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New observations on the status, occurrence and ecology of birds in Bolivia

by Paul van Els , Tini Wijpkema, Jacob T. Wijpkema, Miguel Montenegro-Avila , Nicole A. Avalos  & J. Luis Martínez

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SUMMARY.—We provide new information on the status, occurrence and ecology of birds in Bolivia gathered during seven years of avifaunal surveys (2017–23), with a focus on aquatic birds, as well as regions such as the Chaco, the Yungas, and Pando. We document five new species for Chuquisaca (Quebracho Crested Tinamou *Eudromia formosa*, Sharp-billed Canastero *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*, Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper *Drymornis bridgesii*, Brown Cacholote *Pseudoseisura lophotes*, Black-crested Finch *Lophospingus pusillus*), two for Tarija (Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius*, Red-backed Sierra Finch *Idiopsar brachyurus*), two for Pando (Uniform Crake *Amaurolimnas concolor*, Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*), two for Beni (Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope supercilialis*, Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*), two for Santa Cruz (Cloud-forest Screech Owl *Megascops marshalli*, Geoffroy's Daggerbill *Schistes geoffroyi*) and one for Cochabamba (Fiery-capped Manakin *Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*). Additionally, we provide the first breeding evidence for one subspecies (Patagonian Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis*) and a range-wide elevational maximum for Hauxwell's Thrush *Turdus hauxwelli*.

A combination of a large proportion of wilderness, a great variety of habitats, and areas that previously were poorly accessible but now have opened up make Bolivia an exciting country for ornithological exploration. Evidence of this can be found in a flurry of recent articles describing status changes, range extensions and notes on ecology of the country's birds (e.g., Tobias & Seddon 2007a,b, Lane 2014, Brady *et al.* 2019, Martínez 2021, Aponte *et al.* 2022, van Els *et al.* 2023, 2024, Montenegro-Avila *et al.* 2023, Montenegro *et al.* 2024). Particularly Pando (Tobias & Seddon 2007a, van Els *et al.* 2023), the Llanos de Moxos (Aponte *et al.* 2022, van Els *et al.* 2024) and waterbodies with the potential for vagrant aquatic birds or scarce migrants (Brady *et al.* 2019) have been fruitful areas for discovery, but Andean, Chacoan and Pantanal ecosystems have also yielded interesting records.

Records presented here stem from a mix of occasional observations and focused surveys. Previous work in Pando, Beni and lowland Santa Cruz was described by van Els *et al.* (2023, 2024). We revisited Pando from 11–22 September 2023, first spending a week in the Indusmar Concession Selva Negra in north-central Pando, and several days each in the vicinity of Nueva Esperanza and Los Indios, in central Pando. We also revisited Beni, during 7–15 January 2024, exploring the Ruta Nacional 9 between Trinidad and San Ramón. We visited the Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca Chaco on 7–13 December 2018, 5–22 July 2019 and 22 May–7 June 2022. We explored the southern Santa Cruz wetlands and Tarija between 25 June and 13 July 2021, and finally we searched southern Santa Cruz, Tarija and Potosí on 20–31 May 2023. Most observations were made by JTW & TW; other records are indicated by the author's initials.

Here, we document five new species for Chuquisaca (Quebracho Crested Tinamou *Eudromia formosa*, Sharp-billed Canastero *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*, Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper

Drymornis bridgesii, Brown Cacholote *Pseudoseisura lophotes*, Black-crested Finch *Lophospingus pusillus*), two each for Pando (Uniform Crake *Amaurolimnas concolor*, Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*), Beni (Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris*, Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*) and Santa Cruz (Cloud-forest Screech Owl *Megascops marshalli*, Geoffroy’s Daggerbill *Schistes geoffroyi*) and one for Cochabamba (Fiery-capped Manakin *Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*). Additionally, we provide the first breeding evidence in Bolivia for one subspecies (Patagonian Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis*) and report a range-wide elevational maximum for Hauxwell’s Thrush *Turdus hauxwelli*.

Study sites

During these surveys, we visited multiple sites more than once. Often, a formal name is not available for these areas, in which case we have chosen a name based on a nearby village or logging concession. Other sites are mentioned in the species accounts only by their geographical coordinates.

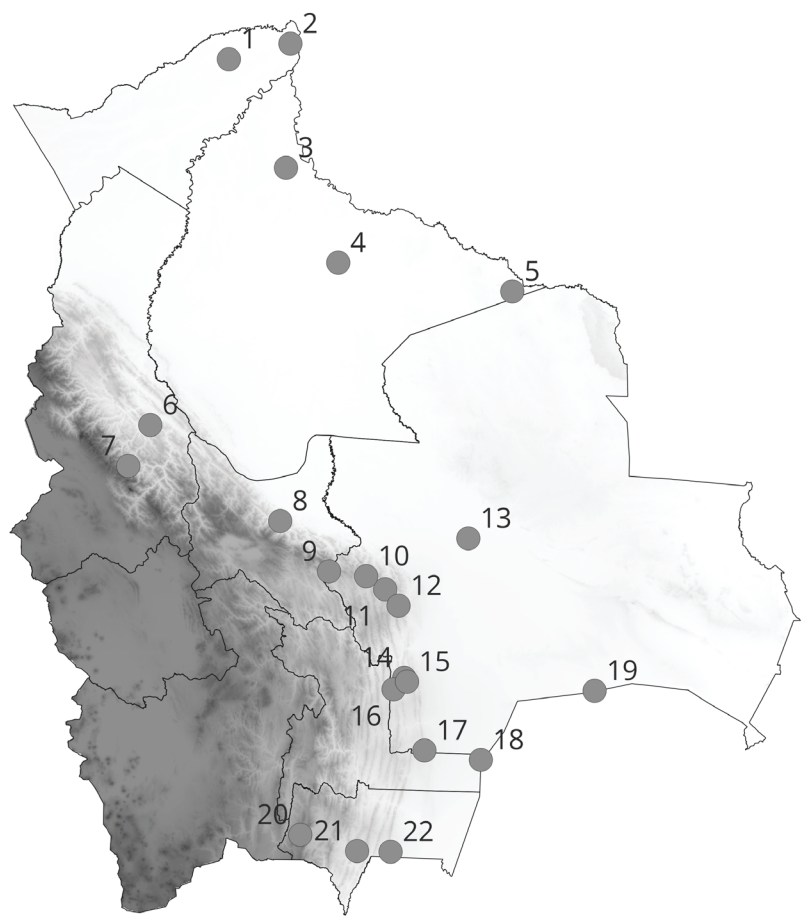


Figure 1. Study sites in Bolivia, during surveys in 2017–23. 1: Indusmar Concession, Pando; 2: Los Indios Concession, Pando; 3: RN9 north Beni; 4: Near San Ramón; 5: San Simón, Beni; 6: Cerro Mula, La Paz; 7: Coroico, La Paz; 8: El Palmar Road, Cochabamba; 9: Siberia Crossroads, Cochabamba; 10: North of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz; 11: Abra de los Toros, Santa Cruz; 12: La Junta Road, Santa Cruz; 13: Playón Garcero Natural Area, Santa Cruz; 14: Lagunillas, Santa Cruz; 15: Laguna Kaukaya, Santa Cruz; 16: Ipita, Santa Cruz; 17: Laguna Boyuibe, Santa Cruz; 18: Hito I, II & III, Chuquisaca; 19: Palmar de las Islas, Santa Cruz; 20: Laguna Pujara, Tarija; 21: Laguna San Lucas, Tarija; 22: Laguna Santa Martha, Santa Cruz.

Species accounts

We follow the taxonomy of Dickinson & Remsen (2013) and Dickinson & Christidis (2014). Recordings may be indicated using a ML number, referring to the catalogue number under which the recording is deposited at the Macaulay Library (www.macaulaylibrary.org), or with an XC number, referring to the Xeno-canto catalogue number (www.xeno-canto.org).

QUEBRACHO CRESTED TINAMOU *Eudromia formosa*

Spatial modeling by Herzog *et al.* (2016) indicated that this species occurs in easternmost Chuquisaca and southernmost Santa Cruz, but the same authors knew of documented observations only from eastern Tarija. We photographed a pair at a nearby location in eastern Chuquisaca, near Hito III (20°29'41.6"S, 62°16'02.9"W, Fig. 2; ML 130320071) along Ruta 6 on 11 December 2018. Subsequently, MMA observed one at a nearby site (20°33'49.9"S, 62°16'36.8"W) on 8 October 2022. These are the first documented records in Chuquisaca.

COSCOROBA SWAN *Coscoroba coscoroba*

A rare and irregular austral migrant to Bolivia, documented only recently in the country (Tobias & Seddon 2007b, Aponte *et al.* 2022) but also recorded breeding there (Pantoja *et al.* 2023). Sites with previous records include Palmar de las Islas, Santa Cruz (Herzog *et al.* 2016) where we photographed two adults (19°25'46.2"S, 60°32'52.8"W; ML 467660201) on 6 July 2022 in the company of five cygnets that were c.3 weeks old. To our knowledge, this is the second breeding record in Bolivia. Like other anatids, the species appears to be a rare and perhaps irregular austral winter breeder that should be looked for elsewhere in southernmost Bolivia (e.g., Tarija, Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz).

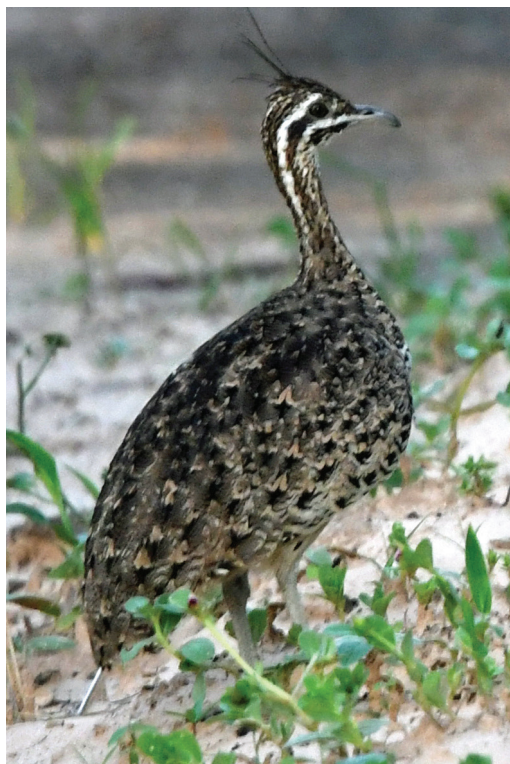


Figure 2. Quebracho Crested Tinamou *Eudromia formosa* near Hito II, Chuquisaca, Bolivia, December 2018 (Tini & Jacob Wijckema)

SILVER TEAL *Spatula versicolor*

A rare visitor to Andean and lowland lakes in Bolivia, Herzog *et al.* (2016) noted four localities, including the Cochabamba Basin, where the species is an austral winter breeder. We found the species at six localities in the lowlands of south-east Bolivia, at least three of which are new. First, and most remarkably, we found 11 on 17 July 2017 at Laguna Taputarenda (19°38'03.3"S, 63°40'21.1"W) during the Neotropical Waterbird Census. Subsequently, we observed two at a marsh north of Lagunillas, Santa Cruz (19°38'3.84"S, 63°40'24.24"W) on 13 December 2018 during the middle of the austral breeding season. On 25 June 2021, two were at ponds north of Ipita, Santa Cruz (19°21'1.44"S, 63°30'18.72"W). On 27 June 2021, we

found two at Laguna La Peña, Santa Cruz (19°31'33.24"S, 63°39'58.68"W). Subsequently, on 10 July 2021, we observed nine at Laguna Santa Martha, Tarija (21°55'22.8"S, 63°37'41.88"W). A single was at Palmar de las Islas, Santa Cruz (19°25'46.2"S, 60°32'52.8"W) on 6–7 July 2022. Laguna Kaukaya (19°24' 24.48"S, 63°27'36.36"W) held between three (13 July 2021) and 15 (25 June 2021); and in 2022, MMA & NAA recorded a series of sightings at the same site over several months: on 26 February, two were present (ML 620616948), with two also on 6 March (ML 620617077), six on 17 May, 11 on 17 July and two on 28 August. Silver Teal was present at Laguna Kaukaya on 12 different visits during the austral winters in 2021 and 2022, which thus appears to be a stronghold for the species in Bolivia. No evidence of breeding was observed but we cannot exclude this possibility.

RED SHOVELER *Spatula platalea*

We photographed a pair on Lagunillas, Santa Cruz (19°37'57.94"S, 63°40'22.08"W; ML 598699871) on 30 May 2023, which to our knowledge is only the second documented record from the Bolivian lowlands and the department of Santa Cruz. The first lowland record was on 16 February 2022 at Laguna Kaukaya (Pantoja *et al.* 2023). Our record is 44 km south-west of the latter locality. Furthermore, it is one year later than the first observation, suggesting that different individuals were involved and that the species occurs more frequently in the lowlands of Santa Cruz, but additional reports are needed to confirm this.

BLACK-HEADED DUCK *Heteronetta atricapilla*

Herzog *et al.* (2016) considered the species to be a rare austral migrant to lakes at the base of the southern Andes, where it was only recently seen again after a 90-year absence (Tobias & Seddon 2007b). We repeatedly observed the species between February and August 2021 and 2022 in groups of five (22 May 2022) to 45 (13 July 2021) at Laguna Kaukaya (19°24'24.48"S, 63°27'36.36"W) in southern Santa Cruz (e.g. ML 358031851, ML 460290931). Numbers represent conservative counts, as the entire lake cannot be surveyed easily and its vegetation offers ample opportunities for ducks to hide. We also observed two on a lagoon near Ipita (19°21'1.33"S, 63°30'17.81"W; ML 579934461) on 31 May 2023. Black-headed Duck thus appears to be a locally regular austral migrant or potentially even an overlooked resident, given some austral breeding-season records.

PATAGONIAN SILVERY GREBE *Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis*

The nominate Patagonian subspecies is a rare and irregular austral winter visitor with a single documented record of two individuals at Laguna Camatindi, Santa Cruz, including one in breeding plumage (Tobias & Seddon 2007b). Tobias & Seddon thought it unlikely that the species breeds in Bolivia. However, we photographed the same subspecies on 8 July 2021 at Laguna Pujasara, Tarija (21°42'44.6"S, 65°03'48.6"W) representing the first documented departmental record, and subsequently found six adults with two dependent juveniles (Fig. 3; ML 354796031) at Laguna Kaukaya,



Figure 3. Patagonian Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis* with young. Laguna Kaukaya, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, July 2021 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

Santa Cruz (19°24'24.5"S, 63°27'36.4"W) on 13 July 2021, which is the first evidence of breeding by the nominate subspecies in Bolivia.

RUSTY-MARGINED GUAN *Penelope superciliaris*

Although Herzog *et al.*'s (2016) distribution models predicted the species' occurrence in easternmost Beni, hitherto no records were available from this area. The first documentation involved three at Cerro San Simón (13°36'41.4"S, 62°02'12.8"W) on 17 May 2021, which showed the distinct rusty edges to the primaries and secondaries, and a pale eyebrow, separating the species from the sympatric Spix's Guan *P. jacquacu*. More surprisingly, on 4 September 2023 we recorded two along Ruta Nacional 9 in northern Beni (11°51'20.0"S, 65°28'36.7"W; Fig. 4; ML 609452869), >400 km from the nearest known record, i.e., ours from Cerro San Simón. The savannas of this area are not isolated from others in the Llanos de Moxos, which makes it all the more astounding that the species has not previously been seen elsewhere in northern or central Beni. Perhaps overhunting of this rather terrestrial cracid has led to its widespread disappearance in the region.



Figure 4. Rusty-margined Guan *Penelope superciliaris*, Ruta Nacional 9, northern Beni, Bolivia, September 2023 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

MAROON-CHESTED GROUND DOVE *Claravis mondetoura*

Although the species is known from Bolivia, records are few and sporadic (e.g., Herzog *et al.* 1999, Lane 2014), perhaps even more so than anywhere else within its apparently patchy range. On 19 December 2023 we sound-recorded (ML 612872523) and photographed (ML 612809566) a male at Chuspipata on the upper Coroico Road, La Paz (16°17'33.4"S, 67°49'35.3"W; 3,110 m), to our knowledge the first photographs of the species in Bolivia. Despite regular visits by birders to this area and an abundance of bamboo, the species has been recorded only once previously at the site (Lane 2014).

GEOFFROY'S DAGGERBILL *Schistes geoffroyi*

On 7 August 2022, we photographed (Fig. 5; ML 477711851) a singing adult male at the Siberia Crossroads (17°48'39.6"S 64°42'54.0"W). To our knowledge, this is the first record for Santa Cruz and the south-easternmost record in the species' range.



Figure 5. Geoffroy's Daggerbill *Schistes geoffroyi*, Siberia Crossroads, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, August 2022 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

GREEN-TAILED GOLDENTHROAT *Polytmus theresiae*

The third record for Pando involved one on 20 September 2023 at 10°0'54.88"S, 65°26'50.15"W in streamside vegetation near Arroyo Tambaquisito (ML 609510082; PvE, JTW, TW). The site is characterised by a stream with dense bamboo and surrounded by stunted white-sand forest. Although the species is known from savannas in nearby Beni (Herzog *et al.* 2016, van Els *et al.* 2024) and from pastures in nearby Rondônia, Brazil, it appears to be restricted to stunted forest edge in eastern Pando, where open habitats (other than a few pastureland enclaves) are nearly absent. Previous records (Martínez 2021) are from the same area (and perhaps even the same locality, but no details were provided).

VERSICOLOURED EMERALD*Chrysuronia versicolor*

We photographed (Fig. 6; ML 612221040) an individual feeding in a garden at La Guardia, Santa Cruz, during several days from 14 December 2023 onwards. Records in Bolivia are few and are mainly from Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado, c.450 km north-east of La Guardia. The species is probably a more widespread but overlooked visitor to lowland Bolivia.

SPOT-FLANKED GALLINULE*Porphyriops melanops*

The species' status in Bolivia is uncertain according to Herzog *et al.* (2016), who indicated that is probably only an irregular visitor. We found the species at three different sites in southern Santa Cruz: on 13 December 2018 we photographed four at a marsh north of Lagunillas (19°38'3.84"S, 63°40'24.24"W; ML 201706261); on 6 July 2019 we found a single at a roadside marsh near Boyuibe (20°24'44.28"S, 63°9'11.88"W); and at Laguna Kaukaya (19°24'24.48"S, 63°27'36.36"W) MMA, M. Herrera and A. C. Paca found five on 16 July 2018, two on 25 June 2021 and six on 13 July 2021. In addition, on 11 February 2020 MMA saw five at a small lagoon near Macharety (20°27'34.5"S, 63°15'16.0"W), Chuquisaca. Our observations indicate that the species is not irregular and occurs in small numbers at select marshes. That there are two January records (Herzog *et al.* 2016) may indicate that breeding is possible. Further field work in the breeding season at localities such as Laguna Kaukaya should seek to elucidate this.

RUFIOUS-SIDED CRAKE *Laterallus melanophaius*

On 3 July 2021, we photographed (Fig. 7; ML 354692181) three Rufous-sided Crakes at Laguna San Lucas (21°55'43.7"S, 64°09'29.5"W).



Figure 6. Versicoloured Emerald *Chrysuronia versicolor*, La Guardia, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, December 2023 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)



Figure 7. Rufous-sided Crake *Laterallus melanophaius*, Laguna San Lucas, Tarija, Bolivia, July 2021 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

To our knowledge, this is the first documented record of the species in Tarija. There is an apparent gap in observations across most of Tarija and Chuquisaca, which may be real or reflect a lack of observer effort; if real, southern Bolivian birds are probably part of the north-west Argentine population and disjunct from that elsewhere in Bolivia.

UNIFORM CRAKE *Amaurolimnas concolor*

At dusk on 16 September 2023, while surveying the avifauna of Indusmar Selva Negra timber concession, PvE, JTW & TW recorded (ML 609678288, Fig. 8) a vocalising Uniform Crane along a roadside creek lined with *Heliconia* (10°15'25.2"S, 66°20'60"W). This is the first documented record for Pando and only the third for Bolivia, after those in Santa Cruz (Mayer 2000) and La Paz (Tobias & Seddon 2007a). The species is probably more widespread but overlooked in Pando, Amazonian La Paz and the Chapare.

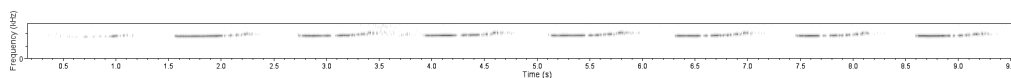


Figure 8. Sonogram of Uniform Crane *Amaurolimnas concolor*, Selva Negra, central Pando, Bolivia, September 2023 (Jacob Wijkema)

MISSISSIPPI KITE *Ictinia mississippiensis*

We documented the first record for Pando and have subsequently observed the species in fairly large numbers in eastern Pando, indicating that it is part of the species' regular autumn migration route. In all cases, the species was recognised by the lack of rufous in the primaries (ML 620917485) vs. the closely related Plumbeous Kite *I. plumbea*. We first observed nine on 30 September 2021 at Indusmar Selva Negra timber concession (10°15'46.08"S, 66°17'47.4"W). In 2023, we saw at least 95 migrating south-east high over forest near Nueva Esperanza (10°01'4.8"S, 65°25'58.8"W) before dusk on 19 September (PvE, JTW, TW). Then, after dawn on 22 September 2023, we observed at least 55 'kettling' and then moving south-east over the western bank of the Madeira River (10°27'50.4"S, 65°32'2.4"W; PvE, JTW, TW).

STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus*

Scattered records of this boreal migrant exist during passage (Herzog *et al.* 2016), but to our knowledge there are no July records in Bolivia. We photographed three at Palmar de las Islas, southern Santa Cruz (19°25'46.2"S, 60°32'52.8"W; ML 469390471) on 6 July 2022. This site holds important numbers of wetland birds and, although we were unable to obtain documentation, we also recorded two White-rumped Sandpipers *C. fuscicollis* there the same day.

PUNA IBIS *Plegadis ridgwayi*

Mainly montane in Bolivia, whereas the distribution of its close relative White-faced Ibis *P. chihi* is centred on the lowlands. The latter is occasionally also seen at high elevations (Lane 2014, Aponte *et al.* 2022). The two may be distinguished at all seasons by the length of the tibiotarsus (Lane 2014), which is much shorter in Puna Ibis than in White-faced Ibis, permitting their identification, especially if seen side by side. We saw two Puna Ibis at Lagunillas (19°38'3.84"S, 63°40'24.24"W) on 26 June 2021, and two at Palmar de las Islas (19°25'46.2"S, 60°32'52.8"W, ML 620478183) on 6 July 2022. On both occasions, they were mixed with the more numerous White-faced Ibis. Although the species appear to be

largely separated elevationally, caution with their identification is warranted not only in the Bolivian highlands, but also in the lowlands. Further confounding the situation, hybrids between the two species have been documented genetically (Oswald *et al.* 2019), although we are not aware of the morphological characteristics of such birds.

SUBTROPICAL PYGMY OWL *Glaucidium parkeri*

Rare and local in Bolivia (Herzog *et al.* 2016). We found the species at a new site in the foothills of Santa Cruz near Abra de los Toros (18°03'15.8"S, 63°50'29.4"W), where we recorded two individuals on 10 and 11 March 2021 (XC 631229, XC 630648) and we also found the species there on 31 July 2023.

CLOUD-FOREST SCREECH OWL *Megascops marshalli*

Known from a few locations in the Yungas of La Paz and Cochabamba (Herzog *et al.* 2016), we found the species north of Agua Clara, Santa Cruz, the first departmental



Figure 9. Cloud-forest Screech Owl *Megascops marshalli*, Agua Clara, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, March 2018 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

record. We first observed it at 17°52'08.4"S, 64°08'25.4"W, on 19 and 20 October 2017. On a subsequent visit, on 23 February 2018, we recorded the species at 17°55'37.9"S, 64°07'13.4"W, and on 5 March 2018 we obtained photographs there (Fig. 9; ML 88675911). The forest in this area is characterised by a transition between thorn scrub and humid Yungas foothills.

BUFF-FRONTED OWL *Aegolius harrisii*

We found this rare owl (Herzog *et al.* 2016) in two areas of the Andean foothills in Santa Cruz. First, on 18 July 2017 we recorded (ML 63978851) it on the road to La Junta south of Bermejo (18°17'24.0"S, 63°37'40.8"W) and subsequently obtained photographs in this area, at 18°14'24.0"S, 63°38'13.9"W, on 22 October 2017 (ML 519593531). On 23 February 2018, we observed the species c.60 km further north-west at Pampa Grande (17°55'37.9"S, 64°07'13.4"W) and on 15 December 2022 PvE observed it nearby at 17°57'36.0"S, 64°06'18.0"W. All of our observations involved singles, but on 22 October we saw at least two.

BRONZY JACAMAR *Galbula leucogastra*

Rare in the canopy of stunted forest, with records from western and north-eastern Pando as well as in northernmost Beni (Herzog *et al.* 2016). PvE, JTW & TW found a vocal family group of four on 15 September 2023 in north-central Pando at the Selva Negra concession (10°03'3.6288"S, 66°43'15.8484"W; ML 609822387) in open-canopy forest (possibly selectively logged within the last 20 years) with an understorey of *Guadua* bamboo. This location is more than 100 km from previous records in north-eastern Pando.

WHITE-BELLIED PARROT *Pionus leucogaster*

We previously reported the occurrence of *P. l. xanthurus* in Bolivia, as well as morphological intermediates between *xanthurus* and *xanthomerius* in eastern and central Pando, where birds have the tarsus colour of one subspecies and the rectrix colour of the other (van Els *et al.* 2023). At Selva Negra (10°15'25.2"S, 66°20'52.8"W) in north-central Pando on 17 September 2023, PvE, JTW & TW photographed birds of both tarsus colour types side by side; and showing variable amounts of green and yellow in their tails (Fig. 10; ML 609802323), confirming a probably broad zone of introgression across Pando.



Figure 10. White-bellied Parrots *Pionites leucogaster*, Selva Negra, Pando, Bolivia, August 2023; one bird with flesh-coloured legs (cf. *xanthurus*) and a mainly green tail (cf. *xanthomerius*) and one with grey legs (cf. *xanthomerius*) and a largely yellow tail (cf. *xanthurus*) (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

MANU ANT BIRD *Cercomacra manu*

Parker & Remsen (1987) found this species in western Pando and we found it in north-east Pando (van Els *et al.* 2023) and argued that these populations are probably isolated from one another because we did not find the species in central Pando. However, we *have* now found *C. manu* very locally in suitable, bamboo-choked, forest habitat with streams in central Pando (10°13'26.4"S, 66°20'56.4"W; ML 609830265). Indeed, PvE, JTW & TW found it unfailingly anywhere they could access bamboo-dominated forest streams in central and eastern Pando (see van Els *et al.* 2023; additional site 10°00'54.88"S, 65°26'50.15"W), generally in rather vocal pairs or even multiple pairs in response to playback. It appears that the species' territories are rather densely packed into these linear-shaped habitats across Pando and that its apparent rarity is simply because suitable habitat is accessible only locally in the department. The assertion that the species is 'patchily distributed... being present in some seemingly suitable areas and absent in others' (Parker & Remsen 1987) appears unfounded, at least in central and eastern Pando. Also, Parker & Remsen indicated the species occurs in *Guadua* bamboo in western Pando, which may be true there, but the dominant species along forest streams in the eastern half of Pando is the denser, thinner-stemmed *Rhipidocladum racemiflorum*, which differs diagnostically from *Guadua* by the aspidate array of its branchlets.

FIERY-CAPPED MANAKIN *Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*

PvE observed this species along the El Palmar Road, Cochabamba (17°4'50.7"S, 65°28'57.198"W), where he found at least four singing males on 25 December 2022 in patches of lower Yungas forest interspersed with coca cultivation. This is the first record for Cochabamba and the southernmost of the species in Bolivia. *M. pyrocephalus* will undoubtedly be found elsewhere in the lower Yungas of Cochabamba and may occur also in the Santa Cruz Yungas.

TICKING DORADITO *Pseudocolopteryx cf. citreola*

On 9 July 2023, during the Neotropical Waterbird Census, JLM photographed an adult in the western part of Playón Garcero Natural Area (17°15'59.21"S, 62°35'15.02"W; 274 m;



Figure 11. Ticking Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx cf. citreola*, Laguna Kaukaya, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, May 2023 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

ML 593967121), in central Santa Cruz; it was foraging among cattails (*Typha domingensis*), occasionally raising its reddish crest. The same or another individual was seen again on 30 July 2023 and 5 November 2023. Although there is a need to establish definitive diagnostic features for species in this genus, especially for immatures, we confidently refer this observation to *P. citreola* based on the rufous-brown forecrown contrasting with darker brown hindcrown (typical of adult *P. citreola*/Warbling Doradito *P. flaviventris*), dark lores (separating it from adults of the similar Dinelli's Doradito *P. dinelliana*), and range (*P. flaviventris* is known to winter only as far north as north-central Paraguay; eBird 2024). Additionally, TW & JTW photographed (Fig. 11; ML 606220781) two *P. cf. citreola* on 30 May 2023 at Laguna Kaukaya (19°24'24.48"S, 63°27'36.36"W).

SHARP-BILLED CANASTERO *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*

A rare austral winter visitor to Chaco scrub (Herzog *et al.* 2016), with records in Tarija and Santa Cruz. We photographed the species on 31 May 2022 north of Hito III (20°30'41.0"S 62°13'44.8"W; ML 458547461) in easternmost Chuquisaca, providing the first documented departmental record.

SCIMITAR-BILLED WOODCREEPER *Drymornis bridgesii*

Although predicted to occur widely in Chaco woodland in eastern Chuquisaca (Herzog *et al.* 2016), no substantiated departmental records existed until we photographed two on 7 July 2019 at 20°29'41.3"S 62°16'02.6"W, north of Hito III (ML 520384171).

BROWN CACHOLOTE *Pseudoseisura lophotes*

Like the two previous species, there was no documented record of Brown Cacholote from Chaco woodland in Chuquisaca, despite it being predicted to occur there by Herzog *et al.* (2016). We photographed a pair north of Hito III (20°29'41.3"S 62°16'02.6"W; ML 520389821) on 11 December 2018, confirming that the species occurs in Chuquisaca.

HAUXWELL'S THRUSH *Turdus hauxwelli*

Herzog *et al.* (2016) listed the species' elevational range in Bolivia as 110–500 m, and it is known to occur up to 800 m elsewhere (Collar 2020). We photographed a singing individual on 5 October 2019 along Ruta Nacional 3 near Cerro Mula in La Paz (15°41'0.96"S, 67°29'38.04"W; ML 184926321) at 1,300 m, a new max. elevation for the species.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis*

On 10 January 2024, JTW, TW, MMA & NAA mist-netted a male and female of this boreal migrant at 13°14'46.1"S, 64°40'09.4"W (Fig. 12; ML 620924610) on



Figure 12. Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*, north-central Beni, Bolivia, January 2024 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)

the San Ramón–San Joaquín road in north-central Beni. This is the first departmental record. The birds were very responsive to playback but otherwise remained low and hidden in dense savanna shrubbery. Given the date, the birds were probably wintering, rather than on passage, as the species generally does not arrive on their breeding grounds until late April (eBird 2024). Previous records in Bolivia are from the Apolo area, where it is perhaps commoner than elsewhere (Aponte *et al.* 2022), as well as in the Chiquitania and Chaco of Santa Cruz (McKinnon *et al.* 2017). Our record indicates that Beni's savannas form part of the wintering range and that the species should be looked for (using playback) more widely in the department.

RED-BACKED SIERRA FINCH *Idiopsar dorsalis*

We photographed (Fig. 13; ML 580742011) this thrupid on 27 May 2023 at an unnamed pass on Ruta Nacional 28, 4 km south-west of Rejara, Tarija (22°01'45.5"S, 65°01'48.0"W). The species had been predicted to occur in the department (Herzog *et al.* 2016), but records were lacking hitherto. We found at least five individuals at the site, where the species seems regular having been observed by other observers subsequently.

BLACK-CRESTED FINCH *Lophospingus pusillus*

A local resident in Chaco woodland in Santa Cruz and dry inter-Andean valleys in Tarija (Herzog *et al.* 2016); hitherto, all records from Chuquisaca were undocumented. We photographed a group of 30 north of Hito II (20°29'41.3"S, 62°16'02.6"W; ML 520374001) on 7 July 2019 and a pair south of Hito II on 29 May 2022 (20°34'13.1"S, 62°15'58.7"W; ML 481732241), as well as a pair on 8 October 2022 in the same area (MMA, Fig. 14; ML 620617220) confirming occurrence in the department.



Figure 13 (left). Red-backed Sierra Finch *Idiopsar dorsalis*, 4 km south-west of Rejara, Tarija, Bolivia, May 2023 (Tini & Jacob Wijpkema)



Figure 14 (right). Black-crested Finch *Lophospingus pusillus*, Hito II, Chuquisaca, Bolivia, October 2022 (Miguel Montenegro-Avila)

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