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SEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ECUADORIAN RECORDS IN ORNITHOLOGY (CERO)

Séptimo reporte del Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos (CERO)

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Resumen

Presentamos nuevos registros de distribución de aves del Ecuador que han sido evaluados por el Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos (CERO) entre diciembre de 2021 y julio de 2025. Incorporamos registros de cinco especies nuevas en la lista nacional: *Columbina squammata*, *Poikilocarbo gaimardi*, *Nonnula ruficapilla*, *Myiarchus semirufus* y *Vireo altiloquus*, todos en Ecuador continental, e incorporamos una especie a la lista del Ecuador continental (*Pterodroma externa*) que había sido registrada antes solo en Galápagos. Además, incluimos los primeros registros documentados de tres especies incluidas previamente en la lista de aves de Ecuador a partir de observaciones no verificadas: *Chaetura chapmani*, *Thaumasius taczanowskii* y *Laterallus flaviventer*, y presentamos la primera documentación de reproducción en el país de *Paroaria coronata*. También presentamos registros de 20 taxones raros o poco frecuentes en Ecuador, incluyendo extensiones notables de distribución (*Nothoprocta curvirostris*, *Penelope ortoni*, *Crax rubra*, *Odontophorus stellatus*, *Thalassarche bulleri*, *Pelecanoides* sp., *Anous minutus*, *Vanellus resplendens*, *Haematopus ater*, *Sternula antillarum*, *Phaetusa simplex*, *Steatornis caripensis*, *Lophornis verreauxi*, *Crotophaga major*, *Conopias parvus*, *Syrtidicola fluviatilis*, *Tyrannus dominicensis*, *Tyrannus savana*, *Oporornis agilis* y *Quiscalus mexicanus*). Asimismo, evaluamos 12 registros que no fueron aceptados por ser identificaciones erróneas o que su aceptación por parte de CERO fue pospuesta por falta de un respaldo descriptivo sólido. Por último, discutimos tres casos especiales de nueva información de distribución de las siguientes especies: *Elaenia pelzelni* en islas fluviales del extremo este del país, un registro de *Geothlypis* sp. (*velata* o *aequinoctialis*) en los Andes del noreste y un registro de *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* de aparente origen asistido en Ecuador (*i.e.*, liberado de cautiverio o transportado por humanos hasta el país). También discutimos la distribución de *Zimmerius chrysops* en el noroeste de Ecuador con respecto a *Z. albigularis* y la posibilidad de que se trate de una zona de hibridación, y aceptamos eliminar a *Chloropipo flavicapilla* de la lista de aves del país porque el único espécimen existente ha sido reidentificado como *Cryptopipo holochlora*. La más reciente revisión y actualización de CERO del listado nacional de aves resulta en 1735 especies (1685 confirmadas y documentadas con evidencia y 50 no documentadas).

Palabras clave

Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos, extensiones de distribución, nuevos registros, registros hipotéticos, aves del Ecuador.

Abstract

We present new bird records from Ecuador as evaluated by the Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) between December 2021 and July 2025. We present the first country records of five species: *Columbina squammata*, *Poikilocarbo gaimardi*, *Nonnula ruficapilla*, *Myiarchus semirufus* and *Vireo altiloquus*, all from mainland Ecuador, and one species reported for the first time in mainland Ecuador (*Pterodroma externa*), which was previously reported only from Galápagos. We also showcase the first documentation of three species previously included in the country bird checklist on the basis of undocumented sightings: *Chaetura chapmani*, *Thaumasius taczanowskii* and *Laterallus flaviventer*, and present the first documentation of breeding in Ecuador of *Paroaria coronata*. Further, we present new data on the distribution of 20 rare or poorly known taxa in Ecuador, including remarkable range extensions (*Nothoprocta curvirostris*, *Penelope ortoni*, *Crax rubra*, *Odontophorus stellatus*, *Thalassarche bulleri*, *Pelecanoides* sp., *Anous minutus*, *Vanellus resplendens*, *Haematopus ater*, *Sternula antillarum*, *Phaetusa simplex*, *Steatornis caripensis*, *Lophornis verreauxi*, *Crotophaga major*, *Conopias parvus*, *Syrtidicola fluviatilis*, *Tyrannus dominicensis*, *Tyrannus savana*, *Oporornis agilis*, and *Quiscalus mexicanus*). We evaluated 12 records that were rejected due to misidentification or that their acceptance by CERO was postponed due to the lack of appropriate documentation. Last, we discuss three special cases of new information for the following species: *Elaenia pelzelni* in fluvial islands in extreme eastern Ecuador, a record of *Geothlypis* sp. (*velata* or *aequinoctialis*) in the northeastern Andes and one *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* whose arrival to Ecuador may have been human-assisted. Further, we discuss the distribution of *Zimmerius chrysops* in northwestern Ecuador in relation *to Z. albigularis* and the possibility of a hybrid zone and we accept removing *Chloropipo flavicapilla* from the country checklist because the only known specimen was reidentified as *Cryptopipo holochlora*. The most updated version of the official checklist of the birds of Ecuador by CERO has 1735 species (1685 documented and confirmed, 50 undocumented).

Key words

Ecuadorian Committee Ornithological Records, hypothetical records, new country records, range extensions, birds of Ecuador.

Introduction

Bird record committees review new and noteworthy records, validate new information on species distributions, and revise and update bird species lists for given geopolitical units (Freile *et al.*, 2018). A wealth of data that might remain otherwise unpublished and unverified is periodically compiled by record committees and published as online reports or peer-reviewed papers. Yet, reviewing and validating the overwhelming quantity of data generated in recent decades—unprecedented in the history of ornithology—is a tremendous task that can easily surpass committees' capabilities. This novel scenario represents a conundrum for bird records committees: should they expand their coverage beyond the new country records and remarkable "rarities" that tend to make headlines in the local birding and ornithological communities to also include the less-publicized potential range expansions of resident species and unexpected reports of regular migrants that accumulate in online repositories (Sullivan *et al*., 2017; Callaghan *et al*., 2022)? Or should committees simply concentrate on reviewing major 'rarities', leaving this cornucopia of information on regular species unvalidated? The accumulation of data in online repositories, including the massive digitalization of natural history collections (see Maldonado *et al*., 2015), is not a synonym of knowledge growth, since a large amount of data remains unvalidated and unverified, including erroneous or imprecise records in terms of species identification or geographic location (Maldonado *et al*., 2015; Gorleri & Areta, 2022). To deal with the overwhelming task ahead, CERO wishes to create, in the short term, a collective process of online data curation (Baker *et al*., 2021; Eversole & Powell, 2023) for species records from Ecuador (*i.e.*, www.xeno-canto.org, https://www.gbif.org/, https://datazone.darwinfoundation.org/es/checklist/, www.ebird.org, https://www.vertnet.org/, https://bndb.sisbioecuador.bio/bndb/index.php).

Another challenge for record committees is representativeness. Most bird committees from the Neotropics known to us are composed only by men and several committees contain a significant percentage of white men living in the Global North despite the growing communities of in-country birders and ornithologists, including an important number of women and an increasing representation of racial and gender minorities (Soto-Patiño *et al*., 2023; Rivas *et al*., 2025). CERO is not an exception, so we are seeking for opportunities to increase gender equality and participation in the near future (see Cockle *et al*., 2025). As a first step, we acknowledge the need to further share experiences and build capacities in species identification, taxonomy and distribution within the Ecuadorian ornithological community to facilitate a transition to a more inclusive committee. Further, we realize that publishing CERO reports in English limits their accessibility for an important fraction of the Ecuadorian ornithological community, so we are in the process of translating into Spanish all reports published to date and to upload them to CERO website.

In this context, CERO aims to consolidate a single authoritative species list for the country, serving as a resource for further developments in the fields of ornithology, education, birding, and conservation. In this report, we present new distributional records of bird species in Ecuador based on reports submitted to CERO from December 2021 through July 2025. The updated official checklist of birds of Ecuador (Freile *et al.*, 2025) contains 1735 species (50 undocumented). The complete list is available at www.ceroecuador.wordpress.com.

Methods

CERO follows two main methodologies to review new country records, records of rare species, significant range extensions, and other noteworthy records. We review reports submitted directly to the committee by observers and search for rarities reported on social media or online bird observation platforms like eBird or iNaturalist. In the later case, we reach out to observers with a request that they prepare and submit a report. Sometimes in the absence of a report from the observer(s), we directly evaluate online records using information uploaded to eBird or iNaturalist. The national country checklist and a list of 'most-wanted' species are published on the CERO's webpage, allowing observers to revise the status of Ecuador's birds (www.ceroecuador.wordpress.com). We define rare species as: (1) considered generally rare or seldom recorded (see Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001; McMullan & Navarrete, 2017; Freile & Restall, 2018); (2) poorly known regarding their distribution and status in the country; (3) having few and sparse records across the country and across years; and (4) in high threat categories following Freile *et al*. (2019a).

For this report, CERO reviewed 46 reports compiled from December 2021 through July 2025. These reports were obtained in the field from September 2015 to May 2025, and were obtained using varied survey protocols and documentation techniques. Documentation accepted as valid by CERO for this report include: photographs, videos, and audio recordings. Records of new species for Ecuador demanded a unanimous vote by the committee, while first documentation for a species, new sight reports of still-undocumented species and major range extensions were accepted by majority vote.

Photo and audio documentation were deposited by observers in Macaulay Library (ML; www.macaulaylibrary.org) or Xeno-canto (http://www.xeno-canto.org); ML or XC codes and citations are provided in the species accounts below. Photographs and other documentation are stored in the CERO archives, and a sample of vouchers is published in Figures 1–9. Locality coordinates and elevations are provided in Table 2. New country records are marked with an asterisk in the species accounts. Taxonomy and species sequence in the Results and Discussion section follow version 2025 of AviList: The Global Avian Checklist (AviList Core Team 2025, Rheindt *et al*., 2025).

Results and Discussion

This report includes 34 accepted records and 12 rejected/postponed records. Three rejected/postponed records are discussed in detail in the species accounts, while the remaining nine are presented in Table 1.

Curve-billed Tinamou *Nothoprocta curvirostris*

Pichincha province, road from Tanlahua to Perucho (0.086722, -78.435639; 1890 m a.s.l.), May-August 2023, J. M. Loaiza (audios; XC820376, XC820377, XC800068, XC800074, XC798547, XC798548).

A resident population was found in dry scrub along the road from San Antonio de Pichincha and Hacienda Tanlahua to Perucho, where several individuals have been heard, including at least two males displaying and three females. Several additional recordings have been obtained by J. M. Loaiza in 2022, 2023, and 2025 in the dry valleys spanning from Pomasqui to Calacalí and San Antonio, north of Quito, beyond those previously reported to CERO, at elevations ranging from 1850–3000 m a.s.l. (Loaiza, 2023; see xeno-canto.org). This species is nearly endemic to Ecuador, with previously known records spanning mostly from 3000–4050 m a.s.l. (Freile *et al*., 2025).

Baudo Guan *Penelope ortoni*

Pichincha province, Séptimo Paraíso, Mindo (-0.03028, -78.7635; 1560 m a.s.l.), 13 March 2024, R. Grefa, P. Greenfield, L. Gillette (photo).

One individual was observed perching silently, gliding, and then feeding on palm fruits at 30–60 m distance (Fig. 4A). It differed from Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*, the expected species of *Penelope* in the Mindo area, by its

small size, lack of rufescent coloration on the lower belly and crissum, no crest, and small dewlap. It was differentiated from Andean Guan *P. montagnii* of higher elevations by its dark rump and crissum (Freile & Restall, 2018). This is the highest (*c*. 1500 m a.s.l.) report known to us, since the species is more often found below 1000 m a.s.l. (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). There are also recent records from Los Cedros Biological Station, Imbabura province, up to 1300 m a.s.l. (Salazar-Vaca *et al*., 2016).

Great Curassow *Crax rubra*

Esmeraldas province, Refugio de Vida Silvestre El Pambilar (0.609, -78.160; 360 m a.s.l.), 23 June 2022, D. García (photo).

One male was photographed in a camera trap as it walked along a trail in mature forest (Fig. 4B; Bonilla *et al*., 2022). There are very few recent records of this species in Ecuador, where it is considered as Critically Endangered due to extensive habitat loss and intense hunting (Freile *et al*., 2019a). The El Pambilar-Canandé-Tesoro Escondido region might prove crucial for the subsistence of this species in Ecuador.

Starred Wood Quail *Odontophorus stellatus*

Morona Santiago province, San José de Morona (-2.891667, -77.681257; 210 m a.s.l.), 25 August 2023, D. Utitiaj, C. Proaño (audio; XC 826393).

One individual was heard singing at 17h15 inside secondary forest and audio-recorded (Utitiaj, 2023). The species was relocated at the same site in June and September 2024, but not in November 2024 (eBird, 2025). Another record was obtained in Llanchamacocha, Pastaza province, by Argüello *et al*. (2024), who obtained the first photographic documentation.

This species is very rare in Ecuador, previously known from a few specimens collected mostly in the southeast (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001) during the mid-20th century. The last documented report dates back to 1963. Thus, these records from San José de Morona and Llanchamacocha are the first modern observations, apart from a few unsubstantiated sightings mentioned in Ridgely & Greenfield (2001).

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*

Zamora Chinchipe province, Río Bombuscaro (-4.0736, -78.9505; 900 m a.s.l.), 25 December 2023, C. Crespo (photo).

One bird was observed moving at low height among riparian vegetation (Fig. 4C). There are very few recent records of this widespread species in the foothills of the Andes in southeastern Ecuador up to 1000 m a.s.l. (eBird, 2025). It tends to disperse over large distances and to spread following newly deforested areas.

*Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata*

Napo province, Aeropuerto Jumandy (-1.05593, -77.58208; 370 m a.s.l.), 13 May 2023, J. Rivadeneyra, L. Chancushig, F. Grefa, J. Alvarado (photo).

One individual was observed (and two were allegedly heard) while foraging on the ground and perching on buildings and other infrastructure from 16h30 to 17h30 on 13 May 2023 and again on the morning of 14 May 2023. Presumably the same individual, which turned out to be a female, was observed copulating with a male Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti* in late May by Paulo Clemente, and was observed interacting with several *C. talpacoti* by other observers (Clemente, 2023). A nest with the female incubating was later reported by L. Chancusig on 28 July 2023 (Chancusig, 2023a). A presumed hybrid fledgling was first reported on 14 October 2023 by the same observer (Chancusig, 2023b) and later photographed by J. C. Figueroa in early December 2023 (Fig. 1A). The hybrid was buffy with paler front and face and mostly plain wing coverts with a few black spots suggesting male parentage by *C. talpacoti* but showed faint

dusky scaling throughout (including the wing coverts, which also showed some whitish scales), an elongated tail, and rufous inner webs of the primaries, as in the parental female (Fig. 1B). The species was repeatedly observed at the same locality onwards, with the latest record in March 2023 (Chancusig, 2025).

This represents the first published record of *C. squammata* in Ecuador, but we presume the species will increase in numbers and distribution in western Amazonia following corridors of deforested areas. The photos of the hybrid juvenile taken at the same locality are the first evidence of hybridization between these two widespread doves (Silva *et al*., 2025).

Figure 1: New country records for Ecuador. (A) *Columbina squammata*, Aeropuerto Jumandy, Napo province (J. C. Figueroa); (B) hybrid *Columbina squammata* x *C. talpacoti*, Aeropuerto Jumandy, Napo province (J. C. Figueroa); (C) *Poikilocarbo gaimardi*, Bajo Alto, El Oro province (C. Proaño; ML 580221671); (D) *Nonnula ru icapilla*, Mandaripanga, Orellana province (J. Illanes; ML 521166211); (E) *Myiarchus semirufus*, Limones, Loja province (A. Carrasco; ML 407676851); (F) *Myiarchus semirufus*, Subida Alta, Guayas province (J. Romero; ML 627604458); and (G) *Vireo altiloquus*, Parque Kennedy, Guayas province (C. Ponce; ML 624921736).

Yellow-breasted Crake *Laterallus flaviventer*

Sucumbíos province, Reserva Biológica Limoncocha (-0.39556, -76.61703; 245 m a.s.l.), 2 September 2023, R. Furrow, A. Jaramillo-Toledo, D. Karp, C. Landázuri (photo).

One individual was observed, photographed, and audio-recorded, and a second individual was heard calling in the distance (Fig. 3A) (Furrow *et al*., 2023). Habitat was dense grass and floating vegetation on the northern side of Limoncocha lagoon. This and other pairs have been subsequently reported from at least two different spots in the lagoon (eBird, 2025) and breeding evidence was found by Schriefer *et al*. (2025) in February 2025, when they observed two adults, one juvenile and two chicks.

This is the first documentation from Ecuador for this species, which was previously included in the country bird list on the basis of undocumented observations at La Segua, Manabí province (López-Lanús & Gastezzi-Arias, 2000). One subsequent report from La Segua was previously rejected by CERO (Sánchez-Nivicela *et al*., 2023).

Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater*

Guayas province, Isla Puná (-2.7586, -80.2173; 0 m a.s.l.), 19 June 2023, J. C. Figueroa, J. C. Navarro, G. Maenz, J. D. Morales, R. Valencia (photo).

One bird was observed standing and foraging on a sandy and muddy beach on the northwestern coast of Isla Puná, at 11h50 (Fig. 4D). Presumably, the same individual was relocated on 23, 24, and 27 June 2023 foraging alongside American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* north of Bellavista village, 2–3 km north of the beach where first found (eBird, 2025). This species was only recently added to the bird list of Ecuador (Nilsson *et al*., 2014) based on observations at Chanduy, Santa Elena province, and was previously reported from Isla Puná by Nazati (2016). It is still known from very few records, mostly from mid-June through late August, but also in October, November, and January (Freile & Restall, 2018; eBird, 2025).

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*

Santa Elena province, Punta Brava (-2.196928, -81.001434; 0 m a.s.l.), 31 May 2023, W. Lucero (photo).

A flock of five individuals was observed flying and feeding on a sandy beach (Fig. 4E) for *c*. 20 min and then flying south. There are few records from the Pacific lowlands and coast of this primarily montane wader (Freile & Restall, 2018), including previous photographic, sight, and specimen records from Santa Elena peninsula (Haase, 2019; eBird, 2025).

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

Santa Elena province, Ayangue (-1.979463, -80.754676; 0 m a.s.l.), 6 September 2022, J. C. Figueroa (photo).

One bird was observed for 30 min flying low over the sea, near a rocky and sandy coast, at 16h30 (Fig. 4F). Presumably the same individual was observed again on 10 September 2022 by J. C. Figueroa, D. Espinoza, and M. Prado, but not on 24 September by J. Freile, R. Rivas, J. C. Figueroa, and D. Espinoza. The longish bill, blackish body, and more contrasting white cap with sharp rear end were diagnostic (Howell & Zufelt, 2019). This is the third record of *A. minutus* in Ecuador (Haase, 2019; Freile *et al*., 2020). The subspecies identity of birds photographed in Ecuador remains to be determined.

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*

Santa Elena province, Ecuasal Mar Bravo (-2.246064, -80.94171; 0 m a.s.l.), 9 October 2024, B. Haase, L. Guale (photo).

Two non-breeding adults were observed and photographed at a 30 m distance resting on the ground within a flock of South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea* and Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* (Fig. 4G). There are very few records, mostly of single individuals, of this boreal vagrant species in coastal Ecuador (Haase, 2019; Freile *et al*., 2019b). The species mostly winters along the northern coast of South America (Thompson *et al*., 2020).

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

Manabí province, off Cerro Chuchón (-1.468913, -80.844486; 0 m a.s.l.), 3 October 2023, S. Quimiz Barzola (photo).

A solitary individual, presumably a second-cycle immature (Howell, 2009), was observed calmly resting on the water surface only *c*. 6 km from the coastline (Fig. 4H). Clearer photos of presumably the same individual were obtained on the same day by Schraven (2023) in an imprecise location at sea. Bill pattern and head color are the most distinctive features to separate it from similar *Thalassarche* species (Onley & Scofield, 2007; Howell & Zufelt, 2019). This represents the second documented and published record in Ecuador (Freile *et al*., 2017; Haase, 2019). Haase (2019) reports an additional record of one individual photographed off Salinas in September 2014, but this photo is not publicly available for validation.

Undetermined Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides* sp.

Manabí province, Puerto López (-1.560328, -80.80456; 0 m a.s.l.), 12 September 2021, F. del Valle Cortés (field sketch).

One individual of undetermined age was observed flying low and fast under the touristic pier of Puerto López; its flight was described by the observer as energetic and restless. Upperparts, including the head, were blackish, underparts were whitish, and the throat was white extending as an incomplete nuchal collar. Greyish tips to the underside of the wings and a short bill were also noted (Fig. 4I; see del Valle, 2021). It somewhat recalled an alcid to the observer, who is more familiar with Northern Hemisphere birds. Even though the most likely species is Peruvian Diving Petrel *P. garnotii*, the description and field sketch are insufficient to discard the possibility of an accidental Magellanic Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides magellanicus* (Howell & Zufelt, 2019). There is only one previous record of *P. garnotii* in Ecuador (Freile *et al*., 2020).

Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa*

Azuay province, San José de Guanduyacu (-3.3060518, -79.6338388; 380 m a.s.l.), 1-2 January 2025, Rosa Heras and family (photos).

One weak individual arrived to a farm 40 km inland and was rescued by farmers and delivered to local authorities of the Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica in nearby Machala. It later passed away, but the carcass was not saved for transference to a natural history collection, despite efforts by Manuel Sánchez Nivicela (Fig. 2). It was first identified as Galapagos Petrel *Pterodroma phaeopygia* (see Table 1), but a more thorough study of all available photographs concluded that it actually is *P. externa* based on the following diagnostic characters: (1) pale grey breast-sides concolor with mantle but paler than the dark grey hood; (2) silvery grey mantle with scalloped appearance in lower back; and (3) blackish mask (Onley & Scofield, 2007; Howell & Zufelt, 2019).

This is the first record of this species in continental Ecuador, since it was first reported only recently for the Galapagos Islands (Sánchez-Nivicela *et al*., 2023). There is one previous inland record of this species, even more unexpected than the Azuay record, 63 km from the southern coast of Brazil, in São Paulo (Barbosa *et al*., 2024). This is the second record of a pelagic seabird in inland Ecuador, the first being a *P. phaeopygia* found in western Carchi province (Freile *et al*., 2017). Adverse and severe climatic conditions at sea might cause unusual inland records of pelagic seabirds (Barbosa *et al*., 2024), but an assessment of weather conditions at the time of both inland reports in Ecuador is needed before drawing conclusions.

Figure 2: First records of Juan Fernandez Petrel *Pterodroma externa* in mainland Ecuador, San José de Guanduyacu, Azuay province (R. Heras).

*Red-legged Cormorant *Poikilocarbo gaimardi*

El Oro province, Bajo Alto (-3.10875, -79.90065; 0 m a.s.l.), 29–30 May 2023, C. A. Proaño (photo).

Guayas province, Data de Posorja (-2.721481, -80.29093), 19 June 2023, J. C. Figueroa, J. C. Navarro, G. Maenz, J. D. Morales, R. Valencia (photo)

One adult cormorant was observed for *c*. 15 min at Bajo Alto perching on a rocky breakwater for 2 consecutive days. It was panting and likely sunbathing its wings (Fig. 1C). Presumably the same adult and an immature individual (*fide* J. Nilsson and D. Brinkhuizen) were observed at the same locality up to 27 June, alongside thousands of individuals of other seabird species in an unusual irruption of seabirds that normally occur in colder waters southwards, including Guanay Cormorant *Leucocarbo bougainvilliorum*, Inca Tern *Larosterna inca*, and Peruvian Booby *Sula variegata* (Brinkhuizen, 2023).

Additionally, in Data de Posorja, 62 km northwest of Bajo Alto, one adult was observed 2 weeks after the Bajo Alto record (Figueroa *et al*., 2023). It was also perching on a rock near other seabirds and preening. A third record (Barona, 2023) was obtained on 22 June 2023 at El Gallo, 76 km north of Bajo Alto. We cannot determine if the same individuals were involved in all observations.

The report from Bajo Alto is the first record in Ecuador of *P. gaimardi*, which normally occurs along coastal Peru southwards to southern Chile and southern Argentina (Nelson, 2005) and was likely associated with an extreme coastal warming event—a coastal El Niño phenomenon (Peng *et al*., 2024). The species is considered to be mainly sedentary, often dispersing just a few kilometers from breeding grounds and only seldom performing mid-range dispersal (up to 300 km; Nelson, 2005). However, dispersal after severe climatic conditions, mostly southwards, is expected (Zavalaga *et al*., 2002). The species is believed to be dramatically affected by sea temperature changes (Zavalaga *et al*., 2002; Millones *et al*., 2014).

Oilbird *Steatornis caripensis*

El Oro province, Machala (-3.255, -79.9695; 5 m a.s.l.), 4 February 2002, X. Uzhca, C. Romero (photo).

One bird was found perched on a building in downtown Machala (Fig. 4J). There are few records in the Pacific lowlands of this species, which is normally associated with montane and foothill forests of the Andes (Freile & Restall, 2018; eBird, 2025), including one exceptional record from Isla de la Plata, Manabí province (Batie, 2009). The proximity of Machala to the Andean foothills might explain the presence of this wandering individual.

Chapman's Swift *Chaetura chapmani*

Orellana province, Río Cocaya (-0.92122, -75.24896; 180 m a.s.l.), 18 September 2023, J. Nilsson, B. Gualavisi, J. Ribadeneyra (photo, audio XC1058341).

Sucumbíos province, Sendero Polo, Limoncocha (-0.39556, -76.61703; 245 m a.s.l.), 23 December 2023, X. Xu (photo).

The Río Cocaya record involves a single individual observed flying over a small river and adjacent lowland *varzea* forest for *c*. 30 min and against an overcast, dark sky (Fig. 3B). It was identified from accompanying Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura* by its larger size and longer wings, uniformly dark plumage with no contrasting throat or rump, and longer tail (Schulenberg *et al*., 2010). It was also identified from other similar and potentially concurring species, including the boreal migrant Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*, by the longer wings, location of the wing bend farther from the body, slightly straighter leading edge of the outer wing (hand), more obvious bulge in the middle of the wing, and proportionately smaller, more square-looking head (Schulenberg *et al*., 2010). The flight was described as more powerful and less fluttery than *C. brachyura*, with somewhat deeper wing beats. It typically flew with active wing beats and then sailed/glided for several seconds, with more frequent and longer glides than the accompanying *C. brachyura*. It glided more frequently and the flight was more deliberate, with less banking than would be expected for *C. pelagica*. The Limoncocha record also pertains to a single individual photographed against an overcast sky (Fig. 3C; see Xu *et al*., 2023). It was identified as *C. chapmani* by J. Nilsson based on the same wing-shape and head-shape features mentioned above, as compared to *C. pelagica* and *C. brachyura*.

Both records were originally submitted as subspecies *C. chapmani viridipennis*, but identifying subspecies in *Chaetura* swifts is complicated, and identification criteria are still poorly developed. Therefore, we choose to avoid assigning a subspecies to these records for now, but accept them at the species level. These reports are the first documented records in Ecuador, where previously known from unvouchered sightings (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001; Howell, 2002).

Spot-throated Hummingbird *Thaumasius taczanowskii*

Zamora Chinchipe province, near Río Isimanchi (-4.827, -79.1182; 830 m a.s.l.), 20 November 2022, M. Ruano (photo).

A single adult was observed and photographed in secondary scrub (Fig. 3D) (Ruano, 2022) in the Río Mayo drainage. This is the first vouchered record of this species, which was hitherto undocumented in Ecuador (Freile *et al*., 2025). It was previously included on the country list only on the basis of sight records by several observers, some supported by written descriptions (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2006; Freile *et al*., 2013; eBird, 2025).

*Rufous-capped Nunlet *Nonnula ruficapilla*

Orellana province, Mandaripanga (-0.624020, -76.620734; 240 m a.s.l.), 26 December 2022, O. Licuy, E. Rosen, E. Rosen, E. Gualinga (photo).

One adult was first observed in the interior of *varzea* forest singing and perching calmly 3 m above ground at 8h00 (Fig. 1D) and later relocated in the afternoon by J. Illanes. This unexpected record is the first in Ecuador, and the site is

450–500 km north and northwest of the nearest known localities in the department of Loreto, northeastern Peru (eBird, 2025). The intense rufous tone of the breast and rufescent crown suggest that the photographed individual corresponds to subspecies *N. ruficapilla rufipectus*. This record is puzzling since the species is not known to undertake long dispersal/migrations, so a very localized population likely exists in eastern Ecuador.

Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops*

Carchi province, El Goaltal (0.7848, -78.2076; 1100 m a.s.l.), 29 May 2024, J. M. Loaiza, W. Arteaga, D. Valencia, J. C. Crespo, J. D. Loaiza (audio; XC 931904).

Carchi province, Jijón y Caamaño (0.8319, -78.2204; 1900 m a.s.l.), 27 May 2024, J. M. Loaiza, W. Arteaga, D. Valencia, J. C. Crespo, J. D. Loaiza (audio; XC 948658).

Carchi province, El Chical (0.972, -78.1947; 1100 m a.s.l.), 29 May 2024, J. M. Loaiza, W. Arteaga, D. Valencia, J. C. Crespo, J. D. Loaiza (audio; XC 908469).

Imbabura province, Carolina (0.6976, -78.2322; 1200 m a.s.l.), 27 May 2024, J. M. Loaiza, W. Arteaga, D. Valencia, J. C. Crespo, J. D. Loaiza (audio; XC 906727).

Several individuals were regularly heard (Fig. 5) and seen in the four localities mentioned above, at 900–2300 m a.s.l., and later found in several additional sites on the western slope of the Andes in Carchi and adjacent Imbabura provinces (Arteaga-Chávez *et al*., 2025). These authors reported a broader elevational range (600–2600 m a.s.l.) than the records submitted to CERO. Some individuals observed by Loaiza and co-observers had a faint yellowish chin, but others were greyer, and all were reported from forest borders, secondary woodland, orchards, and second-growth shrubs.

These records of *Z. chrysops* submitted to CERO contribute to a better understanding of its distribution in northwestern Ecuador, where the species is confined to the Andean slopes of western Carchi, northern Imbabura, and adjacent Esmeraldas provinces (Arteaga-Chávez *et al*., 2025). It seems plausible that it ranges further south along the western Andes in Imbabura, but this area has not been well explored. Choco Tyrannulet *Zimmerius albigularis* apparently replaces *Z. chrysops* southwards in Imbabura, with records from Los Cedros Reserve, Villaflora, and Chontal (eBird, 2025). Even though there are photographic records assigned to *Z. albigularis* further downslope (e.g., Alto Tambo and La Unión road, at 600–660 m a.s.l.) in northern Esmeraldas province (eBird, 2025), additional audio recordings of dawn songs obtained by J. M. Loaiza *et al*. (2024a; 2024b; Fig. 5) as low as 150 m a.s.l. (Durango) and 340 m a.s.l. (La Puerta) pertain to *Z. chrysops*. These localities are only 30 km north of Playa de Oro, Esmeraldas province, where *Z. albigularis* occurs (Jahn, 1997). It seems plausible that these species overlap and intergrade in western Carchi and northern Esmeraldas, so a thorough acoustic and genomic study is needed in order to resolve the status and distribution of these taxa in the region. See Fig. 5 for a comparison of calls of *Z. chrysops* and *Z. albigularis* recorded at various localities in northwestern Ecuador.

*Rufous Flycatcher *Myiarchus semirufus*

Loja province, Limones (-4.425434, -80.3319; 180 m a.s.l.), 15 January 2022, A. Carrasco, J. Humbser, D. Pacheco, A. Vanegas (photo).

Guayas province, Subida Alta, Isla Puná (-2.8247, -80.236; 5 m a.s.l.), 6 December 2024, J. Romero Rivas (photo).

The Limones record involved a single individual observed for *c*. 5 min as it perched in a *Prosopis* tree in a degraded dry woodland (Vanegas *et al*., 2022; Fig. 1E). It was not relocated on 28 January by several observers. At Subida Alta, one bird was observed two times perching and moving among dry woodland branches 3–4 m above ground, between 7h00–8h00 (Fig. 1F). These observations represent the first and second records of this species in Ecuador, but the Limones record was not entirely unexpected since it only lies 30 km north of the closest documented record in Peru (Lanyon, 1975; see eBird, 2025). Dates might suggest local dispersal, even though the species is considered sedentary (Schulenberg *et al*., 2010).

Three-striped Flycatcher *Conopias trivirgatus*

Orellana province, Río Cocaya (-0.92122, -75.24896; 180 m a.s.l.), 18 September 2023, J. Nilsson, B. Gualavisí, J. Ribadeneira (photo, audio XC 1058401).

A presumed family group of three birds was observed for *c*. 90 min during overcast conditions in a swampy *varzea* forest dominated by small palms (Fig. 4K). They were mostly perching in the canopy, calling regularly, and briefly joining a mixed-species flock. Identification was mostly based on voice, but the following plumage characters were also noted: entirely yellow underparts, relatively thin supercilium that did not reach the bill, and a smudgy, blackish-grey crown paler than the ear coverts (Schulenberg *et al*., 2010). There are very few documented records of this species in Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001), including the only known nest in Ecuador, found between palm fronds in a *terra firme* forest patch surrounded by a cleared area, as reported by Greeney *et al*. (2018).

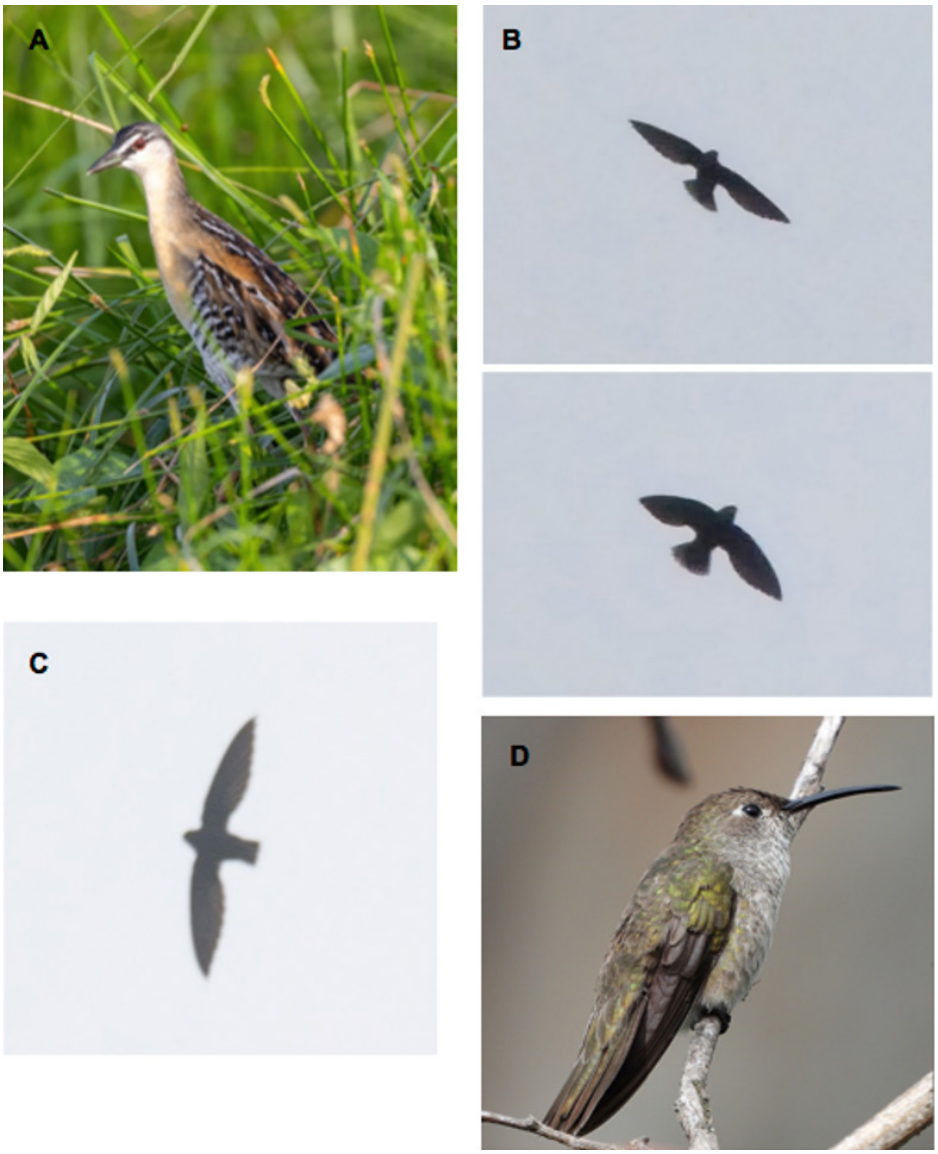

Figure 3: First documented records in Ecuador of species previously listed for the country on the basis of unverified sightings. (A) *Porzana flaviventer*, Reserva Biológica Limoncocha, Sucumbíos province (A. Jaramillo-Toledo); (B) *Chaetura chapmani*, Río Cocaya, Sucumbíos province (B. Gualavisí; ML 645021466, ML 645021387); (C) *Chaetura chapmani*, Reserva Biológica Limoncocha, Sucumbíos province (X. Xu; ML 616711419); and (D) *Thaumasius taczanowskii*, Río Isimanchi, Zamora Chinchipe province (M. Ruano; ML 511166481).

Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis*

Guayas province, Guayaquil (-2.163077, -79.9015; 5 m a.s.l.), 10 November 2022, C. Ponce (photo).

One individual was observed at *c*. 8 m distance perching low in sparse trees in a cleared field (Fig. 4L). There are few records of this boreal migrant in Ecuador, but the number of reports has increased notably since the first documented record obtained by J. Nilsson near Atacames, Esmeraldas province in December 2014 (Freile *et al*., 2017).

Little Ground Tyrant *Syrtidicola fluviatilis*

Loja province, Villonaco (-3.952514, -79.269552; 2640 m a.s.l.), 5-8 August 2022, F. Castillo (photos).

One bird was observed foraging on the ground and in low vegetation in a degraded area near paramo (Castillo, 2022; Fig. 4M). Identification as *S. fluviatilis* was confirmed based on the whitish tone to the underparts (*contra* buffy-white underparts in Spot-billed Ground Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maculirostris*), warm buff crown, shorter legs, and shorter primary projection *versus* expected longer primary projection in austral migrant populations of *M. maculirostris* (Fjeldså & Krabbe, 1990). There are few records of this species in Ecuador, which was only documented for the first time by R. Ahlman in 2014 (Freile *et al*., 2017). The Villonaco report is the first record in the high Andes of Ecuador, but there are at least three records from the Andean slopes near Palanda, Zamora Chinchipe province, obtained in July 1992, January 2019, and November 2021 (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001; eBird, 2025). It remains to be determined if all records in the Andes and Andean slopes of Ecuador involved vagrants from the lowlands or dispersers from further south in the species range (Farnsworth & Langham, 2021).

*Black-whiskered Vireo *Vireo altiloquus*

Guayas province, Parque Lineal Kennedy (-2.161112, -79.902138; 10 m a.s.l.), Guayaquil, 13 October 2024, C. Ponce (photos).

A single bird was observed for *c*. 4 min and photographed (Fig. 1G). It was initially identified as Chivi Vireo *Vireo chivi* (Ponce, 2024), but later spotted on eBird by J. Nilsson, who re-identified it based on its narrow blackish malar stripes. This represents the first record of *V. altiloquus* in Ecuador and one of the very few records along the Pacific lowlands of South America (eBird, 2025). It seems plausible that the species has been overlooked due to its general similarity to *V. chivi*, Red-eyed Vireo *V. olivaceus*, and Yellow-green Vireo *V. flavoviridis*, all well-known species in Ecuador (Freile & Restall, 2018). The first record for South America was obtained in Peru only in 2018 (CRAP, 2020), and perhaps more records will emerge as more observers become aware of its potential for vagrancy to the continent.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Carchi province, El Carmelo (0.6698, -77.5913; 2840 m a.s.l.), 12 March 2023, M. Olivo (photo).

One female-plumaged bird was observed for over 2 h in an urban park during overcast weather (Fig. 4N). Although the species is known to disperse widely following deforestation and habitat change in other countries (Wehtje, 2003), in Ecuador it has remained confined to the coastal lowlands, mainly close to the coastline and in mangroves (McMullan & Navarrete, 2017; Freile & Restall, 2018).

Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*

Pichincha province, Jardín Botánico de Quito (-0.186416, -78.485527; 2780 m a.s.l.), 17 May 2025, L. Navarrete (photo).

A single male individual was observed and photographed while foraging on the ground in fairly dense vegetation (Fig. 4O) (Navarrete, 2025). The same bird was subsequently seen by several observers up to 20 May 2025 (eBird, 2025). There is only one other documented record of *O. agilis* in Ecuador, of a bird mist-netted near Playa de Oro, Esmeraldas province, in 1996 (Jahn *et al*., 1999). Two additional sight records have detailed and compelling descriptions (eBird, 2025). One comes from Camino de Jordán, Sucumbíos province (Brieschke, 2025), which consists of a single individual observed in detail and identified mostly by the broken white eye-ring, and another one comes from Sani Isla, Orellana province, where a presumably female was also identified mainly by the broken eye-ring (Cook, 2012).

Figure 4: Major range extensions and out-of-range records of birds in Ecuador. (A) *Penelope ortoni*, Séptimo Paraíso, Pichincha province (L. Gillette); (B) *Crax rubra*, El Pambilar, Esmeraldas province (D. García); (C) *Crotophaga major*, Río Bombuscaro, Zamora Chinchipe province (C. Crespo); (D) *Haematopus ater*, Isla Puná, Guayas province (J. C. Figueroa); (E) *Vanellus resplendens*, Punta Brava, Santa Elena province (W. Lucero); (F) *Anous minutus*, Ayangue, Santa Elena province (J. C. Figueroa); (G) *Sternula antillarum*, Ecuasal Mar Bravo, Santa Elena province (B. Haase); (H) *Thalassarche bulleri*, off Cerro Chuchón, Santa Elena province (S. Quimiz; ML 609594330); (I) *Pelecanoides* sp., Puerto López, Manabí province (F. del Valle); (J) *Steatornis caripensis*, Machala, El Oro province (X. Uzhca).

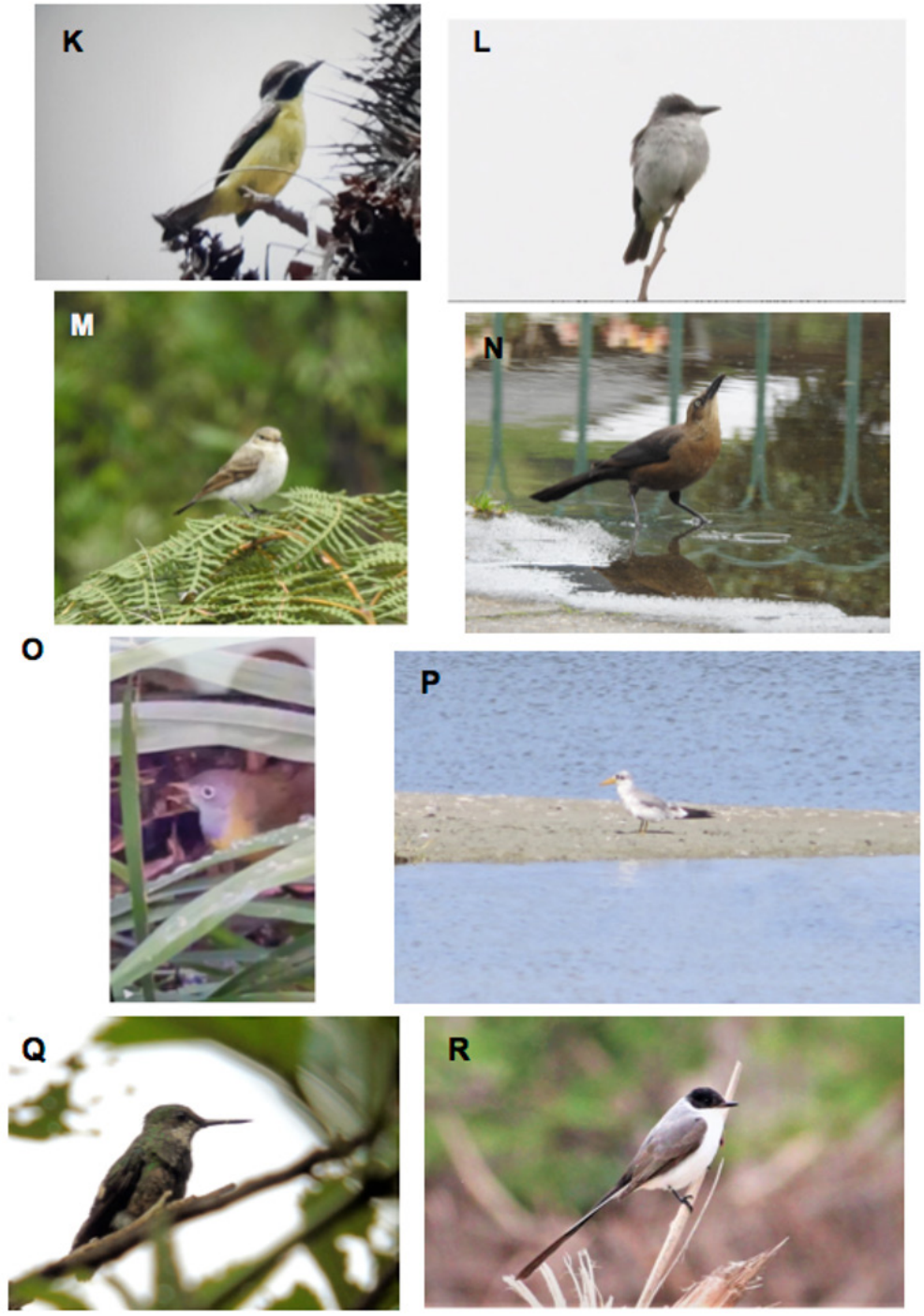

Figure 4: (K) *Conopias parvus*, Río Cocaya, Orellana province (J. Nilsson); (L) *Tyrannus dominicensis*, Guayaquil, Guayas province (C. Ponce; ML 502520521); (M) *Syrtidicola fluviatilis*, Villonaco, Loja province (F. Castillo); (N) *Quiscalus mexicanus*, El Carmelo, Carchi province (M. Olivo); (O) *Oporornis agilis*, Jardín Botánico de Quito, Pichincha province (L. Navarrete; ML 635995971); (P) *Phaetusa simplex*, Ecuasal Mar Bravo, Santa Elena province (B. Haase); (Q) *Lophornis verreauxi*, Limoncocha, Sucumbíos province (C. Landázuri); and (R) *Tyrannus savana*, Isla Mocolí, Guayas province (C. Ponce).

Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*

Imbabura province, Ibarra (0.3451, -78.1343; 2220 m a.s.l.), 23 April 2025, C. Aulestia (photo)

One pair was found attending a nest in an urban park (Fig. 6). The cup-shaped nest was built *c*. 3 m above the ground in a *Sambucus* tree, was constructed mainly with thin dry twigs and contained six whitish eggs with brownish scrawls (Fig. 6).

Records of this species in urban parks of Quito date back to, at least, 2000–2005, but most records involve 1–2 adult individuals, with no signs of breeding (eBird, 2025). It was added to the country list in 2019 as an undocumented, introduced species, but the only documentation of probable breeding available until now was a photo of one adult and two immature birds in a semi-urban garden (Gándara, 2020). The Ibarra nest might represent the first evidence of breeding in Ecuador, even though in a later visit to the nest, C. Aulestia found it presumably abandoned due to human disturbance, so we cannot confirm if the nestlings fledged successfully. The number of eggs in the nest, and the fact that at least two eggs looked slightly larger and less blotched, suggest that the nest was parasitized by Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* (see Segura *et al*., 2015). There are several records of *P. coronata* in Quito, Guayaquil, Riobamba, Mindo, and Cuenca (eBird, 2025), with a single report from a more rural landscape in northeastern Amazonia at Jambelí, Sucumbíos province (Castillo, 2023).

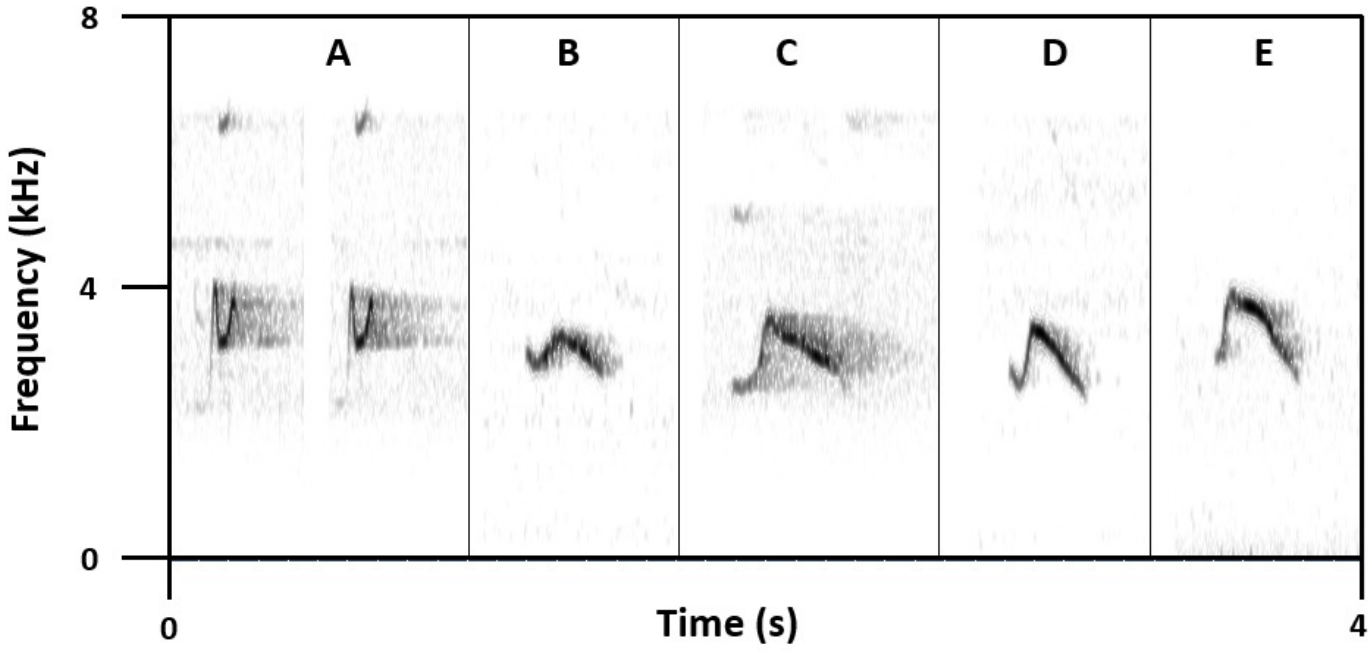

Figure 5: Sonograms of calls of Golden-faced Tyrannulet *Zimmerius chrysops* and Choco Tyrannulet *Zimmerius albigularis* recorded in northwestern Ecuador: (A) *Z. albigularis*, Playa de Oro, Esmeraldas province, June 1997 (O. Jahn, XC 262157; see Jahn, 2011); (B) *Z. chrysops* from El Baboso, Carchi province, January 2025 (J. Freile, XC 1054680; see Taicus *et al*., 2025); (C) *Z. chrysops* from San Vicente Alto, Esmeraldas province, September 2006 (O. Jahn; XC 262154; see Jahn *et al*., 2008); (D) *Z. chrysops* from Jijón y Caamaño, Carchi province, December 2023 (J. M. Loaiza; XC 906751); and (E) *Z. chrysops* from Carolina, Imbabura province, May 2024 (J. M. Loaiza; XC 906727).

Special cases

Brownish Elaenia *Elaenia pelzelni*

Island near Nuevo Rocafuerte (-0.94212, -75.36691175; 175 m a.s.l.), 6–7 August 2024, J. Drucker, L. Fried, J. Ribadeneyra (photos, audio).

Three individuals were observed sallying to catch insects and perching in mid-level, prominent vegetation at the edge of a taller clump of trees, as well as in the upper mid-story of a *Cecropia* stand on two river islands southeast of Nuevo Rocafuerte. Although visual and aural identification was straightforward (Fig. 7; see also Drucker, 2024), a later study of the geographic position of these islands revealed that they were located in Peruvian territory, although only 300–800 m in a straight line from the Ecuadorian-Peruvian border (Fig. 7). Consultation with the Ecuadorian authorities on international borders confirmed that these islands lie in Peru. Despite the fact that river islands are ephemeral and that their position along the international boundary might change with time, CERO decided not to accept this *E. pelzelni* record due to its geographic position. Further, this situation casted doubts on other records in the area, including the first country record of Pearly-breasted Conebill *Conirostrum margaritae* (Freile *et al*., 2020), as well as a record of Lined Seedeater *Sporophila lineola* recently submitted to CERO (see Table 1). However, new records of both the elaenia and the conebill, made in July 2025, came from a river island further east along the Río Napo towards the mouth of the Río Aguarico (J. Ribadeneyra, C. Vogt, H. Brieschke and C. von Charmier). These records, which are conclusively located in Ecuadorian territory, were submitted to CERO when this report was already submitted for publication but will be included in next CERO report. Therefore, the status of both species in Ecuador will be updated when these records get published.

*Yellowthroat *Geothlypis* sp.

Napo province, Cosanga (-0.577, -77.867; 1920 m a.s.l.), 9 October 2021, P. Clemente (photo).

One bird in presumably immature male plumage was photographed at close range as it foraged in low shrubs alongside a small mixed-species flock (Fig. 8; Clemente, 2021). The report was submitted to CERO as Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*. This record has been extensively discussed by CERO with regard to species identification, since the recent split of the former *G. aequinoctialis* into three species (Escalante *et al*., 2009) elevated Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis velata* to species rank, further complicating field identification.

The distribution of *G. aequinoctialis* in northern South America comes closer to Cosanga—where the reported *Geothlypis* was found—than the distribution of *G. velata* (Greeney & Boesman, 2022a; 2022b). Yet, several plumage and structure characters are more appropriate for *G. velata*, as follows: (1) greyish- or brownish-grey in the crown that does not reach the rear crown; (2) crown contrasting with face; (3) swollen and relatively large bill; (4) rounded head; (5) narrow eye-ring; and (6) no pale superciliary stripes. On the contrary, the following characters seem more accurate for *G. aequinoctialis*: (1) buffy grey in crown contrasting little with mantle and (2) orangey or fleshy legs. Further, the date seems inaccurate for a southern vagrant *G. velata*, because males of this species are expected to be in adult plumage in October since pre-basic molt occurs from January through March (Pérez & Brandolin, 2024). Additionally, its presence in Ecuador in October might mean that it had delayed migrating southwards to its breeding grounds because breeding occurs in the austral summer, from September through December (Capllonch & Ortiz, 2007) or even later than September in northwestern Argentina (J. I. Areta, *in litt*., October 2025).

Given that no consensus was reached on the species identification of this *Geothlypis*, we tentatively accept it as a new taxon for the Ecuador list, but leave the species unidentified until further analysis is done, since CERO requires unanimous voting for new country records.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

Imbabura province, Laguna Yahuarcocha (0.37147, -78.10146; 2190 m a.s.l.), 8 February 2022, E. Obando, E. Astudillo, P. Sanhueza, C. Guerrero (photos).

One nervous male was observed first on 8 February at short distance, hiding in a dense stand of *Typha* cattails. It emerged only briefly and appeared timid, rather weak, and with an abnormal condition of plumage on the head (Fig. 9). It was later observed again by the same observers on 13 February, and the last observation was reported on 22 February 2022 (Bedoya, 2022).

Although identification is indisputable, this record was debated on the basis of the origin of the blackbird. A long-distance vagrant is plausible, even though the species is known to regularly migrate south only to west-central Mexico (Twedt & Crawford, 2020), with scarce records further south in Central America, the Greater Antilles, and far northeastern Colombia (Peña *et al*., 2024). Further, dates of records in Yahuarcocha correspond to the wintering season, as the species is known to arrive at its breeding grounds from mid-March to early May (Twedt & Crawford, 2020). A reported population growth in the species' North American breeding grounds may explain dispersal to new breeding areas and even the potential to expand the migratory range (Veit, 1997). However, long-distance wandering individuals even in expanding populations are often juveniles (Royall *et al*., 1971). The seemingly weakened condition of the adult blackbird found in Yahuarcocha, as well as the date in which it was found, could support the long-distance vagrancy origin.

On the other hand, even though the habitat seems adequate for a natural occurrence, we cannot reject the possibility of an assisted arrival that later escaped or was released, solely on the basis of accurate habitat for the species. The poor condition of head feathers is a known disorder in captive birds (van Zeeland, 2016) and strongly suggests that this blackbird spent some time in captivity before it was found at Yahuarcocha. The species has been reported among the top five most commonly traded icterids in a study of wild birds traded in Mexico (Gómez-Álvarez *et al*., 2023), but it is not known as a regular captive species in South America, far from its native range. Nonetheless, the latter fact does not rule out its potential captive origin, not only because knowledge about the illegal possession, transportation, and trade of birds in our region is scarce and reliable information is difficult to obtain (Ferrari *et al*., 2023), but also because broader-scope illegal businesses between Mexico and Ecuador are well established (Cárdenas-Villacrés *et al*., 2023).

We cannot confirm the natural origin of this record considering: (1) the species only very occasionally wanders far from its usual wintering range (Twedt & Crawford, 1995); and (2) the individual showed indirect evidence of captivity due to plumage condition. Therefore, we conclude that an assisted arrival is the most likely explanation for this record and that the species must not be included in the checklist of the birds of Ecuador, *contra* the recommendation of Peña *et al*. (2024).

Figure 6: First breeding record in Ecuador of Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata*, Ibarra, Imbabura province, April 2025 (C. Aulestia). This brood contains eggs that presumably belong to Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* (see text).

Other records received

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

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*. One bird observed at a rocky coast in La Chocolatera (-2.189, -81.011; 0 m a.s.l.), Santa Elena province (24 May 2024, B. Haase; Fig. 4P), and another individual flying above artificial salt-evaporating ponds and resting on a dike at Ecuasal-Mar Bravo, Santa Elena province (6 February 2024). The species was formerly rare in western Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001), but seems to be increasing in recent years and spreading in distribution (Freile *et al*., 2013; eBird, 2025).

Butterfly Coquette *Lophornis verreauxii.* One female observed and photographed while visiting a flowering garden in Limoncocha (-0.39556, -76.61703; 245 m a.s.l.), Sucumbíos province (20 March 2023; C. Landázuri; Fig. 4Q). There are few records in Ecuador of this poorly known hummingbird (Ridgely & Cooper, 2011).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*. One bird was observed on Isla Mocolí (-2.0997, -79.8633; 5 m a.s.l.), Guayas province (3 October 2022; C. Ponce, Fig. 4R; see Ponce, 2022). The species was seldom recorded in the western lowlands of Ecuador until recently (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2006; McMullan & Navarrete, 2017; Freile & Restall, 2018), but the number of records has increased in the last few years (eBird, 2025). It was considered a rare vagrant in the Guayaquil area by Mischler (2012).

Removed species

Yellow-headed Manakin *Chloropipo flavicapilla*

Long known from a single specimen reportedly collected at Hacienda Mapoto, Tungurahua province, and from two undocumented sightings (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001). The Mapoto specimen had already been referred to Green Manakin *Cryptopipo holochlora* by Hellmayr (1929) based on a detailed description of the specimen by H. von Berlepsch, but this had been overlooked by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) and subsequent authors. Hellmayr's identification was finally confirmed by Palacio (2023), who studied the Mapoto specimen. Palacio further argued that the lack of additional sightings from the relatively well-known sites where the species was supposedly observed (Ridgely & Greenfield, 2001) support the conclusion that it does not occur in Ecuador. Observers involved (P. J. Greenfield and B. M. Whitney) agree that their observations might have involved different species, including *C. holochlora* or female/juvenile male Golden-winged Manakin *Masius chrysopterus*. We concur with Hellmayr (1929) and Palacio (2023) and remove this species from the country list.

Rejected and postponed records

Table 1 presents records rejected or postponed due to insufficient information and/or erroneous identification, or because submitted information proved unsatisfactory to reach a definitive conclusion.

Table 1: Summary of postponed or rejected records submitted to the Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) between December 2021 and July 2025 of observations obtained from September 2015 to May 2025.

Record Number	Species	Locality, Province	Date	Reason
2023-009	Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*	San Antonio, Santa Elena	28 February 2020	Insufficient details and photo documentation to discard African Collared Dove *S. roseogrisea* and to establish if it is an escapee.
2023-016	Yellow-breasted Crake *Laterallus flaviventer*	Natenza, Zamora Chinchipe	12 November 2023	Misidentified Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius.*
2023-015	Black Noddy *Anous minutus*	La Chocolatera, Santa Elena	23 June 2023	Detailed description seemed insufficient and observation period too short to validate identification in comparison to Brown Noddy *A. stolidus*.

2023-004	Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*	Punta Galera, Esmeraldas	12 September, 10 October 2015	Insufficient details and no documentation; poor light conditions might have obscured diagnostic characters compared to Bridled Tern *O. anaethetus*.
2024-009	Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*	off Salinas, Santa Elena	30 July 2024	Insufficient details in the submission form and no documentation to exclude other immature *Thalassarche* species.
2025-003	Galapagos Petrel *Pterodroma phaeopygia*	San José de Guanduyacu, Azuay	1-2 January 2025	Misidentified (see Juan Fernandez Petrel *P. externa* species account).
2025-005	Rufous Nightjar *Antrostomus rufus*	San José de Payamino, Orellana	8 February 2025	Photograph not sufficient for 100% certain identification.
2024-005	Blue-chinned Sapphire *Chlorestes notata*	Puerto El Carmen de Putumayo, Sucumbíos	3 June 2019	Photographs not sufficient for 100% certain identification.
2024-008	Lined Seedeater *Sporophila lineola*	1.5 km ESE of Nuevo Rocafuerte, Orellana	14 September 2023	Locality lies in Peru.

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Figure 7: A purported first record of (A) Brownish Elaenia *Elaenia pelzelni* (J. Drucker; ML 622753401); (B) the boundary zone between Ecuador and Peru along the Río Napo, in far eastern Ecuador, places both records of *E. pelzelni* in Peruvian territory (yellow marks). The white line marks the official international boundary of Ecuador according to Centro Documental de Soberanía "Alfredo Luna Tobar" of Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana of Ecuador (J. Freile). Map prepared using Google Earth Pro 7.3.6.10201 (2025; Data SIO, NOAA, U. S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO; Image Landsat / Copernicus; Image IBCAO).

Figure 8: First record in Ecuador of a Masked/Southern Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis/velata* from Cosanga, Napo province, 9 October 2021 (P. Clemente; ML 377665401, 380621371).

Figure 9: Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* reported from Yahuarcocha, Imbabura province (E. Obando), considered as probable escapee or human-assisted arrival by CERO.

Table 2: Localities of records submitted to the Committee for Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) obtained between September 2015 and May 2025. * indicates localities mentioned in the text accounts, not records reported to CERO. ‡ Indicates approximate coordinates. (**) Indicates locality outside Ecuador.

Locality, Province	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m a.s.l.)
Aeropuerto Jumandy, Napo	-1.05593	-77.58208	370
Atacames, Esmeraldas*	0.8666	-79.8333	10
Ayangue, Santa Elena	-1.979463	-80.754676	0
Bajo Alto, El Oro	-3.10875	-79.90065	0

Calacalí, Pichincha*	0.0031	-78.508	2850
Camino de Jordán, Sucumbíos*	0.266191	-77.464836	670
Carolina, Carchi	0.6976	-78.2322	1200
Chanduy, Santa Elena*	-2.3844	-80.50511	0
Chilmá Alto, Carchi*	0.863	-78.059	2180
Chontal, Imbabura*	0.2366	-78.7506	660
Comunidad El Baboso, Carchi*	0.923147	-78.435634	1100
Cosanga, Napo	-0.577	-77.867	1920
Cuenca, Azuay*	-2.92644	-79.0427	2550
Data de Posorja, Guayas	-2.721481	-80.29093	0
Durango, Esmeraldas*	1.07427	-78.65018	150
Ecuasal Mar Bravo, Santa Elena	-2.246064	-80.94171	0
El Carmelo, Carchi	0.6698	-77.5913	2840
El Chical, Carchi	0.972	-78.1947	1100
El Gallo, Guayas*	-2.431	-79.681	0
El Goaltal, Carchi	0.7848	-78.2076	1100
El Pambilar, Esmeraldas	0.609	-78.160	360
Guayaquil, Guayas	-2.163077	-79.9015	5
Ibarra, Imbabura	0.3451	-78.1343	2220
Isla de la Plata, Manabí*	-1.2742	-81.067	20
Isla Mocolí, Guayas	-2.0997	-79.8633	5
Isla Puná, near Cauchiche, Guayas	-2.7586	-80.2173	0
island 1.5 ESE of Nuevo Rocafuerte, Orellana	-0.9724	-75.2008	170
island near Nuevo Rocafuerte, Loreto, Peru (**)	-0.94212	-75.36691175	175
Jambelí, Sucumbíos*	0.302	-77.113	315
Jardín Botánico Quito, Pichincha	-0.186416	-78.485527	2780
Jijón y Caamaño, Carchi	0.8319	-78.2204	1900
La Chocolatera, Santa Elena	-2.189	-81.011	0
La Puerta, Esmeraldas*	1.0326	-78.6164	340
La Segua, Manabí*	-0.70318	-81.2014	5
Limoncocha, Sucumbíos	-0.39556	-76.61703	245
Limones, Loja	-4.425434	-80.3319	180
Llanchamacocha, Pastaza*	-1.632406	-77.307546	420
Machala, El Oro	-3.255	-79.9695	5
Mandaripanga, Orellana	-0.624020	-76.620734	240
Mapoto, Tungurahua‡	-1.4166	-78.25	1300
Mindo, Pichincha*	-0.0487	-78.7751	1300
Natenza, Zamora Chinchipe	-3.9748	-78.685053	850
near Río Isimanchi, Zamora Chinchipe‡	-4.827	-79.1182	830

off Cerro Chuchón, Manabí	-1.468913	-80.844486	0
off Salinas, Santa Elena*‡	-2.1906	-81.070	0
Palanda, Zamora Chinchipe*‡	-4.6508	-79.1317	1150
Parque Lineal Kennedy, Guayas	-2.161112	-79.902138	10
Playa de Oro, Esmeraldas*	0.8684	-78.8008	70
Pomasqui, Pichincha*	-0.037	-78.455	2450
Puerto El Carmen, Sucumbíos	0.0905	-75.8688	220
Puerto López, Manabí	-1.560328	-80.80456	0
Punta Brava, Santa Elena	-2.196928	-81.001434	0
Punta Galera, Esmeraldas	0.816296	-80.047126	0
Reserva Canandé, Esmeraldas*	0.526047	-79.212373	330
Reserva Los Cedros, Imbabura*	0.30866	-78.7735	1370
Reserva Tesoro Escondido, Esmeraldas*‡	0.542	-79.14	250
Riobamba, Chimborazo*	-1.655	-78.676	2800
Río Bombuscaro, Zamora Chinchipe	-4.0736	-78.9505	900
Río Cocaya, Orellana	-0.92122	-75.24896	180
Road Tanlagua-Perucho, Pichincha	0.086722	-78.435639	1890
San Antonio, Pichincha*	-0.006	-78.447	2450
San Antonio, Santa Elena	-2.516162	-80.39194	40
San José de Guanduyacu, Azuay	-3.3060518	-79.6338388	380
San José de Morona, Morona Santiago	-2.891667	-77.681257	210
San José de Payamino, Orellana	-0.47444	-77.299	360
Sani Isla, Orellana*	-0.490345	-76.337643	210
Séptimo Paraíso, Pichincha	-0.03028	-78.7635	1560
Subida Alta, Guayas	-2.8247	-80.236	5
Villaflora, Imbabura*	0.27012	-78.8838	860
Villonaco-Sariri, Loja	-3.952514	-79.269552	2640
Yahuarcocha, Imbabura	0.37147	-78.10146	2190