

## A range extension of the Golden Parakeet *Aratinga guarouba* to Rondonia state, western Amazonia (Psittaciformes: Psittacidae)

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RESUMO. Extensão da distribuição de *Aratinga guarouba* para o Estado de Rondônia, Amazônia Ocidental (Psittaciformes: Psittacidae). A ocorrência da ararajuba *Aratinga guarouba* na Floresta Nacional do Jamari (9°07'S, 62°54'W), em Rondônia, aumenta sua área de distribuição em mais de 500 km para sudoeste a partir do limite conhecido. A classificação de vegetações proposta pelo RADAM parece útil para a caracterização do hábitat onde a espécie foi encontrada em Rondônia e no resto da Amazônia. PALAVRAS-CHAVE: aves ameaçadas, *Aratinga guarouba*, Amazônia, Rondônia, distribuição geográfica.

KEY WORDS: threatened birds, *Aratinga guarouba*, Amazon, Rondônia, geographical distribution.

The Golden Parakeet is one of the most conspicuous and distinctive species of *Aratinga*<sup>1</sup> (Sick 1985, Oren and Novaes 1986). It is found in a limited region along the right (south) bank of the Amazon River (Oren and Willis 1981, Oren and Novaes 1986). Here we report a new locality for the species to the southwest of its previous range.

The Jamari National Forest is located on the right bank of the Madeira River (9°07'S, 62°54'W), between the Preto and Jamari River. During field work to study tropical forest regeneration in a mining area, carried out from early September to 11 November 1989 and 16 to 26 April 1990, we found six individuals of *A. guarouba* using a tree hole located in a big branch of a "muiracatiara" (*Astronium leicoitei*, Anacardiaceae). It was a live emergent tree 38 m tall. The hole was at a height of 20 m above the ground.

Daily from 5 October to 11 November 1989 we observed these birds near the tree hole between 0700-1000 h. When any car passed by on a road 50 m away, they immediately flew into their hole. The birds were observed again from 16 to 26 April 1990 in the same place by one of us (J.T.F.).

This new record extends the known distribution of the Golden Parakeet by more than 500 km to the southwest of previous records. Willis and Oniki (*in* Oren and Willis 1981) saw the species 186 km southwest from Itaituba (left bank of the Tapajós River) along the Transamazon Highway.

Our new record for *A. guarouba* may not be surprising since Oren and Willis (1981) and Oren and Novaes's (1986) descriptions of its habitat (hilly upland forest classified by RADAM (1978) as submontane open tropical forest on a shield with hilly relief) conforms well to the habitat where we observed the species in Rondonia. The vegetation classification used by RADAM appeared to have been both helpful and practical in describing the habitat in which we found these six birds.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Sick, 1990, *Ararajuba* 1:112, for comments on the systematic position of the Golden Parakeet (Note of the Editor).

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