

## BIRD RECORDS FROM SURINAM, DUTCH GUIANA

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In the following list I give some records of birds obtained or observed by me during the last years in Surinam. I have to thank Dr. J. T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, who named several of them for me.

*Micrastur mirandollei*.—Schlegel (1862) described this species from Surinam, but did not mention any locality. As this bird is so rare in collections (Swann, 1925), it may be of interest to report that I received a female, collected June 11, 1947, on the coffee plantation "Peperpot," a few miles up the Surinam River from Paramaribo (Collector's no. 271, now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York).

*Helicolestes hamatus*.—I have several observations of this little known hawk which I only saw in part of the year, my dates ranging from October 20 to April 13. The seven specimens in the collection assembled for Thomas E. Penard (Bangs and Penard, 1918) were obtained from December to March. Besides in the neighborhood of Paramaribo, I observed this species along the Saramacca River near Groningen (March 5, 1947) and along the road from the Coppename River to Coronie (March 25, 1947).

My four specimens—female, November 24, 1946; female, December 26, 1946; ? March 8, 1947, and male, April 13, 1947—were collected at "Peperpot." It is a solitary bird, usually found sitting motionless on a tree near a watercourse watching for snails. On the coffee plantation just mentioned, I observed it sitting on the lower branches of the coffee trees near trenches. In flight its broad wings and short tail are very characteristic, buzzard-like. I never heard any call note, and I have no evidence of its breeding or its whereabouts the rest of the year.

*Falco peregrinus anatum*.—While camping on one of the lagoons that lie behind the woods bordering the seacoast east of Nieuw Nickerie, I heard on the evening of December 20, 1946, the unmistakable notes of a Duck Hawk and saw the bird alight on a stake in the water. Unfortunately, I missed it in the darkness and the bird disappeared. The next morning, December 21, it was sitting again on one of the stakes. It was collected by my guide and proved to be a male (Collector's no. 108, now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York).

This is the fourth record for Surinam. Voous (1945) reported a specimen from Surinam without date or locality, which he claimed to

be the first record, but he overlooked the note by Thomas E. Penard (1927) who mentioned a specimen collected by August Kappler in Surinam. This latter specimen was sent to the Stuttgart museum. The molting young female taken on April 19, 1922, at Kwatta referred to the race *cassini* by Penard (*loc. cit.*) is, according to Hellmayr (1949), a somewhat aberrant *anatum*. I believe the Duck Hawk is of rather regular occurrence on migration in Surinam, as I also have two sight records. On March 3, 1947, I observed a bird flying low over the Surinam River at Paramaribo, and on March 5, 1947, I had a very fine view of an adult, sitting on one of the stakes put into the water by fishermen in the tributary of the Coppename and Saracca rivers, a place like the lagoons at Nieuw Nickerie, teeming with waterfowl, and for that reason ideal for Duck Hawks.

*Columbigallina minuta minuta*.—Peters (1937) did not include Dutch Guiana in the range of this little dove, so apparently he had no specimens available from this country. Hellmayr and Conover (1942) included Surinam only on authority of the Penard brothers (1908), but their book covered the avifauna of the three Guianas without making any reference to the different countries. It was not represented in the large collection from Surinam assembled for Thomas E. Penard (Bangs and Penard, 1918); nor was it in the Penard oölogical collection (Hellebrekers, 1942). This bird seems to be of very local distribution in Surinam, as I observed it regularly, and as a rather common breeding bird, only on the grounds of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Paramaribo where I collected nine specimens.

Here I found, on November 3, 1946, two nests with two and one egg. On November 8, 1946, I found a nest with two eggs, and on October 28, 1948, two nests with one and two eggs, respectively. The measurements of four eggs are: 21.1 by 16; 19.9 by 16; 21.2 by 15.9 and 21 by 15.5 mm. Its favorite breeding locality in those years was a neglected field of *Manihot utilitissima* overgrown with weeds. The small nests were built among the bushes about half a meter above the ground.

*Bubo virginianus scotinus*.—Peters (1940) said of this race, "only known from the type locality in the Orinoco valley of Venezuela." This owl is, however, already long known from British and Dutch Guiana. Chubb (1916) mentioned several localities in British Guiana. For Surinam, it was represented in the collection of birds sent by Kappler (1881) to the Stuttgart museum.

In the neighborhood of the same lagoons near Nieuw Nickerie, as mentioned in the Duck Hawk section, I collected a female on August 4, 1946 (Collector's no. 46, now in the American Museum of Natural

History, New York). In the same locality I observed a specimen on August 17, 1947. It was sitting on the lower branches of a tree and took a threatening attitude, puffing up its feathers and lowering its wings, on our approach; it apparently had young in the neighborhood.

The habitat of this owl consists of large woods of *Avicennia nitida* bordering the seacoast. I received a female, collected in a similar habitat near the coast at Coronie on December 20, 1948. I have the impression that this large owl is rather common all along our coast, as Dr. Geyskes of Paramaribo told me of having observed this species in the same sort of habitat near Matapica Creek in the Commewijne district.

*Discosura longicauda*.—This easily recognizable hummingbird is listed by Peters (1945) as only from British and French Guiana. On July 28, 1947, I observed a fine specimen, its long racket tail being very striking, sitting in a small tree near Albina on the left bank of the Maroni River.

*Xiphorhynchus obsoletus obsoletus*.—Listed by Hellmayr (1925) only for French and British Guiana. On September 28 and October 14, 1947, I collected two males of this species at Republiek (some 40 kms. due south of Paramaribo). (Collector's nos. 363 and 406, both specimens now in the American Museum of Natural History at New York).

*Cercomacra tyrannina saturator*.—Listed by Hellmayr (1924) as from British Guiana only. On January 25, 1948, I collected a male at Republiek, about 40 kilometers south of Paramaribo (Collector's no. 514, now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York).

*Tyrannus dominicensis vorax*.—Hellmayr (1927) listed this race only for British and French Guiana. In Surinam it is, however, a rather common migrant, my dates ranging from November 10 to March 25. Five specimens collected near Paramaribo and now in the American Museum of Natural History at New York belong according to Zimmer, to the race *vorax*.

*Empidonomus varius rufinus*.—Listed by Hellmayr (1927) only for French and British Guiana. Zimmer (1937) mentioned a bird of the race *varius* from Paramaribo, Surinam, which he took for a migrant. He further remarked that the species has been recorded as nesting in British Guiana and that it is quite probable that *rufinus* does breed in that country and possibly further to the northwest in Venezuela. In connection with this it is of interest that on December 12, 1948, I collected a female, flushed from its nest, in the savanna at Zanderij. According to Zimmer to whom I sent the bird, it belonged to the race *rufinus* (Collector's no. 700, now in the American Museum of Natural History at New York).

The nest was built at about three meters height in a low tree in the savanna and contained two eggs. Measurements of the eggs were: 25 by 16.7 and 25.6 by 17.5 mm. Weight of one shell was 175 milligrams.

This species occurs regularly in this locality, as I had already collected a male on July 7, 1947, and another male on February 27, 1949.

*Tolmomyias flaviventris collingwoodi*.—Though Hellmayr (1927) listed this species only for British Guiana, Zimmer (1939) mentioned specimens from Surinam in his review of the genus *Tolmomyias*. This is quite a common bird in the cultivated areas of the coastal region where it is found especially among the shade trees in the coffee plantations. I have several specimens in my collection. On June 15, 1947, I flushed a bird from its nest, hanging at the end of a branch in a bamboo shrub; the nest was empty.

*Tyranneutes virescens*.—Listed by Hellmayr (1929) as from British Guiana and Northern Brazil only. On November 26, 1947, I collected a female at Republiek (Collector's no. 448, now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York).

*Elaenia cristata*.—Listed by Hellmayr (1927) only for French and British Guiana. Zimmer (1941), however, mentioned some specimens from Surinam in his review of the genus *Elaenia*. This bird is quite common and one of the most characteristic birds on the wide and open savanna at Zanderij, wherever there is a low vegetation of bushes or single shrubs of the genus *Clusia*. Here I collected several specimens, one of which I sent to the American Museum of Natural History at New York.

On October 25, 1948, I flushed a bird from its nest, built at about one meter height in a shrub of *Clusia*. The nest was of typical *Elaenia* structure, carefully woven of small roots with dry moss, fibers and wool in a fork. The cup was lined with fibers and wool. Measurements of the nest were: height, 65 mm.; width, 65; depth of nest-cup about 25. It contained one fresh egg, which was white with a few small red spots all over its surface. Measurements of the egg were 19.1 by 15.2 mm. In the same locality and in exactly the same situation, I found another nest on April 24, 1949, which contained two fresh eggs. Measurements of the eggs were 19.5 by 14.6 and 19.3 by 15.3 mm. Weight of the fresh eggs was 2.34 and 2.32 grams.

*Capsiempis flaveola flaveola*.—Listed by Hellmayr (1927) as from French and British Guiana only. On October 27, 1947, I collected a female at Republiek (Collector's no. 419, now in the American Museum of Natural History, New York).

*Atticora fasciata*.—Listed by Hellmayr (1935) only for French and

British Guiana. This swallow seems, however, to be quite common and of regular occurrence along the forest-fringed rivers in the interior of the country. I regularly observed it when travelling by motor-launch on the upper Nickerie and Wayombo rivers. On all my trips (March 19, August 6, December 22, 1946, and May 9 and August 23, 1947) I watched numbers of them flying low over the water or sitting on dead branches in the river, often in company of *Iridoprocne albigenter*. Not knowing at that time that it was not yet obtained in this country, I neglected the opportunity to collect specimens.

On April 12 and 13, 1949, I further observed many birds all over the Grankreek to the point where it joins the Maroni River, and on the last named river from Nassau Mountain down to the Hermina Rapids.

*Atticora melanoleuca*.—Hellmayr (1935) listed this bird only for British Guiana. On April 13, 1949, I observed several individuals on the Maroni River from Nassau Mountain down to the Hermina Rapids. Unhappily, I was not able to collect specimens at that time.

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*Paramaribo, Surinam, Dutch Guiana, October 29, 1949.*