

Study of Woodland Birds at Reserva Don Luis, Cambyreta

Abstract

A week long study was carried out at the private reserve of Don Luis in Cambyreta in June 2014 which is the winter in Argentina. The initial object was to confirm which avian species habitate 2 of the island woods at the reserve by trapping and ringing them. The long-term object is to monitor the ringed birds visually over the next few years in order to determine age, any differences in behaviour and movement. None of the birds ringed are considered to be migratory therefore to get a fuller picture we hope to do another weeks ringing session in the spring when the migrants arrive. We also hope to retrap some of the ringed birds from the winter session. In total 46 birds were caught and ringed during the survey which included 15 different species.

Epaulet Oriole, *Icterus cayanensis*



Introduction

The week long survey was carried out in order to study the woodland birds that live in two of the island woods at Reserva Don Luis. This private reserve/research station lies in the zone called Cambyreta which is in the north of the Esteros del Ibera or Ibera Marshes in the Province of Corrientes, Argentina.

There have been few studies carried out in this region but a current visual survey by Lisandro Cardinales, Fernando Berlasconi and Andres Garcia entitled 'Aves de los Montes de Cambyreta' in being conducted in the area. See appendix 1.

The purpose of this study was to ring a selection of woodland birds over a period of a week in the winter month of June in order to evaluate species, take measurements and weight and assess for parasites, ticks etc. Over the next few years we hope to reencounter these ringed birds either visually or by retrapping in order that we can observe behaviour and also to age them. We also plan to do another ringing session in the Argentine spring so we can include the migrants.



Materials & Methods

2 mist nets were placed in suitable areas inside the wooded areas and monitored at least every 30 mins. The mist nets measured 3m x 9m and 3m x 12m respectively. Both had a mesh size of 16mm x 16mm which is suitable for catching small passerines. They were set up and furred the previous night until just before dawn when they were configured for use.

The first 2 days we trapped in Monte Grande which is the largest wood at Don Luis. For the next 5 days the nets were placed in Monte Casa, the wood nearest the houses and a 20 minute walk from Monte Grande. This meant that it was possible, maybe probable that the birds would move between the two woods especially as it was non breeding/nesting season.

The ringing was led by naturalist Juan Klavins who is an experienced bird ringer in this area and assisted by Miranda Collett who holds a British trainee ringer's licence. They were assisted by Ramon Gomez and Rosa Gomez (the latter for the first 2 days).

The rings used followed North American protocol, the smallest band used being 0A and the largest 2. The number sequence started with 601 in each of the band sizes.



Results

A total of 50 birds (including 6 retraps) were extracted from the mist nets and were ringed. All of them were relatively common and reflected the species that we expected to catch.

There were a total of 15 different species in 10 different families, seven of which feed on fruit as part of their diet. The fruit is plentiful in the 2 island forests surveyed which consist of native trees that fruit at different times of the year.

Table of species trapped and ringed (minus the retraps):

Scientific name	English name	Family	Number of examples
<i>Turdus rufiventris</i>	Rufous-bellied Thrush	Poliophtilidae	10
<i>Thamnophilus caeruleus</i>	Variable Antshrike	Thamnophilidae	4
<i>Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer</i>	Pearly-vented Tody Tyrant	Tyrannidae	4
<i>Phacellodomus ruber</i>	Greater Thornbird	Furnariidae	4

Saltator coerulescens	Grayish Saltator	Emberizidae	3
Troglodytes aedon	House Wren	Troglodytidae	3
Pitangus sulphuratus	Great Kiskadee	Tyrannidae	3
Basileuterus leucoblepharus	White-rimmed Warbler	Motacillidae	2
Icterus cayanensis	Epaulet Oriole	Icteridae	2
Thlypopsis sordida	Orange-headed Tanager	Thraupidae	2
Cyclarhis gujanensis	Rufous-browed Peppershrike	Vireonidae	1
Thraupis sayaca	Sayaca Tanager	Thraupidae	1
Furnarius rufus	Rufous Hornero	Furnariidae	1
Camptostoma obsoletum	Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	Tyrannidae	1
Total examples	15	10	44
Basileuterus culicivorus	Golden-crowned Warbler	Motacillidae	3

See Appendix 2 for details and measurement information.

Rufous-bellied Thrush, *Turdus rufiventris*



Discussion

The birds that were trapped and ringed were all relatively common in the area and reflected the species that we expected to find. At least seven species were frugivorous or included fruit in their diet which reflects the amount of fruit that occurs in the island forests in this area.

Of the 15 species encountered, the most common by a long way was *Turdus rufiventris* and it may be possible to visually identify the number of this relatively large ring with the aid of binoculars on future visits. This species is indeed frugivorous in part of its diet and we frequently see it feeding amongst our fruit trees.

Another ringing session in the spring would be useful to identify migrants and also to note any retraps.

This is an ongoing project which we expect to last several years.

Acknowledgments

Naturalist Juan Klavins organised the bird ringing sessions and we would like to thank him for his professional efforts and perseverance. Collett Trust for Endangered Species funded the project.

Literature Cited

Aves Argentina Uruguay – a field guide	<u>Tito Narosky, Dario Yzurieta</u>
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Orange-headed Tanager, *Thylpopsis sordida*



appendix 2

Date	Time	Species	No	New	Ring er	Age	Fat	Prot	Brood	Wear	Parasites	Wing	Tail	Tarso	Culmen	Narina	Width	Ht	Wt/g	Comments
04/06/14	0730	Basileuterus leucoblepharus	601/0	Y	JK	Imm		0	0	2	4	58.0	59.0	24.43	10.89	7.58	3.54	3.49	14.2	Monte G
04/06/14	0730	Basileuterus leucoblepharus	602/0	Y	JK	Adult?	5	0	0	-	-	67	64	27.90	11.48	7.96	3.85	4.16	17.8	Monte G
04/06/14	0825	Saltator coerulescens	601/1A	Y	JK	Adult?	5	0	0			189	101	32.63	16.43	13.63	9.80	11.41	69.9	Monte G
04/06/14	0830	Turdus rufiventris	600/2	y	JK	ASY	5	0	0	1	1	105.5	102.5	38.94	19.53	14.21	5.93	6.48	71.1	Monte G
04/06/14	0830	Turdus rufiventris	601/2	Y	JK	-	-	-	-	1		121.0	101	41.83	21.10	14.88	6.29	6.55	74.8	Monte G
04/06/14	0925	Basileurus culicivorus	601/0A	Y	JK	ASY	5	0	0	2	4	51	51	21.73	9.39	6.48	3.61	3.12	8.8	Monte G
05/06/2014	1030	Thamnophilus caerulescens	602/1B	y	JK	IMM/F	5	0	0	-	-	71.5	68	27.18	13.73	8.83	4.10	5.32	25.0	Monte G. Faltan puntas blancas
06/06/2014	1400	Basileuterus culicivorus	603/0A	Y	JK	unk	5	0	0	1	4	56.5	57.5	22.02	8.60	6.58	3.37	2.89	9.2	Monte Casa
06/06/2014	1400	Basileuterus culicivorus	602/0A	Y	MJC	Unk	-	-	-	-	-	51	51				3.87		8.9	Monte C
06/06/2014	1420	Cyclarhis gujanensis	601/1B	Y	JK	imm	1	0	0	1	4	74.5	70.5	28.93	16.28	9.88	5.75	8.63	33.1	Monte Casa
06/06/2014	1420	Turdus rufiventris	602/2	Y	JK	Imm?	1	0	0	1	1	122	106	43.27	21.80	16.25	6.85	4.40	79.4	Monte Casa
06/06/2014	1430	Thraupis sayaca	603/1B	Y	JK	ASY	1	0	0	2	4	68	66.5	23.42	13.12	9.03	5.97	6.78	33.0	Monte C Azul/verdoxo intenso

06/06/2014	1500	Turdus rufiventris	604/2	Y	JK	Unk	5	0	0	1	4	117	101	39.97	19.55	13.97	5.42	6.25	-	Monte C
06/06/2014	1700	Troglodytes aedon	603/0A	Y	JK	Unk	1	0	0	-	-	53	44.5	20.98	12.41	9.58	2.75	2.94	12.5	Monte C
07/06/2014	0740	Turdus rufiventris	605/2	Y	MJC		2	0	0	2	1	110	90	46.38	16.96	15.88	7.52	7.52	76.7	Monte C
07/06/2014	0740	Turdus rufiventris	606/2	Y	JK		1	0	0	1	4	119	107	39.25	20.79	15.67	5.36	6.75	84.8	Paler eye-ring
07/06/2014	0830	Pitangus sulphuratus	607/2	Y	JK		0.5	0	0	1	4	117	90.0	31.27	28.07	24.71	9.48	9.27	55.7	Yellow crown, gape, old retrices
08/06/2014	1900	Turdus rufiventris margaritaceiventris	605/2A	N	MJC		1	0	0	1	4	45.5	42.0	20.04	10.39	7.48	3.43	2.82	7.8	Monte C
06/06/2014	1545	Hemitriccus	604/0A	Y	JK	Unk	1	0	0	1	1	46	41	22.69	10.64	7.87	3.72	2.91	8.4	Monte C prob
07/06/2014	1145	margaritaceiventris furnarius rufus	609/2	Y	JK		5	0	0	2	4	96.5	71.0	39.33	21.71	16.30	4.17	4.78	53.4	Adult Monte C
07/06/2014	0830	Icterus cayanensis	604/1B	Y	JK		0	0	0	1	4	85.5	91.5	25.68	15.64	11.15	4.09	4.55	24.9	
07/06/2014	0830	Saltator coerulescens	608/2	Y	MJC	Prob imm	1	0	0	1	4	102	101	32.38	16.62	16.36?	10.44?	11.90	64.5	Very green, wear on retrices
07/06/2014	1200	Turdus rufiventris	610/2	Y	MJC	P	Prob imm	0	0	2	4	110	87.0	41.34	21.17	17.87	7.49	8.40	82.0	Monte C
07/06/2014	1000	Basileuterus	602/0A	N	JK		5	0	0	2	4	51.0	49.5	20.95	9.10	6.60	3.48	3.12	8.8	Retrap
07/06/2014	1320	Thlypopsis sordida	604	Y	MJC		5	0	0	1	4	69	57.0	23.30	11.77	8.00	5.64	5.06	15.8	Poss F
07/06/2014	1330	Thlypopsis sordida	605	Y	JK	Juv o imm	1	0	0	1	1	66	59	22.90	11.39	8.19	4.65	4.68	15.3	imm
07/06/2014	1340	Icterus cayanensis	605/1B	Y	MJC		5	0	0	1	1	94	105	29.76	16.88	13.65	5.89	6.41	29.8	
07/06/2014	1340	Thamnophilus caerulescens	606/1B	Y	JK	F	5	0	0	1	1	67	67.5	27.04	14.81	9.42	4.38	5.42	21.6	Female
08/06/2014	0740	Turdus rufiventris	611/2	Y	JK	ASY	5	0	0	1	4	115	102	39.0	18.72	14.10	5.42	6.14	73.3	
08/06/2014	0740	Turdus rufiventris	612/2	Y	JK	SY	5	0	0	2	4	112.5	93	40.05	20.73	14.75	5.71	6.27	68.5	9

08/06/2014	0800	Turdus rufiventris	613/2	Y	JK	SY	5	0	0	1	4	122.0	105	39.28	20.03	14.80	5.71	6.89	75.3	Ticks on cloaka, mosca chata
08/06/2014	0840	Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer	606/0A	Y	JK	Unk	0	0	0	1	4	49.9	45.5	22.28	11.05	7.33	3.73	2.88	8.3	
08/06/2014	0840	Thamnophilus caeruleus	607/1B	Y	MJC	Unk	5	0	0	1	4	71.0	64.0	30.32	11.66	9.01	5.80	4.94	21.2	
08/06/2014	0900	Troglodytes aedon	606/0A	Y	JK	Unk	1	0	0	1	1	53.5	47.0	20.3	13.17	9.34	2.80	2.86	11.8	
08/06/2014	0900	Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer	607/0A	Y	JK	imm	5	0	0	2	1	44.5	37.0	21.05	11.05	7.86	3.91	3.00	7.7	3.00
08/06/2014	1030	Cyclarhis gujanensis	601/1B	N	JK	imm	1	0	0	1	4	74.5	72.0						32.4	Retrap
08/06/2014	1100	Camptostoma obsoletum	608/0A	Y	JK		5	0	0	1	1	57.0	51.0	17.20	7.48	5.29	3.40	3.17	8.7	

08/06/2014	1130	Phacellodomus ruber	608/1B	Y	JK		0	0	0	2	4	75.0	92	27.97	18.10	13.50	4.30	5.55	38.0	
08/06/2014	1530	Pitangus sulphuratus	614/2	Y	JK	Asy	5	0	0	1	1	117.5	88.0	30.06	27.40	23.98	9.67	9.03	61.6	
08/06/2014	1700	Troglodytes aedon	609/0A	Y	JK		1	0	0	1	1	52.5	44.5	20.45	13.26	9.20	2.67	2.09	13.2	
09/06/2014	0830	Pitangus sulphuratus	615/2	Y	JK	unk	5	0	0?	1	1	118.0	89.5	31.75	30.23	24.8	10.33	9.98	63.4	Yellow crest
09/06/2014	0850	Saltator coerulescens	608/2	N	JK	Unk	1	0	0	2	4	103.5	102.0	32.79	18.84	13.75	14.80	11.41	65.2	retrap
09/06/2014	0910	Turdus rufiventris	606/2	N	JK	Imm?	2	0	0	1	4	119.5	107.5	40.41	22.25	16.10	5.60	6.81	?	retrap
09/06/2014	1100	Phacellodomus ruber	609/1B	Y	JK	Unk	2	0	0	2	4	76.5	92.5	27.84	18.29	13.00	3.84	5.85	41.8	Monte Casa
09/06/2014	1100	Phacellodomus ruber	610/1B	Y	JK	Unk	2	0	0	1	1	76.0	92.0	27.53	17.93	13.39	4.39	5.68	38.9	Monte Casa
09/06/2014	1240	Phacellodomus ruber	611/1B	Y	JK	Unk	2	0	0	2	4	79.0	97.0	28.36	18.93	13.05	4.47	5.63	39.5	Lost tail feathers
09/06/2014	1240	Thamnophilus caerulescens	606/1B	N	JK	F	5	0	0	2	1	67.0	68.0	27.07	15.33	9.39	4.51	5.45	21.9	Female Monte Casa
10/06/2014	0750	Saltator coerulescens	603/1A	Y	JK	Imm	1	0	0	2	4	103.0	105.0	35.02	19.45	14.50	10.10	12.10	68.5	Green imm?
10/06/2014	0830	Turdus rufiventris	604	N	JK	Imm?	5	0	0	1	4	117	101	40.33	19.36	14.05	5.83	6.39	68.6	Retrap