

interviewed stated that chachalaca damage was negligible and all favored keeping these birds on their lands.

Supplemental feeding of birds during the winter months has been conducted for many years on one of the two major study areas, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley, chachalacas also are fed in backyard feeders and many of them depend on these food sources during winter months. It has been suggested (Marion 1974) that survival during the stressful winter months has increased throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley through supplemental feeding.

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The Common Snipe in Surinam.—In Surinam the South American Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago paraguayae*) is plentiful on wet savannas, ricefields, and marshes. It is present through the year; but considerable wandering or local migration must occur, for when rains make a suitable habitat available, snipe suddenly appear, only to leave as soon as the ground dries out. I found them nesting in the long rainy season only once, on 30 May 1954 when I collected a nestling on a wet savanna near Zanderij (Haverschmidt 1968).

Some accounts (Hellmayr and Conover 1948, Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Snyder 1966) state that its northern relative Wilson's Snipe (*C. g. delicata*) winters as far as the Guianas. The two races cannot be distinguished in the field, but the clear figures and tables in Tuck (1972) make birds in the hand readily separable. During

two recent visits to Surinam I concentrated on snipes, and in my collection, now in the Leiden Museum, are 31 specimens collected throughout the year, most of them from December through February. At my request G. F. Mees of the Leiden Museum examined this series and established that all are *paraguaiae*. The Museum of Comparative Zoology has a series of 16 *paraguaiae* collected in Surinam in February and March (Bangs and Penard 1918). Thus to date the only Surinam specimen of *delicata* is a bird, unsexed and undated, collected more than a century ago on the Maroni River (the border between Surinam and French Guiana) (Sharpe 1896). Hellmayr (Hellmayr and Conover 1948) reexamined this bird and stated that it was "decidedly" *delicata*. At my request D. W. Snow of the British Museum examined it once more and corroborated Hellmayr's identification. Its winglength is 132 mm and the width of the outer tail feather 6 mm "or a fraction more."

In neighboring Guyana Snyder (1966) listed *delicata* as a migrant. Miss Snyder informed me that most of her records were from a card file assembled by E. R. Blake of the Field Museum of Natural History. Blake wrote me that these records were based on Chubb (1916), who claimed that a bird (unsexed and undated) collected on the Supenaam River was the first record of *delicata* for Guyana. The specimen is in the British Museum, and Dr. Snow examined it for me. It is definitely *paraguaiae* (winglength 125 mm and width of outer tail feather 5 mm), as are four other birds from Guyana labelled *delicata* in this collection. Davis (1954) listed *delicata* as a regular winter visitor at the Mazaruni station in Guyana, solely because two birds collected on 18 April 1936 "were very fat," but as he failed to give their weights and measurements, the identity is questionable. Weight alone is not a criterion and *paraguaiae* specimens I collected in April and May were sometimes very fat—a male shot on 5 May 1947 weighed 130 g, an 8 April 1956 female 134 g. L. R. Tuck (pers. comm.) spent January–March 1974 in Guyana and, although he found *paraguaiae* fairly common, did not find a single example of *delicata*. It is clear that *delicata* must be removed from the list of Guyanan birds for the time being. The regular wintering area of *delicata* reaches as far as Venezuela where Tuck (1972: 294–296) found it commonest in marshes and marshy savannas north of the Orinoco, but rare and probably absent on the llanos south of the Orinoco where *paraguaiae* is most abundant. As far as our present evidence goes, the Guianas are not within the normal wintering area of *delicata*.

The weights of 35 *paraguaiae* I collected in Surinam are 15 males 88–130 g (106 g) and 20 females 85–145 g (113 g), corroborating the statement by Tuck (1972) that females average heavier than males. Birds weighing more than 115 g are very fat.

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Observations on the Yellow-eared Toucanet.—For most species of the family Ramphastidae almost no behavioral information has been published. As such data are surprisingly scanty for the Yellow-eared Toucanet (*Selenidera spectabilis*) found from Honduras to Ecuador, the following admittedly minor contribution is submitted.

The following notes were made 16 February 1974, approximately 5-6 km (by road) above Santa Fe, Province of Veraguas, on the Pacific slope of the Republic of Panama. The site was humid tall forest between 2800-2900 feet elevation, along a road being built across the continental divide beyond the Santa Fe Agricultural School.

While birding along this road with Ana Ramirez, Diana Ianoale, Roger Johnson, and Dodge Englemen, we noticed a large group of passerine birds moving through a small patch of trees along the road. At approximately 1515 a single male Yellow-eared Toucanet flew into a free 15-20 feet high where many other birds were feeding. These included White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo leucorrhoea*), Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*), Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*), Speckled Tanager (*T. chrysophrys*), Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*), and doubtless others. During this time the toucanet sat quietly while the other birds fed around him. After approximately 4-5 min another Yellow-eared Toucanet (also a male) landed nearby. In less than a minute they had moved next to each other. Suddenly I heard a clapping noise and turned to see the two birds fencing with their bills, something I had never observed before. The birds struck their beaks together five or six times and then grabbed each other, beak in beak. The bird on the left had its maxilla in the right bird's mouth with the bird on the right having its mandible in the left bird's mouth. They held this position for 3-4 min, with no movement whatsoever. They then turned their heads from side to side, still gripping bills tightly, as if trying to outwrestle the opponent. One of the toucanets eventually broke off and flew away. Van Tyne (1929, Univ. Michigan Mus. Zool., Misc. Publ. No. 19: 40) reported bill-fencing in the Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*), a behavior he regarded as "play" or "mock fighting." My observation of *Selenidera* suggested hostility.

For the next few minutes after one toucanet flew off the remaining male just sat quietly. He shortly started feeding on the berries in the tree. One berry got stuck on the tip of his bill, and the bird spent some time trying to shake it loose. The berries on which the toucanet and the other birds were feeding were later identified as *Hampea appendiculata*, family Bombacaceae. At 1536 the bird was sitting up-