

**Bare-throated Bellbird  
*Procnias nudicollis* in Serra  
do Japi, south-east Brazil**

An aggregation of small hills with quartzite peaks rising from the plateau of São Paulo and supporting a mosaic of semi-deciduous and altitudinal mesophytic forests (Fig. 1), permeated by rocky outcrops with xeric shrubby vegetation, the Serra do Japi represents the limit between the drier mesophytic forests of central São Paulo and the coastal Atlantic



Figure 1. Mosaic of semi-deciduous and altitudinal mesophytic forests of the Serra do Japi, São Paulo, Brazil, September 2016 (Lia Nahomi Kajiki)

Forests<sup>1</sup>. Its fauna and flora are relatively well protected under Brazilian environmental law, and c.200 bird species have been recorded<sup>7</sup>. Among them are Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus* and Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*. The latter, which was recorded by Willis & Oniki<sup>8,9</sup> in 1978, had not been seen or heard recently in Serra do Japi<sup>7</sup> (see [www.wikiaves.com.br/WA441545](http://www.wikiaves.com.br/WA441545), for a recent record in the municipality of Jundiá).

Some 38 years later, we heard a Bare-throated Bellbird singing on the Estrada da Laranja Azeda (23°15'46"S 46°57'20"W; c.1,100 m). The bird, probably an adult male, was sound-recorded at 08h30 on 5 September 2016 ([www.xeno-canto.org/XC333389](http://www.xeno-canto.org/XC333389)). JAC returned there on 19 September 2016 and sound-recorded the species again at 08h15.

Although relatively well preserved, the Serra do Japi has been subject to modification for at least three centuries (logging, fire, human occupation). Consequently, species with a more specialised diet in fruits, seeds and / or insects, such as parrots, trogons, toucans and cotingas are rare or even absent in Serra do Japi<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, it is not surprising

that Bare-throated Bellbird, which is considered Vulnerable<sup>2</sup> and highly affected by habitat modification<sup>4</sup>, may not be resident in Serra do Japi, but is perhaps a seasonal visitor. It is possible that the species performs altitudinal movements during the breeding season (September–March)<sup>4,6</sup>, following fruiting events, as reported in Rio de Janeiro and the Serra do Mar of São Paulo<sup>3</sup>. Our observations fit this pattern, as fruitification peaks in June–December in Serra do Japi. There is further evidence of altitudinal movements elsewhere in Brazil (e.g. Rio Grande do Sul and Espírito Santo), but data are still scarce<sup>3</sup>.

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#### Lia Nahomi Kajiki

Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ecologia, Universidade de Brasília, Campus Universitário Darcy Ribeiro, CEP 70910-900, Brasília, DF, Brazil. E-mail: [lia.nahomi@gmail.com](mailto:lia.nahomi@gmail.com).

#### José Augusto de Carvalho

Rua Camburiu 508, Vila Ipojuca, CEP 05058-020, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mail: [avistarbrasil@gmail.com](mailto:avistarbrasil@gmail.com).

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