

COMUNICAÇÃO

STOMACH CONTENTS OF THIRTY SIX BIRD SPECIES FROM NORTHERN ARGENTINA¹

Mariano Ordano^{2, 4}

Andrea Bosisio^{2, 3}

Bibiana Boscarol^{2, 4}

Adolfo Beltzer^{2, 4}

Graciela P. de Amsler²

The diet of neotropical birds is poorly known (10). The knowledge on trophic spectrum of northern and central Argentinian birds is scarce, with references that include vast geographic areas and a varying level of precision in the taxonomic resolution of the feeding items (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21). In this paper, we analyzed stomach contents of 36 birds species (7 non Passeriformes and 29 Passeriformes), with some data from places scarcely explored.

The specimens were captured with mist nets and fire arms and collected in exploratory surveys during 1994 and 1995 in the following sites, Formosa province: Escuela N° 229, Dpt. Patiño (26°08'S/59°39'W), 20 km S Laguna Yema, Dpt. Bermejo (24°23'S/61°22'W), Laguna Yema, Dpt. Bermejo (24°17'S/61°16'W), Pirané, Dpt. Pirané (25°43'S/59°07'W), Bouvier, Dpt. Pilcomayo (25°28'S/57°36'W), Los Chiriguanos, Dpt. Bermejo (24°06'S/61°27'W), 4 km N Estanislao del Campo, Dpt. Patiño

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² Instituto Nacional de Limnología (INALI-CONICET), José Maciá 1933, (3016) Santo Tomé, Santa Fe, Argentina, e-mail: inali@arcrude.edu.ar

³ Museo Provincial de Ciencias Naturales "Florentino Ameghino", Primera Junta 2859, (3000) Santa Fe, Argentina

⁴ Facultad de Formación Docente en Ciencias, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Ciudad Universitaria, Paraje El Pozo, (3000) Santa Fe, Argentina.

(25°01'S/60°03'W), El Yacaré, 50 km SW Laguna Yema, Dpt. Bermejo (24°30'S/61°33'W); Salta province: Las Arcas, Dpt. Cachi (24°59'S/66°11'W), Cachi, Dpt. Cachi (25°02'S/66°09'W); Chaco province: Río de Oro, Dpt. Bermejo (26°51'S/58°48'W), La Eduvigis, Dpt. Libertador Gral. San Martín (26°49'S/59°04'W); Corrientes province: Sarandicito, Dpt. Esquina (30°16'S/59°32'W); Santa Fe province: Isla Berduc, National Road 168, Dpt. La Capital (31°04'S/60°34'W), El Laurel, Dpt. Garay (30°55'S/60°01'W).

The stomachs were analyzed separately, and the organisms were identified and counted up to different taxonomic levels. Key structures (heads, legs, elytrons) were considered as samples of advanced stage of digestion. The relative importance index (17), $IRI = FO (N + V)$, where FO = frequency occurrence percentage, N = numerical percentage, and V = volumetrical percentage for used to establish the importance of each category food in the diet was applied to species with five or more stomachs from the same place (*Myiopsitta monachus* and *Zonotrichia capensis*).

The counting of the stomach contents was done by aliquot technique. Scientific and English names followed NORES (16). Specimens are referred to by the acronym CE (ornithological collection belonging to Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas - CONICET-, Argentina).

SPECIES ACCOUNT

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE *Columbina talpacoti*

Vegetable fraction (VF), eight species of seeds (two unidentified leguminosae). Animal fraction (AF), unidentified feathers and animal tissue. Two specimens (CE-9827 and 9839) from Escuela N° 229, 2 Nov 1994.

PICUI GROUND-DOVE *Columbina picui*

VF, three unidentified species of seeds. One specimen without collection number from Las Arcas, 13 Oct 1995.

MONK PARAKEET *Myiopsitta monachus*

Volume average was 1.5 cc, while size preys were approximately 350 seeds of 1 mm, and approximately 200 other vegetables of 2 mm, and only one seed of 3 mm. IRI values were: seeds 6900, other vegetables 13100. Five specimens (CE-9483, 9484, 9485, 9486, 9487) from 20 km S

Laguna Yema, 29-30 Mar 1995 were observed eating a Cactaceae before capture.

DARK BILLED-CUCKOO *Coccyzus melacoryphus*

AF, Orthoptera: Saltatoria and Mantodea (Mantidae). One specimen (CE-9992) from Sarandicito, 3 Mar 1995.

LITTLE NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus parvulus*

AF, Orthoptera; Coleoptera: Scarabeidae and Coccinellidae. One specimen without collection number from Río de Oro, 12 Mar 1995.

WHITE FRONTED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes cactorum*

AF, Formicidae (*Pheidole* sp., *Acromyrmex* sp., *Camponotus* sp.). One specimen (CE-9495) from Laguna Yema, 26 Mar 1995.

CHECKERED WOODPECKER *Picooides mixtus*

AF, two larvae of Lepidoptera in each specimen and Formicidae (*Pseudomyrmex* sp.) in CE-9578 specimen. Three specimens, CE-9850 from Pirané, 6 Oct 1994, CE-9838 from Escuela N° 229, 2 Nov 1994, and CE-9578 from Bouvier, 27 Jan 95.

NARROW-BILLED WOODCREEPER *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*

AF, Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Camponotus* sp., *Pheidole* sp., *Acromyrmex* sp.); Coleoptera: Curculionidae. One specimen (CE-9858) from Bouvier, 25 Jan 1995.

RUFOUS HORNERO *Furnarius rufus*

VF, seeds of Solanaceae (*Solanum* sp.)⁽⁵⁾. AF, Hemiptera: Homoptera⁽⁶⁾; Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae^(1, 2) and Curculionidae⁽⁶⁾; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Acromyrmex* sp.^(1, 3, 5), *Pseudomyrmex* sp.^(2, 4, 5), *Camponotus* sp.^(2, 3, 4, 6)); animal tissue unidentified⁽⁶⁾. References: ⁽¹⁾ One specimen without collection number from Isla Berduc, 26 Dec 1994. ⁽²⁾ Two specimens (CE-9559, 9560) from Los Chiriguanos, 23 Jan 1995. ⁽³⁾ One specimen (CE-9489) from Laguna Yema, 26 Mar 1995. ⁽⁴⁾ One specimen (CE-9836) from Escuela N° 229, 2 Nov 1994. ⁽⁵⁾ One specimen (CE-9835) from Pirané, 7 Oct 1994. ⁽⁶⁾ One specimen (CE-9991) from Sarandicito, 3 Mar 1995.

YELLOW-THROATED SPINETAIL *Certhiaxis cinnamomea*

AF, Lepidoptera (larva); Orthoptera: Grillidae; Hemiptera: Pentatomidae; Coleoptera: Curculionidae; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Camponotus* sp.). One specimen from Isla Berduc, 26 Dec 1994.

STRIPE-CROWNED SPINETAIL *Certhiaxis pyrrhophia*

AF, Lepidoptera (larva); Coleoptera: Elateridae; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (Myrmicinae). One specimen (CE-9994) from Sarandicito, 3 Mar 1995.

SHORT-BILLED CANASTERO *Asthenes baeri*

AF, Mecoptera; Coleoptera: Curculionidae and Carabidae; Araneae. One specimen (CE-9488) from Laguna Yema, 25 Mar 1995.

GREATER THORNBIRD *Phacellodomus ruber*

AF, Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae⁽²⁾ and Carabidae^(2, 3); Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Pheidole* sp.⁽¹⁾, *Camponotus* sp.^(1, 2, 3)); Phalangida⁽²⁾; Mollusca: Planorbidae⁽²⁾; vertebra unidentified (possibly Amphibia⁽²⁾); Rodentia's tissue⁽²⁾. References: ⁽¹⁾ Two specimens without collection number from Isla Berduc, 26 Dec 1995. ⁽²⁾ Two specimens without collection number from El Laurel, 21 Sep 1995. ⁽³⁾ One specimen (CE-9856) from La Eduvigis, 31 Oct 1994.

GREAT ANTSHRIKE *Taraba major*

AF, Orthoptera; Coleoptera: Scarabeidae; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Pheidole* sp.). One specimen (CE-9997) from Sarandicito, 7 Mar 1995.

BARRED ANTSHRIKE *Thamnophilus doliatus*

AF, Orthoptera: Phasmida (Phasmidae) and Saltatoria (Locustidae and Grillidae); Coleoptera: Coccinelidae. One specimen (CE-9567) from 4 km N Estanilao del Campo, 5 Aug 1994.

VARIABLE ANTSHRIKE *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

AF, Orthoptera (Locustidae and Grillidae). One specimen (CE-9494) from Laguna Yema, 26 Mar 1995.

SUIRIRI FLYCATCHER *Suiriri suiriri*

AF, Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Pseudomyrmex* sp.). One specimen (CE-9996) from Sarandicito, 6 Mar 1995.

YELLOW-BILLED TIT-TYRANT *Anairetes flavirostris*

AF, Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Camponotus* sp.). One specimen without collection number from Cachi, 13 Oct 1995.

YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER *Tolmomyias sulphurens*

AF, Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae, other Coleoptera unidentified. One specimen (CE-9577) from Bouvier, 27 Jan 1995.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

AF, Odonata; Hemiptera: Hydrometridae; Coleoptera: Coccinellidae and Curculionidae; Diptera: Mycetophagidae. One specimen (CE-9492) from El Yacaré, 29 Mar 1995.

RUFIOUS CASIORNIS *Casiornis rufa*

AF, animal tissue unidentified. One specimen (CE-9572) from Bouvier, 25 Jan 1995.

SWAINSON'S FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus swainsoni*

AF, Coleoptera: Carabidae. One specimen (CE-9828) from Bouvier, 26 Jan 1995.

GREAT KISKADEE *Pitangus sulphuratus*

AF, Lepidoptera (larva); Orthoptera: Locustidae and Grillidae; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Camponotus* sp.). One specimen (CE-9849) from Pirané, 5 Oct 1994.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER *Myiodynastes maculatus*

VF, seeds unidentified ⁽¹⁾ (inclusive item 'C')⁽²⁾. AF, Coleoptera: Elateridae⁽¹⁾ and Carabidae⁽²⁾; Hymenoptera: Vespidae⁽¹⁾. References: ⁽¹⁾ One specimen (CE-9832) from Los Chiriguanos 22 Jan 1995. ⁽²⁾ One specimen (CE-9824) from Escuela 229, 3 Nov 1994.

CROWNED SLATY-FLYCATCHER *Empidonomus aurantioatriocristatus*

VF, seeds unidentified (inclusive item 'D'). AF, Hemiptera⁽²⁾; Orthoptera⁽¹⁾; Coleoptera: Coccinelidae⁽²⁾, Carabidae⁽¹⁾ and Curculionidae⁽¹⁾; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Atta* sp.)⁽²⁾. References: ⁽¹⁾ One specimen (CE-9833) from Pirané, 6 Oct 1994. ⁽²⁾ One specimen (CE-9830) from Escuela 229, 3 Nov 1994.

WHITE-TIPPED PLANTCUTTER *Phytotoma rutila*

VF, anthers and seeds unidentified. One specimen without collection number from Cachi, 15 Oct 1995.

CHIGUANCO THRUSH *Turdus chiguanco*

AF, Oligochaeta: Megadrili; Lepidoptera (larva); Coleoptera: Carabidae. One specimen without collection number from Las Arcas, 13 Oct 1995.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus*

AF, Lepidoptera (larva)^(1, 2); Coleoptera: Carabidae⁽¹⁾; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Acromyrmex* sp.)^(1, 2). References: ⁽¹⁾ One specimen without collection number from Isla Berduc, 26 Dec 1994. ⁽²⁾ One specimen (fSA 092) from Los Chiriguano, 22 Jan 1995.

MASKED YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*

AF, Lepidoptera (larva); Coleoptera: Curculionidae. Two specimens without collection number from Isla Berduc, 26 Dec 1994.

SAYACA TANAGER *Thraupis sayaca*

VF, vegetable tissue unidentified⁽¹⁾. AF, animal tissue unidentified⁽²⁾, little feathers⁽²⁾. References: ⁽¹⁾ One specimen (CE-9581) from Bouvier, 27 Jan 1995. ⁽²⁾ One specimen (CE-9829) from Escuela 229, 3 Nov 1994.

GRAYISH SALTATOR *Saltator caeruleus*

VF, fruit of Solanaceae (*Solanum* sp.), seeds unidentified (inclusive item 'C'). One specimen (CE-9837) from Escuela 229, 4 Nov 1994.

RED-CRESTED FINCH *Coryphospingus cucullatus*

VF, seeds unidentified. AF, Hemiptera^(1, 2); Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae (*Helochares* sp.)⁽³⁾ and Curculionidae^(1, 2, 3). References: ⁽¹⁾ Three specimens (CE-9574, 9575, 9576) from Bouvier, 26 Jan 1995. ⁽²⁾ One specimen (CE-9557) from Los Chiriguanos, 22 Jan 1995. ⁽³⁾ One specimen (CE-9834) from Pirané, 7 Oct 1994.

RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW *Zonotrichia capensis*

Volume average was 0.66 cc., prey size was 2-4 mm to both fractions, vegetable and animal. Trophic spectrum was integrated for 10 taxonomical entities, VF, 6 types of seeds unidentified, AF, Orthoptera; Coleoptera: Dytiscidae, Curculionidae and Scarabaeidae; Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Camponotus* sp., *Pheidole* sp., *Acromyrmex* sp.). The IRI values were: seed item 'A' 7224, seed item 'C' 1518, seed item 'D' 528, other insects, except *Camponotus* sp. 572. Nine specimens without collection number from Las Arcas and Cachi, 13-15 Oct 1995. The other two specimens VF, seeds unidentified ⁽¹⁾. AF, Lepidoptera (larva)⁽²⁾; Orthoptera ⁽²⁾; Hemiptera ⁽²⁾; Coleoptera: Dytiscidae⁽¹⁾, Hydrophilidae⁽²⁾ and Curculionidae⁽¹⁾. References: ⁽¹⁾ One specimen (CE-9924) from Bouvier, 26 Jan 1995. ⁽²⁾ One specimen (CE-9923) from Escuela 229, 2 Nov 1994.

CHESTNUT-CAPPED BLACKBIRD *Agelaius ruficapillus*

VF, seeds unidentified. One specimen (CE-9831) from Escuela 229, 3 Nov 1994.

UNICOLORED BLACKBIRD *Agelaius cyanopus*

AF, Hymenoptera: Formicidae (*Camponotus* sp.); animal tissue unidentified. One specimen (CE-9848) from Pirané, 4 Oct 1994.

HOODED SISKIN *Carduelis magellanica*

VF, seeds unidentified (inclusive items 'A', 'D'^(1, 2) and 'C'⁽²⁾). References: ⁽¹⁾ One specimen without collection number from Cachi, 15 Oct 1995. - ⁽²⁾ One specimen (CE-9995) from Sarandicito, 6 Mar 1995.

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RESUMEN

(CONTENIDOS ESTOMACALES DE TREINTA Y SEIS ESPECIES DE AVES DEL NORTE DE ARGENTINA)

Se analizaron contenidos estomacales de 36 especies de aves (7 no Passeriformes y 29 Passeriformes) colectadas en localidades del norte de Argentina.

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