

Avifauna of the Pampas del Heath and Toromonas, Madidi National Park and adjacent areas, western Amazon of Bolivia

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Se presenta una lista comentada de las aves registradas en el área de las Pampas del Heath (este del río Heath) y Toromonas (sur del río Madre de Dios), depto. de La Paz, Bolivia. Los muestreos fueron realizados en julio–agosto de 2007, septiembre–octubre 2007, junio–julio 2009 y mayo 2010. Se presentan seis primeros registros para el depto. de La Paz: Colibrí Coliverde *Polytmus theresiae*, Bobo Coronado *Notharchus tectus*, Batará Pizarroso de Natterer *Thamnophilus stictocephalus*, Hormiguerito de Ihering *Myrmotherula iheringi*, Hormiguerito Coicorita *Formicivora grisea* y Saltarín Negro *Xenopipo atronitens*. Además, se registraron 35 especies poco conocidas (p.e., Colibrí Cola-ahorquillada *Eupetomena macroura*, Mosquerito Cuello-listado *Mionectes olivaceus*) en este departamento. También evaluamos un área (Toromonas) con avifauna asociada a bosques de arena blanca, un ecosistema muy poco conocido en Bolivia. Se discute la diversidad y abundancia de especies a nivel local y regional en esta área de la selva amazónica.

Bolivia is one of richest countries in the world in terms of avian diversity; with 1,435 species recorded to date, it is the richest landlocked nation, the sixth richest overall, and the fifth richest in the Americas¹⁵. Approximately 45% of all South American birds occur in Bolivia, 43% of all

Neotropical birds and 14% of all bird species on Earth¹⁶. Likewise, dpto. La Paz has the greatest species richness in Bolivia (1,099 species), or 79% of the Bolivian avifauna¹².

Amazonian forests occupy 25% of Bolivian territory, in dptos. Pando, La Paz, Beni, Santa Cruz and Cochabamba¹⁷. From an ornithological perspective, northern La Paz (Pampas del Heath and Toromonas) is one of the least-known areas in Bolivia, although these areas about the ‘well-known’ Madidi National Park¹³. Several new departmental records and new records for Madidi National Park¹⁶, new species for Bolivian Amazonia^{37,56}, and even species new to science¹⁴ have been recorded in the general area. Overall, 917 species have been recorded in Madidi National Park¹³, including globally threatened and restricted-range birds such as Military Macaw *Ara militaris* and Bolivian Tyrannulet *Zimmerius bolivianus*^{11,44}, along with 26 species restricted to the Southern Amazonia zoogeographic region, e.g. Amazonian Antpitta *Hylopezus berlepschi*⁵². Some areas in dpto. La Paz, including Iturralde province and Pampas del Heath, represent refuges for species of considerable conservation concern, and which are persecuted by hunters (e.g. Razor-billed Curassow *Mitu tuberosum*, Pale-winged Trumpeter *Psophia leucoptera*)^{23,26}, as well as Bolivian endemics like Unicoloured Thrush *Turdus haplochrous*¹⁵.

This study presents the results of an ornithological survey of Pampas del Heath and Toromonas, dpto. La Paz, in the western Amazon of Bolivia. Data are presented on the diversity and richness of avian communities at four localities (Arroyo Negro, Tacuaral, Green Bolivia and Toromonas), as well as noteworthy records of

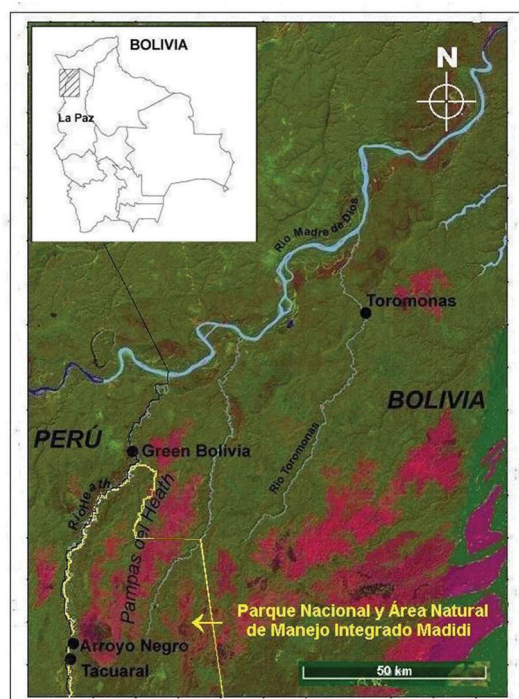


Figure 1. Study localities in the Pampas del Heath and Toromonas, western Bolivia.