Range extension for Swallow-tailed Nightjar Uropsalis segmentata in northern Colombia

Swallow-tailed Nightjar Uropsalis segmentata is a generally rare, albeit locally fairly common species of montane forests from central Colombia south to central Bolivia, mostly found in clearings and at edges from 1,950 m to 3,600 m above sea level. Two subspecies are recognised, the nominate from Colombia to Ecuador and U. s. kalinowskii further south, which are mostly separated by male plumage. A recent molecular study revealed that U. s. kalinowskii is more closely related to Lyre-tailed Nightjar U. lyra than to nominate U. segmentata, suggesting that all three taxa might deserve specific status.

The range of U. s. segmentata is mainly restricted to scattered localities in central-north Ecuador and in central Colombia. Two subspecies are recognised, the nominate from Colombia to Ecuador and U. s. kalinowskii further south, which are mostly separated by male plumage. A recent molecular study revealed that U. s. kalinowskii is more closely related to Lyre-tailed Nightjar U. lyra than to nominate U. segmentata, suggesting that all three taxa might deserve specific status.

The locality is just c.60 km from the border with Venezuela, where the species might occur in Parque Nacional El Tamá, although there are no records of U. segmentata from that country to date. This record highlights the importance of more intensive efforts to study the distribution and natural history of Neotropical nightjars and other nocturnal birds.

Acknowledgements
We are grateful to Dr Helen James and Chris Milensky (USNM) for permitting access to specimens in the Smithsonian Institution, and to Guy Kirwan and two anonymous reviewers for valuable comments on the submitted manuscript. TVVC is also indebted to the CAPES Foundation for a fellowship under the programme PDSE (proc. BEX 5360/317).

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Received 15 May 2015; final revision accepted 21 October 2015; published online 25 February 2016