

Early records of Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* in Amazonian Peru

Diniz *et al.*¹ summarised records of Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* in the Amazon Basin and elsewhere in South America. Here I report three earlier records, all from the Tambopata Reserve (at the time privately owned and called Explorer's Inn), along the río Tambopata, Madre de Dios, south-east Peru. The reserve lies just east of the base of the Andes at a general elevation of 300 m.

I mist-netted birds at several locations within 1 km of the main lodge, from early September to early December 1978. For much of October and November, N. Krabbe & O. Jakobsen camped at the reserve, took extensive field notes and vocal recordings, and assisted with mist-netting. Encounters with Connecticut Warblers were as follows.

On 3 November 1978, Krabbe & Jakobsen mist-netted an individual of unknown age, but with a complete eye-ring, in second-growth forest within 50 m of the lodge. Their field notes leave no doubt as to the identification. On 9 November 1978, I mist-netted a hatch-year individual, mass 12 g, in second-growth forest within 70 m of the lodge. Photographs were taken (Fig. 1). This is apparently the first documented record in Peru. On 16 November 1978, Krabbe & Jakobsen observed at length another individual near a large oxbow lagoon, in transitional swamp forest c.5 km from the lodge. Given the distance between the lodge and oxbow lagoon, this observation almost certainly referred to a second individual.



Figure 1. Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis*, Tambopata Reserve, Madre de Dios, Peru, 9 November 1978 (Bruce Sorrie)

Finally, a Connecticut Warbler was mist-netted by J. Dunning on 17 November 1979 and was collected (LSUMZ 93669). It was a male, probably first-winter by plumage, with moderate body fat, mass 12.5 g, and was reported by Parker².

The dates of all four records span a two-week period in November in successive years. To date there are no reports of the species in south-east Peru in December–February (D. Lane pers. comm.; T. S. Schulenberg, pers. comm.). These data suggest that migrant Connecticut Warblers pause briefly at Tambopata before moving to a more permanent wintering area, as yet unknown.

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References

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