

## Records of Atlantic Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus swainsoni* from Santa Catarina, southern Brazil

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A coleção oológica de Paul Henrici, hoje depositada no Museu de História Natural de Berna, Suíça, apresenta 127 espécimes (pertencentes a 86 espécies) coletados no estado de Santa Catarina, sul do Brasil. Entre as espécies com material oológico representado na coleção de Henrici está a maria-leque-do-sudeste *Onychorhynchus coronatus swainsoni*, táxon cuja ocorrência em Santa Catarina tem sido, até então, desconhecida, embora tenha sido registrado no sul do estado do Paraná, nas proximidades da divisa com Santa Catarina. Os dois ovos de *O. c. swainsoni* foram coletados em outubro de 1923 em São Bento (atualmente São Bento do Sul) e são idênticos aos ovos da espécie descritos na literatura e dos ovos de *Onychorhynchus c. mexicanus* depositados em coleções oológicas de alguns museus. A existência desse material seria uma boa evidência para incluir *O. c. swainsoni* na avifauna do estado de Santa Catarina, ao menos como um registro histórico, porém um recente encontro com a espécie na RPPN Volta Velha, próximo à divisa com o Paraná, demonstra que a rara maria-leque-do-sudeste ainda faz parte da avifauna catarinense.

This short paper documents the presence of the Atlantic Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus swainsoni* in the state of Santa Catarina, southern Brazil, based on historical data and a modern sight record. In 1953 the Natural History Museum Bern (NMBE) acquired a considerable oological collection from Werner Haller. The collection was assembled by Paul Henrici and consists of 5,500 sets of eggs and single eggs from all over the world, including 127 from Brazil. The German physician Paul Henrici (1880–1971) collected eggs from his youth, but also purchased a considerable number from other collectors. In 1952 he sold his collection to Werner Haller, of Rothrist, Switzerland. The following year, Haller sold the 'exotic' part of the collection (including the Brazilian specimens) to the NMBE<sup>6</sup>.

Of the 127 Brazilian items (86 species) in the Henrici collection 58 of 43 species are from Santa Catarina state. Eggs of some birds unusual in Santa Catarina are among them, e.g. Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus*, Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*, Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*, Capped Seedeater *Sporophila bouvreuil* and *Onychorhynchus coronatus swainsoni*. Those attributed to *C. undulatus* are apparently eggs of the locally common Red-winged Tinamou *Rhynchotus rufescens*, whilst eggs of *P. occipitalis*, *R. olivaceus* and *S. bouvreuil* are not easily identified. However, the eggs of *O. c. swainsoni* are perfectly identifiable.

Royal Flycatcher is one of the most spectacular Neotropical passerines due to its remarkable crest. Although 5–6 subspecies are recognised<sup>3,9,17,18</sup>, four main populations are sometimes considered specifically<sup>1,4,7,8,12</sup>, namely *O. coronatus* from south-east Colombia to northern Bolivia; *O. mexicanus* from

Mexico to north-west Venezuela; *O. occidentalis* in Ecuador and north-west Peru; and *O. swainsoni* in south-east Brazil. The latter form has the underparts more ochraceous (without olivaceous breast bars) and a paler tail (except *occidentalis*) than other populations of *Onychorhynchus*. Threatened by severe forest fragmentation, *swainsoni* has always been considered a rare and local bird<sup>2</sup>. It occurs from Bahia and Minas Gerais south to Paraná, inhabiting lower montane Atlantic Forest<sup>13</sup>. *O. c. swainsoni* has only been found in the forested east of Paraná state, including transitional zones between evergreen humid and *Araucaria* forests<sup>11,15,16</sup>.

The set of *swainsoni* eggs (NMBE 1042873) originally numbered three, collected in October 1923 at São Bento (now São Bento do Sul), in north-east Santa Catarina. Henrici purchased them from the German oologist, Max Schönwetter (1874–1961), in 1927. The field collector is unknown. In 1953 the set was divided, as one egg remained in Werner Haller's collection. The two eggs now in NMBE are dark reddish brown (Fig. 1, p. 9) and virtually identical to the colour figure of *Onychorhynchus* eggs in Ihering<sup>5</sup>. *Onychorhynchus* eggs housed in the oological collections of the Natural History Museum, Tring (BMNH) and Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, California (WFVZ) are also similar in coloration (Fig. 1, p. 9). However, the eggs from Santa Catarina are longer and narrower than those mentioned by Ihering (1914), collected in December 1908 at Teófilo Otoni, Minas Gerais (Table 1). Measurements presented in Table 1 were taken by Schönwetter and are noted on his label. Those of the two smaller ones were verified by fresh examination of the NMBE specimens.

**Table 1.** Measurements (mm) of *Onychorhynchus* eggs (NMBE specimens from São Bento, Santa Catarina, October 1923, measured by Max Schönwetter; BMNH specimens from Panama, by Mcleannan (ex Salvin & Godman Collection); WFVZ 36436 specimens from El Petén, Tikal, Guatemala, 6 August 1969, by Lloyd F. Kiff; WFVZ 59358 specimens from Comelco Ranch, Guanacaste, Costa Rica, 9 June 1971, by A. Williams).

NMBE 1042873 ( <i>Onychorhynchus swainsoni</i> )	Ihering (1914) ( <i>O. swainsoni</i> )	BMNH 1962.1.617 ( <i>O. mexicanus fraterculus</i> )	WFVZ 36436 ( <i>O. m. mexicanus</i> )	WFVZ 59358 ( <i>O. m. mexicanus</i> )
22.4 × 15.0	20.0 × 15.5	19.9 × 14.9	20.8 × 14.9	21.7 × 14.9
21.8 × 14.7	20.0 × 16.0	21.4 × 14.3	20.3 × 14.8	21.1 × 14.6
21.6 × 14.9	-	20.6 × 14.5	-	-
-	-	21.5 × 14.2	-	-

The egg collection of Max Schönwetter, now held at the Institute of Zoology in Halle (Germany), contains three further sets of *O. c. swainsoni*, one from 'Santa Catarina' dated October 1905, and two from São Bento dated October 1923. All comprise two eggs and were taken by an unknown collector. Although Atlantic Royal Flycatcher has not previously been reported from Santa Catarina<sup>10,14</sup>, it has been recorded in the Serra da Prata, Guaratuba municipality, Paraná (F. C. Straube *in litt.* 2005), near the border with Santa Catarina. In the early morning of 11 March 2006, during ornithological field work in the Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural de Volta Velha (c.26°06'S 48°40'W), very close to the Paraná border, GMK heard an Atlantic Royal Flycatcher, and following playback of calls of the same species, recorded in the Itatiaia massif, Rio de Janeiro, briefly saw one bird. This record further not only confirms the oological evidence noted above for the species' presence in Santa Catarina, but also demonstrates that this rare flycatcher persists there.

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