

First records of Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata* (Spix, 1825) for the state of Paraná, southern Brazil

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Received on 27 October 2014. Accepted on 8 November 2014.

ABSTRACT: We report the first records of the Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) for the state of Paraná, in the city of Foz do Iguaçu, between July and September 2014. These records extend the known distribution range of the species and establish a new southern limit for its geographic distribution within Brazil. Although the species occur in nearby regions, it had never been recorded before in southern Brazil, possibly due to confusion with the congeneric Black-tailed Tityra (*Tityra cayana*).

KEY-WORDS: Distribution, Foz do Iguaçu, range extension, Tityridae.

The Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) is one of the three species of the genus occurring in Brazil; it has 20-24 cm and weighs between 77 and 88 g (Mobley & de Juana 2014), inhabiting humid to semi-arid forest canopy and crown of taller trees along forest edges, woodland, palm stands, second growth, relatively open areas from forest clearings to savanna with scattered trees, and plantations (Mobley & de Juana 2014).

The species is distributed in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, French Guiana, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil (primarily S of Amazon in C & S Amazonas E to Pará, Amapá and N Maranhão, S to Acre, Rondônia, S Mato Grosso and N Goiás) (Mobley & de Juana 2014). In Brazil, the southernmost records obtained so far come from Mato Grosso do Sul State, between 2006 and 2010 (Godoi *et al.* 2011).

In Paraguay, the Masked Tityra was recorded for the first time in 1995, at the Forest Nature Reserve Mbaracayú (Lowen *et al.* 1997), while in the Argentina the first record took place in 2008, at Iguazu National Park, Misiones (Bodrati *et al.* 2008). In 2010 five additional records of *T. semifasciata* were obtained in Misiones, showing the recent expansion of home range in Argentina (Pagano & Bodrati 2011).

The first record for the state of Paraná in Brazil occurred during banding and monitoring birds activities conducted by the authors at the Permanent Preservation

Area (APP) in “Parque das Aves”, Foz do Iguaçu, (25°37'9.12"S / 54°29'18.09"W). The total area of the property is 16 ha, with eight hectares devoted to the area of the zoo, and the rest covered by semideciduous secondary forest at different successional stages. The property is located only 400 m from the Iguaçu National Park in Brazil and 300 m from the Iguazu National Park in Argentina).

On 25 July 2014, a female Masked Tityra was recorded and photographed (Figure 1), with a mixed-species flock together with Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*), Three-striped Flycatcher (*Conopias trivirgatus*), Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*), Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*), Guira Tanager (*Hemithraupis guira*), and Violaceous Euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*). The mixed-species flock was in the canopy about 20m high. The Three-striped Flycatcher (*C. trivirgatus*) and Black-crowned Tityra (*T. inquisitor*) were vocalizing intensely, and probably acted as sentries of the flock. The observation lasted about seven minutes (16:55 to 17:02), allowing detailed observation and obtaining various photographs that enabled confirmation of the species identification. The mixed-species flock was moving towards the Iguaçu River and Iguazu National Park, Misiones, Argentina.

Between 23 and 29 September of 2014 a male and a female Masked Tityra were recorded and photographed (Figure 2) resting on a guatambu tree (*Balfourodendron riedelianum*) in front of the restaurant at “Parque das

Aves”. During these days the pair remained in this tree, being seen for long periods and attacking other bird species that landed nearby, such as Red-breasted Toucan

(*Ramphastos dicolorus*), Plush-crested Jay (*Cyanocorax chrysops*), Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) and Red-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus haemorrhous*).



FIGURE 1. A female of Masked Tityra photographed at “Parque das Aves”, Foz do Iguaçu, state of Paraná on 25 July 2014.



FIGURE 2. A male (left), and female (right) Masked Tityra photographed between 23 and 29 September 2014, at “Parque das Aves”, Foz do Iguaçu, state of Paraná.

In the interval between these records (15 August 2014), the authors and Leandro Castillo, recorded a female Masked Tityra at Puerto Iguazu, Misiones, Argentina (25°36'22.3"S / 54°32'53.9"W), only ca. 6 km from the first Paraná record.

In Brazil, the nearest place from where the species was recorded is Campanário Farm (22°51'22.74"S / 54°59'10.02"W), at Amambaí, Mato Grosso do Sul (Mauricio Neves Godoi *pers. comm.*), ca. 314 km from our Paraná record. In Paraguay, the nearest record is 128 km, while in Argentina, only 6,4 km (Table 1).

It is not easy to explain the increased number of records obtained recently for the Masked Tityra in southern South America (southern Brazil, Paraguay,

and Argentina), but one possibility is that prior to these records it had been confused with the similar looking and more abundant Black-tailed Tityra, as suggested by Bodrati *et al.* (2008).

We recommend therefore that observers in southern Brazil be attentive to the diagnostic features of the Masked Tityra, since future records of this species could potentially be obtained at additional localities covered with seasonal semideciduous forests in Paraná as well as Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. With the accumulation of additional records, the causes of the reported range extension of the Masked Tityra in southern South America could perhaps be elucidated.

TABLE 1. The shortest distances between records of Masked Tityra in Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, and the first record for the state of Paraná.

Date	Country	City/ State	Geographic Coordinates	Distance (Km)	Reference
15 August 2014	Argentina	Puerto Iguazu, Misiones (Selva Iryapu)	25°36'22.30"S 54°32'53.90"W	6,1	F.Girardi; E. Carrano & L. Castillo (<i>pers. obs.</i>)
29 August 2010	Argentina	Puerto Iguazu, Misiones (Ruta Nacional 12, Km 5)	25°37'19.82"S 54°33'7.64"W	6,4	Pagano & Bodrati (2011)
11 October - 4 December 2001; 20 February 2002; 21 April 2002	Paraguay	Dpto. Canindeyú (Resort and Private Reserve Itabó Rivas)	24°28'S 54°36'W	128	Castillo & Clay (2004)
12 August 2011	Brazil	Amambaí, Mato Grosso do Sul (Campanário Farm)	23°6'33.80"S 55°13'31.52"W	314	Maurício Neves Godoi (<i>pers. comm.</i>)
07 August 2007	Brazil	Rio Brilhante, Mato Grosso do Sul (LDC Rio Brilhante Mill)	21°42'04.15"S 54°31'13.94"W	434	Godoi <i>et al.</i> (2011)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to “Parque das Aves” for the opportunity to conduct this study. We thank Maurício Neves Godoi for making available his record from Amambaí, Mato Grosso do Sul. Pedro Scherer-Neto, Mathias Dislich and Vinícius Abilhoa helped with the revision of the English version of this manuscript. Fernando Costa Straube kindly provided help with bibliographies, while Leandro S. Castillo warned us about the possible occurrence of the Masked Tityra in Foz do Iguaçu.

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