

The Accounts for 1987 were presented. It was proposed by Mr D. R. Calder, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, that the Accounts for 1987 be received and adopted and this was carried.

The Meeting closed at 6.05 p.m.

The seven hundred and eighty-second Meeting of the Club was held in the Senior Common Room, Sherfield Building, Imperial College, London S.W. 7 on Tuesday, 20 September 1988 at 7 p.m. The attendance was 27 Members and 12 guests.

Members present were: Revd. G. K. McCulloch (*Chairman*), Miss H. Baker, K. F. Betton, Mrs D. M. Bradley, D. R. Calder, S. J. W. Coles, I. D. Collins, P. J. Conder, J. H. Elgood, S. J. Farnsworth, Miss C. T. Fisher, D. J. Fisher, R. S. R. Fitter, H. S. Gibbons, B. Gray, D. Griffin, R. H. Kettle, Dr J. F. Monk, Mrs A. M. Moore, R. G. Morgan, Mrs M. N. Muller, P. J. Oliver, R. E. F. Peal, P. S. Redman, Miss S. Sassoon, R. E. Sharland and N. H. F. Stone.

Guests present were: Mrs J. B. Calder, Mrs F. M. Farnsworth, Mrs M. S. Fitter, C. Gibbons, Mrs M. C. Gibbons, Mrs Isabel McCulloch, P. J. Moore, C. A. Muller, Miss J. Patey, I. Proud, A. Swash and Mrs G. W. Swash.

During dinner, the Vice-Chairman, Mr D. Griffin, spoke briefly on a visit he made in May and June last to the B.O.U. Expedition to Colombia (*vide Bull. Br. Orn. Cl.* 108: 51).

Miss C. T. Fisher gave an illustrated and most interesting address on *Discovery of Australian Birds* in the period 1835–1850. A resumé will be published later.

SHORT INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS BY MEMBERS AT MEETINGS

Short informal communications by Members on matters of current ornithological interest are welcome at Meetings during dinner. Members wishing to speak must previously inform the Chairman, whose address is 5 Roy Rd., Northwood, Middx. HA6 1EQ (Tel. 09274/27438), and should give him as much notice as possible. They should tell him their subject and the length of time they would like to speak. All such communications must be short as the time available is limited.

Notes on the status of some birds of Región X, Chile

by Pamela C. Rasmussen and Nancy López H

Received 16 January 1988

The present status of many species of birds, especially land birds, is poorly known in southern Región X (Llanquihue and Chiloé provinces), Chile (Fig. 1). Jehl (1973) surveyed winter seabirds in Región X; Devillers & Terschuren (1977, 1978) reported on migrant Charadriiformes and seabirds in Región X in January; Clark *et al.* (1984) reported on birds of Isla Guafo (south of Chiloé Island); and Barría (1972) surveyed birds of the Dalcahue area, Chiloé Island. Because in coastal areas of Llanquihue and Chiloé provinces rapid and extensive deforestation, agricultural use, and hunting pressure are particularly heavy, and epidemics of avian disease have been a serious problem, their populations of

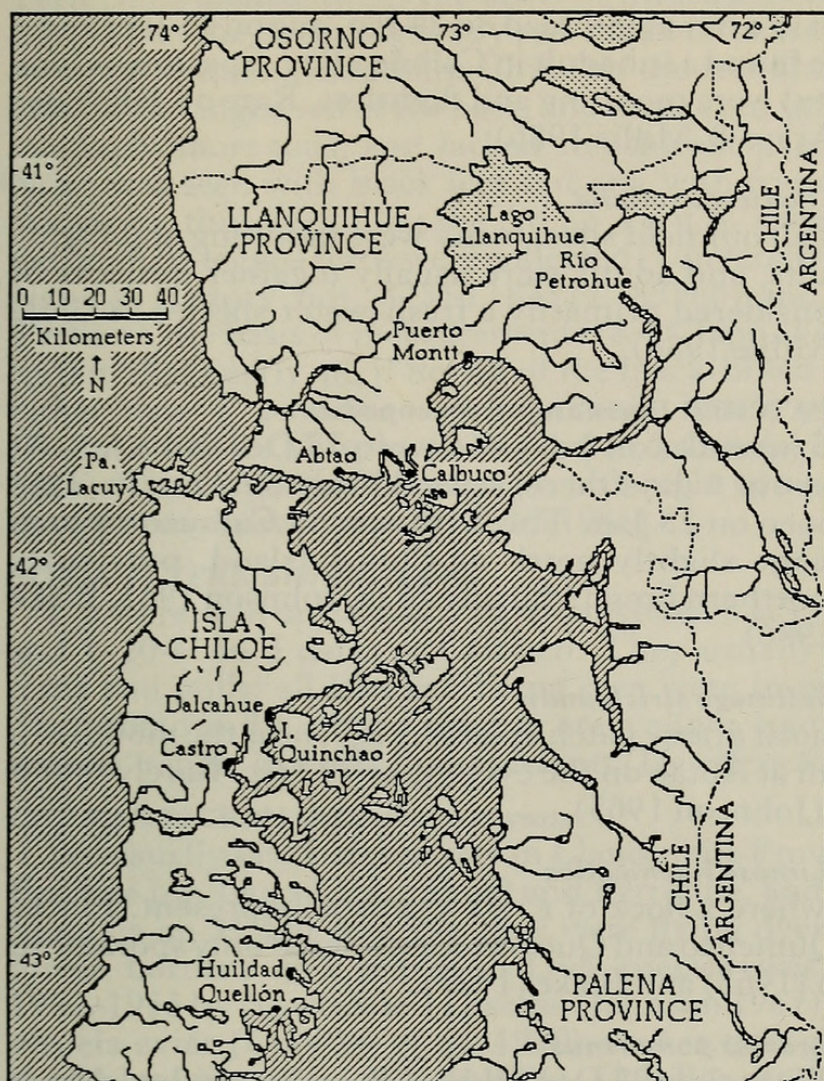


Figure 1. Map of Región X, Chile, showing localities mentioned in the text.

endemic land birds are of special concern. From 20 Dec 1986 to 9 Feb 1987 we undertook field work with P. S. Humphrey in coastal Región X, Chile. We obtained data on the status of several land birds in largely deforested areas, as well as on status and distribution of several sea bird species. A complete list of all species seen at each locality is available from PCR on request.

We camped at Abtao (40°30'S, 73°50'W), Llanquihue Province, 21 Dec 1986 to 9 Jan 1987, and near Puerto Inglés, Península Lacuy (41°47'S, 73°50'W), Chile, 10–19 January. PCR camped at Huilad (43°05'S, 73°35'W), Chiloé Island, 23–26 January, and at Calbuco (41°45'S, 73°05'W), Llanquihue Province, 27–29 January. All these localities are situated on bays, and are flanked by agricultural fields and bordered by patches of young second-growth forest or thickets of bamboo and blackberries.

CHILEAN TINAMOU *Nothoprocta perdicaria*

Scarce, probably due to hunting and agriculture (Johnson 1965, Daskam & Rottmann 1984). We saw one alongside Route 5 at the northern exit to Valdivia on 18 Jan, and on 31 Jan one crossing the road 67 km north of Valdivia, and another 45 km south of Temuco (Región IX).

SILVERY GREBE *Podiceps occipitalis*

4 adults were present in a bay at Huildad on 24 Jan, one on 25 Jan, and 2 on 26 Jan. On 29 Jan we found a subadult in Calbuco Bay. Specimens (one collected at each locality) were moulting and flightless. Rare on salt water in Chile (Blake 1977, Araya & Millie 1986).

WHITE-TUFTED GREBE *Podiceps rolland*

Abundant in bays at all our field sites; many were moulting and flightless. Juveniles, subadults, and adults were usually together in flocks of 15–100. It has been considered primarily a fresh-water species in Chile (Blake 1977, Araya & Millie 1986).

MAGELLANIC OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus leucopodus*

At Abtao we saw 1–5 juveniles on 5 days between 25 Dec and 5 Jan. At Huildad we saw 1–7 on our 4 days there; several birds were adults. One adult was seen at Calbuco on 28 Jan. These Abtao and Calbuco records extend the species' range slightly north of Chiloé Island, previously considered its normal northern limit (Murphy 1936, Johnson 1965, Blake 1977, Araya & Millie 1986).

CORDILLERAN SNIPE *Gallinago stricklandii*

López saw one in a moist grassy patch at forest edge, near the mouth of a small freshwater stream at Abtao on the evening of 31 Dec. Rarely found this far north in Chile (Johnson 1965).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica*

Common at Abtao where a flock of c. 50 was usually present. Flocks were also seen on Isla Quinchao and Quellón. Considered only sporadic in this region by Johnson (1965) and Blake (1977).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

2 seen at Abtao on 24 Dec, 3 on 27 Dec, and 2 each on 5 and 6 Jan. About half were juveniles, and most adults were moulting the central tail feathers. We differentiated this species from the Arctic Skua *S. parasiticus*, also present at Abtao, by the Pomarine's larger size, its proportionately shorter stiffly held wings, mottled breast band and sides (in adults), and in some individuals the auxiliary white wing patch. Rare in Chilean waters (Araya & Millie 1986), but several were seen at Abtao in 1983 (P. S. Humphrey).

DOLPHIN GULL *Leucophaeus scoresbii*

Two subadults were seen with other gull species at Abtao on 27 Dec (one was collected). On 28 Dec one subadult and 2 adults in breeding plumage were seen there, one subadult on 29 Dec and 2 on 30 Dec. These records are a slight northerly extension of the previous range limit, Chiloé Island (Murphy 1936, Blake 1977, Araya & Millie 1986).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* and SOUTH AMERICAN TERN *Sterna hirundinacea*

Flocks of hundreds of non-breeding terns were present daily at Abtao and Calbuco. About half had dusky-tinged red bills, red legs, and tail streamers projecting beyond the wingtips at rest. We collected 5 of these red-billed specimens at Abtao; they proved to be the South American

Tern *S. hirundinacea* on the basis of measurements. We therefore concluded that the flocks of mostly red-billed terns were *S. hirundinacea*, the common species of southern Chile. Of the rest of the birds, all had black bills, often tinged red at the base, and those seen well had red-orange legs, relatively short tails, and lacked translucent patches on the primaries. None was seen with black legs nor any with translucent patches on the primaries, thus excluding the Arctic Tern *S. paradisaea*. 3 black-billed, red-orange-legged terns were collected (University of Kansas Museum of Natural History nos. 83516, 83517, 83566) and verified as Common Terns on the basis of measurements (see Clapp *et al.* 1983). Thus we feel certain that nearly all, if not all of the black-billed terns were *S. hirundo*, rather than *S. paradisaea*, whose range is also poorly known in Chile (Hellmayr 1932, Murphy 1936, Oyarzo & Cekalovic 1982, Araya & Millie 1986). The Common Tern has been thought to occur only casually along the Chilean coast (Araya & Millie 1986).

ELEGANT TERN *Sterna elegans*

1–3 were seen on each of 7 dates at Abtao, 5 at Puerto Montt on 21 Jan, and 1–20+ on 3 dates at Calbuco. They usually associated with other terns and gulls; all Elegant Terns seen were in non-breeding plumage. The Abtao and Calbuco records are a slight southern extension of this species' range, listed as Puerto Montt (Devillers & Terschuren 1977).

CHILEAN PIGEON *Columba araucana*

We usually saw 1–8 each day in Llanquihue Province, at Abtao and ríos Pescado (on Lago Llanquihue) and Petrohue, and 2 in heavy forest near Valdivia on 31 Jan. Usually they were flying over cultivated areas or in forest borders and patches. This species was nearly exterminated 1953–1955 by Newcastle's Disease (Johnson 1967), and possibly Diftero-viruela aviar (Cubillos *et al.* 1979), and is thought by some to be rare throughout its range (Clark 1986). Cubillos *et al.* (1979) have reported gains in numbers and range, Glade (1977) reported 48 in Parque Nahuelbuta (37°48'S, 73°04'W), and we found it common in Llanquihue Province.

SLENDER-BILLED PARAKEET *Enicognathus leptorhynchus*

We saw flocks of 3–50 south of Puerto Montt, Abtao, Península Lacuy, Huildad, and Río Petrohue, usually in second-growth forest and isolated trees. Has been reduced in numbers as a result of deforestation and Newcastle's Disease (Johnson 1967, Daskam & Rottmann 1984), but we found it fairly common in Región X. Barría (1977) considered it the most serious avian agricultural pest on Chiloé Island.

DES MURS' WIRETAIL *Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*

Rather common in patches of dense vegetation, especially bamboo and blackberries, at all our field sites in Región X. We found it at 1–3 m in small thickets in largely deforested areas. Considered uncommon on Isla Mocha in thickets bordering forests (Housse 1924) and rather common at Dalcahue (42°23'S, 73°40'W), Chiloé Island (Barría 1972).

BLACK-THROATED HUET-HUET *Pteroptochos tarnii*

Rather common at Abtao in small patches of dense vegetation, especially bamboo. Usually seen walking on horizontal limbs and mats of

bamboo 2–3 m above the ground. Also found at Río Petrohue, c. 10 km south of Castro, and at Huildad, in small thickets in deforested areas. Previously considered exclusively a forest inhabitant (Johnson 1965).

CHUCAO TAPACULO *Scelorchilus rubecula*

Very common at Abtao in patches of dense vegetation; also in thickets in largely deforested areas at Huildad and 10 km south of Castro. According to Johnson (1965), it is entirely a forest dweller.

ANDEAN TAPACULO *Scytalopus magellanicus*

Uncommon in forest patches at Abtao; more common in dense bamboo in non-forested areas near Puerto Inglés. Barría (1972) found this species rare at Dalcahue.

OCHRE-FLANKED TAPACULO *Eugralla paradoxa*

Rather common in patches of dense vegetation (especially bamboo) at Abtao, and one was heard in a thicket in a deforested area c. 10 km south of Castro on 17 Jan. Housse (1924) found it rather common in thickets on Isla Mocha, but Barría (1972) found it very scarce at Dalcahue.

Several of the birds usually considered to be forest species in Chile were common in deforested areas with thickets and scattered trees in Región X (e.g. the 4 tapaculos, Des Murs' Wiretail, Chilean Pigeon, Slender-billed Parakeet). The wiretail, especially, appears to be largely restricted to edge habitats such as are created by deforestation. In contrast, we did not see the Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus*, Rufous-tailed Hawk *Buteo ventralis*, White-throated Treerunner *Pygarrhichas albogularis* and Patagonian Tyrant *Colorhamphus parvirostris*, and we suspect that most of these species require less disturbed habitats.

Acknowledgements

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Comments on recently described new species of hermit hummingbirds

by Christoph Hinkelmann

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Since 1966, 11 species of hummingbirds have been described as new to science. Before their validities could be independently evaluated (Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983, Vuilleumier & Mayr 1987), some of them, depending on the date of their description, were included in major ornithological check-lists (e.g. Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Parker *et al.* 1982, Wolters 1975–1982). Four of these new species are placed within the genus *Phaethornis* and 3 in *Threnetes*, both in the hermit subfamily (Phaethornithinae). Because this well-defined group comprises merely c. 10% of the total number of hummingbird species, and because 3 species soon after their discoveries were included in the ICBP Bird Red Data Book (King 1981), it became evident that a careful (re-)examination of all available information on these 7 hermit hummingbirds was highly desirable.



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