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ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF SURINAME

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With 1 plate

It is self-evident that as the avifauna of a country becomes better known, the number of additions to its avifauna one can expect to make in a given period, must decrease. On the other hand, it may be said that for the same reason the value of each addition increases.

During a stay in Suriname of about a year in 1965/66 I found 17 species of birds which had not been previously recorded from the country (Mees, 1968). A second stay of a year's duration (November 1971-November 1972), yielded eleven additions to the avifauna of Suriname: nine of these are based on material collected, whereas two are based on field-observations only. With one of the species being represented by two subspecies, and one held over from my previous stay when lack of comparative material made me uncertain of its identity, a total of 13 forms is here recorded for the first time from Suriname.

As my impression was that the avifauna of the lowland-forest of Suriname is now reasonably well-known, I concentrated during my second stay on the higher levels, and on the southern savannas. Although the mountains of Suriname rise only to a maximum of 1280 m, scarcely more than mole-hills by Colombian standards, and an endemism as known from Mt. Roraima (2810 m) was not to be expected, I hoped, nevertheless, to obtain something new. Unfortunately, difficulties of finance and of organization prevented a visit to the level of about 1000 m that I had hoped to attain, but even at the very modest elevations of 450-550 m at which I worked, several species of birds were found which do not appear to occur in the adjacent lowlands.

After my own short visit to the Sipaliwini Savanna on the Brazilian border (Jan.-Febr. 1966) and Renssen's somewhat longer stay (Jan.-March 1970), I expected that still more would remain to be discovered there.

The fact that during a stay of two months I collected most of the species observed during my first visit, nine out of the eleven first recorded by Renssen (in prep.), and found only two species not previously known from Suriname, causes me to believe that at least the more conspicuous part of the avifauna of this region is now known.

The purpose of this paper is to make the new records available; therefore information on habits, etc. is withheld, and systematic discussions are given only as far as required in the descriptions of the new forms.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Hydropsalis brasiliana (Gmelin)

On 26 June 1972, on the Sipaliwini Savanna, on a grassy hillside with dispersed blocks of granite and open stony patches, I flushed first a male, and a moment later a female of this species. The long streamers to its tail made the male quite unmistakable. Although the birds did not appear to fly very far, I was unable to locate them again, and further visits to the same spot on subsequent days also remained without result. As the species is widely distributed in eastern Brazil south of the Amazon, its occurrence in southern Suriname is not surprising.

PICIDAE

Piculus rubiginosus poliocephalus subspecies nova

♂, 22.I.1972, Brownsberg, 475-500 m (no. 869, holotype of the subspecies); 2 ♀, 13.XII.1971, 23.II.1972, same locality (nos. 813, 931).

Diagnosis. This subspecies is extremely similar to *P. r. nigriceps* Blake, 1941 (of which one ♂, one ♀, paratypes, were available for comparison), but differs as follows: the cap is a shade lighter, dark grey rather than blackish; the red of the cap in the male is even more reduced: only careful examination revealed the presence of two feathers which show apically a trace of red; the white spots on chin and throat are larger, the cross-bars on the breast are a little wider; the back appears a shade less green, more golden-green. No difference in measurements: wing ♂ 114, ♀ 115, 120 mm.

Discussion. None of the characters given for this race is in itself very satisfactory, but combined they suffice in my opinion for subspecific discrimination. In the decision to describe this subspecies I have also been influenced by the great geographical distance separating the type-localities of *P. r. nigriceps* and *P. r. poliocephalus*; see discussion of the following subspecies.

Piculus rubiginosus fortirostris subspecies nova

4 ♂, 25 and 29.VII, 1 and 9.VIII.1972, Nassau Gebergte, 500-540 m. (nos. 1299, 1314, 1322 and 1348; specimen no. 1348 is holotype of the subspecies).

Diagnosis. Similar to the preceding subspecies but bill heavier, not longer, but broader and deeper at the base; the grey crown has on both sides, behind the eye, a distinct albeit narrow red fringe, and there is also some red above the lores, separating the white lores from the grey forehead. Wing ♂ 110, 114, 116, 120 mm.

Discussion. The occurrence on Nassau of a subspecies different from that of the Brownsberg is surprising as the distance between these mountains is only 60 km, moreover bridged by the Wintiwaai, another bauxite-capped mountain of a configuration similar to Brownsberg and Nassau. It proves that *Piculus rubiginosus* is, in this part of its range, strictly a mountain bird, of which additional subspecies are to be expected on other isolated mountains. The occurrence of two different, although admittedly very similar subspecies on these two mountains has strengthened my opinion that birds from Brownsberg and the Acarai (Acary) Mountains, roughly 500 km apart and separated by lowlands, should not be considered conspecific.

Blake (1950: 441) wrote that: "Although presently known only from the type locality, *nigriceps* probably occurs generally in the Acary Mountains and adjacent lowlands of both Brazil and British Guiana". My experience in northern Suriname causes me to consider it most unlikely that *P. r. nigriceps* occurs in the lowlands, but there is no doubt in my mind that in the mountains of interior Suriname, above 400 m, *Piculus rubiginosus* is widely distributed. The species may well extend into French Guiana which has peaks of up to 800 m.

DENDROCOLAPTIDAE

Lepidocolaptes angustirostris griseiceps subspecies nova

♂, 8.VII.1972, Sipaliwini (no. 1268, holotype of the subspecies).

Diagnosis. The palest of all subspecies. Throat white, remainder of the underparts, including the under tail coverts, cream. Crown brownish grey, with broad and not very well-defined white streaks. The three subspecies with which comparisons were made, have the crowns darker, blackish brown, with narrower and well-defined white streaks. There is no difference in size from adjacent subspecies (see table).

Discussion. *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris* is a species which shows, in

Lepidocolaptes angustirostris
table of specimens examined (measurements in mm)

coll.no.	sex	locality	date	wing	tail	tarsus	entire culmen	exposed culmen	weight (gr.)
1268	♂	Sipaliwini, Suriname	<i>L. a. griseiceps</i> 8.VII.1972	103	74	22	37½	33	37.5
FM 63842	♂	Codó, Cocos, Maranhão	<i>L. a. coronatus</i> 13.VI. 1924	100	81	21	36½	32	-
FM 63844	♂	"	16.VI. 1924	107	75	21	40	34	-
FM 63845	♂	"	30.VI. 1924	99	78	20	37½	33	-
FM 63843	♀	"	13.VI. 1924	97	73	20	38½	34	-
FM 63847	♀	Philadelphina, Goiás	26.XI. 1925	99	82	20	34	30	-
FM 65569	♀	São Marcello, Rio Preto, Bahia	30.III. 1914	97	77	20½	38½	34	-
SP 39712	♂	Coremas, Paraíba	<i>L. a. bahiae</i> 11.VI. 1957	103	81	20½	36	32	-
SP 39713	♂	"	14.VI. 1957	102	79	20½	35	32	-
SP 39720	♀	"	11.VI. 1957	100	78	19½	38	34	-
SP 7280	♀	Joazeiro, Bahia	XI. 1907	96	70	20½	42	37	-
SP 51864	♂	Aragarças, Goiás	<i>L. a. bivittatus</i> 15.I. 1963	98	76	20	35	31	-
SP 60188	♂	Alfenas, Minas Gerais	11.IV.1965	101	80	20	34	30	-
SP 34648	♀	Baependi, Minas Gerais	20.IV. 1951	101	76	21	35½	32	-
SP 53333	♀	Faz.Sta.Madelenia, São Paulo	14.XI.1963	98	73	19	35	30	-
SP 54497	♀	Baneiro Rico, Anhemski, São Paulo	18.XI. 1964	99	77	21	35	30½	-

its extensive range, a considerable amount of geographical variation (Peters, 1951, lists eight races).

As according to my previous experience the avifauna of the Sipaliwini Savanna is almost identical with that of the campos of eastern Brazil and shows scarcely any endemism, even at the subspecific level, I expected that the Sipaliwini bird would belong to the subspecies *L. a. coronatus* (Lesson), which ranges south of the Amazon from the Tapajóz into Piauí. However, this subspecies proved to differ by the crown-character mentioned in the diagnosis, by slightly darker underparts, and by having the under tail coverts distinctly darker, buffish, not uniform cream with the remainder of the underparts. *L. a. bahiae* Hellmayr differs in the same characters, and has the whole under surface darker, ochraceous-buff. *L. a. bivittatus* (Lichtenstein) has the underparts comparatively pale, but on the sides of the breast and on the under tail coverts there is an obscure grey streaking; the crown is dark, and moreover the dark colour is continued on the nape, further backwards than in the Sipaliwini specimen. The Sipaliwini bird has the brown mantle a little paler than all other specimens, but this is a very slight difference that might not hold in series.

Comparison with the southern races, all of which are more or less distinctly streaked above, or below, or both, is unnecessary. For descriptions of these forms I refer to Naumberg (1925), Wetmore (1926) and Esteban (1948).

FURNARIIDAE

Sclerurus mexicanus macconnelli Chubb

♂, 27.I.1966, Sipaliwini (no. 670); ♀, 18.VI.1972, Sipaliwini (no. 1210).

Uncertainty about the identity of the first bird, at a time that we had no other material of this genus from Suriname in our collection, made me withhold publication. I have now also collected *Sclerurus rufigularis fulvigularis* Todd (three specimens) and *Sclerurus c. caudacutus* (Vieillot) (four specimens); at Sipaliwini all three species occur.

FORMICARIIDAE

Thamnophilus ruficollis divaricatus subspecies nova

Nineteen specimens (10 ♂, 9 ♀), 4.V.1965-19.III.1966 and 13.III-30.VIII.1972, from the following localities: Kabel (Brokopondo Meer), Gansee (Brokopondo Meer), Aboentjima (Brokopondo Meer), Brokopondo Meer (2 and 5 km south of Affobakka), Brokopondo, Brownsberg, Avanavero Vallen, Paloemeu, Raleigh Vallen, and Sipaliwini (nos. 28, 37, 67, 155, 156, 160, 335, 533, 534, 547, 773, 973, 974, 1107, 1148, 1149, 1205, 1219, 1378).

Holotype. ♂, 4.VI.1972, Sipaliwini (no. 1148). This bird was one of a pair, collected together, the female being no. 1149.

Diagnosis. Females of this form are on the abdomen and under tail coverts much paler, and more greyish than the females of adjacent races; males, on the other hand, are somewhat darker on the underparts than males from all other races.

Distribution. In Suriname this is a common and widely distributed species (see list of localities above); it is surprising that there was only one previous record for the country, from Käysergebergte (Blake, 1961, 1963). There is little doubt that records from (British) Guiana (many localities) and French Guiana (St. Jean du Maroni, Ipousin-Approuague, St. Georges d'Oyapoc), are referable to this subspecies.

Discussion. For comparison with this series I have had material of the following forms: *T. r. ruficollis* Spix (4 ♂, 4 ♀), *T. r. obscurus* Zimmer (2 ♂, 3 ♀), and *T. r. paraensis* Todd (3 ♂, 3 ♀). The new subspecies differs from all these by the characters given in the diagnosis. Comparison with *T. r. cinereiceps* Pelzeln is, of course, unnecessary, because of the very different coloration of the males in that subspecies. *T. r. huallagae* Carriker is, judging by its description, in the female sex fairly close to the new subspecies, but males were described as having the underparts paler than the nominate race, whereas birds from Suriname have them darker; moreover, it is the geographically remotest subspecies.

The few specimens of *T. ruficollis* previously recorded from the Guianas have usually been referred to *T. r. paraensis*, the subspecies from the Lower Amazon, from which they differ as stated in the diagnosis, and probably also by slightly smaller size. The females of *T. r. paraensis* which I have examined, have also very brown tails. Measurements of the material examined are:

		wing	tail
<i>T. r. divaricatus</i>	10 ♂	65—71	51—57
	9 ♀	65—70	52—59
<i>T. r. paraensis</i>	3 ♂	69½—74	53—55
	3 ♀	71—72½	(48), 56, 56½
<i>T. r. obscurus</i>	2 ♂	72, 77	65, 67
	3 ♀	(67), 72, 75	—, 62, 63
<i>T. r. ruficollis</i>	4 ♂	70, 70, 70, 70	52½—57
	4 ♀	70—71	56—58

Haverschmidt's (1968: pl. 23) figure is a good one of *T. r. paraensis*. It does certainly not represent the subspecies occurring in Suriname: note its deep tawny coloration and chestnut tail.

Berlepsch (1908: 152) mentioned that a single adult male from French Guiana had: "darker under-parts and shorter wings than an example from the Rio Tigre (Upper Amazons) and specimens from Bogotá"; thus, on the basis of only a single specimen he already noted the characters of this race.

PIPRIDAE

Corapipo gutturalis (Linnaeus)

♂ juv. (in ♀-plumage), 5.XII.1971, Brownsberg, 470-500 m (no. 803);
♂ ad., 18.I.1972, same locality (no. 857).

The occurrence of this species in Suriname was predictable, as it had been recorded from both British and French Guiana. Actually Hellmayr (1929b) did already include "Dutch Guiana" in its range, but this was based on an incorrect interpretation of the Penards (1910: 191), and the species was rightly omitted by Haverschmidt (1955, 1968).

Corapipo gutturalis is perhaps confined to, or at least more numerous at, the higher levels. We have seen it on Brownsberg and Nassau, at 470-540 m, but never encountered it in the lowlands.

TYRANNIDAE

Contopus albogularis (Berlioz)

3 ♂, 3 ♀, 13.XII.1971-25.II.1972, Brownsberg, 470-500 m (nos. 814, 829, 832, 870, 913, 935); 3 ♂, ♀, ♂ juv., ♀ juv., 19.VII-7.VIII.1972, Nassau Gebergte, 500-540 m (nos. 1277, 1278, 1288, 1309, 1336, 1339).

This species has been treated in a separate paper, so that I refrain from comment (cf. Mees, 1973).

Leptopogon amaurocephalus obscuritergum Zimmer & Phelps

♂, 2 ♀, 28.XII.1971, 23.II.1972, 19.VIII.1972, Brownsberg, 470-500 m (nos. 831, 932, 1352); ♂, 4.X.1972, Tafelberg, ca. 300 m (no. 1451).

The nearest locality from where this little flycatcher was previously known is in the Acarai Mountains (Blake, 1950). Blake listed his specimens under the name *L. a. obscuritergum*, the type-locality of which is Mt. Auyan-tepui, Bolivar, Venezuela (cf. Zimmer & Phelps, 1946). As no material of that or any other race of the species was available to me for comparison, I forwarded three of my specimens to the American Museum of Natural History, New York, where Dr. M. Gochfeld and Dr. E. Eisenmann made the necessary comparisons, and concluded that they may safely be referred to the same subspecies.

OXYRUNCIDAE

Oxyruncus cristatus hypoglaucus (Salvin & Godman)

♂, 27.VIII.1972, Brownsberg, 470-500 m (no. 1371); ♀, 20.VIII.1972, same locality (no. 1355).

Although *Oxyruncus cristatus* has a wide distribution in South America (cf. Sick, 1971), it remains a little-known species. On the Brownsberg we found it solitary or in pairs, sometimes with mixed bird swarms, perhaps uncommon, but not rare. My wife has seen it once on the Nassau tablelands (ca. 500 m), which suggests a wide distribution in the mountains of Suriname.

Material of this species from (British) Guiana and southern Venezuela has been ascribed to two different subspecies: *O. c. hypoglaucus* (Salvin & Godman), from Roraima, the Merume Mountains, and Kamarang River (all in western (British) Guiana; cf. Snyder, 1966: 226), and *O. c. phelpsi* Chapman, from Auyan-tepui and other mountains in southern Venezuela (cf. Phelps & Phelps, 1963: 249), and the Acarai Mountains on the southern border of (British) Guiana (Chapman, 1939; Blake, 1950). This distribution is unexpected as it means that the eastern and the western parts of the range of *O. c. phelpsi* are separated by the range of *O. c. hypoglaucus*, a zoogeographical puzzle.

From descriptions alone I was quite unable to identify my specimens subspecifically — indeed it became evident that the characters on which *O. c. phelpsi* was separated from *O. c. hypoglaucus* are slight. A loan from the American Museum of Natural History enabled me to make the necessary comparisons. Ignoring the colour of the crest (scarlet in the fresh material from Suriname, orange in the other specimens; the crest of this species is known to fade), I found no plumage characters that would differentiate the specimens from Brownsberg from either *O. c. phelpsi* or *O. c. hypoglaucus*. Morphologically, birds from the three populations agree also (cf. table of measurements), and therefore I consider that *O. c. phelpsi* is a synonym of *O. c. hypoglaucus*, and that the birds from Suriname must be known under the last-mentioned name.

In most of its range *Oxyruncus cristatus* is a mountain-bird, but Chapman (1939) described a subspecies *O. c. tocantinsi* from Baião on the lower Tocantins. He commented as follows: "The fact that *Oxyruncus* has not before been recorded from Amazonia makes it surprising that we should receive 5 specimens from a known collecting locality in what may be called the Sneath area. When we discover that all 5 birds were collected on the same day (Dec. 16, 1931) we conclude that the species is not only very rare but very local in this region". To me the mentioned facts suggest a

Oxyruncus cristatus hypoglaucus
table of specimens examined (measurements in mm)

coll. no.	sex	locality	date	wing	tail	tarsus	entire culmen	exposed culmen	weight (gr.)
1371	♂	Brownsberg	27.VIII.1972	92	59	19	18½	15	40
1355	♀	"	20.VIII.1972	92	58	21	21	17	45
AMNH 493663	♂	Roraima	18.IV.1883	91	58	19	19	15	-
AMNH 100245	♀	"	15.XII. 1883	89	58	20½	18½	15	-
AMNH 493664	♀	"	11.I.1884	90	54	20	18	15	-
AMNH 324688	♂	Anyan-tepui	23.XII.1937	91	56	19	19	15	-
AMNH 324690	♀	"	23.XII.1937	91	57	20	19	16	-

different solution to this riddle. Vaurie (1965) and Haffer (1970: 308 footnote 1, 313 text and footnote 1) have provided evidence that the labelling of A. M. Olalla, who collected these five specimens, is not always reliable, and I suggest that they had been obtained by one of Olalla's men on higher ground upstream, and subsequently handed over to Olalla, who attached labels of the place where he received the specimens. This would also explain why they all bear one date, a point otherwise incompatible with great rarity and very local occurrence. Incidentally, on Chapman's (1939) map of distribution the type locality of *O. c. tocantinsi* is shown much too far west, on the Rio Xingu, at about 52°W, instead of on the Rio Tocantins, a little east of 50°W.

EMBERIZIDAE-CARDINALINAE

Periporphyrus erythromelas (Gmelin)

♂, 27.II.1972, Brownsberg, ca. 475 m (no. 940).

On the Brownsberg we only once encountered a group of three or four pairs of these birds, the males in full song. My wife has also an observation of a single male from the Nassau Gebergte.

THRAUPIDAE

Piranga flava haemalea Salvin & Godman

♂ juv., 17.XII.1971, Brownsberg, ca. 475 m (no. 817); ♂, 7.VIII.1972, Nassau Gebergte, ca. 500 m (no. 1343).

An adult male of this strikingly-beautiful tanager was first seen by my wife near the guesthouse of Brownsberg (470 m). A few days later, on 12 February 1972, we observed together what was presumably the same bird, moving through the trees, at various levels, in the forest-edge. Our only subsequent observation is that of the individual collected. The juvenile male, collected in the lower storey of forest, no more than about two metres above the ground, was only subsequently recognised as belonging to this species; it is in olive-green plumage, throat and abdomen yellow. This appears to be an uncommon and solitary mountain bird.

Since Zimmer (1929), who, however, did so with reservations, *P. f. haemalea* has been regarded as conspecific with *P. f. saira*, which also occurs in Suriname. The one inhabits the mountain forest (possibly with a preference for the edges), the other occurs in the open lowland savanna; the differences in morphology and plumage are also considerable. Evidence

in Suriname suggests that the two are different species, but a change in status should be based on an examination of all races; see also de Schauensee (1966: 482).

PARULIDAE

Parula pitiayumi subsp.

A moderately common member of mixed bird flocks on Brownsberg, where both my wife and I have seen it frequently. I failed to obtain a specimen. The fact that we did not observe the species on Nassau may possibly be significant.

VIREONIDAE

Hylophilus puellus species nova

♀, 14.X.1972, Tafelberg, ca. 300 m (no. 1487, holotype and unique specimen).

Diagnosis. The smallest, but also the most colourful member of its genus as hitherto known. Whereas the plumage generally is fairly typical of the genus, with a grey head and olive-green mantle, the outstanding characters, distinguishing it from all other members of its genus, are a double light yellow wing-bar, and a large patch of bright chestnut on the lower back.

Description. A small *Hylophilus* which does not show any morphological characters not found elsewhere in the genus. Judging by the few published measurements I have been able to find in the literature (Ridgway, 1904: 217, and Berlepsch & Taczanowski, 1884: 542), *Hylophilus decurtatus* and *Hylophilus minor* (often regarded as conspecific) are almost equally small. The bill is slender, of about the same shape as the bill of *H. muscipinus* (but smaller, as is the whole bird).

Plumage. Upperparts: crown, nape, and sides of the head neutral grey; loreal spot whitish; the grey becoming gradually paler from the ear-coverts downwards, to change smoothly in the almost white chin and throat; mantle, including the anterior part of the back, upper tail coverts, outer margins of upper wing coverts, remiges and rectrices, olive green; rump chestnut; middle and greater wing coverts with broad pale yellow tips, forming two conspicuous bars on each wing; remiges and rectrices blackish brown, with margins as already noted. Underparts: chin white, throat almost white, very pale grey; lower on the breast the grey increases in intensity, but remains very pale; flanks, and belly and under tail coverts light citrine yellow; wing bend and axillaries bright yellow.

Unfeathered parts. Iris dark brown; bill, maxilla black, tomia and mandible pale grey; legs blue-grey; inside of mouth dark yellow.

Further particulars. ♀, believed to be adult, with fully ossified skull; gonads inactive (ovary $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ mm). Wing 51, tail 38, tarsus 15, entire culmen 13, exposed culmen 11 mm (the tip of the bill is missing so that the two last measurements are only approximate); weight 7.5 g; wing rounded, with nine primaries, wing formula $5 > 4 = 6 > 7 > 8 > 3 > 9 > 10 > 2$; the wing measured to the tip of the longest primary is, as stated above, 51 mm; to the tip of the second (outer) primary it measures 36 mm, to the third (second developed) 46 mm.

This bird was collected out of a presumed pair of identical-looking birds, from the foliage in the crown of a forest-tree, at a height of perhaps 10-12 metres. It was probably part of a large mixed swarm of birds which I had been following for some time in this piece of comparatively light forest. The locality was near the Tafelberg aerodrome, some 12 km south of the Tafelberg, in the lowlands (300 m). Therefore, on present evidence, *Hylophilus puellus* is a lowland species.

Systematic position. Although from the moment I met it, this bird looked to me like a *Hylophilus*, its aberrant plumage characters induced me to make an extensive search in literature and collections. It was at once obvious that it did not belong to any described species of *Hylophilus*, and did not fit the description of any known member of the Vireonidae.

As most authors are somewhat hazy about the familial characters separating the Vireonidae from the Parulidae, I have also examined material of the last-mentioned family, but found nothing that resembles the bird here described. This comparison has strengthened me in the opinion that *Hylophilus puellus* is placed in its correct family and genus.

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rostris bivittatus and *L. a. bahiae*); Dr. E. R. Blake, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (*Piculus rubiginosus nigriceps*, *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris coronatus*); Mr. C. E. O'Brien and Dr. M. Gochfeld, American Museum of Natural History, New York (*Thamnophilus* and *Oxyruncus*).

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Hylophilus puellus sp. n., 1.5 X natural size.