

ADDITIONAL PUNA ZONE BIRD SPECIES ON THE COAST OF PERÚ

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In 1974 Pearson and Plenge (Auk 91:626) reviewed the known records of Puna Zone birds on the coast of Perú, giving details for 10 species. I have recently seen two additional Puna species on the coast of the Department of Arequipa, southern Perú, neither of which has previously been reported anywhere near sea level.

Fulica gigantea. Giant Coot. On 8 December 1979, I found a single individual at the Mejía Lagoons near Mollendo. It was seen again on the same expanse of water on 21 December and on 4 January 1980, after which it apparently disappeared. The coot was associating with the numerous resident American and Slate-colored coots (*F. americana* and *F. ardesiaca*) and was readily separable by its considerably greater size (twice that of either of the other species) and, upon closer inspection, by its distinctive bill/shield color combination and its striking red legs, which could be seen briefly as it dabbled.

The Giant Coot is native to high Andean lakes, mostly above 4,000 m, in central and southern Perú, western Bolivia and the northernmost extremities of Chile and Argentina, and is generally very local and uncommon. This occurrence at sea level would appear to be unprecedented.

Cinclodes atacamensis. White-winged Cinclodes.

On 30 January 1980, a single bird appeared in the garden of my home, which is located in irrigated agricultural land close to Mollendo at an altitude of only 70 m above sea level. It stayed for several hours and reappeared on 4 February, after which I did not see it again. The bird spent much of its time around the edges of small water storage tanks and also foraged among leaf-litter along the small irrigation ditches which intersect the garden.

The White-winged Cinclodes is widespread and common near water in the high Andes of the southern half of Perú, Bolivia, northern Chile and northwest Argentina. In Perú, it is most plentiful above 3,500 m but occurs regularly as low as 2,300 m on the Pacific slope (e.g., near the city of Arequipa). It does not appear to have previously been reported close to sea level.

The almost simultaneous appearance of these two species on the coast of southern Perú in the austral summer of 1979–1980 is remarkable, but no facile explanation for their occurrence there is evident. The summer rains in the Andes were unusually light until the end of February and this may well have resulted in abnormally low water levels. It is noteworthy, however, that no other Puna Zone species that more regularly come down to the coast were seen during the period, which would probably have been the case had conditions of extreme drought led to a major displacement of populations. Consequently, the appearance of the two species at this time must be regarded as purely casual and coincidental.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bird Problems in Agriculture.—Edited by E. N. Wright, I. R. Inglis, and C. J. Feare. 1980. British Crop Protection Council. 210 p. Source: BCPC Publications Sales, "Shirley," Westfields, Cradley, Malvern, Worcs WR13 5LP, England. Birds have attacked crops since the beginnings of agriculture and the problem has intensified under modern monocultural practices and economic pressures. A conference on the matter was held in 1979 and its proceedings constitute this book. The 16 papers are grouped according to four themes: general considerations, starlings as agricultural pests, bird scaring, and chemical bird repellents. Each session is tied together with an introduction and a discussion. Although the emphasis is on situations in Great Britain and continental Europe, many of the findings are applicable in North America. While these papers are chiefly of value to those who must deal with birds as pests, they should also interest ecologists and ethologists, much of whose research they draw upon. Maps, graphs, references, index.

Beached Marine Birds and Mammals of the North American West Coast: A manual for their census and identification.—David G. Ainley, Gary W. Page, Lisa T. Jones, Lynne E. Stenzel and Ronald L. LeValley. 1980. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Services Program, FWS/OBS-80/03. 207 p. Paper. \$9.00. Source: USFWS, Lloyd 550 Building, Suite 1692, 500 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232. Surveys of beach-cast birds and mammals are often conducted by wildlife agencies or researchers, yet identification of specimens with the aid of usual field guides can be extremely difficult. This manual has been prepared expressly to serve that purpose, giving detailed information about characters that may be visible in salvaged specimens. Identification keys are supplemented by drawings and narrative accounts of species. The instructions seem practical and reliable for they are based on the experience gained in conducting the beached bird census program of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Glossaries, references, index.

This bird is found along the coast of the Pacific and conducts all of its activities within a short distance from the seashore. It is highly adapted to deal with food and water with high saline levels. Puna Thistletail. The Puna thistletail is a tiny bird measuring an average of six inches in length, and is primarily brown and gray in coloration. The crown and the wings are brown while the tail, the under parts, and the throat are grayish. It is fairly common in Cuzco and Puno. The bird prefers dense undergrowth at the edge of the cloud forest and is commonly found at elevations of 8,400 to 10 The coast of Peru is moderately hilly with many sandy beaches and cliffs, with limited presence of small bays, inlets, peninsulas, headlands, hills, guano islands, lagoons and an oasis, Huacachina.Â Peru is the second country after Colombia in terms of number of bird species in the world and third in terms of mammals, including 44% and 63% respectively living in the Peruvian Amazon. Departments: Amazonas, San Martin, Loreto, Ucayali, Madre de Dios.Â Peruvian cuisine is considered one of the most varied and original in the world, Peru has 491 different dishes, that is why the country has the Guinness record for the largest variety and diversity of dishes in the world, it has registered more than two thousand different soups only the coast and more than 250 traditional desserts nationwide.