

On certain specimens reported for Paraguay by F. Schade & R. Masi Pallarés: Southern Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix* (Aves: Anatidae) and Azure-winged Tanager *Thraupis cyanoptera* (Aves: Thraupidae)

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ABSTRACT:

Reports of the existence of specimens in the Museo Schade of two species previously considered hypothetical in Paraguay are investigated. Specimens of *Thraupis cyanoptera* are confirmed to be referable to *Thraupis sayaca*. It is recommended that *Thraupis cyanoptera* be removed from the Paraguay doubtful list. The specimen of *Anas sibilatrix* cannot be traced and a bibliographical review reveals that the supposed presence of the species can be traced back to a hypothetical reference. It is recommended that the species be treated as doubtful in Paraguay.

KEY WORDS: distribution, Schade Museum

RESUMEN:

Se investigan reportes de la existencia en el Museo Schade de ejemplares de dos especies consideradas de ocurrencia hipotética en Paraguay. Se confirma que los ejemplares de *Thraupis cyanoptera* son en realidad *Thraupis sayaca* y se recomienda que la especie sea retirada de la lista de especies dudosas en Paraguay. El ejemplar de *Anas sibilatrix* está aparentemente perdido y una revisión de la bibliografía revela que la supuesta presencia de esta especie en Paraguay se basa en una referencia hipotética. Se recomienda que la especie sea tratada como de presencia dudosa en Paraguay.

PALABRAS CLAVES: distribución, Museo Schade

Juan Francisco Schade (1902-1976) was the son of an Austrian immigrant and amateur entomologist who shared the same name. Though little is known about his scientific career he was director of the Museo de Zoología de la Facultad de Agronomía y Veterinaria and a member of the Sociedad Científica del Paraguay. Rafael Masi Pallarés (1924-2009) was a Paraguayan parasitologist. Between 1967 and 1971 the two co-authored a 5 volume catalogue of the birds of Paraguay (Schade & Masi Pallarés 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971). Though this has been given relatively scant attention by ornithologists since, the publication represents a significant advance over previous attempts to catalogue the country's birds by Bertoni (1914, 1939) and Podtiaguin (1941, 1944, 1945) because it contains reference to species for which a voucher specimen is (or was) housed in the museum of which Schade was the director.

On 18 July 2014 the authors visited the museum, today known as the Museo Schade at the Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias – Universidad Nacional de Asunción in San Lorenzo (Paraguay), and an attempt was made to verify the identity and/or continued existence of certain specimens of species that have been treated as hypothetical in recent major works on the Paraguayan avifauna (Hayes 1995, Guyra Paraguay 2004). The collection consists of approximately 800 mounted specimens and more than 300 skins. The vast majority of the specimens were collected personally by Francisco Schade in and around the Asunción area. Basic specimen data accompanies most of the specimens, though in many cases localities are vague.

Southern Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix*

Bertoni (1914, 1939) listed the species for Paraguay citing "Sharpe", almost certainly in reference to the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum (cited in his introduction as one of his principal references), although the relevant volume was actually authored by Salvadori (1895). However this author did not list any specimens from Paraguay, and whilst he does include Paraguay in the stated distribution for the species, the source of this is transcribed as "Berl. J. f. O. 1887, p. 133 (Paraguay.?)" implying the doubt that was originally expressed by Berlepsch (1887) who himself provided no basis for the supposition. Laubmann (1939) highlighted the lack of substantiated records to that point, listing Bertoni (1914), Hellmayr (1932) Steullet & Deautier (1936) and Pinto (1938) as publications that included Paraguay within the distribution of the species, all without any specific details. Given the lack of additional information provided by any of these authors it would seem probable that the source of all of these citations can be traced back to the same point.

Hayes (1995) cited Laubmann (1939) in considering the species hypothetical, but noted that it may potentially occur as an austral migrant. Guyra Paraguay (2004) listed the species as not evaluated because of the absence of details of records being available. Neither of these recent important works cites Schade & Masi Pallarés (1967) specifically in relation to these designations even though it claims the existence of a specimen.

Schade & Masi Pallarés (1967) list the species with the following description "ventralmente blanco, cabeza negruzca azulada, dorsalmente pardo claro, espejo y rabadilla blancos" (ventrally white, head blue-black, dorsally pale brown, speculum and rump white).

While the combination of white rump and speculum is theoretically diagnostic, the description fails to note other important and presumably conspicuous characteristics of this species such as the black scaled breast, the broad white half-moon shape on the face and the rufous-chestnut flanks (Madge & Burn 1988). Unfortunately the specimen referred to in the text and supposedly located in the Museo Schade could not be traced. Furthermore the presence of some “exotic” species in the collection raises doubt as to whether the specimen, even if it could be located, could necessarily be assumed to be of Paraguayan origin when no locality was provided.

Given that no details of this species ever occurring in Paraguay are available, that the Schade specimen cannot be traced and that all other mentions of the species in the country can likely be traced back to a hypothetical listing (Berlepsch 1887) that was treated with unwarranted certainty by subsequent authors, we suggest that this species be removed from the list of not evaluated species as per Guyra Paraguay (2004) and added to the list of doubtful species.

Azure-winged Tanager *Thraupis cyanoptera*

Schade & Masi Pallarés (1971) state that *Thraupis cyanoptera* is “almost indistinguishable” from *Thraupis sayaca obscura*, except for “a more general turquoise aspect”, possibly based at least in part on criteria devised by Naumburg (1924) who had confused the two species. Reflecting the confusion in the literature between these two species, Ihering (1904) had earlier expressed the opinion that Azara’s “Number 92” was “evidently” this species and not *T. sayaca* (as Berlepsch had thought) because of the contrasting blue colouration of the wing coverts.

Reliable field characters for *T. cyanoptera* were not established until Bushell (1995) noted that supposed brightness of shoulders and wing edgings was frequently hard to discern, but that the blackish smudge on the lores combined with a thickset bill and dark eye gave a distinctive and unique facial pattern that was constantly visible. *T. sayaca* on the other hand exhibits considerable variation within a single population in terms of the bluish tone of the plumage, with some specimens approaching the Blue-grey Tanager *T. episcopus* in the level of colouration and others much duller and greyer overall (Isler & Isler 1999, R. Clay *in litt.*). Consequently wing colouration alone cannot be considered diagnostic.

Having treated the species as hypothetical in the first edition of his “Catálogos” (Bertoni 1914), Bertoni subsequently mentioned the species for Paraguay at Puerto Bertoni (Bertoni 1926) stating briefly that the species “arrived and established itself” in approximately 1919. However it was then later treated as hypothetical again in his updated Catálogos (Bertoni 1939), presumably indicating a retraction of that identification. Hayes (1995) and Guyra Paraguay (2004) both list the species as doubtful, but neither of these key works mentions the existence of supposed specimens (Schade & Masi Pallarés 1971).

The following 17 specimens identified as *T. cyanoptera* were located in the Museo Schade:

Nº 116, 8 Nov 1961, San Lorenzo
Nº 644, 29 April 1967, San Lorenzo
Nº 675, 7 June 1967, San Lorenzo
Nº 737, 23 August 1967, San Lorenzo
Nº 740, 24 August 1967, San Lorenzo
Nº 776, 27 October 1967, San Lorenzo
Nº 964, 27 May 1968, San Lorenzo
Nº 1306, 28 August 1969, San Lorenzo
Nº 1407, 12 November 1969, Asunción
Nº 1604, 20 August 1971, San Lorenzo
Nº 1723, 10 November 1971, San Lorenzo
Nº 2088, 24 September 1973, San Lorenzo
Nº 2107, 1 April 1974, San Lorenzo
Nº 2175, 2 September 1976, San Lorenzo
Nº 2187, 15 September 1976, San Lorenzo
Nº 2188, 15 September 1976, San Lorenzo
Nº 2219, 12 August 1977, San Lorenzo

All of these specimens are however referable to brightly marked individuals of *T. sayaca*. Consequently, given that no unequivocal references to the species in Paraguay exist at all we recommend that *T. cyanoptera* be eliminated from the Paraguay list

completely and be considered endemic to the hill forests of Espirito Santo and northern Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (Isler & Isler 1999).

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