

## Rare birds in Ecuador: first annual report of the Committee of Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO)

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### Abstract

We summarise records of bird species submitted to the Committee of Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) by the Ecuadorian and international ornithological community. CERO compiles the official country checklist and updates it annually. We present nine new country records (*Anas acuta*, *Aythya collaris*, *Egretta rufescens*, *Coccyzus pumila*, *Sublegatus modestus*, *Myiarchus panamensis*, *Vireo philadelphicus*, *Atlapetes albinucha*, *Icterus chrysater*), four country records presented elsewhere and herein validated (*Galbula cyanescens*, *Myiornis albiventris*, *Tumbezia salvini*, *Anthus cervinus*), first voucher documentation for eight 10 species (*Anas clypeata*, *Podiceps major*, *Sula leucogaster*, *Eudocimus ruber*, *Phimosus infuscatus*, *Gallinago delicata*, *Fluvicola pica*, *Machetornis rixosa*, *Progne subis*, *Progne elegans*), additional records of two undocumented species in Ecuador (*Calidris alpina*, *Leucippus taczanowskii*), 34 significant range extensions or records of rare and poorly known species (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*, *Anas bahamensis*, *A. cyanoptera*, *Netta erythrophthalma*, *Aythya affinis*, *Oceanites oceanicus*, *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, *Tigrisoma lineatum*, *Ardea herodias*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, *Limosa fedoa*, *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*, *Phaetusa simplex*, *Hydroprogne caspia*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Coccyzus euleri*, *Heliodoxa gularis*, *Hylocharis humboldtii*, *Terenura spodioptila*, *Syndactyla rufosupercillata*, *Contopus cooperi*, *Conopias trivirgatus*, *Myiarchus swainsoni* cf. *swainsoni*, *Myiarchus crinitus*, *Pyroderus scutatus*, *Vireo flavifrons*, *Catharus minimus*, *Sporophila lineola*, *Coryphospingus cucullatus*, *Chlorothraupis frenata*, *Passerina caerulea*, *Vermivora chrysoptera*, *Protonotaria citrea*), and two new subspecies for the country (*Eurypyga helias meridionalis* and *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota melanogaster*). Three records are from the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, while all others were obtained in the continental area of Ecuador. This information updates our knowledge of the distribution and status of poorly known species in Ecuador, as well as the national bird checklist that currently reaches 1657 species (1587 confirmed and documented, 70 hypothetical).

**Keywords.** Distribution, status, birds, Ecuador.

### Resumen

Presentamos registros de especies de aves reportados por la comunidad ornitológica internacional y del Ecuador al Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos (CERO). CERO compila la lista oficial del país y la actualiza anualmente. Presentamos nueve registros nuevos para el país (*Anas acuta*, *Aythya collaris*, *Egretta rufescens*, *Coccyzus pumila*, *Sublegatus modestus*, *Myiarchus panamensis*, *Vireo philadelphicus*, *Atlapetes albinucha*, *Icterus chrysater*), cuatro registros presentados en otras publicaciones y validados aquí (*Galbula cyanescens*, *Myiornis albiventris*, *Tumbezia salvini*, *Anthus cervinus*), la primera documentación de evidencia para 10 especies (*Anas clypeata*, *Podiceps major*, *Sula leucogaster*, *Eudocimus ruber*, *Phimosus infuscatus*, *Gallinago delicata*, *Fluvicola pica*, *Machetornis rixosa*, *Progne subis*, *Progne elegans*), registros adicionales de dos especies sin documentación de registro en el país (*Calidris alpina*, *Leucippus taczanowskii*), 34 extensiones significativas de distribución o registros de especies raras y poco conocidas (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*, *Anas bahamensis*, *A. cyanoptera*, *Netta erythrophthalma*, *Aythya affinis*, *Oceanites oceanicus*, *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, *Sula leucogaster*, *Tigrisoma lineatum*, *Ardea herodias*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Pluvialis fulva*, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, *Limosa fedoa*, *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*, *Phaetusa simplex*, *Hydroprogne caspia*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Coccyzus euleri*, *Heliodoxa gularis*, *Hylocharis humboldtii*, *Terenura spodioptila*, *Syndactyla rufosupercillata*, *Contopus cooperi*, *Conopias trivirgatus*, *Myiarchus swainsoni* cf. *swainsoni*, *Myiarchus crinitus*, *Pyroderus scutatus*, *Vireo flavifrons*, *Catharus minimus*, *Sporophila lineola*, *Coryphospingus cucullatus*, *Chlorothraupis frenata*, *Passerina caerulea*, *Vermivora chrysoptera*, *Protonotaria citrea*), y dos nuevas subspecies para el país (*Eurypyga helias meridionalis* y *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota melanogaster*). Tres registros son de las islas Galápagos, mientras todos los otros reportes fueron obtenidos en el área continental del Ecuador. Esta información actualiza el conocimiento sobre la distribución y estado de las especies poco conocidas de aves en Ecuador, así como el listado nacional de aves que en la actualidad alcanza las 1657 especies (1587 confirmadas y documentadas, y 70 hipotéticas).

**Palabras Clave.** Distribución, estatus, aves, Ecuador.

## Introduction

With over 170 years since hatching, Ecuadorian ornithology has grown considerably. As a result, two 'catalogues' on the birds of the continental Ecuador [1, 2] and over 5,000 publications have appeared to date. Galapagos, on the other hand, stands alone as one of the top natural laboratories on Earth, with a prolific history of research and publications [3]. A superficial view might suggest a fairly accurate knowledge on Ecuador's birds. However, as pointed out by several authors [3–5], much remains to be documented on the ecology and even the geographic distribution and status of birds, particularly those of the Ecuadorian mainland.

Chapman's monograph on Ecuador's avifauna, along with Swarth [6] on Galapagos birds, are the founding cornerstones of all lists, while Ridgely and Greenfield [2] made the most thorough revision to date on the status of all species reportedly found in mainland Ecuador, and Wiedenfeld [7] did the same for Galapagos. More recently, Freile *et al.* [8] revised and updated the country's checklist for the South American Classification Committee (SACC) after a fairly thorough, but preliminary, revision of previous lists.

Despite several national lists have been compiled and published to date, showing a continuously increasing knowledge of bird diversity in Ecuador, few have resulted from exhaustive, collaborative, and 'multi-authored' reviewing processes. In order to confront such a revision, the Committee of Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO; Comité Ecuatoriano de Registros Ornitológicos in Spanish) was created in February 2011. It took lengthy discussions within the Ecuadorian ornithological community on the necessity of an official national checklist and on the need for a bird records revision board, in light of the increasing amount of field data gathered by a growing number of ornithologists and birders. Seven active CERO members took the lead in this process.

In this first report, CERO presents submissions received from July 2011 through July 2013 of bird records compiled from February 1997 through June 2013. Eighty-seven out of 97 records were accepted (from 62 species), two records are pending further discussion and eight were considered insufficient for acceptance (Table 1).

## Materials and Methods

CERO currently receives and reviews record forms of rare species, new country records, or significant range extensions. These records are voluntarily submitted by their authors through its webpage (<http://ceroecuador.webs.com/>) and e-mail address ([cero.ecuador@gmail.com](mailto:cero.ecuador@gmail.com)), where the national country checklist and a list of 'most-wanted' species are also published. New country records since 2001 were evaluated and accepted by unanimous vote, while first documentation and undocumented records of previous hypothetical species were

accepted by majority vote. Taxonomy and species sequence follows March 2013 version of SACC [8, 9]. Most sound-recordings were deposited by observers at the xeno-canto online archive ([www.xeno-canto.org](http://www.xeno-canto.org)), for which a XC code is provided in the species accounts. Photographs are deposited at CERO digital archives, and most published in this report. Some photographs are low-resolution files and/or poor images, but published herein due to their relevance as voucher documentation. Figures 1-4 below show photographic documentation for records arranged by categories (new country records, first documentation, rare species, and significant range extensions). Locality coordinates and elevation are provided in Table 2. New country records are marked with an asterisk, and an asterisk is also used to indicate which observer found the bird first. Record numbers represent a unique, sequential numerical code.

## Species accounts

### Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Record no. 2013-022: Province of Zamora-Chinchipec, Shaime (photo), December 2011 (D. Brinkhuizen).

Two individuals of undetermined age were observed, twice, flying along the Nangaritzza River (Figure 4a). This constitutes the first known record in the Amazonian region of Ecuador [2, 10], though it is known from Amazonian Peru [11]. This record is located 150 km N of Jaén and Bellavista, Marañón River, department of Cajamarca, where sparse records of the Comb Duck have been obtained, and 370 km NE of the major Amazonian population in Peru at Huallaga River, south of Tarapoto, department of San Martín (F. Angulo and T. S. Schulenberg, *in litt.*, October 2013).

### Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*\*

Record no. 2012-039: Province of Imbabura, San Pablo lake (photo), 28 June 2012 (K. Terán Portelles, Z. López Ayala, P. Echeverría\*).

An adult drake was discovered during a monthly water bird census. The bird was found in a flock of *c.* 50 Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica* (Figure 1a). After its discovery it was seen by several additional observers and was last reported seen on 18 July 2012.

### White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

Record no. 2013-027: Province of Pichincha, Cumbayá reservoir (photo), 1 November 2009 (D. Brinkhuizen).

A single adult photographed in company of Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* represents the first published record in the highlands of the province of Pichincha (Figure 4b). A single, previous record is known from the highlands [12], at Micacochoa, province of Napo (3850 m), reported after Ridgely and Greenfield [2].



**Figure 1:** New country records for Ecuador. a) Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (Z. López, K. Terán); b) Ring-billed Duck *Aythya collaris* at La Segua (R. Ahlman); c) *A. collaris* at Micacocha (D. M. Brinkhuizen); d) Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (D. F. Lane); e) Dwarf Cuckoo *Coccyua pumila* (J. Nilsson); f) Southern Scrub-Flycatcher *Sublegatus modestus* (N. Athanas); g) Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis* (J. Nilsson); h) Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* (R. Ahlman); i) Yellow-throated Brush-Finch *Atlappetes albinucha* (R. Ahlman); j) Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater* (L. Navarrete).

### Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

Record no. 2012-010: Province of El Oro, Santa Rosa (photo), 1 January 2003 (R. Ahlman).

One adult male was observed and photographed (Figure 3a) feeding along with a flock of White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* in shallow waters. Location and date suggest southern subspecies *A. c. cyanoptera*, recorded from the Peruvian coast [2], but subspecies identification by plumage alone is not reliable [13]. If subspecies identity proves correct, this will represent the first confirmed record of nominate race from Ecuador. Northern subspecies *A. c. septentrionalium* cannot be discarded on location and date alone, as suggested by a recent record from central-west Manabí presented and discussed by Camacho and Wilson [13].

### Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Record no. 2012-040: Province of Esmeraldas, 1.5 km north of Las Peñas (photo), 6 November 2012 (C. Vogt).

Record no. 2013-002: Province of Esmeraldas, Las Peñas (photo), 16 December 2012 (J. Nilsson).

The single adult male observed at La Segua on March 2007 was at the time one of the few published records from Ecuador [2, 14]. Records at Las Peñas (one female in November 2012, Record no. 2012-040; 26 males and females in December 2012, Record no. 2013-002) provide the first photographic documentation for Ecuador, at a new locality (Figure 2a). Additional recent sightings were published by Haase [15] and Ágreda et al. [16]. Haase [15] published a photograph apparently taken in Ecuador, though no locality data is provided, and three observations of a couple (February 1988) at

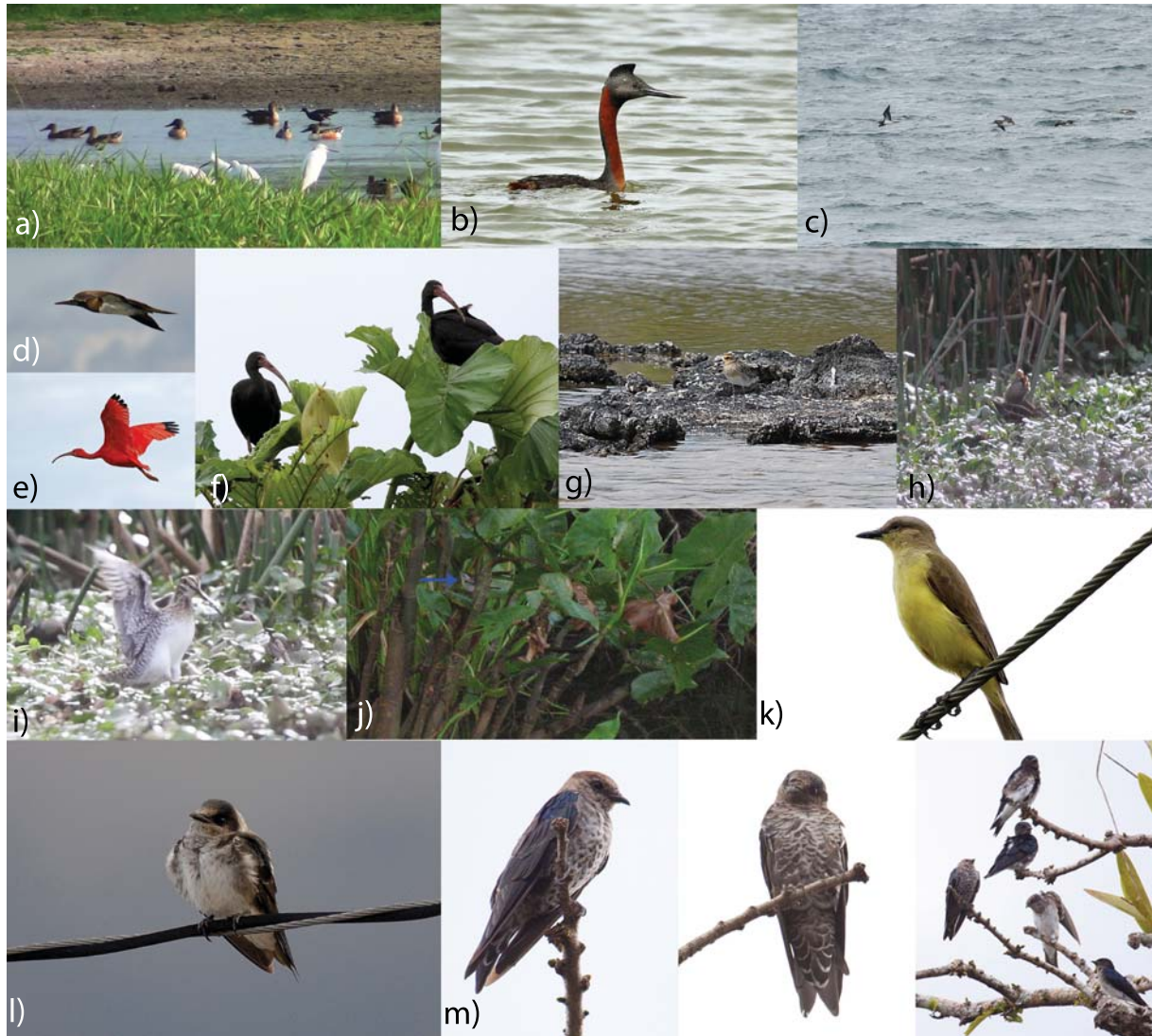


Figure 2: First documented records of birds previously regarded as hypothetical occurrences in Ecuador. a) Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (J. Nilsson); b) Great Grebe *Podiceps major* (R. Ahlman); c) Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* at La Chocolatera (R. Ahlman); d) Brown Booby *S. leucogaster* at Genovesa Island (D. M. Brinkhuizen); e) Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber* (R. Ahlman); f) Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus* (R. Ahlman); g) Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (R. Ahlman); h) and i) Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* (F. Grønningsæter & K. Olav Bøklepp); j) Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica* (V. Ortiz); k) Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa* (R. Ahlman); l) Purple Martin *Progne subis* (R. Ahlman); m) Southern Martin *Progne elegans* (D. M. Brinkhuizen).

Mar Bravo salt pans; a male (January 2007) at Pacoa that represents the second observation in Ecuador, and a group of seven individuals (January 2008) at Pacoa. Ágreda et al. [16] reported one male (January 2007), seven birds (January 2008), one male (February 2010) [15], and another adult male (February 2012) [16] all at Pacoa. Additionally, 15 birds were seen in January-February 2012 at Pacoa salt pans (B. Haase, *in litt.*, October 2013). The first record from the Galapagos archipelago involved an adult female at Punta Moreno, Isabela [17].

#### Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Record no. 2012-037: Province of Manabí, La Segua Marshland, 3 March 2007 (J. Freile\* and P. Moscoso).

Three females and one male were observed in a large flock comprising c. 280 Blue-winged Teal *Anas dis-*

*cors* and c. 60 White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*. Even though there are previous records of the species in this wetland and surrounding areas [2, 18], numbers are likely in sharp decline, with ours being the last confirmed observation at La Segua. Two observations are reported by Haase [15], one pair at Mar Bravo, province of Santa Elena, in July 1997; and a female at Pacoa, province of Santa Elena, in July 2005.

#### Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*\*

Record no. 2013-037: Province of Manabí, La Segua marshland, Chone (photo), 27 January 2013 (T. Seimola\*, R. Ahlman, M. A. Corrales, D. Brinkhuizen, J. Nilsson, J. Freile).

Record no. 2013-011: Province of Napo, Micacocha lake, Antisana (photo), 25 February 2013 (D. Brinkhuizen\*, Ø. Hagen, T. Hagen).



Figure 3: Rare birds recorded in Ecuador from July 2011 to July 2013. a) Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera* (R. Ahlman); b) Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (Z. López, K. Terán); c) Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (R. Ahlman); d) Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* (J. Nilsson); e) Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (L. Navarrete); f) Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); g) Marbled Godwit *Limosa haemastica* (R. Ahlman); h) Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* (N. Fox); i) Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (R. Ahlman); j) Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex* (R. Ahlman); k) Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (G. Nixon); l) Pearly-breasted Cuckoo *Coccyzus euleri* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); m) Pink-throated Brilliant *Heliodoxa gularis* (X. Amigo); n) Bluish-fronted Jacamar *Galbula cyanescens* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); o) Ash-winged Antwren *Terenura spodioptila* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); p) Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus* (J. M. Loaiza).

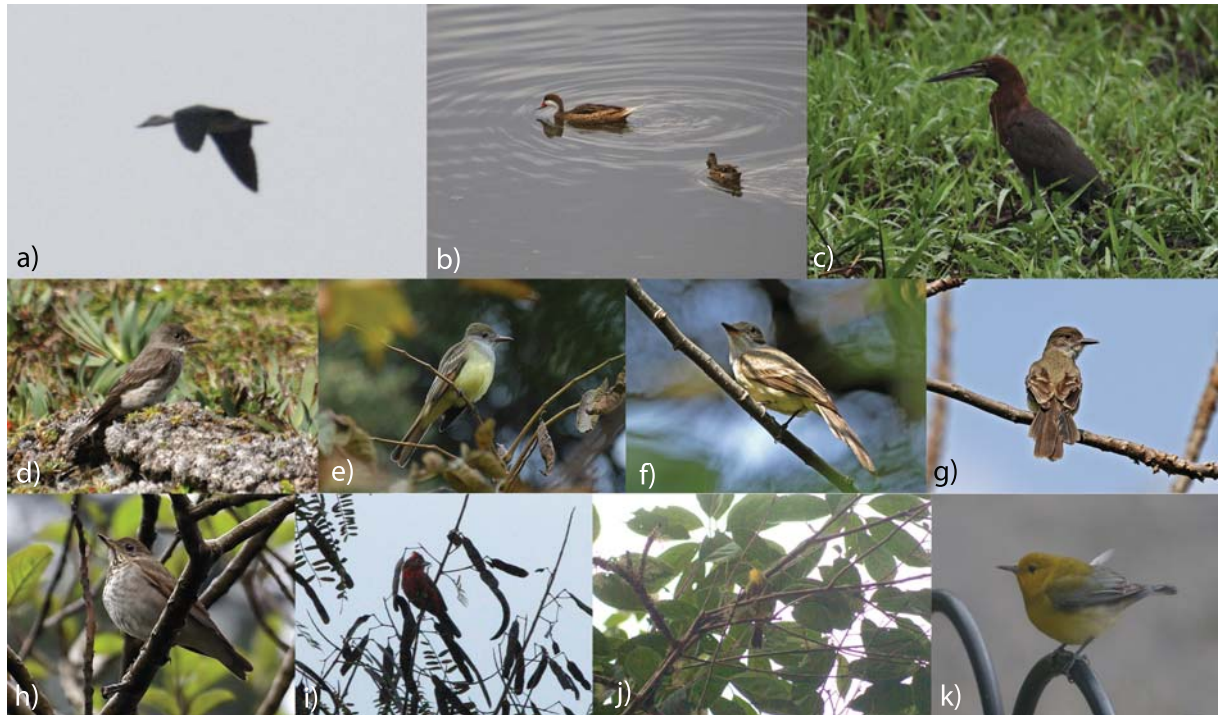


Figure 4: Major range extensions reported to CERO from July 2011 to July 2013; a) Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); b) White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); c) Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); d) Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); e) and f) Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni* (R. Ahlman); g) Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (R. Ahlman); h) Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (D. M. Brinkhuizen); i) Red Pileated-Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus* (G. Real); j) Olive Tanager *Chlorothraupis frenata* (C. Rodríguez-Saltos); k) Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* (D. M. Brinkhuizen).

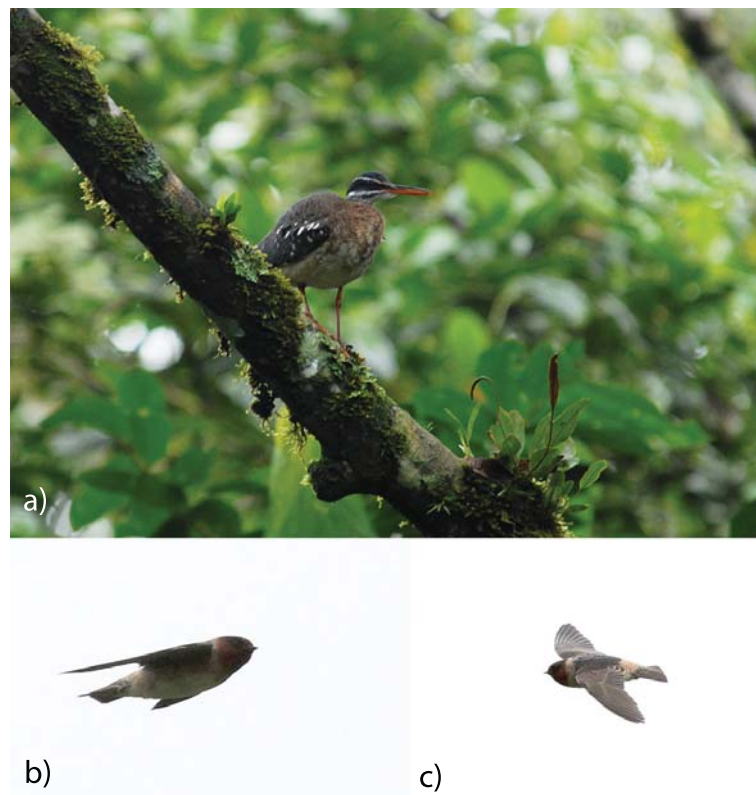


Figure 5: New subspecies confirmed for Ecuador. a) Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias meridionalis* (R. Ahlman); b) and c) *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota melanogaster* (R. Ahlman).

Locality, province	Latitude/Longitude	Elevation (m)
above Valladolid, Zamora Chinchipe	04°31'S/79°07'W	c. 2000
Antisana, Napo	00°30'S/78°13'W	4050
Baeza, Napo	00°27'S/78°35'W	1900
Bahía de Caráquez, Manabí	00°35'S/80°25'W	0
Balsas, Loja	04°23'S/79°57'W	390
Cabo San Lorenzo, Manabí	01°04'S/80°56'W	0
Canangüeno, Sucumbíos	00°00'N/76°09'W	230
Cascada de San Rafael, Napo	06°10'S/77°34'W	c. 1200
Cascada del Tigre, Esmeraldas	01°19'N/78°48'W	0
Changuaral, Esmeraldas	01°22'N/78°52'W	0
Chilmá Bajo, Carchi	00°52'N/78°04'W	2050
Chito, Zamora Chinchipe	04°56'S/79°03'W	c. 950
Cumbayá, Pichincha	00°11'S/78°26'W	2460
Cuyabeno River, Sucumbíos	00°04'N/76°12'W	200
El Kiim, Zamora Chinchipe	03°47'S/78°55'W	1000
Garzacocha, Orellana	00°28'S/75°20'W	200
Genovesa Island, Galápagos	00°18'N/89°56'W	0
Hoja Blanca, Esmeraldas	00°31'N/79°16'W	c. 300
La Bonita-La Sofía, Sucumbíos	00°26'N/74°34'W	2440
La Chocolatera, Santa Elena	02°11'S/81°00'W	0
La Plata Island, Manabí	01°22'S/80°57'W	0
La Segua, Manabí	00°41'S/80°09'W	20
Lago Agrio, Sucumbíos	00°00'/77°46'W	300
Lago Agrio-Tarapoa road, Sucumbíos	00°02'S/76°34'W	260
Laguna de la Ciudad, Esmeraldas	01°06'N/79°07'W	10
Laguna Grande, Sucumbíos	00°02'N/76°12'W	200
Las Peñas, Esmeraldas	01°06'N/79°09'W	0
Las Tolas, Esmeraldas	01°12'N/79°03'W	0
Los Cedros, Imbabura	00°18'N/78°46'W	1350
Los Orconcitos, Manabí	00°38'S/80°18'W	30
Lumbaquí, Sucumbíos	00°01'N/77°19'W	c. 850
Macas, Morona Santiago	02°18'S/78°06'W	980
Majagual, Esmeraldas	01°09'N/79°05'W	10
Mar Bravo, Santa Elena	02°13'S/80°58'W	0
Miazi, Zamora Chinchipe	04°15'S/78°37'W	c. 1000
Micacocha, Napo	00°32'S/78°11'W	3900
Mompiche, Esmeraldas	00°28'N/80°00'W	0
Napo River, near Sacha Lodge	00°25'S/76°32'W	c. 240
Off Puerto López, Manabí	01°16'S/81°06'W	0
Pañacocha, Sucumbíos	00°23'S/76°07'W	250
Paquisha, Zamora Chinchipe	03°52'S/78°41'W	c. 900
Pucapamba, Zamora Chinchipe	04°56'S/76°06'W	1140
Puerto Villamil, Galápagos	00°57'S/98°58'W	0
Quito, Pichincha	00°11'S/78°29'W	c. 2800
Río Bigal, Orellana	00°38'S/77°19'W	c. 900
Río Verde, Esmeraldas	01°04'N/79°24'W	0
River island by Sacha Lodge, Sucumbíos	00°29'S/76°24'W	240
San Andrés del Manglar, Esmeraldas	01°19'N/78°52'W	0
San Pablo, Imbabura	00°13'N/78°12'W	2660
Santa Cruz, Galápagos	00°29'S/90°16'W	0
Santa Rosa, El Oro	03°27'S/79°58'W	10
Shaime, Zamora Chinchipe	04°19'S/78°39'W	c. 980
Silanche, Pichincha	00°14'N/79°22'W	c. 450
Sumaco road, Napo	c. 00°43'S/77°33'W	1100
Tundaloma, Esmeraldas	01°10'S/78°45'W	c. 35
Yalare, Esmeraldas	01°06'N/78°52'W	c. 100
Yanayacu, Napo	01°35'S/77°55'W	c. 2000
Yasuní Scientific Station, Orellana	00°40'S/76°23'W	220
Zapotillo, Loja	04°23'S/80°15'W	c.250

Table 1: Localities of records submitted to the Committee of Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) between 2011 and 2013.

Record Number	Species	Locality, province	Date	Notes
2012-003	Mississippi Kite <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	Sacha Lodge, Sucumbíos	January 2007	Misidentified Plumbeous Kite <i>I. plumbea</i>
2012-001	Belcher's Gull <i>Larus belcheri</i>	Mar Bravo, Santa Elena	7 November 2007	Not conclusive identification from immature Kelp Gull <i>L. dominicanus</i>
2012-034	Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Cabo San Lorenzo, Manabí	6 November 2009	Insufficient information to exclude confusion with other vagrant gulls
2013-053	Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum</i>	Las Peñas, Esmeraldas	23 November 2011	Insufficient information to exclude other terns
2013-004	Amazon Kingfisher <i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	Balsas, Loja	10 January 2013	Misidentified Green Kingfisher <i>C. americana</i>
2013-031	Amazonian Black-Tyrant <i>Knipolegus poecilocercus</i>	Laguna Grande, Sucumbíos	10 May 2013	Deficient description
2012-031	Pied Water-tyrant <i>Fluvicola pica</i>	Pañacocha, Sucumbíos	25 January 2000	Insufficient information to exclude Black-backed Water-Tyrant <i>F. albiventer</i>
2013-030	Band-tailed Oropendola <i>Ocyalus latirostris</i>	Cocha Larga, Sucumbíos	4 May 2013	Photos insufficient for accurate identification

Table 2: Summary of rejected records submitted to the Committee of Ecuadorian Records in Ornithology (CERO) between 2011 and 2013.

A single second-year bird recorded at La Segua (Figure 1b) was in a flock of 95 Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* that remained in the area from December 2012 through February 2013 (see below). After its discovery, it was re-located by several observers and last reported on 19 February 2013 by M. Lysinger. An adult female was photographed at Micacocha lake; photographic evidence demonstrates that it was a different individual (Figure 1c). The latter was only observed that day.

#### Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Record no. 2012-038: Province of Imbabura, San Pablo lake (photo), 21 January 2011 (K. Terán Portelles, Z. López Ayala, and P. Echeverría).

Record no. 2012-027: Province of Imbabura, San Pablo lake, 3 March 2012 (J. Freile).

Record no. 2013-018: Province of Manabí, La Segua marshland (photo), 27 December 2012 (R. Ahlman\*, M. A. Corrales, D. Brinkhuizen, J. Nilsson, J. Freile).

One adult male was observed in 2011 at San Pablo (Record no. 2012-038; Figure 3b), and one adult female in February-March 2012 at the same locality (Record no. 2012-027). Both elusive individuals were seen diving along with Andean Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* and nearby Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*. A remarkable newer record was obtained at La Segua, where 31 birds were observed in two separate flocks (27 and 4 birds). Numbers later increased to 95 by mid February 2013; the last observation was on 19 February by M. Lysinger. The only previous record comes from the

1920s at northern Quito's former La Carolina wetlands [2].

#### Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

Record no. 2013-050: Province of Santa Elena, Ecuasal at Mar Bravo, 11 August 2009 (A. Solano-Ugalde).

Record no. 2012-015: Province of Santa Elena, Ecuasal at Mar Bravo (photo), 4 January 2012 (B. Haase and R. Ahlman\*).

Record no. 2012-016: Province of Santa Elena, Ecuasal at Mar Bravo (photo), 18 March 2010 (R. Ahlman\* and B. Haase).

First observations in Ecuador date back to 2005, with subsequent yearly records [15]. Haase [15] publishes a photograph without locality data, making Record no. 2012-016 the first photographic documentation from Ecuador (Figure 2b). Also recorded on February 2011 at La Segua marshland, Manabí (T. Seimola, *in litt.*, February 2011). Most records involved singles in breeding plumage, but Haase [15] reported two possible pairs.

#### Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Record no. 2012-024: Province of Manabí, c. 58 km off Puerto López (photo), 25 June 2011 (R. Ahlman).

A single bird was photographed (Figure 3c) amongst a large flock of c. 100 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma tethys*, and identified afterwards from photographs. Known from few records in Ecuadorian waters, primarily off Santa Elena Peninsula (province of



Santa Elena) and Isla de la Plata (province of Manabí) [2]. Not reported by Haase [15] despite his records been included in Ridgely and Greenfield [2].

#### **Ringed Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma hornbyi***

Record no. 2012-035: Province of Manabí, between Puerto López and Isla de la Plata, 9 February 2008 (J. Freile).

Record no. 2012-020: Province of Santa Elena, off La Chocollatera, 27 August 2011 (R. Ahlman).

Single birds were observed, one off Isla de la Plata (Record no. 2012-035) at close range (less than 10 m) from a moving boat, and one from La Chocollatera viewpoint at a distance of 1 km (Record no. 2012-020). There are few records off province of Manabí, Santa Elena and Guayas, mostly in June-October [15] plus additional sightings in January and a specimen taken in September [2].

#### **Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster***

Record no. 2013-028: Province of Santa Elena, La Chocollatera (photo), 17 March 2013 (R. Ahlman\* and L. Högström).

Record no. 2013-009: Province of Galapagos, Genovesa Island (photo), 15 February 2013 (D. Brinkhuizen).

Records at La Chocollatera include two birds seen separately, one female flying north and one male flying south with a flock of Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii* in August 2011 (Record no. 2012-008), and one subadult of undetermined sex in March 2013 (Record no. 2013-028) (Figure 2c). These observations represent only the second published photographic record from mainland Ecuador [15]. A previously taken photograph was published by Carrión-Letort [19], who did not provide locality and date information. Likewise, Haase [15] reports two additional observations from Isla de la Plata, one from La Chocollatera, and one off-Muisne, whereas Cisneros-Heredia [20] reports additional observations of a seemingly single individual from Isla de la Plata, providing brief identification details.

A single adult observed flying by a Nazca Booby *Sula granti* colony (Record no. 2013-009) is the fourth published Galápagos record [7], but the first published photograph (Figure 2d).

#### **Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum***

Record no. 2013-026: Province of Esmeraldas, humedal de Yalare (photo), 2 October 2012 (D. Brinkhuizen).

One adult of undetermined sex was photographed (Figure 4c) in a small stream in wet pastureland. Records west of the Andes are scarce; all previous ones are from the Los Ríos/Manabí border southwards [2], with additional observations at La Segua area [18]. As far as we know, this is the first documented record from the province of Esmeraldas, and the northernmost in Ecuador. Likewise, there are few records from the Pacific lowlands of the northern Choco, Colombia [21].

#### **Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias***

Record no. 2013-001: Province of Esmeraldas, Las Peñas (photo), 16 December 2012 (J. Nilsson).

Five birds were seen in inland ponds and marshes with sandy/grassy banks and tall grass in a swampy area (Figure 3d). This represents the fifth published record from mainland Ecuador known to us [2].

#### **Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens*\***

Record no. 2013-005: Province of Orellana, Napo River island downstream from Sacha Lodge (photo/video), 6 July 2009 (D. F. Lane).

A juvenile was observed on the south bank of a young successional river island on the Napo River. Field marks rule out confusing species and/or hybrids, and subsequent studies of the photographs (Figure 1d) have confirmed its identification. This represents the first record of the species for Ecuador and the Amazon basin. A recent record of this species was reported from Piura, Peru (D. F. Lane, *in litt.*, February 2013).

#### **Scarlet Ibis *Eudocimus ruber***

Record no. 2013-007: Province of Sucumbíos, 14 km from Lago Agrio on the road to Tarapoa (photo), 19 March 2013 (J. Morin\*, R. Ahlman, B. Herrera, J. Nilsson, J. Olson, B. Olson).

Two birds (adult and immature) were observed and photographed (Figure 2e) in the vicinity of tilapia fishponds. This represents the first photographic record from Ecuador and only the third published report known to us [2]. Further, M. Orozco (*in litt.*, April 2011) took record photographs of juvenile ibises near Tena, but the identification was not fully confirmed.

#### **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus***

Record no. 2012-002: Province of Manabí, Recinto Los Orconcitos (photo), 19 km south of San Vicente, 30 May 2011 (L. Navarrete\* and F. Navarrete).

Two birds were observed in a partially empty shrimp pond (Figure 3e), located in the Chone river estuary. Most observations in Ecuador come from the same general area. Carrión Letort [19] published the first Ecuadorian photographs of this species, which is likely more numerous and widespread at present than it was a few decades ago [2, 18].

#### **Bare-faced Ibis *Phimosus infuscatus***

Record no. 2012-007: Province of Sucumbíos, Parque Perla, Lago Agrio, 9 May 2011 (photo) (R. Ahlman).

Record no. 2013-038: Province of Sucumbíos, 14 km from Lago Agrio on road to Tarapoa, 19 March 2013 (photo) (J. Morin\*, R. Ahlman, B. Herrera, J. Nilsson, J. Olson, B. Olson).

Record no. 2012-007 involves two birds observed in a marshy area near a black-water lake and forest at Parque

Perla, and this record provides the first photographic documentation for the species in Ecuador (Figure 2f). The second record (no. 2013-038) involves up to 10 birds observed foraging at fishponds and edges (detected one week earlier by J. and B. Olson). The species is apparently a recent arrival, spreading after forest conversion into grassy fields. Ridgely and Greenfield [2] suggested that it was only an irregular wanderer from eastern Colombia due to the scatter and unseasonal records in earlier decades.

### Sunbittern *Eurypyga helias*

Record no. 2013-019: Province of Napo, cascada de San Rafael (photo), 20 April 2008 (R. Ahlman).

A single bird was photographed and sound-recorded along a wide forest trail. Later revision of the tape-recording by D. F. Lane, R. Ahlman and N. Krabbe suggests that it represents subspecies *Eurypyga helias meridionalis* of the eastern Andean foothills [11]. This subspecies, as seen in the submitted photographs (Figure 5a), has greyish back and wings whereas the nominate subspecies of the Amazonian lowlands is distinctly browner [11]. This is the first documented record of *E. h. meridionalis* in Ecuador [2].

### Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Record no. 2012-018: Province of Galapagos, Puerto Villamil (photo), Isabela Island, 16 February 2008 (R. Ahlman).

One immature bird was seen for c. 5 min along the shores of a lagoon near Puerto Villamil, and photographs were taken (Figure 2g). The status of this species and the very similar American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* in the Galápagos Islands is not fully understood, with few previous records that do not provide identification details [7]. Record no. 2012-018 is the first published record from Ecuador, including the Galápagos Islands. Hasse [15] published a photograph but did not refer it to any locality, but later reported to us that it was not taken in Ecuador (B. Haase, *in litt.*, February 2012). There is one additional, detailed observation by D. Liley [2] from mainland Ecuador but no documentation to date.

### Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

Record no. 2013-014: Province of Imbabura, San Pablo Lake (photo/video), 23 February 2013 (D. Brinkhuizen\*, R. Ahlman, M. Lysinger).

An excursion by the Norwegian Ornithological Society observed two birds at the lakeshore margins with abundant floating vegetation (Figure 2h). Photos taken represent the first current documentation of the species in Ecuador. Key plumage and behavioural features for identification were noted in the field, and the bird was photographed and videotaped. This record was discussed online with several ornithologists (N. Krabbe and T. S.

Schulenberg, *in litt.*, March 2013) who provided additional identification characters regarding the shape of the outermost tail feathers (more slender in South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguayae*, while even width in *G. delicata*; Figure 2i). The underwing pattern was also photographed and excludes Common Snipe *G. gallinago*. Orcés [22] reported the first record of *G. delicata* from Ecuador based on a voucher specimen collected at Mapoto, province of Tungurahua, in October 1939; however the specimen is currently lost [23]. Ridgely and Greenfield [2] reported an observation from Mindo, province of Pichincha, and Cisneros-Heredia [23] published a sighting at Hacienda La Joya, near San Vicente de Andoas, province of Pichincha. This bird was observed for over 15 minutes stalking about a grassy open area, and later compared with Hayman et al. [24] and museum specimens (D. F. Cisneros, *in litt.*, October 2013). He later described a brownish underwing area, broad but irregular tail bars, and wings longer and more slender than in *G. paraguayae*; date (November 1998) and location also supported its identification. The identification difficulties of this species might partially explain the paucity of corroborated records in Ecuador [2].

### Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Record no. 2012-029: Province of Imbabura, San Pablo lake, Cachiviro football pitch (photo, sound-recording), 3 March 2012 (J. Freile\*, J. Nilsson, R. Ahlman, D. Brinkhuizen, L. Córdova, C. Vogt).

One bird in adult plumage was observed at Cachiviro football pitch, feeding in grassy fields adjacent to reeds, along with Greater *Tringa melanoleuca* and Lesser *T. flavipes* yellowlegs. It was first identified to genus level, and later relocated by J. Nilsson *et al.*, who obtained photographs (Figure 3f) and audio recordings (XC97259-260) that confirmed species identity. Putnam *et al.* [25] confirmed the species presence in Ecuador after revising museum specimens deposited at the Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, USA. Record reported herein is the first recent field observation from Ecuador and one of the very few documented sightings from South America [9].

### Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

Record no. 2012-017: Province of Manabí, Bahía de Caráquez (photo), 25 February 2007 (R. Ahlman).

This record involves several observations obtained in mudflats beneath the new bridge crossing from Bahía de Caráquez to San Vicente, as follows: 6 in February 2007, 20 in February 2008, 6 in September 2008, 22 in March 2009, 7 in March 2010 (all by R. Ahlman; Figure 3g). Twelve birds were also seen at the same locality on 3 February 2013 (D. Brinkhuizen and J. Freile, unpubl. data). Ridgely and Greenfield [2] reported two records: a late-19<sup>th</sup>-century specimen from Santa Rosa, province of El Oro, and a sighting from the Ecuasal lagoons, province of Santa Elena, in February 1980.

Haase [15] reported observations at Mar Bravo and Pa-coa, province of Santa Elena in January 2001 and August-September 2008.

#### **Dunlin *Calidris alpina***

Record no. 2012-012: Province of Santa Elena, La Chocollatera, Salinas, 26 August 2011 (R. Ahlman).

One adult bird was briefly observed flying southwards, low above the sea, at c. 300 m from the observer. Most previous records from Ecuador are from the Santa Elena Peninsula [2, 15]. As no photos or specimens have been secured to date [2, 15], this species remains as hypothetical in Ecuador [8].

#### **Grey-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus***

Record no. 2013-044: Province of Galapagos, north harbour of Santa Cruz (photo), 15 May 2013 (N. Fox).

One tame adult bird was recorded at a concrete landing structure between Baltra and Santa Cruz Islands (Figure 3h). This species is a vagrant to Galápagos, known from a handful of records, first in 1978 [26] and last reported in 1991 [7].

#### **Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex***

Record no. 2013-015: Province of Manabí, La Segua marshland (photo), 5 March 2009 (R. Ahlman).

Record no. 2013-016: Province of Manabí, La Segua marshland (photo), 26 December 2012 (R. Ahlman).

A single immature of undetermined sex was observed flying over marshland in March 2009 (Record no. 2013-015); and 2 individuals were recorded on 26 December 2012 (Record no. 2013-016; Figure 3i). Another individual was seen at shrimp ponds west of La Segua in February 2013. There are very few recent, documented records west of the Andes; formerly reported primarily from the Guayas River area [2]. Ridgely and Greenfield [2] suggest it might have been extirpated from western Ecuador, but these observations indicate that they persist although have likely declined dramatically.

#### **Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia***

Record no. 2013-017: Province of Manabí, La Segua marshland (photo), 27 December 2012 (R. Ahlman).

Record no. 2013-017 involves three birds observed at La Segua roosting on a mudflat together with about 10 Laughing *Leucophaeus atricilla* and one Gray-hooded *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* gulls (Figure 3j). Most probably the same three birds were observed on 3 February 2013 (J. Nilsson, D. Brinkhuizen, J. Freile), and last seen on 19 February (M. Lysinger). Until recently, a single undocumented observation was known of a lone bird seen near Chone in June 1996 [2]. Another bird was observed and photographed at Jambelí in January 2012 [16].

#### **Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***

Record no. 2013-033: Province of Orellana, Napo River near Sacha Lodge (photo), 3 July 2009 (D. Lane, O. Tapuy, G. Nixon, R. Jeffers, C. Jeffers, G. Nixon, V. Nixon, T. Weir).

One adult bird in breeding plumage was seen on several separate days flying above the Napo river, often foraging by dipping into puddles on a recently exposed river island, and at least momentarily in close proximity to Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris* (Figure 3k). This is only the third published record from Amazonian Ecuador [2].

#### **Dwarf Cuckoo *Coccyua pumila*\***

Record no. 2012-025: Province of Esmeraldas, Las Peñas (photo/video), 17 December 2012 (J. Nilsson).

An adult was found in the northern outskirts of Las Peñas village (Fig. 1e). It is unclear if the species is resident or an accidental migrant to the area, but the bird's behaviour reported by the observer suggests the latter. It was hopping around sluggishly in an acacia tree, then sitting still looking around but staying mainly inside vegetation; at times it raised its crest and flew short distances between perches. Las Peña lies 340 km SW from Isla Punta Arenas, Buenaventura, department of Valle de Cauca, the southernmost locality in the Pacific lowlands of Colombia (F. Brammer, *in litt.*, October 2013).

#### **Pearly-breasted Cuckoo *Coccyzus euleri***

Record no. 2013-023: Province of Esmeraldas, Yalare wetlands (photo), 38 March 2008 (D. Brinkhuizen, L. Brinkhuizen, A. Keaveny\*, S. Jane).

Record no. 2013-041: Province of Esmeraldas, Majagual, between Las Peñas and Las Tolas (sound-recording), 4 June 2013 (R. Ahlman).

A single bird was observed in secondary forest edge at Yalare, where record photos were taken (Figure 3l). One adult male was heard, briefly seen and audio-recorded in mangroves and edge at Majagual. This bird was vocally active for nearly 30 min, and actively responded to playback; a recording of its vocalisations in response to playback is available at XC137820. Only two previous vouchered records in Ecuador exist, including a juvenile collected near Muisne, province of Esmeraldas [2]. Claessens *et al.* [27] report an overlooked specimen of an immature *Coccyzus euleri* collected in 1936 at San Mateo, Esmeraldas.

#### **Pink-throated Brilliant *Heliodoxa gularis***

Record no. 2012-032: Province of Orellana, Reserva Río Bigal (photo/video), 28 April 2012 (X. Amigo\*, J. Freile, T. Garcia, D. Brinkhuizen, M. Hirvois, C. Urgilés, F. Gallo, K. Demoliere).

This record refers to a single female-plumaged bird observed inside primary forest with closed canopy and fairly

open understory. Photographs were obtained by X. Amigo (Figure 3m). Previous records at the same reserve include one mist-netted female [Ridgely and Cooper, photograph A, pp. 143] [28] and additional observations by X. Amigo and T. García. Later visits to Río Bigal produced several additional observations, photographs, and the first ever tape recordings of the species (D. Brinkhuizen and J. Freile; XC115497-499), suggesting that it is fairly numerous at this locality. There are scanty records of this poorly known species in Ecuador, few of them recent, including sightings in the Lumbaquí-Bermejo area, province of Orellana; Loreto Road, province of Napo. [2], and a recent specimen from Río Panguri, Zamora-Chinchipe Prov. (L. Ordóñez, *in litt.*, December 2012).

#### **Spot-throated Hummingbird *Leucippus taczanowskii***

Record no. 2012-044: Province of Zamora-Chinchipe, 2 km west of Chito, 20 September 2007 (K. A. Boyla\* and J. Freile).

Record no. 2012-021: Province of Zamora-Chinchipe, Pucapamba, south of Zumba, 3 July 2010 (R. Ahlman).

Single birds were observed in secondary forest and woodland, feeding on *Inga* flowers, hawking insects, and chasing an Andean Emerald *Amazilia franciae*; no photographs or audio recordings were secured so the species' status in Ecuador remains hypothetical [8]. There are a handful of earlier observations from the same area, first in 2003 [10].

#### **Humboldt's Sapphire *Hylocharis humboldtii***

Record no. 2013-046: Province of Esmeraldas, Cascada del Tigre in San Lorenzo mangroves, 16 September 2010 (A. Solano-Ugalde).

Record no. 2013-047: Province of Esmeraldas, Estero Mompiche and Mompiche-Portete Road, 17 February 2011 (A. Solano-Ugalde).

Record no. 2013-051: Province of Esmeraldas, Las Peñas-La Tolita Road, 23 November 2011 (A. Solano-Ugalde).

The three separate records involve one adult male in a remnant patch of mangrove (Record no. 2013-051), a single adult male in a mangrove patch and one female in secondary forest edge (Record no. 2013-047), and lastly, one adult female plus one possible immature male in transitional vegetation between mangrove and humid forest (Record No. 2013-046). The mangrove patches at Mompiche and Las Peñas were very small, surrounded by degraded land. Previously known from old specimens at a few Esmeraldas localities, and a 1991 observation at Cerro Mutiles [2].

#### **Bluish-fronted Jacamar *Galbula cyanescens***

Record no. 2013-029: Province of Zamora-Chinchipe, west of Paquisha (photo/sound-recording), 3 January 2013 (D. Brinkhuizen\*, G. Lambeth, D. Lambeth, N. Albán).

A pair, seemingly resident, was observed foraging inside secondary forest and forest edge (Figure 3n) along the road to Yankuam, c. 2 km west of Paquisha. The birds were displaying territorial behaviour and reacted to playback. Possibly the same individuals were re-located in recent visits to the same site (January and July 2013) by D. Brinkhuizen and J. Nilsson. An old specimen of *Galbula cyanescens* was collected at the Zamora valley but reported by Salvadori and Festa [29] as *G. tombacea*. Although it was later identified as *G. cyanescens* by Haffer [30], it was ascribed to Copper-chested Jacamar *G. pastazae* by Ridgely and Greenfield [2]. A more thorough discussion, including the rediscovery of Festa's specimen in the Turin Regional Natural Science Museum, Italy, will be published elsewhere.

#### **Ash-winged Antwren *Terenura sodioptila***

Record no. 2012-006: Province of Sucumbíos, Lomas de Lumbaquí (photo/sound-recording), 7 May 2011 (R. Ahlman\*, D. Brinkhuizen).

A pair was observed in foothill primary forest and edge, feeding along with a mixed species flock. Photographs were later taken at this site (Figure 3o) and subsequent observations, not reported to CERO, by various observers were obtained. Ridgely and Greenfield [2] reported two known sites, and Krabbe and Nilsson [31] presented the first documented record. The distribution and status of this species in Ecuador is still insufficiently known. There is a recent observation from Güepicillo, Province of Sucumbíos, where an adult was observed carrying nesting material [32].

#### **Buff-browed Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla rufosuperciliata***

Record no. 2013-036: Province of Zamora-Chinchipe, Tapichalaca-Valladolid road (sound-recording), 6 January 2013 (D. Brinkhuizen and M. Lysinger\*).

In Ecuador, this species was only known from the Cordillera del Condor massif [2, 10, 33]. This is the first documented record from the southern Andes of Ecuador away from Cordillera del Condor, where a single bird was audio-recorded at forest edge above Valladolid (XC133689). It was first discovered in the area in April 2012 by M. Lysinger.

#### **Southern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus modestus*\***

Record no. 2013-040: Province of Napo, Ministerio de Ambiente ranger station, on the road to Pacto Sumaco (photo), 14 June 2012 (J. Nilsson\*, N. Athanas, and S. Olmstead).

A single bird was seen and photographed on 14 June 2012 when it reacted to whistled imitations of Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* (Figure 1f). Separating this species from Northern Scrub Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum* in the field is complex. However, field marks including small bill appearance, facial pattern, pale throat and breast, and lack of white tail tips are

apparent in the submitted photos, supporting its identification. Furthermore, the species is a long distance austral migrant, known to reach central Peru [11], whereas *S. arenarum* is thought to be mainly sedentary.

#### **White-bellied Pygmy-tyrant *Myiornis albiventris***

Record no. 2013-035: Province of Zamora-Chinchipe, road to Shaime, Nangaritza valley (photo/sound-recording), 14 December 2010 (D. Brinkhuizen\*, J. Lyons, and N. Albán).

Three birds were first heard and observed in forest canopy and edge, with at least 11 subsequent records from the same area in 2010–2013, indicating the presence of at least seven pairs with territories north and south of Míazi, at Shaime, and at Laberinto Mil Ilusiones, near Héroes del Condor [34]. The species has been photographed and sound recorded (XC86217, XC94107) by multiple observers.

#### **Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi***

Record no. 2013-034: Province of Napo, Antisana Ecological Reserve (photo), 1 October 2009 (D. Brinkhuizen).

An adult of undetermined sex was photographed as it perched on the ground in a paramo bog (Figure 4d). This is the highest known altitudinal record of the species for the country, at c. 4050 m. This Neotropical migrant is mostly found wintering in the lowlands and subtropics [2], with few highland records.

#### **Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica***

Record no. 2013-045: Province of Orellana, Garzacochoa lake (photo), 18 January 2007 (V. Ortiz).

A single bird was observed and photographed (Figure 2j) at an oxbow lake margin, perching low above water both in open vegetation and dense thickets of *Montrichardia* sp. This represents the first documented record from Ecuador. An additional, undocumented observation at Pañacocha, province of Sucumbíos in 25 January 2000 [35] was rejected by CERO on the grounds that the species description did not consider Black-backed Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola albiventer*, a potential yet unrecorded species in Ecuador, which ranges in Central Amazonia and engages in small migratory movements during austral winter [36]. A single additional record exists, also undocumented [37], and does not discriminate between this species and *F. albiventer* either.

#### **Tumbes Tyrant *Tumbezia salvini***

Record no. 2013-013: Province of Loja, Zapotillo (photo), 5 December 2010 (D. Brinkhuizen, N. Athanas\*).

A small population exists in scrubland at Zapotillo's municipal garbage dump, where first found by Athanas et al. [38]. The area is sparsely vegetated, but some deciduous forest spans for at least 1-4 km towards the Peruvian border. At least five separate territories have been located.

#### **Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa***

Record no. 2012-009: Province of Sucumbíos, Lago Agrío (photo), 8 May 2011 (R. Ahlman).

One bird observed and photographed as it perched on telephone wires adjacent to Lago Agrío airport is the first documented photographic record in Ecuador, as submitted to CERO (Figure 2k). A previous photographic record was obtained earlier by M. Cooper and P. Herrera (unpubl. data). There are several additional, previous observations dating back to 2000, some of them already mentioned in published literature [10]. Buitrón-Jurado [39] observed the species at Río Villano, province of Pastaza, but no photographs were published.

#### **Three-striped Flycatcher *Conopias trivirgatus***

Record no. 2013-032: Province of Sucumbíos, Cuyabeno river, 5 May 2013 (R. Ahlman).

Three birds were observed at várzea forest edges perching on top of a riparian tree. They were identified by all yellow underparts and long white supercilium that extended from right above the bill to back over and behind the eye (contra illustrations in [11]). This species is known in Ecuador from a handful of published observations at only three localities [2].

#### **Swainson's Flycatcher *Myiarchus swainsoni***

Record no. 2013-021: Province of Pichincha, Quito's Botanical Garden (photo), 1 December 2011 (R. Ahlman).

One bird of undetermined age and sex was photographed (Figure 4e, 4f), representing the first record for the Ecuadorian highlands known to us. Noteworthy is the fact that this record falls outside the expected time of the year for the presence of this austral migrant (mostly April–September), which has only been reported from sparse observations in the Amazonian lowlands [2, 33]. The lack of any contrast in head pattern suggests the nominate subspecies rather than *Myiarchus s. ferocior*, which is the only subspecies documented in Ecuador. If subspecific identification proves correct, this will be the first record of *M. s. swainsoni* in Ecuador [2].

#### **Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis*\***

Record no 2013-052: Province of Esmeraldas, Las Peñas-La Tola road, Laguna de la Ciudad, 23 November 2011 (A. Solano-Ugalde).

Record no. 2012-042: Province of Esmeraldas, Islas San Andrés del Manglar, San Lorenzo (video/sound-recording), 16 December 2012 (J. Nilsson).

Record no. 2013-042: Province of Esmeraldas, Las Peñas and La Tola (photo), 4 June 2013 (R. Ahlman).

Recent sightings along the northern coast of Esmeraldas reported herein suggest that the species is resident in Ecuador. It has been found in mangroves, roadside scrub and secondary forest habitat (Fig. 1g). The species

either recently colonized the area or has seemingly been overlooked in the past. In Colombia, it is known as far south as Tumaco, in the department of Nariño (right into the Ecuadorian border) [21]. A previous record of Sooty-crowned Flycatcher *M. phaeocephalus* from Esmeraldas city area [2] might have been a misidentification and possibly involved *M. panamensis*. Likewise, a 1986 record of Sooty-crowned Flycatcher *M. phaeocephalus* from the Cristal area, along the old Ibarra-San Lorenzo railway, might also pertain to *M. panamensis* (R. S. Ridgely, unpubl. data).

#### Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

Record no. 2012-013: Province of Pichincha, Quito's Botanical Garden (photo), 27 November 2008 (R. Ahlman).

Record no. 2012-014: Province of Pichincha, Quito's Botanical Garden (photo), 17 October 2011 (R. Ahlman).

Record no. 2013-048: Province of Pichincha, Silanche Bird Sanctuary, 7 March 2013 (A. Solano-Ugalde).

Single birds were observed and photographed at the Botanical Garden of Quito on two separate dates (one adult in 2008, Record no. 2012-013; one juvenile in 2011, Record No. 2012-014; Figure 4g). These constitute the first published records for the Ecuadorian highlands. Additionally, the record from Silanche is the first from the western Andes of Ecuador. There are only three previously published records of this boreal migrant, all from the Amazonian lowlands [2].

#### Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus*

Record no. 2013-003: Province of Carchi, Chilmá Bajo (photo/sound-recording), 7 September 2010, 5 January 2013 (J. M. Loaiza, J. T. Domínguez, H. Pozo, W. Arteaga, A. Báez, F. Cifuentes, A. Chandí, D. Chulde, S. Guerra, T. Guerrero, M. F. Marín, P. Molina, V. Obando, E. Pazmiño, K. Terán, L. Vásquez, E. Villamarín, W. Villamarín).

The species was first detected by sound in September 2010 when it was actively vocalizing between 6h05 and 7h00. A visual record and confirmation of species identity was made during a second visit (January 2013) to the same site (Figure 3p). This record comprises 1 to 3 birds seen in canopy and subcanopy of forest edge and pastureland with tall standing trees. During a visit made in May 2013, two separate individuals were located at the same locality (X. Amigo, D. Brinkhuizen, L. Córdova, R. Gelis, J. Freile, J. M. Loaiza, unpubl. data), with photographs taken by various observers. The species is inexplicably rare in Ecuador, with only a few recent confirmed sightings, including one southeast of Maldonado, province of Carchi [2].

#### Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*

Record no. 2013-049: Province of Esmeraldas, Hostería Tundaloma near San Lorenzo, 24 November 2011 (A. Solano-Ugalde).

Record no. 2012-043: Province of Imbabura, Los Cedros Reserve (photo), 14 March 2012 (J. De Coux, J. Poon\*, J. Freile, and J. García-Domínguez).

Single birds were seen at each locality; these records plus one observation at Wildsumaco [40] suggest that the species casually winters along both east and west Andean slopes in northern Ecuador. Most probably the same individual was observed in the very same tree at Los Cedros in January 2013 (J. Freile and X. Amigo, unpubl. data).

#### Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*\*

Record no. 2013-008: Province of Pichincha, Quito's Botanical Garden, Parque La Carolina (photo), 17 April 2013 (R. Ahlman\* and J. Nilsson).

A single bird was first seen very briefly on 17 April and later relocated on 26 April at the same locality, when photographs were secured (Figure 1h) and identification was fully confirmed.

#### Purple Martin *Progne subis*

Record no. 2012-019: Province of Imbabura, San Pablo lake (photo), 10 September-10 October 2009 (R. Ahlman).

Record no. 2012-033: Province of Pichincha, Cumbayá reservoir (photo), 16 October 2009 (J. Freile and D. Brinkhuizen\*).

Fourteen birds were observed at San Pablo lake on 10 September; 3 on 21 September; 35 on 3 October; and 10 on 10 October. Birds were sitting on wires along with Grey-breasted *Progne chalybea* and Brown-chested *P. tapera* martins (Figure 2l). At Cumbayá, 11 birds were also perching on wires, together with 2-3 *P. tapera*. These are the first documented records in Ecuador known to us [2]. Three additional recent sightings are reported: up to 60 individuals from 11 July through 7 October 2003 (numbers increased by early September) at Ventanas, province of Los Ríos [41]; 30 birds at Pacoa, province of Santa Elena, in August 1995, and 5 males at Yuturi, province of Orellana, in August 1996 [42]. Description of Yuturi birds does not provide identification details to exclude Southern Martin *P. elegans*, which could well occur in the Amazonian lowlands in August.

#### Southern Martin *Progne elegans*

Record no. 2012-036: Province of Sucumbíos, Canangüeno Lake, Cuyabeno, 2 July 2008 (J. Freile\* and P. Moscoso).

Record no. 2013-012: Province of Sucumbíos, Pañacocha (photo), 16 August 2012 (D. Brinkhuizen, B. de Bruin, and D. Gualinga).

Both records involve a single female within a flock of Grey-breasted Martin *P. chalybea*, perching in trees above a blackwater lagoon. The bird at Pañacocha was photographed (Figure 2m) and is the first documented record in Ecuador, where only two additional sightings have been published [2].

**Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota***

Record no. 2012-011: Province of Sucumbíos, 15 km N of Lumbaquí (photo), 7 May 2010 (R. Ahlman).

A single bird was observed among a flock of swallows (mostly Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) in open pastureland along the road north of Lumbaquí (Figure 5b, 5c). Dark chestnut forehead indicates it represents subspecies *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota melanogaster*, not previously reported from Ecuador [2]. Subspecies *P. p. pyrrhonota* and *P. p. tachina* have pale foreheads, whereas race *P. p. ganieri* has darker chestnut undertail coverts [43], not visible in the photographed individual.

**Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus***

Record no. 2013-010: Province of Pichincha, Quito's Botanical Garden (photo), 17 November 2010 (D. Brinkhuizen).

One bird was seen and photographed consorting with several Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (Figure 4h). This Neotropical migrant has mostly been reported from the Amazonian lowlands, with few records from the west and the Andean highlands, including the Quito area [2], where records are very rare.

**Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

Record no. 2013-025: Province of Esmeraldas, Río Verde, seashore (photo), 28 March 2008 (D. Brinkhuizen, L. Brinkhuizen, A. Keaveney, S. Jane).

A second year bird was observed and photographed, representing the first South American record. It has previously been discussed and published [44, 45].

**Lined Seedeater *Sporophila lineola***

Record no. 2012-028: Province of Orellana, Yasuni Scientific Station, 5 February 1997 (J. Freile).

Two adult males along with three adult female-plumaged birds were observed in a flock of c. 30 seed-eating species, including Chestnut-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila castaneiventris* and Lesser Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus angolensis*. They were foraging in low herbaceous roadside vegetation. There are few records of this austral migrant species in Amazonian Ecuador, mostly from August through December [2]. Little is known on the species' natural history and movements.

**Red Pileated-Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus***

Record no. 2013-006: Province of Morona Santiago, Macas (photo), 17 March 2013 (G. Real).

An adult male, photographed in a local garden, represents a substantial northwards range extension along the Amazonian foothills, and concerns the first documented record for the province of Morona Santiago (Figure 4i). Relatively few observations were known until recently, from scattered locations in southernmost Ecuador, mainly

in the Río Mayo drainage [2, 10, 33]. Recent observations in the province of Zamora Chinchipe, outside this drainage include Shaime, Miazí and Wampiashuk, in the Nangaritzá River area (J. Freile and N. Krabbe, unpubl. data), and El Padmi (M. Sánchez, *in litt.*, September 2012).

**White-naped Brush Finch *Atlapetes albinucha*\***

Record no. 2012-023: Province of Sucumbíos, La Sofía road, La Bonita (photo/sound-recording), 4 May 2011 (J. Nilsson\*, R. Ahlman, and M. Lysinger).

Record no. 2013-043: Province of Napo, above Baeza (photo/sound-recording), 25 June 2013 (M. Quipo).

A pair was first discovered in Ecuador at the upper end of the road to La Sofía. The species has subsequently been photographed and sound recorded (Figure 1i; XC78767, XC87014) by other observers at this site. Recently, multiple territories (three pairs) were discovered above the town of Baeza. These records suggest that the species is spreading into northeastern Ecuador, possibly due to deforestation farther to the north.

**Olive Tanager *Chlorothraupis frenata***

Record no. 2012-041: Province of Zamora-Chinchipe, Bosque Protector El Kiim (photo), 25 February 2012 (C. A. Rodríguez-Saltos\* and P. Romero).

An adult female was seen in a mixed-species flock in secondary forest (Figure 4j). This is the first documented record from the province of Zamora-Chinchipe, where it was previously known from a single observation along the Loja-Zamora road in 1990 [2]. All other recent records have been obtained from the province of Sucumbíos [10, 33].

**Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea***

Record no. 2013-020: Province of Esmeraldas, Hoja Blanca, Río Canandé (photo), 1 August 2009 (D. Brinkhuizen).

One adult male was photographed in a treetop in open pasture near secondary forest, being the first record in west Ecuador and only the second country record [46].

**Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera***

Record no. 2012-026: Province of Napo, Yanayacu-San Isidro, 5 March 2012 (J. Freile).

One female was observed in a subcanopy mixed flock that included several resident and migrant species. It was actively foraging in hanging leaf-litter at forest edge above a bamboo stand. There are a handful of published Ecuadorian records from three known localities; first recorded in the Mindo area in February 1981 [47].

### Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

Record no. 2013-024: Province of Pichincha, Centro Histórico de Quito (photo), 22 November 2008 (D. Brinkhuizen).

Record no. 2013-039: Province of Pichincha, Quito's Botanical Garden, 31 March 2009 (R. Ahlman).

These two records in the province of Pichincha are the first known for the Ecuadorian highlands (Figure 4k). There are a few records of this boreal migrant in Ecuador from scattered localities throughout the country [2].

### Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*

Record no. 2012-005: Province of Esmeraldas, near Changuaral, Cayapas Mataje Ecological Reserve (photo), 11 January 2011 (L. Navarrete\*, A. Forster, and S. Owens).

A family group of 3-5 birds was observed in mangroves of far northwest Ecuador (Figure 1j). The species is known to occur in adjacent Colombia, but it remains unclear if it is a year-round resident in Ecuador.

### Rejected records

Eight records submitted to CERO were rejected (Table 1). Rejected records do not necessarily infer that the species' identification was incorrect, but rather reflect that the details provided were insufficient for accurately assessing its validity. No new country records were rejected, but records of three species (*Ictinia mississippiensis*, *Larus belcheri*, and *Sternula lorata*) lacking voucher documentation for Ecuador were not accepted.

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