

## GENERAL NOTES

**Observations in southern Chile in the southern hemisphere autumn.**—In April and May of 1959 my wife and I visited several sheep ranches in the Chilean province of Magellan and on Chilean Tierra del Fuego (see Figure 1). These visits gave me an opportunity to observe the avifauna in the end of the period of migration. Since there is little known about bird life of this area so late as the end of April, it seemed worthwhile to report what birds remained in this cold season. An important portion of the local avifauna is migratory and at least one-half of the migratory breeding species had already left in March and the first half of April. The birds seen represent either species that are permanent residents, stragglers of known migratory species, or possibly resident members of species whose main population is known to migrate. The last group is speculative, but when birds of a species known to have migratory populations were seen with high frequency, it is possible that they fall into this third category.

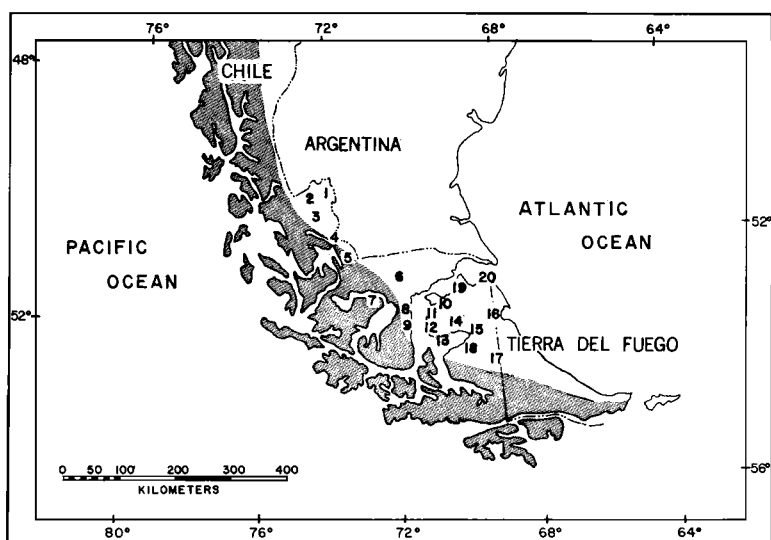


Figure 1. The Magellanic area and Tierra del Fuego (separated from the mainland by the Straits of Magellan). The stippled area represents temperate forest; plain areas are occupied by temperate steppe. Numerals represent the following localities: 1, Cerro Castillo and Cerro Guido Ranch; 2, Payne Cordillera, Laguna Amarga, Lakes Pehué and Nordenskjöld; 3, Lakes Sarmiento and Toro; 4, Puerto Natales and Borries Ranch; 5, Lake Balmaceda; 6, Laguna Blanca; 7, Skyring, Otway Bay, and Fitzroy Channel; 8, Punta Arenas (ex Sandy Point); 9, Aguas Frescas Ranch and Puerto del Hambre (ex Port Famine); 10, Gente Grande Ranch; 11, Lakes Laguna de los Cisnes, Turbia, and Verde; 12, Puerto Porvenir, Porvenir Channel, and Laguna de los Patos; 13, Santa Maria Lagoon and Inutil Bay (ex Useless Bay); 14, Baquedano Mountain Range; 15, Caleta Josefina Ranch (ex Useless Bay Settlement); 16, San Sebastian Ranch; 17, Rio Chico Ranch; 18, Cameron Ranch; 19, San Felipe Bay; 20, Punta Catalina.

In the list below I have marked with an asterisk (\*) those species observed whose main population is known to migrate out of the region.

I have also included some records from January and February (summer) of 1945, of observations made near the lakes Sarmiento, Pehué, Nordenskjoeld, and Laguna Amarga. The observations reported refer to 1959 unless otherwise stated. Because of the great complexities encountered in an attempt to select acceptable and "standard" English vernacular names, and the unfamiliarity of Spanish vernaculars in the English-speaking world, such names have been omitted.

RHEIDAE: RHEAS

*Pterocnemia pennata*.—A pair near Laguna Blanca, 30 April; a nest and several pairs with chicks near Lake Sarmiento, January and February, 1945.

SPHENISCIDAE: PENGUINS

*Spheniscus magellanicus*.—Common on the Straits.

PODICIPEDIDAE: GREBES

\* *Podiceps major*.—Two birds on Porvenir Channel, 20 April; one pair at a fresh water lagoon on Gente Grande, 24 April.

\* *Podiceps occipitalis*.—One on the same lagoon as above, 24 April.

\* *Podiceps rolland*.—Several flocks on Porvenir Channel, 17 and 20 April.

DIOMEDEIDAE: ALBATROSSES

*Diomedea melanophris*.—Two on the Straits, 25 km south of Punta Arenas, 14 April.

PROCELLARIIDAE: SHEARWATERS

*Macronectes giganteus*.—One bird, same locality and date as the preceding.

PHALACROCORACIDAE: CORMORANTS

*Phalacrocorax albiventer*.—Thousands at Laguna de los Cisnes, on a little stony island in the center of the lake, 16 April.

*Phalacrocorax atriceps*.—Several individuals, 60 km south of Punta Arenas at Aguas Frescas, on the Straits, 14 April, and at Puerto Natales, 30 April.

ARDEIDAE: HERONS

\* *Nycticorax nycticorax*.—Four, stony shore of the Porvenir Channel, 17 April; two at same place, 20 April; one pair, reed border of fresh water lagoon at Gente Grande, 24 April. Crawshaw (*The birds of Tierra del Fuego*, London, Bernard Quaritch, 1907) and Philippi *et al.* (R. A. Philippi, A. W. Johnson, J. D. Goodall, and F. Behn, "Notas sobre aves de Magallanes y Tierra del Fuego," *Bol. Mus. Hist. Nat. Santiago*, 26, no. 2, 1954) record this species only in forest land, but Gente Grande and Porvenir Channel are dry grassland areas of the Patagonian pampa type.

PHOENICOPTERIDAE: FLAMINGOS

\* *Phoenicopterus* [*? ruber*] *chilensis*.—We first observed two flocks, on 24 April, at the shore of Lake Turbia (Gente Grande). The first flock consisted of 5 typically colored adults, the second flock had 1 pink and white adult and 3 birds with immature grayish plumage. The following day, at the same place, there were three flocks, each of 50 to 60 flamingos, including both pink adults and gray immatures. According

to a local shepherd, these were the first flamingos observed this year. Probably they were forced to migrate by a recent snowfall or the freezing of their native lagoons and lakes in the southern Fuegian interior. The same shepherd told us that these flamingos generally arrive at the end of April and the beginning of May, gathering in flocks, which, at least in winter, aggregate in thousands in the local brackish lakes and lagoons. After the lagoons freeze, some birds move to the shores of the Porvenir Channel and the Straits, and others migrate northward.

On the muddy shore of a lagoon near Laguna Blanca (continental Magellan) in the first week of May, we saw a pair of flamingos and a separate group of 6 birds, 3 of them immatures. Near Lake Sarmiento, on a stony island at a brackish lagoon in February, 1945, I observed a pair of flamingos with a little chick; this is a late nesting date for the species.

In late June, W. Belton (*Auk*, 76: 104, 1959) found a flock of about 80 flamingos along the shore of Fitzroy Channel between Skyring and Otway bays; approximately 50 per cent were in gray, immature plumage.

A Magellanic student at Santiago de Chile told me that in January, 1961, he received by air mail some flamingo eggs from the coastal lagoon area at northern Chilean Tierra del Fuego, between San Felipe Bay and Punta Catalina.

#### ANATIDAE: DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS

\* *Cygnus melanorhynchus*.—This swan is one of the abundant and characteristic birds at this time. Individuals can be found on salt as well as fresh water. On 16 April, Mrs. Bernath and I visited the Laguna de los Cisnes (Swan Lake), a brackish lake some kilometers north of Porvenir. At each inlet we noted flocks of 80 to 120 birds, with a total of more than 2,000. Most interesting was that more than 20 per cent of the pairs had young. These were of all sizes: downy young, half-grown birds, and nearly full-grown birds. Some pairs had two, others three or four, chicks. We saw one pair with as many as 12 little chicks. With each flock of this species, we noted also from 6 to 12 pairs of *Coscoroba coscoroba*. On other lakes and lagoons there were also individuals of *Cygnus melanorhynchus*, but in smaller numbers. We also found them in salt water, near the opening of the Porvenir Channel to the Straits, where they were feeding on a patch of gulfweed (*Macrocystis* sp.). At Gente Grande, in the middle of a little lagoon was a pair with only one young (the size of a small duck), and on 25 April, at Laguna Turbia, we found one pair with three half-grown, grayish chicks. Several pairs of adults were seen near the eastern shore of Lake Balmaceda but these had no chicks. These late records of swans indicate that the cycle of reproduction is different from that given by Philippi *et al.* (*op. cit.*). Either the nesting period begins late or the swans have two clutches. Additionally, for several weeks in late January, 1945, I observed a pair of swans with four fledglings at a lagoon near Lake Sarmiento. A characteristic feature is the swan's notable preference for brackish and salt water. Olrog ("Avifauna del Tierra del Fuego y Chile," *Acta Zool. Lilloana*, 5: 437-531, 1948) noted flocks of hundreds at Otway and Skyring bays in April and May. It seems that the still reproducing pairs cannot migrate (if they are migratory) before winter sets in. Presumably they pass the winter in brackish or salt water, which rarely freezes and which contains an abundance of algae and gulfweed for food.

*Chloephaga picta*.—Very numerous everywhere in Tierra del Fuego and on the adjacent mainland, including mountainous regions. Other species of *Chloephaga* were not seen.

*Coscoroba coscoroba*.—Observed only in isolated pairs, at all lakes, less frequently

than *Cygnus melancoriphus*. From many observations we approximated a ratio of 1 of the former to 10 of the latter. We corroborated this ratio on the Laguna de los Cisnes, Bahía Inutil, and Lake Balmaceda. In the Straits and Porvenir Channel (both salt water), this species was not seen. The characteristic call of this bird is a kind of smooth and trumpet-like croak of three syllables, accented on the last, the first high and sustained and the two latter short. This swan utters this croak continuously when men approach too closely; it must be considered an alarm call. *Cygnus melancoriphus* is almost mute.

\* *Anas specularis*.—Two pairs in fresh water creek and one pair on nearby fresh water lagoon, Gente Grande, 24 April; six very tame birds, Lake Balmaceda, 30 April.

*Anas specularoides*.—One of the most frequently observed birds, seen in fresh, brackish, and salt water.

\* *Anas* [*Nettion*] *flavirostris*.—A flock of six, Laguna de los Cisnes, 16 April; one pair, fresh water lagoon near Inutil Bay, 19 April; two birds, little lagoon at Gente Grande, 24 April.

\* *Anas* [*Dafila*] *georgica*.—One pair, fresh water lagoon at Gente Grande, 24 April.

\* *Mareca sibilatrix*.—One pair, 16 April, Laguna de los Cisnes; one pair at Santa Maria, south of Porvenir, 19 April; several on two fresh water lagoons at Gente Grande, 24 April.

\* *Spatula platalea*.—One pair, reed-bordered fresh water lagoon at Gente Grande, 19 April.

\* *Oxyura* [*jamaicensis*] *ferruginea*.—One bird at the same locality and time as the preceding.

*Tachyeres patachonicus*.—Observed wherever there was a lake or lagoon, with brackish, salt, or fresh water, both on the continent and on Tierra del Fuego. After *Anas specularoides* this was the most common duck.

*Tachyeres pteneres*.—Two isolated couples on rocky shores south of Punta Arenas at the Straits, 14 April.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE: HAWKS, EAGLES, KITES

*Buteo polyosoma*.—Common and widespread. Next to *Caracara plancus*, the most common bird of prey in April.

*Buteo* [*jamaicensis*] *ventralis*.—One bird, perched on a fence pole near Rio Chico, 23 April.

\* *Circus* [*cyaneus*] *cinereus*.—One over a swampy plain at San Sebastian; one near Lake Balmaceda, over wet grassland, 22 and 30 April.

#### FALCONIDAE: FALCONS, CARACARAS

*Milvago chimango*.—One bird, 15 km south of Porvenir, 19 April.

*Phalcoboenus albogularis*.—Birds observed in mountain beechwood at the Payne Cordillera, 120 km north of Puerto Natales, February, 1945.

*Caracara plancus*.—Seen everywhere; the most common bird of prey.

*Falco sparverius*.—One near the police station of Baquedano, Inutil Bay; two perched on a beech tree, shore of Lake Balmaceda; one at Cerro Castillo Ranch, 1 May.

#### RALLIDAE: RAILS

*Fulica leucoptera*.—About 200, Santa Maria fresh water lagoon, 19 April; many at Gente Grande on fresh water lagoon, 24 April.

## HAEMATOPODIDAE: OYSTERCATCHERS

\* *Haematopus leucopodus*.—Three birds, shore of Porvenir Channel, 17 April.

## CHARADRIIDAE: PLOVERS

\* *Charadrius falklandicus*.—On mud flats near Porvenir, 12 birds on 19 April; many along the snow-covered shore of Porvenir Channel, 20 April.

\* *Zonibyx modestus*.—Present with the preceding species, same locality and dates (estimated as more than 100 of the two species together). At the end of April, at a mud flat near Lake Balmaceda, south of Puerto Natales, a flock of more than 500 birds.

## SCOLOPACIDAE: SANDPIPERS

\* *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*.—Two individuals of this North American race, northern shore of Porvenir Channel, 20 April; two birds, Gente Grande Bay, 24 April.

\* *Totanus flavipes*.—One individual of this North American species, in breeding plumage, shore of Porvenir Channel, 20 April; one at shore of Gente Grande Bay, 24 April; one bird, in nuptial plumage, eastern shore of Lake Balmaceda, 30 April.

\* *Gallinago paraguaiiae*.—One pair, at swampy shore of Laguna de los Cisnes, 16 April; two birds at wet border at Gente Grande, 24 April; a pair near Lake Balmaceda, 30 April.

## THINOCORIDAE: SEEDSNIPES

*Attagis malouinus*.—On 16 April we observed one bird at the gravel shore of a fresh water lagoon, near the Straits, at Gente Grande. Mrs. Bernath approached the bird to a distance of less than three yards. The next week, during a snowstorm on the ridge of the Baquedano Mountains (altitude 1,900 feet) I flushed a flock of 14 birds and watched their behavior. For some minutes they walked between tufts of mountain grass and some little shrubs, scratching the snow away, looking for seeds and buds, and enduring the wind until finally they flew away. Their flight is not very fast, similar to that of *Attagis gayi* of central Chile, and each bird, while flying, repeats a sonorous call (*too-ee, too-ee, too-ee*) until it lands. This agreeable call can be heard for some distance in this solitary mountain place. Walking on the snow-covered ground, the seedsnipes tried to hide themselves behind tufts of grass. When I came too close, they flew away, giving the characteristic sharp call. This behavior also resembles that of *Attagis gayi*. The same day, at another high place on the same mountain range, I flushed another pair.

At the end of April, just before dark on the long coastal gravel plain at Gente Grande we succeeded in getting three specimens (two males and one female) out of a flock of six. Near them there were six of the next species feeding also on grass seeds. For other records of *Attagis malouinus*, see Olog (*op. cit.*).

\* *Thinocorus rumicivorus*.—Several little flocks of four to six birds were seen on sandy coastal plains near Lago Verde and Laguna de los Patos (north and east of Porvenir) and gravel coastal plain of Gente Grande.

## LARIDAE: GULLS, TERNS

*Leucophaeus scoresbii*.—Noted several times at the slaughterhouse of Porvenir; little flocks seen many afternoons over the Porvenir Channel; one gull at the pier of Puerto Natales.

*Larus dominicanus*.—One of the most common birds along the straits, channels,

lakes, and lagoons of Tierra del Fuego and in the continental Magellanic area that I visited.

\* *Larus* [*? ridibundus*] *maclipennis*.—Near the pier of Porvenir, 20 gulls on 17 April; late April, a flock swimming in front of the pier of Puerto Natales and about 100 at the eastern sandy shore of Lake Balmaceda.

COLUMBIDAE: PIGEONS, DOVES

\* *Zenaidura auriculata*.—One pair near the shore of Laguna Turbia, 16 April.

PSITTACIDAE: PARROTS

*Microsittace ferruginea*.—Numerous flocks at Porvenir, Caleta Josefina, San Sebastian, and Rio Chico; on the continent at Aguas Frescas and Lake Balmaceda.

STRIGIDAE: OWLS

*Bubo virginianus*.—At Rio Chico, south of San Sebastian, on the border of the deciduous forest belt, one called in a nearby beechwood, 22 and 23 April.

PICIDAE: WOODPECKERS

*Campephilus magellanicus*.—One pair near Rio Chico, in a beechwood, 23 April.

FURNARIIDAE: OVENBIRDS

*Cinclodes fuscus*.—One pair, 16 April, Laguna de los Cisnes; one pair, shore of a fresh water lagoon at Gente Grande, 24 April.

*Cinclodes patagonicus*.—One pair, Rio Chico, 23 April.

*Geositta cunicularia*.—Common at all places visited. Some of the birds were possibly *Geositta antarctica*.

\* *Asthenes anthoides*.—One bird, Gente Grande, 24 April.

*Aphrastura spinicauda*.—Flocks of 10 to 60 birds in the woods at Inutil Bay, Rio Chico, Lake Balmaceda, and Cerro Castillo Ranch.

*Pygarrhicus albogularis*.—One, Rio Chico, with a flock of the preceding species, 23 April.

TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

\* *Xolmis pyrope*.—One, in snowfall at the Santa Maria lagoon, south of Porvenir.

\* *Muscisaxicola macloviana*.—One bird, shore of Laguna de los Cisnes, 16 April; one near lighthouse on northern shore of Porvenir Channel, 20 April.

TROGLODYTIDAE: WRENS

*Troglodytes musculus*.—Common; observed at many places in shrubby hills around Laguna de los Cisnes, near the Porvenir lighthouse, Inutil Bay, and Gente Grande.

MIMIDAE: MIMIC THRUSHES

\* *Mimus patagonicus*.—On a sunny, warm autumn afternoon, 24 April, we observed one perched on the top of an ornamental shrub in a shepherd's garden at Gente Grande Ranch. It permitted very close approach. In February, 1945, at Laguna Amarga Ranch, 100 km north of Puerto Natales, I observed several birds for weeks, in thorny shrubs along a creek. They perched on the tops of the Calafate shrubs (*Berberis* sp.), singing, and from time to time feeding on the sweet Calafate berries as do other Patagonian insectivorous birds. The song is similar to that of *Mimus*

*thenca*, but more melodious. In January, 1961, Señor Luis Peña, of Santiago de Chile, took a specimen at Laguna Amarga, thus corroborating my 1945 record. The first known specimen of *M. patagonicus* was taken by M. A. Delattre at Puerto del Hambre, 60 km south of Punta Arenas, on the Brunswick Peninsula, and described by C. L. Bonaparte as *Mimus nebouxii* (see Olrog, *op. cit.*).

## TURDIDAE: THRUSHES

\* *Turdus falcklandii*.—Seen infrequently near Porvenir, Gente Grande, Puerto Natales, and elsewhere.

## PLOCEIDAE: WEAVERBIRDS

*Passer domesticus*.—Common at all inhabited places (seen at Porvenir, Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales, Cerro Castillo, and Gente Grande).

## ICTERIDAE: BLACKBIRDS, TROUPIALS

*Notiopsar curaeus*.—A flock at the snow-covered Baquedano range, 19 April; another flock near Rio Chico, 23 April.

*Pezites militaris*.—Fairly frequent at all places visited; often singing, even on snow-covered ground.

## FRINGILLIDAE: FINCHES

*Spinus barbatus*.—A flock of about 100 in beeches (*Nothofagus pumilio*) on a shrubby hill at Rio Chico, 23 April, near the Porvenir lighthouse; small flocks (many birds singing) at Gente Grande.

\* *Sicalis lebruni*.—Little flocks were seen at scattered localities at Gente Grande, Porvenir, and Inutil Bay.

\* *Phrygilus patagonicus*.—I saw little flocks at the Porvenir lighthouse; at Rio Chico in a beechwood, and at Gente Grande; there may have been some *Phrygilus gayi* among them.

*Zonotrichia capensis*.—Common; observed everywhere on the continent and Tierra del Fuego.—ERNESTO L. BERNATH, *Casilla 13198, Santiago de Chile*.

**Flame-colored Tanager parasitized by Bronzed Cowbird.**—On 24 June 1959 I watched a male Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) feed a young cowbird just out of the nest. This took place in a small clearing in the cloud forest near the Rancho Miramar Chico, which lies on the side of the mountain above the town of Xilitla, San Luis Potosi. The cowbird remained perched in some low bushes and was fed several times in about 10 minutes by the male tanager. The female tanager was not in evidence.

Since the only species of cowbird of which adults were seen in this area was the Bronzed Cowbird (*Tangavius aeneus*) it is probable, but not certain, that the young bird was of this species.

H. Friedmann (Host relations of the parasitic cowbirds, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 233, 1963) lists no records of this species of tanager being parasitized by any cowbird species, although three other tanagers, all of the genus *Piranga*, are listed under *T. aeneus*.—GEORGE A. HALL, *Department of Chemistry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia*.