

New distributional records for birds in the Paraguayan Chaco

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Se proveen registros para dos especies consideradas poco comunes en el Chaco paraguayo. Se documentaron extensiones significativas en la distribución para *Nothoprocta cinerascens* (250 km al oeste y 450 km al norte). *Dryocopus lineatus* fue registrado en la región de Alto Chaco, lo que extiende su distribución unos 240 km al este y al oeste. Además, *Nothoprocta cinerascens*, *Tachybaptus dominicus*, *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, *Anas bahamensis*, *Rostratula semicollaris* y *Drymornis bridgesii* fueron registrados cerca de la región Matogrosense.

The purpose of this report is to provide additional information concerning currently known avian distribution patterns in Paraguay. Only a decade ago, knowledge of general distributional patterns of Paraguay's avifauna was much poorer than now. However, several substantial contributions have been made within the last 10 years. The data provided herein were collected in 1989–1990 in conjunction with other fieldwork in Paraguay^{1–3}. Although several records have been published elsewhere^{5–7}, some additional important records are reported here.

Hayes⁷ separates the Chaco into Matogrosense, Alto (dry) Chaco, and Bajo (humid) Chaco. Matogrosense consists of medium height, relatively humid and continuous scrub forests along the northern half of the Paraguay River, the extensive wetland areas continuous with adjacent areas of the Pantanal in Brazil and Bolivia. This region has the highest mean average temperature in Paraguay. Alto Chaco consists of short, xeric scrub forests with an abundance of cacti, sometimes broken by grasslands, saline lakes and sand dunes, and has the lowest mean annual precipitation in the country. Bajo Chaco consists of periodically inundated palm savannas interspersed with patches of scrub forest and belts of taller riparian forest.

I determined new regional records following the methods of Lowen *et al.*⁸, by comparing distributional records to those of Hayes⁷. I estimated range distances using a detailed map⁴ and dividing each coordinate block into 25 units of 20 km² each.

Brushland Tinamou *Nothoprocta cinerascens*

Individuals were encountered at Estancia Amalia (22°50'S 59°17'W), on 20 October and 19 November 1989¹, representing a range extension of c.250 km to the east. Additionally, one was observed at Estancia San Jose (19°30'S 60°30'W), on 6 July 1990, representing a range extension of c.450 km to the north. Moreover, the fact that this species was common at Estancia Toledo (22°33'S 60°30'W) in September–December 1989 and April, June–August 1990, and rare in January and May 1990² suggests that this species is not uncommon throughout the Alto Chaco region⁷.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*

Hayes⁷ indicates this species as absent from the Alto Chaco and the species is virtually absent from the entire Chaco region. Singles were observed at Estancia Toledo in October 1989 and April–May 1990², documenting the presence of this species in the Alto Chaco, and extending its range c.240 km east from the Paraguay River or west from Bolivia. Subsequently, there have been additional reports from the Alto Chaco (R. Clay *in litt.* 1999).

Additionally, several species were observed, at either Estancia Amalia (EA) or Laguna Capitan (LC—22°53'S 59°42'W), extremely close to the border between the Matogrosense and Alto Chaco regions. Despite these species' known occurrence in Alto Chaco, the habitat was more closely akin to Matogrosense, characterised by vast oxbow lagoons resulting from former meanders and / or flooding of the Paraguay River. Sightings are summarised as follows: Brushland Tinamou (at EA on 20 October and 19 November 1989)⁵; Least Grebe *Tachybaptus dominicus* (at least two at LC on 23 April 1990); Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* (hundreds of adult and subadult-plumaged [greyish] birds at EA on 10 September, 20 October and 19 November 1989)⁵; White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis* (at EA on 20 October 1989⁵; over eight at LC on 23 April 1990); South American Painted Snipe *Rostratula semicollaris* (nesting individual flushed at EA on 10 September 1989)⁵; and Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper *Drymornis bridgesii* (at LC on 23 April 1990). These species are noteworthy because they could occur in the Matogrosense region.

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