

Long-trained Nightjar (*Macropsalis forcipata*) (Aves, Caprimulgidae): first Paraguayan record

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ABSTRACT: The first observations of Long-trained Nightjar *Macropsalis forcipata* in Paraguay are documented, confirming speculation that the species was likely to occur in the country.

KEY-WORDS: Atlantic Forest, Caprimulgiformes, distribution, range expansion, Paraguay.

The Long-trained Nightjar *Macropsalis forcipata* is endemic to the Atlantic Forest of southeastern Brazil (Espírito Santo to Rio Grande do Sul) and Misiones Province in northeastern Argentina (Cleere 1999, Cleere & Nurney 1998). The species was first documented for Argentina in 1973 (Olrog 1973), but on the basis of numerous recent records across Misiones Province it has been suggested that it is in expansion, facilitated by human alteration of native forest and that records in neighbouring Paraguay should be expected (Bodrati & Cockle 2012). In this note we confirm the presence of the species in the Atlantic Forest of southern Paraguay.

On 23 September 2014 a male was seen briefly by HH as it flushed from a roadside at the Zanja de Pirapó, Departamento Itapúa, Paraguay (26°43'32.6"S / 55°34'00.8"W). A single male was then seen again at the same location on 5 October 2014 (HH, PS) when it was possible to document the record photographically (Figure 1) and again on 1 November 2014 (HH, PS). The individual could be confidently distinguished from the only possible confusion species, the highland Andean Lyre-tailed Nightjar *Uropsalis lyra*, by the extensive areas of white on the head and breast and broad white edges to the tail streamers. No other species occurring in the region has such massively elongated tail streamers.

The bird sat on an unpaved roadside within a small patch of disturbed Atlantic Forest, surrounded by cultivation. The area is slightly hilly, and the locality is on a steep descent towards a rarely used bridge over the Arroyo Pirapó. Detailed behavioural notes were not taken, but it was possible to confirm the observation that

the bird repeatedly returned to the exact same spot after being flushed, as noted by Bodrati & Cockle (2012). Such behaviour has been associated with the establishment of display arenas to which males are faithful (Olmos & Rodrigues 1990).

To date this is the only observation of this species in Paraguay and because only a single male was seen it is impossible to draw any firm conclusions on the status of the species in the country. However the distance of 79.7 km from the closest Argentine locality (San Martín, Obera, 27°24'S / 55°19'W), and an Argentine record very close to the banks of the Paraná River at Puerto Libertad (25°55'S / 54°37'W) facing the Paraguayan department



FIGURE 1: Adult male Long-trained Nightjar *Macropsalis forcipata*, Zanja de Pirapó, Departamento Itapúa, Paraguay, 5 October 2014. (Photo Paul Smith).

of Alto Paraná, suggest that the species may be more widespread in southern and eastern Paraguay than is currently known. If it is indeed a species in expansion then

new Paraguayan records and localities may be expected in due course. Sixteen species of Caprimulgidae are now known to occur in the country (FAUNA Paraguay 2014).

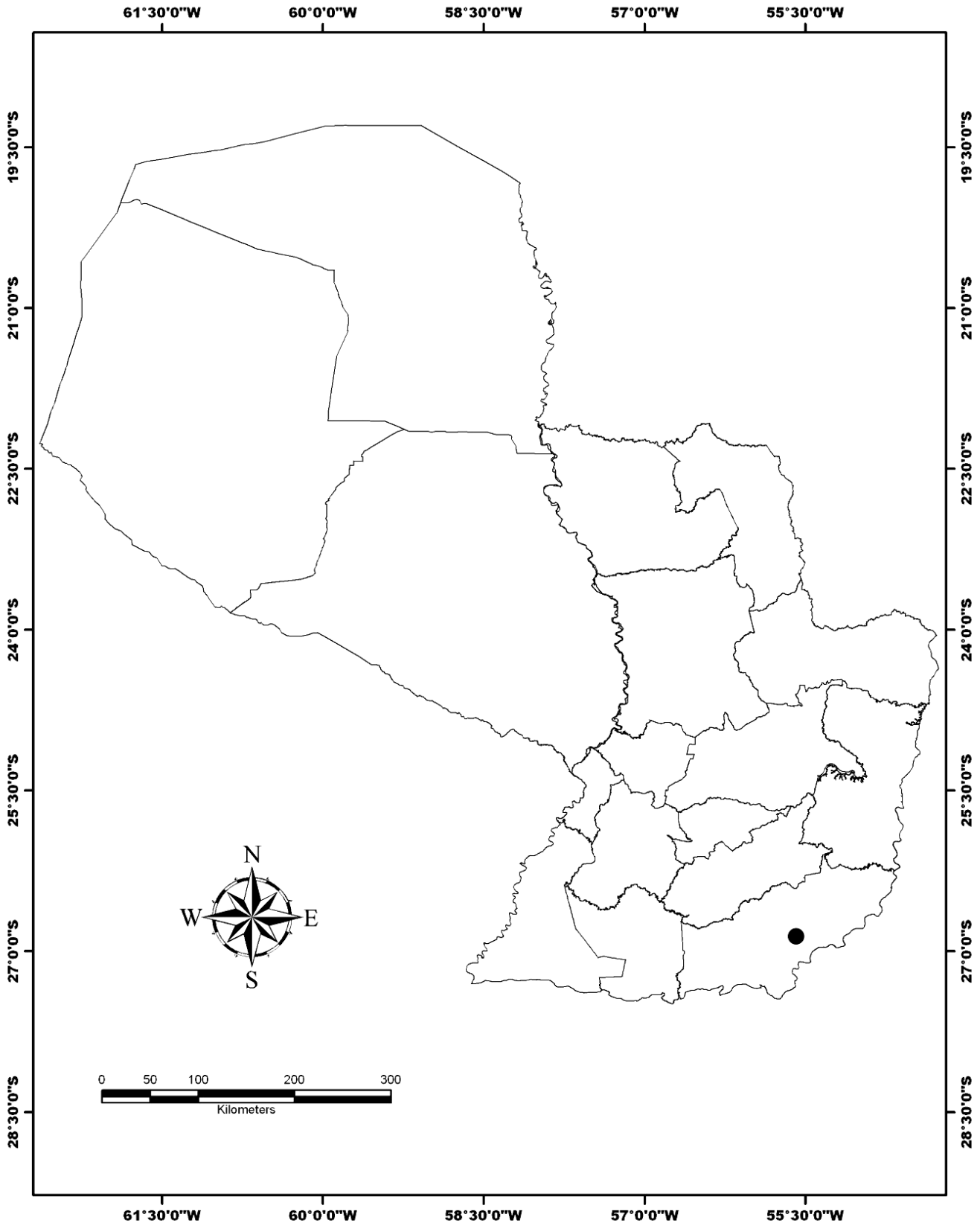


FIGURE 2: Zanja de Pirapo, Departamento Itapúa, Paraguay, the locality where the first country record of the Long-trained Nightjar *Macropsalis forcipata* was obtained.

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