

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE BRAZILIAN AVIFAUNA¹

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The Museu de Zoologia of the Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP) has the largest collection of Brazilian birds in the world, with excellent representation from the entire country. The collection, begun by Hermann von Ihering near the turn of the century, developed primarily under the direction of Olivério Pinto between the 1930s and 1960s. Pinto published many papers based on the holdings throughout his career, but the collection has been little used since his death in 1981. I recently had an opportunity to spend an extensive period in the collection, and in the course of my studies there, discovered specimens of three species (*Myrmotherula sunensis*, *Contopus nigrescens*, and *Conothraupis speculigera*) not previously reported from Brazil. In addition, I found that two species (*Phylloscartes virescens* and *Lophotriccus pileatus*) reported from Brazil by Pinto (1944) and included in the subsequent literature were based on misidentified specimens.

MYRMOTHERULA SUNENSIS

During the course of fieldwork between December 1901 and January 1903 along the middle Rio Juruá (Ihering 1904), Ernesto Garbe collected a series of *Myrmotherula* antwrens. Ihering (1904) referred four of these specimens to *M. longipennis* when he described *M. garbei*, now regarded as the subspecies of *longipennis* (Peters 1951, Meyer de Schauensee 1966) occurring in that region. Three of these specimens, two males (MZUSP 2782 and 3626) and a female (MZUSP 3625), are actually *M. menetriesii*. The fourth, another male (MZUSP 3619, wing 52.0 mm, tail 27.0 mm) collected in October 1902, I have reidentified as *M. sunensis*, which represents the only record for Brazil. *Myrmotherula sunensis* is a little-known species that was previously recorded only from scattered localities near the base of the Andes in southeastern Colombia, eastern Ecuador, and eastern Peru. The nearest known site for the species is Cerro Sira in eastern Peru, about 600 km southwest of the middle Juruá (specimen in the American Museum of Natural History).

I compared the Brazilian specimen of *sunensis* to *Myrmotherula* specimens at the Field Museum of Natural History and the American Museum of Natural History, including a series of *sunensis* males from Ecuador and the male *sunensis* from Cerro Sira. *Myr-*

motherula sunensis resembles several other species of *Myrmotherula*. The most similar of the lowland Amazonian species are *iheringi* and *longipennis*. This specimen was distinguished from *iheringi* by its gray underwing coverts, instead of pure white, and from *longipennis* by its lack of white in the scapulars and shorter wing and tail measurements.

Two subspecies are recognized in *sunensis*, *yessupi* and nominate *sunensis*, based on differences in the female plumage. Males of the two forms cannot be consistently distinguished and comparison of the Brazilian specimen with birds from Peru and Colombia did not allow certain subspecific determination. However on geographic grounds, Brazilian birds should represent *yessupi* described from eastern Peru (Bond 1950).

PHYLLOSCARTES VIRESCENS

The only record of this species from Brazil is a specimen (MZUSP 16902) reported by Pinto (1937, 1944) from Manacapuru, on the north bank of the Rio Solimões west of the Rio Negro. This specimen is actually a poorly prepared example of *Hemitriccus zosterops*. Sick (1985) listed *Phylloscartes virescens* as occurring in Amazonian Brazil based on this record. Traylor (1979), however, did not include this record in the range of *virescens*, and Meyer de Schauensee (1966) mentioned the record but suggests that the identification be checked. Manacapuru is far from the known range of *virescens* in the Guianas, and the species would not be expected to occur there. It seems likely, however, that *virescens* occurs in the poorly known forests of northeastern Brazil near the Guianas.

LOPHOTRICCUS PILEATUS

Pinto (1944) reported specimens of a male and a female of this species from Santa Cruz, Rio Eiru, Rio Juruá. The female specimen (MZUSP 19887) is actually an example of *Lophotriccus vitiosus congener*, the yellow-crested subspecies of *vitiosus* found on the Juruá. The male (MZUSP 19888), which as Pinto indicated lacks a crest, is a specimen of *Hemitriccus minor*. Traylor (1979) did not cite the record from Brazil, but it is included without comment by Meyer de Schauensee (1966, 1970) and Sick (1985). In its South American range, *L. pileatus* occurs in the Andean foothills (Traylor 1979). The only true lowland record is from Cauca, west of the Andes in Colombia (Hilty and Brown 1986), so this species seems unlikely ever to be recorded in Brazil.

CONTOPUS NIGRESCENS

José Hidasi collected a male (MZUSP 64232 wing 68.5 mm, tail 59.5 mm) at Itupiranga, Pará, at 100 m elevation, along the west bank of the Rio Tocantins on

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14 June 1967. In addition to this specimen, there are sight records of a pair in Maranhão near Santa Inês on 14–15 November 1977 (Robert Ridgely, in litt.) and in the Serra de Carajás, Pará (P. Roth fide R. Ridgely). The specimen was compared with specimens of both subspecies of *Contopus nigrescens* at the Field Museum of Natural History and the American Museum of Natural History. It is referable to the subspecies *canescens*, which is known from Peru and a single specimen from the Acary Mountains of southern Guyana (Blake 1950). This subspecies is paler above and below than the nominate *nigrescens* of Ecuador and has a less extensive blackish crown.

Contopus nigrescens is known from only about 15 specimens. Davis (1986) reported the little that is known of its natural history. This species was recorded previously only from elevations between 550 m and 1,050 m, so its appearance in lowland Amazonia is a surprise. However, *Oxyruncus cristatus*, which has a similar patchy distribution within the same elevational range, has a population along the lower Tocantins (Chapman 1939) and has recently been found elsewhere in eastern lowland Amazonia, including the Serra de Carajás (Scott 1988).

CONOTHAUPIS SPECULIGERA

A single female (MZUSP 42150 wing 72.5 mm, tail 63.8 mm) collected by M. Moreira and F. Novaes on 1 August 1956 at Seringal Oriente on the upper Rio Juruá is the only record from Brazil of this patchily distributed, poorly known tanager. Novaes (1957) reported the results of the expedition to the upper Juruá that produced this specimen. He did not mention *Conothraupis speculigera*, although on the original specimen label Novaes tentatively identified it as such. The specimen was housed at São Paulo as a female *Habia rubica*. *Conothraupis speculigera* has been found at several sites in Amazonian Peru, including Balta, in the Rio Purús drainage close to the Brazilian border (O'Neill 1966), and its occurrence in western Brazil had been anticipated (Sick 1985).

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