

New altitudinal record for *Xolmis irupero* (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae) in Bolivia

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Received on 22 November 2012. Accepted on 8 April 2013.

ABSTRACT: New altitudinal record for *Xolmis irupero* (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae) in Bolivia. On 7 June 2012 I observed a White Monjita *Xolmis irupero* near the locality of Huanacuni Grande, in eastern Cochabamba (central Bolivia), at 2370 m a.s.l. This is the first record of this species in Cochabamba Department and represents a new altitudinal record, 1000 m above the known range.

KEY-WORDS: Cochabamba; Monjita Blanca; Noivinha; White Monjita.

The White Monjita *Xolmis irupero* is a highly distinctive tyrannid, entirely white except for the external primaries and the tip of the tail, which are black, as are the bill and feet. It is widespread from northern Bolivia south to central Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil (in the south and northeast); where inhabits savannas, shrublands, wetlands, pasturelands and urban areas between sea-level to 1400 m (Ridgely & Tudor 1994). Its known distribution in Bolivia includes the lowlands of the country, in Beni, Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz and Tarija Departments (Hennessey *et al.* 2003). Because it has a very large range and there is no evidence that its population is declining, the species is listed as Least Concern (BirdLife International 2012); it is fairly common almost throughout its range (subspecies *X. i. irupero*), but not so in northeast Brazil where an isolated population of the subspecies *X. i. nivea* occurs (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2004). White Monjitas are considered non-migrants in northeastern Argentina (Wilson 1973) whereas their movements in Bolivia have not been clearly documented (Hennessey *et al.* 2003). They breed between September to December and may use tree cavities and abandoned nests of Rufous Horneros *Furnarius rufus* to nest (Wilson 1973).

On 7 June 2012, while birding in Huanacuni Grande (17°53'16"S; 64°58'02"W) (Figure 1), a locality in the interface between the Puna and the Interandean Dry Valleys in Cochabamba Department, central Bolivia, I observed and photographed a White Monjita flying between different perches in a recently harvested maize

crop (Figure 2). I observed the bird at 12h 45 min. and followed until it flew into a nearby dry ravine out of sight. This observation was made just after a cold air mass from the south (*surazo*) reached the area; the weather was cold and the sky cloudy. The site was quite degraded semideciduous montane forest (less than 5% original vegetation remaining), otherwise dominated by crops and scattered houses.

This is the first record of the White Monjita for Cochabamba Department and the highest locality where this species have been observed – 2370 m – the previous highest reported elevation being 1400 m (Hennessey *et al.* 2003).

White Monjitas are conspicuous where they occur, so lack of previous records in the region and at this elevation suggests that the observed individual was a vagrant from lower elevations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Fabricio Claure and Luis Castellón who helped during field work. An anonymous reviewer provided thoughtful suggestions to improve the submitted version of this note. The observation was made while I was monitoring Andean Condor populations, as part of an Asociación Armonía's project supported by The Peregrine Fund.

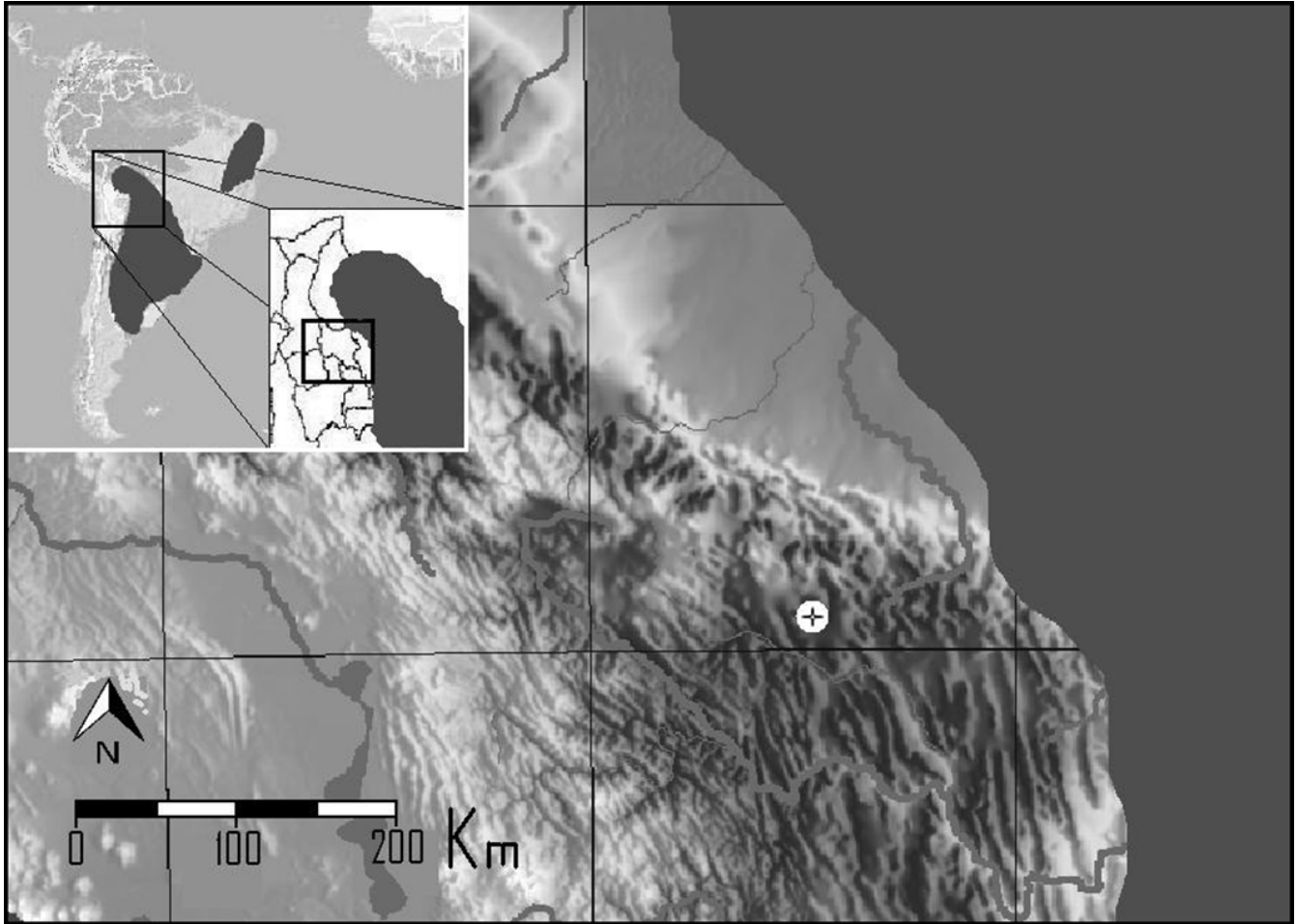


FIGURE 1. Map showing the locality of the observation (white spot), c.100 km west of the known range of *Xolmis irupero* in Bolivia. Inset maps show the distribution of the species in South America and Bolivia (grey shading) based on BirdLife International (2012).



FIGURE 2. White Monjita in Huanacuni Grande, Cochabamba, Bolivia. 7 June, 2012.

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