

One nest found was built into the side of a *Carex* tussock and contained five young.

This was a much wetter habitat than the plateau to the south of Rock Lake and contained a considerable amount of standing water masked by the vegetation.

The discovery of Smith's Longspur breeding in the Wrangell Mountains area extends the known range in Alaska south of the Arctic Circle, and some 400 miles SSE of the nearest known breeding area in the Sheenjek valley on the south side of the Brooks Range. It is also interesting that the Wrangell Mountains sites are at much higher elevations than those reported from the Brooks Range. It now remains to be seen whether or not the species breeds in any of the intervening areas.

Across the Canadian border there are records for southern Yukon Territory (Clarke 1945), and breeding evidence from along the Haines Highway in British Columbia (Weeden 1960).

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AN OBSERVATION OF NOCTURNAL PASSERINE MIGRATION THROUGH PANAMÁ

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During the night of 2-3 November 1972, I observed passerine migration passing over Balboa, Panamá, using the ceilometer technique described by Gauthreaux (*Bird-Banding* 40:309-320, 1969). Observations were made at the FAA facility in Balboa, located about 1 km from the Pacific Ocean. I conducted 15-min watches, using one 100-watt ceilometer bulb

and 10 × 50 binoculars. The mean direction of the movement was toward 75° (fig. 1) with an angular deviation of 40°. Using the formula of Able and Gauthreaux (*Condor* 77:92-96, 1975), I computed the traffic rate as 14,000 birds. The only other data available on the density of nocturnal passerine migration in Panamá were collected by Newman and Lowery (*Spec. Publ., Mus. Zool. Louisiana State Univ.* 3:1-39, 1964) during October 1952. The traffic rates they listed for Balboa and Panamá City varied from 4000 to 17,000, depending on when the observation was made. The peak values for three nights were 13,000-17,000, close to what I obtained. New-

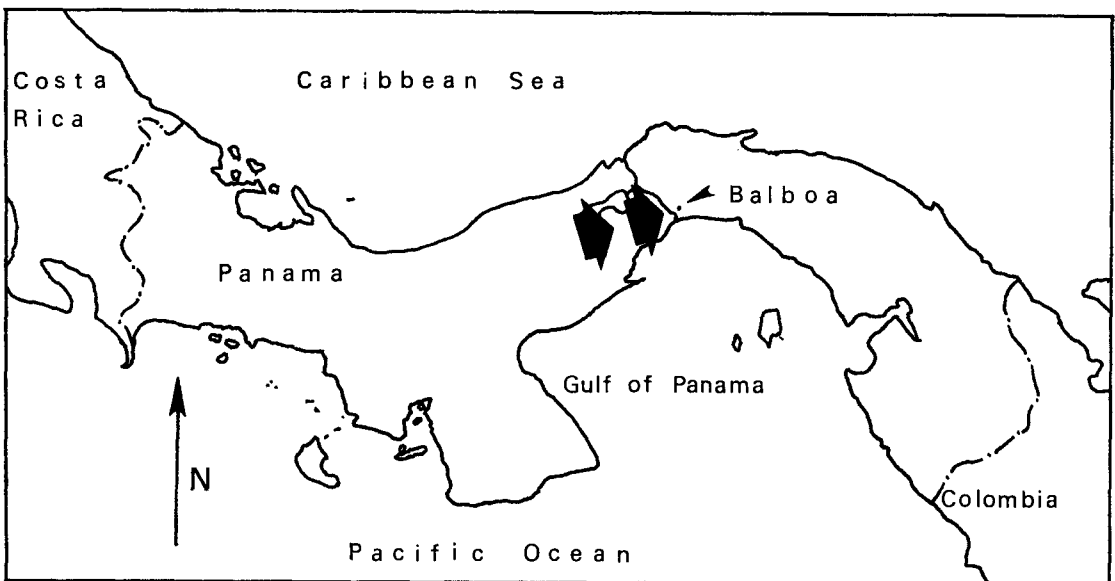


FIGURE 1. A map showing the route of nocturnal passerine migration over Balboa, Panamá. The arrows indicate the path followed by the migrants.

man and Lowery reported traffic rates of 0–5700 at El Valle and Miraflores, both at least 10 km inland.

During the night of my observations, the winds were very light and from the north (2 kts from 360°). As a result, the birds were probably moving in their "preferred direction" and wind drift was not a factor in their flight track. Their path was along and parallel to the coast, not across the Gulf of Panamá directly to Colombia. This "coasting" or leading-line effect has been described several times previously for diurnal migrants but not for nocturnal migration. Although Newman and Lowery did not report any direction of movement, the two inland sites had much less migration than did the coastal stations. This also suggests that leading-line phenomenon was probably occurring. Because the prevailing winds in late autumn are from the northeast, there could be an ad-

vantage in not crossing the Gulf of Panamá. If a bird were to head southeastward, the northeast winds might drift it out over the Pacific Ocean, possibly beyond reach of land during strong winds. Therefore, those individuals which reach the coast, turn, and remain over land are the more likely to survive.

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ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF BIRDS FROM THE MOLLENDO DISTRICT, COAST OF SOUTHWEST PERU

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In an earlier paper (Hughes, *Ibis* 112:229, 1970) account was given of the geography and ecology of the Mollendo district, on the coast of southwest Peru, followed by a systematic list of the bird species recorded there over a period of 16 years. Twelve species were recorded for the first time for the southern coast of Peru.

Since then, an unexpected number of additional species has been observed and the purpose of the present paper is to supplement the information already given and to bring it up to date. Of the 27 new species listed below, 13 here are apparently recorded for the first time for the south coast of Peru, although the presence of a few of these was reported by me in A. W. Johnson's "Supplement to the birds of Chile and adjacent regions of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru" (Platt Est. Graf., Buenos Aires, 1972). Except where otherwise stated, all identifications are based on sight observations in the field.

Phalacrocorax olivaceus. Olivaceous Cormorant. A single bird was present at the Mejía Lagoons during several weeks in November and December 1973.

Hydranassa tricolor. Tricolored or Louisiana Heron. All records refer to birds observed at the coastal lagoons at Mejía: one adult in breeding plumage, October 9–21, 1970, seen also by M. P. Harris on the last date; one immature, July 17, 1971; at least two adults continuously present from July 1972 to April 1974, with as many as six, including a juvenile, on June 30, 1973. These observations represent a southward extension of some 800 km in the recorded range of the species, hitherto not listed from south of Lima, Peru (12° S).

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern. Not scarce in suitable wetlands, especially in dense stands of cat-tails (*Typha*), but extremely difficult to see. Having identified its call in 1971, I can now state that the species is resident in the district. Apparently not previously recorded from farther south than Lima on the Pacific coast of South America.

Anas puna. Puna Teal. A vagrant from the Puna zone of the high Andes. A single bird was seen on October 17, 1970, at a small pond near Mollendo and

lone birds were observed at the Mejía Lagoons on April 30, 1972 and May 11, 1974.

Buteo platypterus. Broad-winged Hawk. A single bird in adult plumage was observed on many dates between December 22, 1972, and March 20, 1973, in irrigated farmland near Mollendo. There appears to be no previous record of this species from the south coast of Peru and I have been unable to trace any reports from nearer than the Lima district.

Parabuteo unicinctus. Harris' Hawk. One adult was seen pursuing small passerines in irrigated farmland near Mollendo, January 22, 1974; two-adult and juvenile-near the Mejía Lagoons, May 11, 1974.

Fulica ardesiaca. Slate-colored Coot. Formerly considered to be a color phase of *F. americana*, for which reason it was excluded from my earlier paper. This coot is a breeding resident, occurring in small numbers on large pools and at the coastal lagoons near Mejía.

Laterallus jamaicensis. Black Rail. A dead bird, evidently a traffic casualty, was picked up from the roadside near the Mejía Lagoons by R. Templeton on March 3, 1972, who subsequently brought me the specimen. It was, unfortunately, unfit for preservation, but the following measurements were taken: wing, 76 mm; tail, 35 mm; bill, 16 mm; tarsus, 21 mm. The recorded range in South America of this elusive species is very spotty and hitherto it was unknown from the Pacific Coast between Lima, Peru (12° S) and Atacama, Chile (26° S).

Haematopus palliatus. American Oystercatcher. Two passing southward over the sandy beach near Mollendo on November 14, 1970, constitute my only record in over twenty years.

Calidris canutus. Knot. A party of 80 birds, some already assuming nuptial plumage, was present on mudflats at the Mejía Lagoons, May 1, 1971. Two birds in winter plumage were seen at the same locality, October 23, 1971.

Calidris minutilla. Least Sandpiper. All records refer to the Mejía district, chiefly to wet places on the grassy pampas which surround the lagoons: 2, December 25, 1970; 2, October 21, 1972; 5, August 30, 1973; 10, November 1, 1973; 25, November 25, 1973; 10, December 24, 1973; 15, January 26, 1974; 6, March 2, 1974; 4, April 6, 1974.

Calidris mauri. Western Sandpiper. At the Mejía Lagoons, one each on October 23, 1971 and March 2, 1974. On both occasions the birds were with flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*C. pusilla*). In view of the close association and the similar appearance of