

ARTÍCULO/ARTICLE

**Fifth report of the Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO),
with comments on some published, undocumented records**

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**Quinto reporte del Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos (CERO), con comentarios sobre algunos
registros publicados no documentados****Resumen**

Presentamos nuevos registros de distribución de aves del Ecuador que han sido evaluados por el Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos (CERO) entre noviembre 2017 y junio 2019. Incluimos reportes de tres especies nuevas para Ecuador (*Pelecanoides garnotii*, *Conirostrum margaritae*, *Piranga ludoviciana*), cinco especies con primera documentación en Ecuador (*Thaumastura cora*, *Anous minutus*, *Setophaga pensylvanica*, *S. virens*, *Spiza americana*), dos especies con primera documentación en Galápagos (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*, *Egretta tricolor*), extensiones considerables de distribución de 15 especies (*Amazilia amazilia*, *Aramus guarauna*, *Vanellus chilensis*, *Attagis gayi*, *Anous stolidus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Thalasseus elegans*, *T. sandvicensis*, *Eurypyga helias*, *Mycteria americana*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Gampsonyx swainsonii*, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, *Glaucidium peruanum*, *Thlypopsis sordida*), nuevos reportes de 16 especies raras (*Oressochen jubatus*, *Spatula cyanoptera*, *Podiceps major*, *Stercorarius longicaudus*, *Larus belcheri*, *Pelagodroma marina*, *Oceanodroma markhami*, *Egretta rufescens*, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, *Buteo swainsonii*, *Megascops koepckeae*, *Tyrannus albogularis*, *Setophaga castanea*, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, *Icterus chrysater*, *I. galbula*) y registros adicionales de otras ocho especies. Se presentan los primeros registros en los Andes de *Sterna hirundo* y *Thalasseus elegans*, el primer registro de *T. sandvicensis* en el interior de la Amazonía y el primer registro de *Piranga ludoviciana* en Sudamérica. Finalmente, invalidamos registros previos de una especie (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) que aparecen en distintas publicaciones, rechazamos registros de seis especies sometidos a CERO en este periodo y discutimos seis registros previos publicados, no documentados, que podrían ser errados. CERO revisa y actualiza el listado nacional de aves, que en la actualidad alcanza las 1699 especies (1645 confirmadas y documentadas, 54 no documentadas).

Palabras clave: Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos, extensiones de distribución, nuevos registros, registros hipotéticos.

Abstract

We present new distributional records of birds in Ecuador evaluated by the Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO), from November 2017 through June 2019. This report includes three species new to Ecuador (*Pelecanoides garnotii*, *Conirostrum margaritae*, *Piranga ludoviciana*), five species with first documented country records (*Thaumastura cora*, *Anous minutus*, *Setophaga pensylvanica*, *S. virens*, *Spiza americana*), two species with first documented Galápagos records (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*, *Egretta tricolor*), remarkable range extensions for 15 species

(*Amazilia amazilia*, *Aramus guarauna*, *Vanellus chilensis*, *Attagis gayi*, *Anous stolidus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Thalasseus elegans*, *T. sandvicensis*, *Eurypyga helias*, *Mycteria americana*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Gampsonyx swainsonii*, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, *Glaucidium peruanum*, *Thlypopsis sordida*), new records of 16 rare species (*Oressochen jubatus*, *Spatula cyanoptera*, *Podiceps major*, *Stercorarius longicaudus*, *Larus belcheri*, *Pelagodroma marina*, *Oceanodroma markhami*, *Egretta rufescens*, *Plegadis ridgwayi*, *Buteo swainsonii*, *Megascops koepckeae*, *Tyrannus albogularis*, *Setophaga castanea*, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, *Icterus chrysater*, *I. galbula*) and additional records for eight species. We present the first records in the Andes of *Sterna hirundo* and *Thalasseus elegans*, the first record of *T. sandvicensis* in the inner Amazon basin, and the first South American record of *Piranga ludoviciana*. Finally, we invalidate previous records of *Pyrilia pyrilia* published in different sources, reject records of six species submitted to CERO, and discuss six previously published, undocumented records that might prove erroneous. CERO revises and updates the country bird list, which currently stands at 1699 species (1645 confirmed and documented; 54 undocumented).

Keywords: Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology, hypothetical records, new country records, range extensions.

INTRODUCTION

The unprecedented volume of information being compiled in publicly-accessible online archives provides exciting opportunities for rapid advances in knowledge on species distribution, especially in poorly studied regions. However, the public nature of such databases poses risks related to the accumulation and propagation of erroneous or imprecise data (Ball-Damerow *et al.*, 2019; Bayraktarov *et al.*, 2019). While large global records repositories such as www.macaulaylibrary.org and www.ebird.org provide increasingly convenient access for a range of data contributors and consumers, this same ease of use presents significant challenges for review and validation of reports. To preserve high-quality ornithological records, increased collaboration between these global data-managing initiatives and local, national and/or regional committees is needed (Freile *et al.*, 2018).

The growing popularity and accessibility of online archives also create a need for records committees to re-evaluate their processes and guidelines. To remain relevant, records committees must keep pace with rapid data accumulation and embrace an increasing number of observers in megadiverse countries like Ecuador, where ornithology and bird-observation are growing. The Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO), which aims to review novel records in this country, is paying increased attention to records broadcasted or archived online only. With four reports published to date (Freile *et al.*, 2013, 2017, 2019a; Nilsson *et al.*, 2014), CERO has presented 29 new country records (23 species and 6 subspecies) and first documented records for 27 species, alongside significant range extensions for more than 100 species, including new records of several country rarities. Likewise, the committee has made a concerted effort to remove species previously included in Ecuador's species list as a result of erroneous or imprecise information (see Freile *et al.*, 2019a). We hope that by establishing a single, validated, and standardized species list, we can facilitate further development of ornithology, education, birding, and conservation alike (Freile *et al.*, 2018).

This report presents new records evaluated by CERO since its fourth report, as well as a brief revision of some previously published, undocumented records. The result is a newly updated official checklist containing a total of 1699 species (54 undocumented) (Freile *et al.*, 2020). The complete list is published on CERO's webpage: www.ceroecuador.wordpress.com.

METHODS

CERO receives and reviews records of rare species, new country records, and/or significant range extensions submitted voluntarily by their authors through CERO's webpage or e-mail address (cero.ecuador@gmail.com). Further, committee members regularly discover reports of 'rarities' at social media and public databases such as eBird, and then requests observers to submit their records for review, or to authorize CERO to evaluate them.

The national country checklist and a list of 'most-wanted' species are published on CERO's webpage, allowing observers to determine the status of the birds of Ecuador (www.ceroecuador.wordpress.com). New country records are evaluated and accepted by unanimous vote, while first documentation, undocumented records of

previously hypothetical species, and significant range extensions are accepted by majority vote. For this report, CERO reviewed 74 reports submitted from November 2017 through June 2019, of records dating from October 1992 through June 2019.

Reports evaluated in this compilation were generated using varied survey protocols and documentation techniques, including sounds, and photographs, but some include undocumented observations (*i.e.*, records lacking voucher documentation like specimens, photographs, video-recording, audio-recording, or field sketches and notes). Most sound-recordings were deposited by observers in Xeno-Canto or Macaulay Library online archives (www.xeno-canto.org; <http://www.macaulaylibrary.org>), for which a XC or ML code (respectively) and appropriate citation are provided in the species accounts. Photographs are stored in the CERO archives, some are published online, and the most relevant are published in this report. Locality coordinates and elevation are provided in Table 1; Figures 1–6 show documentary evidence for these records. New country records are marked with an asterisk in the species accounts. Taxonomy and species sequence follow the August 2019 version of the Clements checklist of the birds of the world (Clements *et al.*, 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Orinoco Goose *Oressochen jubatus*

Orellana Province, near Yasuní National Park's clay licks, on the south bank of Río Napo, 15 January 2015, P. Petrus (photo).

Two birds were observed and photographed on a sandy river bank (Fig. 5a; Petrus, 2015). There are few records of this species in Ecuador, mostly confined to the lower portion of the Río Pastaza (Freile & Restall, 2018), with even sparser records along the Río Napo, the last known to us dating back to 1992–1993 (L. Navarrete, pers. observ.). There is one exceptional record at Ecuasal Pacoa, of a single individual observed by B. Haase on an undetermined date between 1992–1995 (B. Haase, *in litt.*, July 2020).

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera*

Imbabura Province, Lago San Pablo, 4 January 2017, C. Vogt (photo).

One adult male was observed and photographed (Fig. 5b; Vogt, 2017) at a water treatment pond adjacent to Lago San Pablo. As the drake is shown swimming with its belly submerged, we cannot determine with 100% certainty whether it belongs to the boreal migrant subspecies *Spatula cyanoptera septentrionalium* or the very rare and declining Andean subspecies *S. c. borreiroi*. The latter subspecies differs from the former by its large blackish spots mainly on the belly. However, the visible portion of the lower breast is plain cinnamon, suggesting that it belongs to the boreal migrant subspecies (Fjeldså & Krabbe, 1990); the January date also fits for a boreal migrant.

The Andean subspecies is considered extinct in Ecuador (Freile *et al.*, 2019b), where it presumably bred (Fjeldså & Krabbe, 1990). The number of records of *S. cyanoptera* in Ecuador has increased steadily in recent years (Camacho & Wilson, 2011; Freile *et al.*, 2013; Nilsson *et al.* 2014; Haase, 2019), all pertaining to boreal/austral migrants or vagrants.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Esmeraldas Province, Las Peñas, 24 November 2016, R. Ahlman (photo).

Manabí Province, La Segua, 30 December 2016, R. Ahlman (photo).

The Las Peñas record involved two adults of undetermined sex observed and photographed resting on a muddy bank, along with other migratory waterfowl and waders (Fig. 5c). The La Segua record involved a single adult observed one month later, swimming in open water (Ahlman, 2016). This boreal species was recorded for the first time in Ecuador as recently as June 2012 (Freile *et al.*, 2013). Ecuador's southernmost record corresponds to a female photographed by E. Reyes at Pacoa (Haase, 2019).

Table 1: Localities of records submitted to the Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) between November 2017 and June 2019. Asterisk indicates localities mentioned in the text accounts, not locality records.

Locality, province	Coordinates	Elevation (m)
Aguayacu Ecolodge, Napo*	-0.8963/ -77.7679	710
Borja bypass, Napo	-0.4375/ -77.8517	1770
Cerro Mongus, Carchi*	0.4373/ -77.859	c. 3300
Charco Vicente, Esmeraldas*	0.683/ -78.917	c. 300
Colonia 24 de Mayo, Pastaza	-1.40025/ -78.059	1277
Cristóbal Colón, Esmeraldas*	0.454/ -79.158	150
Ecuasal Mar Bravo, Santa Elena	-2.2167/ -80.967	0
Ecuasal Pacoa, Santa Elena	2.1008/ -80.7435	0
El Carmen de Putumayo, Sucumbíos	0.118/ -75.856	220
El Carrizal, parroquia Urbina, Carchi	0.7866/ -77.71135	2950
El Empalme, Loja*	-4.1478/ -79.8569	760
Estero Capulí, Río Ónzole, Esmeraldas*	c. -0.771/ -79.075	c. 50
Estero Pote, Esmeraldas*	0.8284/ -78.72201	200
Isla Española, near, Galápagos	-1.3391/ -89.6570	0
Isla de la Plata, Manabí	-1.2687/ -81.0652	0
Isla Floreana, off south, Galápagos	-1.6782/ -90.5412	0
Isla San Cristóbal, near, Galápagos	-1.2030/ -89.6538	0
Isla San Cristóbal, pelagic to Isla Española, Galápagos	-1.11623/ -89.6547	0
Jardín Botánico de Quito, Pichincha	-0.183/ -78.483	2800
Jimbura, 3-4 km W, Loja	-4.6134/ -79.472	2250
Kapawi, Pastaza*	-2.75/ -76.75	200
Lago San Pablo, Imbabura	0.2183/ -78.2351	2660
Laguna Yaguarcocha, Imbabura	0.3666/ -78.0833	2200
La Chocolatera, Santa Elena	-2.189/ -81.011	0
La Josefina, Pichincha	-0.0011/ -78.1411	2890
La Segua, Manabí	-0.713/ -80.201	2
La Selva, Sucumbíos*	-0.416/ -76.133	250
La Tembladera, El Oro	-3.4904/ -79.9967	13

Las Peñas, 10 km N, Esmeraldas	1.0996/ -79.15205	0
Limpiopungo, Pichincha	-0.6428/ -78.4848	3890
La Lobería, San Cristóbal, Galápagos	-0.9221/ -89.612	0
Loja, campus UTPL, Loja	-3.987/ -79.1995	2200
Los Laurales de Guasaganda, Cotopaxi	-0.8357/ -79.2053	600
Manantiales, Manabí	-1.24042/ -80.7529	c. 50
Manta-Montecristi area, Manabí	-1.0274/ -80.656	100
Maxus road, Orellana*	-0.473/ -76.574	250
Meseta de Gualpi, Carchi	0.8612/ -78.2247	2150
Milagro, Guayas	-2.119/ -79.6002	3
Mindo, Pichincha	-0.054/ -78.7786	1250
Nuevo Paraíso Road, Zamora Chinchipe*	-4.26001/ -78.6474	c. 1000
Nuevo Rocafuerte, Orellana	-0.92677/ -75.4017	190
Nuevo Rocafuerte (river islands), Orellana	-0.92105/ -75.3866	190
Pachijal, Pichincha	0.1607/ -78.9351	520
Paquisha, Zamora Chinchipe	-3.9326/ -78.6764	820
Parque Guápulo, Pichincha	-0.1978/ -78.4726	2600
Perucho, Pichincha*	0.10917/ -78.4242	1800
Pedro Vicente Maldonado, near, Pichincha*	0.133/ -79.133	c. 500
Playa de Oro, Esmeraldas	0.84847/ -78.7822	c. 150
Puerto Engabao, Guayas	-2.5781/ -80.48406	0
Puerto López, Manabí	-1.56194/ -80.8164	0
Puerto Quito, Pichincha*	0.1188/ -79.2666	145
Puembo Birding Garden, Pichincha*	-0.1657/ -78.3612	2430
Punta Cormorant, Galápagos	-1.22744/ -90.4257	0
Punta Galera, off, Esmeraldas	0.81627/ -80.0471	0
Represa Tahuín, El Oro*	-3.6354/ -80.0017	110
Reserva Buenaventura, El Oro	-3.6492/ -79.7615	c. 500
Reserva Copalinga, Zamora Chinchipe	-4.0915/ -78.9581	950
Reserva Jatun Sacha, Napo*	-1.0665/ -77.6183	430
Reserva Mashpi Shungo, Pichincha	0.1824/ -78.91215	520
Reserva Otongachi, Pichincha	-0.32125/ -78.9516	850

Reserva Tamandua, Pastaza*	-1.315/ -77.9695	950
Reserva Yanacocha, Pichincha	-0.1119/ -78.5848	c. 3500
Río Bigal, near, Orellana*	-0.5235/ -77.4198	c. 900
Río Napo, 10–15 km downriver from Coca, Orellana	-0.444/ -76.7323	275
Río Napo, clay licks near Yasuni National Park control, Orellana	-0.52736/ -76.3776	220
Río Quijos Ecological, Napo	-0.3925/ -77.81619	1500
Río Silanche, Pichincha*	0.144/ -79.141	400
Sabanillas, Zamora Chinchipe	-3.976/ -79.026	c. 1600
Salto del Bravo, Esmeraldas*	0.667/ -78.967	c. 200
Same, Esmeraldas*	0.8491/ -79.9269	0
Shiripuno, Orellana	-1.10368/ -76.7317	240
Siguin, Pastaza*	-1.63804/ -77.8406	1040
Sumaco Road, Napo*	-0.6843/ -77.6023	c. 1200
Volcán Cayambe, Pichincha*	0.025/ -78.025	c. 4000
Volcán Chiles, s slope, Carchi	0.8059/ -77.9349	4282

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

El Oro Province, La Tembladera, 12 June 2015, A. Solano-Ugalde, J. Freile, M. Sánchez-Nivicela, R. Ahlman (photo).

Manabí Province, Isla de la Plata, 17 December 2017, B. Wilcox (photo).

A single adult of undetermined sex was observed and photographed (Fig. 5d) in calm water at Isla de la Plata's arriving bay, where water is calm (Wilcox, 2017). The La Tembladera record involved one adult male photographed once, and observed during the remainder of the day swimming and diving in open waters at the eastern end of this freshwater wetland. There are previous published records from La Tembladera (Pozo-Zamora *et al.*, 2015).

The number of records of *P. major* in Ecuador has increased in recent years, even though it was first observed as recently as 2005 (Haase, 2011). Most records have involved non-breeding individuals, but breeding has now been reported at Tahuín dam, El Oro province (Pozo-Zamora *et al.*, 2015).

Peruvian Sheartail *Thaumastura cora*

Loja Province, 3 km west of Jimbura, 12 June 2018, R. Ahlman, D. Jumbo (photo).

One adult male and one adult female were observed in a patch of semi-humid scrub surrounded by degraded land (Fig. 2a; Ahlman, 2018b). This observation represents the first documented Ecuadorian record, where a single previous sighting in presumably similar habitat existed (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). Two adult males and one female-plumaged bird were observed at the same scrub patch on 21 April 2019 by J. Freile and B. Tinoco (Tinoco, 2019), and on 24 May 2019 by D. Pacheco and A. Carrasco (Pacheco, 2019), with additional recent records from the same general area (eBird, 2020).

Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilia amazilia*

Zamora Chinchipe Province, Copalinga, 10 November 2017, A. Solano-Ugalde.

One adult was observed feeding on *Stachytarpheta* (Verbenaceae) flowers and then being actively chased away by one Sparkling Violetear *Colibri coruscans*. There are a handful of additional records of this species from Copalinga, in December 2007 and November 2011 (as reported in the submission form; Fig. 4a), and March 2012 (Geoffray, 2012) and October 2015 (Hertzog, 2015).

There are very few previous records from the eastern slope of the Andes, including observations above Zamora and nearby Sabanilla (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). These records may have involved wanderers from nearby highlands. Although most previous records do not indicate subspecific identity, the photographic record from 2011 corresponds to *A. amazilia alticola*, which ranges in the drier valleys and highlands of Loja and El Oro provinces. *Amazilia a. alticola* was suggested to be a separate species by Weller (2000), but this possibility was rejected by Krabbe & Ridgely (2010). The species is transferred to the genus *Amazilis* by Remsen *et al.*, (2020).

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*

Pichincha Province, Reserva Mashpi Shungo, 18 September 2017, A. Solano-Ugalde (photo).

Zamora Chinchipe Province, Paquisha, 20 July 2017, F. Castillo (photo).

A single individual was observed at a fish pond in Mashpi Shungo, where it remained for *c.* 1 week before departing (Fig 4b). Additionally, one adult was observed in tall marshy grassland adjacent to the Nangaritza River, on the outskirts of Paquisha (Fig. 4c). These records are the highest in elevation (520 and 820 m a.s.l., respectively) known to date, on either slope of the Andes, and fall outside the core distributional range of this species that, notwithstanding, is highly prone to wandering (Freile & Restall, 2018). This species might be spreading towards the northern lowlands and Andean foothills of western Ecuador, considering the number of recent records (eBird, 2020).

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Zamora Chinchipe Province, Paquisha, 5 August 2017, F. Castillo (photo).

Up to eight individuals dwell at various sites in and around Paquisha, suggesting a small established population in this recently colonized location. It seems unlikely that this vocal and conspicuous species might have remained overlooked in the area (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001), and in fact, there were no records along the Río Nangaritza drainage until at least 2012 (Freile *et al.*, 2014). The Paquisha outpost is representative of the rapid spread of this species into the Amazonian foothills of Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001; McMullan & Navarrete, 2017; Freile & Restall, 2018). This species is also rapidly spreading throughout the Pacific lowlands and locally up into the Interandean valleys (Freile & Restall, 2018). There are a handful of more recent (2017–2020) records from the Río Zamora and Río Upano basins in southern Ecuador (eBird, 2020), including a record that predates the one reported to CERO by F. Castillo (Rasmussen, 2017).

Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe *Attagis gayi*

Carchi Province, southern part of Volcán Chiles, 12 April 2018, E. Taimal (photo).

One pair was observed at close range in a transitional habitat between paramo and barren rocky areas with sparse vegetation (Fig. 4e). This represents the northernmost record of this species in the Andes (Fjeldså & Krabbe, 1990), 90 km north of its nearest known locality (Volcán Cayambe). *Attagis gayi* is represented in Ecuador by the highly isolated, endemic subspecies *A. gayi latreillii* (Fjeldså & Krabbe, 1990; Freile & Restall, 2018). Volcán Chiles is situated on Ecuador's border with Colombia. Thus, the species undoubtedly occurs on its Colombian slopes as well.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Santa Elena Province, La Chocolatera, 6–7 November 2015, 30 October 2017, R. Ahlman.

Three individuals were observed on 2 consecutive days; two adults and one dark-morph juvenile on November 2015, and one dark-morph juvenile on October 2017. Two of the jaegers were harassing or attacking terns and

obtaining prey on one occasion (Ahlman, 2015c). Details provided by the author are brief, but the description of small size, slender shape, white shafts on outer primaries, rather short bill, and two-toned upperparts are adequate to rule out Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*, which was also observed (Ahlman, 2015c; 2015d; 2017).

There are few records of *S. longicaudus* from coastal Ecuador, including previous observations at La Choclatera (Freile & Restall, 2018) and the Santa Elena peninsula area (Haase, 2011), where the first documented record from mainland Ecuador was obtained by R. Ahlman in September 2014 (Freile *et al.*, 2017).



Figure 1: New country records for Ecuador. a) *Pelecanoides garnotii*, Puerto Engabao, Guayas province (F. Pásara); b) *Piranga ludoviciana*, Reserva Otongachi, Pichincha province (A. G. Simbaña); c) *Conirostrum margaritae*, island near Nuevo Rocafuerte, Río Napo, Orellana province (R. Ahlman; ML 100220791).

Belcher's Gull *Larus belcheri*

Manabí Province, Puerto López, 19 November 2017, S. M. Plúa, A. Plaza (photo).

Santa Elena Province, Lagunas de Ecuasal at Mar Bravo, 24 June 2018, P. Bourdin (photo).

One adult in breeding plumage was observed and photographed at Puerto López on the beach near the fish market (Fig. 5e). Another adult in non-breeding/basic plumage was photographed in a sandy ditch at Ecuasal Mar Bravo (Fig. 5f; Bourdin, 2018). The species has been recorded in Ecuador in September, November, January, May, and June (Haase, 2011; eBird, 2020). The number of records has increased in recent years (Haase, 2019), but the Puerto López individual is the first reported in breeding/alternate plumage. The species has not been found breeding in Ecuador to date.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Esmeraldas Province, off Punta Galera, 24 February 2016, R. Ahlman, D. Jumbo (photo).

Three adults were observed and one of them photographed (Fig. 4f) on a pelagic day trip off Punta Galera. Another individual was observed from shore on 23 February 2016 at Same, Esmeraldas by the same observers, who also report a sight record from December 2015 at Punta Galera. Previously recorded from Santa Elena peninsula only (Camacho & Torres, 2011; Haase, 2019) in February (contra Freile & Restall, 2018), with 17 individuals reportedly observed in 2010–2019 from La Chocolatera by Haase (2019).

Camacho & Torres (2011) identified the bird they observed as probable *A. s. galapagensis*, due to its dark brown plumage with a paler, but not well-defined forecrown and grayish-brown rear crown. However, the noddies observed at Punta Galera might correspond to *A. s. ridgwayi*, which is warmer brown, with a more contrasting whitish crown and paler forecrown (Howell & Zufelt, 2019). This record would represent the first record of *A. s. ridgwayi* in Ecuadorian waters, but further documentation is needed to confirm it. This subspecies likely breeds on the Malpelo Islands, Colombia (López-Victoria & Estela, 2007), c. 380 km north-northwest of Punta Galera.

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

Santa Elena Province, La Chocolatera, 7 July 2015, R. Ahlman (photo).

One individual was observed between 6h45–8h35 near the rocky coast, momentarily joining a large feeding aggregation of seabirds (Fig. 2b). There is one previous record of a dark noddy from the Santa Elena peninsula area, first published with unconfirmed identification (Haase, 2011), but later identified as *Anous minutus* (Haase, 2019). The July 2015 record becomes the second record of the species and first documented evidence for Ecuador (*cf.* Ahlman, 2015b).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Imbabura Province, Laguna Yaguarcocha, 24 November 2018, E. Obando, J. Meneses, M. Aragón (photo).

One bird in non-breeding plumage was observed distantly in the early morning and was later relocated and photographed after a considerable closer approach (Fig. 4g). It was resting on a buoy only 20 m from an Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* (see below). There are few inland records of *Sterna hirundo* in Ecuador, this one being the first in the Ecuadorian Andes and the highest in elevation (Freile & Restall, 2018) at 2200 m a.s.l. It is also the only record in the entire Andean cordillera known to us (eBird, 2020).

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*

Imbabura Province, Laguna Yaguarcocha, 24 November 2018, E. Obando, J. Meneses, M. Aragón (photo).

One individual in non-breeding plumage was observed near the *S. hirundo* reported above (Fig. 4h). It was first observed flying over a Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* breeding colony and later perched on a buoy, where it was photographed. This is the first documented record of *Thalasseus elegans* in the Andes of Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018), but there is one additional record with no date or locality details (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2020). As far as we are aware, this is the first documented record from the entire Andes.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Orellana Province, c. 10–15 km downriver from Coca on the Río Napo, 8 January 2018, B. Nooner (photo).

One adult in non-breeding plumage was observed and photographed flying close to sand bars in the middle of the river at 14h30 (Fig. 4i; Nooner, 2018). This is the first record from Amazonian Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018) and, as far as we know, from the entire inner Amazon basin (eBird, 2020).

Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*

Napo Province, Río Quijos Ecological Reserve, 21 October 2018, C. A. Vásquez (photo).

One bird was photographed walking over boulders on the Río Quijos (Fig. 4j). This record, at c. 1500 m a.s.l., is one of the highest in elevation from eastern Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018; Cadena-Ortiz *et al.*, 2018). The photographed bird belongs to the subspecies *Eurypyga helias meridionalis* (grayish back and upperwing coverts), a foothill subspecies only recently observed for the first time in Ecuador in 2008 (Freile *et al.*, 2013) and known from just two additional localities (Freile & Restall, 2018; Cadena-Ortiz *et al.*, 2018). The fact that this form maintains its integrity despite being possibly in contact with the nominate form of the Amazonian lowlands suggests that it might deserve species status, but more information is needed to determine whether these two subspecies actually overlap.

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*

Galápagos Province, near Española Island coast to the north, 15 June 2018, A. Jaramillo (photo).

Galápagos Province, pelagic between San Cristóbal and Española, 12 July 2014, A. Bruun Kristensen (photo).

Two separate individuals were seen in pelagic waters between San Cristóbal and Española (Figs. 5g, 5h). There are few Galápagos records, where the species is considered as vagrant (Wiedenfeld, 2006; McMullan & Navarrete, 2017). The paucity of records might be explained partially by poor knowledge of oceanic birds and limited pelagic observation activity (Wiedenfeld, 2006). Dates suggest non-breeding austral visitors (Howell & Zufelt, 2019).

Markham's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma markhami*

Galápagos Province, between San Cristóbal Island and Española Island, 28 July 2017, A. Jaramillo (photo).

Galápagos Province, near San Cristóbal Island coast to the south, 16 August 2008, J. Gilliam (photo).

Two birds were seen in pelagic waters between San Cristóbal and Española on separate dates (Figs. 5i, 5j). There are few Galápagos records of this non-breeding austral vagrant (Wiedenfeld, 2006; McMullan & Navarrete, 2017). However, as with previous species, the scarcity of records might partially be explained by limited pelagic work.

Ringed Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma hornbyi*

Galápagos Province, off south Floreana Island, 8 November 2017, R. Tizard (photo).

A single bird was observed and photographed in pelagic waters off Floreana (Fig. 3a). This represents the first documented record from the Galápagos (Freile *et al.*, 2020), where the species is known from two published sight records (Wiedenfeld, 2006) on an unexpected date for an austral breeder (April 1967). Records in waters off mainland Ecuador also include unexpected dates (July 2007, February 2008; see Freile *et al.*, 2013; Nilsson *et al.*, 2014), suggesting that the temporal distribution patterns of this species, which is confined to the Humboldt Current, are more complex than previously acknowledged (Howell & Zufelt, 2019).



Figure 2: First documented records of species previously considered hypothetical/undocumented in mainland Ecuador. a) *Thaumastura cora*, Jimbura, Loja province (R. Ahlman; ML 104924311); b) *Anous minutus*, La Chocolatera, Santa Elena province (R. Ahlman; ML 20122651); c) *Setophaga pensylvanica*, Jardín Botánico de Quito, Pichincha province (E. Ocaña); d) *Setophaga virens*, Mindo, Pichincha province (M. Bonet; ML 146581841); e) *Icterus galbula*, Buenaventura Reserve, El Oro province (L. Seitz; ML 135003401); f) *Spiza americana*, Las Peñas, Esmeraldas province (R. Ahlman; ML 20370601).

Peruvian Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides garnotii

Guayas Province, Puerto Engabao, 14 January 2017, F. Pásara Hurtado (photo).

A single exhausted individual of this globally endangered species (BirdLife International, 2020) was rescued while swimming close to shore (Fig. 1a). It died afterwards, but the specimen was not secured and no necropsy analysis was done. This constitutes the first record for Ecuador and the northernmost record for the genus and species, c. 440 km north of Lobos de Tierra, the nearest coastal area where recorded in Peru, even though it has not bred there for several decades (Figueroa, 2013). The closest breeding colony lies 370 km further southeast of Lobos de Tierra, at Isla Corcovado (Valverde-Romero, 2006).

This Humboldt Current species likely breeds year-round in coastal areas and islands of Peru and Chile (Howell & Zufelt, 2019; BirdLife International, 2020) and is considered to be sedentary (Onley & Scofield, 2007). The species is not known to wander or disperse over long distances under normal climatic conditions (Carboneras *et al.*, 2020), but it is affected by abnormal climatic situations, because it feeds mostly on small pelagic fish that are more susceptible to changes in sea surface temperature (Brooke, 2004; García-Godos & Goya, 2006). Therefore, its dispersion northwards to the southern coast of Ecuador might have been caused by the weak cold-water event La Niña, as part of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), that produced nutrient-rich and cooler water conditions in the eastern tropical Pacific from late 2016 to early 2017 (L'Heureux *et al.*, 2017). With cold ocean waters being more productive, this *P. garnotii* might have travelled north in search for prey, as has been hypothesized for other marine organisms (Álava & Carvajal, 2005; Páez-Rosas *et al.*, 2018). Nonetheless, we cannot fully rule out the possibility of a boat-assisted arrival to the Ecuadorian coast because diving-petrels often land on ships when attracted by lights (Howell & Zufelt, 2019).

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

Pichincha Province, Reserva Mashpi Shungo, 9 November 2015, A. Solano-Ugalde.

Napo Province, Borja bypass, secondary road, 28 March 2019, M. Sánchez-Nivicela, M. and L. Ramsey, L. Pérez (photo).

One individual was seen flying over a river edge near Mashpi Shungo, and another pair was photographed at the Borja bypass (Fig. 4k). Both records are outside this species' regular distribution range (Freile & Restall, 2018), but the species tends to wander widely, including trans-Andean passage (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2020).

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*

Galápagos Province, Punta Cormorán, Floreana, May 2018, J. and E. Morton (photo).

One individual of undetermined age and sex was observed and photographed (Fig. 3b) at Flamingo Lagoon, Punta Cormorán, as it flew and landed along the shoreline. This is the first documented record for Galápagos. Only one previous sighting was reported by Swash & Still (2000) without supporting evidence or further data (Wiedenfeld, 2006).

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*

Santa Elena Province, Ecuasal Pacoa, 10 June 2019, B. Haase (photo).

One adult of undetermined sex was observed in artificial salt-evaporating ponds (Fig. 5k). Presumably, the same individual remained in the area for 8 months, with the most recent report coming from February 2020 (eBird, 2020). Two previous records exist in Ecuador, one individual seen in Río Napo in July 2009 and one observed at Pacoa from November 2013 through September 2014 (Freile *et al.*, 2013; Nilsson *et al.*, 2014), with the latter apparently remaining at Pacoa until October 2015 (Haase, 2019). Dates of the three records, and this individual's extended residence at Pacoa, suggest a tendency of this species to establish itself temporarily at new localities after post-breeding dispersal, and to complete pre-basic molt before migrating back to its breeding grounds. It breeds in southern North America, the Caribbean, and the northern coast of South America (Koczur *et al.*, 2020).



A



B

Figure 3: First documented records of species previously considered as hypothetical/undocumented in Galápagos, Ecuador. a) *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, off southern Isla Floreana, Galápagos province (R. Tizard; ML 86890521); b) *Egretta tricolor*, Punta Cormorant, Isla Floreana, Galápagos province (J. Morton).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Imbabura Province, Laguna Yaguarcocha, 11 February 2015, D. Arias, L. Calapi (photo).

Sucumbíos Province, Puerto El Carmen de Putumayo, 17 January 2017, R. Ahlman, D. Jumbo (photo).

One individual was observed near a communal roost of Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis* at Laguna Yaguarcocha (Arias-Cruzatty, 2015; Fig. 4l). Another individual was observed along the banks of a pond in degraded habitat near Puerto El Carmen de Putumayo (Fig. 4m). The Yaguarcocha record is the first in the Andes of Ecuador, while the Puerto El Carmen record is only the second known to us from the Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018). Number of records and abundance of this species in Ecuador have increased notably in recent years, from few localities and low numbers in the late 1990s and early 2000s (López-Lanús & Gastezzi, 2000; Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001) to several localities and increasing counts in the 2010s (Santander *et al.*, 2013; Nilsson *et al.*, 2014; Freile & Restall, 2018).

Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi*

Pichincha Province, Laguna de Limpiopungo, 21 August 2018, N. G. Monteros (photo).

Pichincha Province, Laguna de Limpiopungo, 22 August 2018, F. Melo (photo).

Both records refer to the same individual (Fig. 5l), observed at Limpiopungo from 21 August until at least 21 September 2018 (Salazar, 2018). There is one previous record at the same locality of a single individual observed on 3–15 January 2015 (Freile *et al.*, 2019).

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii*

Zamora Chinchipe Province, Paquisha, 18 May 2018, F. Castillo (photo).

One adult was first observed at Paquisha on 18–29 May 2018 (Fig. 4n) and the species continued to be observed regularly in and around the town through at least January 2020 (eBird, 2020). This is one of the southernmost records in Amazonian Ecuador, where the species is primarily confined to the northern lowlands (Freile & Restall, 2018). However, it is likely colonizing new areas towards the Andean foothills and southern Amazonian Ecuador following deforestation (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2020).

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Pichincha Province, Reserva Mashpi Shungo, 8 January 2018, D. Chalá, A. Solano-Ugalde (photo).

Pichincha Province, Laguna de Limpiopungo, 15 February 2018, Z. Armas (photo).

The Mashpi record involves a juvenile found in weakened condition, which later died (Fig. 4o), whereas the Limpiopungo record also involves a juvenile, but in good condition (Fig. 4p). The Limpiopungo bird was persistently being mobbed by a resident Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens* and an Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*. This species was considered Vulnerable in Ecuador by Granizo *et al.* (2002), but is likely increasing in numbers at present, especially in western Ecuador, and spreading northwards and into the Andean foothills; as a result, it has been removed from the country's red list (Freile *et al.*, 2019b). There is a single previous highland record of an adult found dead, curiously also at Limpiopungo (de Vries, 1980).

Gray-bellied Hawk *Accipiter poliogaster*

Orellana Province, Shiripuno, 20 May 2012, R. Gelis (photo).

One adult was encountered inside primary forest, where it was depredating an unknown bird (Gelis, 2012). Apparently, this rare hawk has a wide distribution across the entire Amazon Basin, but it is poorly known and seldom recorded in Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018). There are a few additional records available in eBird, including one juvenile at Sumaco at a higher elevation than expected (Espinosa, 2015), an adult near Paquisha (Castillo, 2020), and another juvenile at Nuevo Paraíso Road, Zamora Chinchipe province, which is the southernmost record (Tizard, 2017).

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsonii*

Manabí Province, Manantiales, 29 May 2018, G. Donoso (photo).

One subadult of undetermined sex was found in weakened condition at a farm (Fig. 5m), but apparently escaped after being photographed (G. Donoso, *in litt.*, May 2018). There are few records of this boreal transient hawk in western Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018). The May date indicates a delayed migrant.

Koepcke's Screech-Owl *Megascops koepckeae*

Loja Province, campus of Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL), urban Loja, February–May 2018, L. Ordóñez, A. Orihuela, A. Armijos, J. Freile (photos, audio-recordings).

A small population was unexpectedly discovered on the UTPL campus, within the city of Loja (Fig. 5n), and a few additional territories have subsequently been located in the Loja valley since then (Ordóñez-Delgado & Freile, 2019). This former Peruvian endemic owl has been recorded from Ayabaca province, c. 90 km south of Loja, so it might occur in other dry Andean valleys in the intervening area (Ordóñez-Delgado & Freile, 2019).



Figure 4: Major range extensions and extralimital records of birds in Ecuador. a) *Amazilia amazilia*, Copalinga Lodge, Zamora-Chinchipe province (R. Goodell); b) *Aramus guarauna*, Mashpi, Pichincha province (A. Solano-Ugalde); c) *Aramus guarauna*, Paquisha, Zamora-Chinchipe province (F. Castillo); d) *Vanellus chilensis*, Paquisha, Zamora-Chinchipe province (F. Castillo); e) *Attagis gayi*, south side Volcán Chiles, Carchi province (E. Taimal); f) *Anous stolidus*, off Punta Galera, Esmeraldas province (R. Ahlman; ML 204999951); g) *Sterna hirundo*, Yaguarcocha, Imbabura province (E. Obando); h) *Thalasseus elegans*, Yaguarcocha, Imbabura province (E. Obando)...

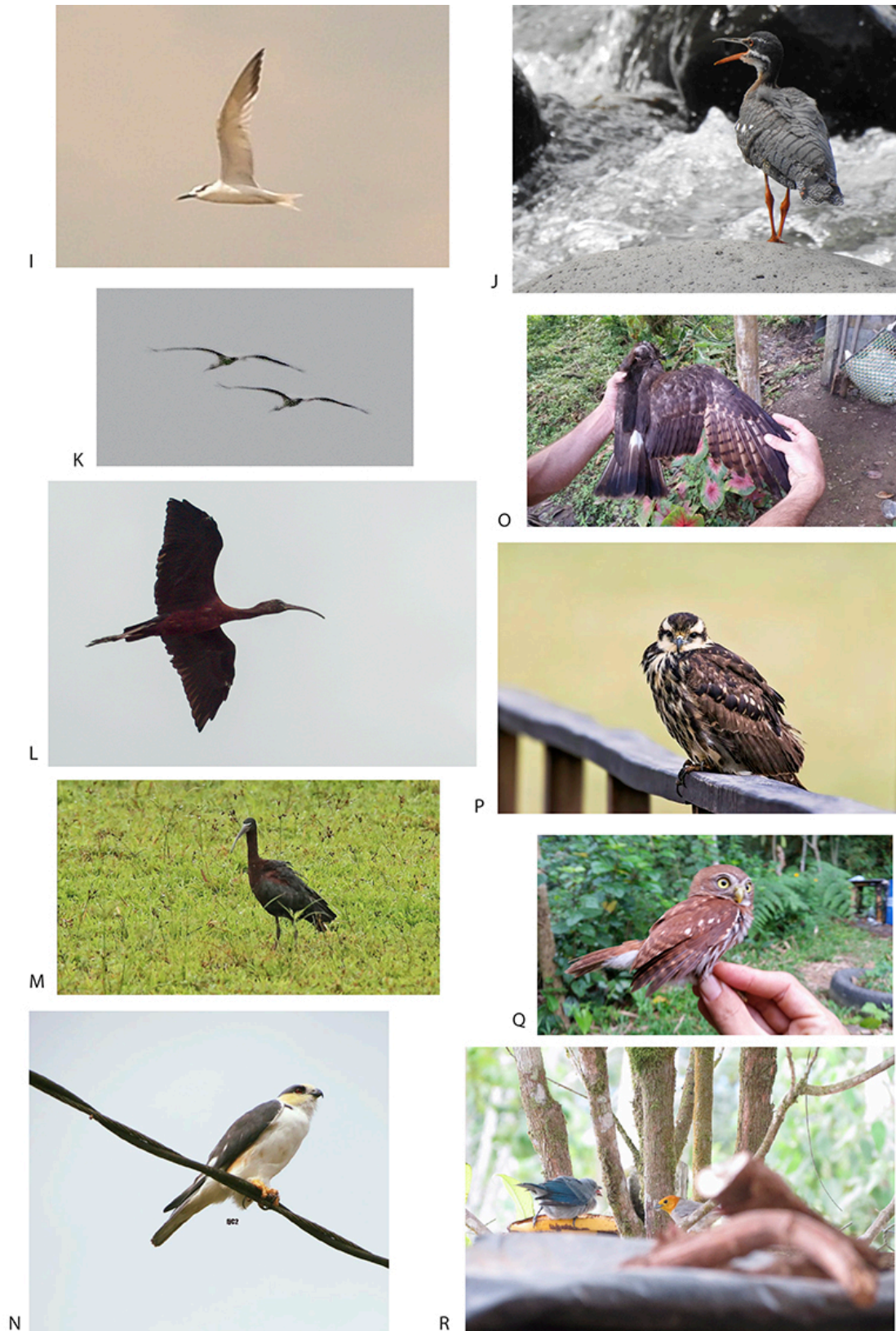


Figure 4: Major range extensions and extralimital records of birds in Ecuador. ...i) *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, 10–15 km down river from Coca, Orellana province (B. Nooner); j) Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias meridionalis* (C. A. Vásquez); k) *Mycteria americana*, Borja bypass, Napo province (L. Ramsey); l) *Plegadis falcinellus*, Yaguarcocha, Imbabura province (D. Arias-Cruzatty); m) *Plegadis falcinellus*, Puerto El Carmen de Putumayo, Sucumbíos province (R. Ahlman; ML 205005521); n) *Gampsonyx swainsonii*, Paquisha, Zamora-Chinchipe province (F. Castillo); o) *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, Mashpi, Pichincha province (A. Solano-Ugalde); p) *Rostrhamus sociabilis*, Limpiopungo, Pichincha province (Z. Armas); q) *Glaucidium peruanum*, Mashpi, Pichincha province (A. Solano-Ugalde); r) *Thlypopsis sordida*, Paquisha, Zamora-Chinchipe province (F. Castillo).

Pacific Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium peruanum*

Pichincha Province, Pachijal, 11 January 2018, F. Bolaños, A. Solano-Ugalde (photo).

One individual was rescued after crashing against a window; it recovered and was released the following day at Mashpi Shungo (Fig. 4q). Pachijal and Mashpi are outside the species' regular distributional range, but there are records from nearby areas in Pichincha province (Río Silanche, Puerto Quito), and further north in Cristóbal Colón, Esmeraldas province (eBird, 2020). Increasing deforestation, expansion of the agricultural frontier, and local climate changes (*i.e.*, decreasing humidity) might be the drivers of its range expansion.

White-throated Kingbird *Tyrannus albogularis*

Orellana Province, Nuevo Rocafuerte, 7 May 2018, R. Ahlman (photo).

Two separate individuals were seen nearby Nuevo Rocafuerte and readily identified as different from Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* by the clear-cut white throat, clean yellow below, lack of olive wash on the breast, pale gray head, pronounced dark mask, and clear-cut green back (Fig. 5o). A short trill call of this individual was recorded (Ahlman, 2018c). There are a few additional sightings in the same general area and further west along the Río Napo (eBird, 2020). This record along with associated published evidence (Ahlman, 2018b), represent the first documentation for the species in Ecuador (Freile *et al.*, 2020).

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Esmeraldas Province, Punta Galera, 11 October 2015, R. Ahlman (photo).

A flock of four individuals was encountered in dry scrub near the coast (Fig. 5q). There are few records of vagrants in Ecuador, including records from the Galápagos Islands (Wiedenfeld, 2006; Freile & Restall, 2018; eBird, 2020). The species occurs as transient in Ecuador, with records limited to October–November and April–May (Freile & Restall, 2018). Paucity of records might be explained by short transit visits that make it pass overlooked (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001).

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*

Carchi Province, El Carrizal, near Tulcán, 30 March 2019, G. Lucero (photos).

One pair was found near Tulcán in a rural area characterized by cultivated land and remnant *Eucalyptus globulus* woodland patches (Fig. 5r). They were subsequently seen for two consecutive weeks. The pair often remained high in the *Eucalyptus* trees, but sometimes descended to nearby shrubs. They were found again in June 2019 (eBird, 2020). This is only the second Ecuadorian record of this species, which actually ranges to extreme southern Colombia (Ayerbe-Quiñones, 2018).

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

El Oro Province, Buenaventura Reserve, 29 December 2018, L. Seitz (photo).

A single individual, presumably an immature male, was briefly observed and photographed (Fig. 2e). As admitted by the observer, it is not easy to separate a pure *Icterus galbula* from a hybrid *I. galbula* x Bullock's Oriole *I. bullockii* (Seitz, 2018). Some details that could differentiate these two species and a range of hybrid plumages are not appreciable in the photograph (belly color and pattern, molt wear in wing feathers). Thus, it is not possible to segregate with 100% certainty between *I. galbula* and *I. bullockii* (A. Jaramillo, *in litt.*, March 2020; see Jaramillo & Burke, 1999). Yet, CERO accepts the record as pertaining to *I. galbula* based on known wintering ranges of the two species. This is the fifth record of *I. galbula* in Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018). There is a recent photographic record of a non-breeding male in Puenbo Birding Garden, Pichincha province (Mac, 2020).

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea*

Pichincha Province, Mindo, road to Mariposario, 13 March 2019, D. Jumbo (photo).

A male molting into breeding plumage was observed in a second-growth patch near Mindo, foraging in *Inga* and *Alnus* trees (Fig. 5p). It moved in the same flock as a Black-throated Green Warbler *S. virens* (see below).

There are few previous records for northern Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018; eBird, 2020). There is a report from the same location in February 2020 (Jumbo, 2020).

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*

Pichincha Province, Jardín Botánico de Quito, 18 February 2019, J. Freile.

A single female was first recorded on 18 December 2018 by A. Morales & G. Nazati. The first photos taken of this individual show a full non-breeding plumage (see eBird, 2020). It remained in the same area until at least 16 May 2019, allowing for photographic documentation of its molt progression into breeding plumage. By 9 February it had begun its molt and by 14 March it was already in full breeding plumage (Fig. 2c). There are few, scattered records in northern Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018; eBird, 2020), mostly on April–May, and this is the first documented evidence to be formally published. There is an earlier photographic record by D. M. Brinkhuizen of a first-year male from Mindo (Brinkhuizen, 2014).

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*

Pichincha Province, Mindo, road to Mariposario, 10 March 2019, E. Capella, M. Bonet (photo).

One male molting into breeding plumage was first found on 10 March 2019 in the canopy of second growth, mostly accompanying mixed-species flocks (Bonet, 2019; Fig. 2d). It was last found on 3 April 2019 (eBird, 2020). There are very few and scattered records in Ecuador, this one being the first documented (Freile & Restall, 2018).

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana

Pichincha Province, Reserva Otongachi, 2 May 2019, A. G. Simbaña Jaramillo (photo).

One second-year male molting into breeding plumage was photographed while visiting a fruit feeder (Fig. 1b). It is not known if this individual remained in the area because observations were limited to a single day. This is the first record for Ecuador and South America (Remsen *et al.*, 2020) and comes on an unexpected date. The species winters in Central America, south to westernmost Panamá and adjacent Costa Rica, from where it departs by late March through April (Hudon, 2020). Previous records outside its typical wintering range or breeding grounds during the boreal spring are confined to northern United States and central-east Canada (Hudon, 2020). The southernmost record comes from Finca Velásquez, Veraguas, Panamá (Groenendijk, 2018), 850 km north-northwest of Reserva Otongachi, whereas the closest record to South America comes from the island of Bonaire (Wells & Childs-Wells, 2002).

The mechanism by which this individual arrived to northwest Ecuador cannot be determined with certainty, but two possibilities stand out. First, it could represent an overshooting migrant, which might have passed its normal winter grounds during fall migration and overwintered in Ecuador while remaining undetected. However, considering the late date and the tendency of the species to vacate southern wintering areas in March and April (Hudon, 2020), it seems more plausible that this individual engaged in reverse migration as a result of misorientation. It has been proposed that a small number of individuals in migratory species depart their wintering grounds in a 180° reverse direction, just as some individuals seem to do when departing their breeding grounds (Howell *et al.*, 2014). From many points in the core wintering range of *P. ludoviciana* along the Pacific slope of Central America, the area in northwest Ecuador where this individual was found lies on a straight 180° directly opposite the species' breeding areas in North America.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana*

Esmeraldas Province, Las Peñas, 12 October 2015, R. Ahlman (photo).

A single adult was located in an open field with shrubby vegetation (Fig. 2f). There is only one previous record for Ecuador, an undocumented observation from Jatun Sacha, Napo province (Clay, 1999). The Las Peñas record provides the first documentation of the species for Ecuador (see eBird, 2020). There is one additional, recent record from the same area (Rowlett, 2019).

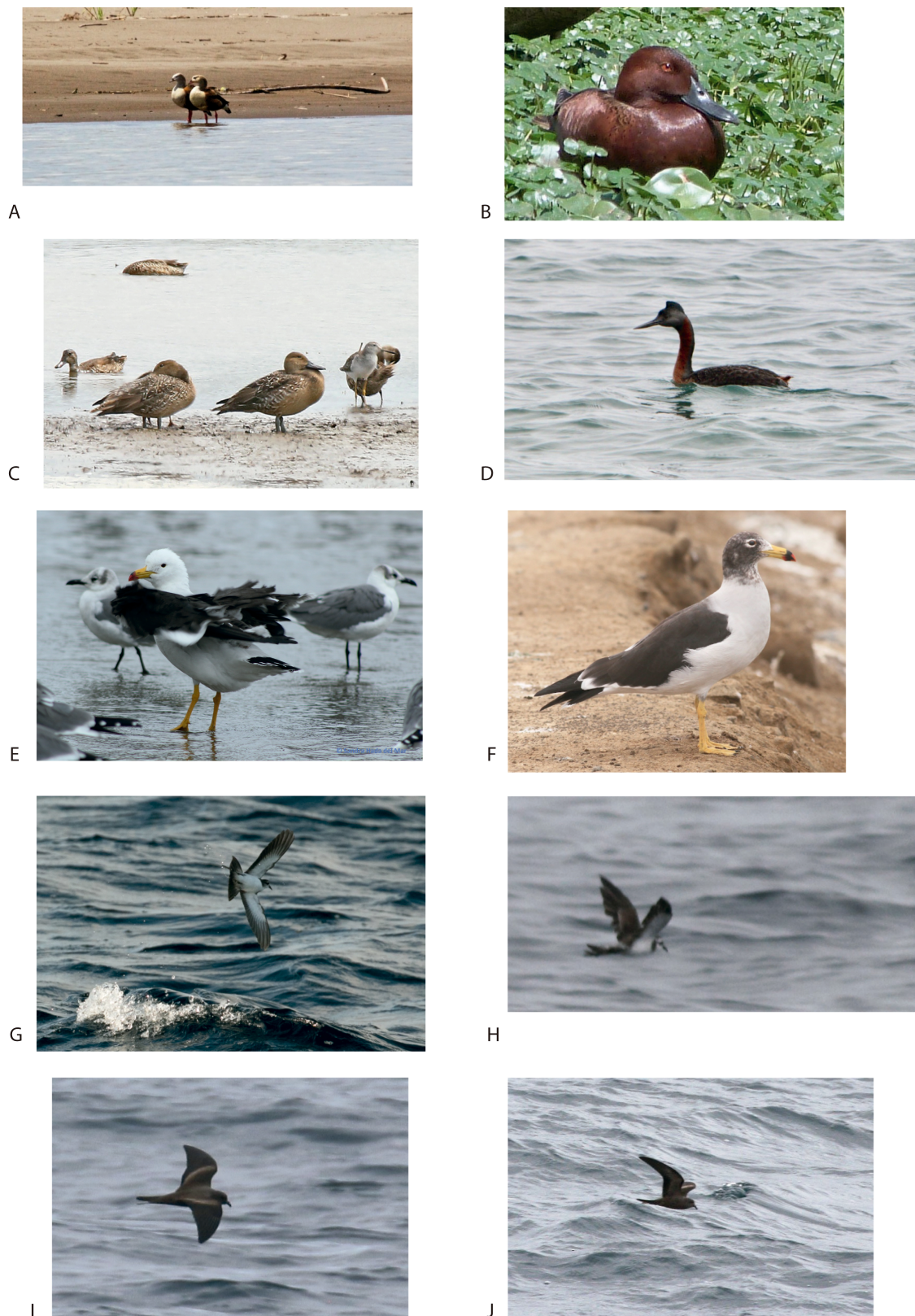


Figure 5: Rare birds recorded in Ecuador. a) *Oressochen jubatus*, clay licks in south bank of Napo River near Yasuni National Park control, Orellana province (P. Petrus; ML 65893401); b) *Spatula cyanoptera*, Lago San Pablo, Imbabura province (C. Vogt; ML 44409931); c) *Anas acuta*, Las Peñas, Esmeraldas province (R. Ahlman; ML 41959991); d) *Podiceps major*, Isla de la Plata, Manabí province (B. Wilcox; ML 78530561); e) *Larus belcheri*, Puerto López, Manabí province (S. M. Plúa); f) *Larus belcheri*, Mar Bravo, Santa Elena province (P. Bourdin; ML 105439221); g) *Pelagodroma marina*, near Isla Española, Galápagos province (A. Jaramillo; ML 105290011); h) *Pelagodroma marina*, near Isla San Cristóbal, Galápagos province (A. Bruun Kristensen); i) *Oceanodroma markhami*, near Isla San Cristóbal, Galápagos province (A. Jaramillo; ML 65144431); j) *Oceanodroma markhami*, near Isla San Cristóbal, Galápagos province (J. Gilliam; ML 92349131)...

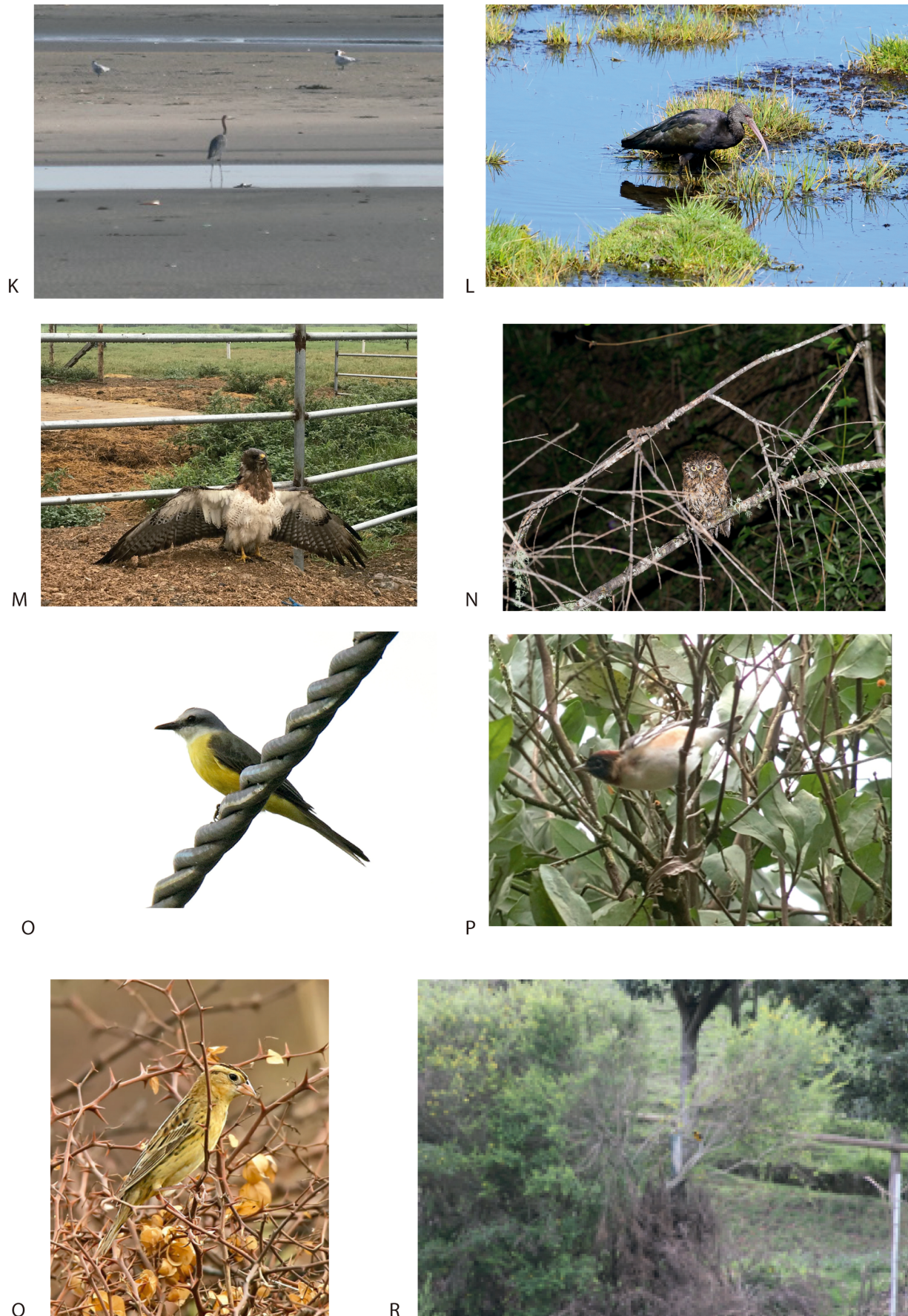


Figure 5: Rare birds recorded in Ecuador ...k) *Egretta rufescens*, Pacoa, Santa Elena province (B. Haase); l) *Plegadis ridgwayi*, Limpiopungo, Pichincha province (N. G. Morelos); m) *Buteo swainsonii*, Manantiales, Manabí province (G. Donoso); n) *Megascops koepckeae*, Loja city, Loja province (P. Székely); o) *Tyrannus albogularis*, Nuevo Rocafuerte,

Orellana province (R. Ahlman; ML 99462291); p) *Setophaga castanea*, Mindo, Pichincha province (D. Jumbo; ML 145236871); q) *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Punta Galera, Esmeraldas province (R. Ahlman; ML 20370761); r) *Icterus chrysater*, El Carrizal, Carchi province (G. Lucero).

Pearly-breasted Conebill *Conirostrum margaritae

Orellana Province, river island close to Nuevo Rocafuerte, 6 May 2018, R. Ahlman (photo).

One pair was first found in a small patch of medium-aged *Cecropia* on a small river island dominated by grassy vegetation (Fig. 1c; Ahlman, 2018a), where it responded strongly to playback by approaching and singing. It was observed again on 4 May 2019 by the same observer, together with J. Illanes and X. Chv (eBird, 2020). This is the first record of the species for Ecuador and one of the few records along the Río Napo—and the westernmost in the Amazon basin (Schulenberg *et al.*, 2006).

Orange-headed Tanager *Thlypopsis sordida*

Zamora Chinchipe Province, Paquisha, 22 July 2017, F. Castillo (photo).

Three birds were first seen in July 2017 and remained in the area until at least the end of that year, including repeated observations at the same fruit feeder (Fig. 4r). This species is mostly confined to riparian secondary vegetation and was, until recently, mainly confined to river islands and the riparian vegetation along the shorelines of major rivers (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001; McMullan & Navarrete, 2017). However, it appears to be spreading into second-growth areas away from rivers and into the Andean foothills (Krabbe, 2018; eBird, 2020), likely in response to deforestation.

Other records received

The following records, received by CERO, do not represent significant range extensions but add to our knowledge of bird distributions in Ecuador.

Gould's Jewelfront *Heliodoxa aurescens*. Two adults (male and female) at 24 de Mayo, Pastaza province (16–18 November 2017; W. Arteaga-Chávez), mist-netted and observed in primary forest and edge at 1280 m a.s.l. [Mostly recorded below 1250 m, locally higher; Freile & Restall, 2018].

Gray-capped Cuckoo *Coccyzus lansbergi*. One individual was observed and photographed in December 2017–January 2018 at Mashpi Shungo Reserve (H. and N. Jacob, A. Solano-Ugalde). [Few records in humid lowlands of Pichincha province and neighboring areas; Freile & Restall, 2018].

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis sylvicola*. One pair was observed in June 2015 at La Tembladera (A. Solano-Ugalde, M. Sánchez-Nivicela, R. Ahlman and J. Freile) swimming in open water near floating vegetation. After first appearing in 2015, the species was again observed several times at La Tembladera in the second half of 2018, with the highest reported count being an astonishing 300 individuals in early August (eBird, 2020). Sporadic records have continued into early 2020 (eBird, 2020). [Few localities known in Ecuador to date; trend in population numbers is not well understood, but population considered small and declining; Freile *et al.*, 2019b].

Horned Screamer *Anhima cornuta*. Up to four individuals were seen at La Tambladera in June 2015 (A. Solano-Ugalde, M. Sánchez-Nivicela, R. Ahlman and J. Freile), where the species is regularly seen in low numbers. [Localities for this species in western Ecuador and number of individuals has increased notably in recent years (Martínez & Gastezzi, 2014; Freile *et al.*, 2019a)].

Gray-breasted Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus griseipectus*. One individual was seen, heard, and audio-recorded at Mashpi Shungo Reserve for about one month in December 2017–January 2018 in second-growth woodland and a bamboo grove. [Few records from the humid lowlands, where apparently seasonal].

Golden Grosbeak *Pheucticus chrysogaster*. One female was observed and photographed in a bird hide feeding with other frugivores at Reserva Los Laureles de Guasaganda, La Maná, Cotopaxi province (C. Pellet, November 2017). [Rare in subtropics and foothills of western Ecuador, where possibly expanding following deforestation].

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. One adult male was observed at an open area in Reserva Los Laureles de Guasaganda, La Maná, Cotopaxi province (C. Pellet, April 2018). [Considered to be a rare boreal winter resident, mostly recorded in October–March; Freile & Restall, 2018].

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*. One individual was observed visiting a plantain feeder at Yanacocha Reserve (P. Greenfield and others, November 2018); it was mostly female-plumaged but showed some smudges of black feathers that suggested it was a young male. [Highest known record, c. 1500 m above its regular altitudinal range; Freile & Restall (2018), but likely spreading due to deforestation; one pair has become regular at Yanacocha recently; first records from this locality date back to January 2018 (eBird, 2020). There are additional records from the Quito area dating back to 2015 (Ahlman, 2015a) and from the Perucho valley (Loaiza, 2020) that support the range expansion hypothesis].

Rejected records

Table 2 presents six records rejected due to insufficient information and/or erroneous identifications. CERO postponed decisions on seven additional reports because submitted information was unsatisfactory to reach a definitive conclusion. Postponed records include one species reported for the first time in Ecuador (Bronzy Jacamar *Galbula leucogastra*; see Carrasco, 2016), for which CERO believes further field observations are needed.

Table 2: Summary of rejected records submitted to the Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) between November 2017–June 2019.

Record number	Species	Locality, province	Date	Notes
2018-004	American Avocet <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Manta-Montecristi area, Manabí	15 December 2017	Probably mis-identified; insufficient description.
2018-030	Pavonine Quetzal <i>Pharomachrus pavoninus</i>	La Josefina, Pichincha	20 August 2018	Mis-identified Crested Quetzal <i>P. antisianus</i> .
2019-006	Golden-headed Quetzal <i>Pharomachrus auriceps</i>	Parque Guápulo, Pichincha	April 2019	Mis-identified Crested Quetzal <i>P. antisianus</i> .
2019-021	Purple Martin <i>Progne subis</i>	La Lobería, San Cristóbal, Galápagos	12 January 2019	Mis-identified young Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> .
2018-008	Chestnut-collared Swallow <i>Petrochelidon rufocollaris</i>	Meseta de Gualpi, vía Chical, Carchi	24 February 2018	Mis-identified young Blue-and-white Swallow <i>Pygochelidon cyanoleuca</i> .
2018-032	Darwin-Finch <i>Geospiza</i> sp.	Milagro, Guayas	October 2018	Mis-identified young Shiny Cowbird <i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>

Invalidated record

Saffron-headed Parrot *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. There are five undocumented sightings in Ecuador. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) discuss two of them: a pair observed by J. C. Matheus at Salto del Bravo in 1992 and 20 individuals observed by F. Sornoza near Pedro Vicente Maldonado in 1998. Later records include one individual believed seen at Estero Capulí, in Chachi indigenous territory, Esmeraldas province, by the Santiago-Ónzole rivers, by A. Solano-Ugalde. Additional observations, with little further details, were reported by Benítez & Matheus (1997) and Benítez *et al.* (1997).

After observing *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* in Colombia and juvenile Rose-faced Parrot *P. pulchra* in Colombia and Ecuador, A. Solano-Ugalde retracted his original identification. Juvenile *P. pulchra* has yellowish brown head,

not the intense rich yellow of *P. pyrilia*, but light conditions can mislead identification. Likewise, P. Greenfield discussed the first record of this species in Ecuador with the late J. C. Matheus, who admitted a potential confusion with juvenile *P. pulchra*, whereas F. Sornoza also conceded that misidentified juveniles could have been involved in his record.

None of the observers involved mentioned important field marks to separate these two species: red underwing coverts and yellow ‘shoulder’ patches (Hilty & Brown, 1986), and likely used the color of the head as the single identification character. As further discussed by Jahn (2011), “freshly fledged juveniles of *P. pulchra* have basically yellowish-brown heads... much like adults of *P. pyrilia*”. He further argues that “under certain light conditions, *e.g.*, when the sunlight reflects on the crown and hind neck, distant or fast-flying adults of *P. pulchra* may look almost golden-headed and can be easily confused with *P. pyrilia*”.

Since there are no definite records of *P. pyrilia* in a well-surveyed area like Playa de Oro, Esmeraldas province (Jahn, 2011), as well as anywhere else in the lowlands of western Pichincha, where bird observation is a regular activity by residents and visitors alike, we regard all records as unproven. Juan C. Matheus obtained observations reported by Benítez & Matheus (1997) and Benítez *et al.* (1997) in short visits to Charco Vicente and Estero Pote, two localities well studied by O. Jahn and P. Mena-Valenzuela (see Jahn, 2011). Since J. C. Matheus dismissed his other record at Salto del Bravo, it is plausible that these records at Charco Vicente and Estero Pote also involved misidentified *P. pulchra*.

There are no records south of the Río San Juan in Cauca Department, western Colombia (Ayerbe-Quiñones, 2018), *c.* 360 km north-northwest of the Ecuadorian border. The species is not known to engage in seasonal migrations and, therefore, should not be expected to occur in Ecuador as a vagrant. In light of the distance from known populations and the fact that the Ecuadorian sightings most likely involved misidentified individuals, CERO removes *P. pyrilia* from the Ecuador bird list.

Undocumented, published records

A few undocumented Ecuador records have been considered valid in previous publications (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001; McMullan & Navarrete, 2017; Freile & Restall, 2018). Some records, albeit undocumented, have been accepted as valid without hesitation (*e.g.*, Pale-billed Hornero *Furnarius torridus*; Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001), while others have been maintained on the country checklist due to lack of evidence to prove them erroneous, as has been the practice of CERO in previous reports (Nilsson *et al.*, 2014; Freile *et al.*, 2017, 2019a). In the following accounts, we review some controversial published records, all of which lack documentation and may well turn out to be invalid due to misidentifications or imprecise locations. Decisions upon records of the following species are pending until receiving a formal proposal to remove them from the Ecuador’s list or to revise their status in the country.

Green-tailed Goldenthrroat *Polytmus theresiae*. There are two specimens (male and female) collected at Laguna de Siguin, Pastaza province (Berlioz, 1937), a locality long considered imprecise (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001) and even asserted to be in Peru (Ridgely & Cooper, 2011). There is a site named Siguin north of Río Pastaza, *c.* 25 km southeast of Puyo, but elevation and habitat there seem inappropriate for the species (Table 1). However, there are records in northern Peru along the lower Pastaza drainage (Schulenberg *et al.*, 2007) that might suggest its presence on the Ecuadorian side of the Pastaza. *Fide* P. J. Greenfield, some observers argued that it might be present in the Kapawi area, Pastaza. Until presence/absence in this area is proven, the species remains as hypothetical/undocumented.

Rufous-crested Coquette *Lophornis delattrei*. There is a single sight record of a pair seen at Jatun Sacha, Napo province, by B. Bochan on 19–25 April 1992 (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). Identification criteria to distinguish this species from Spangled Coquette *L. stictolophus* are still evolving (Ridgely & Cooper, 2011). Thus, the fact that few field guides were available by 1992 (Hilty & Brown, 1986), coupled with a deficient knowledge of these species’ distributions, suggests a possible misidentification. Given that the observer did not provide field notes and descriptions of her sightings, it remains impossible to determine the validity of this record. There are no further reports of *L. delattrei* from Jatun Sacha and other areas at similar elevations, and with similar habitats, whereas *L. stictolophus* is regularly recorded in Reserva Ecológica Tamandua and Aguayacu, only 47 km southwest and 26 km northwest of Jatun Sacha, respectively, albeit at higher elevations (eBird, 2020). It should be noted that seasonal altitudinal movements have been reported for *L. delattrei* (McMullan, 2016).

Blue-tufted Starthroat *Helimaster furcifer*. There is a single sight record of an apparent immature male by R. S. R. Williams at La Selva, Sucumbíos province, in December 1994 (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001; or December 1996 *vide* R. S. R. Williams, *in litt.*, June 2020). The apparent lack of supporting evidence, field notes, or descriptions has made some experts (N. Krabbe, R. S. Ridgely, N. Athanas) suggest that the record is not valid (see also Ridgely & Cooper, 2011). However, according to the observer, this record was supported by field notes and a field sketch sent to R. S. Ridgely a few days after fieldwork.

It has been suggested that the species, which ranges from southern Brazil south through northern Argentina (McMullan, 2016), performs some sort of post-breeding migration (Mazzoni & Perillo, 2014). Nonetheless, the date of the purported observation at La Selva does not fit into an austral migration pattern since the species is reported to breed from November to March (Schuchman *et al.*, 2020). There is one additional unproven sighting by X. Amigo nearby Río Bigal Reserve, Orellana province (see Freile & Restall, 2018), but the description is insufficient to validate identification. Robert S. R. Williams (*in litt.*, June 2020) felt confident at the time about his identification in the field, but now believes he cannot be 100% certain that he did not make a mistake. A study of the purported notes and sketch done in the field is pending. However, we believe this species should be removed from the country list since there are no definitive records.

Sapphire-spangled Emerald *Amazilia lactea*. A single sight record involves a presumed male seen by R. S. Ridgely and F. Sornoza in a swampy area along the Maxus road, Orellana province (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). According to N. Krabbe (*in litt.*, January 2008), R. S. Ridgely later admitted his doubt about this sighting since he has subsequently observed Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata* showing bluish-tinged underparts. Although the species is known to engage in local seasonal movements (McMullan, 2016), it is not known from nearby areas in Loreto department, Peru (Schulenberg *et al.*, 2007). The species is transferred to the genus *Chionomesa* by Rensen *et al.* (2020).

Rusty-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca amazonina*. The only existing record involves one pair observed by G. H. Rosenberg at Cerro Mongus, Carchi province in March 1992—and identified by distribution (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). Intensive fieldwork at nearby Guandera Reserve (*i.e.*, 10–12 simultaneous field observers during three consecutive sampling months; Cresswell *et al.*, 1999) failed to detect this species, as well as many repeated visits to Cerro Mongus by several observers (eBird, 2020). The nearest locality for the species is Laguna La Cocha, Nariño department, Colombia, *c.* 110 km northeast of Cerro Mongus (Harding, 2016). Even though G. H. Rosenberg's record could have involved a wandering pair, no movements are reported for the species (Collar & Boesma, 2020) and its close relative, the Red-faced Parrot *H. pyrrhops*, is known to be mostly sedentary (Toyne & Flanagan, 1997).

Gary H. Rosenberg (*in litt.*, June 2020) considers it appropriate to retract his original identification, although the original description in his field notes fits an *Hapalopsittaca*. Either further discussion on this species' status or a formal proposal to remove it from the country's list is needed.

Cinereous Finch *Piezorina cinerea*. A single sight record exists, near El Empalme, Loja province, by B. Whitney on 15 March 1990, with no further observations despite numerous visits to adequate habitat reported by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) and carried on subsequently by several observers. Niels Krabbe (*in litt.*, January, 2008) suggested that this record might correspond to an escaped bird, since it is a common cage-bird in Tumbes, Peru. However, vagrancy could have also been involved (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). Field notes taken by B. M. Whitney suggests a protracted observation that theoretically should have permitted a correct identification (Fig. 6).

While the nearest localities for the species to El Empalme lie *c.* 80 km west and south, respectively, and 15 km west and 50 km south of the nearest Ecuadorian border (eBird, 2020), there are also records further west, near the coast, only 2–3 km south of the Ecuadorian border, implying that the species might eventually be recorded again in Ecuador. Degradation of habitat structure driven primarily by historical and recent land use changes are reported as drivers of variation in the distribution and abundance of Tumbesian species (Devenish *et al.*, 2017). These changes can allow species that are tolerant of degraded habitats, such as *Piezorina cinerea*, to colonize new areas as their local abundances increase and their ranges expand.

About 11:00 I decided to go to Celica, so re-set 0 km at jct. Loja/Velacuy road. Forgot to get km in Velacuy, but it is ± 16.5 km I think. Anyway, it's 34.0 km to the plaza in Catacocha at 6200'. I made a couple stops (hot, windy mid-pm) at 43.6 km (4100') where watered, wooded ravine crosses road at 60.6-61.3 in first more-or-less undisturbed habitat since Catacocha. At 61.3 there is a sizeable stream crossing road and room to drive in off road on right. This is $\pm 3350'$. I spent 1.5 hr. here hauling way up stream-bed and up in hills (some nice big trees incl. some Bombar) but just too hot + windy for much good. Hoping for *Empidonax griseipectus* in area. Continuing to "El Empalme" I made several more stops. Lots of nice big "bottle-trees" (Bombar?) and bromeliad (*Tillandsia*)-covered oak-like trees. Habitat in many areas seems very healthy, except for grazing in understory, which is really bad in some areas, esp. as you near "El Empalme." Saw what I'm sure was a ♀ *Piezorhina cinerea* in this area (± 207 km N. ← "El Empalme"?) which seemed just like those I saw in Lambayeque, Peru Aug. 89. Responded mildly to tape of *Glaucoedon brasilianum*. This was 3650'. "El Empalme" is ± 85 km from Loja/Velacuy jct. 4 Portavalo road. Re-set 0 km here as I headed up toward Celica (El Empalme is $\pm 2750'$). Humid

This is 156 km W. of Loja
 Metal bridge over Rio Colomayo

Figure 6: Fragment of field notebook by B. M. Whitney of the single sight record of Cinereous Finch *Piezorhina cinerea* in Ecuador.

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