venezuela

A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens* was at El Limón, Colonia Tovar, Distrito Federal, on 17 February 2007 (SH, LP); just three previous records for Venezuela are mentioned in Hilty (2003, *Birds of Venezuela*). In the state of Mérida, two interesting records were made on 15 December 2011, namely two **Red-lored Parrots** *Amazona autumnalis* photographed at Finca Morichal, east of El Vigía, and an **Aplomado Falcon** *Falco femoralis* at 2,200 m above La Azulita (GMK, GR, HS). The former appears to the first record

for the state and the latter is at the highest reported elevation in the country. In the Sierra de Lema, Bolívar, a **Riverbank Warbler** *Basileuterus rivulais* heard singing on 6 January 2012, at 1,410 m, is also a new highest altitudinal record in Venezuela, where the species was previously known to 1,000 m (GMK, IT). A fruiting / flowering tree at the same altitude hosted several species not previously reported at such elevation in this part of the country, namely **Black-eared Fairy** *Heliophryx aurita* (previously to 1,300 m), **Opal-rumped Tanager** *Tangara velia* (1,200 m) and **Silver-beaked Tanager** *Ramphocelus carbo* (1,250 m) (GMK). Indeed, *T. velia* does not appear to have been recorded above 1,200 m anywhere in its range (Hilty, 2011, Family Thraupidae (tanagers), in *Handbook of the birds of the world*. Vol. 16). At Caño Acoima, in the Orinoco Delta, on 9 January 2012, a pair of **Black-chested Tyrants** *Taeniotriccus andrei* was observed apparently nest building (the female was photographed carrying material, but the nest itself was not found); to date, the nest of this generally uncommon, and until recently virtually unknown in life, species has not been described (DA, GMK, HS). The nest of **Paria Whitestart** *Myioborus pariae* also appears to be unknown as yet; a pair was observed on Cerro Humo, above Las Melenas, Sucre, on 12 January 2012, behaving as if they had a nest nearby. Both birds continually fanned their tails and 'shivered' the wings slowly and repeatedly, in the manner of a distraction display, fluttering around the observers (GMK, JM, HS).

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