

Notes on some rare or previously unrecorded birds in Ecuador

with additional information on identification and habitat

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FOR ITS SIZE, Ecuador, with over 1400 species to its credit, supports the richest avifauna in the world. During the past five years I have been fortunate in spending a substantial period of time in this small but varied country. My first three trips to Ecuador, in 1976 and 1978, had specific research objectives concerning the present status of various parrots and other endangered birds, while the two subsequent ones, in 1979 and 1980, have been more general in nature. I have now spent a total of about seven months in the country, and during that time have visited most regions, including a number of very remote ones. Many interesting and significant bird records have been accumulated, and it is my purpose here to put many of them on record, leaving a few for more detailed treatment elsewhere.

A total of 45 bird species is discussed in the following accounts. Fifteen are here formally recorded from Ecuador for the first time, using Meyer de Schauensee's most recent (1970) reference as the standard. Several species referred to here as "first records" for the country have actually already been listed by Butler in his recent Checklist of Ecuadorian Birds (1979); I have here provided the information which supported their inclusion in that work, which in each case was based on my own records. The data for the remaining species are concerned with important new distributional or status information within Ecuador. Notes on identification, and ecological and behavioral data, are given where appropriate. The taxonomy of Meyer de Schauensee (1970) is followed throughout.

The following have been among the more important localities visited during the course of this field work (each has been mentioned at least twice in the species accounts):

Las Cajas National Recreation Area — A large protected area of paramo and high lakes, with some temperate forest

and many patches of lush *Polylepis* woodland, located west of Cuenca, Azuay Province, in the Western Andes (elevational range c. 3000-4200m). The region appears to have been previously little explored ornithologically.

Equasal lagoons — A saltworks located on the Pacific coast about 8 km southeast of Salinas, Guayas Province. A series of artificial shallow lagoons, frequented by large numbers of water-birds.

Jatuncocha — A small lake near the lower Yasuni River, situated less than 10 km upstream from the mouth of the Yasuni into the Napo River, below Nueva Rocafuerte. The area is close to the Peruvian frontier in extreme eastern Napo Province.

Loja-Zamora road — A 60 km gravel road connecting these two cities in southeastern Ecuador. It surmounts the crest of the Eastern Andes at only

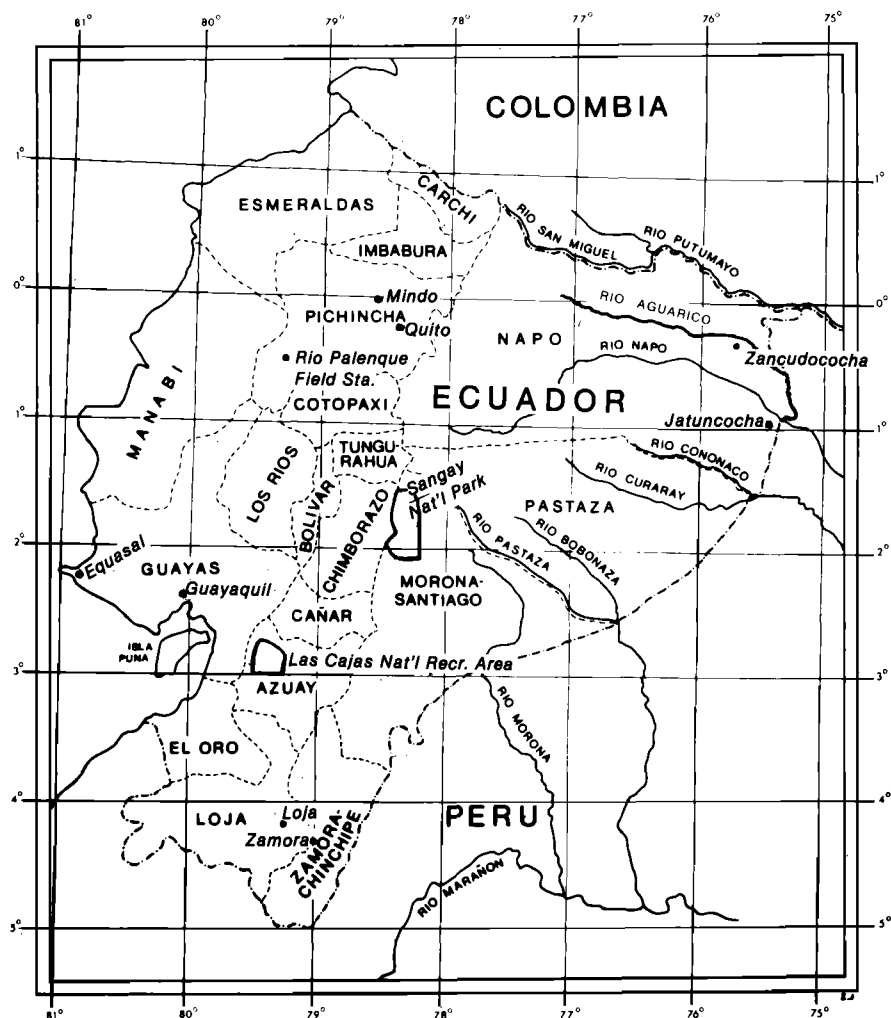


Figure 1. Map of Ecuador

2800m, and then descends their eastern slope to Zamora, situated at the base of the mountains at 1050m. From the crest eastward it is within Zamora-Chinchipe Province.

Mindo — A town situated in a valley on the western slope of the Western Andes at 1300m, in Pichincha Province. Accessible *via* a side road off the Nono-San Miguel de los Bancos highway. Very extensive forest remains in this region, although it is not continuous along the road itself; on the whole, the area supports the most diverse avifauna of any easily-reached region in the Ecuadorian Western Andes.

Planchas — A locality in the upper Palora River valley at 2900m on the eastern slope of the Eastern Andes, in Morona-Santiago Province. Now located within the new Sangay National Park. Although apparently at one time a town existed here, at present there exists but one hut in a small clearing set in a vast expanse of temperate forest. A few kilo-

meters upstream lies the site of another abandoned town, El Placer, now reduced to a single crumbling hovel in a regenerating meadow.

Sabanilla — The only village along the Loja-Zamora road (see above), at about 1750m, in Zamora-Chinchipe Province. Excellent roadside forest begins below this town, in the valley of the Zamora River, and continues in patches all the way down to near Zamora itself.

Tandayapa — A road junction town, at about 1450m, located on the highway from Nono, on the western slope of the Western Andes. Here the road divides: one route goes to Mindo and beyond, while the other continues to Nanegalito. Excellent roadside forest exists along the road to Mindo and along the route back toward Mindo; the Nanegalito area has been more disturbed.

Upano River Valley — A river forming part of the southern boundary of the

new Sangay National Park, in Morona-Santiago Province. The area we visited was c. 25 km northwest of Macas, at 1500-1600m on the south side of the river. High water levels prevented us from crossing the river and actually entering the park. A wild and still remote region, the subtropical forests here are completely undisturbed within the park boundaries, while south of the river a few small clearings have appeared in recent years.

Zancludococha — A lake about 10 km south of the Aguarico River in extreme eastern Napo Province near the Colombian and Peruvian boundaries. Aside from a few small army frontier posts, the river is uninhabited from at least here downstream to its confluence with the Napo. A trail cuts south through untouched forest from the river to the lake, and continues on some 30 km to the large army base at Tiputini, situated on the Napo River upstream from Nueva Rocafuerte.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*

An adult was observed at the Equasal lagoons on July 13, 1978 (with D. Wilcove). Another, also an adult and conceivably the same individual, was seen (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) at the same place Feb. 12-13, 1980. Specific identification centered on the bird's rufous thighs, its white stripe down the center of the crown, and its mostly grayish tawny neck. The Great Blue Heron has not previously been recorded from Ecuador (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970; Blake, 1977). Whether these sightings represent the migrant North American race, nominate *herodias*, which is known to winter south to the upper Cauca River valley in southwestern Colombia (Meyer de Schauensee, 1964), or the presumably resident Galapagos race, *cognatus*, could not be determined. The former would seem the more likely, despite the July date.

CAPPED HERON *Ptilerodius pileatus*

This widespread neotropical heron was only first recorded from Ecuador as recently as 1963 (Norton, 1965). Another was collected, and individuals seen at intervals, at the same locality, Limoncocha, Napo Province, during 1975-1976 (Tallman *et al.*, 1977). The Capped Heron may actually now be quite widespread in eastern Ecuador: not only does it occur all along the Napo River, but 1-4 were seen almost daily along the lower Aguarico River upstream to Zancludococha, in September 1976. P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) has also found it regularly along the upper Aguarico River, to the north of the Napo. Its requirement seems to be a wide river with numerous sandy islands and backwater channels; narrow, forest-fringed rivers are much less favored. Its apparent increase here may well be genuine, although difficult to explain, for eastern Ecuador was well covered by commercial collectors during the first half of the 20th century, and they seem unlikely to have overlooked such an obvious and handsome heron.

CHILEAN FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

A flock of nine flamingos of this species was found at the Equasal lagoons July 13, 1978 (with D. Wilcove), and eight were there again February 13, 1980 (with D.W. Finch *et al.*). On the second date the

saltworks manager told me that a small group had been continuously present for several years; the birds frequent the more remote inner ponds, and have not been disturbed, hence are now relatively tame. P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) found a group of 20 here on August 20, 1978. The Chilean Flamingo was not recorded for Ecuador by either Blake (1977) or Meyer de Schauensee in his first (1966) South American book. The latter, however, did comment in his later (1970) book that "Flamingos seen in w. Ecuador probably belong to this species." This was in apparent reference to Marchant's (1958) observations in the same general area of "flamingos, probably *P. chilensis*, but never satisfactorily identified." Specific identification in this case presented no problem, as the birds could be approached closely enough that their pinkish-red joints on otherwise dull bluish legs, a characteristic shared by no other flamingo (Johnson, 1965), could be easily seen. Three Chilean Flamingos were noted in 1977 only a few km southeast of Playas, Guayas Province. (P. Greenfield, *pers. comm.*) This flamingo is the most northerly ranging of the three South American species; it regularly winters along the Peruvian coast to the Department of Lima (T. Parker, *pers. comm.*), and has been recorded north to Tumbes Department. A few may now visit Ecuador annually, or may even be non-breeding residents in the country.

PEARL KITE *Gampsonyx swainsonii*

One Pearl Kite was observed at length as it perched along the edge of the grassy airstrip at Tiputini, Napo Province, Sept. 27, 1976, this locality is on the north bank of the Napo River about 30 km upstream from the Peruvian frontier. The species is not recorded from eastern Ecuador by either Meyer de Schauensee (1966, 1970) or Blake (1977), but was accorded "uncertain" status at Limoncocha in the most recent check-list from that locality (Tallman *et al.*, 1977); P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) observed one here on October 20, 1979 (with D. Pearson), and has also found it along the Lago Agrio-Coca road to the west, with a total of three seen here on March 28-29, 1979. This conspicuous and unmistakable raptor is evidently still very rare in the upper Amazon basin: it is still unknown from Amazonian Colombia (Hilty and Brown, MS), and has not been found in northeastern Peru (map in Blake, 1977). It might be expected, however, to gradually increase with the clearing of forest along the area's major rivers.

RUFOUS-THIGHED KITE *Harpagus diodon*

One adult Rufous-thighed Kite was carefully observed (with R. A. Rowlett *et al.*) as it perched in *varzea* forest along the lower Jivino River, near Limoncocha, Napo Province, July 11, 1979. The bird's small size, basically two-toned gray plumage (paler below), dark central throat stripe, rufous thighs, and, when the bird eventually flew off, its high-contrast rufous underwing coverts were all noted. The record is indeed surprising, for, as we were aware at the time, not only is there no record of the species from Ecuador, there is none from anywhere in northwestern South America (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966, 1970, Blake, 1977) and very few from anywhere north of the Amazon. G. Tudor (*pers. comm.*) suggested that the species might actually be an austral migrant, which could account for the "scatter" of the more northern records. Our record and the sole Surinam specimen (July 11, 1902 — Haverschmidt, 1968) do fall on appropriate dates.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albonotatus*

A single Zone-tailed Hawk was observed 5 km south of Puerto Lopez, on the coast of southern Manabí Province, July 11, 1978, and another was noted 10 km north of Manglaralto, near the coast in northwestern Guayas Province July 13, 1978 (both with D. Wilcove). P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) has also observed this species on several occasions between Balzar and Guayaquil, Guayas Province. The species is not recorded in the literature as occurring in Ecuador (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966, 1970; Blake, 1977), but was recently given "uncommon" status at Limoncocha, Napo Province, in the east (Tallman *et al.*, 1977). Its occurrence in at least western Ecuador is not surprising, as the semi-open arid habitat found in many regions would seem ideal for the species. Furthermore, it is recorded locally from western Peru. Probably early collectors overlooked it: like the Short-tailed Hawk (*B. brachyurus*), the Zone-tailed tends to be under-represented in collections, being relatively easy to see but difficult to collect.

SOLITARY EAGLE *Harpohaliaetus solitarius*

I have found this rare eagle on several recent occasions in southeastern Ecuador: an immature was seen both perched and in flight in the upper Upano River valley (1600m) July 29, 1979 (with R. A. Rowlett), a pair in courtship flight below Sabanilla (1700m) Feb. 26, 1980 and one there the following day, and one adult soaring above the lower Jamboé River valley (1200m), c. 10 km south of Zamora Mar. 1, 1980 (these last with A. Maley and D.W. Finch). The only previous record in the literature from Ecuador is of a specimen taken in 1920, also at Sabanilla (Chapman, 1926). In Ecuador, as elsewhere in its range, this eagle seems to favor forested foothills and to avoid level terrain. Whether it is actually absent from the remainder of Ecuador remains to be determined; it seems likely in at least the southwestern mountains, for it is known from northwestern Peru.

BLACK HAWK-EAGLE *Spizaetus tyrannus*

A pair of Black Hawk-Eagles was watched (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) in courtship display over a forested ridge above Tandayapa (1700m) Feb. 17, 1980. Although not uncommon in the lowlands of eastern Ecuador (Tallman *et al.*, 1977; *pers. obs.*), this conspicuous and readily-identified eagle seems never before to have been recorded from west of the Andes (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970; Blake, 1977). It is also not known from the very wet southern half of the Pacific slope of western Colombia (Hilty and Brown, MS); 1700 m is an unusually high elevation for the species, which is basically found in the tropical zone.

MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa*

One Marbled Godwit was observed by Davis Finch at the Equasal lagoons Feb. 8, 1980, but it could not be relocated Feb. 12-13. The only previous valid record from Ecuador appears to be that of Stolzmann in the 1880s, who took one at Santa Rosa, south of Machala in El Oro Province (Chapman, 1926); Santa Luzía, where the species has also been collected, is now within the boundaries of Peru (Paynter and Traylor, 1977). The Marbled Godwit is considered by Meyer de Schauensee (1970), only "casual" along the South American Pacific coast, but a more thorough search may prove it somewhat more numerous, since it is locally fairly common in Panama (Ridgely, 1976).

GULL sp. *Larus sp.*

An unidentified gull was studied at the Equasal lagoons Feb. 8, 1980 by Davis Finch, and was found there again by our entire tour group. It stood out at once from the group of Laughing (*Larus atricilla*) and Gray-hooded (*L. cirrocephalus*) gulls with which it consorted, but Finch, an acknowledged gull authority, could not definitely determine the bird as to species. He felt the bird was either a Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) or California (*L. californicus*) gull, more probably the latter. Neither has ever been recorded from Ecuador, the former only once from continental South America (in northeastern Brazil — Sick, 1979), the latter never south of Mexico (Eisenmann, 1955). The following description is a composite from our notes: distinctly larger than a Laughing Gull, and essentially a "Herring Gull-type" though smaller. Bill rather long and slender, pale pinkish-gray with pronounced dark brown tip which extended somewhat farther posteriorly on the mandible than on the maxilla. Head and foreparts quite white, with rather low forehead. Belly prominently marked with brown. Mantle freckled brown, primaries darker and uniform. Legs an indeterminate dull grayish. Rather ponderous flight, with heavier wing-beat than Ring-billed. Broad dark tail band, wider than in a first-winter Ring-billed. Davis concluded that it was a "Herring Gull-shape and -configuration bird that was evidently not a Ring-billed and was obviously not any South American species . . . The closest I can get to it is California Gull."

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

A remarkable concentration of a carefully counted (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) 1350 terns of this species were found at the Equasal lagoons Feb. 13, 1980. With them were 550 Royal (*S. maxima*), two Elegant (*S. elegans*), and three Common (*S. hirundo*) terns. This far surpasses any other count I am aware of anywhere on the west coast of South America. Meyer de Schauensee (1970) actually considered it only as "casual off coast" of Ecuador, although Marchant (1958) had recorded it in "small numbers" in the same general area during the months of November and December. Greenfield has found it in small numbers on the coast of Manabí and Esmeraldas Provinces. It would appear that the Sandwich Tern has increased greatly in Ecuador (it is also increasing on the Peruvian coast, although numbers remain small — T. Parker, *pers. comm.*), although whether it regularly occurs in such large numbers remains to be determined.

MILITARY MACAW *Ara militaris*

Small groups of this large macaw were observed daily in flight in the upper Upano River valley July 30 - Aug. 1, 1980 (with R. A. Rowlett). The maximum was 19 in two loose groups on the 30th. They were recorded only in the late afternoon, in high long-distance flight toward the southeast (to a roost?). Our guides informed us that small numbers were found regularly in the region, but that they had never seen a nest. The Military Macaw seems not to have been definitely recorded in Ecuador since the 19th century, and the two recorded localities ("Napo" and "Rio Napo") are both vague and may be misleading since the species is most unlikely in the Amazonian lowlands away from Andean foothills (Chapman, 1926; Forshaw, 1978). This macaw has a very local distribution in South America, and it is clearly not a common bird in Ecuador.

BARRED PARAKEET *Bolborhynchus lineola*

A flock of six of this distinctive small parakeet was observed (with P. Greenfield and R. A. Rowlett) above Mindo (1700m) June 25, 1979. Although recorded locally from the Andes of both Colombia and Peru, the Barred Parakeet has never before been found in Ecuador (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee 1970). Its rather musical twittering flight call is very characteristic.

SCARLET-SHOULDERED PARROTLET *Touit huetii*

Two flocks, of 15 and 40 ± birds, were observed in tall forest along the lower Yasuni River, in eastern Napo Province Sept. 18, 1976. Another flock of 28, almost certainly this species but seen only in flight, was observed near San Isidro (1200m), 15 km north of Macas, Morona-Santiago Province Aug. 3, 1979. This rare parrotlet has not been found in Ecuador since Goodfellow obtained a single male below

Baeza in Napo Province in 1899 (Goodfellow, 1902, Forshaw, 1978) Although with a wide range encompassing much of Amazonia and also southern Venezuela and the Guianas (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970), the Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet remains a very little-known bird, and has actually been recorded from only a few widely scattered localities.

SPOT-WINGED PARROTLET *Touit stictoptera*

A flock of six of this very rare parrotlet was seen (with R. A. Rowlett) at Coca Falls (1500m), on the Quijos River along the Quito-Lago Agrio road in Napo Province June 27, 1979. Another flock of 12 was encountered in the upper Upano River valley (1600m) Aug. 2, 1979. The Spot-winged Parrotlet was previously known in Ecuador only from an 1899 specimen obtained at Baeza, Napo Province (Goodfellow, 1902; Forshaw, 1978). A very inconspicuous small parrotlet, it perhaps occurs in small numbers along the entire eastern slope of the Andes (where extensive subtropical forest remains), but is overlooked. The American Museum of Natural History has an unrecorded specimen from Peru in its collection: it is a female, labelled as having been taken by H. Watkins July 15, 1924 at Pomará (1100 feet — a surprisingly low elevation for this species), Department of Loreto, along the lower Marañon River. This specimen extends the range of this parrotlet southward by about 300 km, and represents the first record for Peru.

RUSTY-FACED PARROT *Hapalopsittaca amazonina*

Two to four Rusty-faced Parrots were seen almost daily flying over temperate forest at Planchas and El Placer (2800-2900m) Oct. 12-14, 1976. Two were also observed in remnant temperate forest near Laguna Llaviuco (3000m) in the Las Cajas National Recreation Area July 18, 1978, with four more also seen in a forest called locally "Pongo" (2900m), southwest of Girón, Azuay Province July 19, 1978 (both with D. Wilcove). These records are detailed because the Ecuadorian form of this montane parrot, *pyrrhops* (which has been considered a distinct species), appears to have previously been recorded from only two other sites which can be located today, one in southern Azuay and the other in northern Loja Province (Chapman, 1926; Paynter and Traylor, 1977). The range of *pyrrhops* thus seems to be limited to southern Ecuador, north only to about 2°S, in both the Western and Eastern Andes. There also exists a considerable gap, amounting to c. 500 km, between the range of *pyrrhops* and the closest other race of the species, nominate *amazonina*, now known as far south as the head of the Magdalena valley in southwestern Colombia (Ridgely and Gaulin, 1980). This gap may prove to be real, for the intervening region has been quite thoroughly covered by collectors. The region to the south, on the other hand, is less well known ornithologically, and *pyrrhops* may well be found to range south into adjacent northern Peru.

SHORT-TAILED PARROT *Graydidascalus brachyurus*

A group of four Short-tailed Parrots was observed (with R. A. Rowlett *et al.*) on "Monkey Island," an island in the Napo River near Primavera (just upstream from Limoncocha), Napo Province, July 11, 1979, and small numbers were also seen almost daily along the lower Aguatico River upstream to Zancudococha Sept. 19-26, 1976. This parrot is decidedly uncommon and local within the present borders of Ecuador, although it becomes much more numerous further downstream in the Amazon system (pers. obs.). The Short-tailed Parrot shuns tall forest in favor of varzea and secondary growth along the larger rivers, a habitat which becomes much more extensive lower down in the Amazon system and one which it shares with the nominate race of the Festive Amazon, *Amazona festiva* (which likewise avoids tall forest). In Amazonian Peru it appears to be decidedly nomadic, perhaps even migratory (T. Parker, *pers. comm.*).

VIOLET-THROATED METALTAIL *Metallura baroni*

A single individual of this little-known hummingbird was watched (with D.W. Finch) for some time in low shrubby growth dominated by alders along a river in a generally arid region 2 km southwest of Oña (1900m), in extreme northern Loja Province, Mar. 2, 1980. The Violet-throated Metaltail had heretofore been recorded only from

Cuenca, almost 100 km to the north in Azuay Province, and at a considerably higher elevation (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970). That *M. baroni* evidently favors semi-arid situations is of considerable interest in view of the fact that the other members of the superspecies in which it has been placed, the *M. aeneocauda* group, are all restricted to shrubbery near timberline in very wet, windswept localities (Graves, 1980).

RAINBOW-BEARDED THORNBILL *Chalcostigma her-rani*

A single male was seen (with D.W. Finch *et al.*), at the pass (2800m) on the Loja-Zamora road Feb. 27, 1980. This record marks an approximate 400 km southward range extension for this striking hummingbird. It previously had been recorded south only to northern Ecuador, where it has been recorded from a number of localities (Chapman, 1926; pers. obs.), but was also recently found in the Sangay National Park, Morona-Santiago Province (Macey *et al.*, 1976) In the past few years it has also been found in adjacent northern Peru in Piura and northern Cajamarca (Graves, 1980; T. Parker, *pers. comm.*). The Rainbow-bearded Thornbill ranges mostly below the actual paramo (at c. 2700-3400m) in shrubby areas, often favoring well-drained hillsides with terrestrial bromeliads and ferns. The Bluemantled Thornbill (*C. stanleyi*) replaces it at higher elevations, in true paramo (c. 3500-4100m), especially in areas with patches of *Polylepis* woodland. A third member of the genus, the smaller Rufous-capped Thornbill (*C. ruficeps*) is a seemingly very uncommon or local hummingbird of clearings and forest edge situations at much lower elevations in the temperate and even the upper subtropical zones (c. 2300-2700m).

MOUNTAIN AVOCETBILL *Opisthoprora eurypetra*

A single Mountain Avocetbill was closely observed (with D. Wilcove) in forest undergrowth below Sabanilla July 25, 1978. The elevation here, 1700m, was unusually low for this species, typically a bird of the temperate zone. Generally considered a rare hummingbird, with a small range extending only to southwestern Colombia, the avocetbill has not previously been recorded in Ecuador south of the northeast in the Papallacta-Baeza region, Napo Province (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970), about 400 km to the north. That it probably ranges all along the eastern slope of the Eastern Andes is indicated by our also finding it at an intermediate locality, Planchas, in Sangay National Park, where one was collected and another seen Oct. 13-14, 1976 (with John O'Neill, specimen to Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology). In the past few years it has also been recorded as far south as eastern La Libertad Department in Peru (T. Parker, *pers. comm.*). Despite its exotic-sounding name, the Mountain Avocetbill is actually a rather dull little hummingbird, best recognized by its short bill (the upturn at the tip is not prominent), a conspicuous white post-ocular spot, and its streaky effect below.

PAVONINE QUETZAL *Pharomachrus pavoninus*

This trogon appears to be decidedly local or uncommon within at least the present limits of Amazonian Ecuador. The only locality apparently on record is Sarayacu, in western Pastaza Province, dating from the 19th century (Chapman, 1926). My only observation of this quetzal in Ecuador took place at Zancudococha, where a pair was observed in tall forest Sept. 24, 1976. The explanation for its rarity here remains to be elucidated. Attention is often drawn to this surprisingly inconspicuous trogon by its loud oft-repeated call, "kweeoo, cuk," or "wheeeoo, chuk."

PARADISE JACAMAR *Galbula dea*

This unmistakable jacamar seems scarce in western Amazonia, especially compared to its relative abundance in the east (pers. obs.), and was only recently first recorded from Ecuador (Norton *et al.*, 1972), from Montalvo, southern Pastaza Province (in southeastern Ecuador). The only subsequent report of which I am aware is of a single individual observed (with T. de Vries) in the forest canopy at Zancudococha Sept. 25, 1976. A conspicuous bird, this jacamar was obviously far from common even here, as we encountered no others during a stay of almost a week.

LINE-CHEEKED SPINETAIL *Cranioleuca antisiensis*

One Line-cheeked Spinetail was closed observed (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) above the Tinalandia Hotel (900m), c. 15 km east of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Pichincha Province Feb. 1, 1980. This spinetail had not previously been found north of southwestern Ecuador (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970), some 300 km to the south. The bird was moving with a mixed flock of foliage-gleaners, tanagers, the antshrike *Thamnistes*, and others at middle forest levels. It was foraging by probing in dead-leaf clusters, various epiphytes, and crannies and crevices. Identification was based on its prominent white supercilary contrasting with a rufous crown; no similar bird occurs west of the Andes. In foraging style this spinetail was strongly reminiscent of the Red-faced Spinetail, *C. erythroptus*, which, surprisingly, also occurs in the Tinalandia Hotel area although it is more numerous at slightly higher elevations. P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) also observed a single individual of this species on August 13, 1978, at 1800m on the lower Chiriboga road, Pichincha Province.

SPECTACLED PRICKLETAIL *Siptornis striaticollis*

The xenops-like prickle-tail, although previously recorded in Ecuador only from Mapoto (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1966), actually appears to be a widespread although never common bird in subtropical forests on the eastern slope of the Eastern Andes at least in southeastern Ecuador. One or two were seen (with D. Wilcove) almost daily along the Loja-Zamora road from a point just below Sabanilla to about 15 km above Zamora itself (1400-1700m) July 22-25, 1978, and again Feb. 27-29, 1980 (with D.W. Finch *et al.*), and also in the upper Upano River valley July 29 - Aug. 2, 1979 (with R. A. Rowlett). It has also recently been found in adjacent northern Peru (Eley *et al.*, 1979), in situations similar to those where it is found in Ecuador. These authors suggest that *Siptornis* is in some way ecologically "incompatible" with piculets of the genus *Picumnus*, their foraging behavior appearing to be similar, and that no piculet species occurs with it there. This does not, however, appear to be the case in Ecuador, where above Zamora it and the Gold-fronted Piculet, *P. aurifrons*, are locally sympatric. In fact I once observed the two species foraging together in the same flock; a Streaked Xenops, *Xenops rutilans*, also accompanied this flock.

JET MANAKIN *Chloropipo unicolor*

A female Jet Manakin was mist-netted in forest undergrowth in the upper Upano River valley (1550m) July 30, 1979; it was collected, with the specimen now at the American Museum of Natural History. No others were recorded. This represents the first record of the Jet Manakin for Ecuador. It had previously been recorded only from northern and central Peru, in subtropical forests on the eastern slope of the Eastern Andes (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970).

GREATER MANAKIN *Schiffornis major*

A single individual of this rather uniform bright cinnamon-rufous manakin was carefully studied as it foraged alone in the undergrowth of flooded forest at Jatuncocha Sept. 17, 1976. No vocalization could definitely be attributed to this species here. The Greater Manakin has not been recorded previously from Ecuador, but its occurrence here is not too surprising, since it is known from northeastern Peru (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970).

SCALED FRUITEATER *Ampheloides tschudii*

A pair of this distinctive fruiteater was observed closely by P. Greenfield (with R. Bleiweiss, D. Pearson, and W. Fitch) near Mindo (1400m) on October 18, 1979. This represents the first report of this species from the Western Andes in Ecuador, it having heretofore been recorded only from the eastern slope in the subtropical zone (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970). Even there it appears to be rare, though possibly only overlooked, with no recent reports that I am aware of. This pair was lethargic and rather unwary, allowing a close approach, perching inside *Pipreola* the forest 5 to 10 feet above the ground. Infrequently they gave a shrill but somewhat melodious, penetrating call of three notes (similar in quality to the single-noted calls of several *Pipreola* fruiteaters).

CLIFF FLYCATCHER *Hirundinea ferruginea*

One or two individuals of this distinctive and conspicuous tyrannid were observed daily (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) along the Loja-Zamora road below Sabanilla (1600-1700m) Feb. 27-29, 1980. None had been recorded in the same area in July 1978, suggesting that they may have been genuine recent arrivals here. P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) has also found up to four individuals of this species since September, 1978, along the Baya-Lago Agrio road about 10-15 km west of Coca Falls (1600m). One was recognizably photographed March 14, 1980 by S. Greenfield. As is typical for the species, they were very localized, and were found only near certain road cuts, frequently perching on the rock face itself. The Cliff Flycatcher has not been recorded from Ecuador previously, although it is known to occur locally in eastern Colombia and widely from eastern Peru southward and eastward (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970). Given the recent upsurge in road-building efforts along the eastern slope of the Ecuadorian Andes, this attractive flycatcher could well become considerably more numerous and widespread in years to come.

RUFIOUS-TAILED FLATBILL *Ramphotrigon ruficauda*

A single individual of the distinctive Rufous-tailed Flatbill was observed for several minutes as it foraged with an antwren flock in tall forest at Zancudococha Sept. 23, 1976. The species has never before been recorded from Ecuador, although its occurrence here comes as no great surprise as it is known from adjacent southeastern Colombia and northeastern Peru (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970).

LARGE-HEADED FLATBILL *Ramphotrigon mega-cephala*

One Large-headed Flatbill was carefully studied and another heard (with D. Wilcove) in a stand of bamboo in forest along the Nangaritza River north of Paquisha (950m), Zamora-Chinchi Province, July 24, 1978. The species has not previously been recorded from Ecuador, but is known from adjacent southeastern Colombia (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966, 1970). Of retiring disposition, this flatbill is often overlooked by persons unfamiliar with its characteristic call (a soft, melancholy, minor-keyed "woouu, wu," sometimes with the second "wu" omitted). Its occurrence anywhere seems closely correlated with that of bamboo, stands of which are found locally in many parts of Amazonia, but which are quite rare in eastern Ecuador. This doubtless helps to explain why the Large-headed Flatbill had not been found before in Ecuador.

AGILE TIT-TYRANT *Uromyias agilis*

Several of this uncommon tit-tyrant were seen (with John O'Neill), and two collected (specimens to Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology), at a site called Loma Magdalena (3600m), in shrubbery just below timberline on the eastern slope of the Eastern Andes in Sangay National Park, Morona-Santiago Province, Oct. 9-10, 1976. The species had not previously been found south of northern Ecuador in the Papallacta region of Napo Province, some 200 km to the north (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970).

RUFIOUS-WINGED TYRANNULET *Mecocerculus cal-apterus*

A single individual of this strongly-patterned tyrannulet was observed (with D. Wilcove) with a large mixed flock at forest edge about 15 km above Zamora (at 1400m) on the Loja-Zamora road July 25, 1978; it must be rare here as none were recorded subsequently despite considerable time in the area. This represents the first record of the Rufous-winged Tyrannulet from the eastern slope of the Andes in Ecuador; it had been recorded only from the west slope of the Western Andes in southern Ecuador (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970). That it should occur in the Zamora area, close to the Peruvian border, is not too surprising as it has been recorded from the east slope of the Andes in adjacent northern Peru (T. Parker, *pers. comm.*). P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) has also observed this tyrannulet in the Western Andes, some 300 km north of its previously recorded range. One was seen near San Miguel de los Bancos (1200m), west of Mindo, Pichincha Province, on December 13, 1978 (with W. Davis), and single birds have been seen on two occasions (August 17, 1978, February 9, 1979) at the Tinalandia Hotel (900m), also in Pichincha Province.

SULPHUR-BELLIED TYRANNULET *Mecocerculus minor*

Two Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulets were carefully observed (with D. Wilcove) as they foraged with a small mixed flock at forest edge above Sabanilla (at 2050m) near the Loja-Zamora road July 22, 1978. The birds were silent as they gleaned methodically in foliage at middle heights, mostly on the outer part of the branches. This tyrannulet has not previously been found in Ecuador (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970), although as it has been collected in both Colombia and Peru its occurrence here is not entirely unexpected. Subsequent to this observation, I found three previously unreported specimens of *M. minor* in the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard) collection; all had been taken by D. Norton in September 1965, also along the Loja-Zamora road, but at a somewhat lower (1600m) elevation.

PALE-FOOTED SWALLOW *Notiochelidon flavipes*

Having previous familiarity with it in Peru, J. O'Neill could quickly point out that it was this swallow, previously unrecorded in Ecuador, which was actually fairly common in the upper Palora River valley around Planchas and El Placer (2900-3100m) in Sangay National Park, and not the widespread and very similar Blue-and-white Swallow, *N. cyanoleuca*. Our dates of observation were Oct. 11-15, 1976. Its presence in Ecuador is certainly not unexpected, as it has been collected in Colombia, is now proving almost widespread in Peru (Parker and O'Neill, 1980), and has even been recently found in Bolivia (Parker *et al.*, 1980; pers. obs.). Doubtless it has long been generally overlooked due to its similarity to the Blue-and-white Swallow, which favors more open areas, although the two are sometimes seen flying together. At Sangay the Pale-footed flew mostly over the canopy of temperate forest, less often low over the few meadows in the vicinity (at which time it was usually seen in the company of the Brown-bellied Swallow, *N. murina*). The Blue-and-white Swallow did not occur here. *N. flavipes* would appear to be relatively local in Ecuador, for I have been unable to locate it subsequently in other seemingly suitable areas of temperate forest along the eastern slope of the Andes. Identification and behavioral notes are well covered by Parker and O'Neill (1980).

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrina*

An adult Tennessee Warbler was closely observed (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) above Tandayapa (1800m), Feb. 6, 1980. It was with a large mixed flock composed mostly of various *Tangara* tanagers at the edge of extensive subtropical forest, a somewhat surprising situation for a presumably vagrant bird. This warbler has not been previously recorded in Ecuador (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966, 1970), but evidently small numbers wintered in Ecuador during the winter of 1979-1980, for P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) also observed this species in February: one was seen along the lower Chiriboga road (1400m), Pichincha Province, on February 7; 3 were feeding in a hotel garden at Lake San Pablo (2400m), Imbabura Province, on February 16; and one was seen at Coca Falls (1500m), Napo Province, on February 21. As the Tennessee Warbler winters very commonly as close as northern Colombia (pers. obs.), careful observation may show that a few winter regularly as far south as Ecuador.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Dendroica castanea*

A single Bay-breasted Warbler in winter plumage was carefully observed by Paul Greenfield at Coca Falls (1500m) on February 21, 1980. This represents the first sighting of this species from Ecuador; it had not previously been reported south of northern Colombia (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970), where it appears, compared to the Tennessee Warbler, for example, to be relatively uncommon (pers. obs.).

TIT-LIKE DACNIS *Xenodacnis parina*

We were very surprised to discover the Tit-like Dacnis, heretofore considered a Peruvian endemic (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966, 1970), in the patches of *Polylepis* woodland at Las Cajas National Recreation Area (3800-4000m). A pair was seen July 20, 1978 (with D. Wilcove), then four more Feb. 24, 1980 (with D.W. Finch *et al.*), all in the same general area although in three separate woodland patches. Most were noted gleaning in the foliage of another low shrub, *Gynoxys* sp., which is often found with *Polylepis*. These records extend the known

range of the species northward by some 300 km, more surprisingly, it is the first time it has ever been found north of the supposed barrier formed by the Marañon River and the North Peruvian Depression in northern Peru (T. Parker, *pers. comm.*). In appearance they resembled, as would be expected, the most northerly of the Peruvian races, *bella*: males showed pale blue streaking on a darker blue ground, while females had blue only on the forecrown and around the eye. For various reasons, arranging for the collection of specimens proved impossible, but obtaining *Xenodacnis* at Las Cajas in the future should not be difficult; the population probably represents an undescribed form. That such an obvious bird could have been overlooked by collectors seems improbable, and a more likely explanation is that they simply never worked this high zone above Cuenca.

YELLOW-COLLARED CHLOROPHONIA *Chlorophonia flavirostris*

Although long considered a great rarity, and still known from very few specimens with full data, this chlorophonia has seemingly become more numerous in at least some of the Colombian part of its range in recent years (Hilty, 1977). However there is still only one Ecuadorian specimen with locality data, that taken "below Gualea" (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966), and sightings are infrequent enough to conclude that the species must be relatively rare here. P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) and I have each seen the species on one occasion near Mindo (1400m); I also observed two birds in female plumage in forest c 30 km (by road) west southwest of Chiriboga on the road to Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Pichincha Province, Feb. 2, 1980 (with D W Finch *et al.*), and P. Greenfield (*pers. comm.*) observed another female-plumaged bird with a large mixed flock near El Placer, Esmeraldas Province (700 m), near the Colombian border, on March 5, 1980. Though not as brightly patterned as their consorts, even females are readily recognized by their mostly bright green plumage in conjunction with their yellow eye-ring and salmon-colored bill and legs.

EMERALD TANAGER *Tangara florida*

One Emerald Tanager was studied carefully for over ten minutes by Paul Greenfield (with W. Davis) about 5 km W of San Miguel de los Bancos (1200 m), Pichincha Province, on November 8, 1978. It was foraging actively with a large mixed flock composed mainly of other *Tangara* tanagers (principally the Silver-throated, *T. icterocephala*). The species has not been found previously in Ecuador, but is not entirely unexpected here as it has been recorded in adjacent southwestern Colombia in western Nariño Department (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970). Its status in Ecuador remains to be established, for it has not been found subsequently in the area.

METALLIC-GREEN TANAGER *Tangara labradorides*

This distinctively-patterned tanager was observed (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) in fair numbers almost daily at forest edge below Sabanilla (1600-1700m) along the Loja-Zamora road Feb. 26-29, 1980. Up to ten were seen in a day, usually in groups of 2-4 accompanying mixed flocks of other tanagers. Finding them here, particularly in such large numbers, came as a distinct surprise, for although the Metallic-green Tanager is not uncommon in northwestern Ecuador (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970; pers. obs.), it had never before been found on the eastern slope of the Andes, or nearly this far south. However the species does reappear in adjacent northern Peru (*chaupensis*), and the Sabanilla birds are probably allied with this population.

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER *Tangara heinei*

Four (two separate pairs) of this readily recognized tanager were studied (with D.W. Finch *et al.*) at length above Tandayapa (1700 and 1900m) Feb. 6, 1980. This tanager had not previously been found on the western slope of the Andes in Ecuador, where it had been recorded only from the northeast (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1970). In Colombia, however, the Black-capped Tanager has been found on the western slope south into Nariño (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966). With more thorough exploration, the species will probably be found to range continuously from about this point northward along the Western Andes.

BLACK-HEADED HEMISPINGUS *Hemispingus verticalis*

Two Black-headed Hemispingus were observed (with D. Wilcove) with a large mixed tanager flock a short distance east of the pass on the Loja-Zamora road (2600m) July 22, 1978. Meyer de Schauensee (1966, 1970) inadvertently omitted the species as occurring in Ecuador, although Chapman (1926) had recorded a number of specimens from the northeastern part of the country. The above observation does extend the known range of this hemispingus southward by almost 400 km along the Eastern Andes; it has also recently been found in adjacent northern Peru in northern Cajamarca Department (T. Parker, *pers. comm.*).

BLACK-AND-WHITE TANAGER *Conothraupis speculigera*

One male Black-and-white Tanager was watched for a long period in a clearing at the edge of forest at the Río Palenque Scientific Center, 56 km S (by road) of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Los Rios Province Feb. 3, 1980 (with D.W. Finch *et al.*). A rare bird, still known from only a handful of specimens, the Black-and-white Tanager has apparently been recorded only once before from Ecuador, from a specimen obtained in southwestern Azuay Province (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966), about 300 km to the south of Río Palenque.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many individuals have made significant contributions to my ornithological field work in Ecuador. Among those to whom I am especially indebted, for various reasons, are the following: Thomas Butler, Paul Greenfield, Gustavo Orce, Fernando Ortiz, Arturo Ponce, Allen Putney, and the staff and members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Quito. A special thanks to Richard Huber, who was instrumental in organizing two long field trips in southern Ecuador. Davis W. Finch, John O'Neill, Rose Ann Rowlett, Dan Tallman, Tj. de Vries, David Wilcove, and my wife Julie all accompanied me on various trips and expeditions, and each in his or her own way made life in the field more rewarding and enjoyable. Paul Greenfield, Theodore Parker and Guy Tudor provided helpful comments on various drafts of this paper. Financial support for much of the field work was provided by grants from the World Wildlife Fund (U.S.) and Rare Animal Relief Effort; I am extremely grateful to both organizations for their continued encouragement.

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SLATE-COLORED SEEDEATER *Sporophila schistacea*

At least three males were singing, with females also present, at a newly planted rice field recently cut out of swampy forest at Jatuncocha Sept. 19, 1976. This represents the first report of this local and generally uncommon seedeater from eastern Ecuador; it had previously been known only from the northwestern part of the country (Chapman, 1926; Meyer de Schauensee, 1966, 1970).

BLUE GROSBEAK *Guiraca caerulea*

In August, 1978, Dr. Gustavo Orce of the Escuela Politécnica Nacional in Quito presented me with a specimen of this species from his collection, a specimen which he fully recognized as being of unusual interest. It is a female, taken at El Eden on the Napo River in Napo Province (about 75 km east of Limoncocha) by one of the Olallas Dec. 1, 1964. I gave it to the American Museum of Natural History, where E. Eisenmann (*pers. comm.*) determined that it was probably of the migratory nominate race. The record is the first for the Blue Grosbeak from Ecuador, and actually is the first specimen from anywhere in South America (Meyer de Schauensee, 1970). There is one previous sighting from western Colombia (Gochfeld *et al.*, 1974). The locality is an odd one for a long-distance vagrant, but there seems no reason to doubt its provenance.

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