

New records of Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* and Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* in mainland Ecuador

In February and November 2010, I photographed two waterbirds in north-west Ecuador outside their known ranges: a Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* in prov. Pichincha and a Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* in prov. Esmeraldas.

On 3 February 2010, on the access road to Mindo (00°02'56"S 78°46'33"W; 1,280 m), I observed a first-winter Franklin's Gull,

which I digiscoped confirming the following features: rear crown dark brown to blackish contrasting with white nape, white eye-ring striking but incomplete, forehead white and short bill (Fig. 1), while the contrast between the greyish mantle and brownish wings aged the bird^{2,4}.

On 24 November 2010, an adult Chilean Flamingo was at Laguna de la Ciudad (01°06'N 79°07'W; 7 m), a brackish marsh 10 km south-west of La Tola community, prov. Esmeraldas (Fig. 2). The red 'knees' contrasting with bluish tarsi, and pink bill base are diagnostic.

Franklin's Gull is a passage migrant and boreal winter visitor to Ecuador, with few records away from the coast². Chilean Flamingo is a nomadic visitor mainly to south-western coasts, and north to prov. Manabí^{1,2},



Figure 1. Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*, near Mindo, prov. Pichincha, February 2010 (Manuel Sánchez Nivicela)



Figure 2. Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, Laguna de la Ciudad, prov. Esmeraldas, November 2010 (Manuel Sánchez Nivicela)

with a high-Andean record from Limpiopungo Lake, Cotopaxi National Park³. My record of Franklin's Gull is the first for Pichincha, whilst that of Chilean Flamingo is the northernmost in Ecuador, c.390 km from Ecuasal, where large groups occur¹.

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