

New information on the distribution of twenty-two bird species in Paraguay

David R. Capper¹, Robert P. Clay², Alberto Madroño N.² and Juan Mazar Barnett³

¹ BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Rd, Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K. E-mail: david.capper@ic.ac.uk

² Guyra Paraguay: Conservación de Aves, Bélgica 165, C.C. 1132, Asunción, Paraguay. E-mail: guyra@highway.com.py

³ Av. Forest 1531 1°B, (1430) Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: jmbco@ssdnet.com.ar

Recebido em 19 de setembro de 2000; aceito em 20 de fevereiro de 2001.

RESUMO. Novas informações sobre a distribuição de vinte e duas espécies de aves no Paraguai. O Paraguai, naturalmente dividido pelo rio Paraguai em Oriente e o Chaco, foi também subdividido por Hayes (1995) em sete “regiões geográficas”, baseado principalmente em grandes unidades de vegetação e características geográficas. Pesquisas de campo realizadas entre 1995 e 1997 permitiram o registro de 22 espécies de aves pouco conhecidas no Paraguai. Dentre essas destacam-se *Colibri serrirostris* e *Pyriglena leuconota*, que contavam com somente um registro documentado no país, e *Calidris pusilla* e *Cistothorus platensis* que contavam com dois registros, além do primeiro registro de nidificação de *Columba maculosa* no Paraguai. Apresentamos também importantes registros novos para o Oriente e o Chaco, e primeiros registros para aves nas regiões do Alto Chaco, Matogrosense e Alto Paraná.

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

KEY WORDS: conservation, distribution, new information, Paraguay.

Paraguay is naturally divided into the Oriente and the Chaco by the río Paraguai. Hayes (1995) has further divided Paraguay into seven “geographical regions”, primarily based on major vegetation units and geographical features. We provide important new records for Paraguay, the Oriente and the Chaco, and first records of species in the Alto Chaco, Matogrosense and Alto Paraná regions. This new information was mostly obtained during surveys in 1997, with single records from 1995 and 1996.

Most data presented here derives from multi-observers sight or aural records, and we specify any documentation obtained. Tape recordings have been deposited at the National Sound Archive (NSA), Wildlife Section (London) or the Library of Natural Sounds (LNS), Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, as stated. Photographs have been deposited in the BirdLife International Visual Resources Centre (U.K.) No specimens were taken. Details of region, department and co-ordinates are given for all localities mentioned (table 1).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*. We first recorded this species on 3 September 1997 at km 885 on the Paraguay River. Known from only nine previous records in the country (only four in the Chaco region) and none since 1977 (see Hayes 1995). This species was later recorded infrequently at Estancia 42 in the Matogrosense region.

Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*. An immature found in a weakened condition on a small farm at Colonia Tendal, 8 km north of Jejui-mi, Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú, on 4 October 1996 is only the second record for the Oriente (see Lowen *et al.* 1997). The bird was photographed.

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*. We found it to be uncommon at Estancia 42. Single birds were seen on 6 and 11 September 1997 and at least two were heard on several other occasions. There are only two previous records for the Paraguayan Chaco, in 1920 and 1962 (Hayes 1995).

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*. We observed a single bird (presumably a passage migrant) feeding on a small riverside pool on 5 September 1997 at Puerto Bahía Negra. This constitutes the first record for the Matogrosense region. It was considered Near-threatened by Collar *et al.* (1994).

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*. Three were recorded on 12 September 1997 and a single on 16 September 1997 at a small roadside pool, c.5 km NW of Puerto Bahía Negra. These represent the first records of this species in the Matogrosense region. Two records of single birds from Reserva Natural Privada Ypetí, on 6 December 1995 and 1 October 1997 represent the first for the Alto Paraná region.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*. At Reserva Natural Privada Ypetí *T. flavipes* was first recorded on 5-6 February 1994 when one individual was observed. Subsequently,

Table 1. Geographical locations of all sites mentioned in text. All sites are at low altitudes of 100-300 m above sea-level.

Site	Department	Coordinates
Estancia Kamba Aka	Alto Paraguay	19°47'S, 58°44'W
75 km NW of Puerto Bahía Negra	Alto Paraguay	19°50'S, 58°46'W
Estancia 42	Alto Paraguay	20°03'S, 58°25'W
Puerto Bahía Negra	Alto Paraguay	20°14'S, 58°10'W
km 1170, Río Paraguay	Alto Paraguay	20°43'S, 57°52'W
km 885, Río Paraguay	Alto Paraguay/Presidente Hayes	22°22'S, 57°50'W
Tte. Estéban Martínez	Presidente Hayes	24°08'S, 59°50'W
15 km SW of Puente Remanso	Presidente Hayes	25°13'S, 57°39'W
Refugio Biológico Mbaracayú	Canindeyú	24°02'S, 54°18'W
Colonia Tendal	Canindeyú	24°03'S, 55°33'W
Jejuí-mi	Canindeyú	24°08'S, 55°31'W
Aguará Ñu	Canindeyú	24°09'S, 55°16'W
Reserva Biológica Limoy	Alto Paraná	24°40'S, 54°30'W
Itakyry area	Alto Paraná	24°58'S, 55°07'W
Reserva Biológica Itabó	Alto Paraná	25°00'S, 54°30'W
Refugio Biológico Tati Yupi	Alto Paraná	25°20'S, 54°40'W
Reserva Natural Privada Ypetí	Caazapá	25°33'S, 55°30'W
Reserva Natural Privada Tapytá	Caazapá	26°12'S, 55°39'W
Estancia Franco-Cué	Caazapá	26°24'S, 55°48'W
Parque Nacional San Rafael	Itapúa/Caazapá	26°25'S, 55°40'W
Estancia San Isidro	Itapúa	26°31'S, 55°52'W

several were seen on 5-6 December 1995 and 30 September-2 October 1997, with a minimum of 10 on 1 October 1997. In addition, Anon. (1993) lists this species as common at four areas in the vicinity of the Itaipú dam: Itakyry and Refugios Biológicos Tati Yupi, Itabó and Limoy. These are the first records for the Alto Paraná region.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. On 15-16 September 1997 we observed a moulting adult on a small pool in the middle of Puerto Bahía Negra. This record constitutes the first multiple observer record for Paraguay, and is only the third in total (see Hayes 1995).

Wilson's Phalarope *Steganopus tricolor*. An adult on a small riverside pool in Puerto Bahía Negra, on 15 September 1997 is the first record of this species for the Matogrosense region.

Spot-winged Pigeon *Columba maculosa*. A pair nesting at Tte. Estéban Martínez, on 26 September 1997

is only the fourth for the Paraguayan Chaco and the first breeding record (see Hayes 1995).

Peach-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga aurea*. At km 1170 on the río Paraguay, we recorded a flock of *c.* 10 birds in flight on 4 September 1997. There are only four previous records for the Chaco and only one since 1925 (see Hayes 1995).

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*. At Estancia 42 one or two *P. perspicillata* were heard at dawn, and occasionally at dusk, from 7-11 September 1997. One bird was also seen in flight on the morning of 7 September 1997. The occurrence of this species in the Paraguayan Chaco was previously only considered 'hypothetical' (Hayes 1995).

Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*. On 16 September 1997 two birds were seen along 10 km of dirt track, *c.* 75 km north-west of Puerto Bahía Negra. These records represent the first for the Alto Chaco region, and the

furthest west of the río Paraguay that this species has been recorded in Paraguay (see Hayes 1995).

Sickle-winged Nightjar *Eleothreptus anomalus*. Nearthreatened (Collar *et al.* 1994). We recorded this species twice at Reserva Natural Privada Tapytá: a male on 28 October 1997 and an immature on 5 March 1998. There were previously only four confirmed records for Paraguay.

White-vented Violet-ear *Colibri serrirostris*. We recorded *C. serrirostris* at Aguará Ñu, Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú, from 16 November to 20 December 1997. A “tzip tip tiup” call, typical of the species, was tape-recorded and deposited at the LNS and NSA. There were previously only one specimen record (collected in 1932) and two questionable reports of *C. serrirostris* for Paraguay (Hayes 1995).

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melano-leucos*. At Estancia 42 we recorded single birds on 5-6 and 11 September 1997. There were previously only four documented records for the Paraguayan Chaco and none since 1931 (Laubmann 1939).

Yellow-chinned Spinetail *Certhiaxis cinnamomea*. At Reserva Natural Privada Ypetí this species was first recorded in small numbers on 4-6 February 1994, and again on 30 September 1997 near the río Monday. Anon. (1993) lists the species as scarce at seven sites in the vicinity of the Itaipú dam, including Refugio Biológico Mbaracayú (Pérez and Colmán 1995). These are the first records for the Alto Paraná region.

Common Thornbird *Phacellodomus rufifrons*. On 16 September 1997, at least two *P. rufifrons* (presumably a pair) were observed at Estancia Kamba Aka. These constitute the first records for the Alto Chaco region.

White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota*. At Estancia 42, we found *P. leuconota* to be fairly common with up to five birds observed, and more heard, daily between 5-12 September 1997. Two males and one female were mist-netted and photographed, and several individuals were tape-recorded (and deposited at the NSA). There is just one previous record for Paraguay (Hayes *et al.* 1990, Hayes 1995).

Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*. On 5 September 1997, c.20 birds were recorded alongside the river at Puerto Bahía Negra, with a few further records in the same area 12-16 September 1997. These records constitute the first for the Matogrosense region.

Grass Wren *Cistothorus platensis*. We recorded a minimum of four singing birds near Estancia San Isidro, in the south-east of Parque Nacional San Rafael, on 13-14 June 1997, and two birds at Estancia Franco-cué on 5 March 1998. Birds were tape-recorded on both occasions,

and recordings deposited at LNS. There are two other records from Paraguay, both specimens collected in 1930 (Hayes 1995).

Orange-headed Tanager *Thlypopsis sordida*. At Estancia 42, a single *T. sordida* was recorded on 11 September 1997. This is the first record for the Matogrosense region.

Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelaius thilius*. On 9 August 1995 five were seen c.15 km south-west of Puente Remanso. This record is the third for the Paraguayan Chaco.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Ian Burfield, Estela Esquivel, Corinne Kennedy, Mirna Perrens and Robert Pople for their vital work and companionship in and out of the field. Fieldwork was conducted with the permission and help of the Fundación Moisés Bertoni para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, and was part-funded by grants from the BP Conservation Programme, Lindeth Charitable Trust, People's Trust for Endangered Species and Gilchrist Educational Trust. Fernando C. Straube provided helpful comments on the manuscript.

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