

Rediscovery of Black-fronted Piping Guan *Aburria jacutinga* in the Itajaí Valley, Santa Catarina, southern Brazil

Black-fronted Piping Guan *Aburria jacutinga* is an Atlantic Forest endemic found in south-east Brazil (southern Bahia to Rio Grande do Sul), north-east Argentina (Misiones and north-east Corrientes) and south-east Paraguay². In Santa Catarina state, there are historical records from Blumenau, Joinville, Jaraguá do Sul, Lontras, Tubarão, Brusque, Lages, Nova Trento,

Palhoça, Ponte Alta, São Bonifácio and Santo Amaro da Imperatriz, all prior to 1992^{4,6}. The only recent records are from Joinville, Santo Amaro da Imperatriz, Anitápolis and Timbé do Sul (www.wikiaves.com.br/mapaRegistros_jacutinga). Despite its former abundance, the species was completely wiped out in the Itajaí Valley after 1850, in the early decades of German colonisation, due its trusting behaviour and curiosity, facilitating its being targeted⁵. In 1869, the German naturalist Fritz Müller wrote to Charles Darwin: 'I saw how a half a dozen ... were killed, one after another, on the

same tree. A neighbour told me that two years ago, he shot about 100 jacutingas on one guarajuba tree [*Buchenavia kleinii*, Combretaceae]. In the cold winter of 1866 there were so many ... in the lowlands of the Itajaí River that in a few weeks, about 50,000 birds were killed⁵. *A. jacutinga* became increasingly rare in this region during the 20th century, due to widespread hunting¹ (Figs. 1–2) and habitat loss³, with no records since 1988 (L. E. Bacca pers. comm.).

On 9 November 2015, at 07h50, a single Black-fronted Piping Guan was observed feeding on



Figures 1–2. Black-fronted Piping Guan *Aburria jacutinga* hunting in the Blumenau region, Itajaí Valley, Santa Catarina, Brazil, in the 1950s (Grupo de Pesquisas de História Ambiental do Vale do Itajaí collection)



Figure 3. Black-fronted Piping Guan *Aburria jacutinga* feeding on *Syagrus romanzoffiana* fruits, Passo Manso, municipality of Taió, Santa Catarina, Brazil (Ivo Kindel)



Figure 4. Black-fronted Piping Guan *Aburria jacutinga*, Passo Manso, municipality of Taió, Santa Catarina, Brazil (Ivo Kindel)

Syagrus romanzoffiana fruits (Fig. 3) at Passo Manso (27°02'3.16"S 50°08'21.36"W), municipality of Taió, in the upper Itajaí Valley, in secondary forest with *Eucalyptus* sp. A second bird was observed at 08h15 and another record was made on 10 November 2015 (Fig. 5).

These findings shed new light on the species' conservation in the Itajaí Valley. The environmental impact of European colonisation since the 19th century led to the extinction (e. g. South American Tapir *Tapirus terrestres*, Jaguar *Panthera onca* and White-lipped Peccary *Tayassu pecari*) or virtual extinction (e.g. Yellow-legged Tinamou *Crypturellus noctivagus* and Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus*) of many species by hunting. Furthermore, timber exploitation and extensive agriculture have substantially reduced the ecological corridors available to many species. It will be important to search for this species in surrounding areas. Further studies should evaluate the potential to restore the species' population in forested areas of the Itajaí Valley.

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