

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^{1,2}. 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 status¹⁰.

The range of *U. s. segmentata* is mainly restricted to scattered localities in central-north Ecuador and in central Colombia^{1,6,9}. We located a specimen of *U. s. segmentata* deposited at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC (USNM 392090) which had previously been overlooked in the literature. It was identified based on the overall dark brown plumage, heavily spotted tawny, with no hindneck collar, characters distinct from any other syntopic nightjar species. The specimen was collected by M. A. Carriker on 17 September 1946 at Alto del Pozo, on the highway between Abrego and Sardinata, just north-west of Cúcuta, dpto. Norte de Santander, at c.2,500 m. Although the species is known to occur in the East Andes, the new locality is the first north of the Chicamocha Canyon and the first confirmed record for Norte de Santander, extending the known range c.300 km north^{1,6,9}.

This record augments a series of other range extensions for the species in the north of its range. Swallow-tailed Nightjar was only relatively recently recorded for the first time on the west slope of Ecuador¹¹, in the West Andes of Colombia⁴ and, even more recently, in the far north of the same range⁸. It is also somewhat surprising that

the record was overlooked by Hilty & Brown⁶, who mapped Colombian bird distributions based largely on material at USNM. However, other interesting records, e.g. Spot-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis maculicaudus* in the Magdalena Valley, were recently uncovered based on USNM specimens³, illustrating how even well-studied collections can still yield novel distributional records.

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 date⁵. This record highlights the importance of more intensive efforts to study the distribution and natural history of Neotropical nightjars and other nocturnal birds.

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