

The birds of Parque Nacional Cerro Corá, Paraguay

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Resumen

El Parque Nacional Cerro Corá está compuesta de 12,038 ha que se caracteriza por vegetación campos cerrados, una formación de monte bajo y sábanas que cubre una gran región de Brasil. El parque tiene algunos ríos y arroyos permanentes que fluyen entre cerros aislados y abruptos. Se presenta una lista de 199 especies de aves registradas en el parque, basada en trabajos ornitológicos anteriores y observaciones de los autores durante 8 días desde 1987 hasta 1990. También se presentan direcciones para observar las aves a lo largo de los senderos del parque.

Parque Nacional Cerro Corá, established in 1976, is nestled among scenic, precipitous *cerros* (hills) about 35 km south-west of Pedro Juan Caballero, Departamento Amambay, in north-eastern Paraguay. The park encompasses 12,038 ha dominated by *campos cerrados* vegetation, a unique scrub forest-grassland formation typical of a large area of adjacent Brazil. Patches of humid forest occur on the slopes of the tall *cerros*, drained by the Rio Aquidibán and several tributary streams. The park provided a dramatic background for the last tragic scenes of the War of the Triple Alliance. A large monument pays tribute to the Paraguayan president, Francisco Solano López, and other Paraguayans who bravely fought and died during the battle there on 1 March 1870.

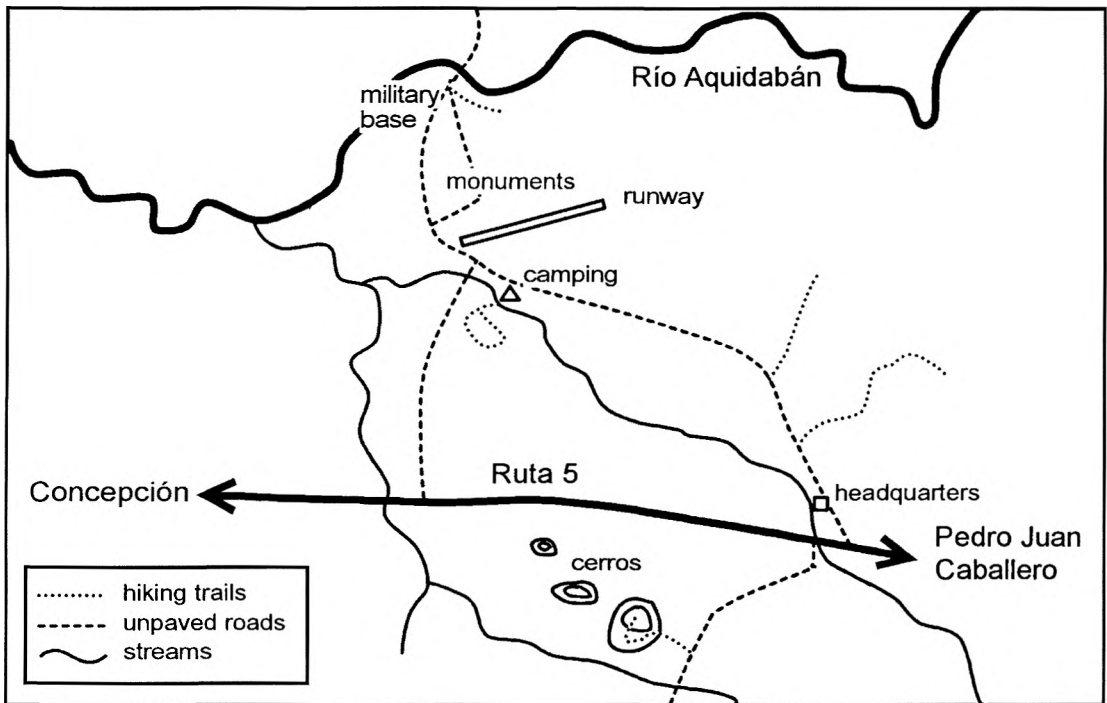
Ornithological work within the park began in June 1977, when Philip Myers and Ken Creighton of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.) spent several weeks collecting birds and mammals within the park. During the early 1980s, an extensive collection of birds was obtained from the park by the *Inventario Biológico Nacional*, a fledgling project under the auspices of the *Servicio Forestal Nacional*³; the collection is currently housed at the *Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay* (MNHN). Published information on the birds of the park include two published checklists^{1,6} (which included the specimens collected by the MNHN), a few species mentioned in a brief review of the park², and a few specimens and sight records reported in recent technical publications^{5,7}. During the period of 1987-1990, the

authors spent eight days observing birds within the park. A list of 199 species is given in Table 1, based primarily on previously published checklists^{1,6} and augmented by our observations. Undoubtedly many further species will be added in the future as birders spend more time in the park.

Although the park can be reached by car or bus from Asunción, getting there requires driving most of the day through rural communities where the original forest habitat has long been cleared. Bus tickets can be booked at the main terminal in Asunción. Daily flights between Asunción and Pedro Juan Caballero facilitate access to the park, although transportation must then be arranged from Pedro Juan Caballero to the main (eastern) entrance of the park on the north side of the highway (Ruta 5) about 35 km to the south-west. Camping is available within the park; the nearest hotels are in Pedro Juan Caballero.



Campos cerrados forest, typical of Parque Nacional Cerro Corá, Paraguay. (Floyd E. Hayes)



Map of Parque Nacional Cerro Corá

The park headquarters is located along a dirt road just a few hundred metres from the entrance. This dirt road continues toward the north-west for several kilometres, alternately passing through woods and meadows that are excellent for birding. Along this road there are several trails that branch off. Watch for a trail on the right that leads up to the ridge with a large patch of humid forest on the north side and scenic views of the valley to the south. **Variable Screech-owls** *Otus atricapillus* have been observed along this trail and a variety of forest birds, such as the **Red-ruffed Fruitcrow** *Pyroderus scutatus*, **Bare-throated Bellbird** *Procnias nudicollis* and **Sharpbill** *Oxyruncus cristatus*, should be looked for along the ridge. Further west another trail on the right passes through lowland areas.

If you wish to explore further along this road, several kilometres from headquarters the road passes by a camping area situated along a scenic stream with a small waterfall on the left. The **Blue-throated Piping-guan** *Pipile pipile* has been seen in this area. A nature trail on the south side of the waterfall winds through a patch of forest. Farther along

the road there is a runway for small aircraft on the right and another road branching off to the left (which connects with the main highway at the western entrance). Beyond this, the road passes through a large clearing studded with historical monuments that pay homage to Paraguayan military heroes. **Red-winged Tinamou** *Rhynchotus rufescens* is fairly easy to see in this area. The road continues past a military base, crosses the relatively shallow Río Aquidabán, and continues up the hill beyond the park's borders. **Social Flycatcher** *Myiozetetes similis* has been seen along the river's edge.

Another area worth birding is on the south side of the highway, where a road extends southward from the main entrance. About a kilometre to the south a trail branches off to the right toward a large, precipitous hill. The trail winds through a patch of humid forest where **Rufous-capped Motmot** *Baryphthengus ruficapillus* and **Flavescent Warbler** *Basileuterus flaveolus* can be found, passes near an overhanging rock decorated with indian hieroglyphics, and eventually wanders up the moderately steep southern slope of the hill.

The **Cliff Flycatcher** *Hirundinea ferruginea* and breath-taking views can be obtained by scrambling along the boulders and brush at the top of the hill.

Birding is probably best within a few kilometres of park headquarters. Some of the more ubiquitous species include **Peach-fronted Parakeet** *Aratinga aurea*, **Rusty-backed Antwren** *Formicivora rufa* and **Rufous Casiornis** *Casiornis rufa*. In the early morning and evening, listen for calls of **Undulated Tinamou** *Crypturellus undulatus*, **Chaco Chachalaca** *Ortalis canicollis*, **Spot-winged Wood-quail** *Odontophorus capueira*, **Tropical Screech-owl** *Otus choliba*, **Variable Screech-owl** *Otus atricapillus*, **Ferruginous Pygmy-owl** *Glaucidium brasilianum*, **Pauraque** *Nyctidromus albicollis* and **Rufous Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufus*.

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Table 1. The birds of Parque Nacional Cerro Corá, Paraguay.

The symbols before each species denote relative abundance: C = common (observed daily in appropriate habitat); U = uncommon (seen every 2-10 days); R = rare (seen at intervals of 10 or more days). Taxonomy follows the most recent review of the birds of Paraguay⁴.

TINAMIDAE

- C Undulated Tinamou *Crypturellus undulatus*
- R Small-billed Tinamou *Crypturellus parvirostris*
- C Tataupa Tinamou *Crypturellus tataupa*
- U Red-winged Tinamou *Rhynchotus rufescens*
- U Spotted Nothura *Nothura maculosa*

ARDEIDAE

- U Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*
- U Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

CICONIIDAE

- R Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*

CATHARTIDAE

- U Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
- U Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
- R King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*

ANATIDAE

- R Brazilian Duck *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

ACCIPITRIDAE

- R American Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*
- R Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii*
- U Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea*
- C Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*
- R Ornate Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*

FALCONIDAE

- U Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus*
- C Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*
- R Barred Forest-falcon *Micrastur ruficollis*
- C American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*
- R Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

CRACIDAE

- U Chaco Chachalaca *Ortalis canicollis*
- U Blue-throated Piping-guan *Pipile pipile*

ODONTOPHORIDAE

- U Spot-winged Wood-quail *Odontophorus capueira*

RALLIDAE

- R Gray-necked Wood-rail *Aramides cajanea*

CARIAMIDAE

U Red-legged Seriema *Cariama cristata*

CHARADRIIDAE

C Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

JACANIDAE

R Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*

COLUMBIDAE

C Picazuro Pigeon *Columba picazuro*
 C Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata*
 C Ruddy Ground-dove *Columbina talpacoti*
 C Picu Ground-dove *Columbina picui*
 R Blue Ground-dove *Claravis pretiosa*
 C White-tipped dove *Leptotila verreauxi*
 R Violaceous Quail-dove *Geotrygon violacea*

PSITTACIDAE

U Blue-crowned Parakeet *Aratinga acuticaudata*
 U White-eyed Parakeet *Aratinga leucophthalmus*
 C Peach-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga aurea*
 C Reddish-bellied Parakeet *Pyrrhura frontalis*
 R Blue-winged Parrotlet *Forpus xanthopterygius*
 C Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri*
 U Turquoise-fronted Parrot *Amazona aestiva*

CUCULIDAE

R Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus*
 C Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*
 U Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*
 C Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*
 C Guira Cuckoo *Guira guira*

STRIGIDAE

C Tropical Screech-owl *Otus choliba*
 U Variable Screech-owl *Otus atricapillus*
 U Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*
 C Burrowing Owl *Speotyto cunicularia*

CAPRIMULGIDAE

R Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*
 R Nacunda Nighthawk *Podager nacunda*
 C Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*
 C Rufous Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufus*
 U Little Nightjar *Caprimulgus parvulus*
 U Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis brasiliiana*

NYCTIBIIDAE

U Gray Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

TROCHILIDAE

U Scale-throated Hermit *Phaethornis eurynome*
 U Planalto Hermit *Phaethornis pretrei*
 R Black-breasted Plovercrest *Stephanoxis lalandi*
 C Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon aureoventris*
 R Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata*
 U Gilded Sapphire *Hylocharis chrysur*
 R Versicolored Emerald *Amazilia versicolor*
 U Blue-tufted Starthroat *Heliomaster furcifer*
 R Amethyst Woodstar *Calliphlox amethystina*

TROGONIDAE

R Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*
 C Surucua Trogon *Trogon surrucura*

MOMOTIDAE

C Rufous-capped Motmot *Baryphthengus ruficapillus*

ALCEDINIDAE

C Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquata*
 U Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*
 U Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*

BUCCONIDAE

R White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus macrorhynchos*
 U White-eared Puffbird *Nystalus chacuru*
 U Spot-backed Puffbird *Nystalus maculatus*
 R Rusty-breasted Nunlet *Nonnula rubecula*

RAMPHASTIDAE

C Chestnut-eared Aracari *Pteroglossus castanotis*
 C Red-breasted Toucan *Ramphastos dicolorus*
 U Toco Toucan *Ramphastos toco*

PICIDAE

C White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*
 U White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*
 U Yellow-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes flavifrons*
 U Little Woodpecker *Veniliornis passerinus*
 C Green-barred Woodpecker *Colaptes melanochloros*
 C Campo Flicker *Colaptes campestris*
 C Pale-crested Woodpecker *Ceuleus lugubris*
 R Helmeted Woodpecker *Dryocopus galeatus*
 C Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*
 U Robust Woodpecker *Campephilus robustus*

FURNARIIDAE

C Rufous Hornero *Furnarius rufus*
 U Sooty-fronted Spinetail *Synallaxis frontalis*
 U Gray-bellied Spinetail *Synallaxis cinerascens*
 R Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner *Philydor dimidiatus*
 C Ochre-breasted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor lichtensteini*
 U Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner *Philydor rufus*
 U White-eyed Foliage-gleaner *Automolus leucophthalmus*

DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

U Thrush-like Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla turdina*
 C Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*
 U White-throated Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*
 R Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*
 C Narrow-billed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*

FORMICARIIDAE

R Spot-backed Antshrike *Hypoedaleus guttatus*
 R Giant Antshrike *Batara cinerea*
 C Variable Antshrike *Thamnophilus caerulescens*
 R Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*
 R Black-capped Antwren *Herpsilochmus atricapillus*
 U Rusty-backed Antwren *Formicivora rufa*
 U Short-tailed Antthrush *Chamaeza campanisona*

TYRANNIDAE

U Southern Beardless-tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*
 U Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*
 R Large Elaenia *Elaenia spectabilis*
 R White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*
 R Small-billed Elaenia *Elaenia parvirostris*
 R Gray-hooded Flycatcher *Mionectes rufiventris*
 U Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*
 U Southern Antpipit *Corythopis delalandi*
 U Eared Pygmy-tyrant *Myiornis auricularis*
 C Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*
 R White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*
 U Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*
 U Euler's Flycatcher *Lathrotriccus euleri*
 U Fuscous Flycatcher *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*
 U Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
 R White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velata*
 U Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*

R Streamer-tailed Tyrant *Gubernetes yetapa*
 R Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*
 U Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea*
 C Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosus*
 C Rufous Casiornis *Casiornis rufa*
 C Sirystes *Sirystes sibilator*
 U Short-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus ferox*
 C Brown-crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus tyrannulus*
 C Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*
 C Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*
 U Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*
 U Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*
 U Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*
 C Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*
 U Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*
 C Green-backed Becard *Pachyramphus viridis*
 U Crested Becard *Pachyramphus validus*
 U Greenish Schiffornis *Schiffornis virescens*
 U Black-tailed Tityra *Tityra cayana*
 U Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*

COTINGIDAE

R Red-ruffed Fruitcrow *Pyroderus scutatus*
 R Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*

PIPRIDAE

U Blue (Swallow-tailed) Manakin *Chiroxiphia caudata*
 R Band-tailed Manakin *Pipra fasciicauda*

OXYRUNCIDAE

R Sharpbill *Oxyruncus cristatus*

HIRUNDINIDAE

U Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*

CORVIDAE

C Purplish Jay *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*
 C Plush-crested Jay *Cyanocorax chrysops*

TROGLODYTIDAE

U Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapillus*
 C House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

MUSCICAPIDAE

U Masked Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila dumicola*
 R Slaty Thrush *Turdus nigriceps*
 U Rufous-bellied Thrush *Turdus rufiventris*
 C Pale-breasted Thrush *Turdus leucomelas*
 C Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

MIMIDAE

C Chalk-browed Mockingbird *Mimus saturninus*

VIREONIDAE

U Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
 U Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*

EMBERIZIDAE

C Tropical Parula *Parula pitayumi*
 U Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*
 U Flavescent Warbler *Basileuterus flaveolus*
 C Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*
 U White-browed Warbler *Basileuterus leucoblepharus*
 C Chestnut-vented Conebill *Conirostrum speciosum*
 U Fawn-breasted Tanager *Pipraeidea melanonota*
 U Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*
 C Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*
 U Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea*
 U Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*
 C Sayaca Tanager *Thraupis sayaca*
 R Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*
 R Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*
 U Ruby-crowned Tanager *Tachyphonus coronatus*

U Black-goggled Tanager *Trichothraupis melanops*
 R White-rumped Tanager *Cypsnagra hirundinacea*
 U Hooded Tanager *Nemosia pileata*
 C Guira Tanager *Hemithraupis guira*
 U Swallow-tanager *Tersina viridis*
 U Black-throated Saltator *Saltator atricollis*
 C Red-crested Finch *Coryphospingus cucullatus*
 U Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris*
 U Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*
 R Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris*
 U Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*
 U Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*
 U Wedge-tailed Grass-finch *Emberizoides herbicola*
 C Grassland Sparrow *Ammodramus humeralis*
 C Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*
 C Chopi Blackbird *Gnorimopsar chopi*
 C Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*
 C Epaulet Oriole *Icterus cayanensis*
 C Red-rumped Cacique *Cacicus haemorrhous*