

# **New distributional information for 25 species in eastern Paraguay**

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RESUMO. **Novas informações sobre a distribuição de 25 espécies no leste do Paraguai.** Hayes (1995) dividiu o Paraguai em sete regiões geográficas e estabeleceu o status de cada uma das 645 espécies do país. Nós apresentamos novos registros para 25 espécies em uma ou mais regiões no este do Paraguai. Estes registros representam importantes extensões na distribuição dentro do país.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: conservação, distribuição, novas informações, Paraguai.

Key words: conservation, distribution, new information, Paraguai.

Hayes (1995) divided Paraguay into seven "geographical regions", primarily based on major vegetation units and geographical features, for the purpose of analysing bird distribution. We provide the first records for 25 species in one or more of the following geographical regions of eastern Paraguay: Campos Cerrados, Ñeembucú, Central Paraguay and Alto Paraná. The majority of these species are relatively common and widespread in Paraguay (e.g., Hayes 1995), but these records present notable (if not unexpected) range extensions. This new information, with one exception, was obtained during 2,000 hours of ornithological surveys in 1995 (Lowen *et al.* 1996a, b).

*Abbreviations and conventions.* We use the following abbreviations throughout: *Depto.* = *Departamento*; *MN* = *Monument Natural*; *PN* = *Parque Nacional*; *RNBM* = *Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú, Depto. Canindeyú*; *RNP* = *Reserva Natural Privada*; *RVS* = *Reserva de Vida Silvestre*.

We follow Hayes (1995) in the allocation of sites to geographical regions for all but two localities: PN Caaguazú and PN San Rafael. We include these sites in the Alto Paraná region rather than in Central Paraguay, because both sites show avifaunal characteristics of extreme south-east Paraguay (and adjacent Misiones province, Argentina). Additionally, Hayes' border between the two regions (Hayes 1995: Figure 7, p. 14) follows the watershed between the Rio Paraguay (Central Paraguay) and Rio Paraná (Alto Paraná). Our study area at San Rafael fell within the Rio Paraná drainage system (and thus the Alto Paraná region), whereas the Cordillera de Caaguazú itself forms part of the Rio Paraná watershed (and thus forms the border to the Alto Paraná region).

Most data presented here derives from multi-observer sight or aural records, and is presented as such. The authors and other observers (see *Acknowledgments*) had extensive prior field experience with all species involved. Moreover, the identification of all but three species concerned (Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*, Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina*, and White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*) is very straightforward. Brief notes on the identification of these species are provided.

We specify any documentation obtained. Tape-recordings have been deposited at the Wildlife Section, British Library National Sound Archive, UK. Photographs have been deposited in the BirdLife International slide library, UK. The single species mist-netted was measured and photographed before release. No specimens were taken. Details of region, department and co-ordinates are given for all localities mentioned (Appendix).

*Species accounts.* For each species, we state the region

to which it is new, followed by the date(s), site(s), and, where relevant, a brief discussion. Unless otherwise specified, all dates refer to 1995.

Plumbeous Ibis *Theristicus caerulescens*

Central Paraguay: two on 12 August at PN Ypacaraí, Depto. Cordillera.

Campos Cerrados: one on 12 November at Estancia Ybu, Depto. Concepción.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis*

Alto Paraná: one on 21 August 1992 in open country two km north of RNP Itabó, Depto. Canindeyú.

Black Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

Alto Paraná: at RNP Itabó, Depto. Canindeyú, one on 12 August, a pair on 16 October, and one on 17 October. Additionally, two all dark hawk-eagle *Spizaetus* sp., presumably this species, were seen distantly on the latter date. These records may relate to just a single pair. Madroño N. and Esquivel (1997) provided the first records for Paraguay (from the RNBM, Depto. Canindeyú, in Central Paraguay).

Blackish Rail *Pardirallus nigricans*

Ñeembucú: single birds seen and heard daily from 3-6 November at Puerto Turi, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

Ñeembucú: one on 29 October and eight on 30 October at RVS Yabebyry, Depto. Misiones; four on 2 November and two on 20 December at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Ñeembucú: four on 20 December at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa.

Pileated Parrot *Pionopsitta pileata*

Campos Cerrados: observed frequently (and tape-recorded) from 10-12 October at PN Cerro Corá, Depto. Amambay, including a dawn flight of at least 50 birds on 10 October. *Pionopsitta pileata* may be seasonal at this site, having been unrecorded during previous surveys (see Hayes and Scharf 1995).

Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus*

Ñeembucú: up to three seen and tape-recorded from 29-31 October at RVS Yabebyry, Depto. Misiones; one heard on 31 October at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa.

Variable Screech-owl *Otus atricapillus*

Alto Paraná: single birds heard on four dates from 16-24 July at PN Caaguazú, Depto. Caazapá; two heard on 26 July at PN San Rafael, Deptos. Itapúa/Caazapá; at RNP Itabó, Depto. Canindeyú, one heard on 1 August, and up to

seven birds calling (and tape-recorded) on eight dates from 14-23 October 1995. The species is evidently widespread in the Alto Paraná forests: it was presumably overlooked during surveys in the unusually cold winter of 1992 (Brooks *et al.* 1993).

Striped Owl *Asio clamator*

Ñeembucú: at Puerto Turi, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa, one seen on 4 November, and two seen and tape-recorded on 6 November.

Gray Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

Ñeembucú: three calling on 30 October and one on 31 October at RVS Yabebyry, Depto. Misiones; up to three calling from 1-2 November at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa; and up to three birds calling from 3-6 November at nearby Puerto Turi.

Gray-rumped Swift *Chaetura cinereiventris*

Campos Cerrados: two on 11 October at PN Cerro Corá, Depto. Amambay. *Chaetura cinereiventris* was easily distinguished from Ashy-tailed Swift *C. andrei* by its smaller size, more scythe-shaped wings, proportionally longer tail, and more fluttering, bat-like flight. In addition, *C. c. cinereiventris* (the nominate form occurring in Paraguay) has a restricted, neat square rump patch, contrasting markedly with the long dark tail. The underparts grade from a pale throat (demarcated from the dark 'cap') to almost black undertail coverts. Although first observed in Paraguay in 1977 (R. S. Ridgely *in litt.* 1994), but not documented until 1992 (Brooks *et al.* 1995, Hayes 1995), *C. cinereiventris* has now proved to be widespread throughout eastern Paraguay (Lowen *et al.* 1996b, Madroño N. and Esquivel 1997).

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher *Chloroceryle inda*

Alto Paraná: a male on 28 July at PN San Rafael, Deptos. Caazapá/Itapúa, appears to extend the southern limit of the species' known distribution (see Fry *et al.* 1992).

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina*

Ñeembucú: a pair on 31 October and one on 1 November at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa. Its distinctive chattering call was tape-recorded. *Phaeomyias murina* is a thick-billed tyrannulet with a pale base to the lower mandible. It lacks the prominent crest of Southern Beardless-tyrannulet *Campostoma obsoletum*, and, unlike that species, does not cock its tail.

Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*

Campos Cerrados: two on 11 October at PN Cerro Corá, Depto. Amambay.

Ñeembucú: two on 4 November at Puerto Turi, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

Ñeembucú: one on 29 October and five on 30 October at RVS Yabebyry, Depto. Misiones; three on 2 November and two on 3 November at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa; and two from 3-4 November at nearby Puerto Turi. Although the identification of *Elaenia* spp. is problematic (see, e.g., Ridgely and Tudor 1994), these birds all gave the typical call of *E. albiceps* (a drawn-out, emphatic "teeoo") and showed a broad white crown-patch. In addition, they lacked the strong contrast between bright upperparts and grey throat

typical of Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris*.

Tawny-crowned Pygmy-tyrant *Euscarthmus meloryphus*

Campos Cerrados: up to six individuals were seen and tape-recorded from 10-12 October at PN Cerro Corá, Depto. Amambay. Previous studies at the park (e.g. Hayes and Scharf 1995) did not record the species.

Large-headed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon megacephala*

Campos Cerrados: two singing birds seen at PN Cerro Corá, Depto. Amambay, in riverside bamboo *Guadua* sp. on 11 October. Although Hayes (1995) listed just three or four records for the country, *Ramphotrigon megacephala* has now been found in at least six widely spaced sites in eastern Paraguay (Lowen *et al.* 1996b, Madroño N. and Esquivel 1997, A. Madroño N. *in litt.* 1997). It is easy to overlook if the song (a disyllabic *whu-hoo*) is not known (Aleixo 1997, pers. obs.).

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*

Ñeembucú: one seen and tape-recorded on 3 November at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa; and up to five from 3-6 November at nearby Puerto Turi.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

Alto Paraná: single birds on 15, 17 and 20 October at RNP Itabó, Depto. Canindeyú; and two on 6 December at RNP Ypetí, Depto. Caazapá.

Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonota*

Alto Paraná: approximately 50 on 15 October and one on 20 October at RNP Itabó, Depto. Canindeyú; approximately 100 birds on 5 December at RNP Ypetí, Depto. Caazapá.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*

Ñeembucú: a pair on 4 November at Puerto Turi, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa.

Plumbeous Seedeater *Sporophila plumbea*

Central Paraguay: up to 20 individuals daily from 14-19 September at Aguara'Ñu, RNBM, Depto. Canindeyú (photographed, mist-netted, tape-recorded); two males on 27 September in an isolated area of cerrado at Estancia Jiménez, Depto. Canindeyú.

White-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila leucoptera*

Ñeembucú: at Puerto Turi, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa, three birds (adult male, immature male and a female) on 3 November, with the immature male still present on 4 November.

Giant Cowbird *Scaphidura oryzivora*

Ñeembucú: up to six birds daily from 28-31 October at RVS Yabebyry, Depto. Misiones; at Base Aerea, MN Bosque de Arary, Depto. Itapúa, two on 1 November and one on 2 November; and up to 12 birds daily from 3-6 November at nearby Puerto Turi.

*Closing remarks.* Even compared to most countries in the Neotropics, all of which are under-studied, ornithological surveys in Paraguay remain in their infancy. Almost all species detailed here are relatively common, widespread, and easy to identify. That they had not previously been recorded in their respective geographical region is most likely due to lack of fieldwork in suitable habitat, rather than vagrancy or expanding populations.

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## APPENDIX

Location of sites mentioned in the text. All sites were 100-450m elevation.

Region	Site	Department	Coordinates
Ñeembucú	RVS Yabebyry	Misiones	27°10'S, 57°00'W
	MN Bosque de Arary	Itapúa	27°27'S, 56°48'W
	“ at Base Aerea		27°25'S, 57°11'W
	“ at Puerto Turi		27°24'S, 57°14'W
Alto Paraná	RNP Ypetí	Caazapá	25°33'S, 55°30'W
	RNP Itabó	Canindeyú	24°20'S, 54°35'W
	PN Caaguazú	Caazapá	26°04'S, 55°45'W
	PN San Rafael	Itapúa/Caazapá	26°25'S, 55°40'W
Central Paraguay	RNBM	Canindeyú	24°07'S, 55°23'W
	/Aguará Ñu		24°09'S, 55°16'W
	PN Ypacaráí	Central/Cordillera	25°15'S, 55°19'W
Campos Cerrados	Estancia Jiménez	Canindeyú	24°13'S, 55°38'W
	PN Cerro Corá	Amambay	22°39'S, 56°00'W
	Estancia Ybu	Concepción	22°30'S, 57°29'W