

Birds of the Serranía de Macuira, Guajira Peninsula, Colombia

By

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With 1 Figure

Resumen

Del 10 al 14 de enero de 1968, fueron observadas 117 especies y subespecies de aves pertenecientes a 39 familias, y colectados 529 especímenes, en la Serranía de Macuira de la Alta Guajira. Una especie y dos subespecies son reportadas por primera vez de Colombia y *Dendroica townsendi*, reportada como nueva para Suramérica. Otras aves, raramente colectadas, fueron también encontradas. Este es el primer reporte sobre la avifauna de esta interesante área.

Zusammenfassung

Vom 10. bis 14. Januar 1968 wurden 117 Arten und Unterarten von Vögeln beobachtet, die zu 39 Familien gehören. Es wurden 529 Exemplare in der Serranía de Macuira der nördlichen Guajira gesammelt. Eine Art und zwei Unterarten wurden erstmalig für Kolumbien und *Dendroica townsendi* als neu für Südamerika beschrieben. Andere selten gesammelte Vögel wurden ebenfalls gefunden. Dieses ist der erste Bericht über die Vogelfauna dieser interessanten Region.

Summary

From the 10th to the 14th of January 1968, 117 species and subspecies of birds, pertaining to 39 families were observed and 529 specimens collected in the Serranía de Macuira of the upper Guajira. One species and two subspecies are recorded for the first time from Colombia, and *Dendroica townsendi* reported as a new record for South America. Several other birds, seldom collected in Colombia were also found. This is the first detailed report on the avifauna of this highly interesting area.

Introduction

From the 10th to the 14th of January 1968 a collection of birds was made in the northeastern part of the Serranía de Macuira. This

area is located at the extreme point of the Guajira peninsula in north-eastern Colombia. The Guajira is the most septentrional part of the South-American continent.

The Serranía de Macuira consists of some 50 hills, the highest peak being 850 m above sealevel. The foothills are covered in part with xerophytic vegetation and in part with hygrophytic vegetation in the valleys and along the streams. Rather dense subhygrophytic low forest with undergrowth is present on the northern slopes of some of the hills.

The annual rainfall is exceptional high for the area (539 mm in average).

The Macuira hills are surrounded by xerophytic vegetation, characteristic for most of the upper Guajira. Some of the hills are situated 12 km from the Atlantic Ocean.

The only ornithological study in the Macuira hills was done in 1941 by Dr. A. WETMORE, M. A. CARRIKER and F. C. LEHMANN V.

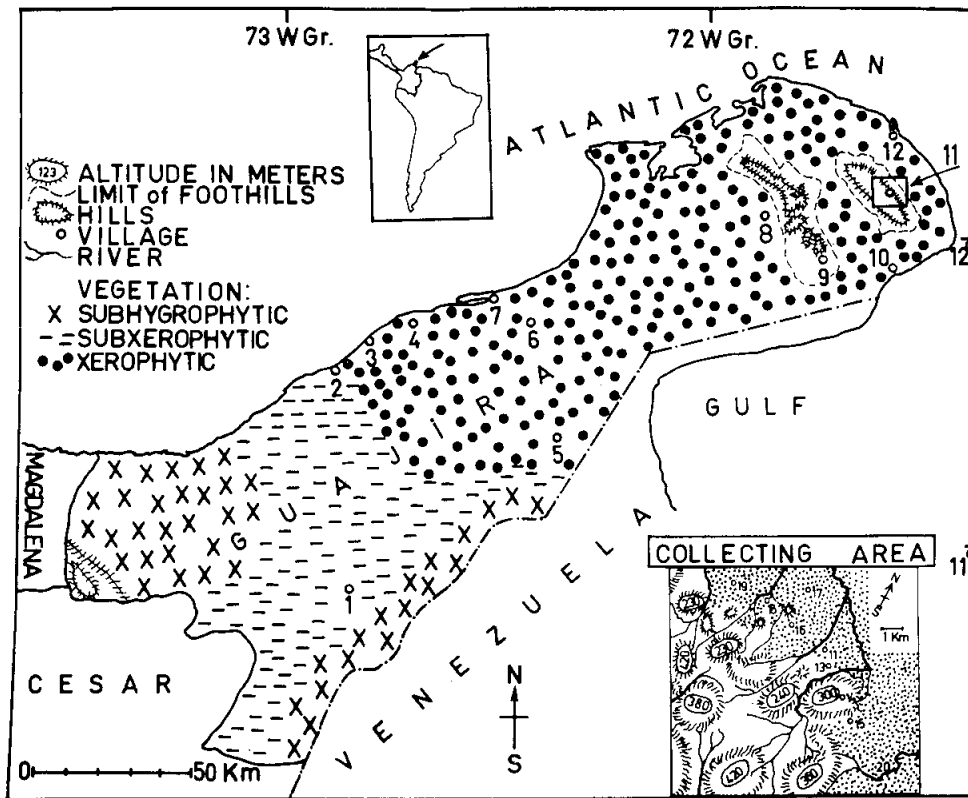


Fig. 1. Map of the collecting area.

- 1 Fonseca, 2 Riohacha, 3 Machapo, 4 Agupero, 5 Maicao, 6 Uribia,
- 7 Manaure, 8 Calonka, 9 Uitpa, 10 Puerto López, 11 Nazareth, 12 Cabo Falso,
- 13 Internado Guajira, 14 Titujura, 15 Sietuhu, 16 Souruain,
- 17 Káitpauohu, 18 Mukúrraruhu, 19 Kayúspanau, 20 River Ay Huatkeru.

Later WETMORE (1941 to 1958) described several new endemic subspecies from that area (eg. *Ortalis ruficauda lamprophonia*, *Momotus momota spatha*, *Thryothorus leucotis collinus*, *Turdus leucomelas cautor*, *Cyanerpes cyaneus gemmeus*, *Hylophilus flavipes melleus* and *Arremon schlegeli fratruelis*).

The distribution of Colombian birds is well known in numerous areas but there is a continuing need for accurate studies of regions that have yet received little or no attention. The object of this publication is to give details on the birds collected or observed in a virtual yet unexplored part of Colombia.

Materials and Methods

Birds were collected by shooting and/or Japanese mistnets, and transported in dry-ice to Bogotá. The prepared study skins were compared with the birds skins available in the "Instituto de Ciencias Naturales" (I. C. N.) of the National University of Colombia in Bogotá and with birds collected by the author in Colombia and now in the "Museo de Historia Natural Uniandes" of the "Universidad de los Andes" in Bogotá (M. H. N. U.). Many of the migratory birds were sent to the United States National Museum in Washington D. C. for subspecies identification. Part of the collection reported here has been included in the I. C. N. collections, while the remaining part is now in the M. H. N. U.

The nomenclature, phylogenetic order and common names in this publication are those used by R. MEYER DE SCHAUSENSEE (1966).

Geographical situation

The localization of the geographic names mentioned in the annotated list and used in the comparison of certain Guajira birds are as follows: Agupero, Maicao, Manaure and Mayapo are located in the lower Guajira.

Calonka and Uirpa are located in the upper Guajira, less ca. 50 km south west of the Serranía de Macuira. Nazareth is a village one km north of the Serranía de Macuira. The cities of Cartagena and Santa Marta are located on the Atlantic (Caribbean) coast south west of the Guajira peninsula. The "departamentos" (or "intendencias") of Atlántico, Bolívar, Guajira and Magdalena are in the north of Colombia, Meta and Santander in central Colombia, Arauca and N. Santander in east Colombia and Cauca in southwestern Colombia. For further details see map.

Annotated list

Family: T i n a m i d a e

Crypturellus soui mustelinus (BANGS)

1 ♂

"Little Tinamou"

Slightly more rufescent on wingcoverts than a male collected by J. HAFFER in Bolívar (HAFFER & BORRERO 1965) and thus

tending to the race *caucaea*. The bird was shot in dense second growth in the foothills, south of Nazareth.

Family: *Ardeidae*

Butorides striatus striatus (L.)

1 ♀ "Striated Heron"

Bird shot but not prepared.

Bubulcus ibis subsp. "Cattle Egret"

A few seen in the foothills, which seemed to belong to the race *ibis*.

Nyctanassa violacea subsp.

"Yellow-crowned Night-Heron"

One individual seen near a stream in the foothills, probably belonged to the subspecies *cayennensis*.

Family: *Cathartidae*

Cathartes aura subsp.

"Turkey Vulture"

Several individuals observed in the foothills near Internado Guajira.

Cathartes burrovianus CASSIN

"Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture"

One individual seen in the foothills.

Family: *Accipitridae*

Parabuteo unicinctus unicinctus (TEMMINCK)

1 ♂ "Bay-winged Hawk"

Previously recorded from the Caribbean coast in the Guajira. The bird was collected in the xerophytic area around the hills near Internado Guajira.

Oroaëtus isidori (DES MURS)

1 ♂ "Black-and-chestnut Eagle"

MEYER DE SCHAUENSEE (1964) mentions one sight record from the arid Guajira region, but several other records from northern Colombia exist.

Spizastur melanoleucus (VIEILLOT)

1 ♀ "Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle"

Other records from the Guajira exist.

Family: *Pandionidae*

Pandion haliaëtus subsp.

"Osprey"

Four individuals seen in the arid region surrounding the foothills. The individuals probably belonged to the subspecies *carolinensis*.

Family: *Falconidae*

Polyborus plancus subsp.

"Crested Caracara"

Several groups seen in the arid areas around the hills. Groups usually consisted of 4 to 6 individuals, and seemed to belong to the race *cheriway*.

Falco columbarius bendirei SWANN

1 ♂

“Merlin”

Only once previously recorded from the high páramo of the Santa Marta region (WETMORE 1965).

Falco sparverius subsp.

“American Kestrel”

Observed on three occasions in xerophytic areas around the hills. Individuals probably belonged to the race *isabellinus*.

Family: C r a c i d a e

Ortalis garrula garrula (HUMBOLDT)

1 ♂

“Chestnut-winged Chachalaca”

This represents the most eastern record of this race. The bird was shot in the dry scrub among cactus near Sietuhu.

Family: P h a s i a n i d a e

Colinus cristatus subsp.

“Crested Bobwhite”

Several small groups seen in the subxerophytic parts of the foothills near Titujura. The individuals belonged to the subspecies *continentis*.

The birds were common in the open areas where dry scrub or dense second growth was present.

Family: R a l l i d a e

Neocrex erythrops colombianus BANGS

1 ♂

“Paint-billed Crake”

The specimen was shot in a small swamp in the foothills. Records of this race exist from several areas of Columbia.

Porphyryla martinica (L.)

“Purple Gallinule”

Three individuals seen in a small swamp in the foothills south of Titujura.

Family: J a c a n i d a e

Jacana jacana melanopygia (SCLATER)

1 ♂

“Wattled Jacana”

A very distinct race hitherto known only from the Cauca Valley, from Arauca (BLAKE 1961) and from the Maracaibo region of northwestern Venezuela. The disrupted distribution of this race has been mentioned by HELLMAYER & CONOVER (1942).

Family: C h a r a d r i i d a e

Vanellus chilensis subsp.

“Southern Lapwing”

Two pairs observed in the xerophytic area around the foothills. They probably belonged to the subspecies *cayennensis*.

Charadrius semipalmatus BONAPARTE

3 ♂ "Semipalmated Plover"

The birds were caught in mistnets set at the edge of a forest on the bank of a creek.

Charadrius vociferus vociferus L.

1 ♂, 1 ♀ "Killdeer"

The birds were caught together with *C. semipalmatus*.

Charadrius wilsonia cinnamominus (RIDGWAY)

1 ♂ "Wilson's Plover"

The bird was shot near a creek in the foothills. This race is resident on the Caribbean coast.

Arenaria interpres morinella (L.)

1 ♂ "Ruddy Turnstone"

The bird was shot together with *Charadrius wilsonia cinnamominus*. This northern migrant is a common North-American winter visitor on the Caribbean coast.

Family: S c o l o p a c i d a e

Tringa flavipes (GMELIN)

1 ♀ "Lesser Yellowlegs"

The bird was shot on a mud bank of a small river in the foothills, south of Soúruain.

Tringa melanoleuca (GMELIN)

1 ♂ "Greater Yellowlegs"

The bird was collected together with the previous mentioned species.

Calidris minutilla (VIEILLOT)

1 ♂, 1 ♀ "Least Sandpiper"

The birds were collected together with the *Tringa* spp.

Calidris pusilla (L.)

1 ♂ "Semipalmated Sandpiper"

The bird was collected at the same place as *C. minutilla*.

Calidris melanotos (VIEILLOT)

2 ♀ "Pectoral Sandpiper"

The birds were collected together with following species.

Calidris mauri (CABANIS)

1 ♀ "Western Sandpiper"

The bird was collected on a mud bank in the foothills.

Family: B u r h i n i d a e

Burhinus bistriatus vocifer (L' HERMINIER)

1 ♀ "Double-striped Thickknee"

Four other individuals were observed in the xerophytic flatlands surrounding the foothills, southwest of Kayúsapanau.

Family: C o l u m b i d a e

Zenaida auriculata stenura BONAPARTE

4 ♂, 2 ♀

“Eared Dove”

Rather common in the densely overgrown valleys of the foothills, south of Nazareth.

Columbina passerina albivitta (BONAPARTE)

24 ♂, 24 ♀

“Common Ground-Dove”

The scaly appearance is not pronounced in juvenile females. The underparts and breastcolors of the males are similar to specimens from Riohacha and Maicao (I. C. N.) but darker than the one male from Uitpa (Col. J. HAFFER). It is one of the most common birds in the dry open area around the hills and apparently not found in the hills.

Columbina talpacoti rufipennis (BONAPARTE)

1 ♂, 1 ♀

“Ruddy Ground-Dove”

Various other individuals were seen in the xerophytic area around the foothills, southwest of Káitpauohu.

Scardafella squammata ridgwayi RICHMOND

1 ♂, 10 ♀

“Scaled Dove”

Adults are variable in color; some are similar to specimens from Maicao and Riohacha (I. C. N.) or Rondon in Arauca or Villavicencio in Meta (I. C. N.), other individuals are similar to specimens from Uitpa and Calonka described by HAFFER (1961). Juvenile males and females show marked ochreous patches on the underparts. Common in the open xerophytic regions near Sietuhu.

Family: P s i t t a c i d a e

Aratinga pertinax subsp.

“Brown-throated Parakeet”

On three occasions a pair was observed in the dry open area between Nazareth and Internado Guajira. The birds probably belonged to the race *aeruginosus*.

Forpus passerinus cyanophanes (TODD)

4 ♂, 8 ♀

“Green-rumped Parrotlet”

Three of the males were juveniles. Very common in the dry parts around the hills near Titujura, Soúruain and Mukúrraruhu.

Family: C u c u l i d a e

Coccyzus americanus americanus L.

1 ♀

“Yellow-billed Cuckoo”

The bird was shot in a densely overgrown valley, southeast of Mukúrraruhu.

Coccyzus melacoryphus VIEILLOT

2 ♂

“Dark-billed Cuckoo”

The birds were collected along a small creek in the foothills.

Piaya cayana mehleri BONAPARTE

1 ♂

“Squirrel Cuckoo”

The bird was collected in a forested valley of the foothills.

Crotophaga ani L.

1 ♂, 4 ♀

“Smooth-billed Ani”

Rather common in the subxerophytic parts of the hills. According to HAFFER (1961) *Crotophaga* species are absent from the upper Guajira area.

Crotophaga sulcirostris sulcirostris SWAINSON

1 ♂

“Groove-billed Ani”

Several more individuals seen and heard in the subxerophytic areas of the foothills near Nazareth and Sietuhu.

Crotophaga ani < *sulcirostris*

1 ♀

The specimen has the size and color of *C. ani* but shows very pronounced grooves on the bill. It is not surprising that the two species interbreed in this isolated area.

Family: Strigidae

Otus choliba margaritae CORY

1 ♂

“Tropical Screech-Owl”

Collected in a mistnet set near the forest edge in the foothills.

Family: Caprimulgidae

Caprimulgus cayennensis insularis (RICHMOND)

1 ♂

“White-tailed Nightjar”

In size (wing 131,4 mm, tail 96 mm) similar to the male collected by J. HAFFER in Uitpa (I. C. N.), but in color slightly darker. The specimen is lighter than the reddish phase of the nominal race, and seems to be similar to specimens described from Curaçao and Bonaire (VOOUS 1957). This is the second record of this race for Colombia.

Family: Trochilidae

Chlorostilbon gibsoni nitens (LAWRENCE)

11 ♂, 4 ♀

“Red-billed Emerald”

The wing (not flattened) of this tiny hummingbird is on an average (41,8 mm) shorter than previously recorded for this race. The bird is very common in the xerophytic vegetation. HAFFER (1961) did not encounter hummingbirds in the upper Guajira region.

Leucocippus fallax cervina (GOULD)

40 ♂, 18 ♀, 5 —

“Buffy Hummingbird”

Males are similar to the three males collected by VIDALES and SANCHEZ in Mayapo (I. C. N.). Abundant near the village of Nazareth.

Family: Alcedinidae

Ceryle torquata torquata (L.)

1 ♂, 1 ♀

“Ringed Kingfisher”

Three more individuals seen near streams in the foothills southeast of Internado Guajira.

Chloroceryle americana americana (GMELIN)

1 ♂

“Green Kingfisher”

Bird caught in a mistnet set near a creek in the foothills south of Internado Guajira.

Family: Bucconidae

Hypnelus ruficollis decolor TODD

4 ♂, 4 ♀, 1 immature

“Russet-throated Puffbird”

No differences were found from the topotypes of Riohacha (I. C. N.). The males are less pale than the specimens from Calonka (HAFFER 1961). The color of the scapular, gular and nasal regions is variable both in decolor and in ruficollis. This puffbird is rather common in the subxerophytic vegetation.

Family: Picidae

Picummus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus WAGLER

2 ♂

“Chestnut Piculet”

The underparts are slightly paler than specimens from Maicao (I. C. N.). Common in densely overgrown valleys, south of Káitpauohu.

Melanerpes rubricapillus paraguanae (GILLARD)

2 ♂

“Red-crowned Woodpecker”

Similar to males from Calonka, Mayapo and Riohacha (I. C. N.), but slightly more grayish on belly than a male from Nazareth collected by WETMORE & CARRIKER in 1941 (I. C. N.). This woodpecker is rather common in the drier parts and breeds in the giant *Lemaireocereus* cactus.

Family: Dendrocolaptidae

Sittasomus griseicapillus levis BANGS

1 ♂

“Olivaceous Woodcreeper”

Recorded previously from Manaure. The specimen is similar to the description of levis although it might intergrade with griseus (MEYER DE SCHAUENSEE 1950).

Xiphorhynchus picus picirostris (LAFRESNAYE)

6 ♂, 6 ♀, 2 —

“Straight-billed Woodcreeper”

Similar to the holotype from the Riohacha area and to specimens from other parts of the lower Guajira (I. C. N.). A male and a female collected by HAFFER in Calonka (I. C. N.) are slightly paler on the shoulder and the uppertail coverts. One juvenile male has a short (20,1 mm) and darkbrown bill.

These woodcreepers are common in the dry parts around Káitpauohu and Kayúsapanau.

Family: *Furnariidae*

Synallaxis albescens perpallida TODD

1 ♂, 1 ♀ "Pale-breasted Spinetail"

Both specimens are a very pale gray with a light rufescent shade on the uppertarts. The upperwing coverts are cinnamonous, the breast is drab colored with a cinnamonous tinge and the belly is a yellowish white. The male is paler than the type specimen, and has shorter wings and a longer tail (TODD 1915).

Poecilurus candei venezuelensis CORY

3 ♂, 4 ♀, 1 immature "White-wiskered Spinetail"

The specimens were compared with one female from Riohacha collected by F. C. LEHMANN (I. C. N.) and two males and one female from Calonka, collected by J. HAFFER (I. C. N.). Only one male from Nazareth has the breast-color as light as the specimens from Calonka. The color of the breast of the females from Nazareth is similar to the color of the female from Riohacha. Both the males and females from Nazareth and the Calonka female have tails with a clear rufescent base and black tips. In the female from Riohacha the contrast between base and tip of the tail is considerable less pronounced. More specimens from the Guajira are needed to definitely establish the subspecific identity of the species from the Macuira region. The specimens were collected in the xerophytic vegetation around Internado Guajira.

Xenops minutus neglectus TODD

1 ♂, 1 ♀ "Plain Xenops"

The specimens are more rufous on the upperpart of the tail than the specimens from Bolívar (HAFFER & BORRERO 1965), and less cinnamonous on the wing coverts than birds from the Santa Marta area (I. C. N.). Birds from the Macuira form a transition between *neglectus* and *X. m. littoralis*. The bird is fairly common in some of the forested valleys.

Family: *Formicariidae*

Sakesphorus canadensis phainoleucus TODD

4 ♂ "Black-crested Antshrike"

All four males from the Macuira area have less white on the flanks and have more black on the throat and the breast than the topotypes of this subspecies from Riohacha (I. C. N.) and a male collected from Calonka (I. C. N.). The underparts of the Macuira specimens are similar to those of *S. c. pulchellus* males from Atlántico and Bolívar (I. C. N.).

The Macuira specimens differ from *S. c. pulchellus* by the presence of broad white tips of the upper-throat and chin-feathers. Until more specimens from the Macuira area are available, the taxonomic position of the local race is difficult to determine. Both races may intergrade in the Macuira region.

Sakesphorus melanotus SCLATER

1 ♂ "Black-backed Antshrike"

The specimen is similar to a male collected by F. C. LEHMANN in Maicao (I. C. N.). The bird was caught in a mistnet set in a forested valley in the foothills near Internado Guajira.

Formicivora grisea intermedia CANABIS

1 ♂ "White-fringed Antwren"

The tail is considerably darker and the breast more abundantly spotted with black than a female collected by J. F. FERRY at Lake Valencia in Venezuela (No. 3391 Field Mus. Nat. Hist.). The differences might be due to age. The bird was collected in a small patch of forest on a hill top (alt. 120 m), southwest of Soúruain.

Gymnocichla nudiceps sanctamartae (RIDGWAY)

1 ♂ "Bare-crowned Antbird"

Because of its dull black posterior underparts this bird belongs to the race *sanctamartae*. The bird was collected in a densely overgrown valley south of Titujura.

Family: Cotingidae

Lipaugus unirufus unirufus SCLATER

1 ♀ "Rufous Piha"

Similar to specimens from various parts of Colombia (I. C. N.). The specimen was collected in a forested valley of the foothills southwest of Mukúrraruhu.

Pachyramphus rufus (BODDAERT)

1 ♂ "Cinereus Becard"

The bird was collected along a forest edge in the foothills south of Kayúspanau.

Pachyramphus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus LAWRENCE

1 ♀ "Cinnamon Becard"

This specimen is decidedly less pale than the race *magdalenae* from the hills of the lower Magdalena valley and Bolívar (BARRERO et al. 1962). The bird was caught in hygrophytic vegetation in a valley south of Káitpauohu.

Tityra semifasciata columbiana RIDGWAY

1 ♂ "Black-crowned Tityra"

This rare specimen was collected at 300 m altitude in the subhumid hills. It was compared with a male from San Vicente in Santander (I. C. N.) and with a male from Caracolcito in

Magdalena (I. C. N.). The specimen from the Macuira hills is considerably darker on the mantle and the underparts and has a larger wing (132,1 mm) than the specimens available for comparison.

Family: Pipridae

Manacus manacus abditivus BANGS

1 ♂ "White-bearded Manakin"

Similar to specimens of this race in I. C. N. The bird extends the known range of this race considerably to the east along the Caribbean coast.

The specimen was caught in a mistnet set in a valley near Internado Guajira.

Schiffornis turdinus stenorhynchus (SCLATER & SALVIN)

1 ♂ "Thrush-like Manakin"

The specimen is similar to specimens from the humid middle Magdalena valley, but darker on the upperparts than a male described by HAFFER & BORRERO (1965) from northern Colombia, and considerably lighter in color than the race *panamensis* (see HAFFER & BORRERO 1965). This specimen agrees best with the description of the race *stenorhynchus*. The specimen was caught together with the previous listed species.

Family: Tyrannidae

Pyrocephalus rubinus saturatus VON BERLEPSCH & HARTERT

10 ♂, 8 ♀, 6 immature "Vermillion Flycatcher"

Very common near the village of Nazareth and easily identified by its remarkable song early in the morning.

Machetornis rixosa flavigularis TODD

2 ♂, 1 ♀ "Cattle Tyrant"

Common in the forested valleys of the foothills around Internado Guajira.

Muscivora tyrannus sanctaemartae ZIMMER

1 ♂, 1 ♀ "Fork-tailed Flycatcher"

The birds extend the known range of this race considerably to the east along the Caribbean coast. The birds were shot in the xerophytic vegetation surrounding the foothills near Sietuhu and Suóruain.

Tyrannus melancholicus chloronotus VON BERLEPSCH

4 ♂, 4 ♀ "Tropical Kingbird"

Rather common in the Macuira area, although HAFFER (1961) states that the species is rare in the Guajira. The birds are identical to bird series from Cartagena (I. C. N. and M. H. N. U.).

Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis (GMELIN)

2 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 — "Gray Kingbird"

Specimens were compared with specimens from Atlántico, Bolívar, Magdalena and N. Santander (I. C. N. and M. H. N. U.). One male from Maicao collected by F. C. LEHMANN, and a female from Cúcuta in N. Santander collected by Hno. NICEFORO M., are considerably less yellow on the belly and have less gray on the sides of the breast. The birds were collected in the xerophytic vegetation around Internado Guajira.

Myiodynastes maculatus nobilis SCLATER

1 ♀ "Streaked Flycatcher"

The specimen is identical with specimens from Atlántico and Bolívar (I. C. N. and M. H. N. U.). The bird was collected in the foothills south of Titujura.

Myiarchus ferox venezuelensis LAWRENCE

1 ♀ "Short-crested Flycatcher"

WETMORE (1953) reported a female from Nazareth, later HAFFER & BORRERO (1965) showed that the race is not uncommon in northeastern Colombia. The outer web of the outermost rectrix is whitish-brown in contrast to the very darkbrown innerweb. The remaining rectrices and the primaries are narrowly edged with cinnamon-rufous. On these characteristics the specimen was identified as venezuelensis.

The bird was shot in the dry open country surrounding the foothills near Kayúspanau.

Myiarchus tyrannulus tyrannulus (MUELLER)

1 ♀ "Brown-crested Flycatcher"

The specimen is similar to two females of Mayapo collected by VIDALES and SANCHEZ (I. C. N.). The bird was shot in a forested valley south of Soúruain.

Myiarchus tuberculifer pallidus ZIMMER & PHELPS

1 ♂ "Dusky-capped Flycatcher"

The specimen is similar to specimens from Bolívar and the Guajira (I. C. N.). The bird was caught in a mistnet set in a densely overgrown valley near a small creek, south of Nazareth.

Empidonax virescens (VIEILLOT)

1 ♂, 1 ♀ "Acadian Flycatcher"

The specimens were shot in the subhumid forested valleys of the foothills south of Internado Guajira.

Empidonax traillii subsp.

1 ♀(immature) "Traill's Flycatcher"

Immature females can not be identified as to race. From Colombia has been recorded *E. t. traillii* and *E. t. brewsteri*. The specimen was collected in low subhumid forest, south of Káitpauohu.

Idioptilon margaritaceiventris impiger (SCLATER & SALVIN)
1 ♂ "Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant"

The specimen was shot in the dry scrub vegetation surrounding the foothills near Titujura.

Inezia tenuirostris (CORY)
2 ♂, 2 ♀ "Slender-billed Tyrannulet"

The specimens are identical to specimens collected by WETMORE et. al. in Nazareth, and with specimens from Uitpa and Maicao (I. C. N.). The birds are common in the scrub of the xerophytic vegetation and the bird's characteristic voice was heard continuously around Internado Guajira.

Sublegatus modestus atirostris LAWRENCE
3 ♂, 2 ♀ "Scrub Flycatcher"

The specimens are similar to birds from Uitpa and the lower Guajira, although two of the males from the Macuira area have more olivaceous tinged underparts. The specimens were collected in dense second growth of the foothills near the villages of Káitpauohu, Kayúspanau and Mukúrraruha.

Family: *C o r v i d a e*

Cyanocorax affinis sclateri HEINE
1 ♂ "Black-chested Jay"

BORRERO & HERNANDEZ (1958) mentioned the occurrence of this subspecies on the Caribbean coastal region of Colombia. Because of its size (wing 167 mm, tail 157 mm) the specimen from the Serranía de Macuira is referred to as *C. a. sclateri*. The bird was shot in a patch of forest on a hill top (alt. 300 m), south of Souruain.

Family: *T r o g l o d y t i d a e*

Campylorhynchus griseus albicollis BONAPARTE
4 ♂, 3 ♀ "Bicolored Wren"

Crown of all individuals a darker brown than 10 specimens from northern Colombia in the I. C. N. collection, but similar to one specimen collected by O. HIRSCHER near Santa Marta. One female from Agupero (Guajira) collected by H. VIDALES and A. SANCHEZ (I. C. N.) is much paler on crown and mantle than the Macuira birds. The differences in color are considered as individual variations. The bird is common in the xerophytic vegetation around the foothills near Internado Guajira and Nazareth.

Troglodytes aedon effutitus WETMORE
1 ♂ "House Wren"

The damaged skin is slightly darker on the mantle and the upper wingcoverts than the type described by WETMORE (1958) from the Macuira hills, a male from Calonka and a female

from Uitpa (I. C. N.). The differences in color might be due to individual variation or age.

This wren is common in the undergrowth of the subhumid parts, but unfortunately difficult to collect.

Family: M i m i d a e

Mimus gilvus melanopterus LAWRENCE

2 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 —

“Tropical Mockingbird”

The material in the I. C. N. collection from northern Colombia, consists only of four immature birds of this subspecies so that no comparison was possibly. The birds were frequently seen and heard in the xerophytic vegetation around the hills near Nazareth.

Family: T u r d i d a e

Turdus grayi incomptus (BANGS)

1 ♂

“Clay-colored Thrush”

This represents the most eastern record along the Caribbean coast for the race.

The specimen was shot in the underbrush of a forested valley southwest of Kayúspanau.

Family: S y l v i i d a e

Polioptila plumbea plumbiceps LAWRENCE

4 ♂, 6 ♀

“Tropical Gnatcatcher”

The material is clearly referable to the race *plumbiceps* (I. C. N. and M. H. N. U.). The specimens were collected in the dry scrub around the foothills near Mukúrraruhu.

Family: V i r e o n i d a e

Vireo flavifrons VIEILLOT

1 ♂

“Yellow-throated Vireo”

The bird was caught in a mistnet set in a forested valley of the foothills, south of Nazareth.

Family: I c t e r i d a e

Icterus icterus ridgwayi (HARTERT)

8 ♂, 6 ♀

“Troupial”

This species is common in the xerophytic vegetation around the hills near Internado Guajira, Nazareth, Sietuhu and Titujura.

Icterus nigrogularis nigrogularis (HAHN)

3 ♂, 2 ♀

“Yellow Oriole”

The specimens were collected in the dry area surrounding the village of Nazareth.

Icterus mesomelas carrikeri TODD

1 ♂

“Yellow-tailed Oriole”

The bird was shot in a cactus populated area surrounding the hills near Internado Guajira.

Leistis militaris militaris (L.)

1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 immature "Red-breasted Blackbird"

The birds were shot in a grassland plain between two hills near Nazareth.

Family: P a r u l i d a e

Protonotaria citrea (BODDAERT)

16 ♂, 14 ♀, 1 — "Prothonotary Warbler"

Very common near small swamps and in the subhumid forest of the foothills, south of Internado Guajira.

Dendroica petechia aestiva (GMELIN)

1 ♂ "Yellow Warbler"

This northern migrant has been recorded throughout Colombia. The specimen was caught in a mistnet set in a forested valley, south of the Internado Guajira.

Dendroica petechia chrysendeta WETMORE

1 ♂ "Yellow Warbler"

This North-American winter resident has been recorded from several parts of the lower Guajira. The specimen was taken in dense second growth of the foothills southeast of the village of Nazareth.

Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens (GMELIN)

1 ♂, 2 destroyed "Black-throated Blue Warbler"

Recorded once before from the Santa Marta region. The specimens were shot in a forested valley of the foothills southeast of Titujura.

Dendroica striata (FORSTER)

1 ♀, 1 destroyed "Blackpoll Warbler"

This North-American winter resident has been recorded from many places along the Caribbean coast of Colombia. The birds were collected in a forested valley near the village of Káitpauohu.

Dendroica townsendi (TOWNSEND)

1 ♀ "Townsend' Warbler"

This bird was kindly identified by Dr. R. L. ZUSI. This is the first record of this northern migrant for South-America. The bird was shot in the xerophytic vegetation near Internado Guajira.

Seiurus noveboracensis (GMELIN)

6 ♂, 4 ♀ "Northern Waterthrush"

The birds were kindly identified by Dr. R. BANKS. Nowadays no races of this species are recognized. The birds were caught in mistnets set near a small swamp, south of Internado Guajira.

Oporornis philadelphia (WILSON)

1 ♂ "Mourning Warbler"

The bird was caught in a mistnet together with *Seiurus noveboracensis*.

Geothlypis trichas minnesotica OBERHOLSER

1 ♀ "Common Yellowthroat"

The skin was kindly identified by Dr. J. W. ALDRICH. Although the subspecies is not currently recognized by many authors, it is the first record for Colombia. The bird was caught in a mistnet set near a forest edge in the foothills, southwest of Mukúrraruhu.

Geothlypis trichas brachidactylus (SWAINSON)

1 ♂ "Common Yellowthroat"

The skin was kindly identified by Dr. J. ALDRICH. This is the first record of this race for Colombia. The bird was caught in a mistnet set at the edge of a forest in the foothills, southeast of Internado Guajira.

Basileuterus tristriatus auricularis SHARPE

1 ♂ "Three-striped Warbler"

This is the most eastern record along the Caribbean coast of this race. The bird was shot in dry undersbrush around the hills.

Family: C o e r e b i d a e

Coereba flaveola luteola (CABANIS)

13 ♂, 8 ♀, 2 immature "Bananaquit"

Abundant in xerophytic vegetation.

Family: T h r a u p i d a e

Thraupis episcopus cana (SWAINSON)

2 ♂, 2 ♀ "Blue-gray Tanager"

The specimens were caught in mistnets set in the open dry area which surrounds the hills south of Internado Guajira.

Thraupis sayaca glaucocolpa CABANIS

1 ♂, 1 ♀ "Sayaca Tanager"

The birds were caught in mistnets together with the previously mentioned species.

Family: F r i n g i l l i d a e

Saltator maximus maximus (P. L. S. MUELLER)

1 ♀ "Buff-throated Saltator"

The bird was caught in a mistnet set in the open and xerophytic vegetation around the hills near Internado Guajira.

Saltator coerulescens plumbeus BONAPARTE

12 ♂, 6 ♀, 1 immature "Grayish Saltator"

The specimens are similar to a series of this race from northern Colombia (I. C. N. and M. H. N. U.). Commonly found in the open and xerophytic vegetation around the hills.

Saltator orenocensis rufescens TODD

5 ♂, 4 ♀, 1 —

“Orinocan Saltator”

The males are identical with a male collected by F. C. LEHMANN in Riohacha, but darker on the belly than a male collected by J. HAFFER in Calonka (I. C. N.). This species is common in the subhumid forested valleys as well as in the dry and open region around the hills.

Saltator albicollis perstriatus PARKES

1 ♂

“Streaked Saltator”

PARKES (1959) described this race from Venezuela and northern Colombia (up to Cartagena). The specimen from the Macuira hills is identical to specimens from Cartagena (I. C. N. and M. H. N. U.) and because of the virtual lack of green on the back identified as *S. a. perstriatus*. The specimen was shot in cactus near Nazareth.

Pyrrhuloxia phoenicea (BONAPARTE)

14 ♂, 13 ♀, 8 immature

“Vermillion Cardinal”

This bird is abundant in the xerophytic vegetation at the base of the hills near Internado Guajira.

Pheucticus ludovicianus (L.)

2 ♀

“Rose-breasted Grosbeak”

The birds were shot in a patch of forest on a hill top (alt. 200 m), south of Internado Guajira.

Spiza americana (GMELIN)

1 ♂

“Dickcissel”

The bird was caught in a mistnet set in the open and dry area surrounding the hills, southeast of Internado Guajira.

Tiaris bicolor omissa JARDINE

1 ♂, 2 ♀

“Yellow-faced Grassquit”

The specimens were collected in dense underbrush of forested hills, southeast of Internado Guajira.

Sicalis flaveola flaveola (L.)

1 ♂, 1 ♀

“Saffron Finch”

The specimens were caught in mistnets set near a forest edge of a hill, south of Internado Guajira.

Coryphospingus pileatus brevicaudus CORY

3 ♂, 3 ♀

“Pileated Finch”

The birds are common in the dry scrub surrounding the foothills near the villages Nazareth, Sietuhu, Soúruain, Káitpaouhu, Kayúspanau and Mukúrraruhu.

Arremonops tocuyensis (TODD)

1 ♂

“Tocuyo Sparrow”

The skin is similar to a male collected by J. HAFFER in

Calonka (I. C. N.). The bird was collected in a subhumid forest, southwest of Kayúspanau.

Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis ALLEN

3 ♂, 2 ♀, 2 immature „Rufous-collared Sparrow“

Approximately 30 more individuals were observed in a forest (alt. 240 m), south of Nazareth. The skins were compared with a large series from Bogotá, but no differences in size or coloration could be noticed. The presence of immature birds may indicate that this subspecies breeds locally.

Discussion

The fact that 117 species or subspecies of birds pertaining to 39 families were observed and 529 specimens could be collected in less than four days clearly shows the richness of the avifauna of the Serranía de Macuira. Because of lack of time, due to the limiting factor of the existence of dry-ice, the author could not visit the interior of the more remoted and higher hills of the Macuira area. This may explain why some of the endemic subspecies collected by WETMORE et al. were not found. The subhumid Macuira hills seems an attractive resting place for migrating birds, as can be seen from the new records for Colombia of *Dendroica townsendi*, *Geothlypis trichas minnesotica* and *G. trichas brachidactylus*. *D. townsendi* has not yet been reported from South-America.

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