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First report of *Coccyzus pumilus* for Brazil (Cuculiformes: Cuculidae)

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RESUMO. Primeiro registro de *Coccyzus pumilus* para o Brasil (Cuculiformes: Cuculidae). Em 23 de dezembro de 1987, o autor observou um adulto do papa-lagarta-de-papo-ferrugem, *Coccyzus pumilus*, na ilha de Maracá, (03°25'N, 61°40'W) Roraima. Este registro representa uma extensão significativa de sua área de distribuição e o primeiro registro da espécie para o Brasil.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Brasil, *Coccyzus*, Cuculidae, extensão de distribuição, Roraima.

KEY-WORDS: Brazil, *Coccyzus*, Cuculidae, range extension, Roraima.

The Maracá-Roraima Ecological Station is on Maracá Island (03°25'N, 61°40'W) in the Rio Uraricoera in the state of Roraima, Brazil. The island supports a wide variety of habitats, including várzea and terra firme forests, gallery forest, savanna, marshlands, and stands of *Mauritia* sp. palms. Ornithological surveys have been conducted at the ecological station by Moskovits *et al.* (1985) and Silva and Oren (1990).

In December 1987, I conducted an 18-day avifaunal survey of Maracá Island. At about 18:30 on 23 December, as I walked down a trail through marshland and grassland with scattered small bushes and trees (up to about 6 m tall) and many ditches, a rather small, pale cuckoo flew by about 10-12 m ahead of me. The bird landed in a small bush on the edge of the trail and peered out of a sunlit gap in the foliage, showing a striking but unfamiliar head pattern. I observed the cuckoo for the next 10 min with 10 x 40 binoculars as it foraged slowly through the low bushes and trees lining the trail, and made notes on its appearance and behavior. I estimated its overall length at 8-9 in (20-23 cm). The bill was black and slightly decurved; eyes wine-red, and surrounded by a bright-red orbital ring. The crown was light slate-gray, contrasting slightly with the rest of the upperparts, which were light brownish-gray. The throat was rufous, this color extending upward to the ear coverts, eyes and lores, and contrasted strongly with the creamy-white color of the rest of the underparts. The legs looked dark.

The cuckoo spent a lot of time out of sight inside dense bushes, and could easily have been overlooked. It sat nearly motionless for short periods, moving only its head as it slowly scanned for prey. It foraged between 1 and 6 m above ground, occasionally venturing out into the open, where it perched in nearly leafless trees 5-6 m tall. I did not observe it to capture any prey item, and did not hear any vocalizations.

I later identified the bird as an adult *Coccyzus pumilus*. Immatures are quite different, having a pearly-white throat and a brown iris with a yellow orbital ring (Hilty and Brown 1986, Ralph 1975).

Range. *C. pumilus* occurs primarily in western and northern Colombia (perhaps east to the Rio Orinoco; Hilty and Brown 1986) and northern Venezuela, south to the rio Ventuari in the state of Amazonas (Meyer de Schauensee and Phelps 1978). Thus, my sighting on Maracá Island represents a range extension of approximately 500 km ESE of the nearest known point of occurrence on the rio Ventuari, and is the first report of *C. pumilus* from Brazil.

Ralph (1975) suggested that *C. pumilus* was expanding its range to the south, colonizing new areas following the clear-

ance of forest habitats by man. Ralph (1975) found *C. pumilus* breeding throughout the year in Colombia, and as the habitat on Maracá Island and to the south, especially on cattle ranches, would seem to be suitable, the possibility that *C. pumilus* could be breeding in this region merits investigation.

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