

ing. In his letter on the occurrence of the Wheatear in Bermuda, Wingate adds an interesting note on the nominate race: "According to A. H. Verrill (1901) "The Wheatear . . . has been introduced within the last 3 years near St. George's and is apparently doing well. A small flock was often seen on the barren hillsides of Coney Island. Another flock of about the same number of individuals was observed on the neighboring shores of St. George's Island.""



Greenland Wheatear (*O. o. leucorhoa*), Westhampton, L.I., NY, Oct. 16, 1977. The lengths of the tarsus can be extrapolated from the ¾" board on which the bird is sitting. Thus measured it is found to be 78 mm long (see text). Photo/ Bertel Bruun.

"This report was corroborated by A. E. Verrill in 1902 except that he understood that the birds originated from a wrecked vessel that resulted in the escape

of a number of other caged birds, notably goldfinches, about 1885. Strangely, there were no further records between 1901 and the publication of the checklist in 1931 and breeding was never confirmed at any time. However, there is a remote possibility that a small population did establish and survive until at least 1940 because Hughes-Hallett (who knew the birds well from England) obtained two very unseasonable records on 5 April and 3 August 1939, one of which was very near the point of original introduction."

"Although the Greenland subspecies of the Wheatear has been recorded as a frequent but scarce fall vagrant from mid-September and mid-October and again on two occasions in March, the likelihood of its occurrence in Bermuda in April and August of the same year seems almost infinitesimal."

Although "contamination" of the continental records by this population may have occurred, there is no evidence of this. In summary, the Greenland Wheatear must still be characterized as a rare, but probably annual fall vagrant in the eastern part of the United States and an extremely rare and irregular spring and even rarer winter vagrant there. The same statement is true for Bermuda and the Caribbean islands.

Acknowledgements

I want to express my gratitude to James Bond, Erik Hansen, Finn Salomonsen, K. H. Voous and David Wingate for help in collecting material for this paper.

Literature Cited

- BOND J. 1974. Birds of the West Indies. Collins, London. 256 pp.
 BULL J. 1964. Birds of the New York Area. Harper & Row, New York. 540 pp.
 —. 1974. Birds of New York State. Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y. 655 pp.
 FORBUSH E.H. 1925-29. Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States, Mass. Dept. of Agric., Norwood, Mass. 3 vols.
 GODFREY W.D. 1966. The Birds of Canada. The Queen's Printer. Ottawa. 428 pp.
 LOWERY G.H. 1960. Louisiana Birds. L.S.U. Press. New Orleans. 556 pp.
 SALOMONSEN F. 1951. Grønlands Fugle. Copenhagen.
 —. 1967. Fuglene på Grønland. Copenhagen.
 —. 1974. Fuglene i Menneskenes Land. Julianehåb.
 SNOW D.W. 1953. The Migration of the Greenland Wheatear. *Ibis* 95:376-378.
 SVENSSON L. 1975. Identification Guide to European Passerines. Stockholm.
 WITHERBY H.F., F.C.R. JOURDAIN, N.F. TICEHURST and B.W. TUCKER. 1943. The Handbook of British Birds. Witherby, Ltd. London. 5 vols.

—52 East 73 Street, New York, N.Y. 10021.

DISTRIBUTION

Distributional notes on Ecuadorian birds

Charles F. Leck

DURING JUNE-JULY 1974 and February-April 1978 I had the opportunity to travel through much of the Republic of Ecuador, occupied in research and assisting ornithological tours. Of the more than five hundred species of birds identified, a few provide interesting new distributional data. I have had considerable previous field experience with most of the birds included here, furthermore, most are readily identified.

Plegadis ibis (*Plegadis* sp.). A small ibis of this genus was seen well in the rice paddy marshes north of Guayaquil (near Daule), Guayas July 5, 1974. Either *Plegadis chihi* or *P. falcinellus* would be a new species for Ecuador; recent Colombian and Venezuelan records suggest that the latter is more likely (specimens

are required). The Puna Ibis (*Plegadis ridgwayi*) of the Andes from central Peru south has occurred rarely on the Peruvian coast (Pearson and Plenge 1974), but it is rather larger.

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*). Two birds in female or ϕ plumage on the lake at Limoncocha, (near Rio Jivino), Napo Province, were seen by me and other members of a birdwatching tour including Betsy Thomas April 13, 1978. Both birds were shy but seen well, including their white wing patches. The range of this species in Ecuador is described as only west of the Andes (de Schauensee 1970, Blake 1977), although a map in the Blake reference correctly includes eastern Ecuador as well. The species had already been added to the list

of birds known from Limoncocha (Tallman *et al.*, 1977), thus this is an additional record.

Greater Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes melambrotus*). Neither de Schauensee (1966, 1970) nor Blake (1977) included Ecuador in the range of this species. In fact it is widespread and quite common in the oriente region (Napo and Pastaza Provinces). I found it near Puyo at the foothills of the Cordillera Oriental (975 m) during July 1974 (with direct comparison to *Cathartes aura*), and at the Rio Napo from Coca to Limoncocha (about 300 m) during April 1978. Ridgeley (pers. comm.) also saw at least one along the Rio Naugaritza, north of Paquisha, Zamora-Chinchipec, in July 1978, and it was not uncommon east of Macas, Norona-Santiago, in August 1979. Pearson (1972) apparently published the first records of this bird in Ecuador, from Limoncocha, where he

ranked the species as common. Locally the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) rivals it in abundance, but *Coragyps* is more closely attracted to human settlements. The Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) is relatively much less numerous here.

Black-and-white Hawk Eagle (*Spizastur melanoleucus*). The bird's range is poorly known, as reflected in the distribution map of Blake (1977). Previously unlisted in the Republic's avifauna (Ortiz 1975), this magnificent bird of prey is now being regularly observed in Ecuador, at least west of the Andes near Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Pichincha, and 56 km to the south at "Centro Científico Rio Palenque", Los Rios Province.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Blake's recent (1977) range map is very incomplete for this widespread migrant, and as drawn it does not include Ecuador. The species has been reported for all areas of the country except paramo (Butler 1975). On March 19, 1978 I watched one stooping and then perched at an alpine lake (about 4250 m) at Parque Nacional Cotopaxi in the paramo.

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*). The species is not reported to occur in Ecuador (Blake 1977), or is considered unsubstantiated (Ortiz 1975). In fact Tallman *et al.* (1977) list it as uncommon at Limoncocha, and I saw (with Peter Alden) adult individuals along the Rio Napo near Coca during April 1978. Ridgely (pers. comm.) found it to be widespread and fairly common, also, further down the Rio Napo to the Peruvian border, and also along the lower Rio Aquarico.

Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*). Neither de Schauensee (1970) nor Blake (1977) include Ecuador for

this migrant shorebird although records exist for both coastal and offshore sightings (Chapman 1926). All three of the phalarope species have been recorded from the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, as well (Harris, 1974).

Pied Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola pica*). I found this distinctive bird along rocky areas of the Rio Napo, near Misahualli (431 m) July 17, 1974. It is apparently unreported from Ecuador (de Schauensee 1966, 1970). It is uncertain whether this bird represented the southern race (*F. p. albiventer*) known to be an austral migrant (Short, 1975), or nominate *pica*, which ranges as close as southeastern Colombia.

Variagated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*). This migratory species breeds in southern South America and invades the northern countries during the austral winter. I saw one at Isla de los Monos, on the Rio Napo near Primavera in the afternoon of April 10, 1978; and in some years the species is even common at nearby Limoncocha (Tallman *et al.*, 1977). Curiously, the species is not included in either recent check-list for the country (Butler 1975, Ortiz 1975).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). This species appeared to be the most common of the migrant warblers in the Oriente region during April 1978. At least some of these birds may have been migrants, for Ridgely (pers. comm.) has found it to be uncommon during the northern winter months. Ecuador is not included in the range described by de Schauensee (1970), although it was listed in his 1966 text.

Inca Finch (*Inca spiza* sp.). A bird of this easily-recognized Peruvian genus (Koeppcke 1970) was seen at the edge of Quito on July 7, 1974. No *Inca spiza* has been previously reported from Ecuador;

it may have been *I. personata* that ranges in the adjacent Andes of Peru (e.g., Departamento de Cajamarca, de Schauensee 1970). (I have recently noted small Fringillids as cagebirds in the Quito markets so it is conceivable that this metropolitan sighting involved an escaped bird).

LITERATURE CITED

- BLAKE, E.R. 1977. Manual of neotropical birds. Vol. 1. University of Chicago, Chicago.
- BUTLER, T.Y. 1975. A checklist of the birds of the mainland of Ecuador. 40pp. Privately published, Durham, N.H.
- CHAPMAN, F.M. 1926. The distribution of birdlife in Ecuador. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 55: 1-784.
- DE SCHAUENSEE, R.M. 1966. The species of birds of South America and their distribution. Livingston, Wynnewood, Pa.
- 1970. A guide to the birds of South America. Livingston, Wynnewood, Pa.
- KOEPCKE, M. 1970. The birds of the Department of Lima, Peru. Livingston, Wynnewood, Pa.
- HARRIS, M. 1974. A field guide to the birds of Galapagos. Taplinger Publishing, New York. 160pp.
- ORTIZ-CRESPO, F. 1975. Lista de aves del Ecuador. Checklist, 37pp. Sociedad Ecuat. Francisco Campos, No. 2. Quito.
- PEARSON, D.L. 1972. Un estudio de las aves de Limoncocha, Provincia de Napo, Ecuador. Bol. Inform. Cient. Nac., Quito 13: 335-346.
- and M.A. PLENGE. 1974. Puna bird species on the coast of Peru. *Auk* 91: 626-631.
- SHORT, L.L. 1975. A zoogeographic analysis of the South American chaco avifauna. Bull. A.M.N.H. 154(3):163-352.
- TALLMAN, D., E. TALLMAN, and D.L. PEARSON, 1977. The birds of Limoncocha, Napo Province, Ecuador. Checklist, 15pp. Instituto Linguístico de Verano, Quito.
- Department of Zoology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903

We specialize in personalized birding tours to all of
SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA and WESTERN MEXICO

for details and brochure, write: **P.O. Box 458 Patagonia, Arizona 85624**

WESTERN MEXICO TOUR DATES FOR 1980:

November 1st - 10th

NEW WORLD NATURE TOURS

602-394-2977

with **NEIL KRUG**

