

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

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### FIRST RECORD OF TACZANOWSKI'S TINAMOU (*NOTHOPROCTA TACZANOWSKII*) FOR BOLIVIA

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**Primer registro del Tinamú de Taczanowski (*Nothoprocta taczanowskii*) en Bolivia.**

**Key words:** *Taczanowski's Tinamou*, *Nothoprocta taczanowskii*, *Bolivia*.

A specimen of the Taczanowski's Tinamou (*Nothoprocta taczanowskii*) was collected on 21 October 1999 in Area Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional Apolobamba, Dpto. La Paz, Prov. Franz Tamayo, Bolivia (14° 77'19.5"S, 69° 00'33"W) at c. 3420 m. The specimen was collected by shotgun in an overgrown pasture adjacent to primary montane forest by M. Herrera. This pasture was located on the semi-humid, north-facing slope of a rather steep mountainside; the vegetation being dominated by grasses and scrubby (2–3 m tall) woody plants (*Polylepis* spp., *Gynoxys* spp.), with the occasional *Puya* sp. The bird was first seen at approximately 09:00 h warily crossing a small clearing in the grass, with crest and neck raised and neck outstretched. The specimen, deposited in the Collección Boliviana de Fauna (CBF 03538), is a male (left testis 13 x 4 mm) with no fat or

detectable molt, and a completely ossified skull, wing (unflattened) 179 mm, exposed culmen 44.74 mm. The specimen was identified using previously published descriptions of the taxon (Sclater & Salvin 1874: 564, Blake 1977, Fjeldsa & Krabbe 1990), and by comparison to museum specimens of tinamous, including one skin of *N. taczanowskii* (AMNH 169552) housed at the American Museum of Natural History. Previous descriptions refer to the throat as whitish, but in both the AMNH and CBF specimens, the throat is a dull pale greyish buff, which grades into the darker greyish brown of the neck and upper breast.

The Taczanowski's Tinamou was previously recorded only in the central and southern Peruvian provinces of Junin, Apurimac, Cuzco, and Puno (Collar *et al.* 1992) and has previously been considered a Peruvian

endemic (Stotz *et al.* 1998). This rare and little known tinamou is considered vulnerable in its limited distribution (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998), though this may be more indicative of the difficulty in procuring specimens than of actual abundance (Collar *et al.* 1992). Collar cites that only 16 specimens were in existence by 1992 (Collar *et al.* 1992). Although apparently sparsely distributed throughout its range, this range extension is not entirely surprising as *N. taczanowskii* occurs in suitable habitat in adjacent Puno, Peru. The patchwork of uncleared semi-humid montane scrub, burned and cleared pasture land, and regenerating pastures in the area the specimen was collected in, has probably created an appropriate, albeit artificial, "tree-line" habitat for the species. It would be worth investigating what effects the burning of high elevation pastures has upon the distribution of the Taczanowski's Tinamou. It should be looked for on similar semi-humid slopes at the tree-line ecotone in western Bolivia.

After the present specimen was collected, 3–4 juveniles, which were fully capable of flight, were flushed from the surrounding scrub. The fact that the male was apparently tending the brood is in keeping with other members of the family and genus (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992), but this pattern of parental care has hitherto gone unreported for *N. taczanowskii*.

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