

Sight records of five bird species new to Colombia from Serranía de Naquen, dpto. Guainía

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Presento detalles sobre observaciones de cinco especies de aves no reportadas anteriormente para Colombia, cada registro siendo basado en registros visuales en la Serranía de Naquen, dpto. Guainía, en julio–agosto de 1992. Las especies son: *Crypturellus brevirostris*, *Notharchus ordii*, *Perissocephalus tricolor*, *Myrmotherula surinamensis* y *Poliophtila guianensis*.

The Serranía de Naquen is a narrow isolated ridge running north to south and rising to 1,100 m, in dpto. Guainía, Colombia, and crossing the border into north-west Brazil. The region was first studied biologically during a Cambridge University expedition in July–August 1992. Although an expedition report was produced³, few of the ornithological results were ever published formally (though see Newman⁵). The 1992 expedition remains, to date, the only ornithological field work undertaken in the Serranía de Naquen of which I am aware.

Methods

I undertook mist-netting and field observations at various sites in and around the central Serranía de Naquen, at 300–1,100 m elevation, on 3 July–22 August 1992, with the objective of producing a baseline avifaunal inventory for the region. A total of 297 bird species was recorded, including eight species considered endemic to the Orinoco–Negro white-sand forests (per Stattersfield *et al.*¹¹). Amongst several important range extensions recorded during the expedition were five bird species apparently previously unrecorded in Colombia, all of them based on sight records. Details of study sites are set out on their first mention. All sites mentioned are located in primary forest, except Mahimachi which included forest-edge habitat. Various other significant range extensions are discussed in the expedition report³.

Rusty Tinamou *Crypturellus brevirostris*

One was observed at Caño Ima (c.02°11'N 68°13'W; 320 m), on 12 August 1992. It was flushed from the proximity of an ant swarm, in open forest beside a river. Close views were obtained of the bird on the ground. The chestnut crown, extensive white throat and rather short bill were noted, features which distinguish it from the more widespread Variegated Tinamou *T. variegatus*, also present at the site. *C. brevirostris* is known from western Brazil, French Guiana and eastern Peru, including, in Brazil, to the río Uaupés border^{1,2}. Its addition to Colombia's avifauna had been predicted¹.

Brown-banded Puffbird *Notharchus ordii*

A single of this distinctive puffbird was observed at close quarters in the subcanopy of emergent growth, in white-sand forest edge near the village of Mahimachi (c.02°08'N 68°14'W; 350 m), on 21 August 1992. Following prolonged views, it was disturbed into flight by two Blue-headed Parrots *Pionus menstruus*. *N. ordii* was known previously from southern Venezuela and northern Brazil, including the east bank of the río Negro in Venezuela, which forms the border with Colombia^{1,2,7}. The species had long been predicted as a potential addition to Colombia's bird list^{1,9}.

Capuchinbird *Perissocephalus tricolor*

A single of this highly distinctive species was observed on 21 August 1992, in riverside trees between Mahimachi and Caño Colorado (c.02°18'N 68°21'W; 380 m). Capuchinbird is known from the Guianas, northern Brazilian Amazonia and southern Venezuela^{7,8}, including along the río Negro at the border with Colombia. Although Capuchinbird had long been postulated as a likely addition to the Colombian list^{2,9}, it has apparently neither previously, nor subsequently, been recorded in the country.

Guianan Streaked Antwren *Myrmotherula surinamensis*

M. surinamensis was recorded at Caño Rico (c.02°11'N 68°13'W; 450 m) and Caño Ima. At the first site, a female was observed foraging in forest edge. At the second, another female associated with a mixed-species flock in river-edge forest. Various splits to the wide-ranging *M. surinamensis* (*sensu lato*) were suggested by Isler *et al.*⁴. Cherrie's Antwren *M. cherrei* (also recorded during the Naquen study), Pacific Antwren *M. pacifica* and Amazonian Streaked Antwren *M. multostriata* are all considered present in Colombia^{9,10}. A sight record of an individual of the *M. surinamensis* group, by S. Hilty, at Mitú, dpto. Vaupés, lies between known localities for *surinamensis* and *multostriata*, and was not assigned certainly to either of the two⁴. *M. surinamensis* was, however, reported for Colombia on the basis of the latter

record by Salaman *et al.*^{9,10}. The population in the Serranía de Naquen was not identified in the field to either of the two possible *M. surinamensis* taxa. However, the site is close to known localities of *M. surinamensis* in adjacent Venezuela and Brazil, and harbours populations of numerous other endemics to the region with an otherwise similar range to *M. surinamensis*. It should now fall to those that would hold *M. surinamensis* not to occur in Colombia to demonstrate this.

Guianan/Rio Negro Gnatcatcher *Polioptila guianensis* *facilis*

A single male, presumably of the race *facilis*, was identified as *P. guianensis*, within a mixed-species flock at Caño Rico on 2 August 1992. Typically for the genus, the bird was very active, feeding on small branches. Very close views, including of its grey underparts, plain wings and less strongly marked crown, enabled separation from Tropical Gnatcatcher *P. plumbea*, which was also recorded during the study. *P. guianensis* is known in southern Venezuela and northern Peru, including, in the former case, to the rio Negro border between Colombia and Venezuela, but had not previously been reported in the former. Recent research¹² suggested that *P. guianensis* may actually comprise three separate monotypic species including *P. facilis*, though this proposed split was not accepted by Remsen *et al.*⁶.

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