

# Birds of the Pantanal

## A Photo Guide



edited by Paul Donahue  
revised May 2015





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## A Photo Guide

This collection of photos is meant to serve as a guide for learning and identifying the birds of the Pantanal, a vast mosaic of wetlands, grasslands and woodland located in southwestern Brazil in the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul and in adjacent eastern Bolivia and northeastern Paraguay .

The order and nomenclature of the birds included follow those of the checklist produced by the South American Checklist Committee as of 21 January 2015. More information can be found at...

<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline.htm>

The photographs included are drawn largely from the internet as well as from my own photo collection. The range maps and text are from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Neotropical Birds website - <http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/home>

Paul Donahue  
April 2015



The extent of the Pantanal is estimated, depending on the source, at between about 140,000 square kilometers (54,000 square miles) and 210,000 square kilometers (81,000 square miles).

## MAP OF THE PANTANAL



### KEY

- 1 FAZENDA RIO NEGRO 2 FAZENDA SAO JOSE 3 FAZENDA POUSO ALTO
- 4 REFUGIO ECOLOGICO CAIMAN 5 POUSO ALEGRE



RHEIDAE





Greater Rhea  
*Rhea americana*



# TINAMIDAE





Undulated Tinamou  
*Crypturellus undulatus*





Small-billed Tinamou  
*Crypturellus parvirostris*





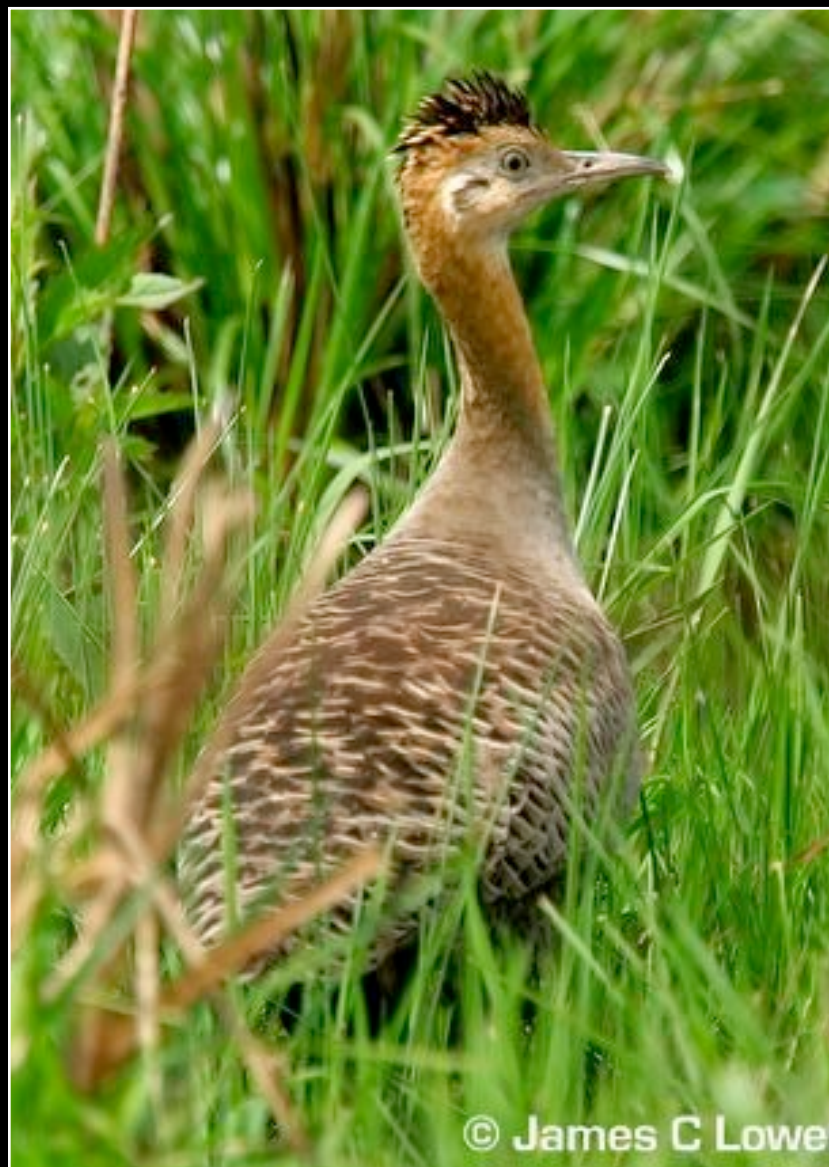
Tataupa Tinamou  
*Crypturellus tataupa*







Red-winged Tinamou  
*Rhynchotos rufescens*





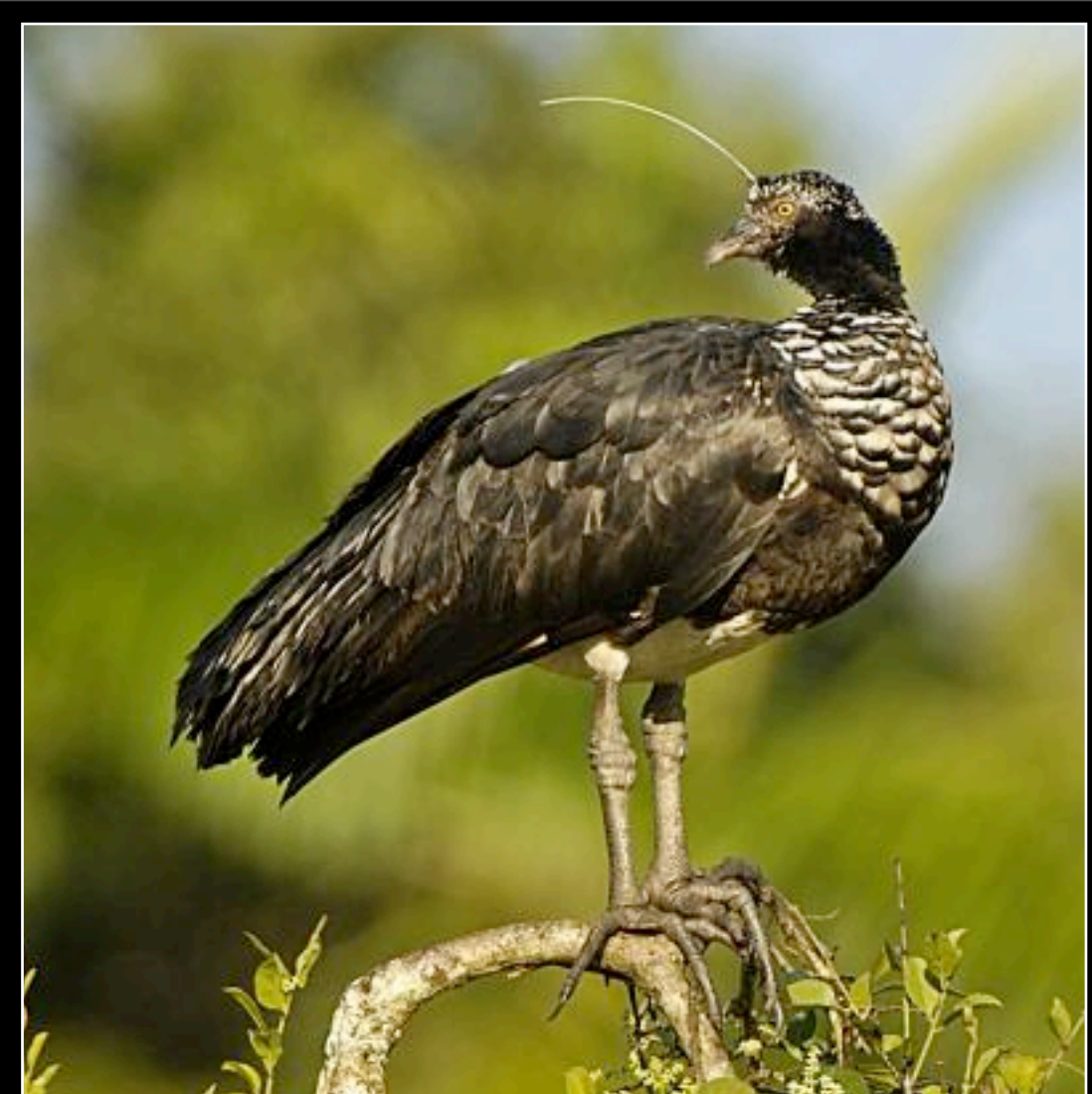


Spotted Nothura  
*Nothura maculosa*



# ANHIMIDAE

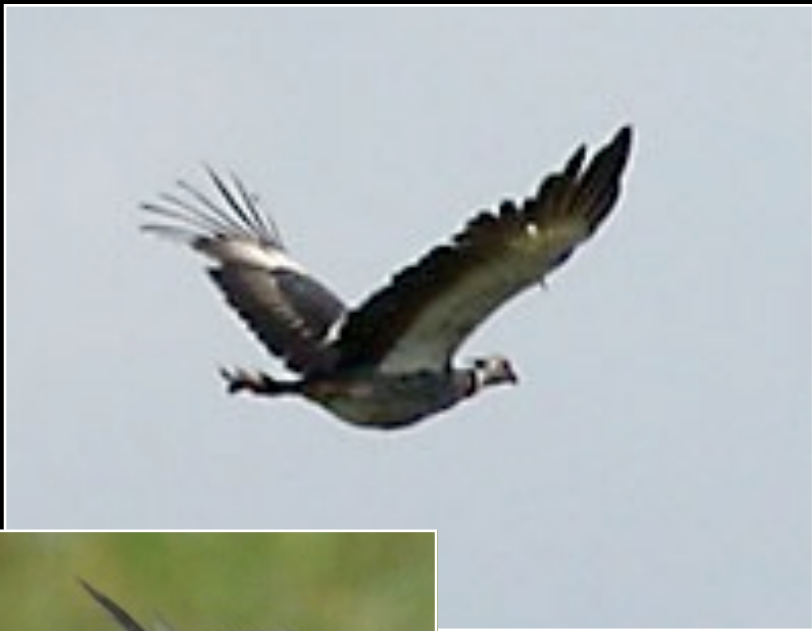




Horned Screamer  
*Anhima cornuta*







Southern Screamer  
*Chauna torquata*



# ANATIDAE





Fulvous Whistling Duck  
*Dendrocygna bicolor*

© Jan Harteman  
[www.harteman.nl](http://www.harteman.nl)





White-faced Whistling-Duck  
*Dendrocygna viduata*



faces stained rusty







Black-bellied  
Whistling Duck  
*Dendrocygna autumnalis*





Coscoroba Swan  
*Coscoroba coscoroba*





Orinoco Goose  
*Oressochen jubata*

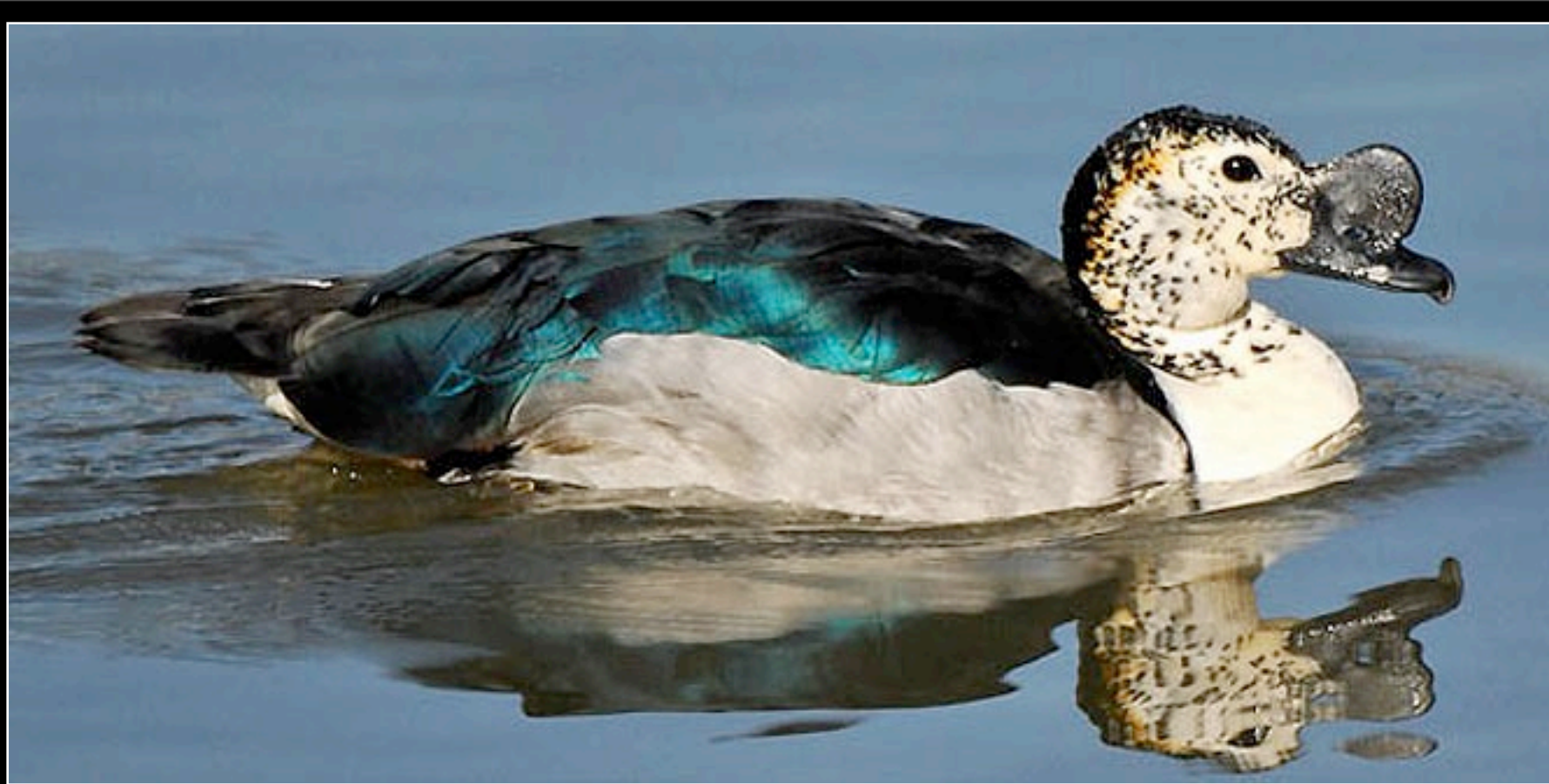






Muscovy Duck  
*Cairina moschata*





Comb Duck  
*Sarkidiornis melanotos*



© 1996 Frank S. Todd



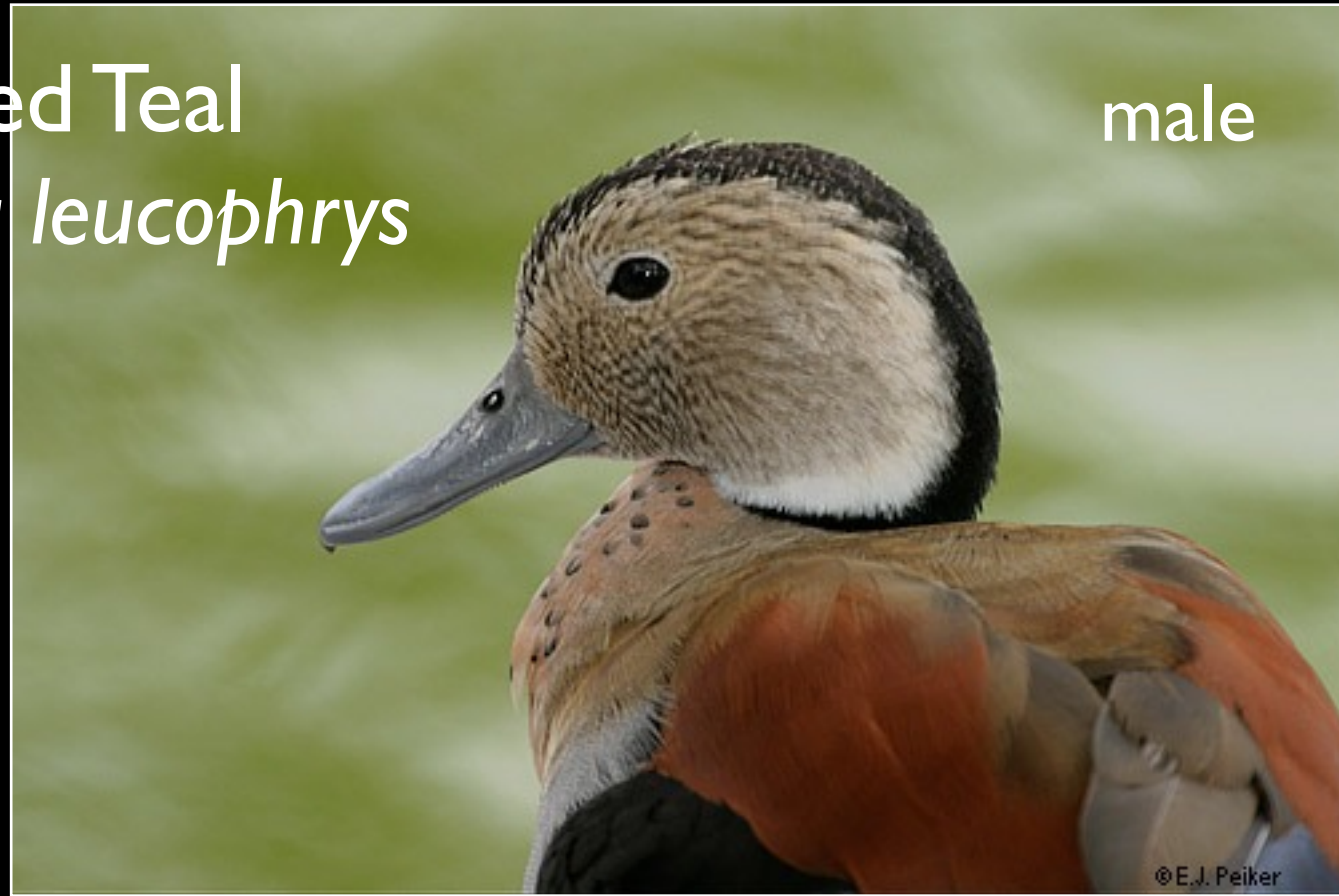
female

Ringed Teal  
*Callonetta leucophrys*

male



©E.J. Peiker



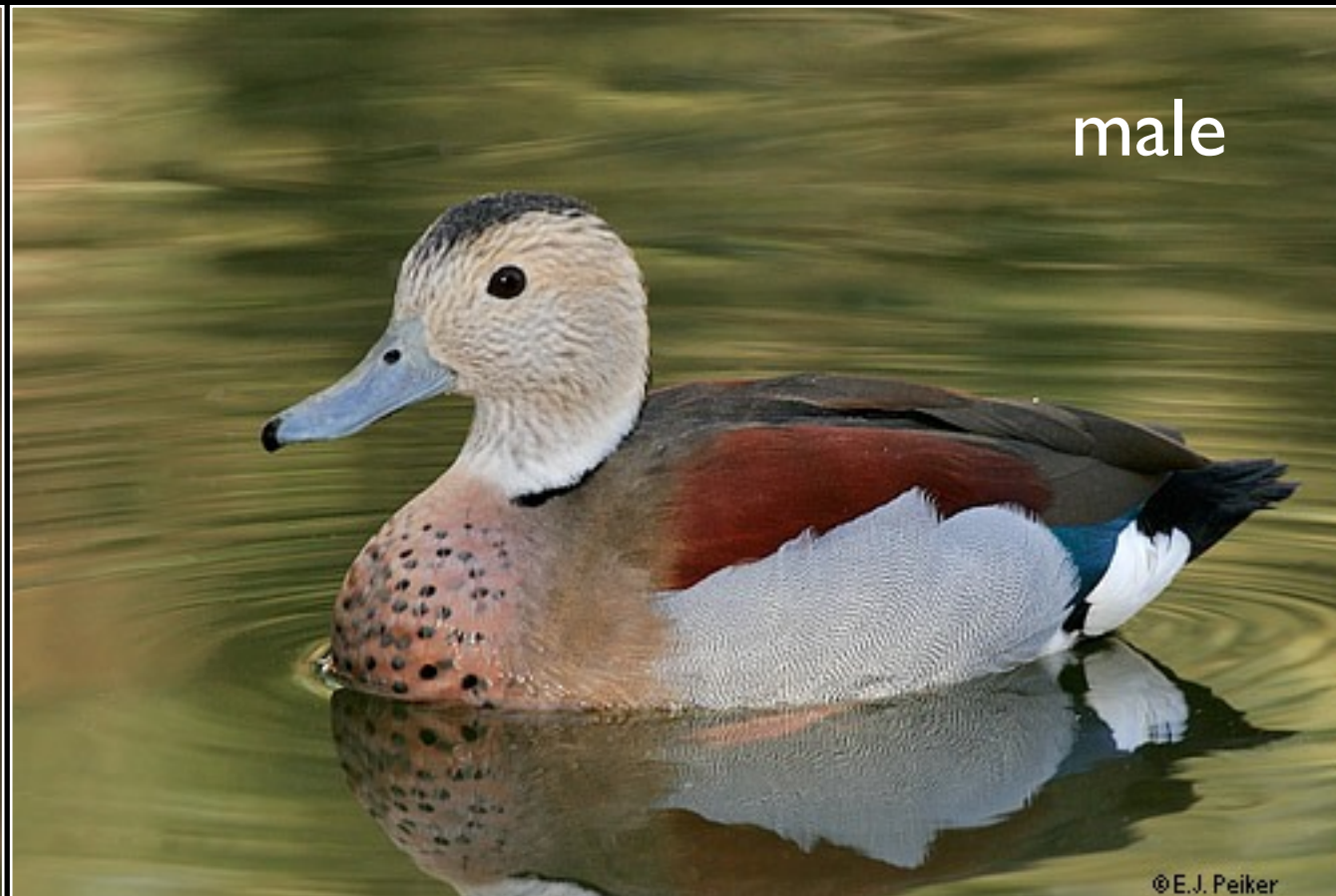
©E.J. Peiker

male



female

©E.J. Peiker



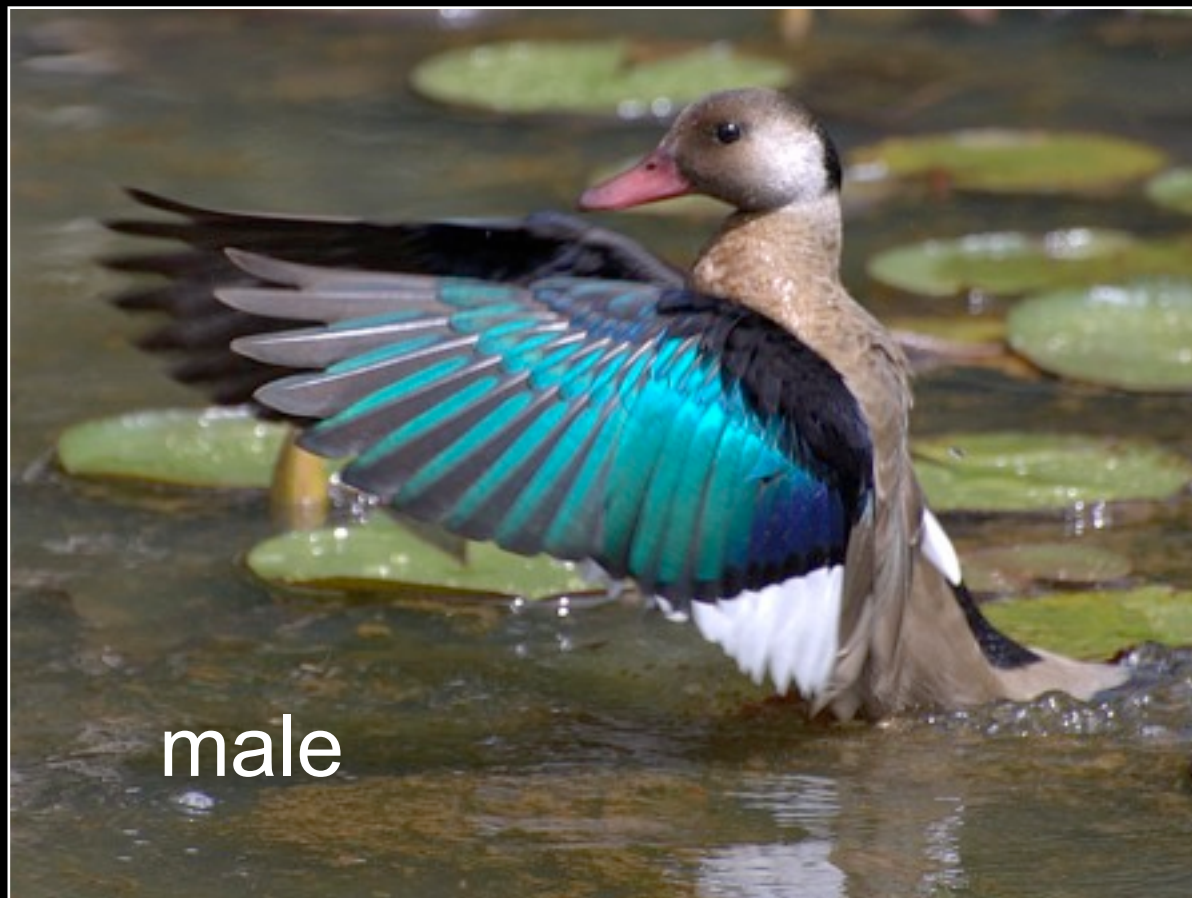
©E.J. Peiker



male



male



male



**Brazilian Teal**  
*Amazonetta brasiliensis*

female

male







Silver Teal  
*Anas versicolor*



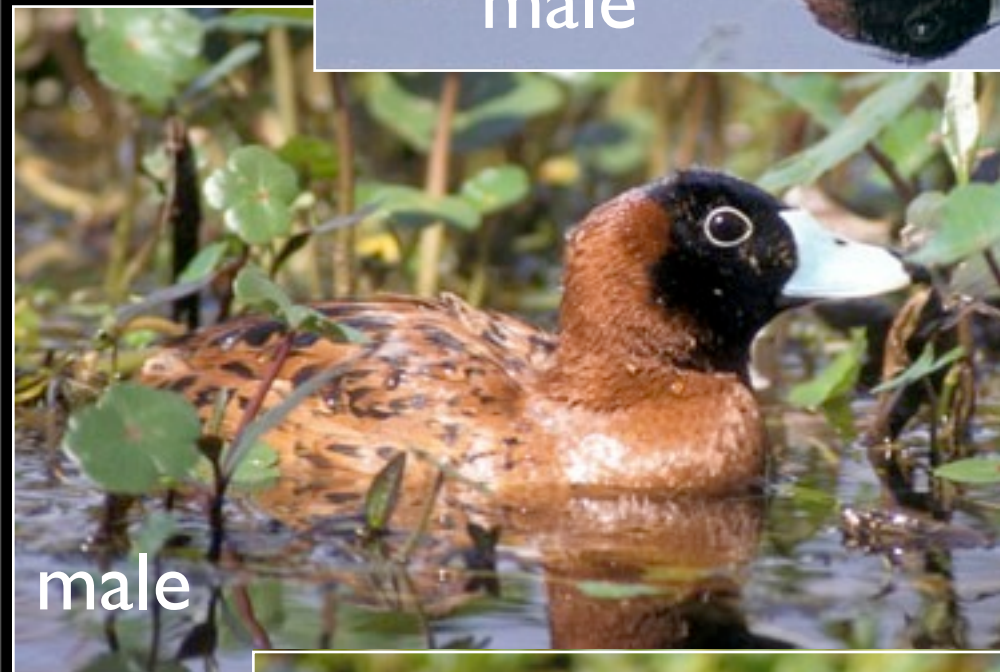




male



female

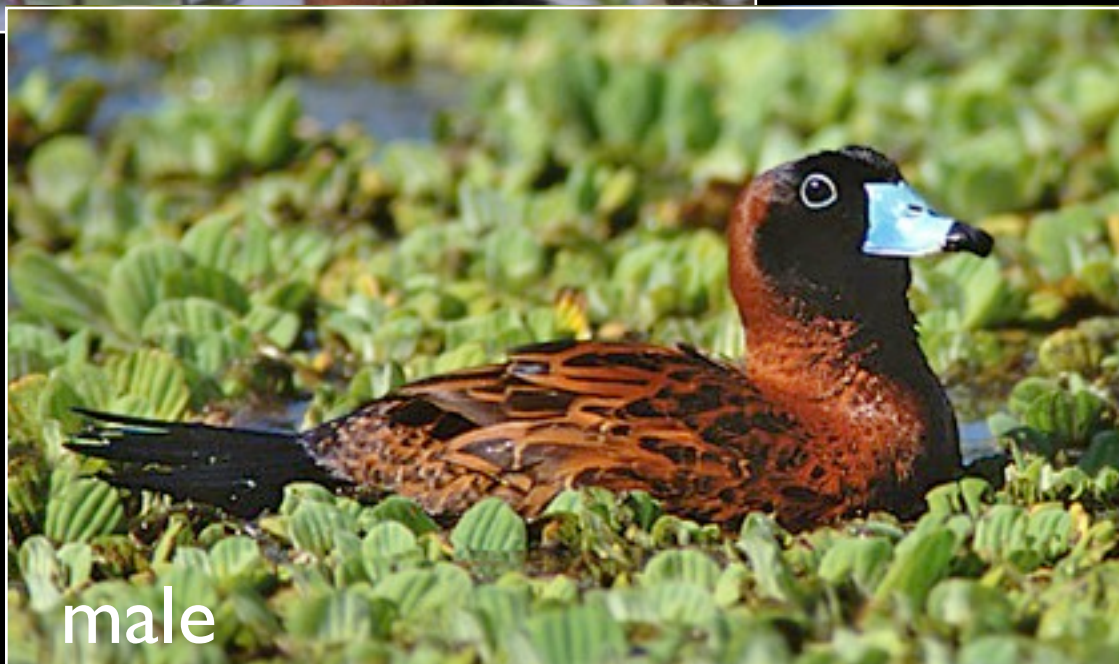


male

Masked Duck  
*Nomonyx dominica*



female



male

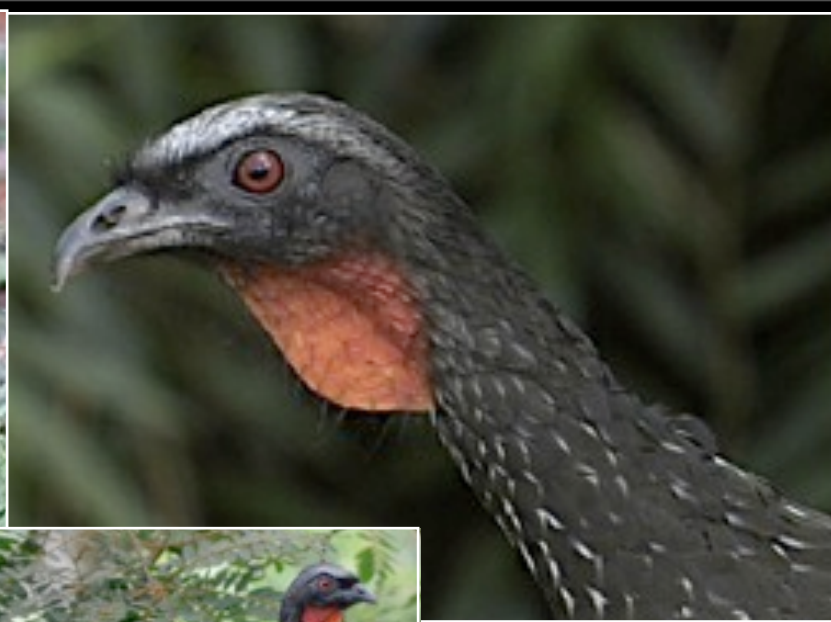


female



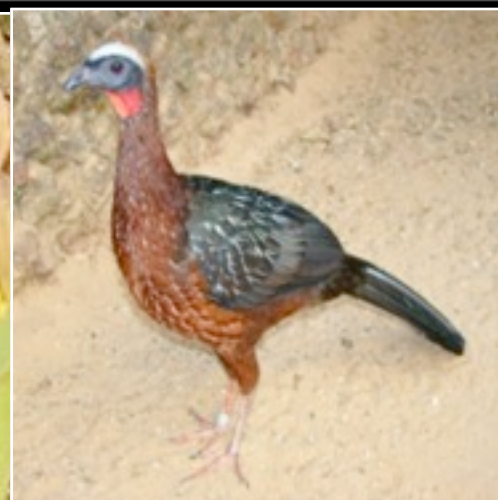
# CRACIDAE





Rusty-margined Guan  
*Penelope superciliaris*



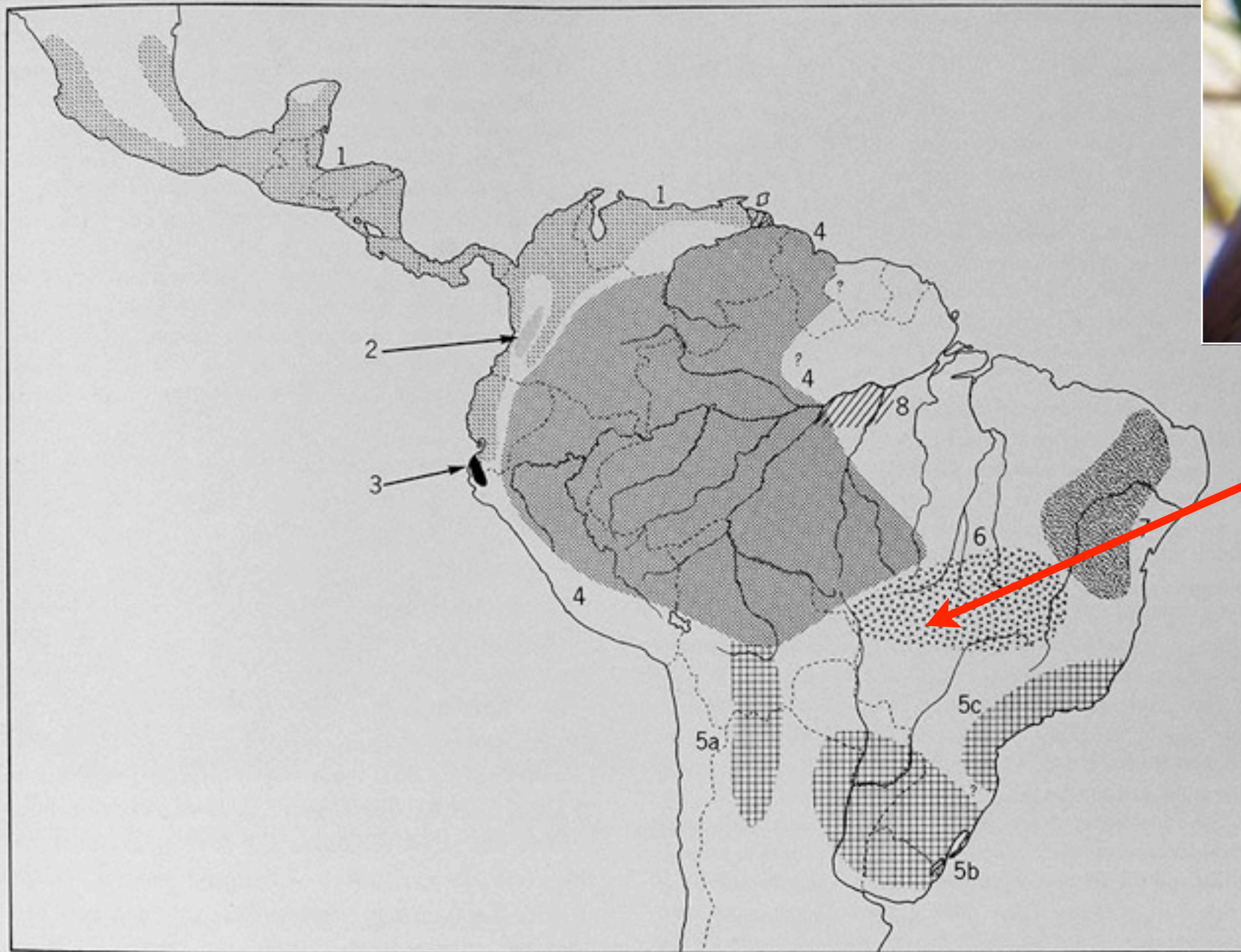


Chestnut-bellied Guan  
*Penelope ochrogaster*





# Range maps of the guans in the *Penelope purpurascens* species complex



Chestnut-bellied Guan  
*Penelope ochrogaster*

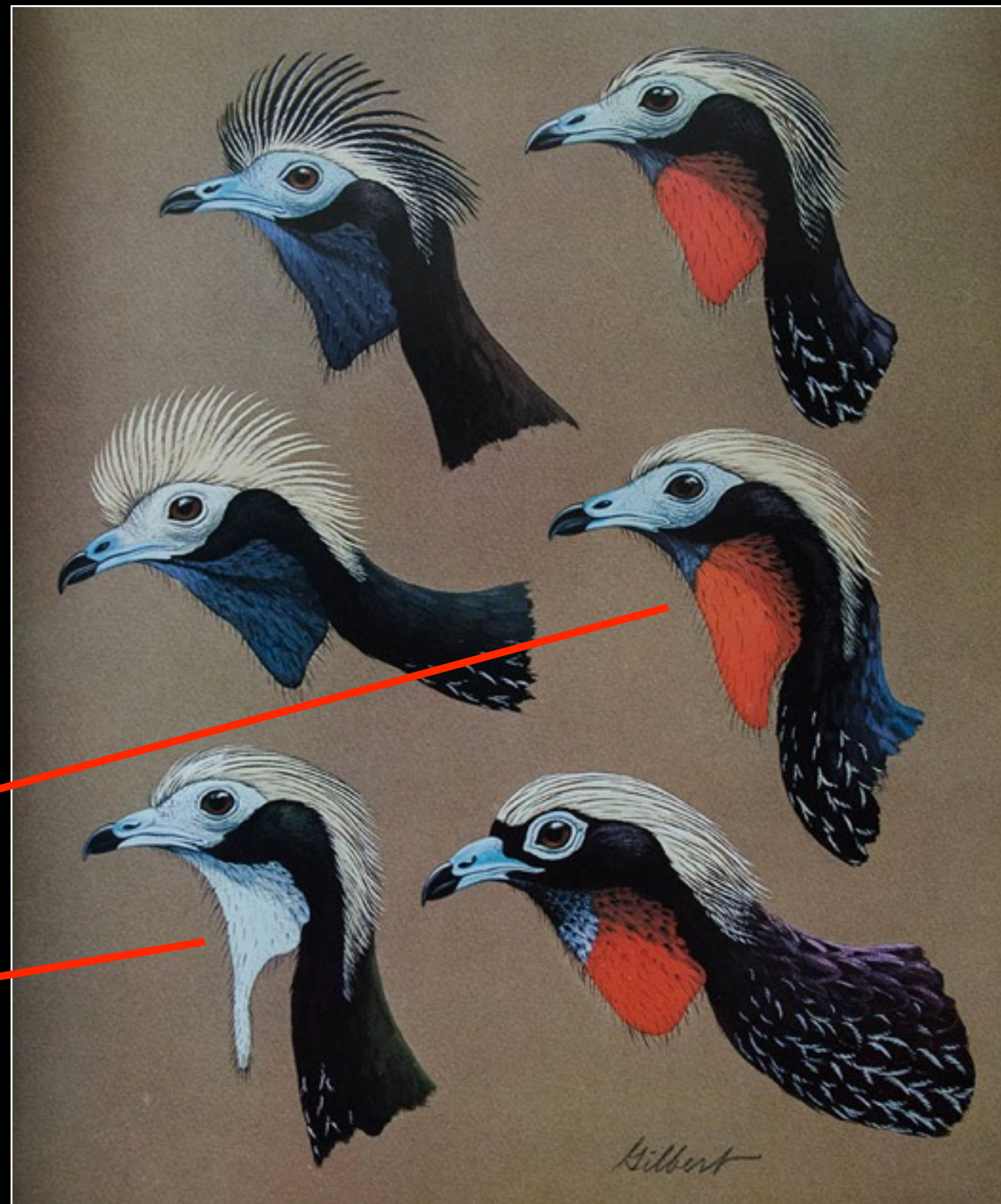
MAP 5—Ranges of some species of guan. 1. Crested Guan (*Penelope purpurascens*). 2. Cauca Guan (*Penelope perspicax*). 3. White-winged Guan (*Penelope albipennis*). 4. Spix's Guan (*Penelope jacquacu*). 5. Dusky-legged Guan (*Penelope obscura*); (5a, 5b, 5c are the three

races of this species). 6. Chestnut-bellied Guan (*Penelope ochrogaster*). 7. White-browed Guan (*Penelope jacucaca*). 8. White-crested Guan (*Penelope pileata*).

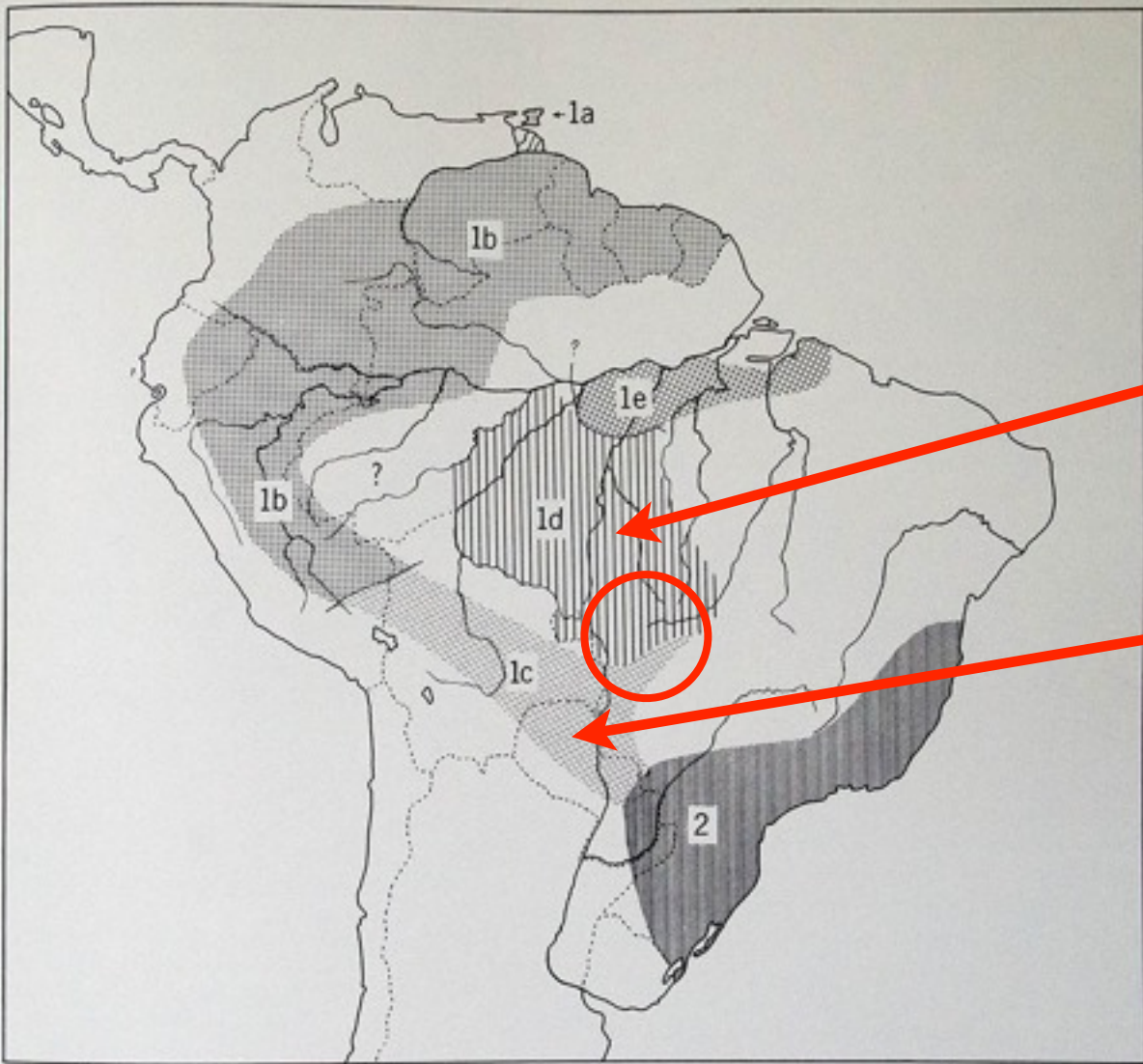


# Piping Guans

## *Pipile* species



COMMON PIPING GUAN



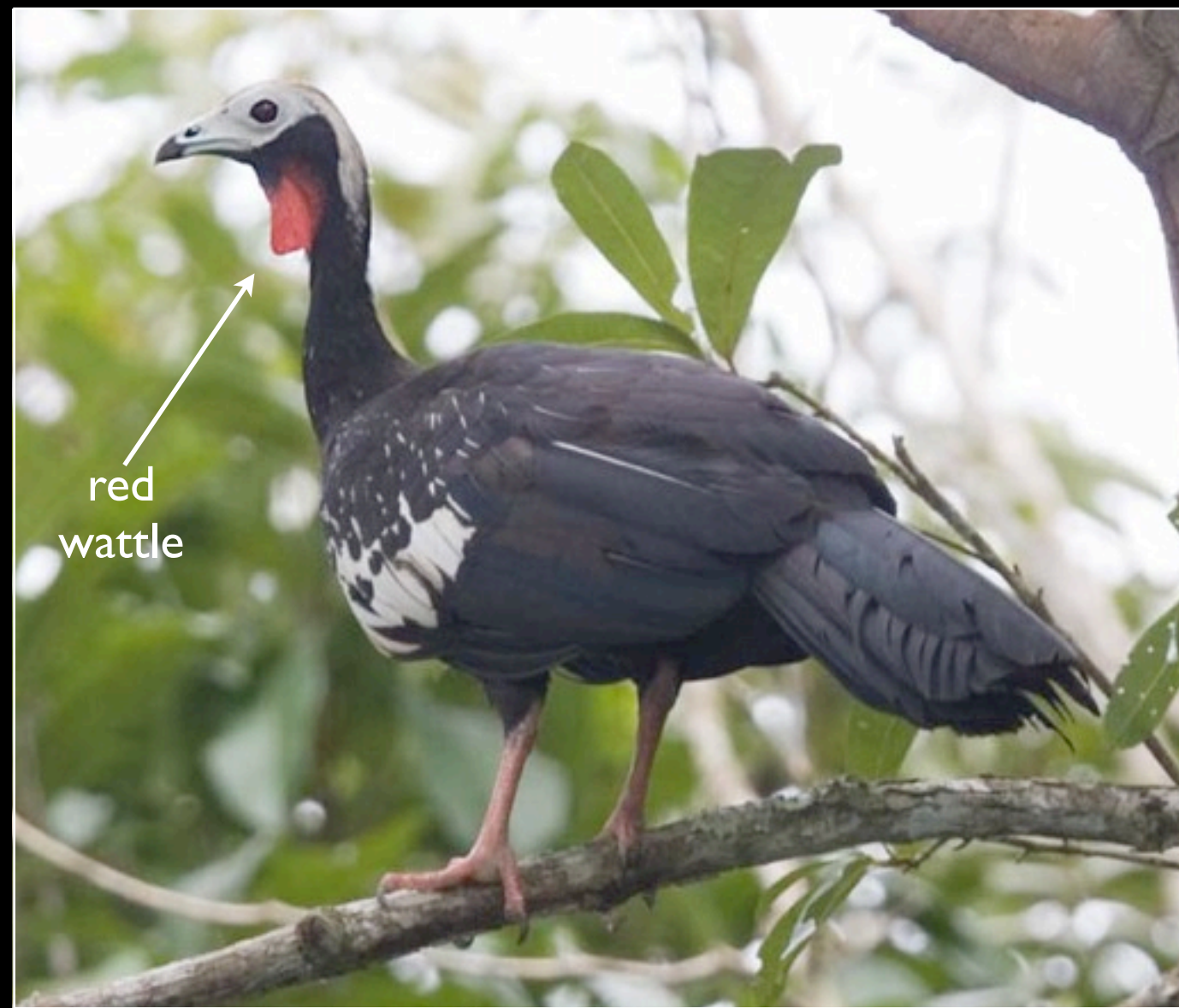
MAP 6—Range of the superspecies *Aburria* [*pipile*]. 1. Common Piping Guan (*Aburria pipile*). The subspecies are: 1a. *pipile*; 1b. *amazonensis*; 1c. *grayi*; 1d. *nattereri*; 1e. *cajubi*. 2. Black-fronted Piping Guan (*Aburria jacutinga*).





Blue-throated Piping-Guan  
*Pipile cumanensis*





Red-throated Piping-Guan  
*Pipile cufubi*



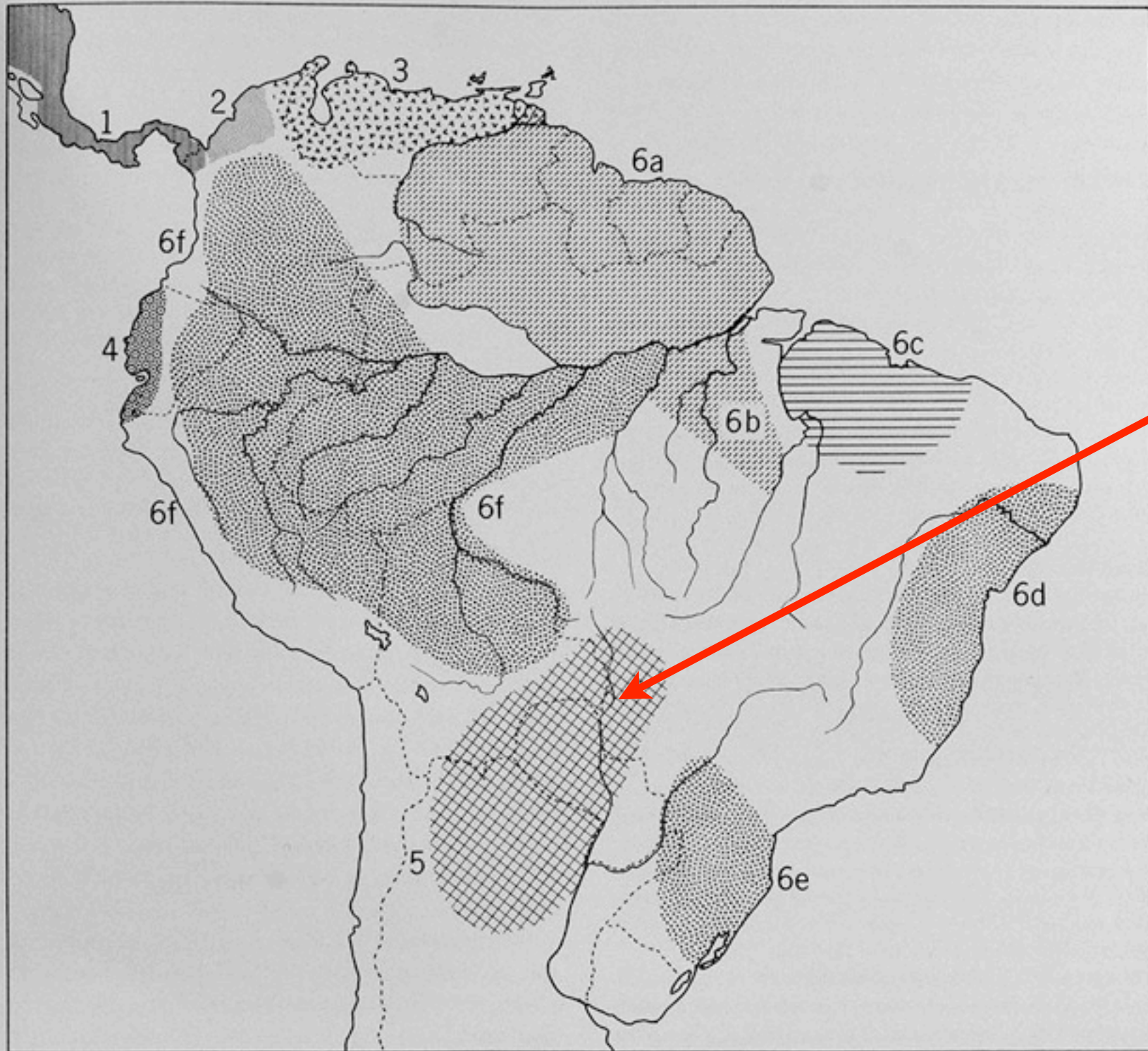


Chaco Chachalaca  
*Ortalis canicollis*





# Range maps of the chachalacas in the *Ortalis cinereiceps* species complex



Chaco Chachalaca  
*Ortalis canicollis*

MAP 3—Ranges of some species of chachalacas. 1. Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*); see also Map 2. 2. Chestnut-winged Chachalaca (*Ortalis garrula*). 3. Rufous-vented Chachalaca (*Ortalis ruficauda*). 4. Rufous-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis erythroptera*).

5. Chaco Chachalaca (*Ortalis canicollis*). 6. Variable Chachalaca (*Ortalis motmot*). Its subspecies are: 6a. *motmot*; 6b. *ruficeps*; 6c. *superciliaris*; 6d. *araucuan*; 6e. *squamata*; 6f. includes *columbiana* (northwest), *guttata* (central), and *subaffinis* (southern).



female



male



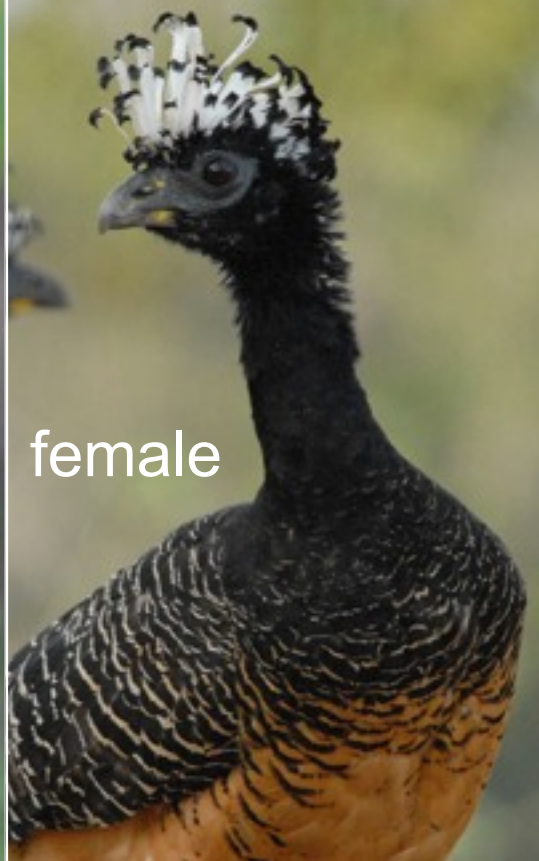
male



Bare-faced Curassow  
*Crax fasciolata*



female



female



# PODICIPEDIDAE



White-tufted Grebe  
*Rollandia rolland*

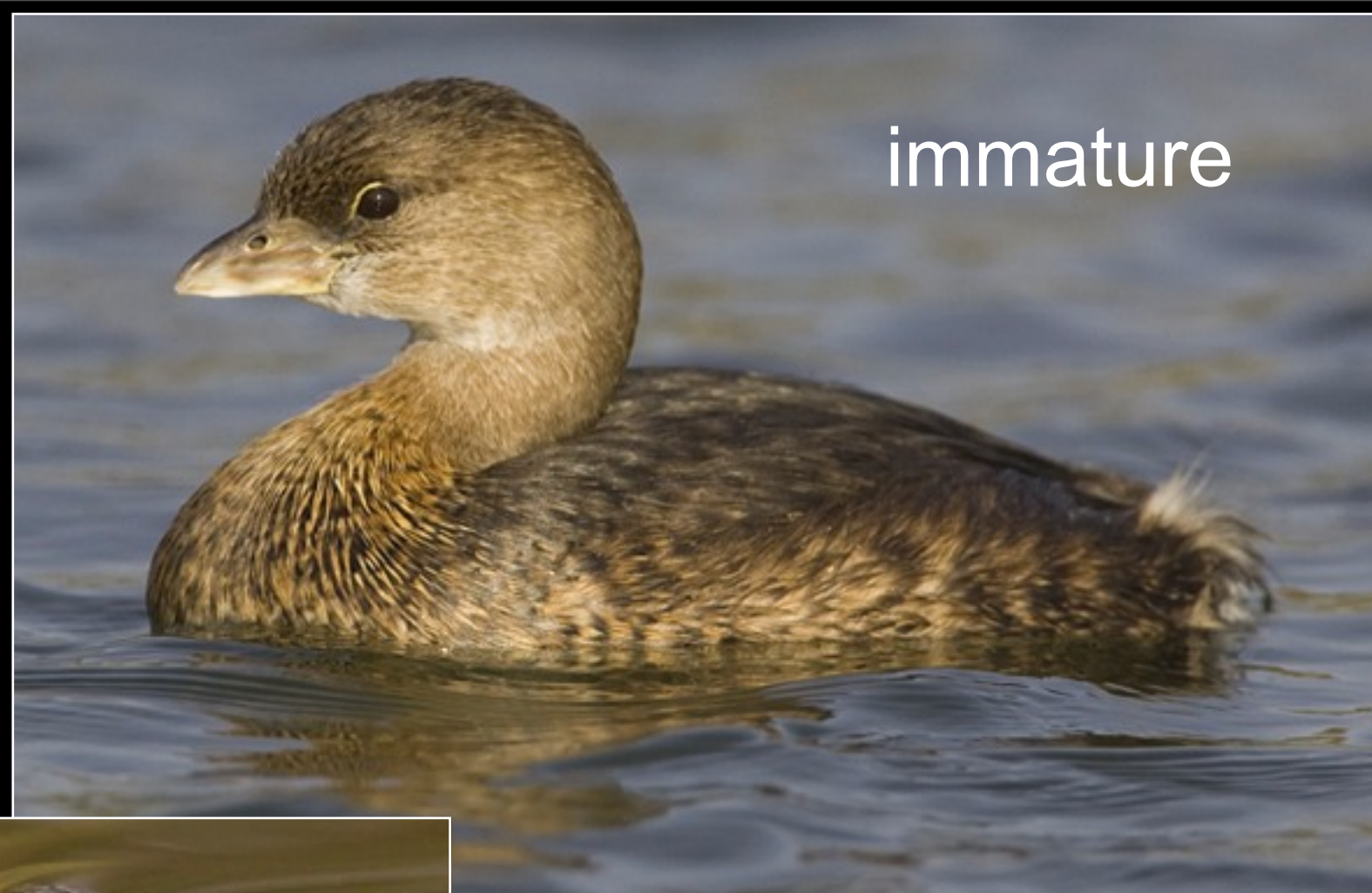




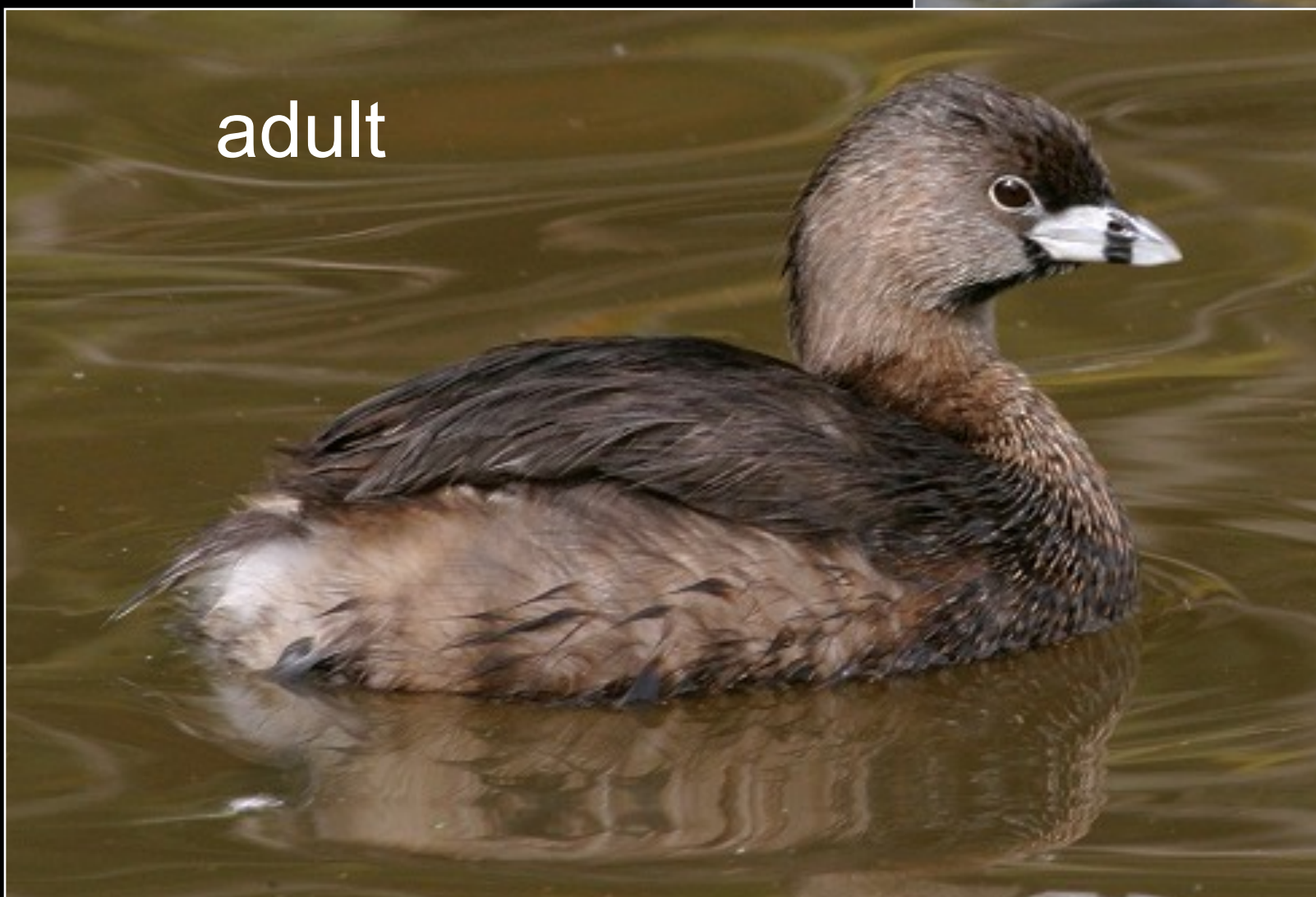
Least Grebe  
*Tachybaptus dominicus*







immature



adult

Pied-billed Grebe  
*Podilymbus podiceps*



# CICCONIDAE



Maguari Stork  
*Ciconia maguari*









Wood Stork  
*Mycteria americana*



adult



immature

immature



adult





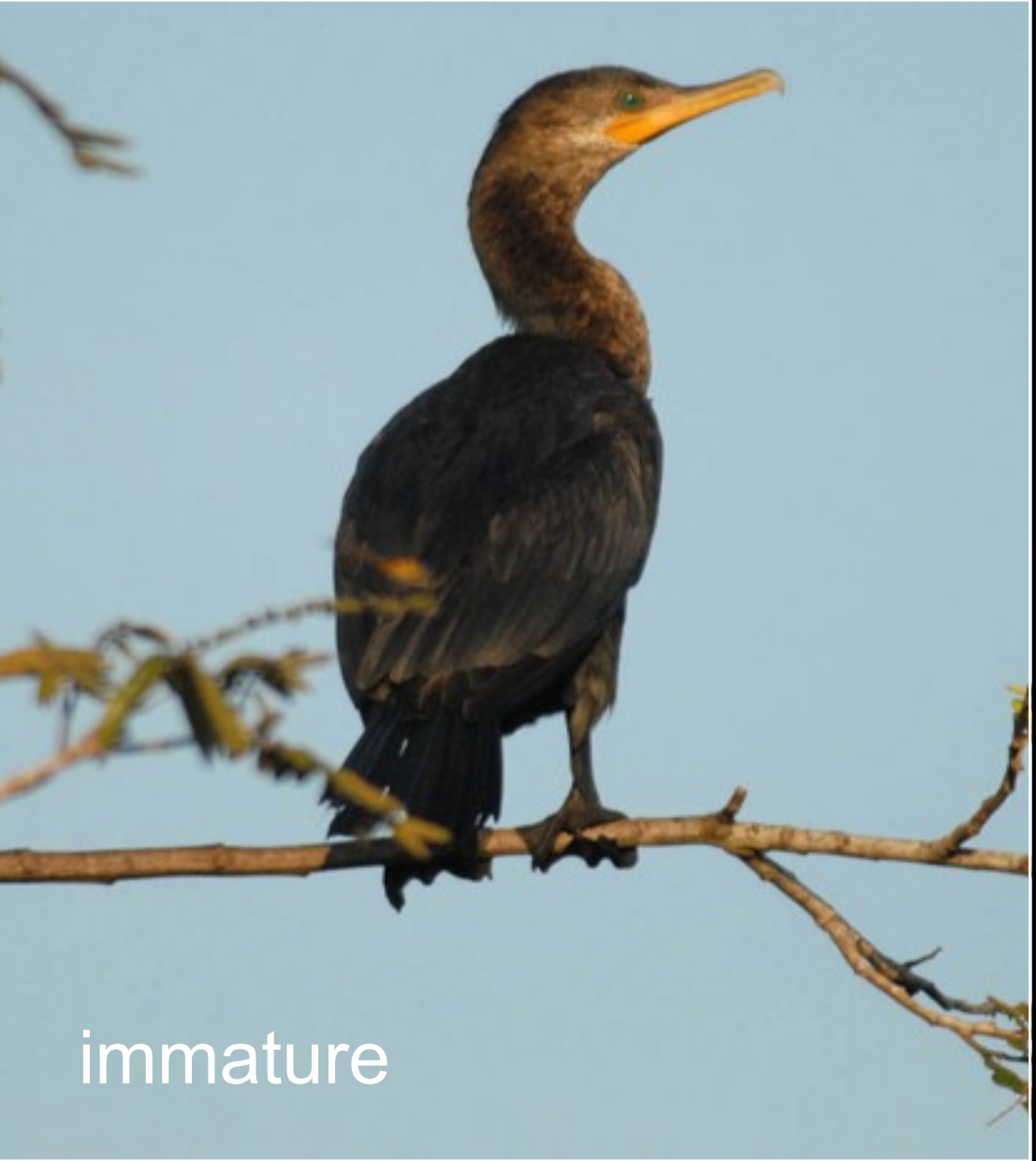
# PHALACROCORACIDAE



immature



immature



adult



Neotropic Cormorant  
*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*



# ANHINGIDAE



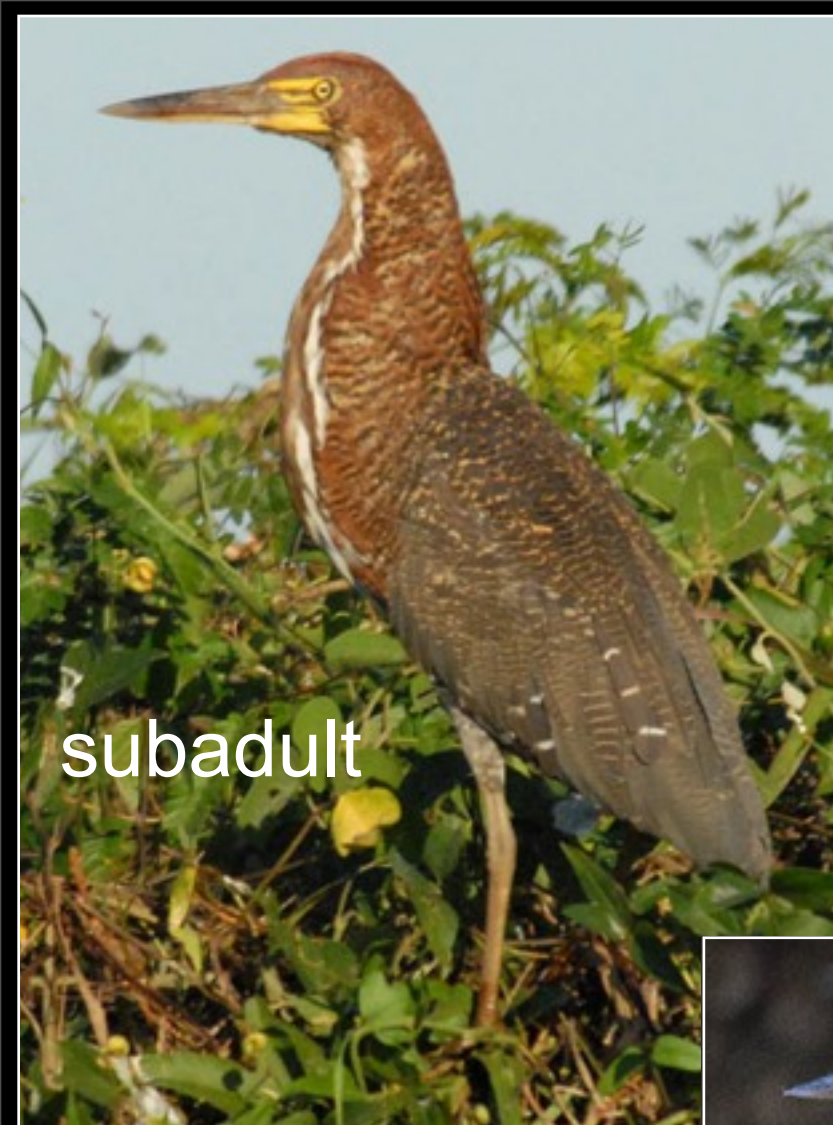
Anhinga  
*Anhinga anhinga*



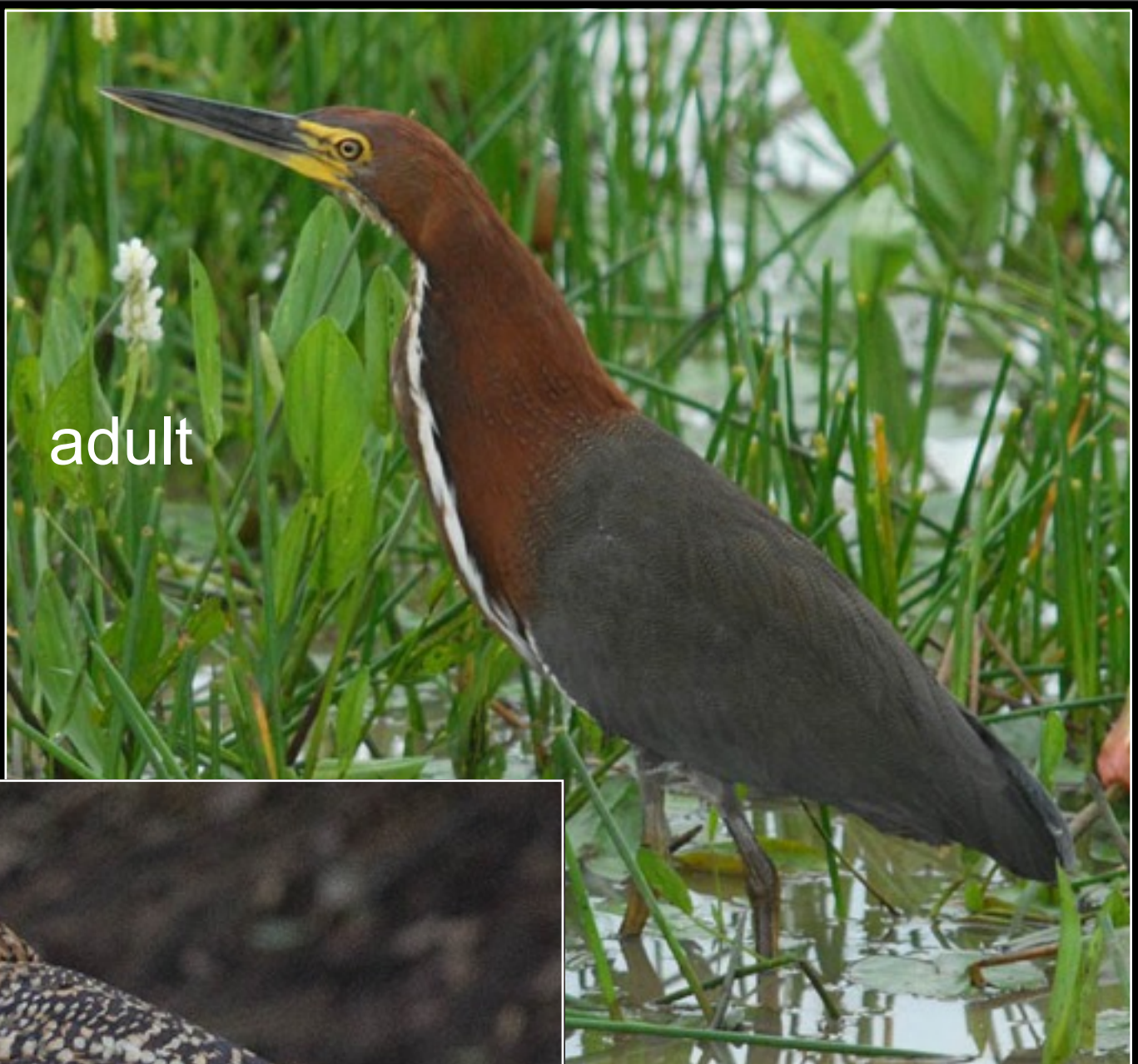


# ARDEIDAE





subadult



adult



immature

Rufescent Tiger-Heron  
*Tigrisoma lineatum*





immature



Agami Heron  
*Agami agami*





adult



immature

**Boat-billed Heron**  
*Cochlearius cochlearius*



immature



adult



adult

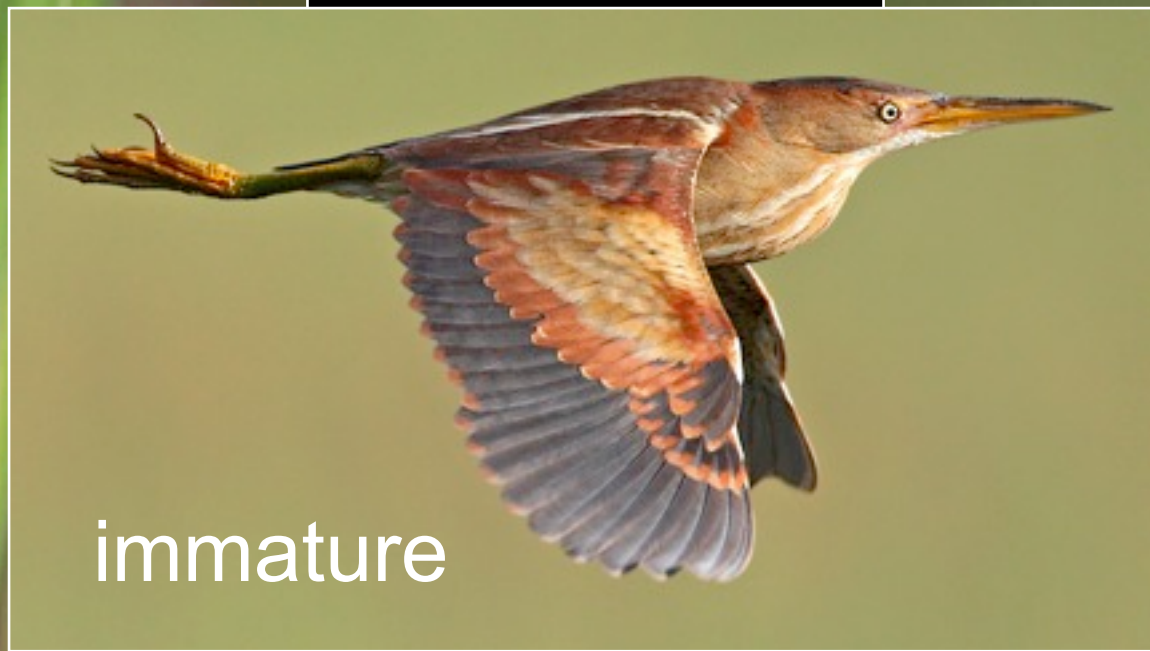
Zig-Zag Heron  
*Zebriilus undulatus*





Pinnated Bittern  
*Botaurus pinnatus*





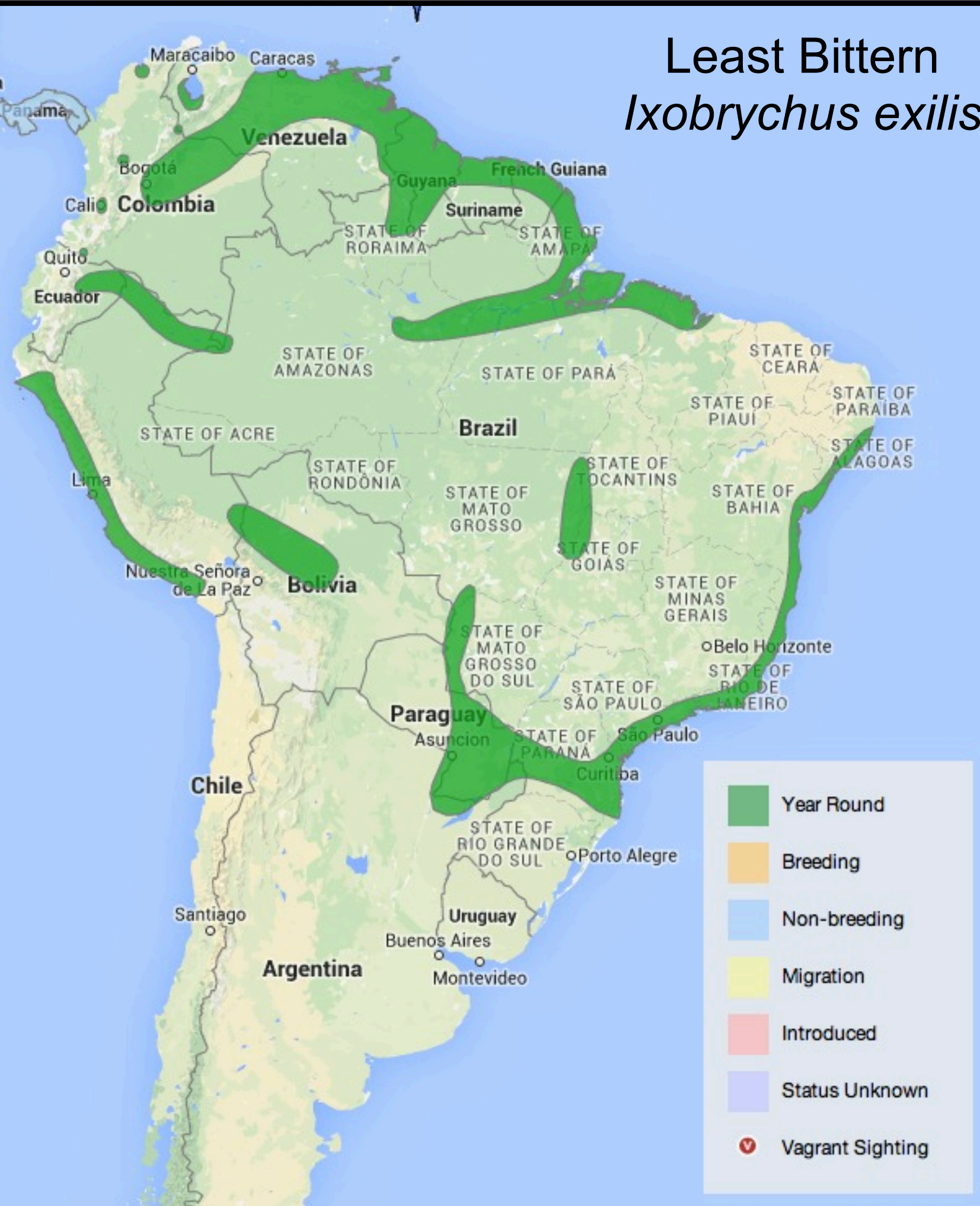
**Least Bittern**  
*Ixobrychus exilis*



# Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis*

The Least Bittern is one of the smallest and least frequently encountered herons in the neotropics. Within suitable habitats, however, it is often neither shy nor rare. This colorful heron is quite vocal and can be found at surprisingly high densities; up to 15 nests per hectare in North America. Suitable habitats include fresh and brackish water marshes with tall, dense emergent vegetation and clumps of woody plants over deep water. Least Bitterns forage by stalking along the open-water side of emergent vegetation, grasping clumps of plants with their long toes and curved claws. They also build small foraging platforms at rich feeding sites, catching fast-moving prey, mainly small fish and insects, with their small, thin bills. An extremely narrow body permits this bittern to pass easily through tangled vegetation. Their nest, an elevated platform with an overhead canopy, is built of emergent aquatic vegetation and sticks. Males and females appear to help equally in rearing the young. When encountered, Least Bitterns typically burrow like rodents through dense vegetation, fly away weakly over marsh vegetation with legs dangling, or "freeze" with their bill pointed upward, feathers compressed, and eyes directed forward.

Five similar subspecies are distributed throughout much of the Americas. Populations north of areas with prolonged frosts are migratory; others seem to be resident. Basic research on the Least Bittern's nesting biology, movements, population dynamics, and biology particularly in the neotropics would help to clarify the status of the species and facilitate its conservation.





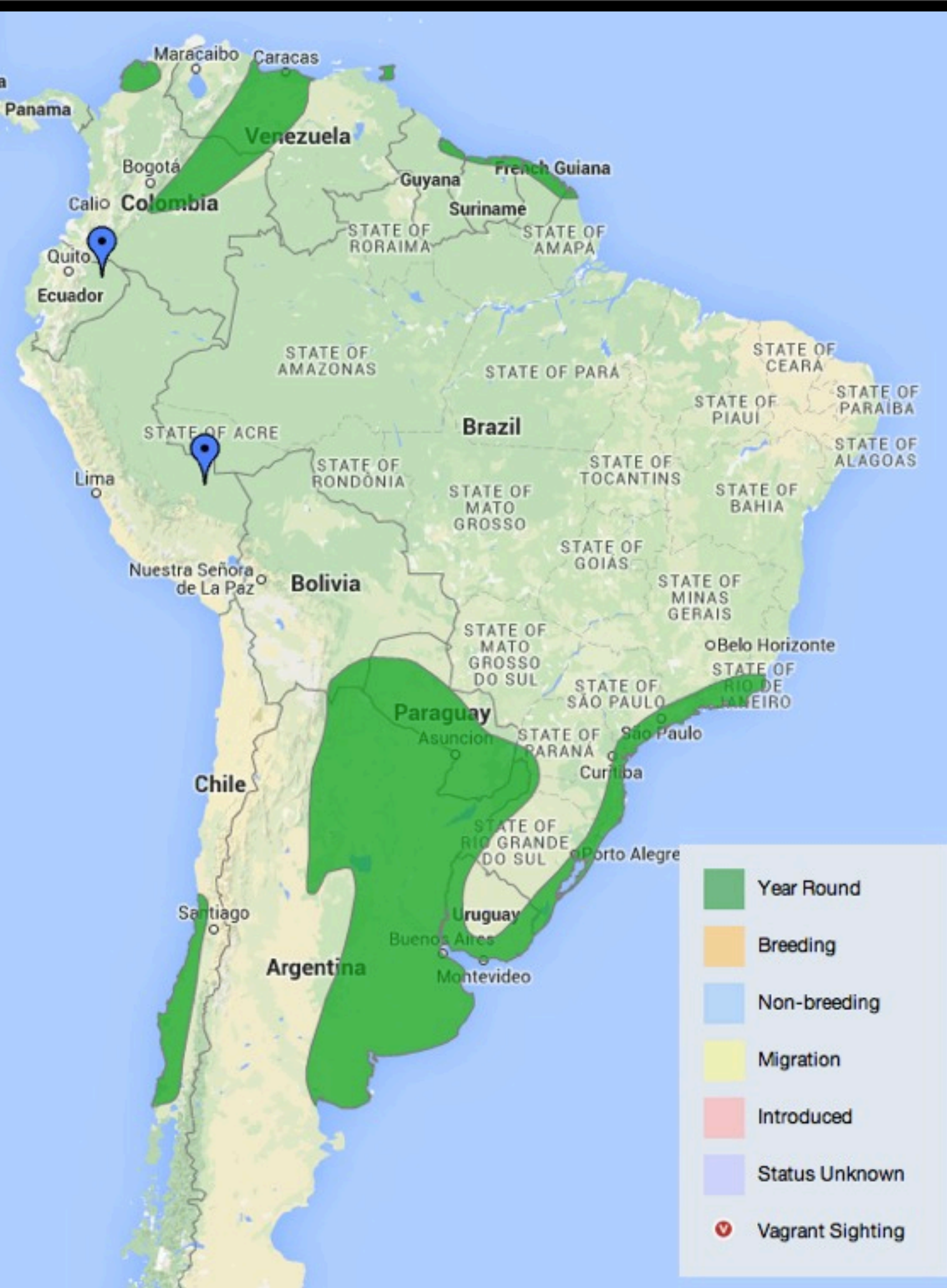


Stripe-backed Bittern  
*Ixobrychus involucris*



# Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris*

The diminutive Stripe-backed Bittern (33 cm length) is found from Colombia, Guyana, Venezuela, Trinidad, and Tobago south to Paraguay, southern Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia. There, it inhabits swamps, fresh and brackish marshes, rice fields, and well vegetated lake shores, occasionally in the company of Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), another widespread, tiny heron with which it could be confused. Stripe-backed Bittern is pale brown above with buff-streaked wings and broad, buff and black streaks on the back. The crown is darker. Below it is pale with dark streaks on the front of the neck. The bill varies from pale horn colored to pale green to dull orange. The flight feathers are mostly rufous and the spread wing lacks the Least Bittern's large buffy patch. Calls include single *ook* notes and a gargling sound of closely-spaced, low-pitched notes.

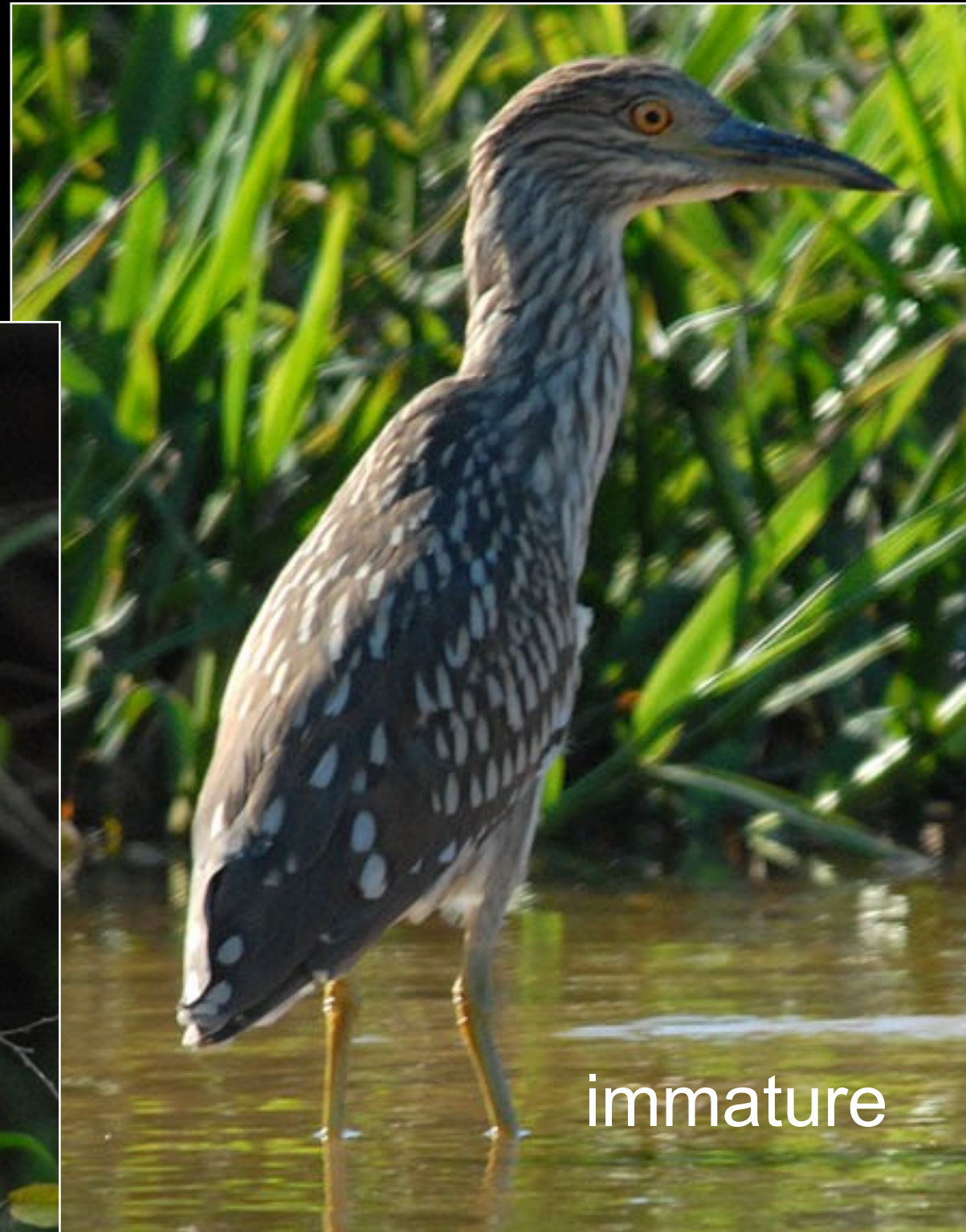




Black-crowned Night-Heron  
*Nycticorax nycticorax*



adult



immature



adult



Striated Heron  
*Butorides striata*



adult



immature





breeding plumage



non-breeding plumage

Cattle Egret  
*Bubulcus ibis*





adult



immature

White-necked Heron  
*Ardea cocoi*





Great Egret  
*Ardea alba*







Whistling Heron  
*Syrigma sibilatrix*





Capped Heron  
*Pilherodius pileatus*





Snowy Egret  
*Egretta thula*





adult



subadult



immature

**Little Blue Heron**  
*Egretta caerulea*



# THRESKIORNITHIDAE





White-faced Ibis  
*Plegadis chihi*



adult



adult



immature





Green Ibis  
*Mesembrinibis cayannensis*





Bare-faced Ibis  
*Phimosus infuscatus*





Plumbeous Ibis  
*Theristicus caerulescens*



Buff-necked Ibis  
*Theristicus caudacutus*





Roseate Spoonbill  
*Platalea ajaja*





# CATHARTIDAE



white nape



Turkey Vulture  
*Cathartes aura*







more narrow wings than Turkey Vulture



multicolored head



Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture  
*Cathartes burrovianus*





Black Vulture  
*Coragyps atratus*





King Vulture  
*Sarcoramphus papa*



# PANDIONIDAE





Osprey  
*Pandion haliaetus*

hovering



# ACCIPITRIDAE





White-tailed Kite  
*Elanus leucurus*







Pearl Kite  
*Gampsonyx swainsonii*





Hook-billed Kite  
*Chondrohierax uncinatus*







adult



adult



immature



adult



Fase Clara (Foto: Leo fukui - RJ) — Fase Escura (Foto: Leo fukui - RJ)

immatures

Gray-headed Kite  
*Leptodon cayanensis*





Swallow-tailed Kite  
*Elanoides forficatus*



adult



adult



juvenile



adult



# Harpy Eagle

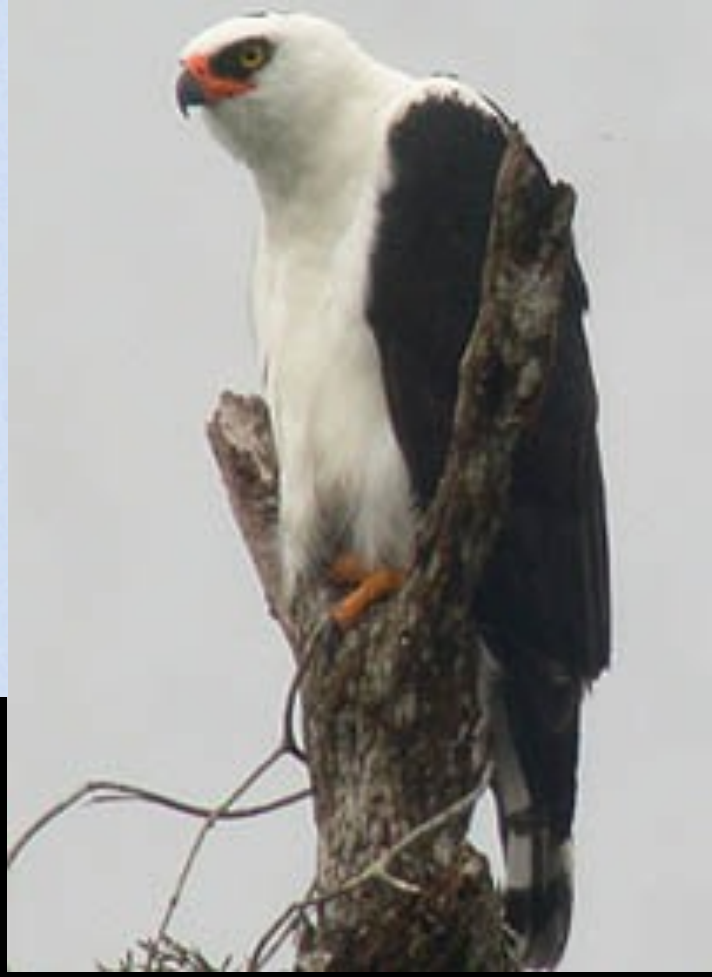
*Harpia harpyja*





**Black Hawk-Eagle**  
*Spizaetus tyrannus*

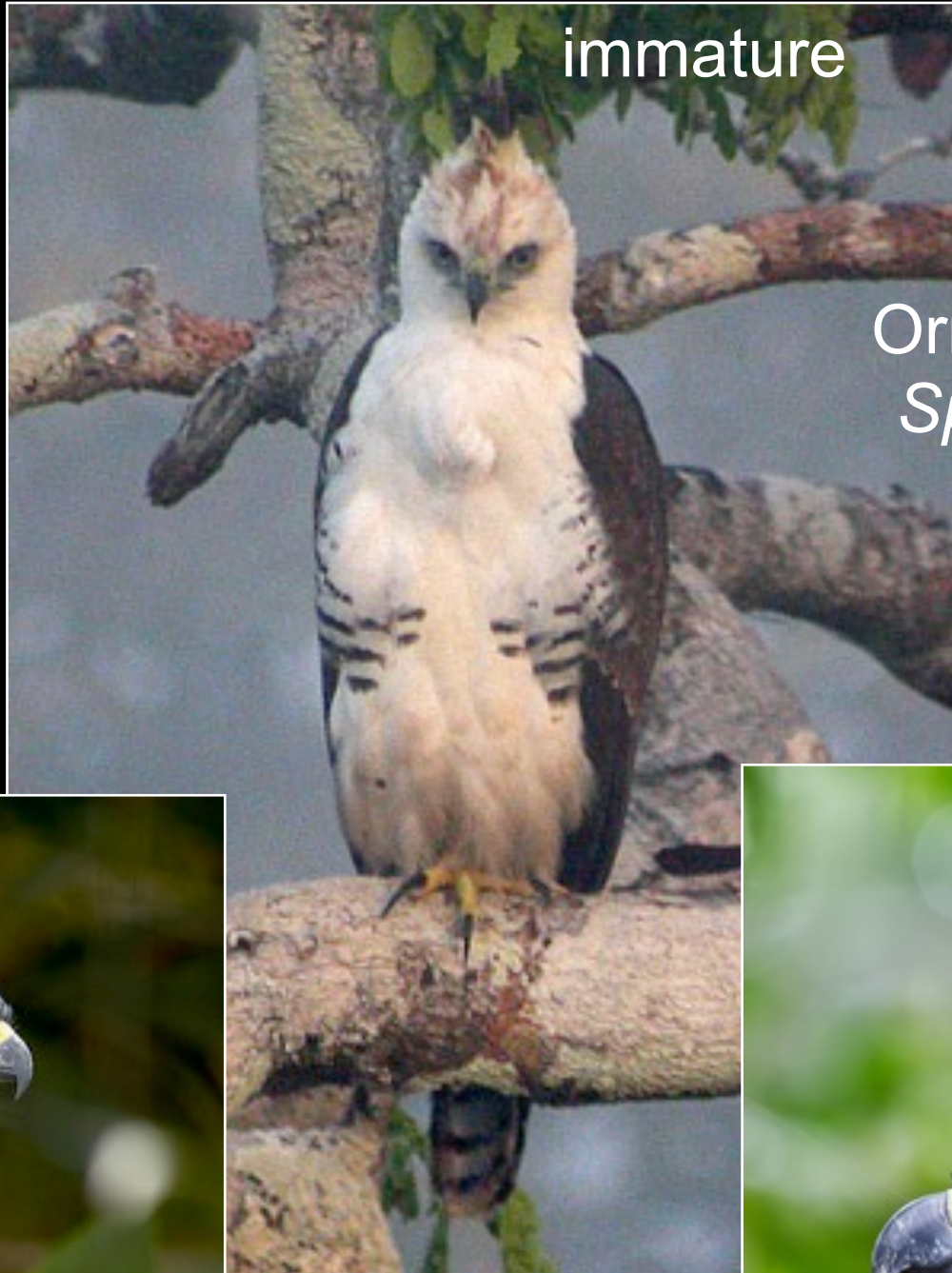




Black and White Hawk-Eagle  
*Spizaetus melanoleucus*







immature

Ornate Hawk-Eagle  
*Spizaetus ornatus*







adult



immature

Black-collared Hawk  
*Busarellus nigricollis*





Snail Kite  
*Rostrhamus sociabilis*







©Nick Athanas



Rufous-thighed Kite  
*Harpagus diodon*





wingtips even  
with tail



no rufous in  
primaries



**Mississippi Kite**  
*Ictinia mississippiensis*





wingtips  
extend well  
beyond tail



rufous in  
primaries



# Plumbeous Kite

*Ictinia plumbea*



Cinereous Harrier  
*Circus cinereus*







copyright 2009 Dr. Geoffrey Eilon

Long-winged Harrier  
*Circus buffoni*

www.w

© 201



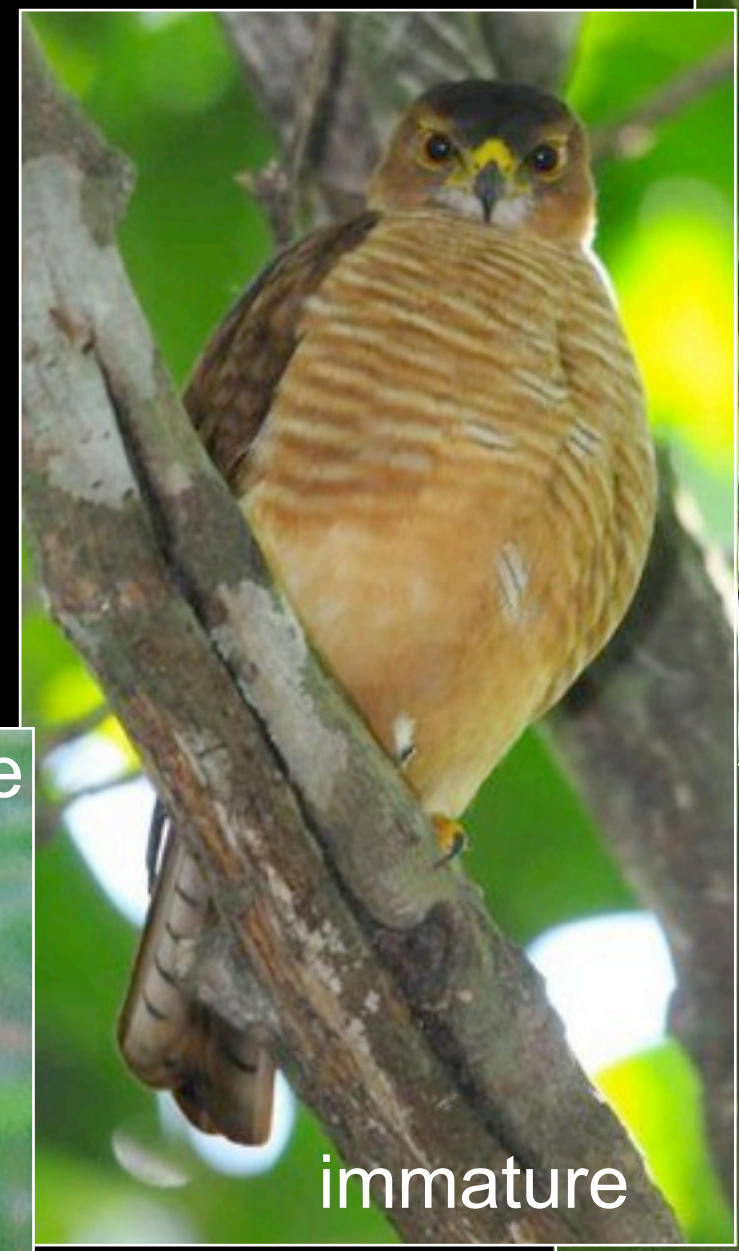
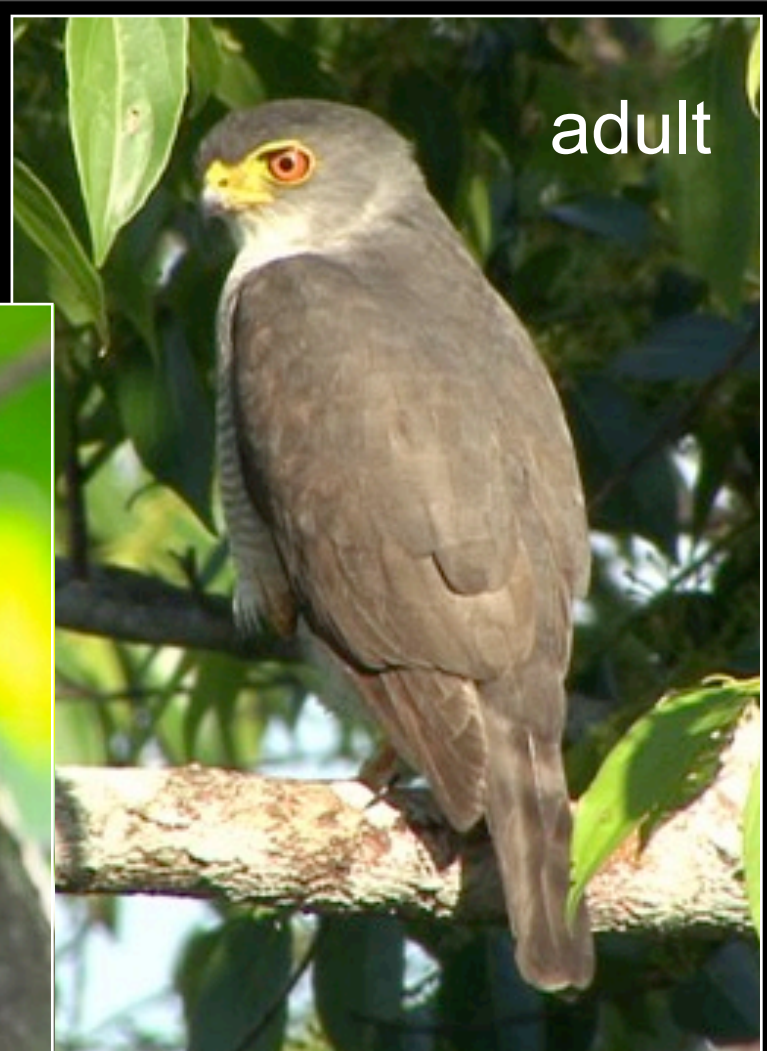
adult



# Tiny Hawk

*Accipiter superciliosus*

adult



immature



adult



immature



# Tiny Hawk

## *Accipiter superciliosus*

The Tiny Hawk is among the most poorly known members of its genus in the Neotropics. Name for its diminutive size, the male Tiny Hawk is only about 75 g although females exceed 100 g. With relatively elongated toes the Tiny Hawk is highly specialized for preying on birds. Though it will likely take all manner of small avian quarry, it has been known to concentrate on hummingbirds, which it will either still-hunt or actively check perches used by the hummingbirds in their courtship display. The Tiny Hawk is distributed throughout tropical South America in humid lowland forest on both sides of the Andes, Panama, the Guianas and throughout Amazonia and to the southern and eastern coasts of South America. Despite its large range, it is seldom encountered and is poorly known, with very little data on its behavior and or its breeding.







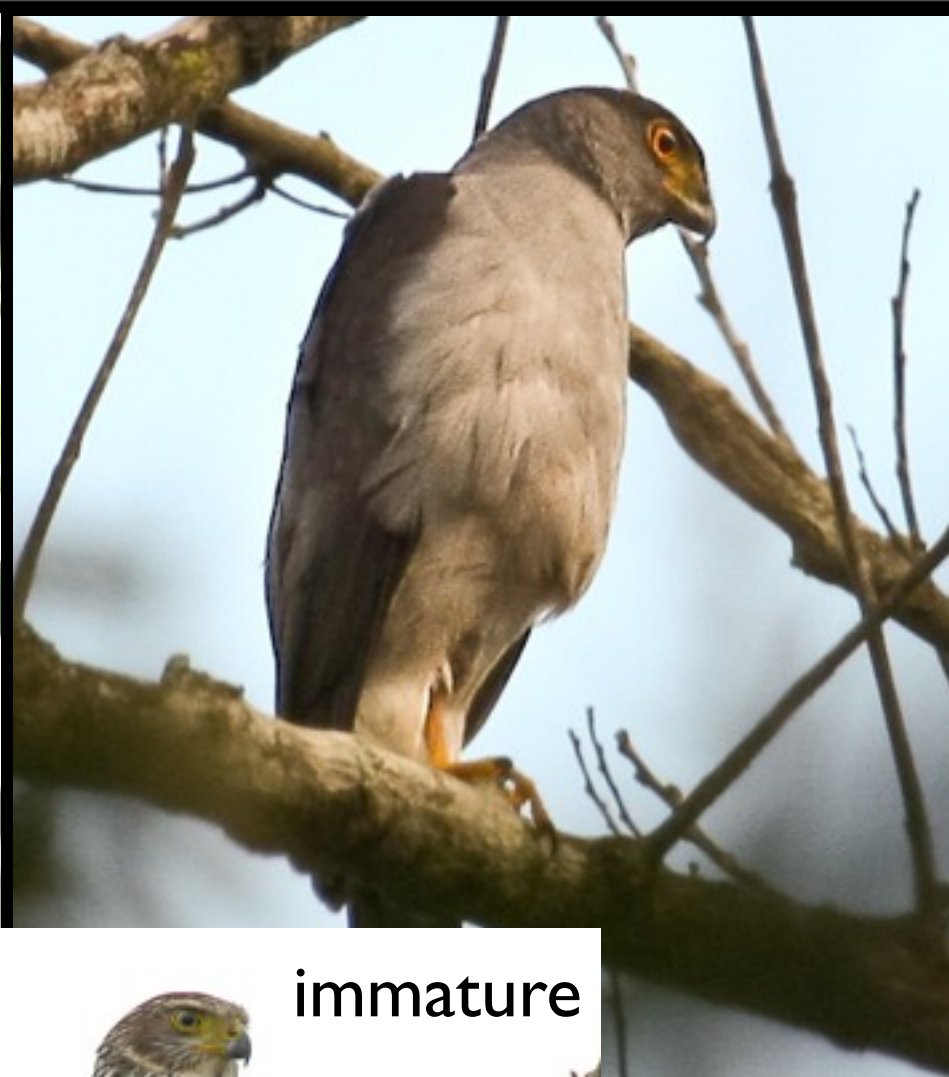
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
*Accipiter striatus*





Belize Raptor Research Institute

adult



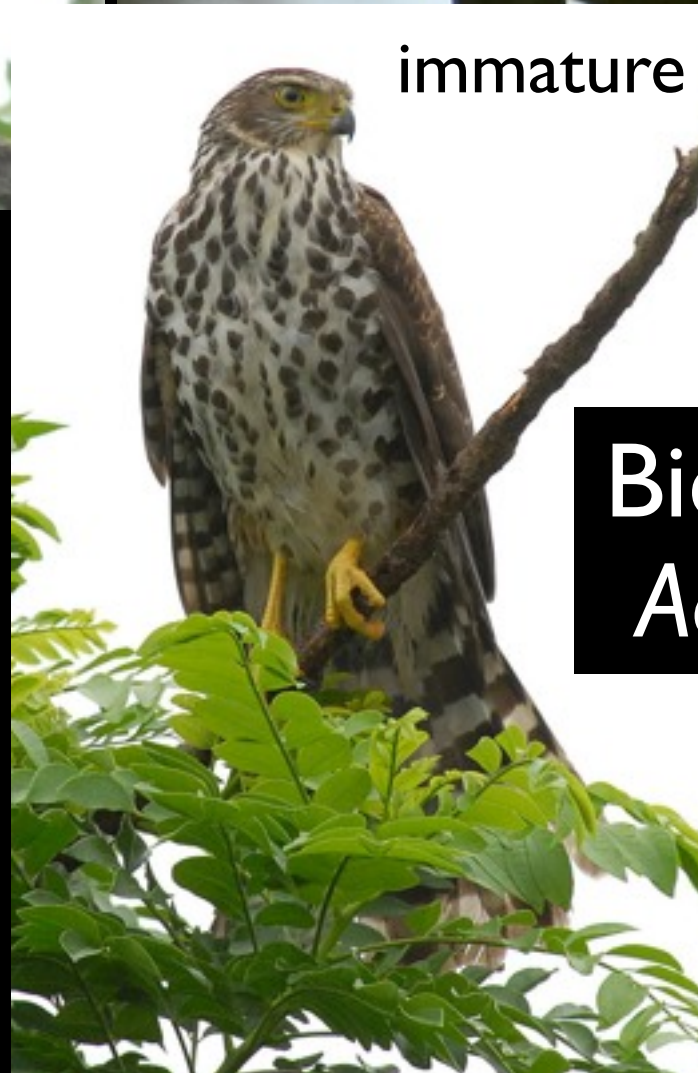
immature



immature



immature



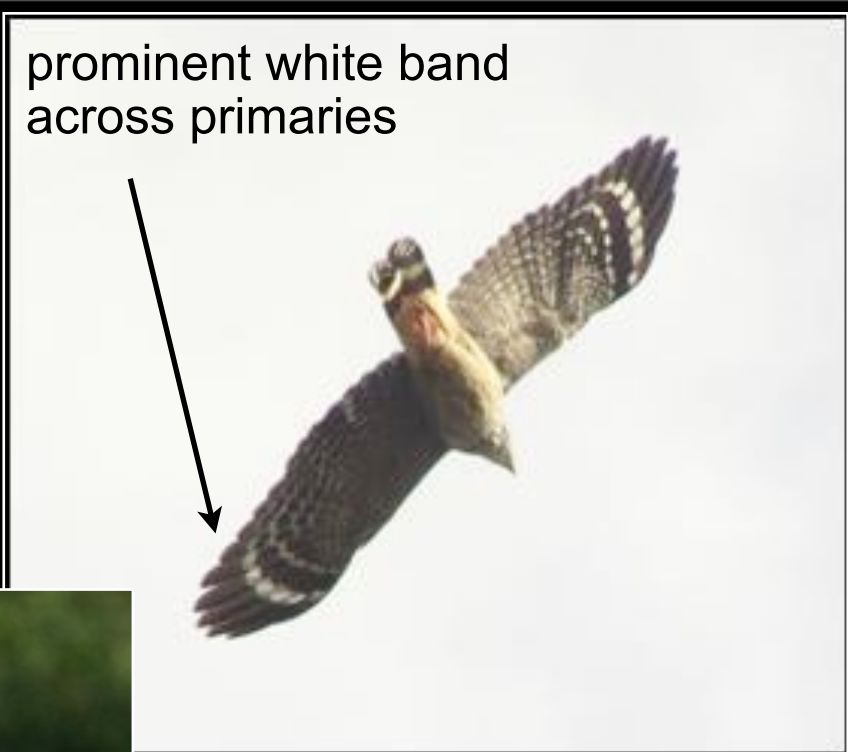
adult

**Bicolored Hawk**  
*Accipiter bicolor*



immature





**Crane Hawk**  
*Geranospiza caerulescens*





# Savanna Hawk

*Buteogallus meridionalis*



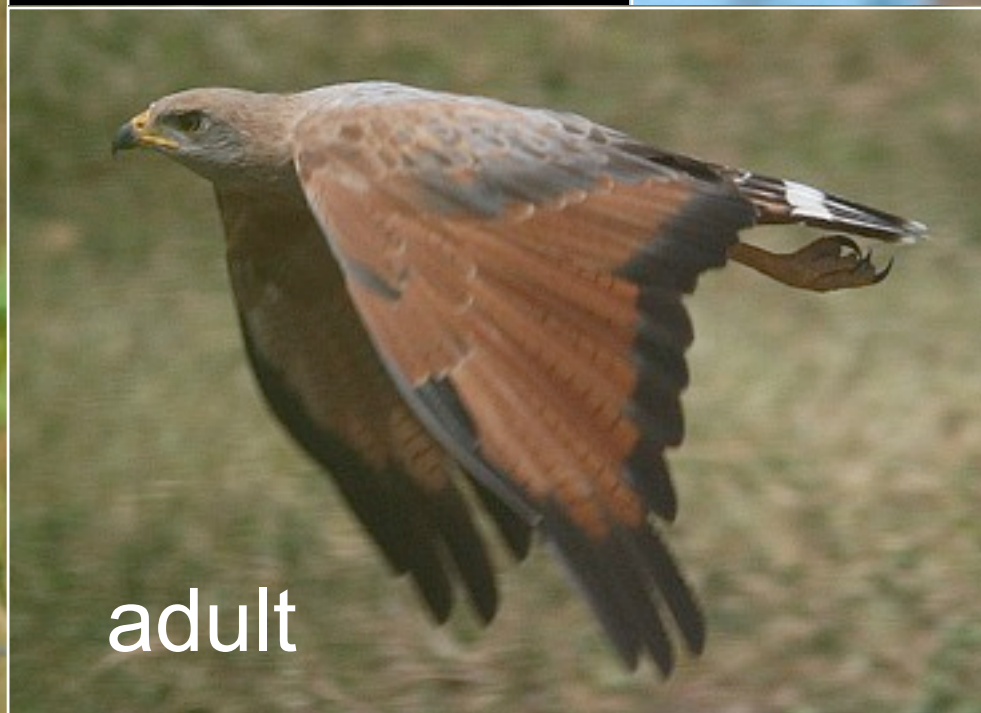
immature



immature



adult



adult





adult



adult



adult



immature

**Great Black Hawk**  
*Buteogallus urubitinga*





[www.avespana.com](http://www.avespana.com)



Marcelo Cavicchia

Crowned Eagle  
*Buteogallus coronatus*





subadult



immature

adult



adult

rufous in primaries

# Roadside Hawk

## *Rupornis magnirostris*





immature



Harris' Hawk  
*Parabuteo unicinctus*





White-tailed Hawk  
*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*







Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle  
*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*







Evre blanche

© Maxime Dechelle - www.oiseaux.net

White Hawk  
*Pseudastur albicollis*







Gray Hawk  
*Buteo nitidus*

immature







© Laliberte 2009



# Short-tailed Hawk

*Buteo brachyurus*

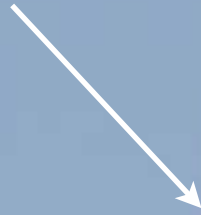




adult



wings held in  
slight  
dihedral like  
Turkey  
Vulture



adult



immature

# Zone-tailed Hawk

*Buteo albonotatus*



adult



# ARAMIDAE



Limpkin  
*Aramus guarauna*





# RALLIDAE





Ocellated Crake  
*Micropygia schomburgkii*



rufous nape



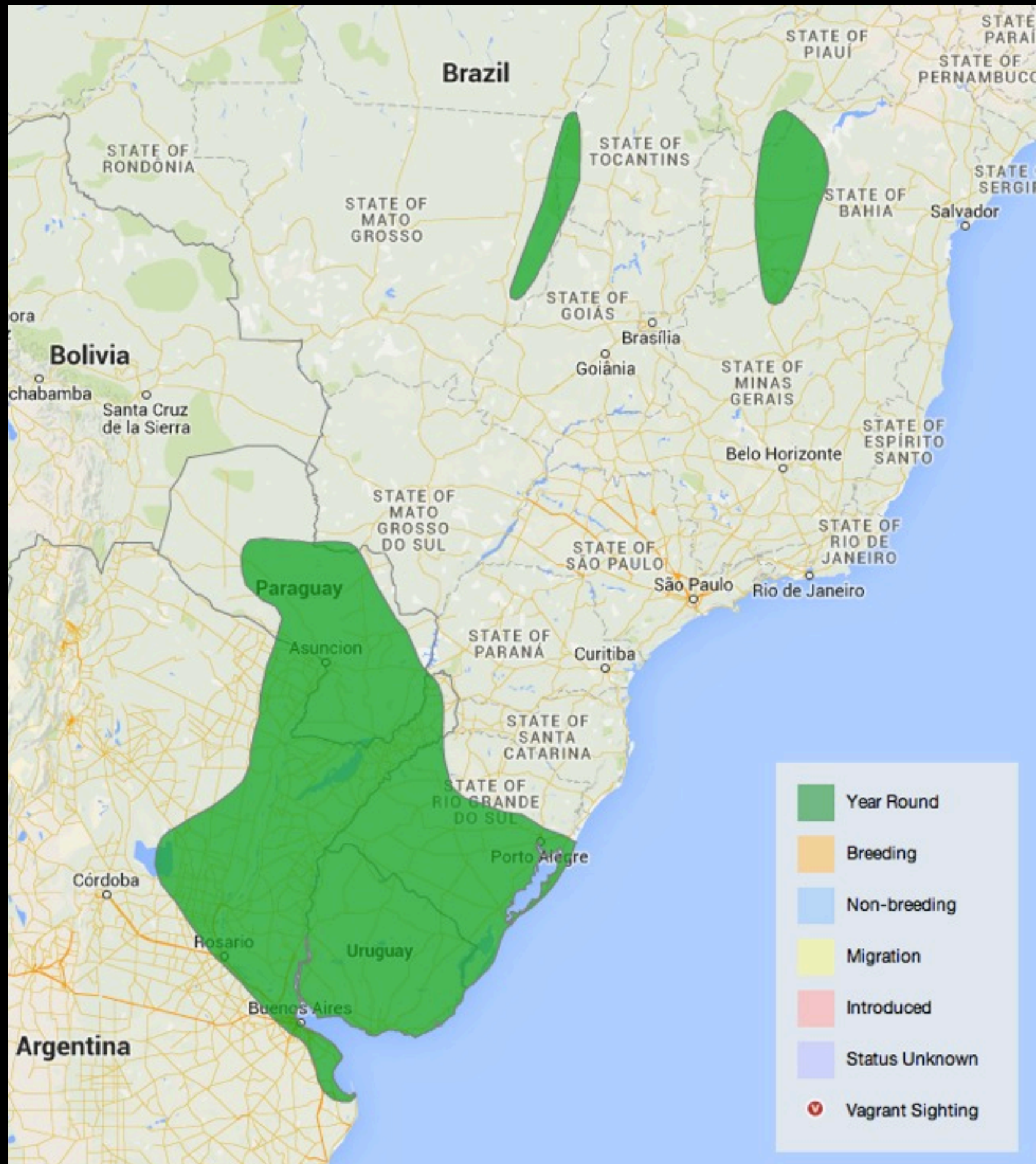
Giant Wood-Rail  
*Aramides ypecaha*



# Giant Wood-Rail

## *Aramides ypecaha*

The Giant Wood-rail is a large, terrestrial rail of south Brazil and Uruguay, eastern Paraguay, and northeast Argentina. While most *Aramides* are shy and inhabit thick vegetation, the Giant Wood-rail lives along marshes and rivers, and can often be seen completely out in the open, walking slowly along the mud. This behavior generally comes as a great and welcome surprise to neotropical ornithologists familiar with the effort involved in acquiring even partial views of wood-rails elsewhere. The plumage of the Giant Wood-rail is a composition of earth-tones, with a rich olive back fading to umbre-rust towards an abrupt cutoff with a gray face and chest. The underparts are salmon on the flanks and whitish gray on the belly. The tail and tail coverts are black, and the eye and legs are red. The large, slightly downcurved bill is bright mustard yellow. The Giant Wood-rail inhabits gallery forest and tropical and subtropical marshes and wetlands, and is typical in the large wetlands of Iberá and Entre Rios.







Gray-necked Wood-Rail  
*Aramides cajaneus*





Russet-crowned Crake  
*Anurolimnas viridis*







Rufous-sided Crake  
*Laterallus melanophaius*







**Gray-breasted Crake**  
*Laterallus exilis*





Yellow-breasted Crake  
*Porzana flaviventer*





Spot-flanked Gallinule  
*Porphyriops melanops*





Ash-throated Crake  
*Mustelirallus albicollis*







Paint-billed Crake  
*Mustelirallus erythropus*





Spotted Rail  
*Pardirallus maculatus*





Blackish Rail  
*Pardirallus nigricans*

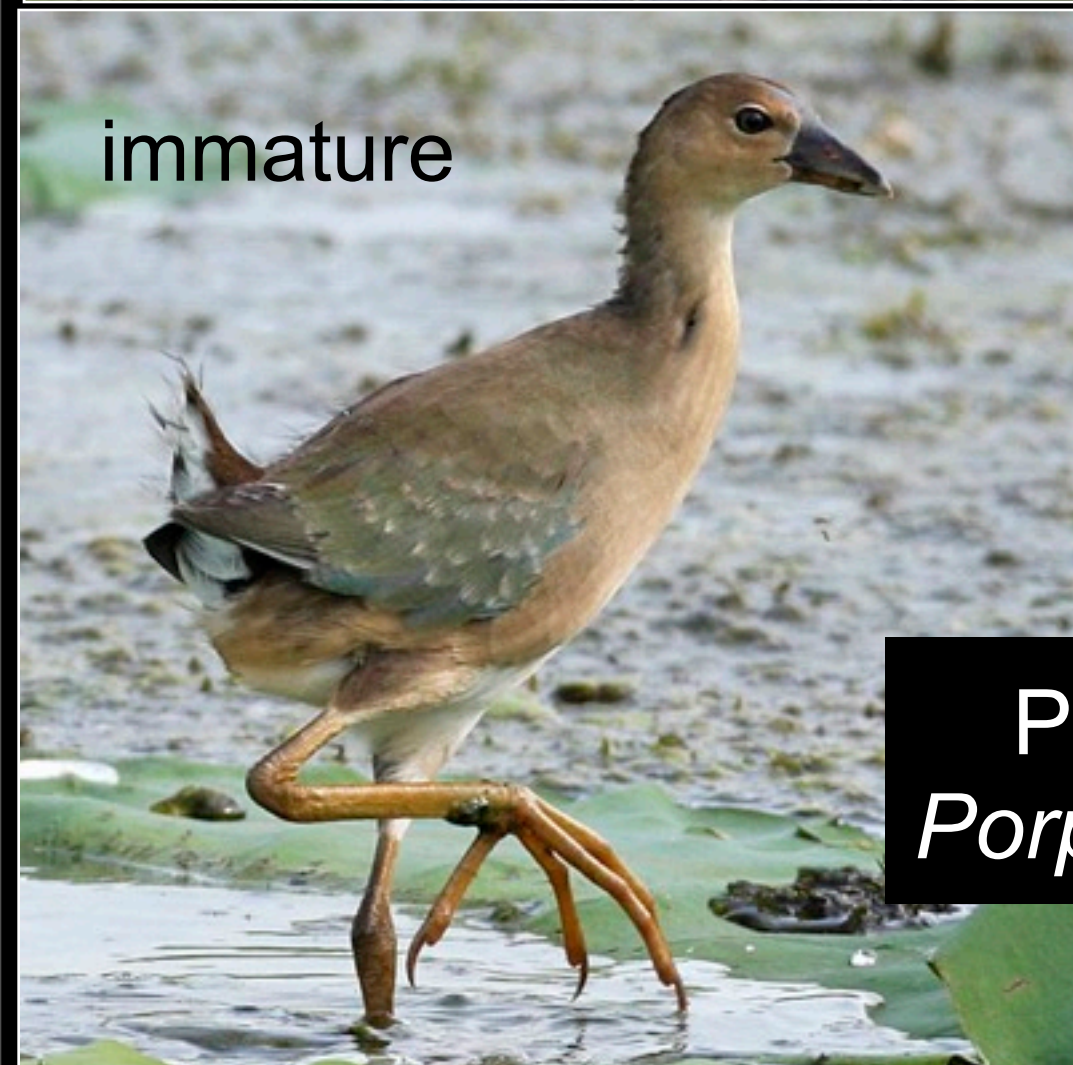
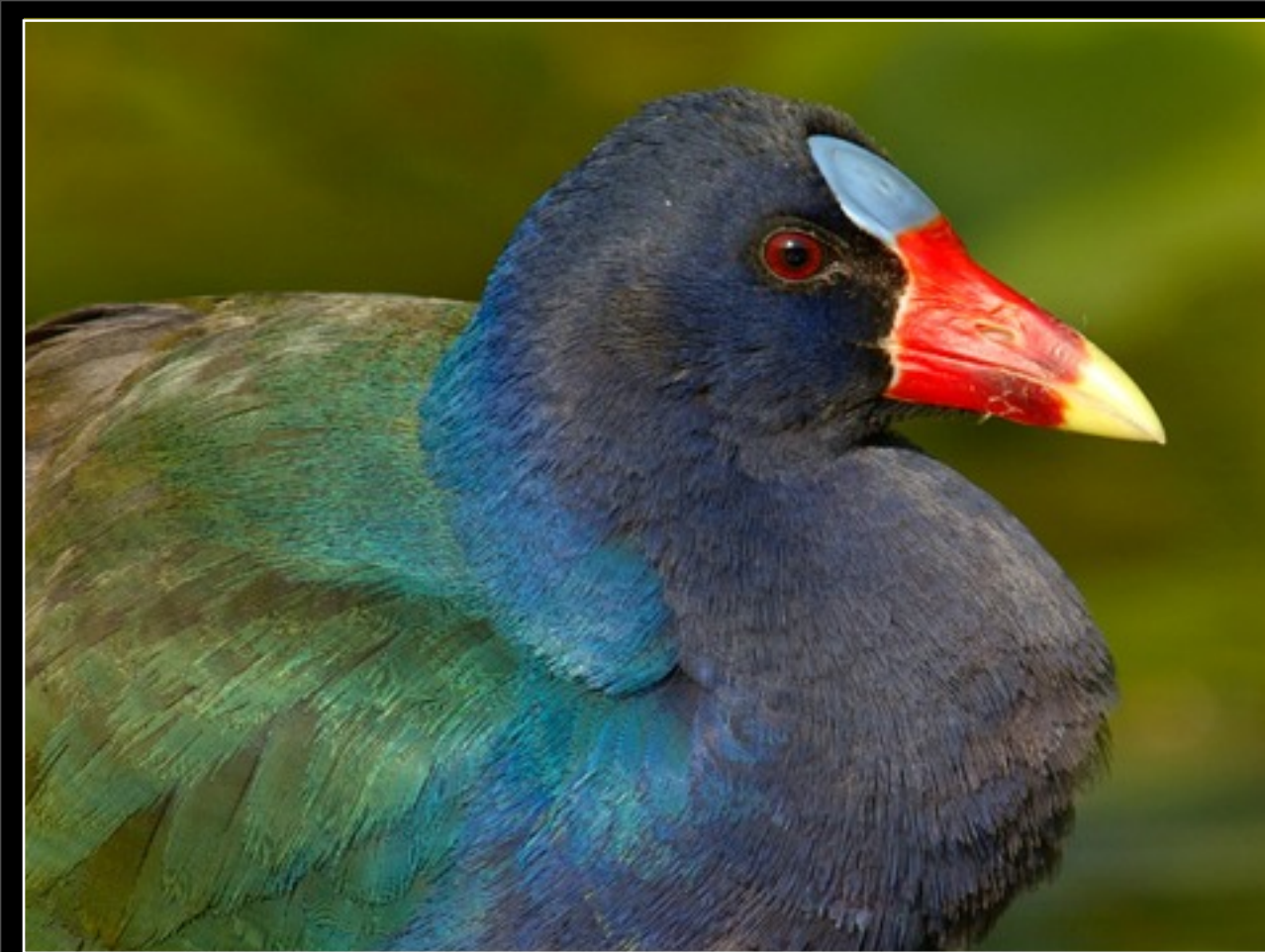






Common Gallinule  
*Gallinula galeata*

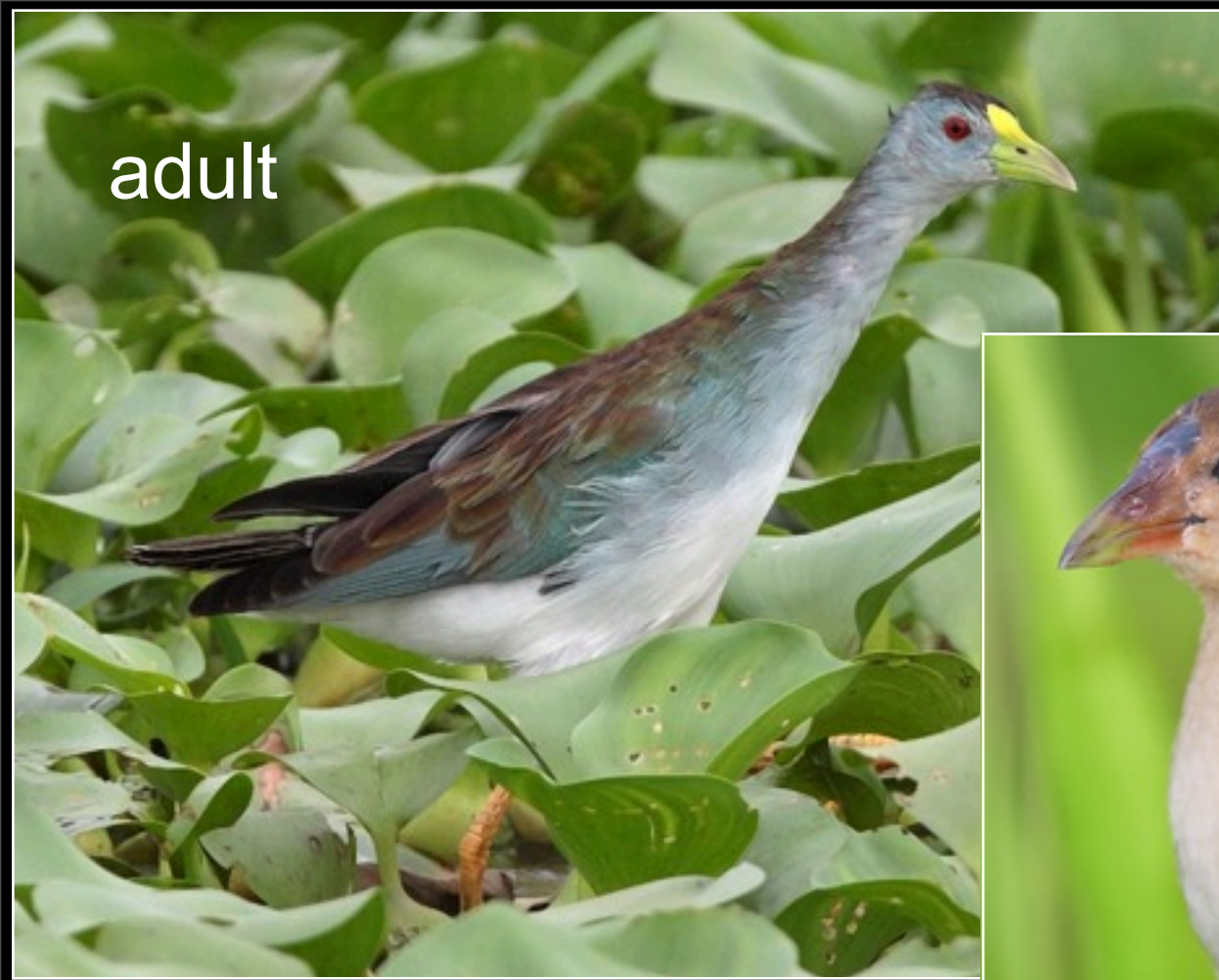




Purple Gallinule  
*Porphyrio martinicus*



adult



adult



immature



immature



adult



**Azure Gallinule**  
*Porphyrio flavirostris*



# HELIORNITHIDAE



female



male

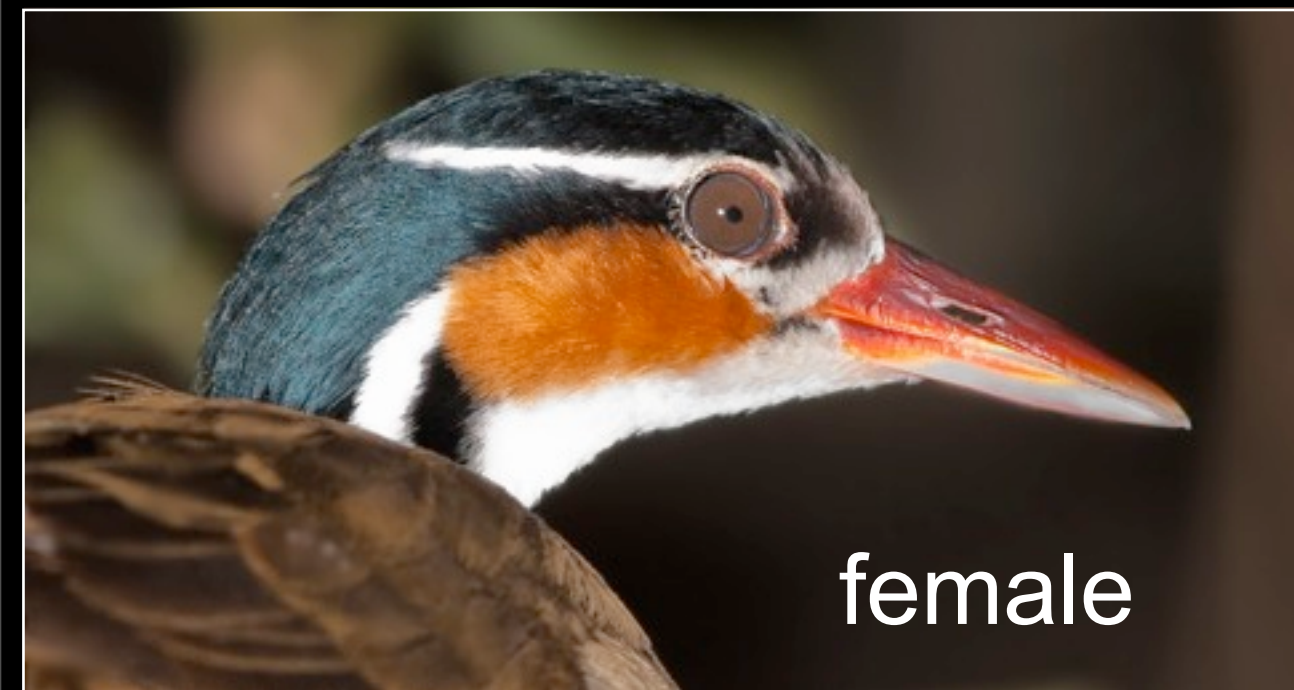


Sungrebe  
*Heliornis fulica*

female



female





# EURYPYGIDAE



Sunbittern  
*Eurypyga helias*





# CHARADRIIDAE





American  
Golden Plover  
*Pluvialis dominica*



**Black-bellied Plover**  
*Pluvialis squatarola*







Pied Lapwing  
*Vanellus cayanus*



Southern Lapwing  
*Vanellus chilensis*







**Collared Plover**  
*Charadrius collaris*



# RECURVIROSTRIDAE





**Black-necked Stilt**  
*Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*





# SCOLOPACIDAE





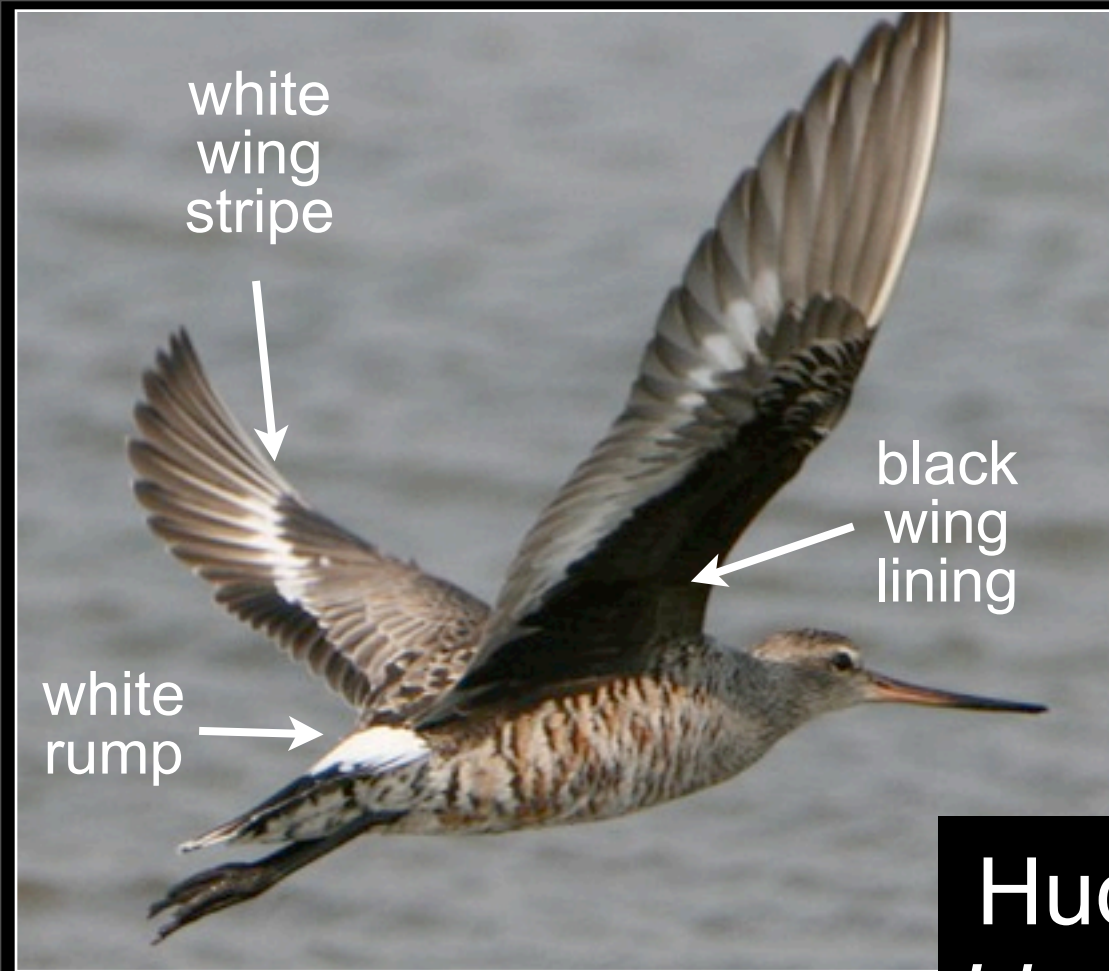
Upland Sandpiper  
*Bartramia longicauda*





Whimbrel  
*Numenius phaeopus*





**Hudsonian Godwit**  
*Limosa haemastica*







adult male  
breeding



adult male  
breeding

**Ruddy Turnstone**  
*Arenaria interpres*



winter



juvenile



adult breeding



juvenile



adult winter



Red Knot  
*Calidris canutus*



molting adult



Sanderling  
*Calidris alba*

juvenile



breeding plumage



winter plumage





winter



juvenile



breeding



Semipalmated Sandpiper  
*Calidris pusilla*



breeding  
plumage



juvenile

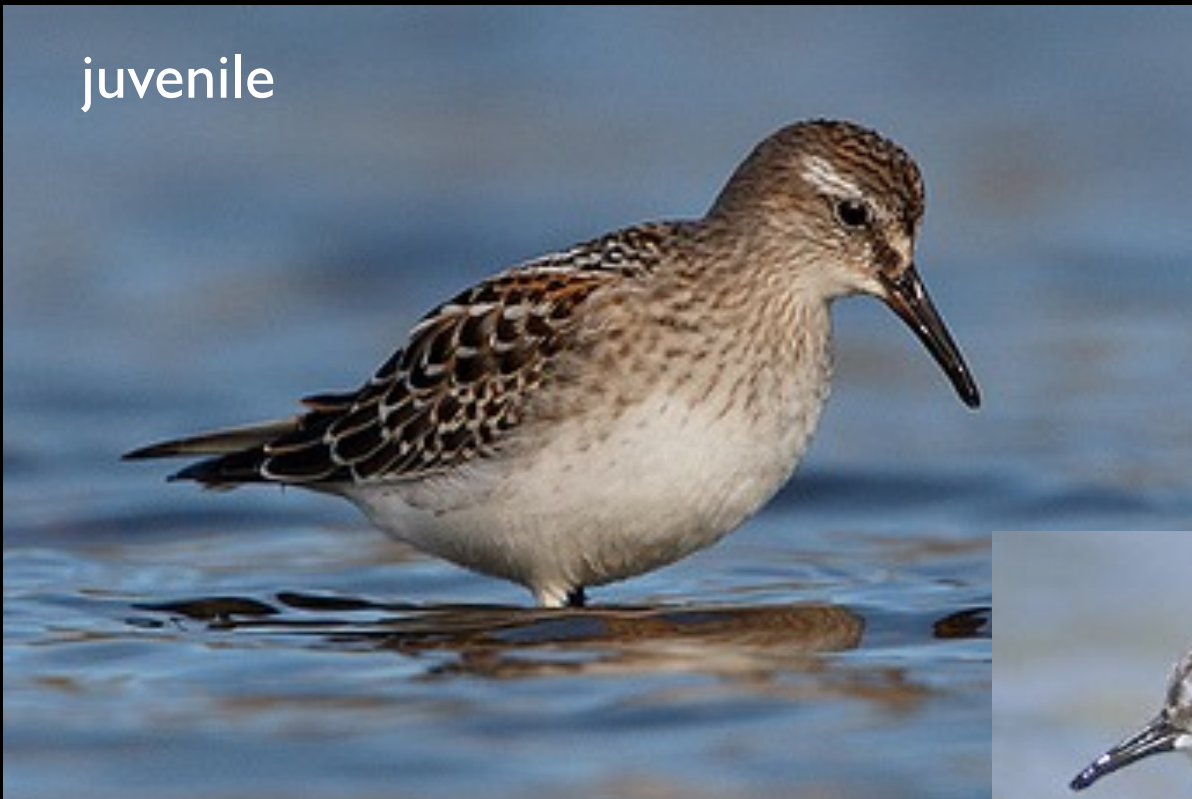


winter plumage

Least Sandpiper  
*Calidris minutilla*



juvenile



molting adult



winter plumage



**White-rumped Sandpiper**  
*Calidris fuscicollis*

molting adult



breeding plumage





Baird's Sandpiper  
*Calidris bairdii*



winter



worn breeding  
plumage



juvenile



fresh breeding  
plumage



pan



Pectoral Sandpiper  
*Calidris melanotos*







breeding plumage



winter plumage



breeding plumage

**Stilt Sandpiper**  
*Calidris himantopus*



molting



juvenile



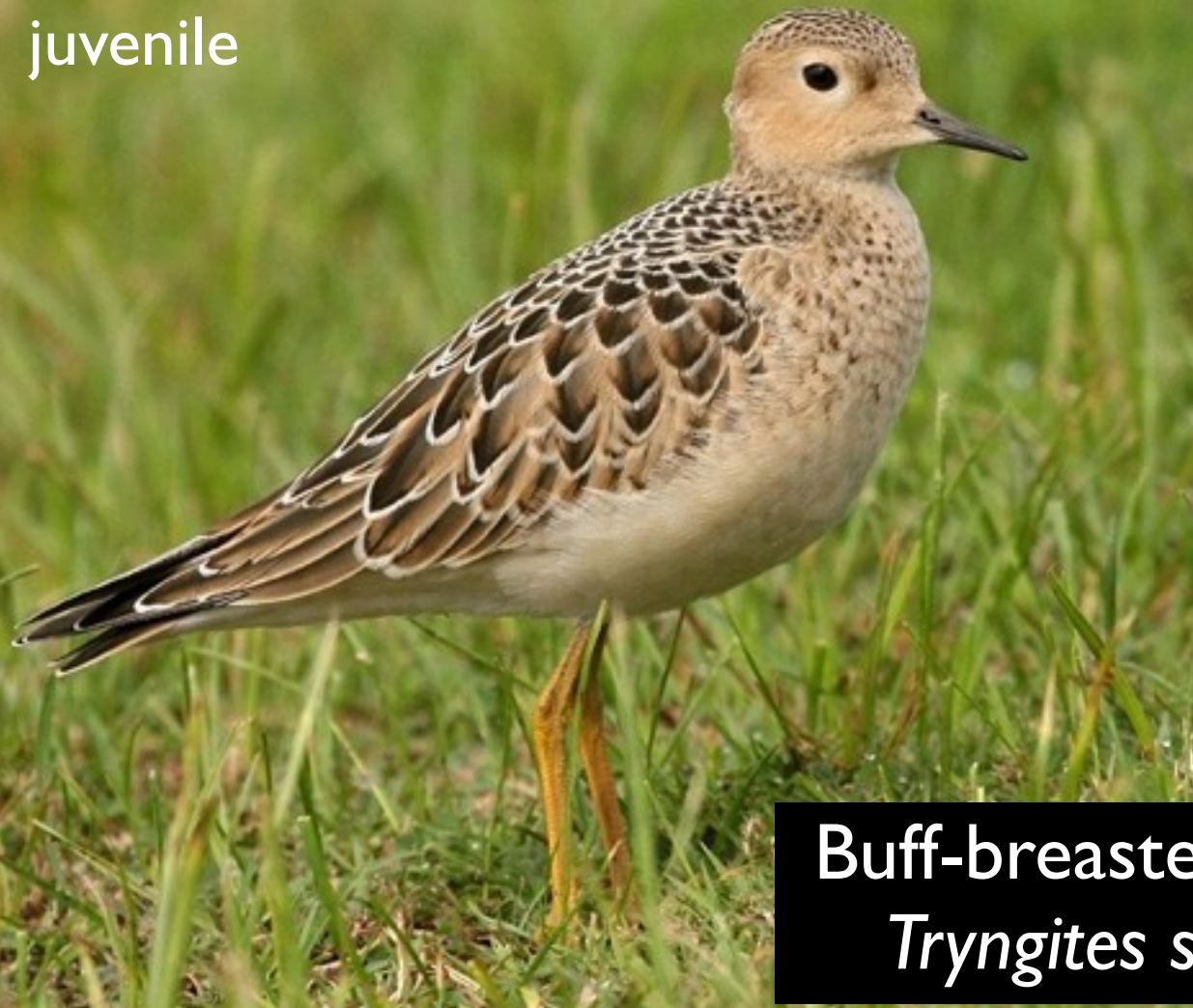
breeding plumage  
adult



molting adult



juvenile



non-breeding adult



**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**  
*Tryngites subruficollis*



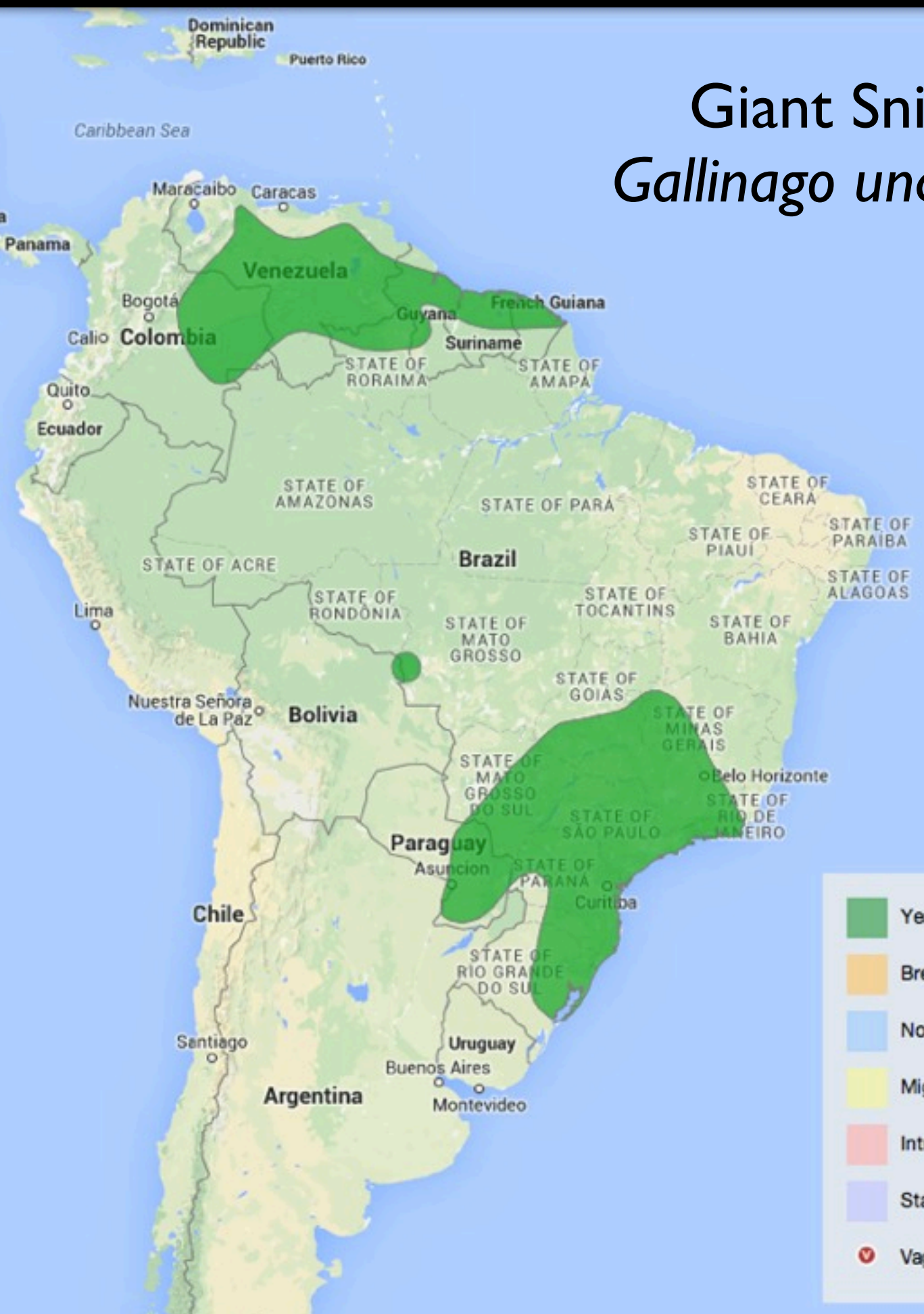


Giant Snipe  
*Gallinago undulata*

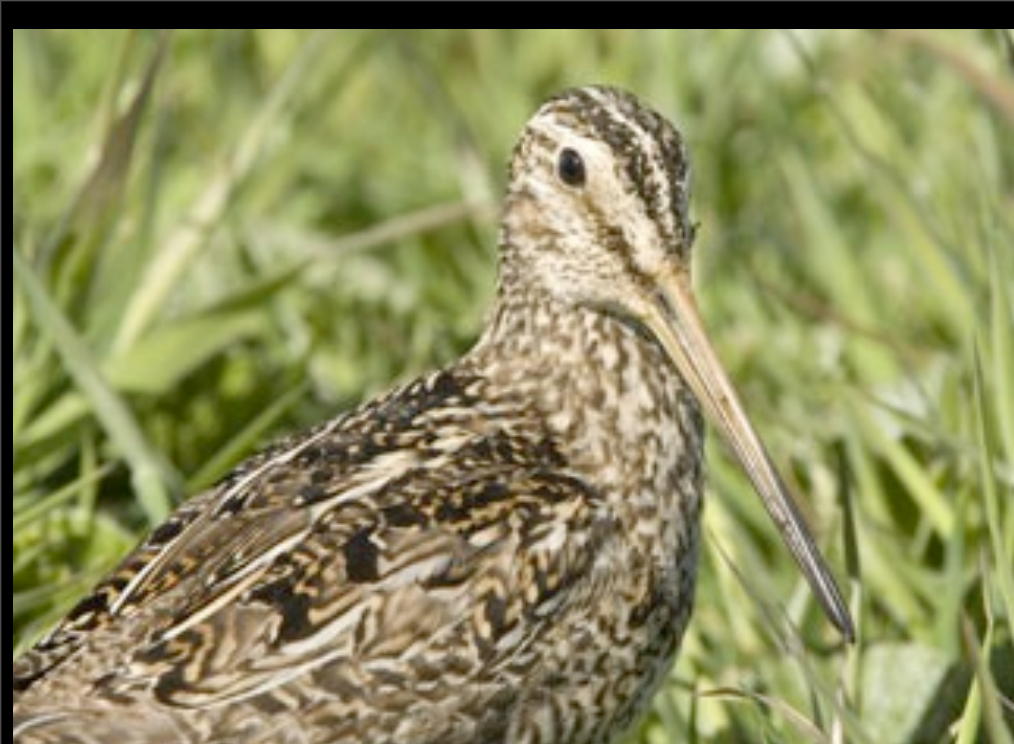


# Giant Snipe *Gallinago undulata*

Given its crepuscular and nocturnal habits that the Giant Snipe is a relatively poorly known and infrequently observed species is unsurprising. The species' range is wide, but apparently highly fragmented, in the north being found over parts of northern Colombia, Venezuela, northernmost Brazil and the Guianas, while in the south a separate subspecies occurs in eastern Bolivia, Paraguay and over much of southern Brazil, albeit locally. Throughout, the species inhabits tall, swampy vegetation, wet pastures, and flooded grasslands, at elevations up to at least 2200 m. As befits its name, the Giant Snipe is the largest of its genus, and has a very long, deep-based bill; plumage, however, is broadly typical of all *Gallinago*. The Giant Snipe is usually encountered alone, but is most likely to be detected by either a chance 'flushing', or by listening for the species' display-flight calls in a suitable locality at nightfall.







South American Snipe  
*Gallinago paraguaiiae*







Wilson's Phalarope  
*Phalaropus tricolor*





Spotted Sandpiper  
*Actitis macularius*



winter plumage



breeding plumage





worn basic plumage (early February)

**Solitary Sandpiper**  
*Tringa solitaria*



fresh alternate plumage (mid March)





Greater Yellowlegs  
*Tringa melanoleuca*







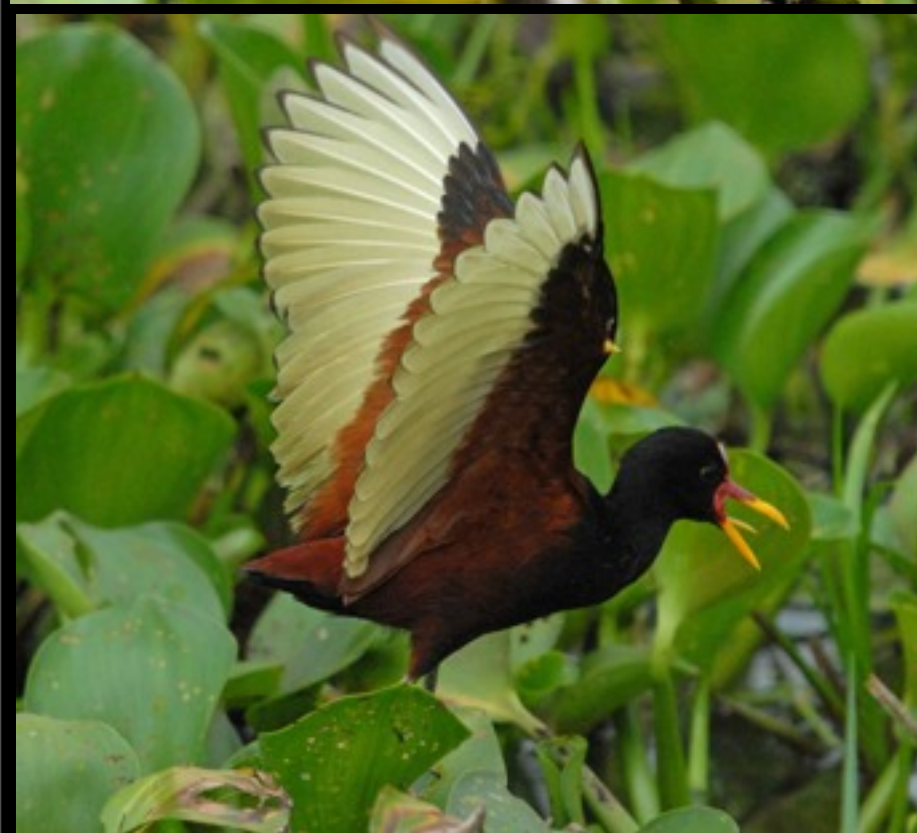
Lesser Yellowlegs  
*Tringa flavipes*





# JACANIDAE





adult

immature

Wattled Jacana  
*Jacana jacana*



LARIDAE



basic  
plumage

alternate  
plumage

basic  
plumage



**Yellow-billed Tern**  
*Sternula superciliaris*



juvenile





alternate  
plumage



# Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*



basic  
plumage







# RYNCHOPIDAE





Black Skimmer  
*Rynchops niger*





# COLUMBIDAE



Rock Pigeon  
*Columba livia*





Scaled Pigeon  
*Patagioneas speciosa*







Picazuro Pigeon  
*Patagioneas picazuro*



Pale-vented Pigeon  
*Patagioneas cayennensis*



wide,  
buffy  
band







Ruddy Quail-Dove  
*Geotrygon montana*



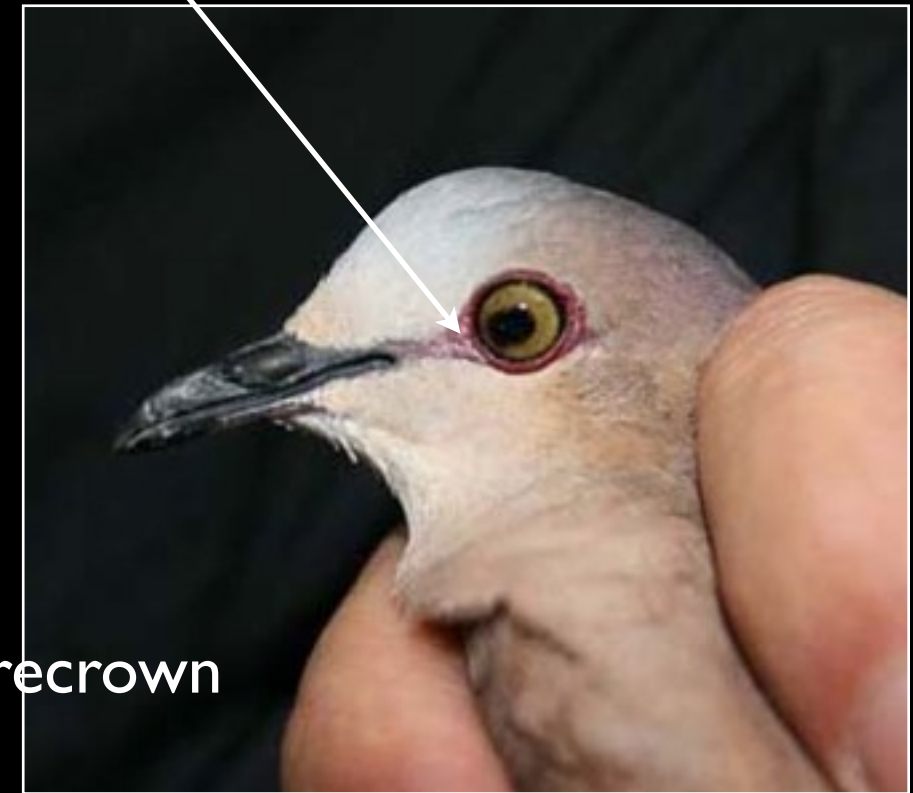


White-tipped Dove  
*Leptotila verreauxi*





reddish bare orbital skin



blue-gray forecrown



**Gray-fronted Dove**  
*Leptotila rufaxilla*





Eared Dove  
*Zenaida auriculata*



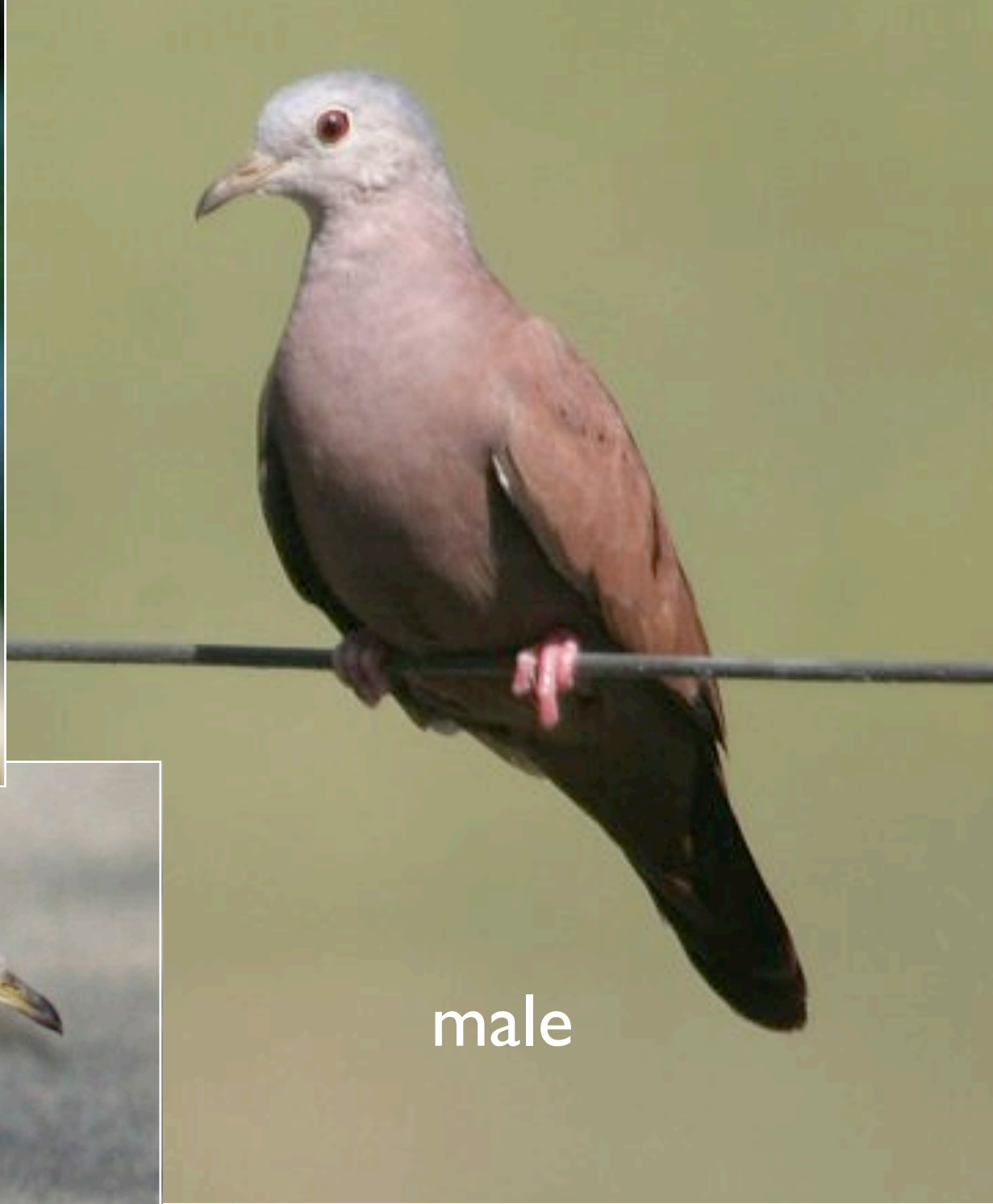


Plain-breasted Ground-Dove  
*Columbina minuta*





female



male



male

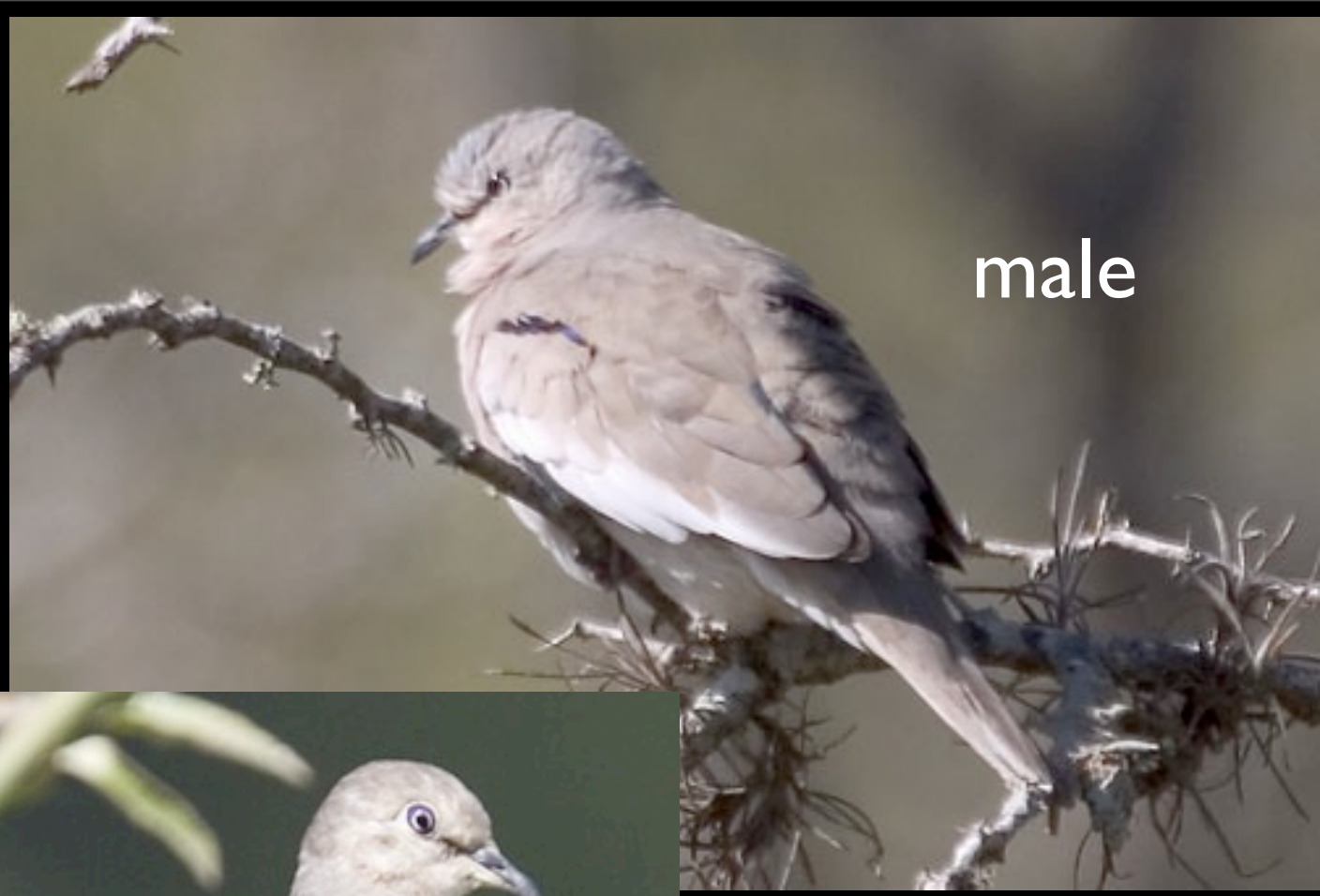
**Ruddy Ground-Dove**  
*Columbina talpacoti*





Scaled Dove  
*Columbina squammata*





**Picui Ground-Dove**  
*Columbina picui*





male

Blue Ground-Dove  
*Claravis pretiosa*



male



female

male



female



Long-tailed Ground-Dove  
*Uropelia campestris*





# CUCULIDAE



Little Cuckoo  
*Coccyzua minuta*







Ash-colored Cuckoo  
*Coccyua cinerea*





Squirrel Cuckoo  
*Piaya cayana*





Dark-billed Cuckoo  
*Coccyzus melacoryphus*

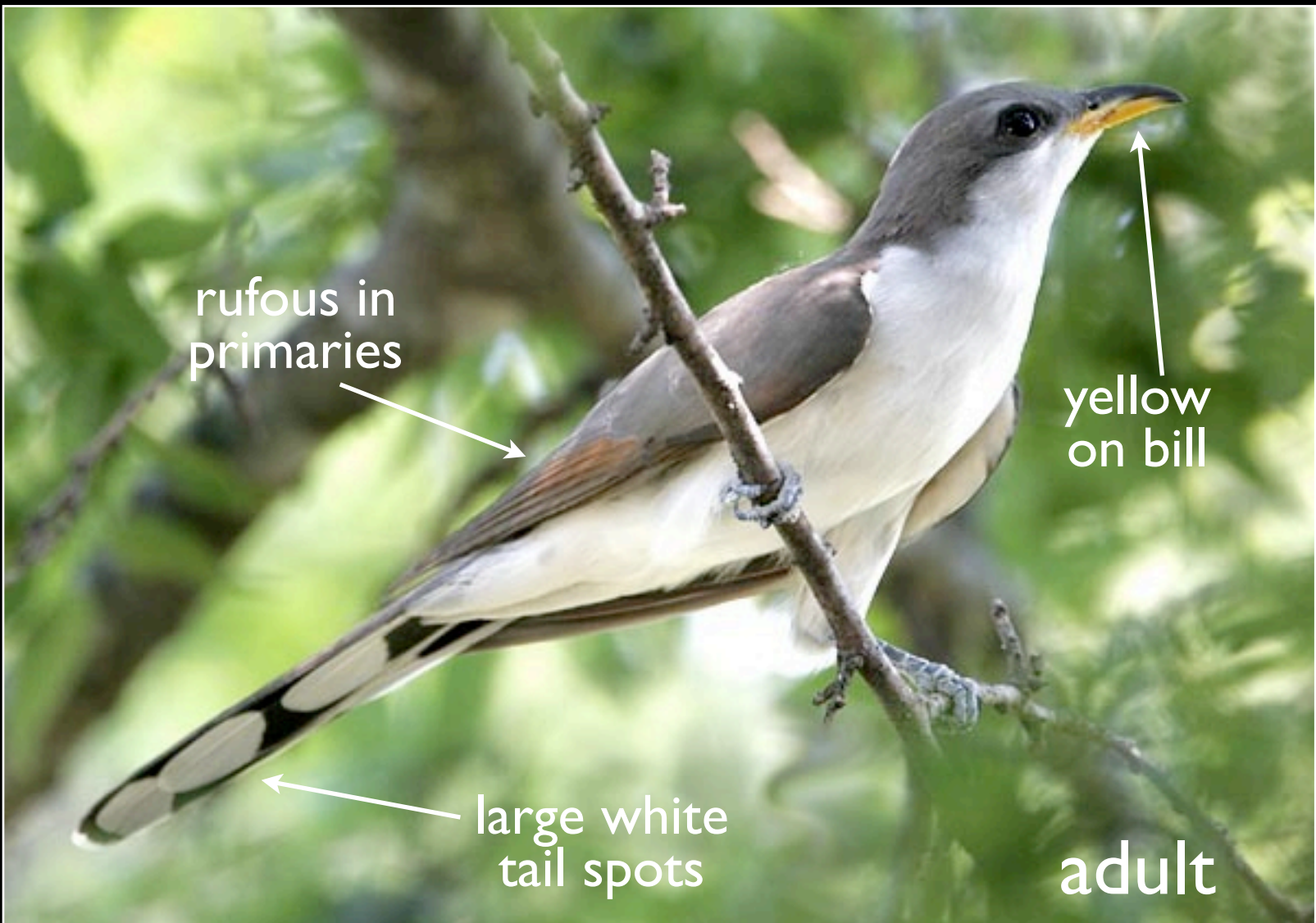


# Dark-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus melacoryphus*

A fairly common, albeit reclusive, resident of tropical deciduous forest and other open woodlands, Dark-billed Cuckoo has a large range and is well adapted to a variety of habitats. This species also inhabit a wide range of altitudes; it primarily occurs in the lowlands, but has been observed as high as 3600 m. Like other species of *Coccyzus*, Dark-billed Cuckoo is not a nest parasite and instead raises its own young, which can number as many as five per clutch. The diet of Dark-billed Cuckoo consists nearly entirely of terrestrial arthropods, with caterpillars, beetles, ants, and grasshoppers being its favorite prey.



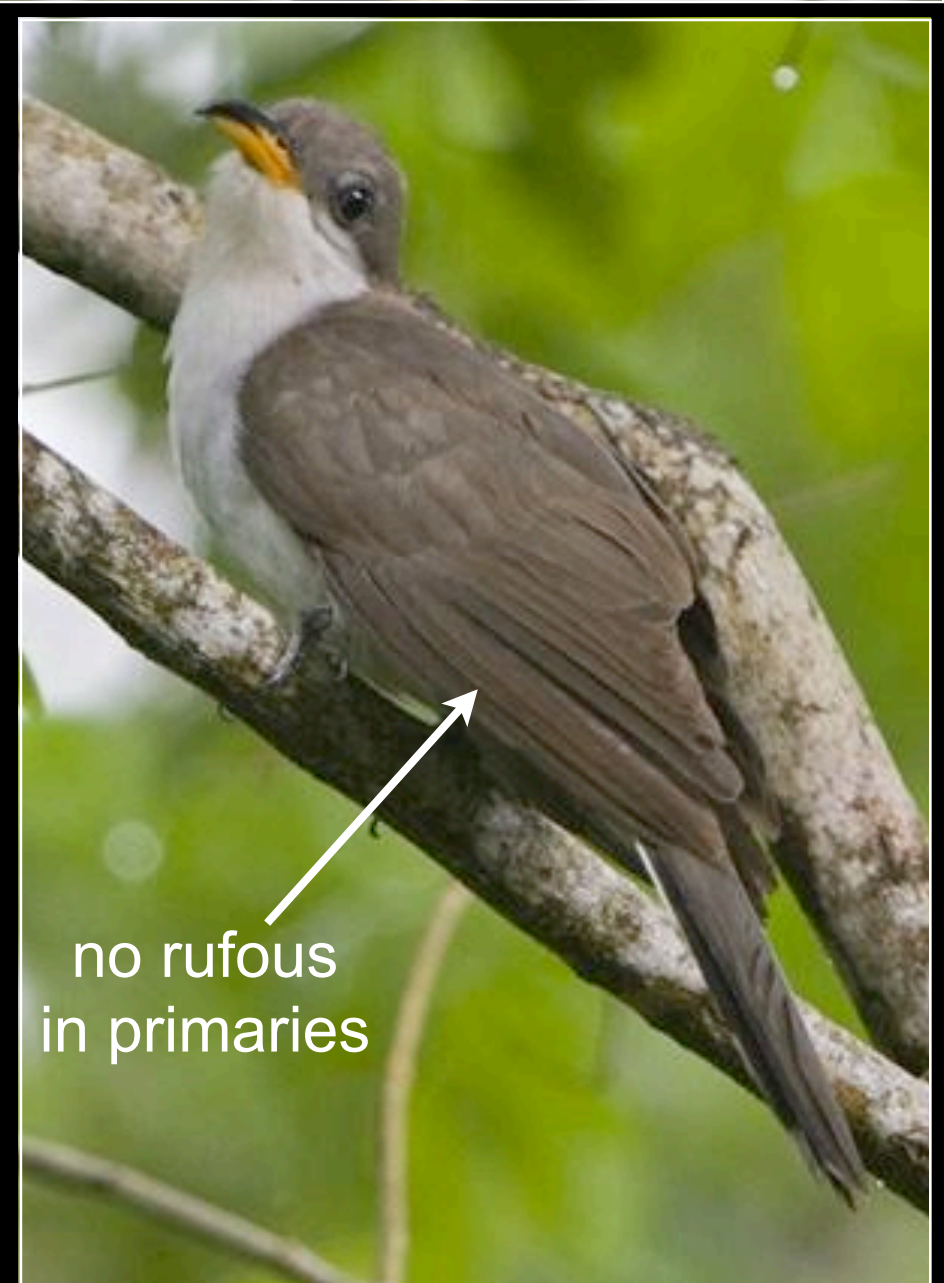
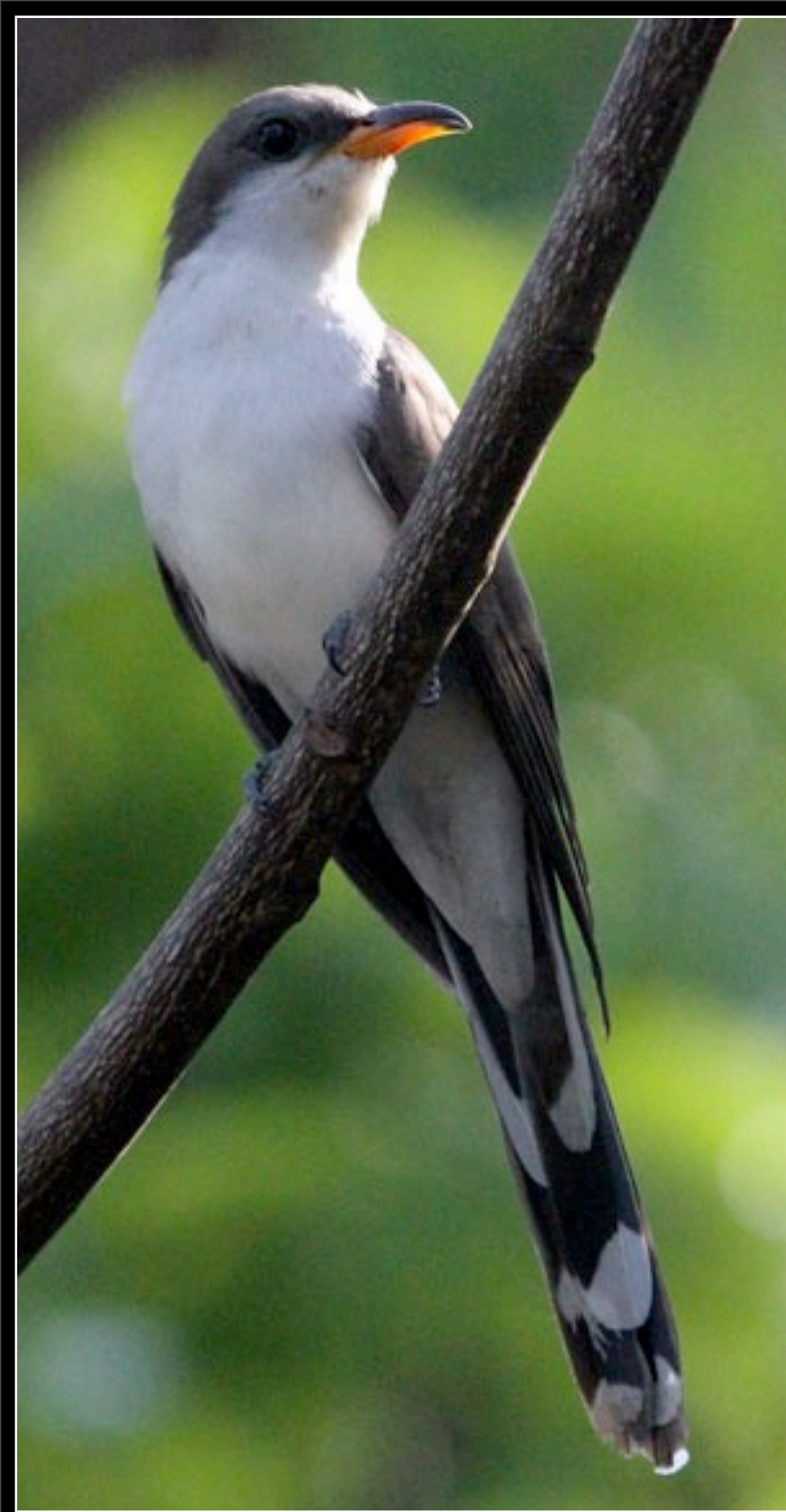




# Yellow-billed Cuckoo

*Coccyzus americanus*





no rufous  
in primaries

Pearly-breasted Cuckoo  
*Coccyzus euleri*



# Pearly-breasted Cuckoo *Coccyzus euleri*

Pearly-breasted Cuckoo is a widespread species of the lowlands of eastern tropical South America. Pearly-breasted Cuckoo is a slim, long-tailed bird, largely brown above and pearly white below with a black and yellow bill. It is found in a variety of forest habitats from sea level up to 2000 meters in elevation. Unlike some other cuckoo species, Pearly-breasted Cuckoo is not reported to be a nest parasite.







Greater Ani  
*Crotophaga ani*





Smooth-billed Ani  
*Crotophaga ani*





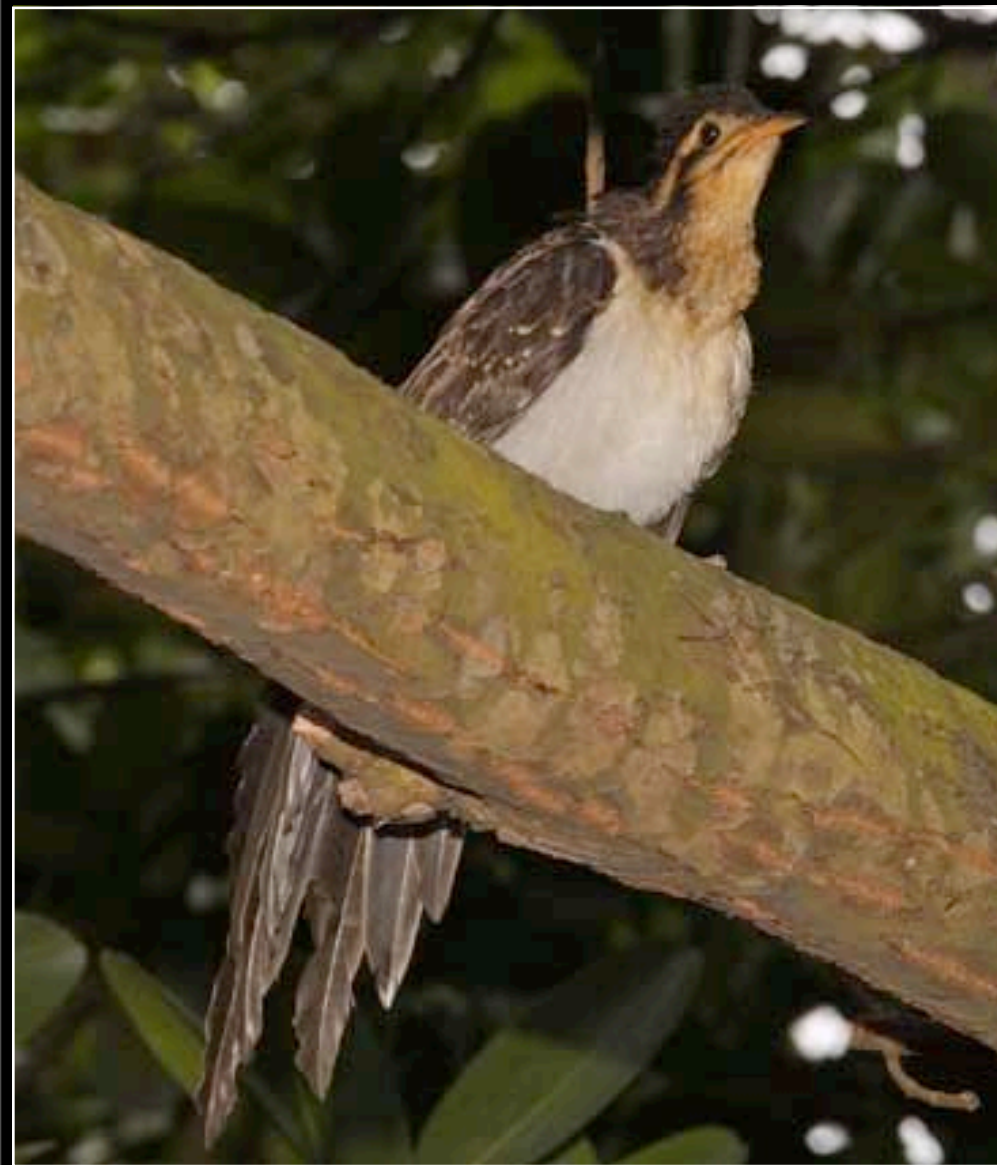
Guira Cuckoo  
*Guira guira*





Striped Cuckoo  
*Tapera naevia*





Pheasant Cuckoo  
*Dromococcyx phasianellus*





Pavonine Cuckoo  
*Dromococcyx pavoninus*





# TYTONIDAE





Barn Owl  
*Tyto alba*



# STRIGIDAE





Tropical Screech-Owl  
*Megascops choliba*



Spectacled Owl  
*Pulsatrix perspicillata*

adult



juvenile



adult





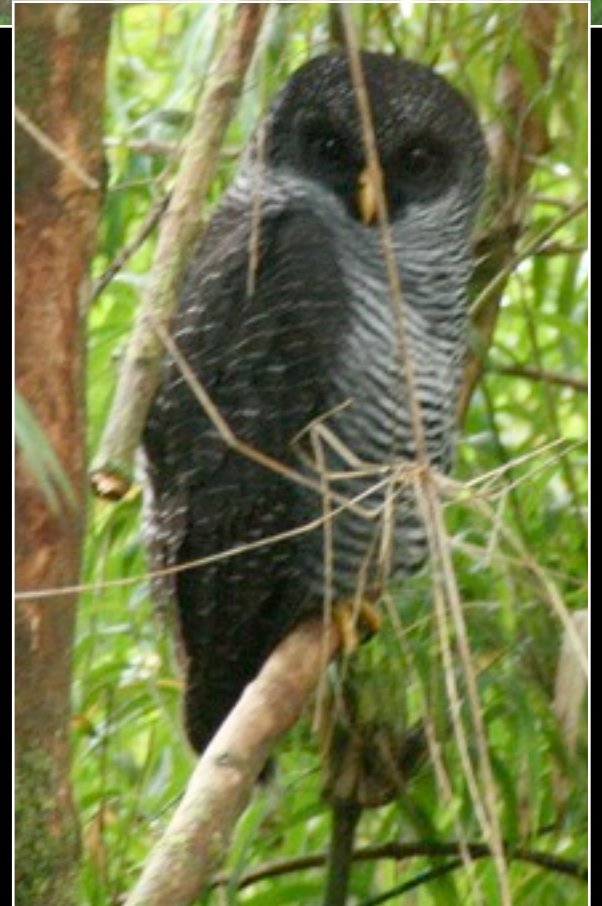
**Great Horned Owl**  
*Bubo virginianus*





Mottled Owl  
*Ciccaba virgata*





Black-banded Owl  
*Ciccaba huhula*





Amazonian Pygmy-Owl  
*Glaucidium hardyi*





Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl  
*Glaucidium brasilianum*





**Burrowing Owl**  
*Athene cunicularia*





Buff-fronted Owl  
*Aegolius harrisii*



# Buff-fronted Owl

## *Aegolius harrisii*

The Buff-fronted Owl is both a highly attractive and very poorly known owl, and is the sole member of the genus *Aegolius* to occur in South America. Its range there is rather widespread, but apparently highly disjunct, the species occurring in the Andes from northwest Venezuela to northern Peru, and then, equally locally, over much of the eastern third of South America, from northeast Brazil south to northeast Argentina, and Bolivia. Over this wide range, the Buff-fronted Owl is known from a wide variety of forest types, and has been recorded from sea level to the timberline. The face and underparts are largely buffy-colored, whilst the upperparts are dark brown, marked with white spots and bars on the wings and tail, respectively. Its whistled trilling vocalization recalls that of some screech-owls.







Striped Owl  
*Pseudoscops clamator*





Stygian Owl  
*Asio stygius*





Short-eared Owl  
*Asio flammeus*





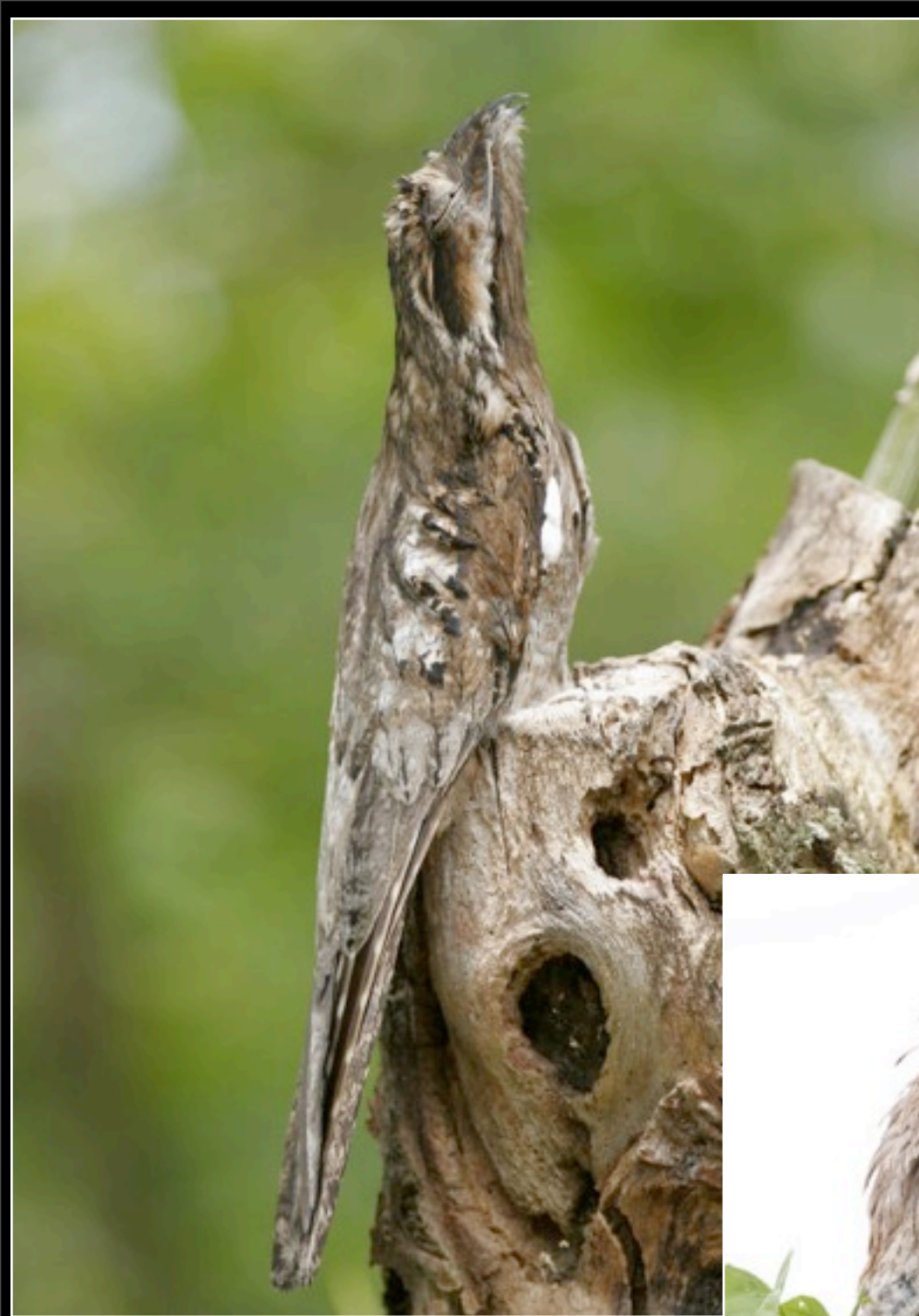
# NYCTIBIIDAE





**Great Potoo**  
*Nyctibius grandis*





Common Potoo  
*Nyctibius griseus*



# CAPRIMULGIDAE





Nacunda Nighthawk  
*Chordeiles nacunda*





Least Nighthawk  
*Chordeiles pusillus*





Lesser Nighthawk  
*Chordeiles acutipennis*







Common Nighthawk  
*Chordeiles minor*





Semicollared Nighthawk  
*Lurocalis semitorquatus*







narrow  
white  
band



**Band-tailed Nighthawk**  
*Nyctiprogne leucopyga*





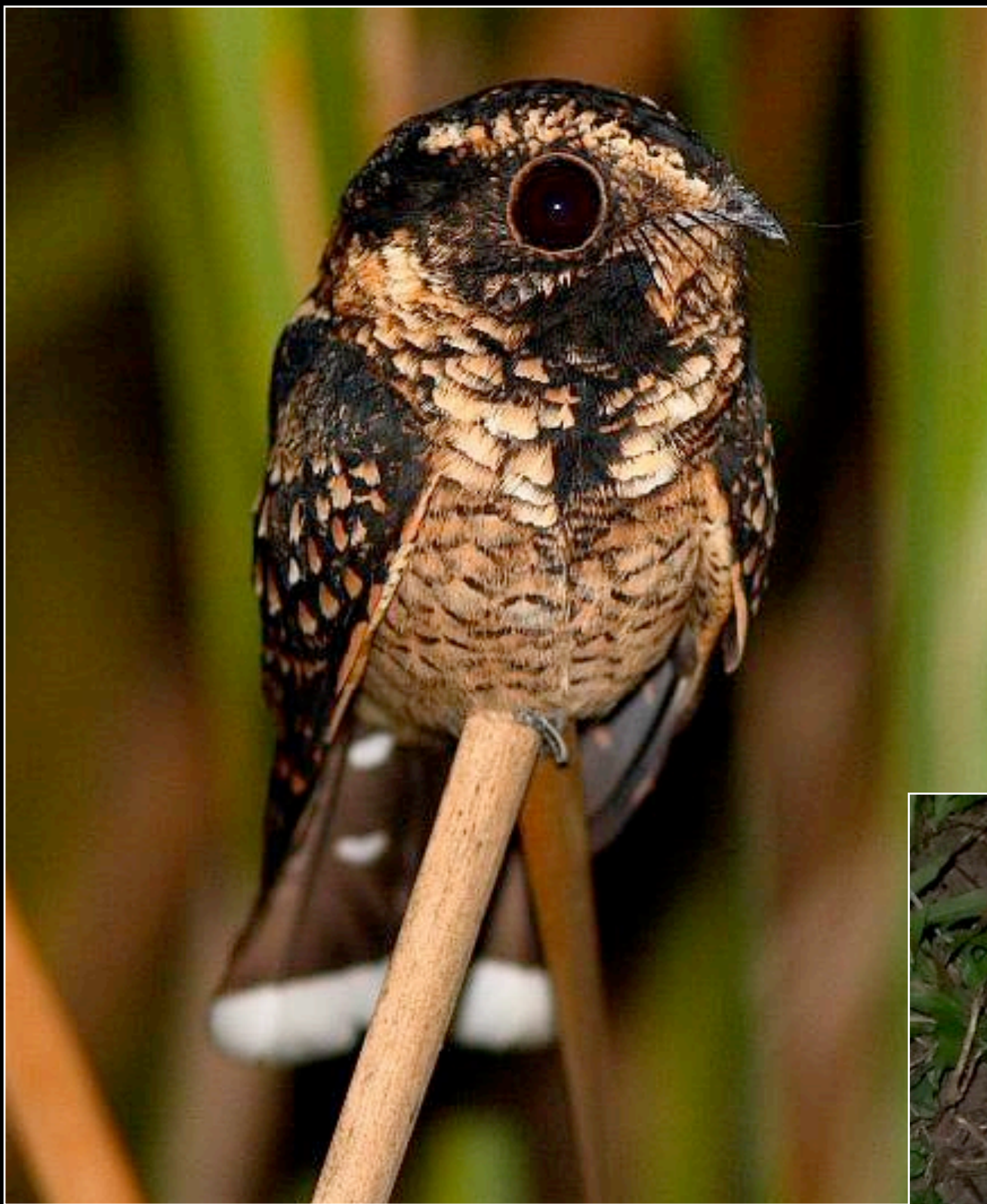
Paupraque  
*Nyctidromis albicollis*



# Little Nightjar *Setopagis parvula*







Spot-tailed Nightjar  
*Hydropsalis maculicaudus*





Scissor-tailed Nightjar  
*Hydropsalis torquata*



Ocellated Poorwill  
*Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*







Rufous Nightjar  
*Antrostomus rufus*





# APODIDAE





White-collared Swift  
*Streptoprocne zonaris*





Sick's Swift  
*Chaetura meridionalis*





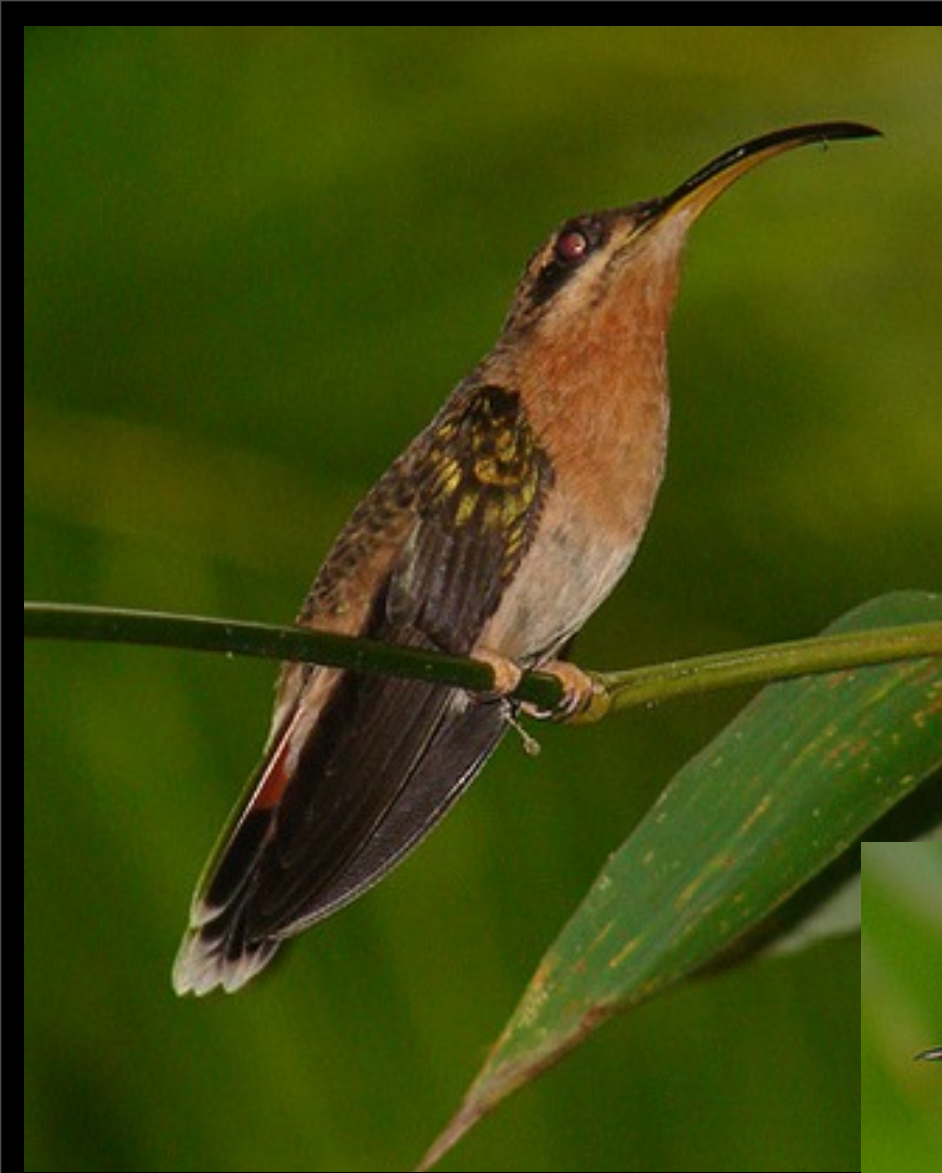
Fork-tailed  
Palm-Swift  
*Tachornis squamata*





# TROCHILIDAE





Rufous-breasted  
Hermit  
*Glaucis hirsutus*



## *Phaethornis* species of the Pantanal



Planalto Hermit  
*Phaethornis pretrei*



Buff-bellied Hermit  
*Phaethornis subochraceus*



female  
Cinnamon-throated Hermit  
*Phaethornis nattereri*



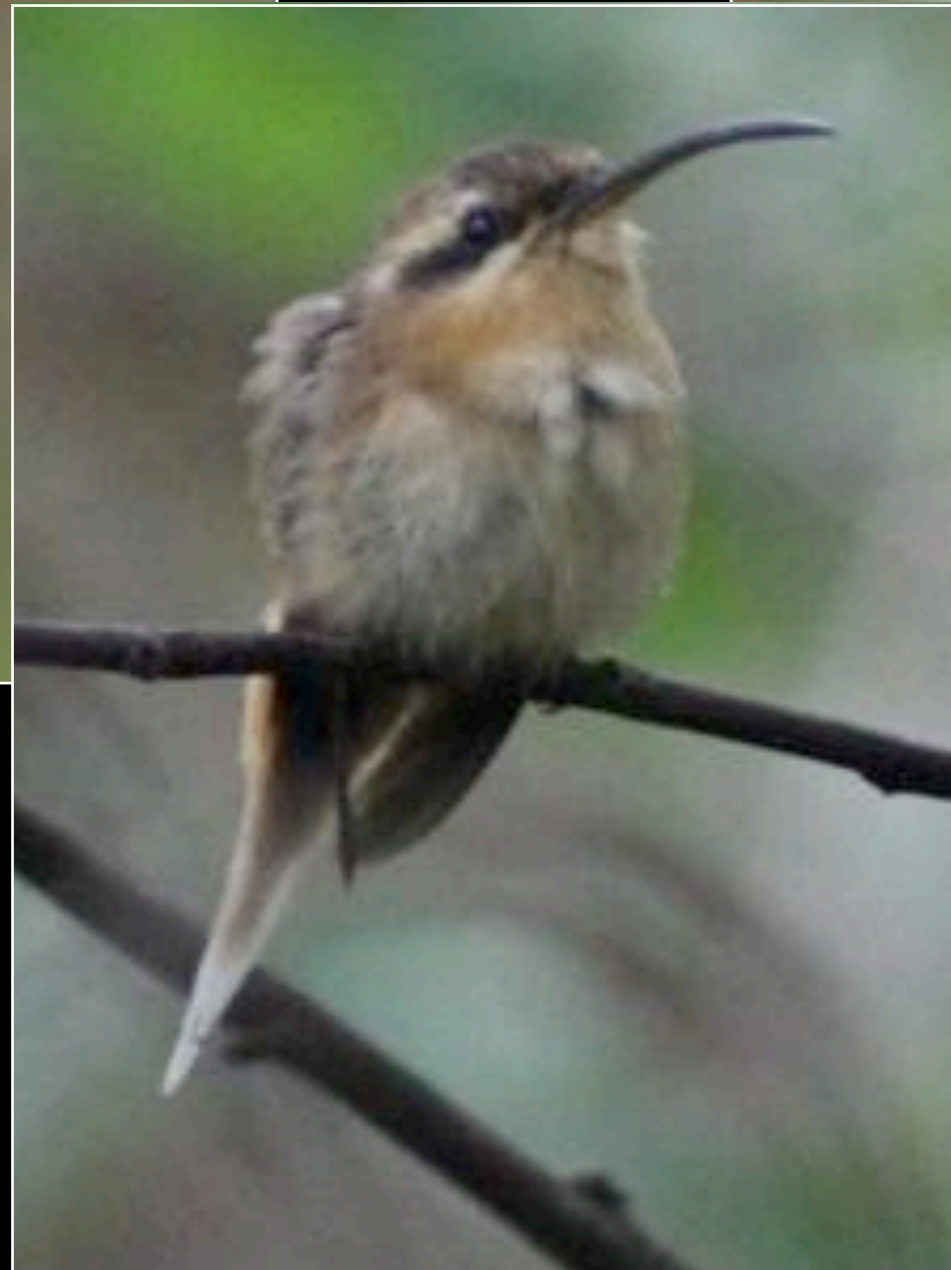
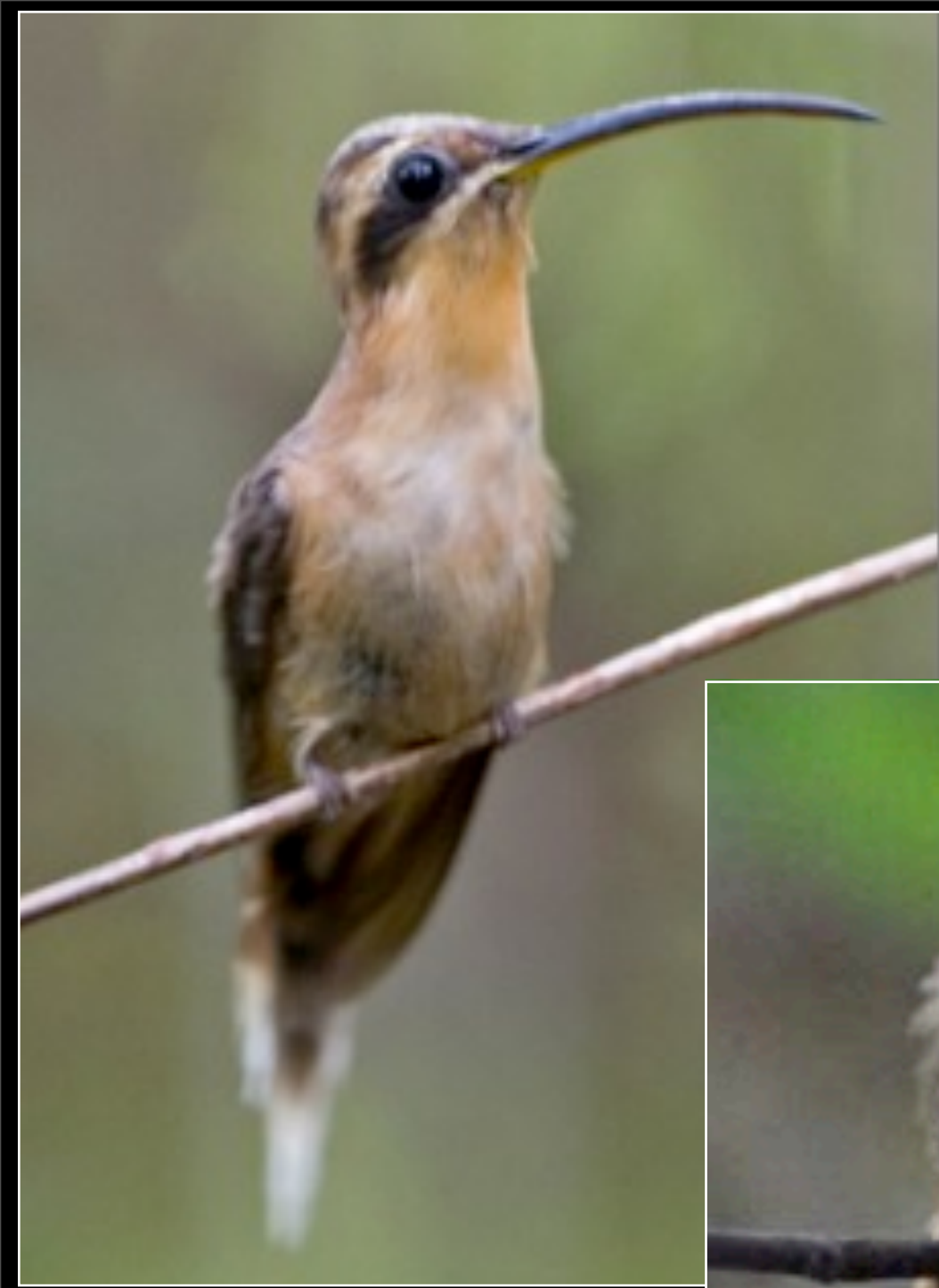
male

Reddish Hermit  
*Phaethornis ruber*



female





Cinnamon-throated Hermit  
*Phaethornis nattereri*





Reddish Hermit  
*Phaethornis ruber*

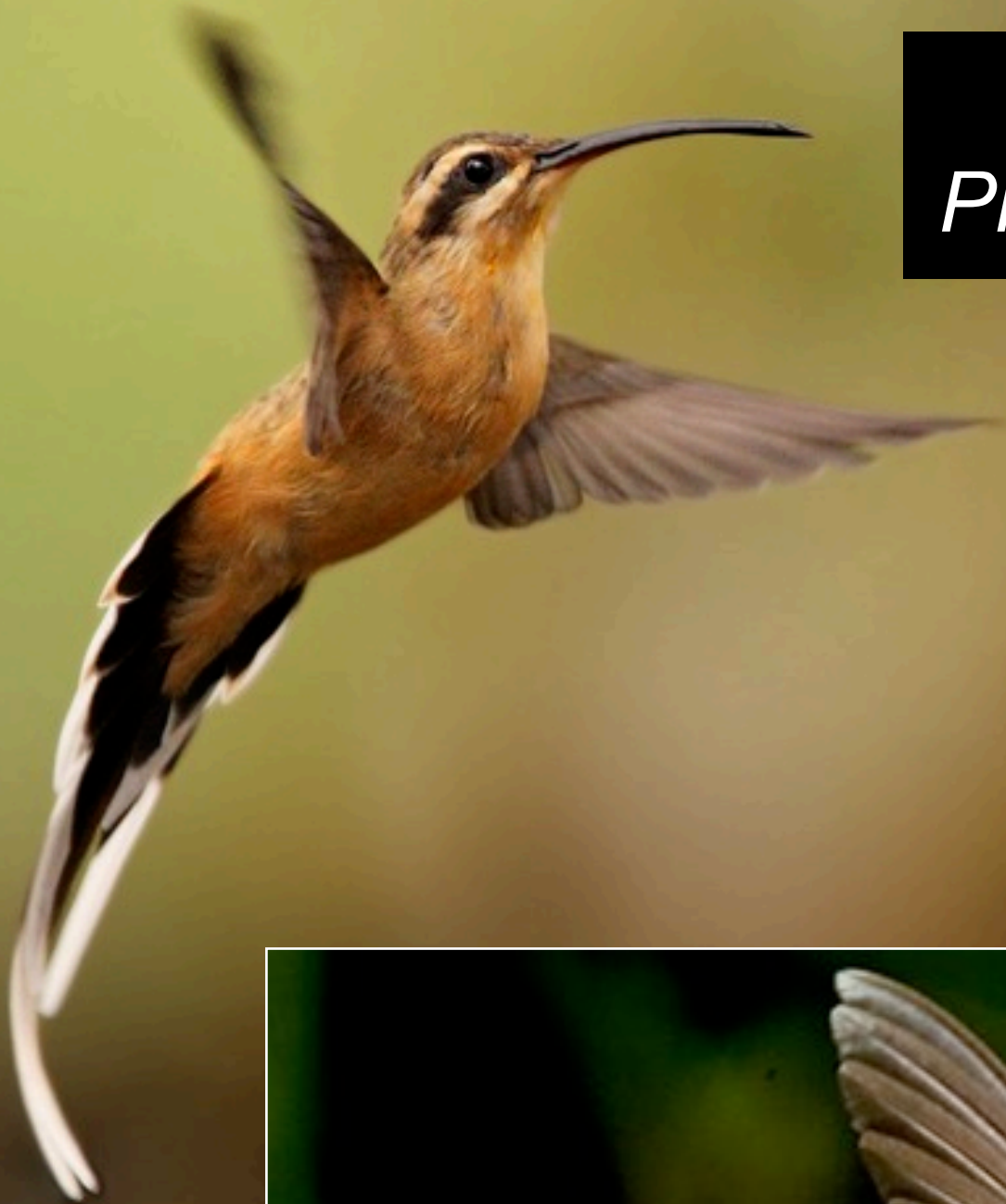




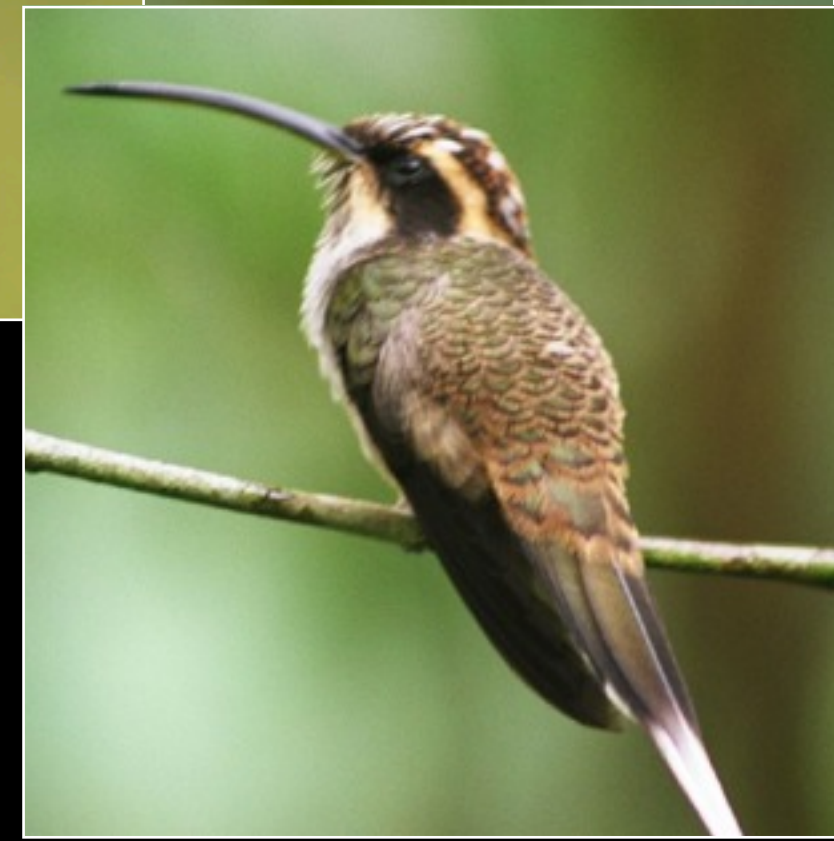
**Buff-bellied Hermit**  
*Phaethornis subochraceus*



Planalto Hermit  
*Phaethornis pretrei*







Scale-throated Hermit  
*Phaethornis eurynome*





White-vented Violetear  
*Colibri serrirostris*





White-tailed  
Goldenthrroat  
*Polytmus guainumbi*





Ruby-topaz Hummingbird  
*Chrysolampis mosquitos*







male



female



male

**Black-throated Mango**  
*Anthracothorax nigricollis*



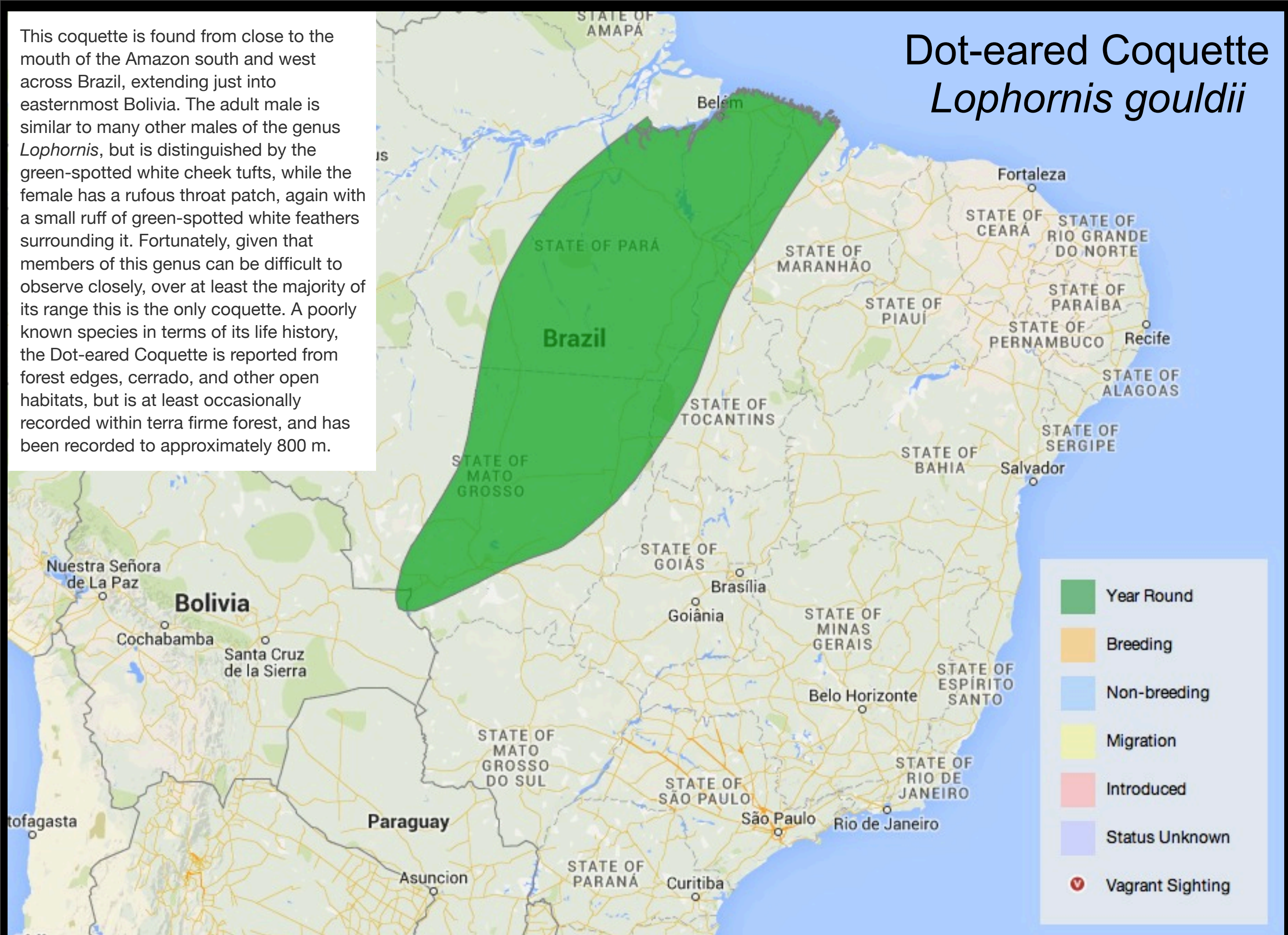
Dot-eared Coquette  
*Lophornis gouldii*



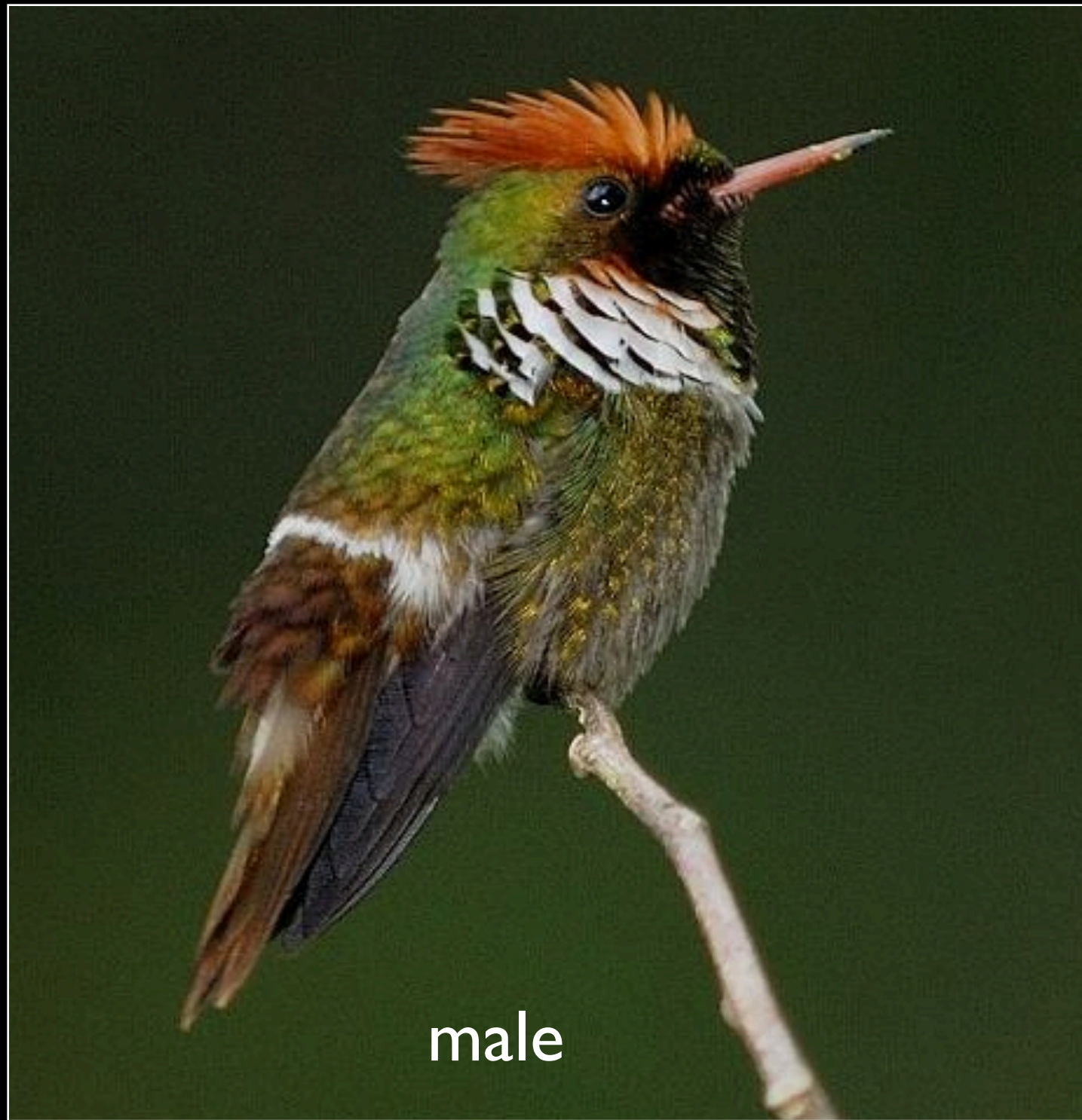


# Dot-eared Coquette *Lophornis gouldii*

This coquette is found from close to the mouth of the Amazon south and west across Brazil, extending just into easternmost Bolivia. The adult male is similar to many other males of the genus *Lophornis*, but is distinguished by the green-spotted white cheek tufts, while the female has a rufous throat patch, again with a small ruff of green-spotted white feathers surrounding it. Fortunately, given that members of this genus can be difficult to observe closely, over at least the majority of its range this is the only coquette. A poorly known species in terms of its life history, the Dot-eared Coquette is reported from forest edges, cerrado, and other open habitats, but is at least occasionally recorded within terra firme forest, and has been recorded to approximately 800 m.







male



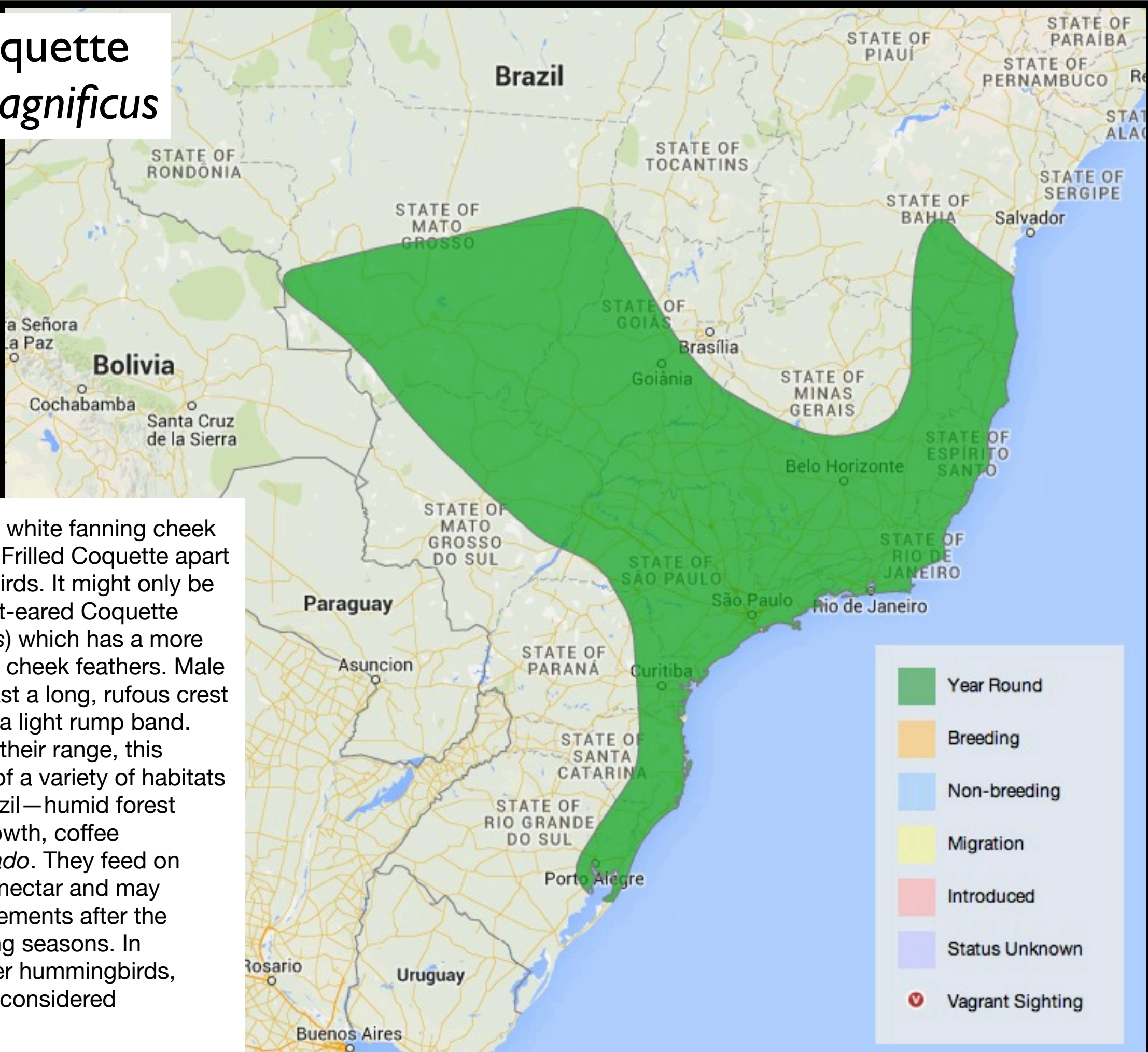
female

Frilled Coquette  
*Lophornis magnificus*



# Frilled Coquette

*Lophornis magnificus*



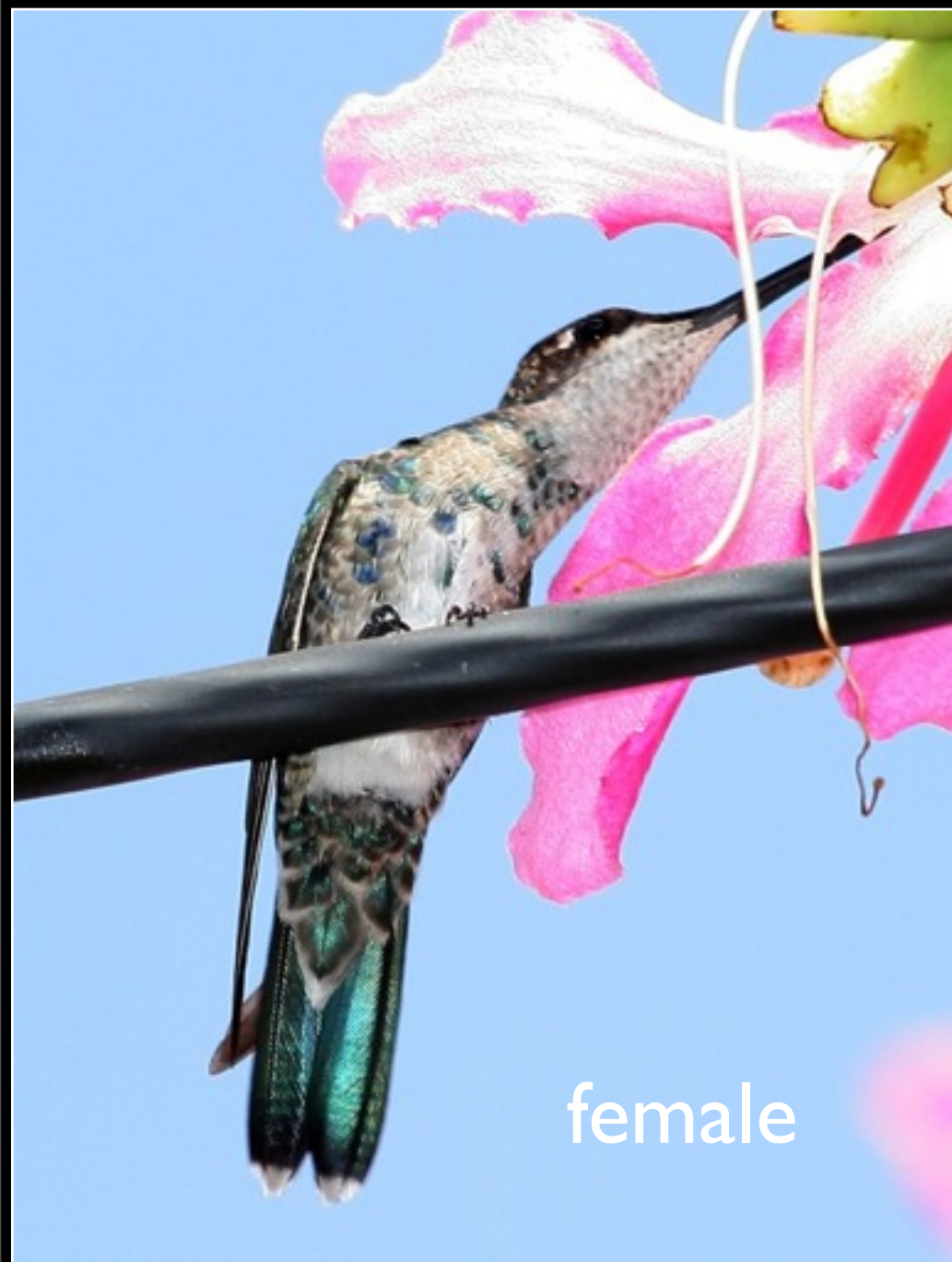
The ornate green and white fanning cheek feathers set the male Frilled Coquette apart from most hummingbirds. It might only be confused with the Dot-eared Coquette (*Lophornis magnificus*) which has a more dot-like pattern on its cheek feathers. Male Frilled Coquettes boast a long, rufous crest and both sexes have a light rump band. Common throughout their range, this species is a denizen of a variety of habitats in central eastern Brazil—humid forest edges, secondary growth, coffee plantations, and *cerrado*. They feed on both arthropods and nectar and may exhibit seasonal movements after the breeding and flowering seasons. In interactions with larger hummingbirds, Frilled Coquettes are considered subordinate.





Long-billed Starthroat  
*Heliomaster longirostris*





female



male

Miguel A. Landestoy T. 2007 ©

**Blue-tufted Starthroat**  
*Heliomaster furcifer*



male



Carlos Henrique L. M.



female



Amethyst Woodstar  
*Calliphlox amethystina*





male



female

**Glittering-bellied Emerald**  
*Chlorostilbon lucidus*



male





Hummingbird (nominant race), Aguas de São Pedro, São Paulo, Brazil,  
© Arthur Grosset

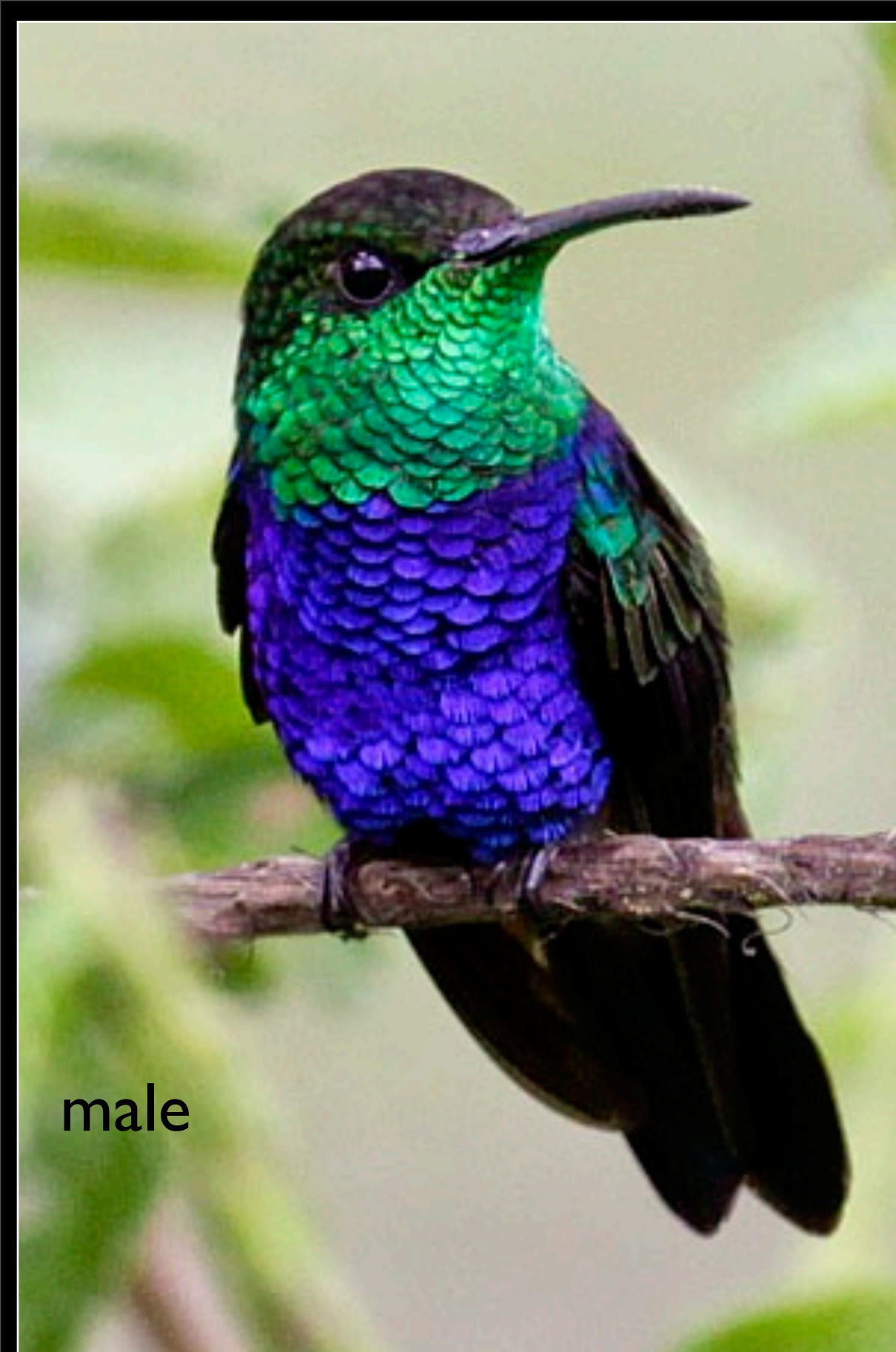


Swallow-tailed Hummingbird (race *simoni*), Porto Seguro, Bahia, Brazil, November 2008  
© Arthur Grosset



## Swallow-tailed Hummingbird *Eupetomena macroura*





male



female

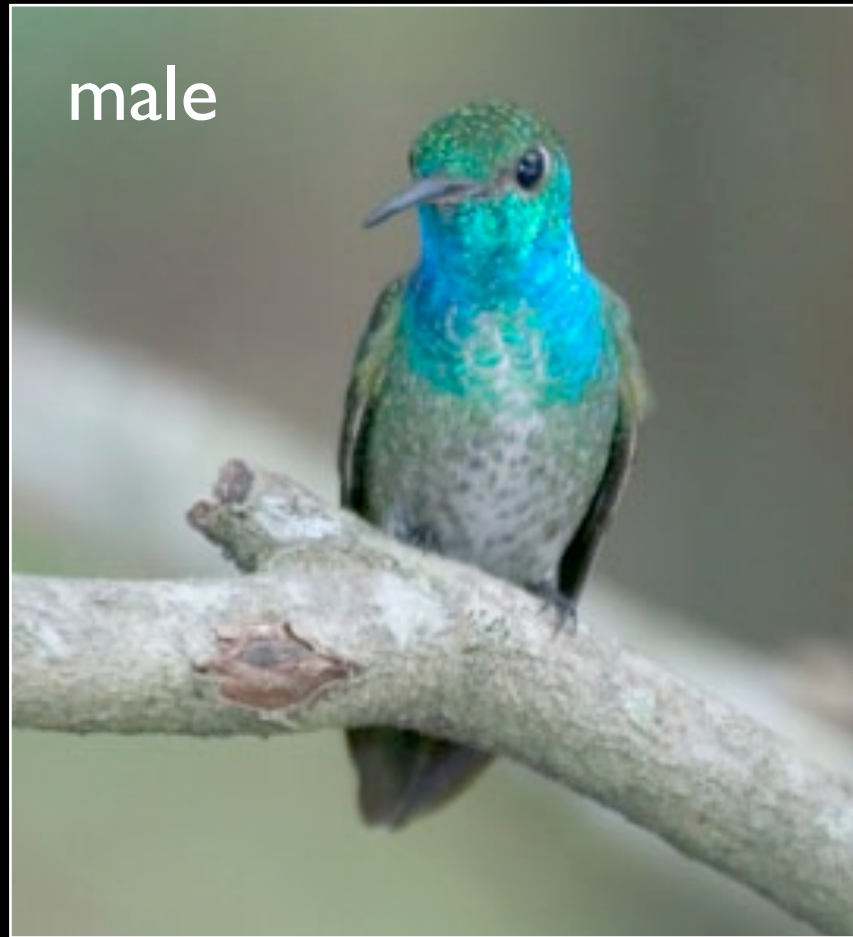
**Fork-tailed Wood-Nymph**  
*Thalurania furcata*



female



male



immature male



male

Versicolored Emerald  
*Amazilia versicolor*

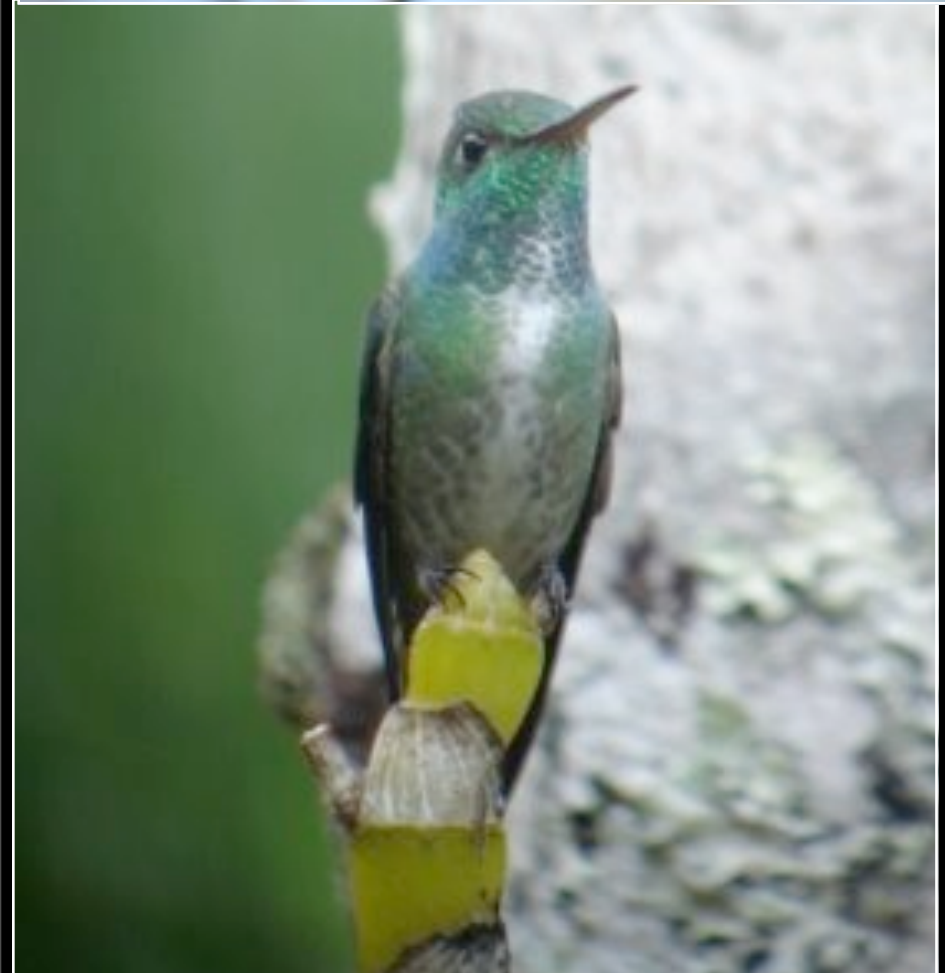


# Versicolored Emerald *Amazilia versicolor*

The Versicolored Emerald is a small species of *Amazilia* hummingbird. It is discontinuously distributed in open habitats of eastern South America, from Colombia east to the Guianas and south to northeastern Argentina and southern Brazil. This is a medium-sized hummingbird with green upperparts and white underparts; the mostly pink mandible helps to distinguish it from the very similar White-chested Emerald (*Amazilia chionopectus*). There are six subspecies of Versicolored Emerald, which vary in features such as the color of the crown (glittering green or turquoise) and throat (white, or variably green or turquoise). One poorly-known subspecies, *rondoniae* of southwestern Brazil (and northern Bolivia?), sometimes is recognized as a separate species, but geographic variation within Versicolored Emerald merits further study. Across its broad range, the Versicolored Emerald behaves as a typical *Amazilia*: it occurs at the edges of forest, in open shrubby areas, and in savannas with scattered trees or shrubs. Versicolored Emeralds feed at a wide variety of flowers; they may defend small patches of flowers, but also visit flowering trees, which attract many hummingbirds of a variety of species.







Glittering-throated  
Emerald  
*Amazilia fimbriata*



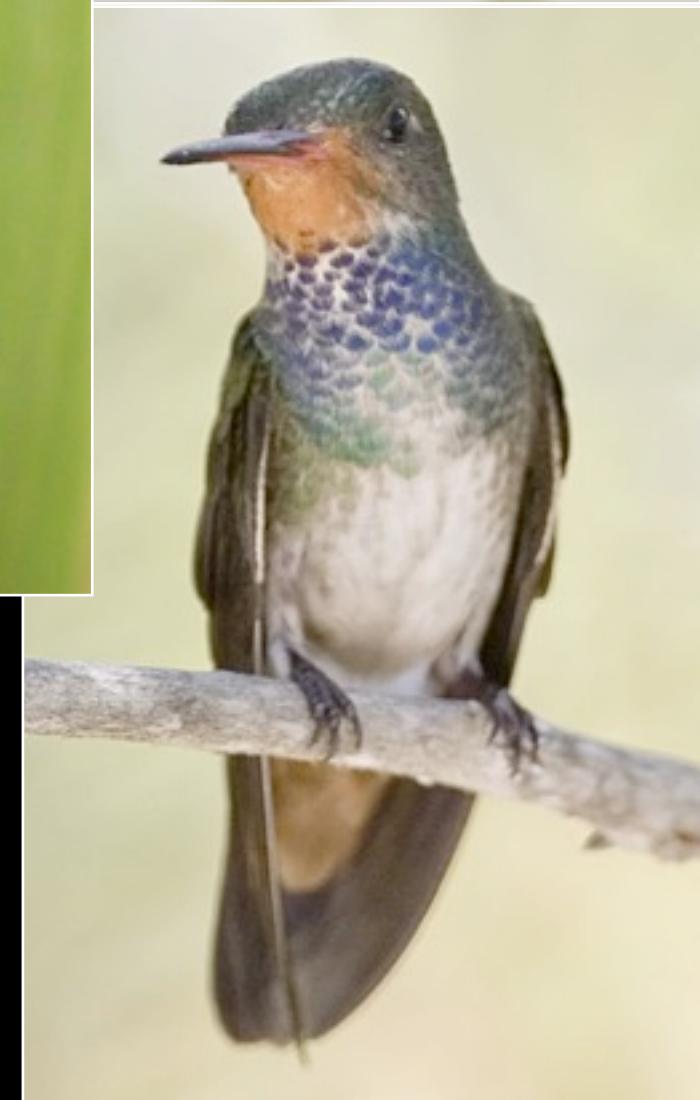
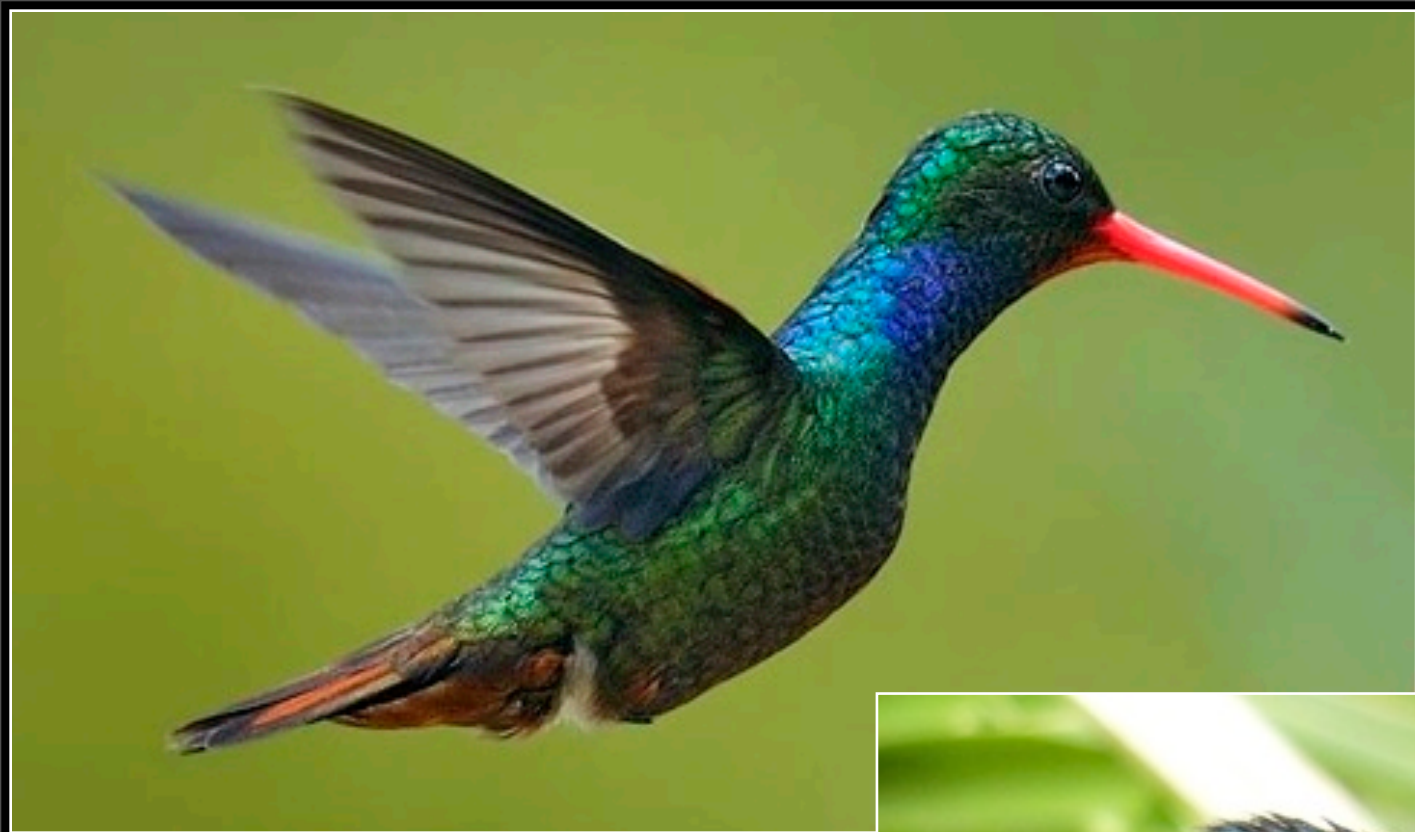


# Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*

Despite its name, the throat of the Glittering-throated Emerald is not very helpful in its identification. Overall, this emerald is fairly nondescript, but the area of white on the central and lower underparts is fairly unique. Glittering-throated Emeralds frequent the borders of dry, humid, and gallery forests, and also inhabit second growth, open woodlands, and gardens. They feed on nectar from flowering plants of all heights, and even gather nectar from a perch. These aggressive emeralds breed throughout most of the year and have an insect-like song. The southeastern Brazilian subspecies (*P. f. tephrocephala*) is perhaps the most mobile and migrates southward along the Atlantic coast.







Rufous-throated Sapphire  
*Hylocharis sapphirina*



male



male



male



female



male



White-chinned  
Sapphire  
*Hylocharis cyanus*





Gilded Hummingbird  
*Hylocharis chrysura*



# TROGONIDAE



male

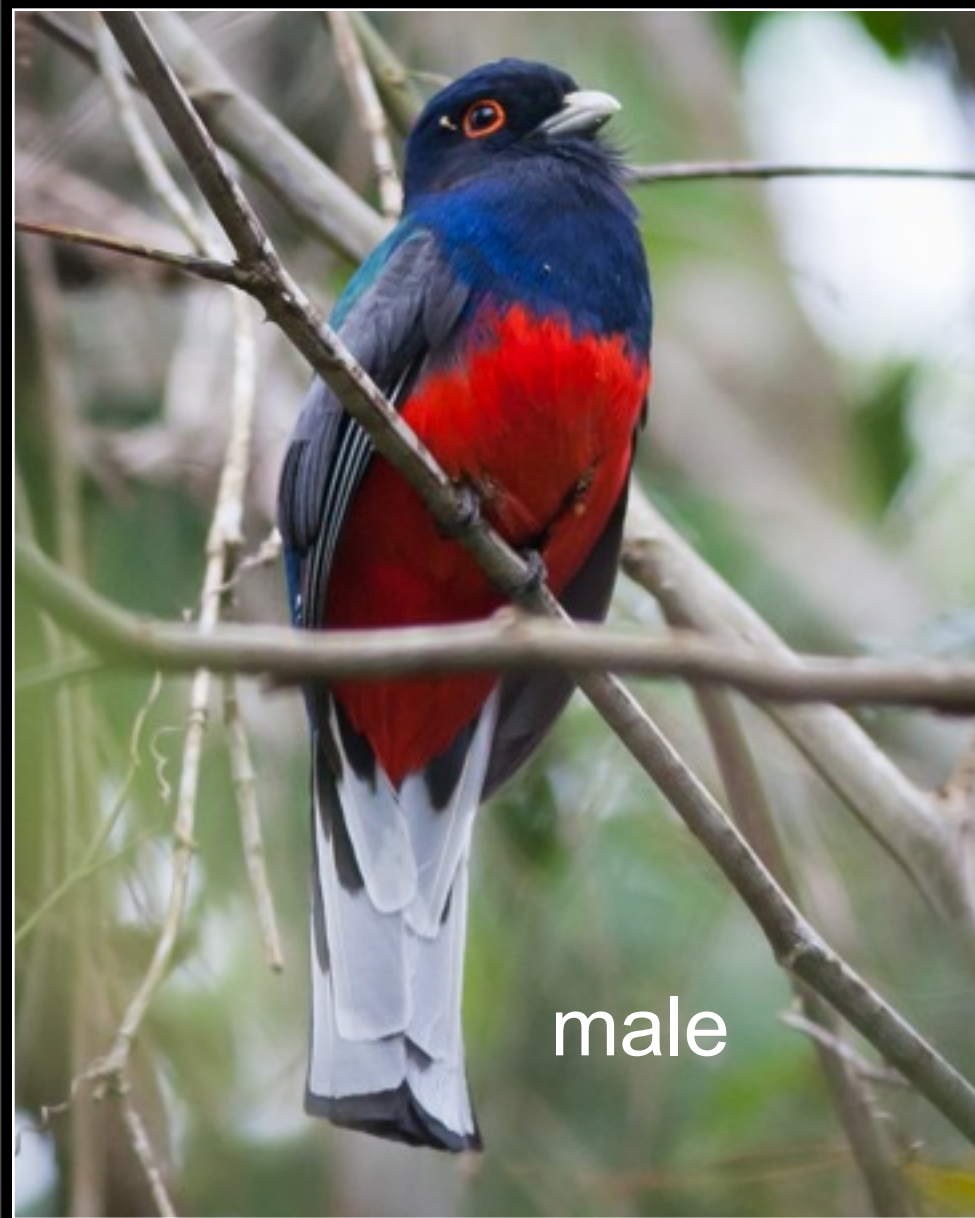


Blue-crowned Trogon  
*Trogon curucui*

female



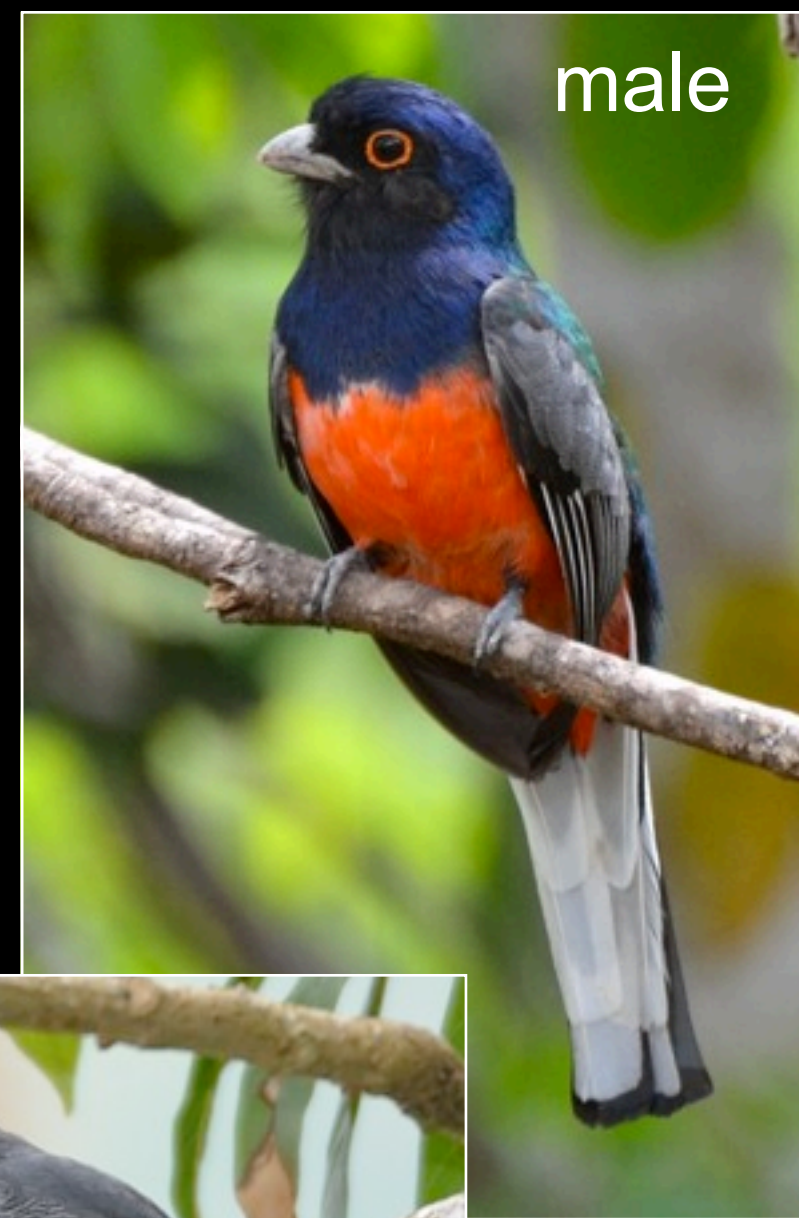




male



female



male



female

Surucua Trogon  
*Trogon surrucura*



# ALCEDINIDAE



male



Ringed Kingfisher  
*Megaceryle torquata*



female



male



Amazon Kingfisher  
*Chloroceryle amazona*

female







male



female

Green Kingfisher  
*Chloroceryle americana*



female

Green and Rufous  
Kingfisher  
*Chloroceryle inda*

male

photos by Eduardo del Solar



American Pygmy Kingfisher  
*Chloroceryle aenea*





# MOMOTIDAE





© Robert Scanlon

Blue-crowned Motmot  
*Momotus momota*





# GALBULIDAE



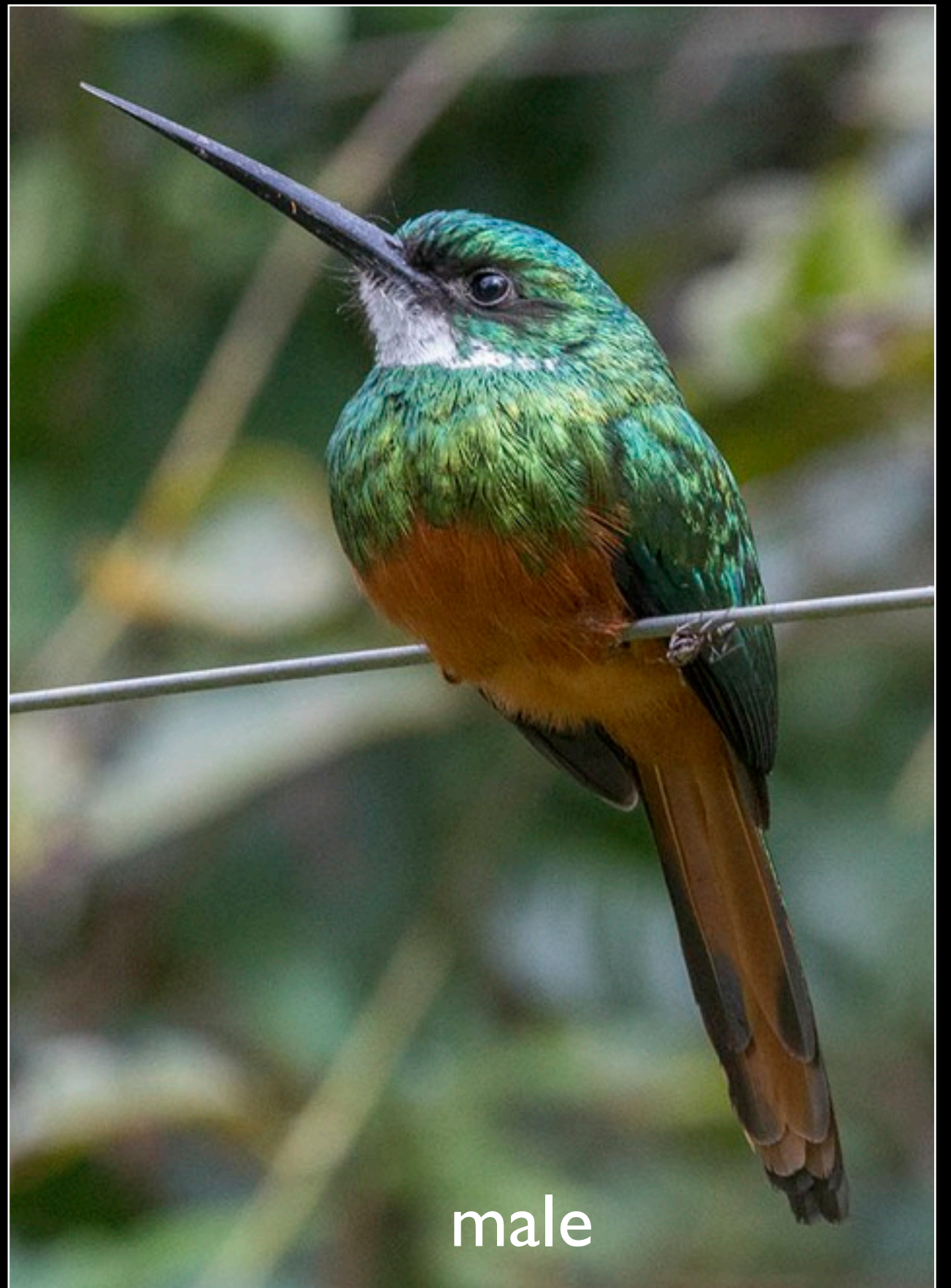


Brown Jacamar  
*Brachygalba lugubris*





female



male

Rufous-tailed Jacamar  
*Galbula ruficauda*



# BUCCONIDAE





White-eared Puffbird  
*Nystalus chacuru*





Spot-backed Puffbird  
*Nystalus maculatus*





Black-fronted Nunbird  
*Monasa nigrifrons*





Swallow-wing  
*Chelidoptera tenebrosa*



# RAMPHASTIDAE





Toco Toucan  
*Ramphastos toco*





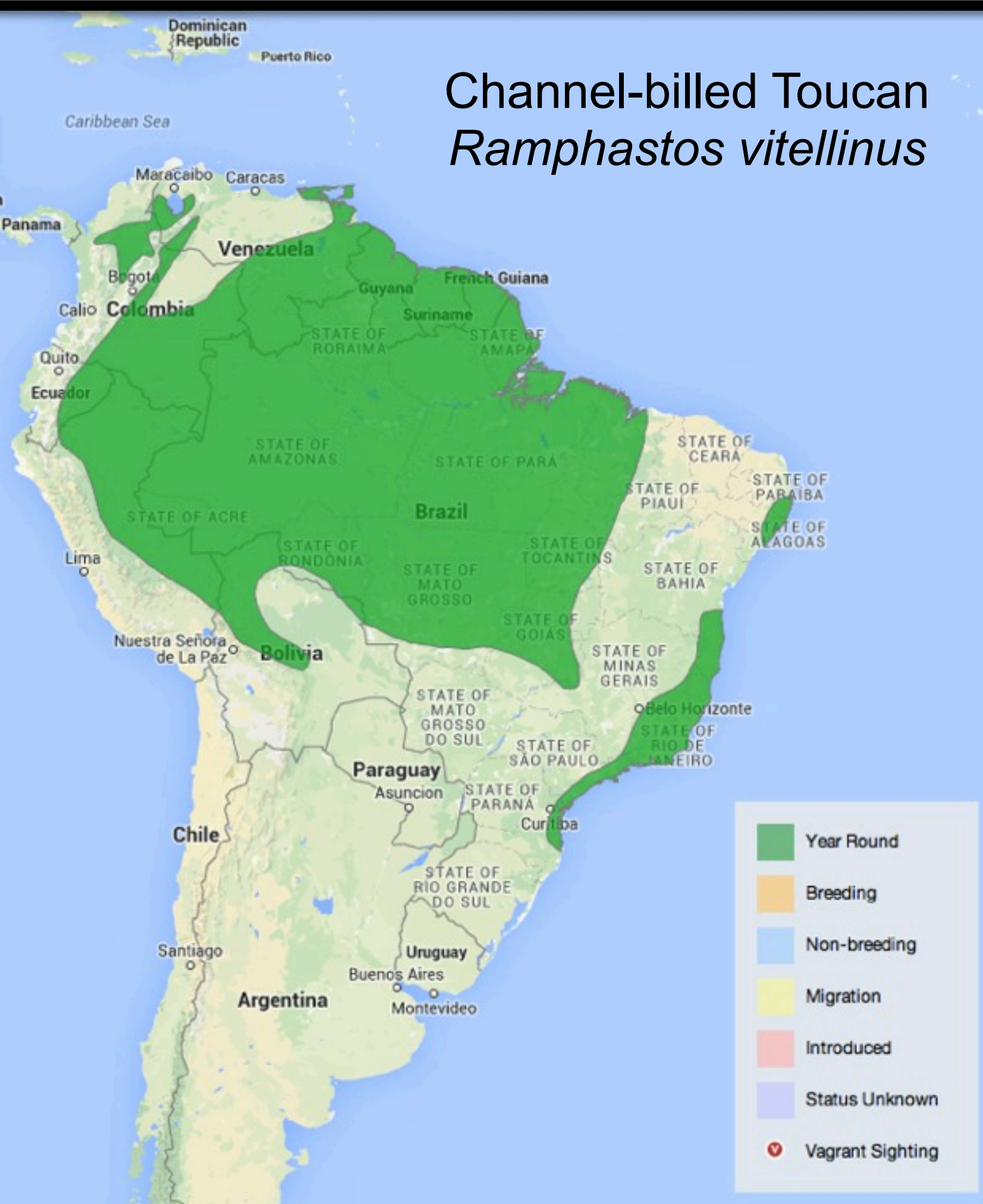
Channel-billed Toucan  
*Ramphastos vitellinus*





# Channel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos vitellinus*

Large toucans (*Ramphastos*) are divided into two groups of species, the "croakers" and the "yelpers," based on the quality of their characteristic loud vocalizations. The Channel-billed Toucan is the most widespread species of "croaker." It occurs northwestern Colombia east across most of northern and central South America, including all of Amazonia; and also is found in the Atlantic Forests of southeastern Brazil. The general behavior of this species is typical of large toucans. It forages in the upper levels of humid lowland forest, consuming a varied diet of fruit, large arthropods, and small vertebrates (such as nestlings and eggs of smaller birds, frogs, and roosting bats). They usually travel solitarily or in pairs, but may form small flocks, and also join aggregations of other species (including other species of toucans) in fruiting trees. Across most of its range, the Channel-billed Toucan overlaps with a larger species in the "yelping" group, the White-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*). In eastern South America, the two species can be distinguished by the color of the breast and of the bill, but in western Amazonia, the pattern of the bill and plumage is amazingly similar in both species. Aside from the distinctly different voices of the two, the bill of the Channel-billed Toucan is relatively smaller than is the bill of the larger species. The Channel-billed Toucan is geographically variable, with four subspecies that differ primarily in the color of the bill, of the bare skin on the face, and of the breast and uppertail coverts. Each of these subspecies formerly was classified as a separate species, but they intergrade with one another where their ranges meet. All of the subspecies share a peculiar longitudinal groove or "channel" along the maxilla.







Red-breasted Toucan  
*Ramphastos discolorus*





# Red-breasted Toucan *Ramphastos discolorus*

The Red-breasted Toucan is the smallest species of *Ramphastos*. This also is the most southern species of toucan, occurring from east central Brazil south to eastern Paraguay and northeastern Argentina. In parts of its range, in southeastern Brazil, the Red-breasted Toucan overlaps geographically with a distinctive subspecies (*ariel*) of Channel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos vitellinus*). Both of these toucans are superficially similar, with an orange throat and breast, red belly and tail coverts, and red orbital skin. But they easily can be distinguished by bill color: mostly black in Channel-billed, and mostly light green in Red-breasted. These two species also have similar "croaking" vocalizations, although the calls of Red-breasted are more raucous. The two species tend to segregate by elevation, with Red-breasted in montane forests and Channel-billed restricted to the lowlands.







female



female

male

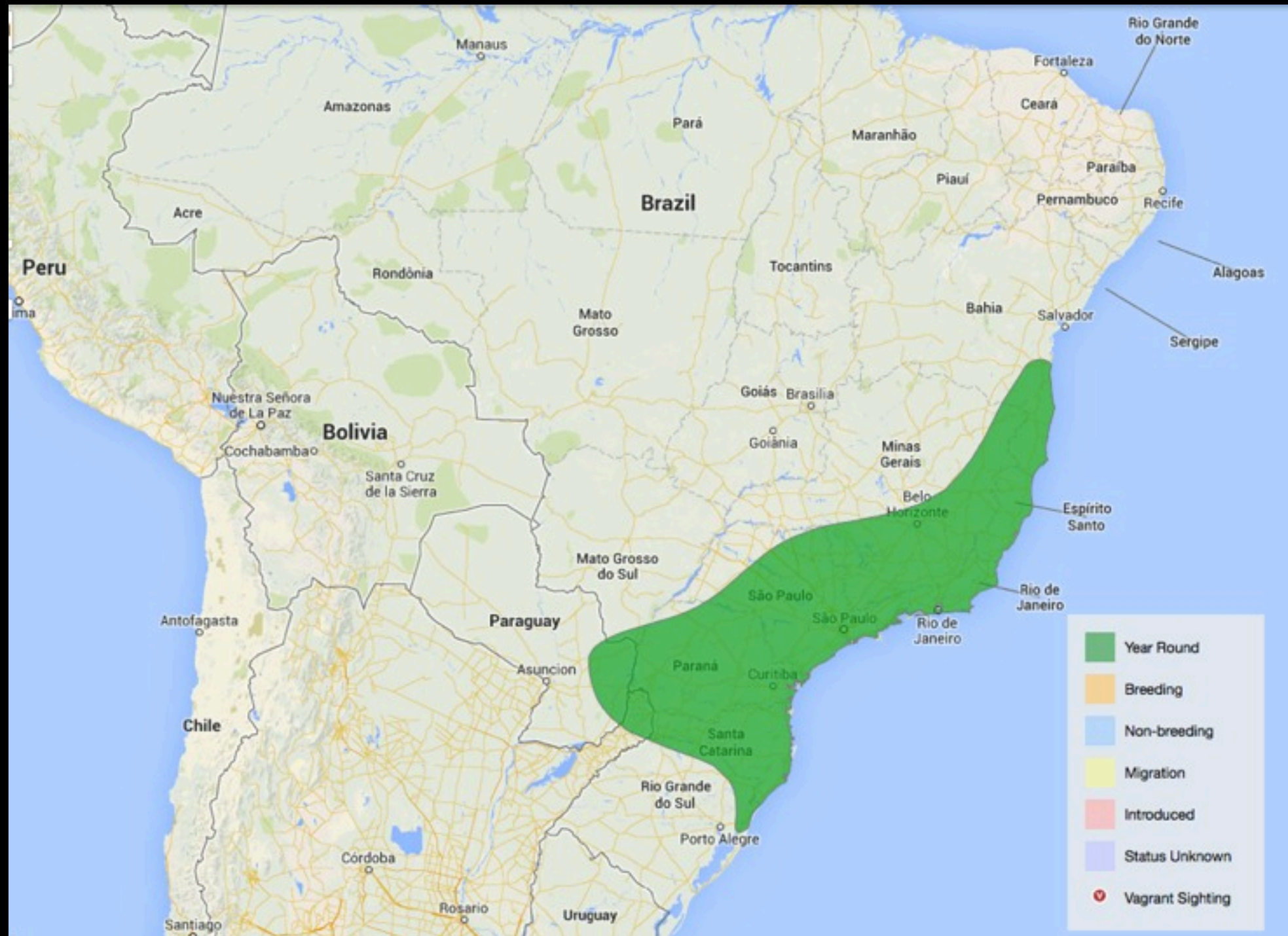


male

Spot-billed Toucanet  
*Selenidera maculirostris*



*Selenidera* are small, stocky, relatively short-billed toucans of Central and South America; the Spot-billed Toucanet is the *Selenidera* that occurs in southeastern Brazil and in adjacent Paraguay and Argentina. The Spot-billed Toucanet is one of several species of *Selenidera* in which the iris is mostly yellow, except for dark spots just before and behind the pupil; this gives the eerie effect of having a slit-shaped pupil. The plumage of many species of *Selenidera* are very similar. The plumage of both sexes of the Spot-billed Toucanet is almost identical to that of Gould's Toucanet (*Selenidera gouldii*) of central Amazonian Brazil, but the two species differ in the color pattern of the bill: the bill of Spot-billed Toucanet is mostly pale with a series of large black spots or stripes. The Spot-billed Toucanet usually is in pairs and forages for a variety of fruit in the canopy of humid lowland forest and in adjacent advanced second growth.



## Spot-billed Toucanet *Selenidera maculirostris*





Chestnut-eared  
Aracari  
*Pteroglossus castanotis*

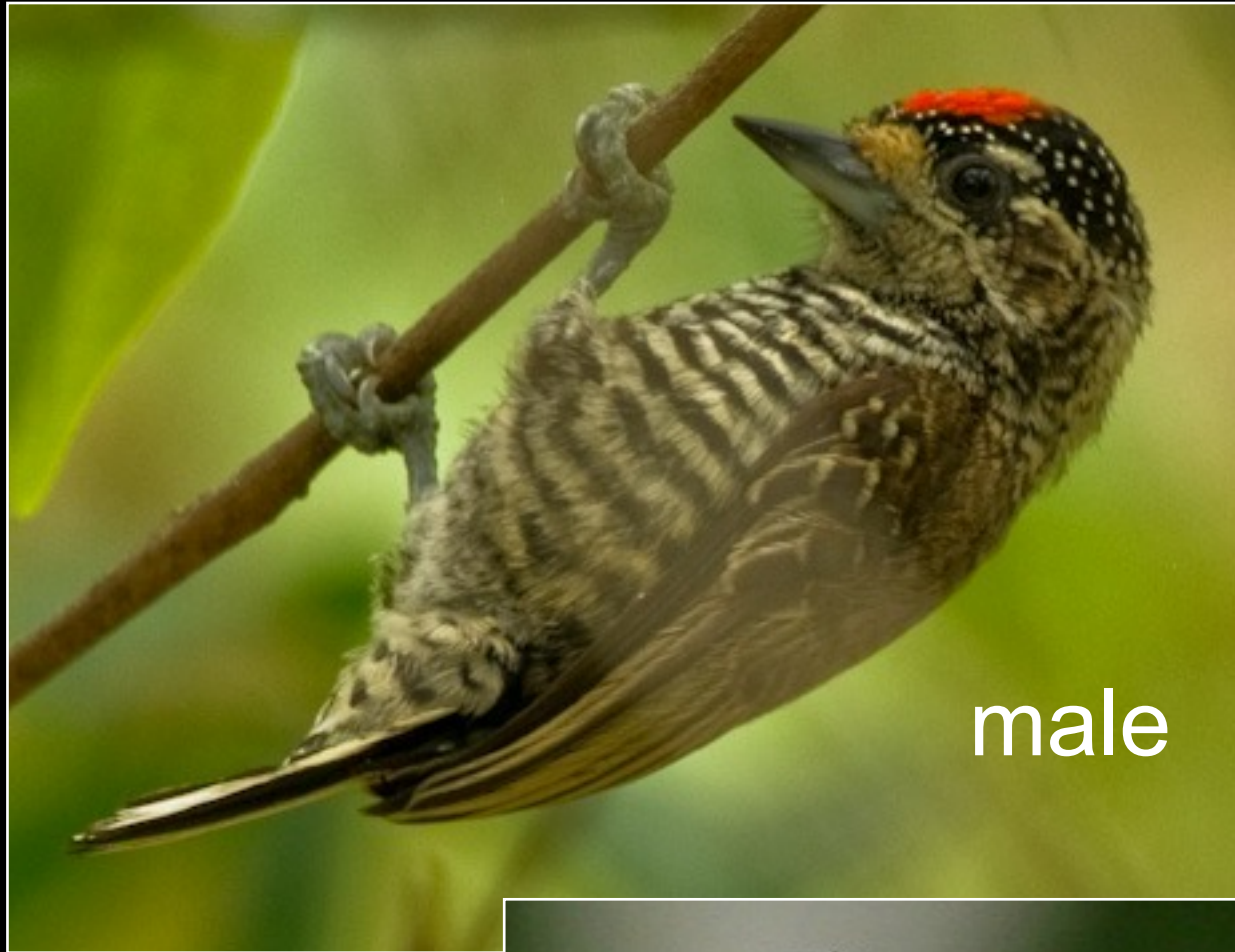


# PICIDAE





male



male



female

**Bar-breasted Piculet**  
*Picumnus aurifrons*



# Bar-breasted Piculet *Picumnus aurifrons*

Bar-breasted Piculets inhabit humid forests, including *terra firme* and *várzea*, and prefer edges, second growth, and clearings. These yellowish green piculets have horizontal barring on the chest and vertical streaking on the belly. Several different subspecies exist throughout their large range. Unfortunately, very little is known about their life history and basic ecology.





male

male

White-barred Piculet  
*Picumnus cirratus*

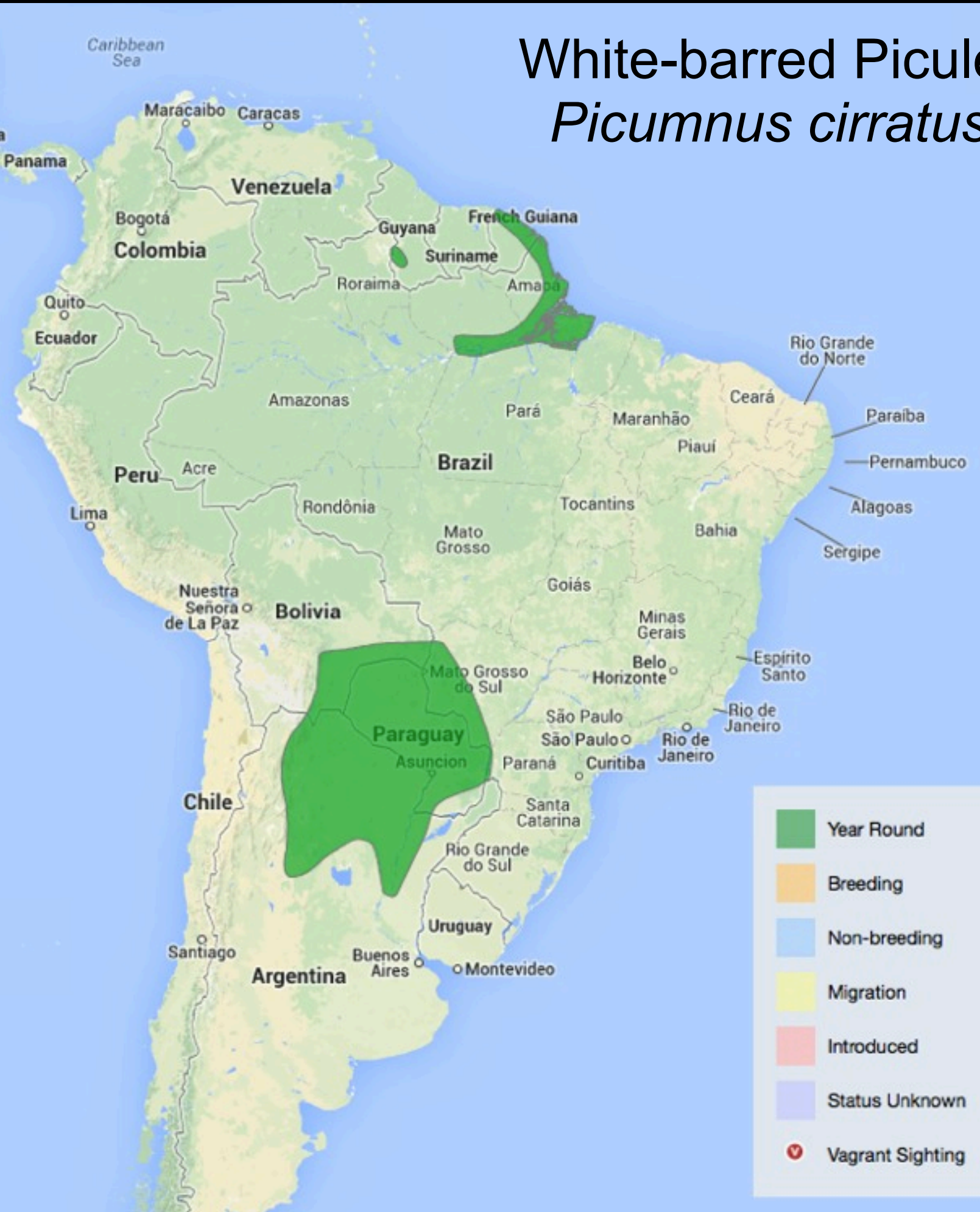
male

female



# White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus*

The White-barred Piculet inhabits open forest and scrub. This species has a disjunct distribution, with populations in northern South America in southwestern Guyana, and in French Guiana and northeastern Brazil; and in south central South America, from Bolivia east to southern Brazil. The White-barred Piculet has a black crown (with a red forecrown in the male), dull brown upperparts and cheek patches, and white underparts that are barred with black. Their diet consists mainly of the larvae and eggs of wood-boring beetles, as well as ants and possibly sap. White-barred Piculets forage by audibly hammering in order to excavate holes in trees and shrubs. The White-barred Piculet has a complex taxonomy; it includes three subspecies groups (in northern, south central, and southeastern South America), each of which perhaps is a separate species. The White-barred Piculet also is closely similar to several other species of piculet. The White-barred may hybridize with several other similar species of piculet where their distributions come in contact, such as with Varzea Piculet *Picumnus varzae* along the Amazon River; with Ocellated Piculet *Picumnus dorbignyanus* in Bolivia; with Ochre-collared Piculet *Picumnus temminckii* in southeastern Brazil; and with White-wedged Piculet *Picumnus albosquamatus* in Bolivia.





female



male



White-wedged Piculet  
*Picumnus albosquamatus*

male

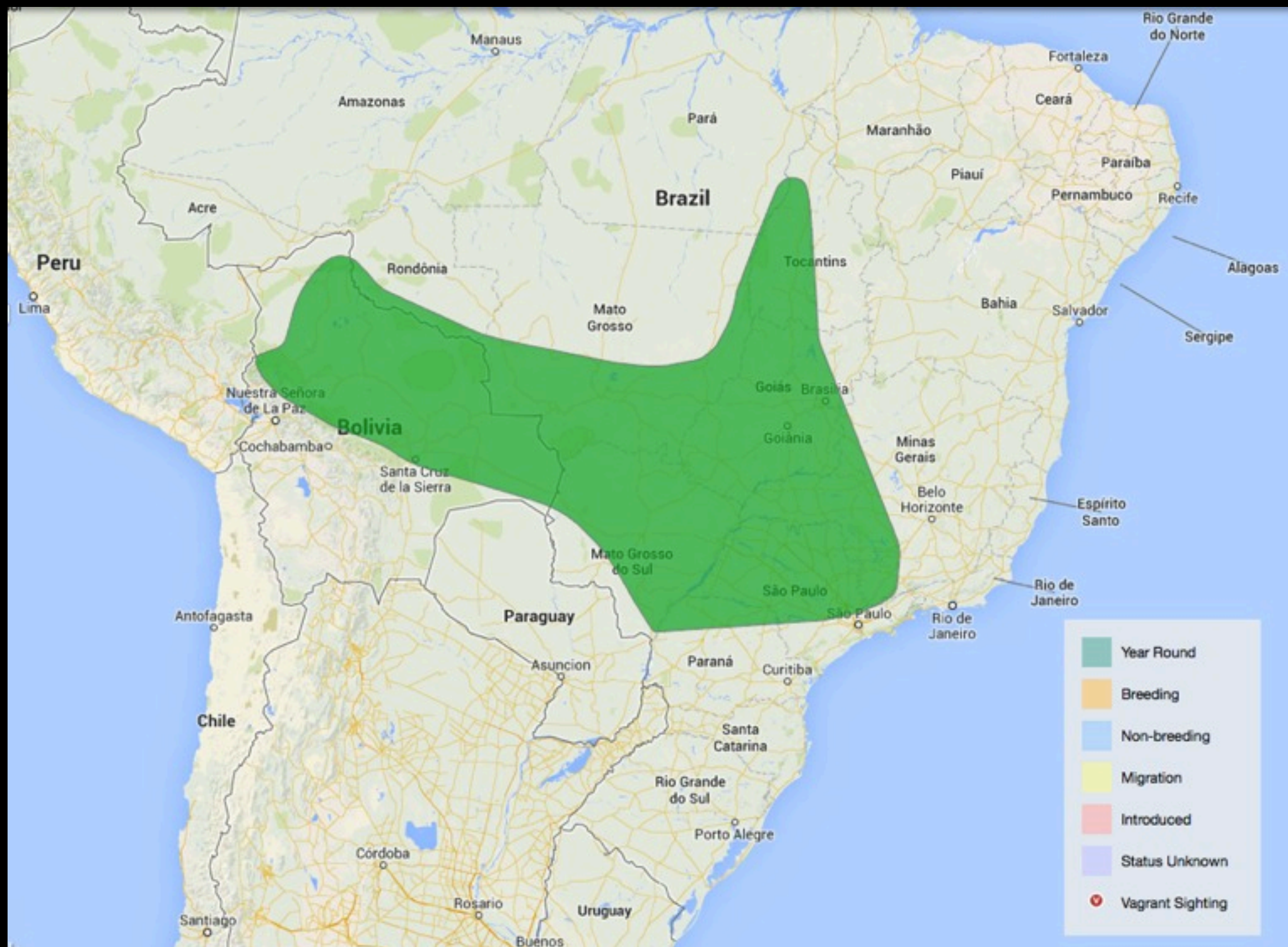


male





The White-wedged Piculet is an inhabitant of gallery forest and cerrado from central Brazil west to Bolivia and Paraguay. The White-wedged Piculet has warm brown upperparts and a black crown; the feathers of the forecrown of the male are tipped with red. The feathers of the throat and breast are white, bordered with black, forming a scaled appearance on the underparts. This piculet is similar in size and appearance to several other species of *Picumnus* in central South America, such as the White-barred Piculet *Picumnus cirratus* and the Ochre-collared Piculet *Picumnus temminckii* of southeastern South America, and with the Ocellated Piculet *Picumnus dorbignyanus* of the Andes. The White-wedged Piculet apparently hybridizes with each of these species, where their ranges adjoin. Otherwise little is known about the foraging and breeding habits of the White-wedged Piculet.



## White-wedged Piculet *Picumnus albosquamatus*





White Woodpecker  
*Melanerpes candidus*



# White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

The White Woodpecker is a distinctive inhabitant of lightly wooded savannas and grasslands and forest edge of central South American. It occurs from extreme southeastern Peru east to northeastern Brazil and south to Argentina. The White Woodpecker has a white head and white underparts, set off with yellow patches on the hindneck and belly; there is a black stripe that extends from the rear of the eye to the mantle; and has black wings and tail. The White Woodpecker typically forages in groups of 5 to 8 individuals, sometimes in mixed species flocks with members of the woodpecker genus *Colaptes*. An arboreal species, the White Woodpecker feeds predominantly on fruits and seeds, but will also feed on insects. White Woodpeckers occasionally open bee nests to get at the honey and insects within.







Yellow-tufted Woodpecker  
*Melanerpes cruentatus*

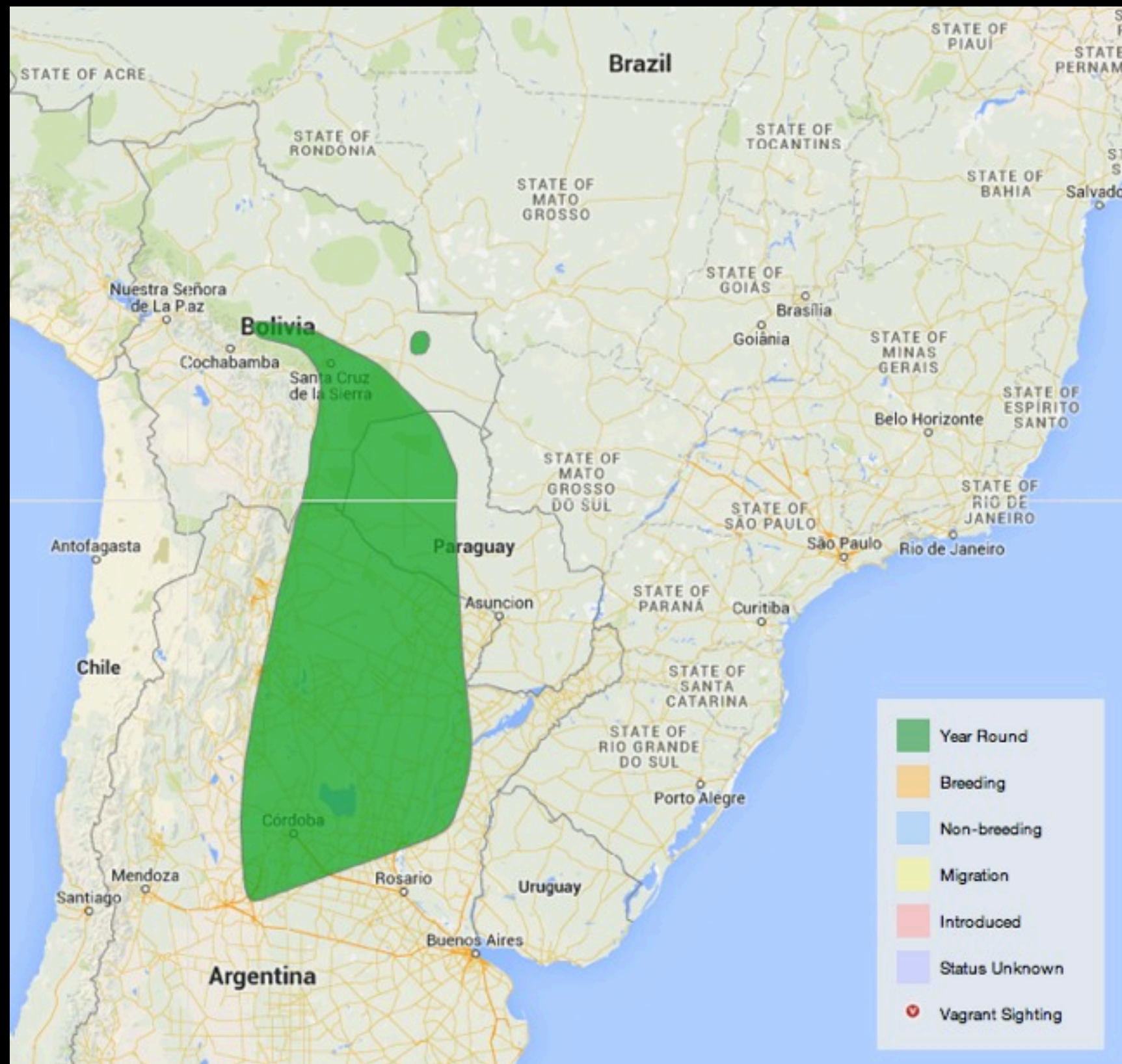




White-fronted Woodpecker  
*Melanerpes cactorum*



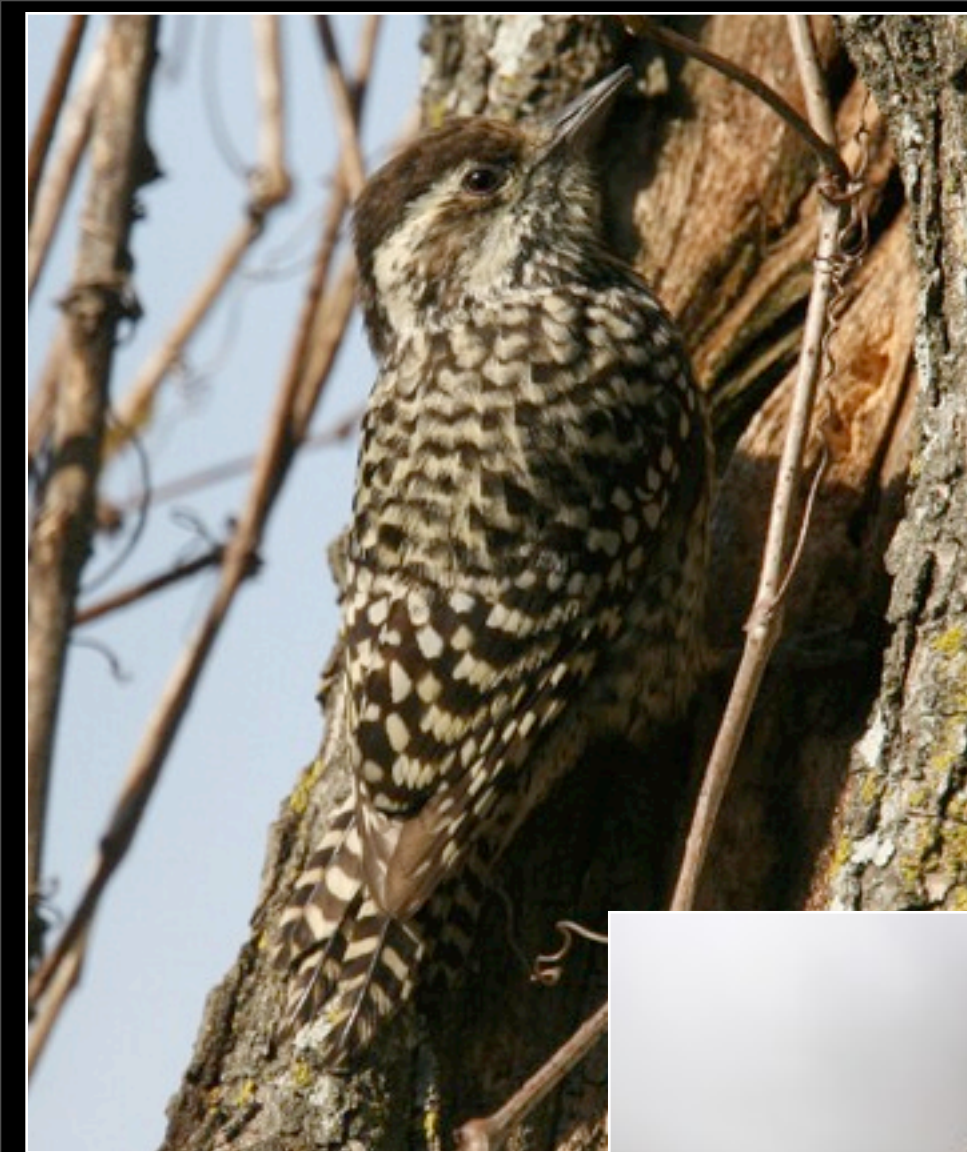
White-fronted Woodpecker is an unusual species, and perhaps this is expected as many *Melanerpes* are “oddballs” in the woodpecker world. As the scientific name implies, this species is partial to cacti, in particular large tree-like cacti that are large enough for them to use as breeding plants. In much of the range of this species, it is absolutely always near large cacti. Curiously the species appears to be spreading to the south and to the east in Buenos Aires province, Argentina and in W Uruguay, and it is spreading into areas without large cacti. Here it seems to make do with other tree species, although the habitat relationships are unstudied here where the range is spreading. It is unusual in that it is a very confiding woodpecker, easy to see where it is plentiful, and it is found in groups of 3-5. The breeding biology is unstudied, but the group size suggests that there are helpers at the nest in this species, as does the way that when together these woodpeckers often keep very short inter-individual distances, they can perch nearly touching each other. In many ways they recall Acorn Woodpeckers of farther north, although not as showy and noticeable, White-fronted Woodpeckers are definitely subdued in their behavior. They also like to keep low, often close to the ground or to eye level, not working up high in trees, even when these are available. White-fronted Woodpeckers are gorgeous, a bird that looks much more vividly colored in life than in field guides. The most obvious character is the bright lemon yellow throat, outlined in white, contrasting with the white forehead and black face.



## White-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes cactorum*



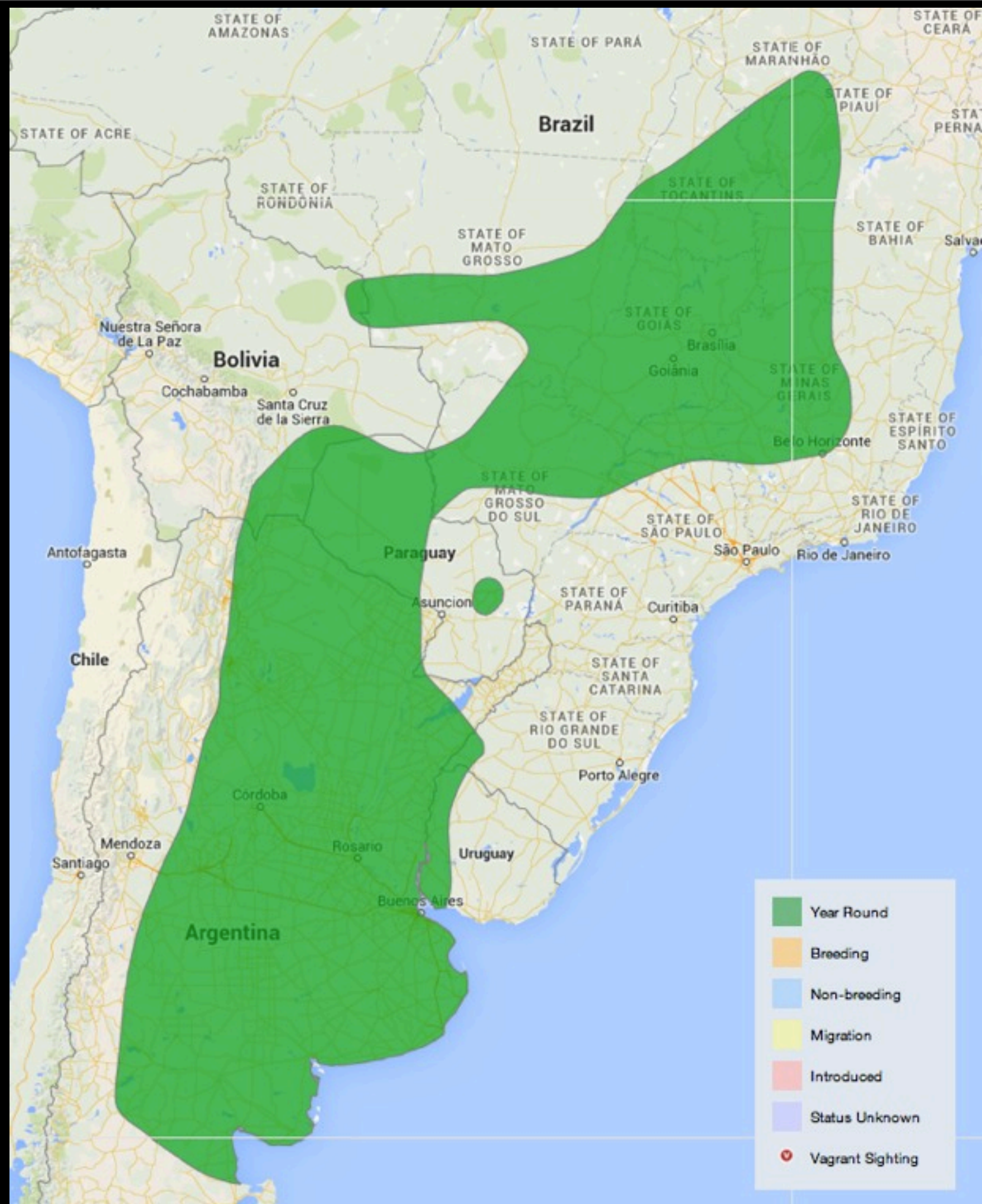
Checkered  
Woodpecker  
*Veniliornis mixtus*





# Checkered Woodpecker *Veniliornis mixtus*

The Checkered Woodpecker is a widespread but generally very localized bird, being found from central Argentina northwards across Bolivia, Paraguay and much of the Brazilian Cerrado, north almost to the Amazon, in southern Pará state. In the past, some authors have suggested that this species might be conspecific with the Striped Woodpecker (*Picoides lignarius*), which is also largely confined to South America's so-called 'Southern Cone'. The Checkered Woodpecker is a typical member of its genus in its morphology, with largely dark, white-spotted upperparts, and white underparts, variably streaked with blackish, while males have a relatively small red crown-patch; four subspecies are generally recognized, although not all are perhaps valid, principally based on the ground colour of the upperparts, and the amount and extent of streaking below. The species is usually found in semi-open woodland, including riparian areas, usually foraging alone or in pairs, which keep low above the ground.





male



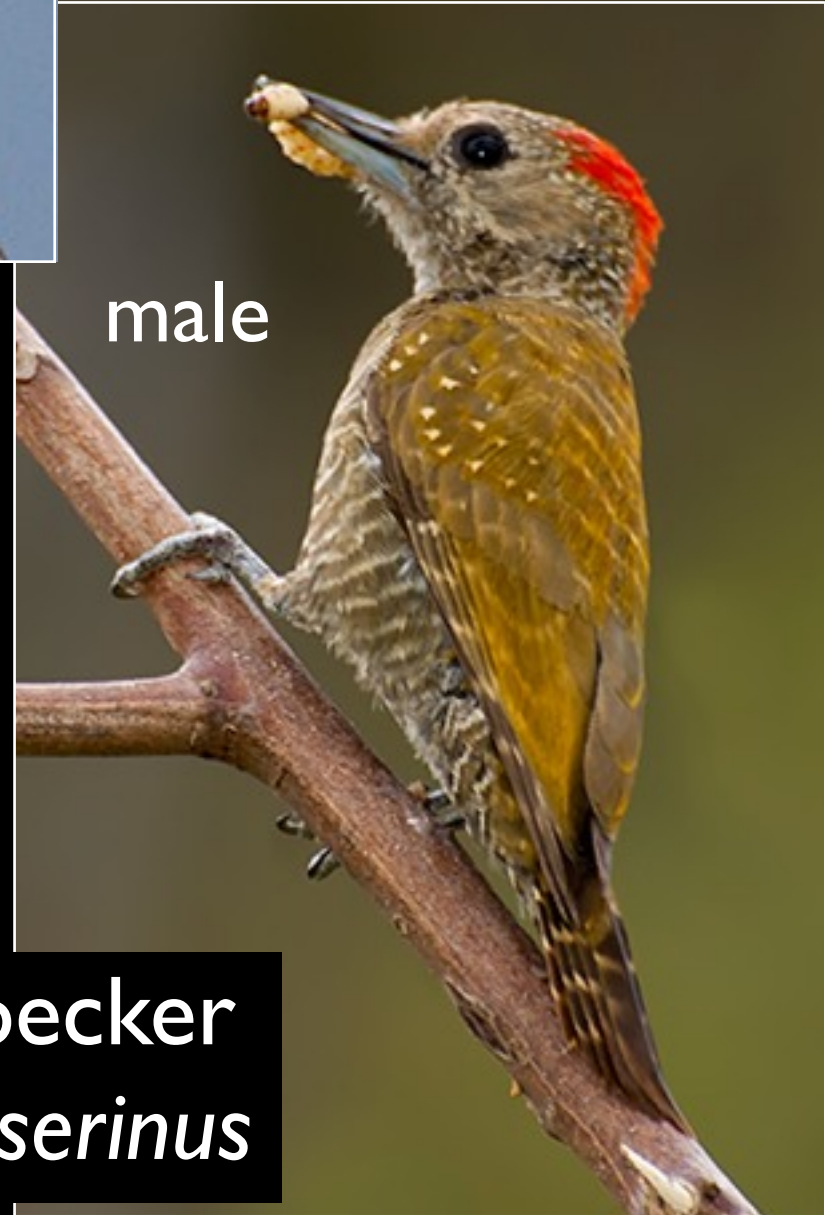
male



female



male



female



Little Woodpecker  
*Veniliornis passerinus*





male

Green Woodpecker  
and - copyright - 2008



female

(c) 2008 Hermann Radies

**Golden-green Woodpecker**  
*Piculus chrysochlorus*



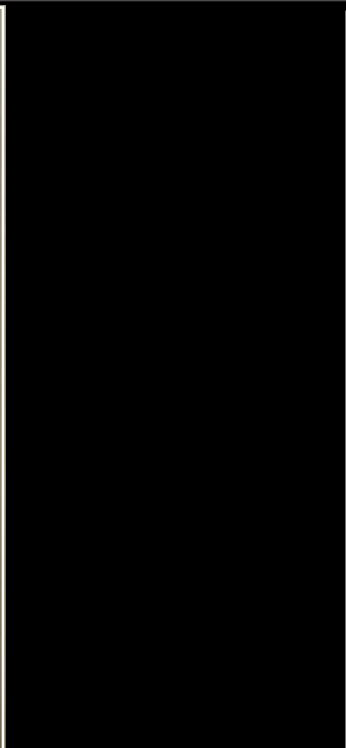


Green-barred Woodpecker, Parque de Zico, São Paulo, November 2006 © Arthur Grossel



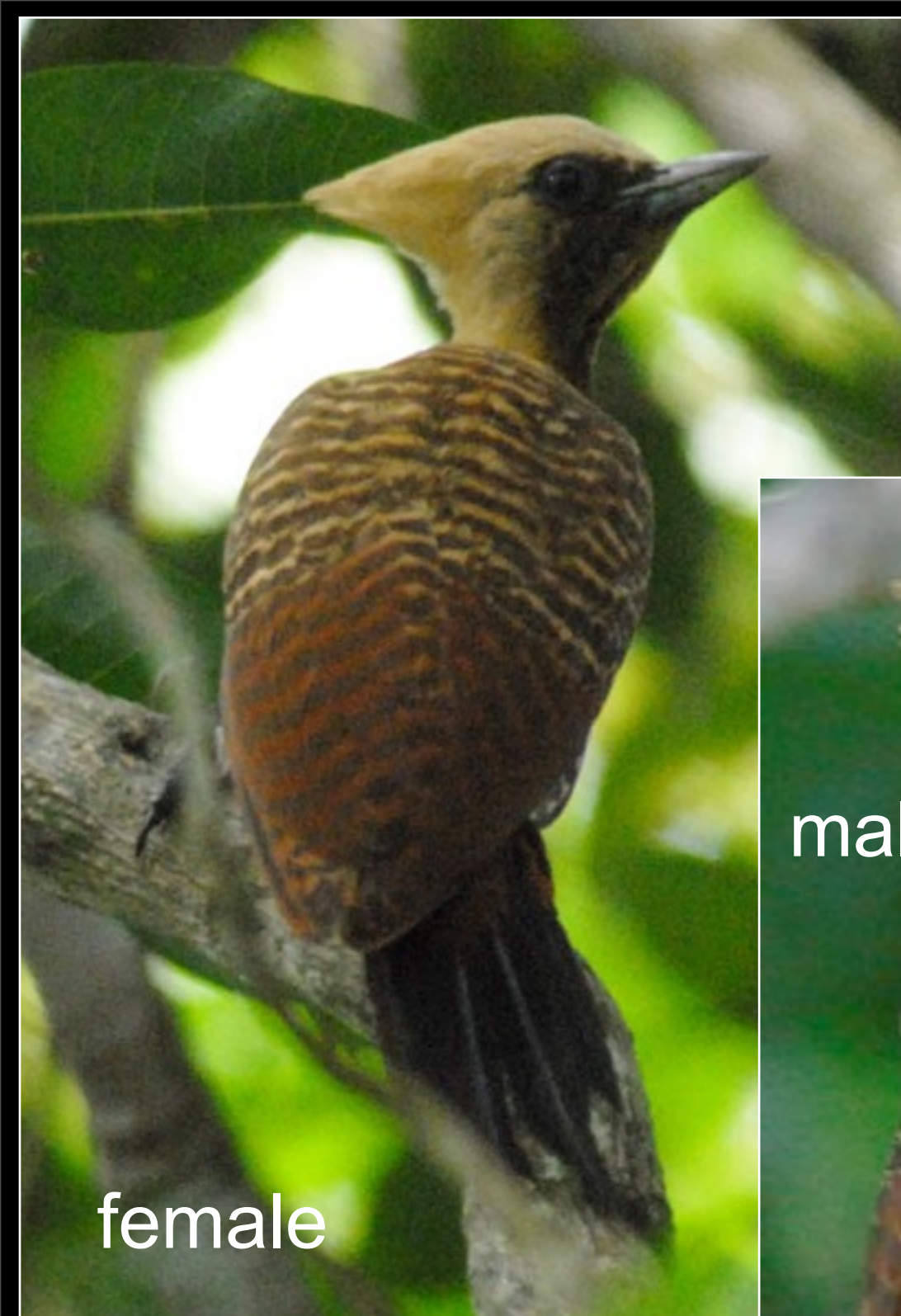
Green-barred Flicker  
*Colaptes melanochloros*



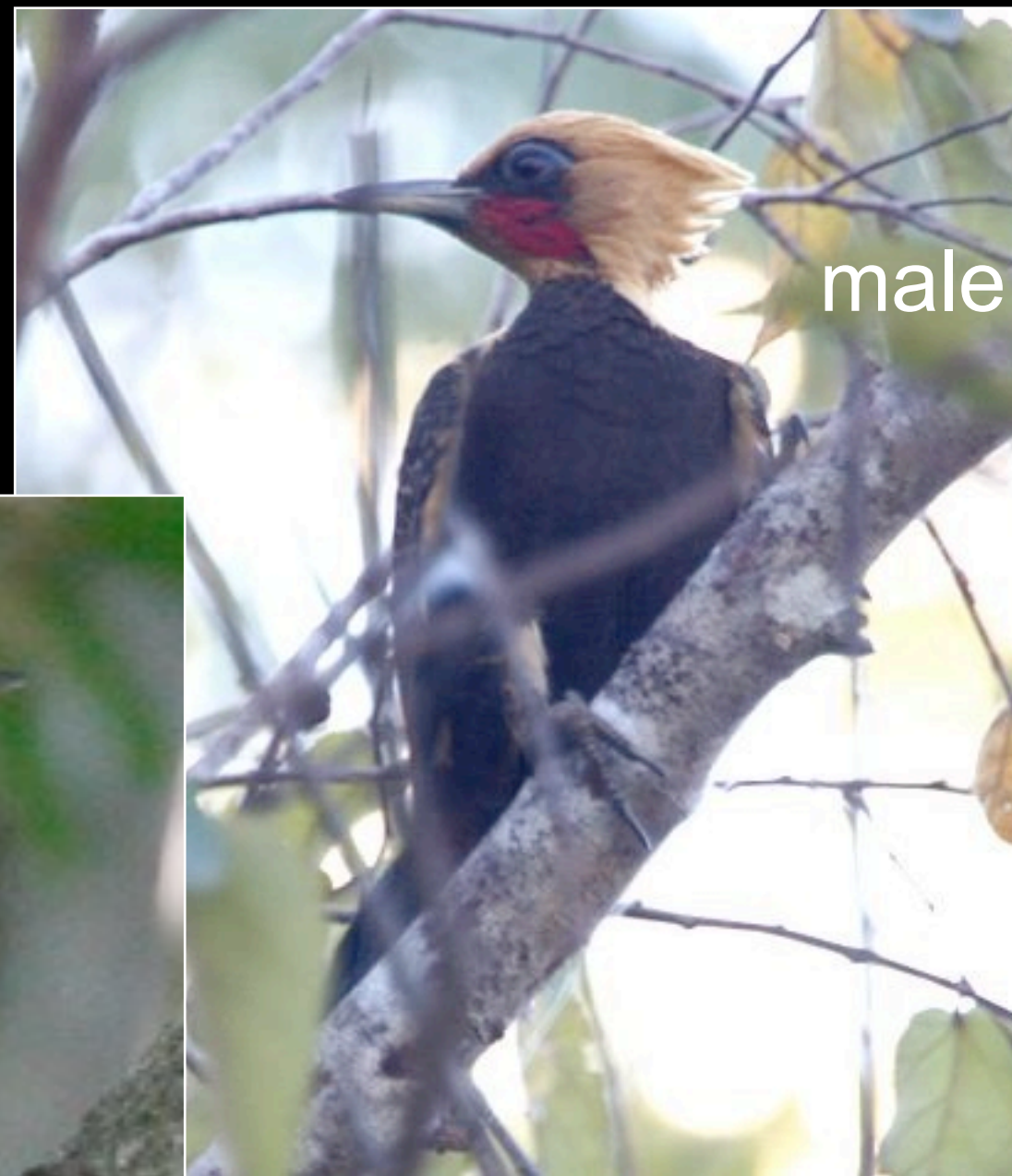


Campo Flicker  
*Colaptes campestris*





female



male

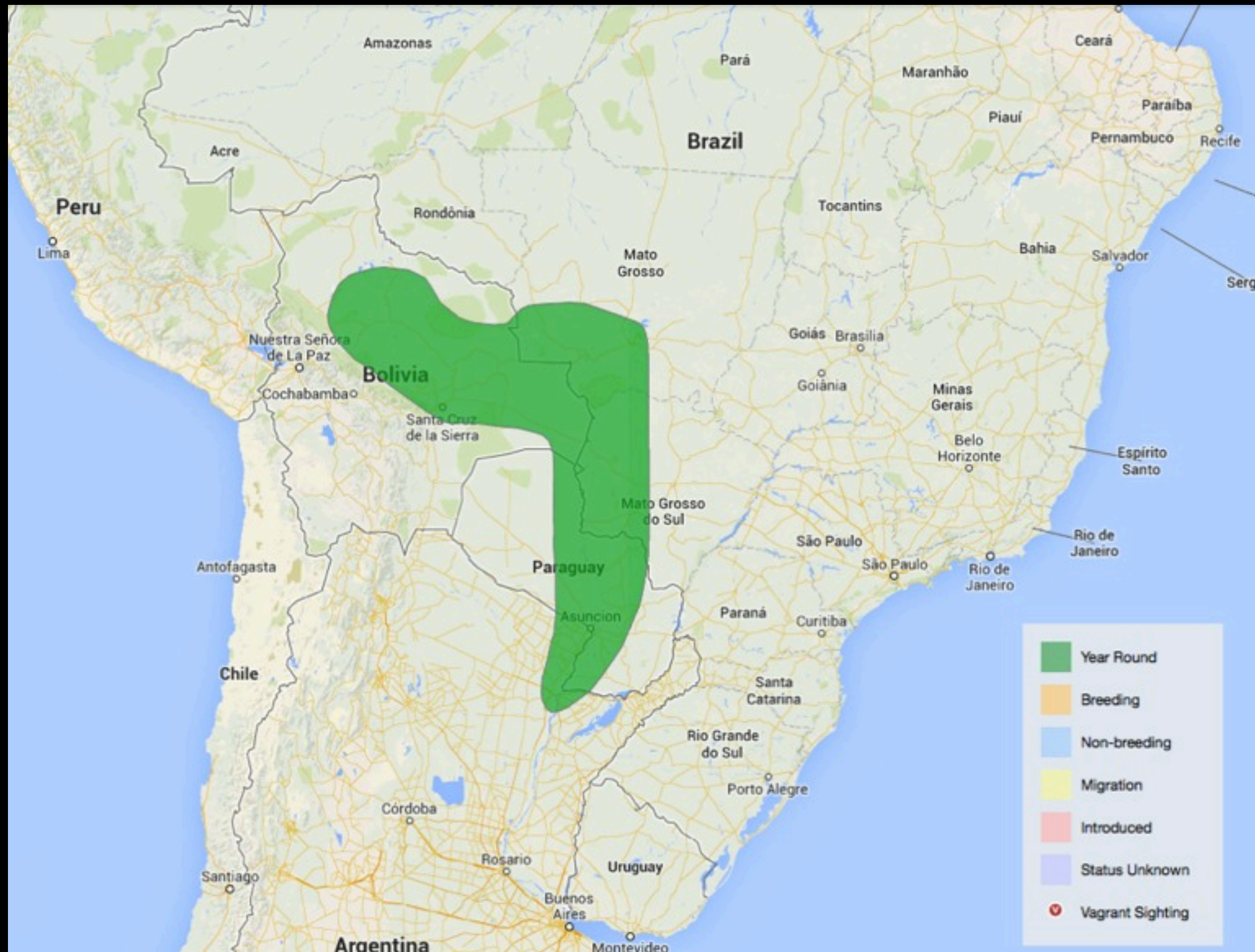


male

Pale-crested  
Woodpecker  
*Celeus lugubris*



The Pale-crested Woodpecker is restricted to a relatively small area within south-central South America, from eastern Bolivia to the Brazilian Pantanal, and south to Paraguay and northeast Argentina. In the past, this species was sometimes considered conspecific with the Blond-crested Woodpecker (*Celeus flavescens*). Like many of its congeners, this is a highly attractive woodpecker, dark gray-brown above and below, the former pale-barred, with a pale yellow rump and head, and a broad red malar stripe in males. Pale-crested Woodpeckers occur in semi-deciduous, dry Chaco, and cerrado woodlands, but are also found in seasonally flooded gallery forests in the Pantanal. The species is generally fairly common throughout its range.



## Pale-crested Woodpecker *Celeus lugubris*





male  
north



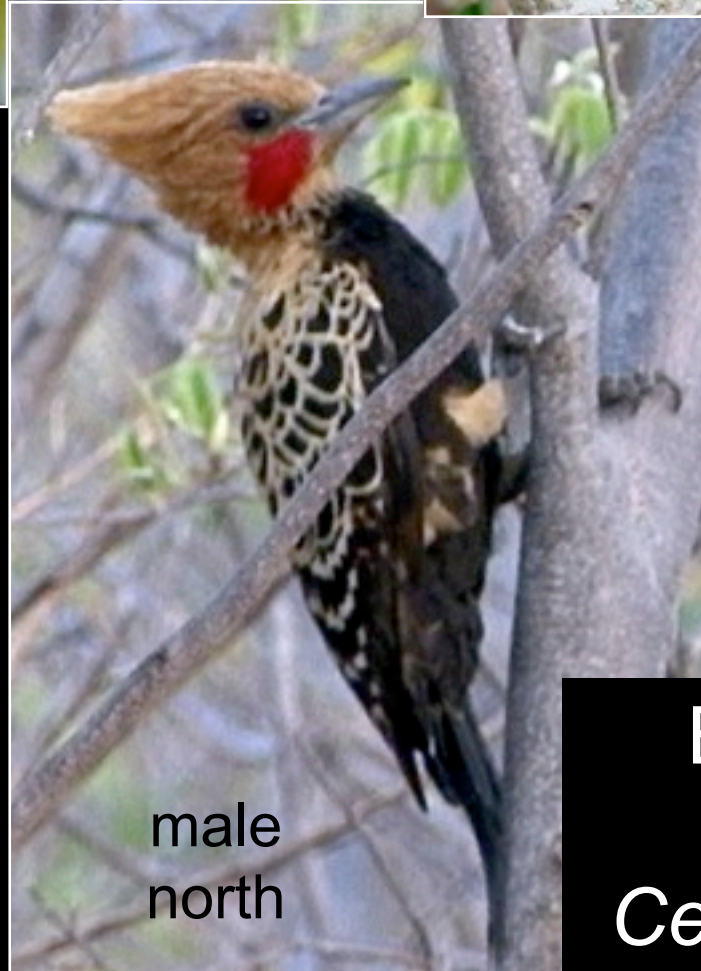
female  
south



male  
south



female  
north



male  
north



female  
south

**Blond-crested  
Woodpecker**  
*Celeus flavescens*









Cream  
Ke

Cream-colored  
Woodpecker  
*Celeus flavus*





female



Ringed Woodpecker  
*Celeus torquatus*



male

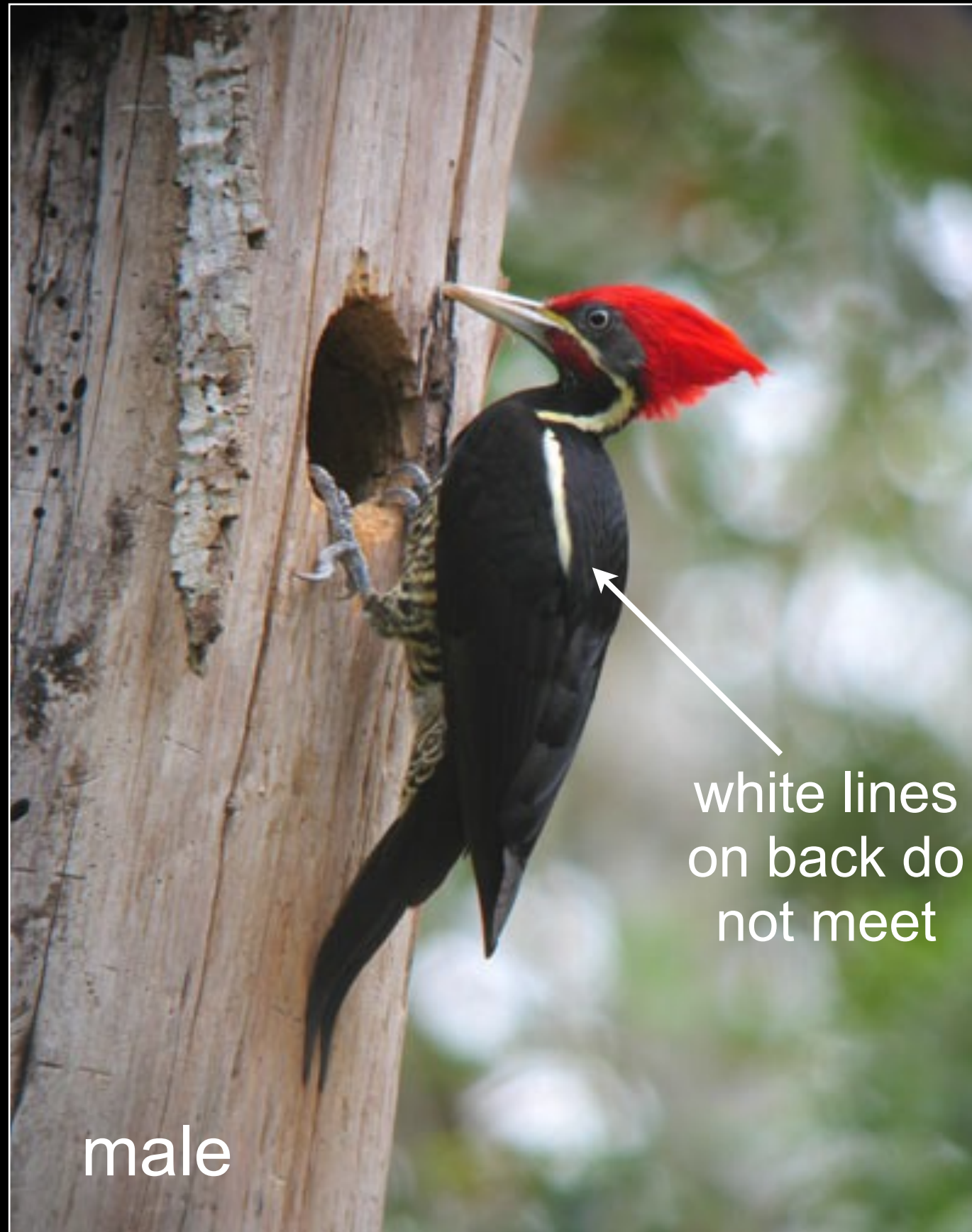


male





female



male

white lines  
on back do  
not meet

Lineated Woodpecker  
*Dryocopus lineatus*



male



female



white lines  
meet on back

Crimson-crested Woodpecker  
*Campephilus melanoleucus*





male



male

female

AVESARTE@JUAN R. DIAZ COLODRERO

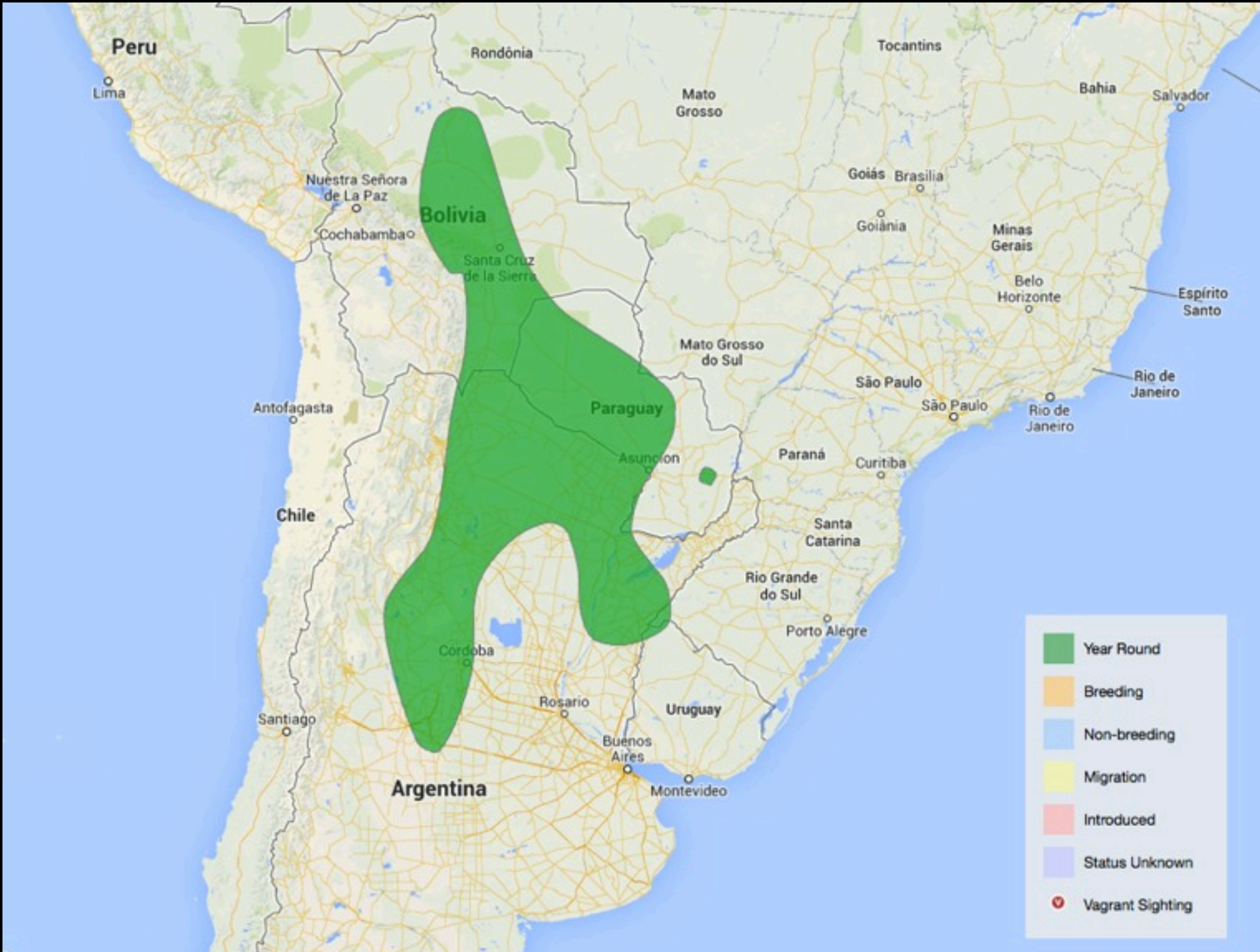


female

Cream-backed Woodpecker  
*Campephilus leucopogon*



Both males and females have striking facial patterns and a buffy white patch on the upper back. These poorly known residents inhabit dry woodlands in the Chaco, and also frequent savannas, pastures, groves and transitional forests. During the non-breeding season, individuals are usually seen alone. They mostly forage by hammering for beetle larvae in tall trees or in fallen logs, and when drumming they give a double tap.



Cream-backed Woodpecker  
*Campephilus leucopogon*



# CARIAMIDAE





Red-legged Seriema  
*Cariama cristata*



# FALCONIDAE



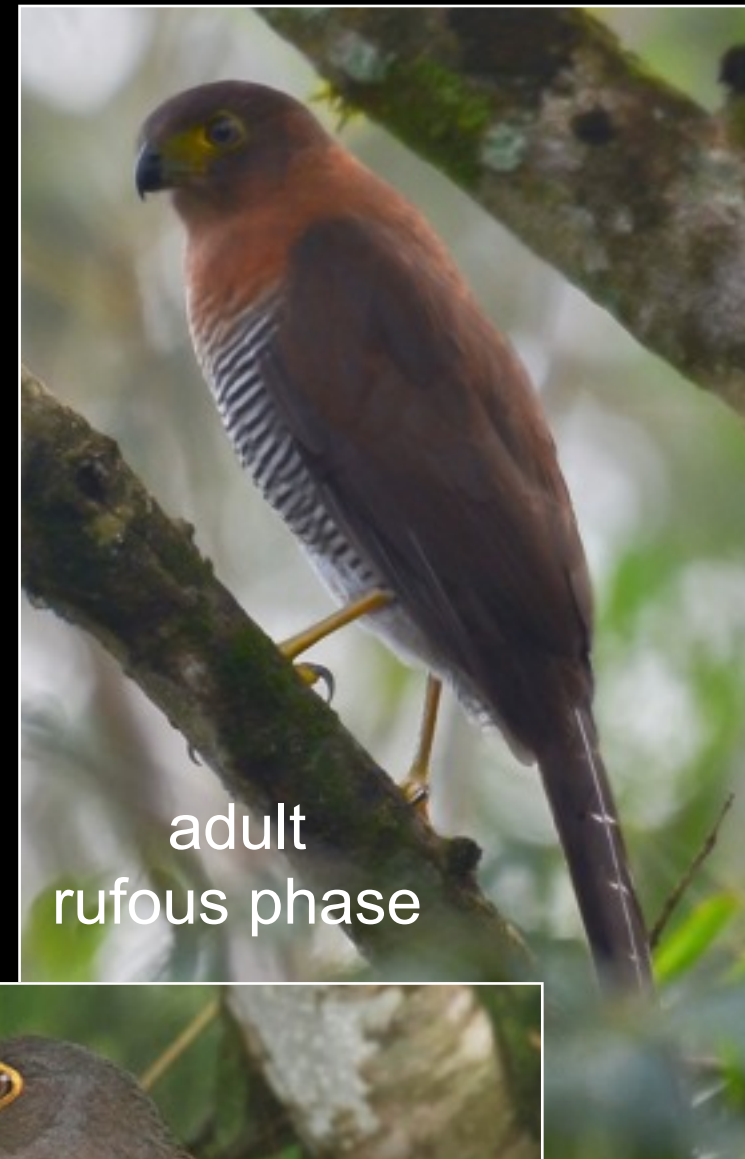
Laughing Falcon  
*Herpetotheres cachinnans*







adult  
rufous phase



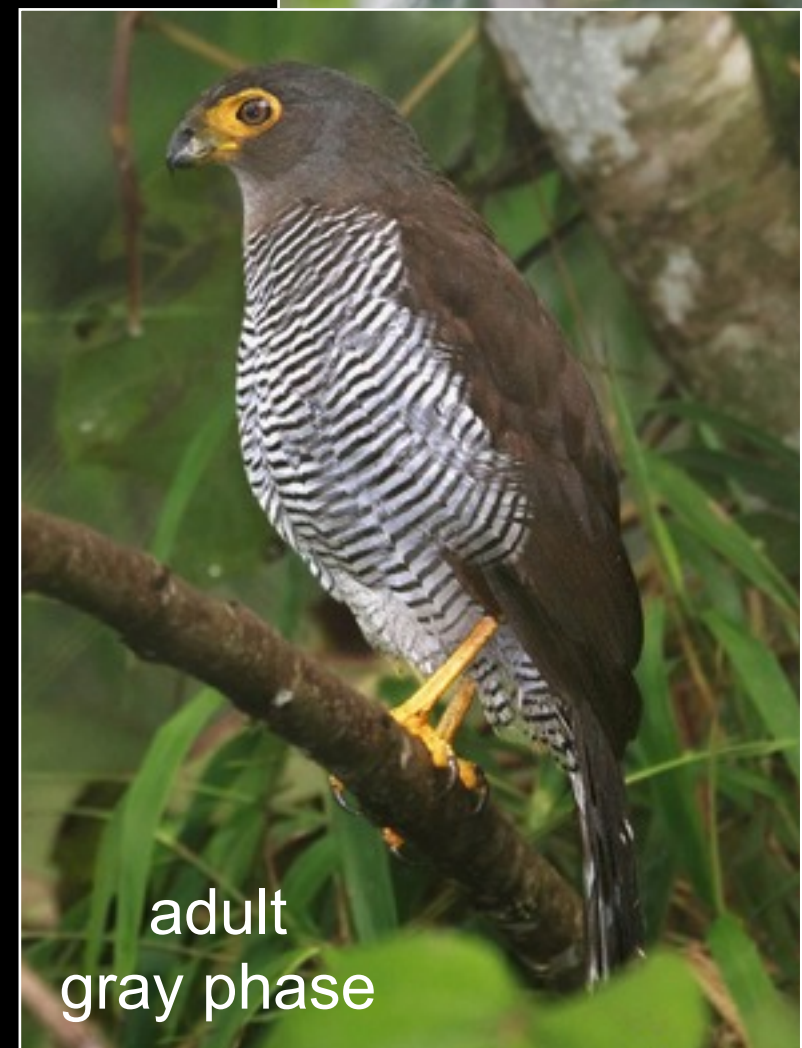
adult  
rufous phase



immature



adult  
gray phase



adult  
gray phase

**Barred Forest-Falcon**  
*Micrastur ruficollis*





adult



adult



adult



immature



adult

**Collared Forest-Falcon**  
*Micrastur semitorquatus*

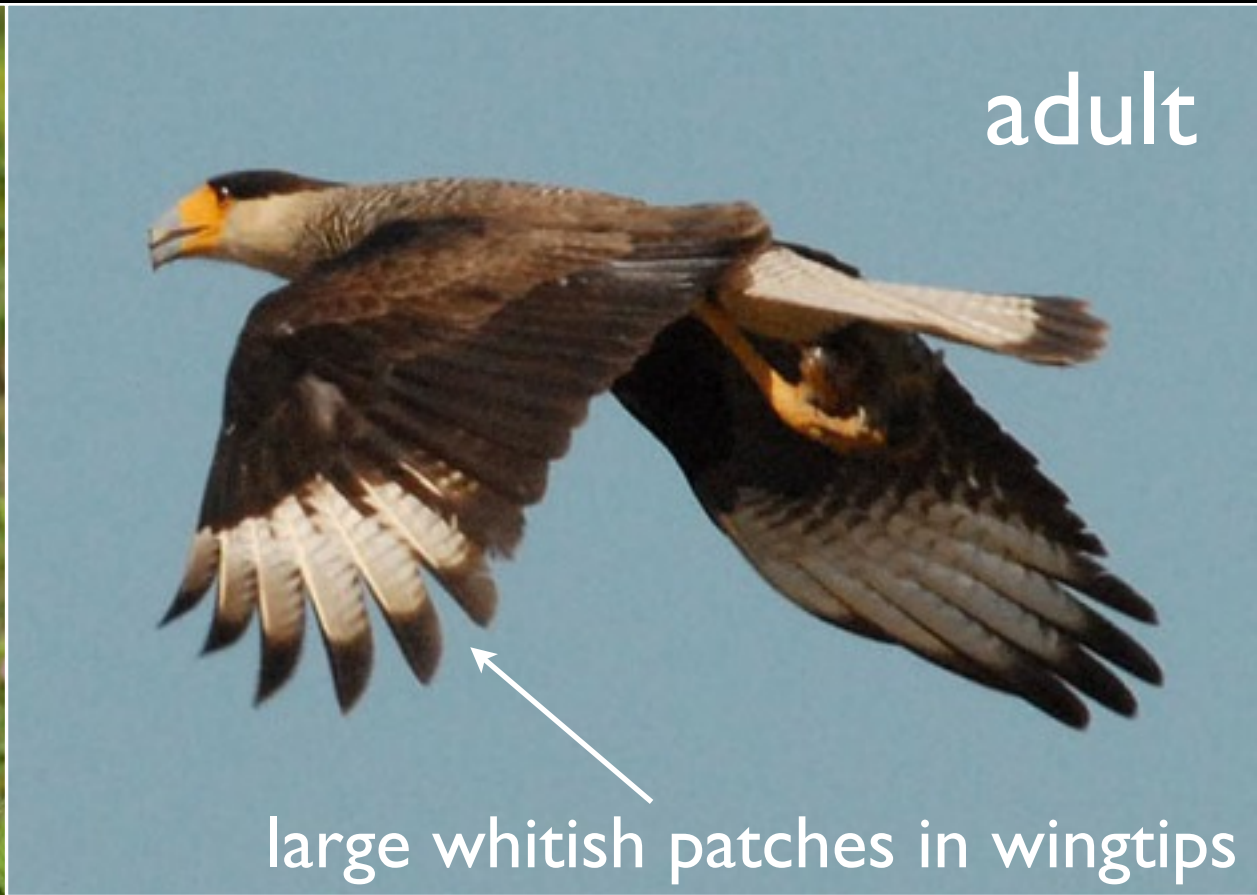


adult





adult



adult

large whitish patches in wingtips



immature

Southern Caracara  
*Caracara plancus*



adult

adult



immature

**Yellow-headed Caracara**  
*Milvago chimachima*





female



male

American Kestrel  
*Falco sparverius*





**Bat Falcon**  
*Falco rufifularis*





immature



adult



adult

Orange-breasted Falcon  
*Falco deiroleucus*





**Aplomado Falcon**  
*Falco femoralis*





Peregrine Falcon  
*Falco peregrinus*



# PSITTACIDAE





**Monk Parakeet**  
*Myiopsitta monacha*





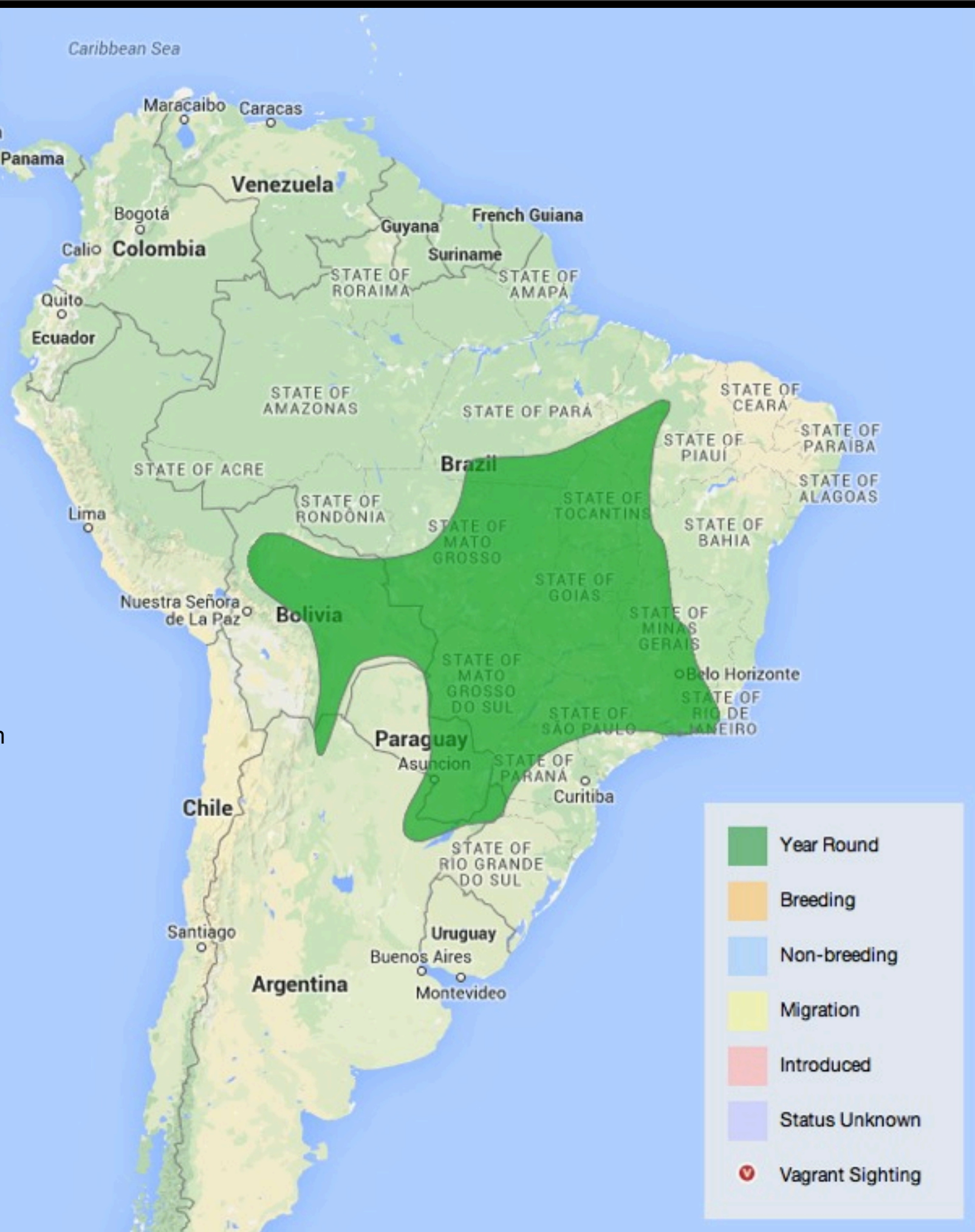
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet  
*Brotogeris chiriri*





# Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotogeris chiriri*

The Yellow-chevroned Parakeet is a medium sized green parakeet with yellowish underparts and yellow outer secondary wing coverts. It inhabits open woodland and gallery forest throughout central South America. Formerly it was treated as conspecific with the White-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris versicolurus*) of the Amazon Basin; the combined species was called Canary-winged Parakeet. Although this species is abundant throughout most of its range, little is known about the bird's food and feeding habits. Some seasonal movements have been observed in Yellow-chevroned Parakeets, especially within their range in western Paraguay.







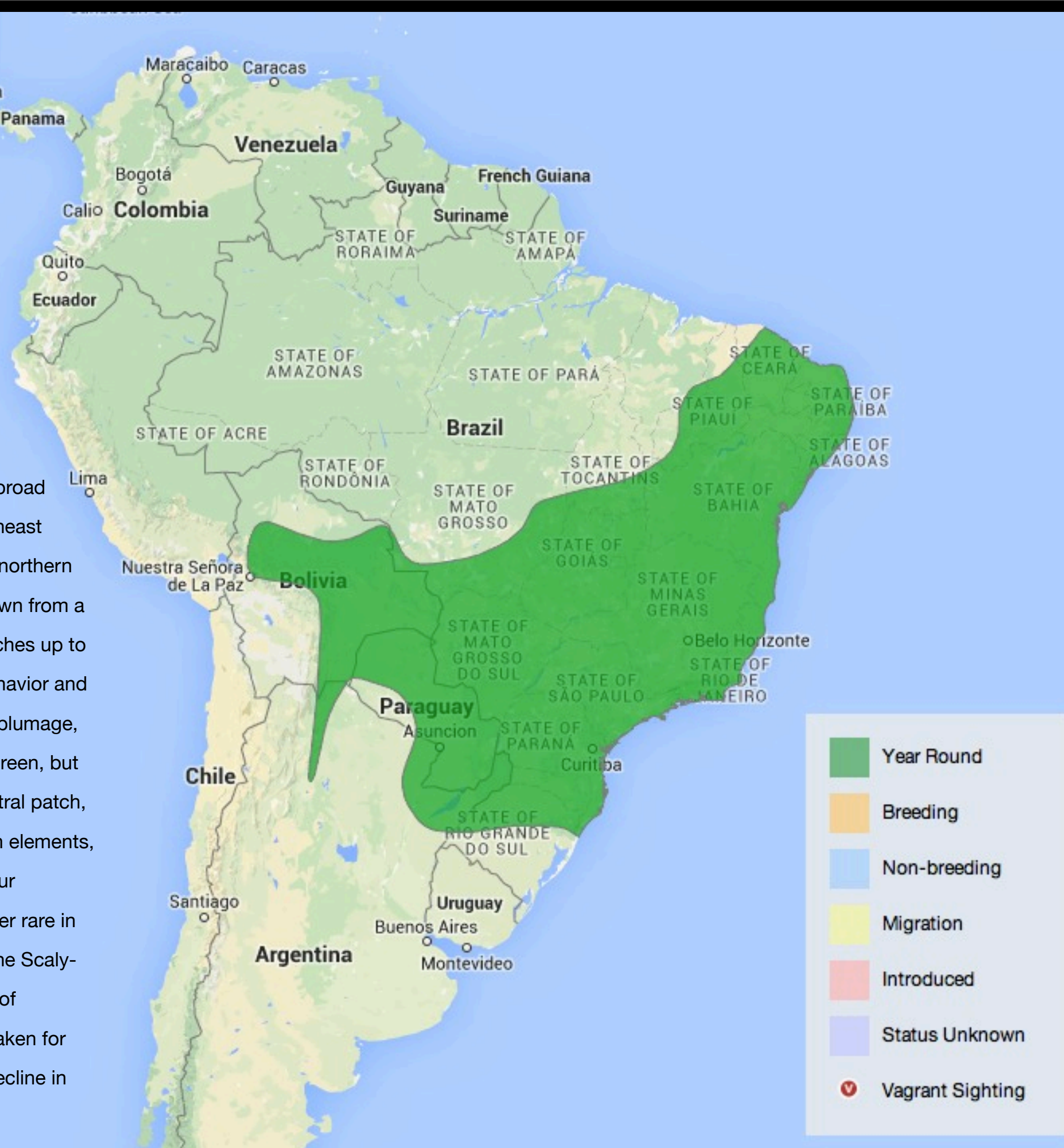
Scaly-headed Parrot  
*Pionus maximiliani*



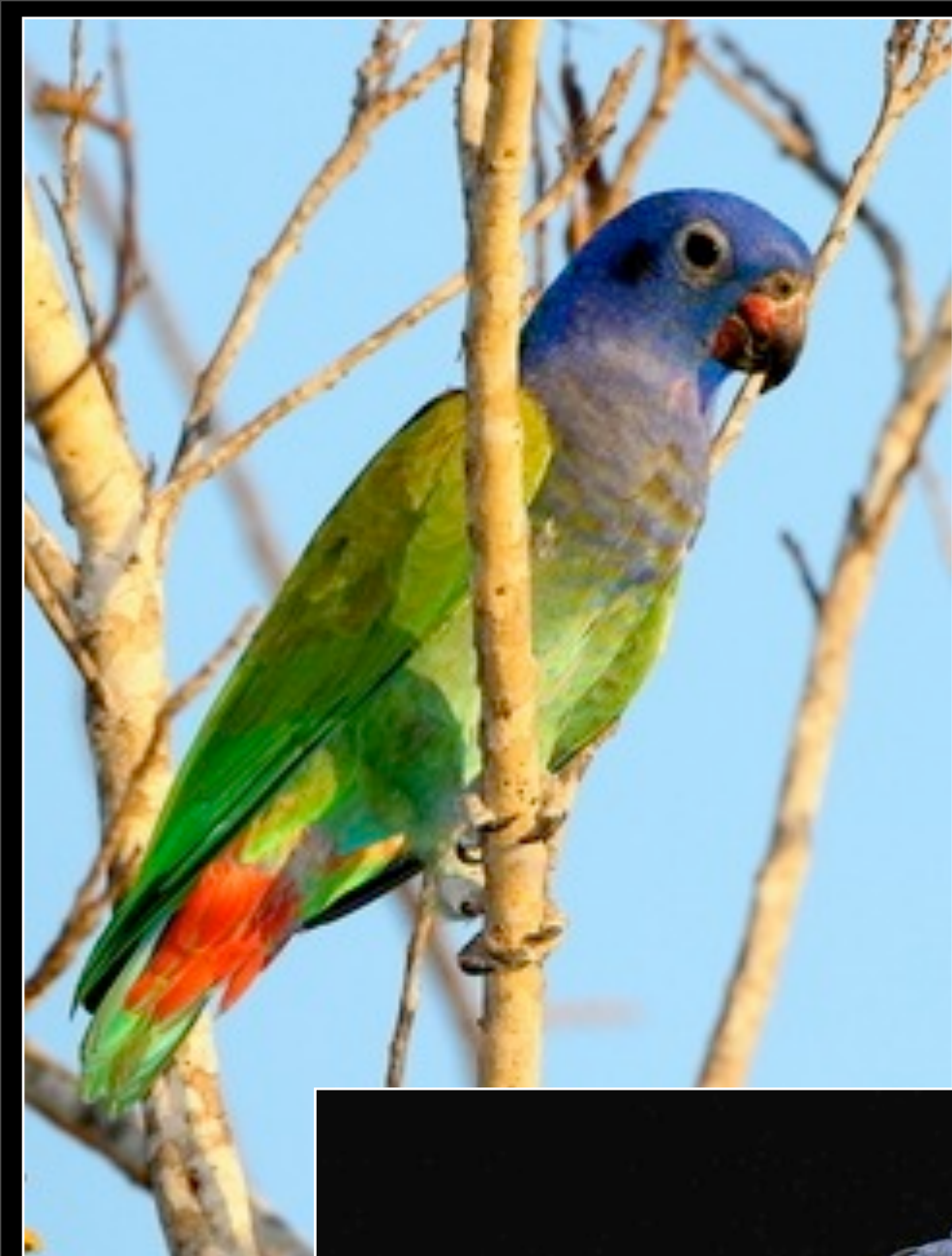
# Scaly-headed Parrot

## *Pionus maximiliani*

The Scaly-headed Parrot is known from a very broad range across eastern South America, from northeast Brazil south to southern Bolivia, Paraguay, and northern Argentina. Throughout this large region it is known from a variety of wooded habitats and the species reaches up to 2000 m elevation in northwest Argentina. Its behavior and jizz are typical of the genus *Pionus*. In terms of plumage, the Scaly-headed Parrot is predominantly dull green, but brightest on the wings, with an obvious red ventral patch, and the head shows a variable number of bluish elements, most pronounced in the southernmost of the four generally recognized subspecies. Although rather rare in the northernmost third of its range, elsewhere the Scaly-headed Parrot is generally common over much of southern Brazil, but huge numbers have been taken for the pet trade in Argentina, with a consequent decline in numbers in the wild.







Blue-headed Parrot  
*Pionus menstruus*



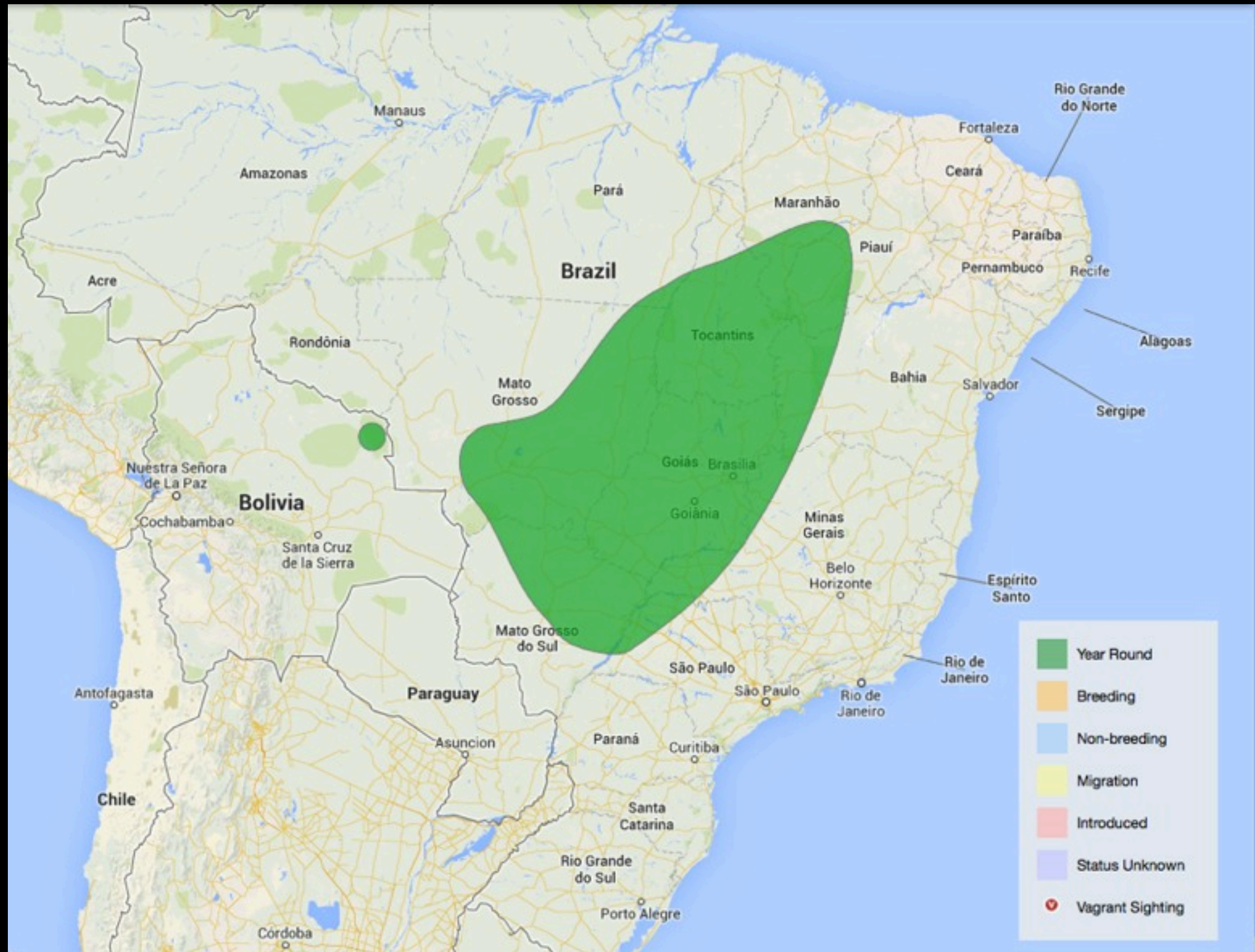


Yellow-faced Parrot  
*Alipiopsitta xanthops*





The Yellow-faced Parrot is a stocky, enigmatic parrot of savanna habitats from eastern Brazil south to eastern Bolivia and northern Paraguay. Sometimes placed in the genus *Amazona*, it has generally been placed in its own genus by recent authors. It resembles a small Amazona in structure, and is green overall with a yellow-orange face and lower belly. It feeds on fruits and seeds, including introduced mangoes (*Mangifera indica*), and nests in a cavity in a large tree. They are semi-nomadic, and habitat destruction in much of their range is a conservation concern.



Yellow-faced Parrot  
*Alipiopsitta xanthops*





Turquoise-fronted  
Parrot  
*Amazona aestiva*





# Turquoise-fronted Parrot

## *Amazona aestiva*

Also known as the Turquoise-fronted Amazon or Parrot, this species has been considered to be one of the most abundant of its genus. Found from northeast Brazil south to Bolivia, Paraguay, and northern Argentina, the species is known from a variety of more or less wooded habitats, including Cerrado and Chaco scrub, gallery forests, and palm groves. Given its overall abundance, the Turquoise-fronted Parrot has been heavily targeted by the cagebird trade, although on the plus side it has almost certainly benefited from ongoing agricultural expansion through much of its range. Like many *Amazona* species, the plumage is mainly green, with a largely yellow face, and a blue frontal band, as well as red speculum. There are two subspecies, and these differ most obviously in the color of the smaller wing coverts, red in the nominate race, and yellow (and forming a more extensive patch) in the southwestern subspecies.







Orange-winged Parrot  
*Amazona amazonica*

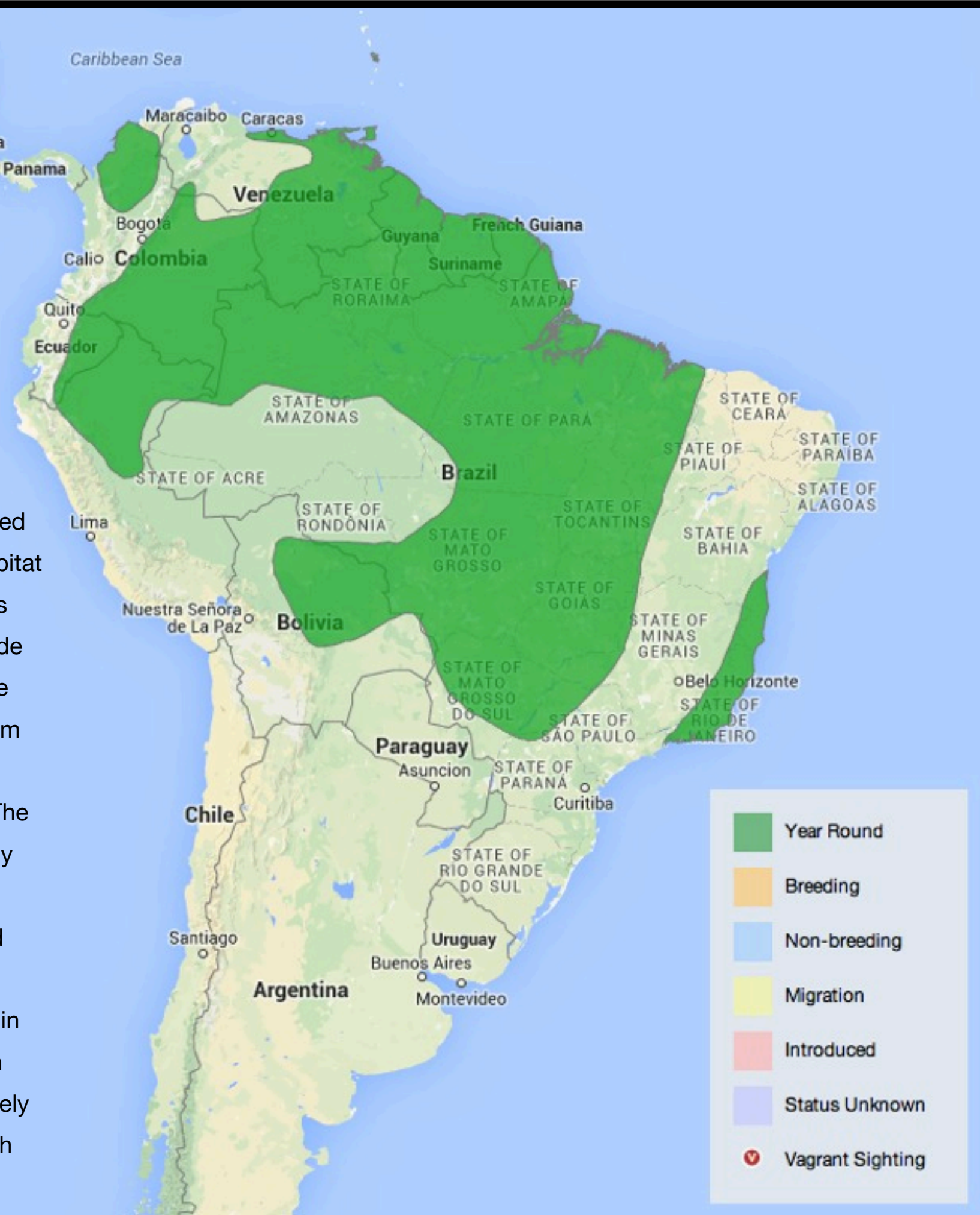
[www.gistimag.com](http://www.gistimag.com)



# Orange-winged Parrot

## *Amazona amazonica*

In contrast to many parrots, which have declined massively as a result of hunting, trade, and habitat destruction, the Orange-winged Parrot remains surprisingly abundant over much of its very wide South American range. Exclusively found in the lowlands east of the Andes, it is distributed from northern Colombia south to eastern Brazil, including the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. The Orange-winged Parrot is able to persist virtually wherever there are still tall trees, although it is undoubtedly more numerous in better-forested areas. Several other *Amazona* parrots show orange patches in the secondaries at rest and in flight, but this species is generally smaller than most of the rest, and shows only a comparatively small area of yellow feathering on the face, with blue lores.







Blue-winged Parrotlet  
*Forpus xanthopterygius*

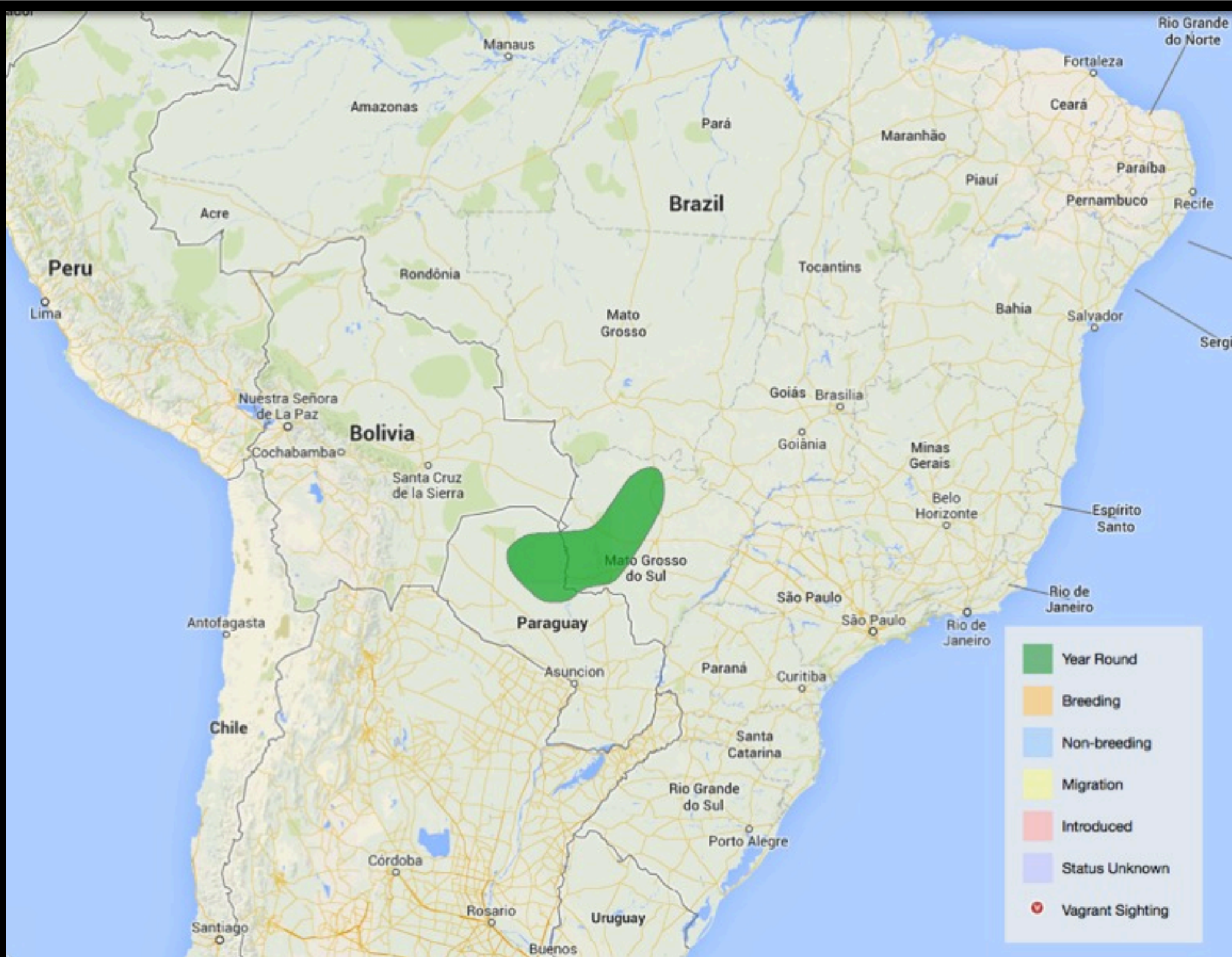




Blaze-winged Parakeet  
*Pyrrhura devillei*



The Blaze-winged Parakeet is similar in appearance to the Maroon-bellied Parakeet (*Pyrrhura frontalis*), from which it differs primarily by the bright red and yellow underwing coverts. The distributions of these two species are largely separate, but they narrowly overlap in Paraguay, and there are reports that Blaze-winged and Maroon-bellied parakeets hybridize in that region. Blaze-winged Parakeets forages in gallery forest along rivers, and also enters adjacent chaco woods. The conservation status of the attractive but poorly-known Blaze-winged Parakeet is assessed as Near-Threatened, due to the extent of habitat loss and fragmentation within its range.



## Blaze-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura devillei*

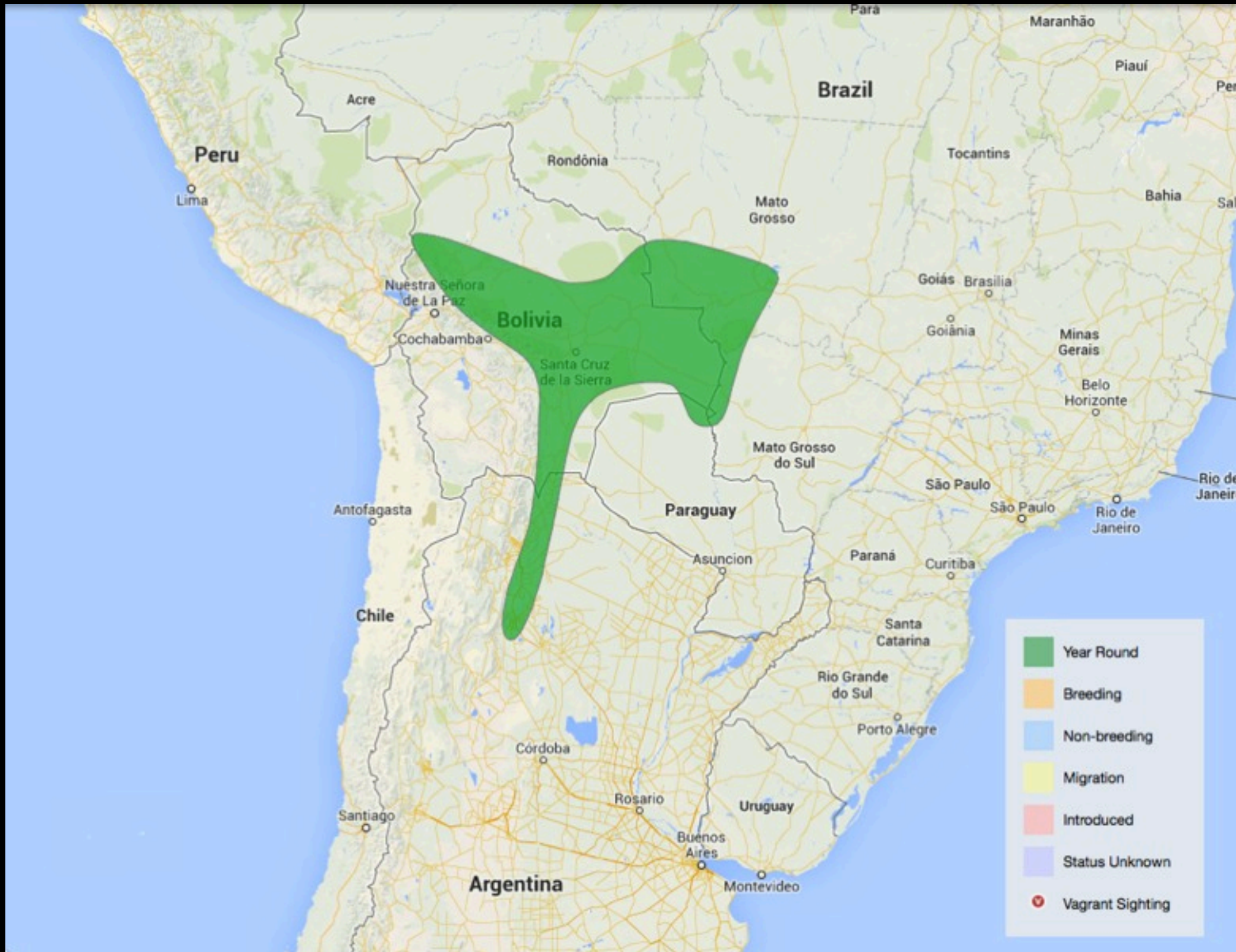




Green-cheeked Parakeet  
*Pyrrhura molinae*



Green-cheeked Parakeets are found from western Brazil south to Bolivia and northwestern Argentina. Generally green, Green-cheeked Parakeets have brown on the forehead, nape, and ear-coverts, a bare white orbital ring, green cheeks, brown and whitish scaling on the throat and sides of the neck, a brown and yellow breast, a reddish tail and belly and blue flight feathers. Residents of deciduous lowland woodland, secondary forest, gallery forest and humid subtropical forest, higher altitude populations descend to more moderate elevations during autumn and winter. These parakeets are common throughout most of their range, with much suitable habitat extant.



## Green-cheeked Parakeet *Pyrrhura molinae*





**Hyacinth Macaw**  
*Anodorhynchus*  
*hyacinthinus*



# Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*

The Hyacinth Macaw is the largest parrot in the world and easily one of the most spectacular. It is an enormous bird weighing on average 1.5 kilograms (3.5 pounds) and is completely blue save its dark bill and bare yellow orbital ring and stripe at base of its lower mandible. It is completely dependent on the fruits of a number of palm species and has a necessarily massive bill to aid in the cracking of the tough exterior. Due to its dependence on palm fruit its range is regulated by the presence and abundance of its preferred species and is distributed in north central and south central Brazil into extreme north west Paraguay where it can be found in palm savannas, *Mauritia* palm stands, open dry woodland, gallery forest and the edge of humid lowland forest.







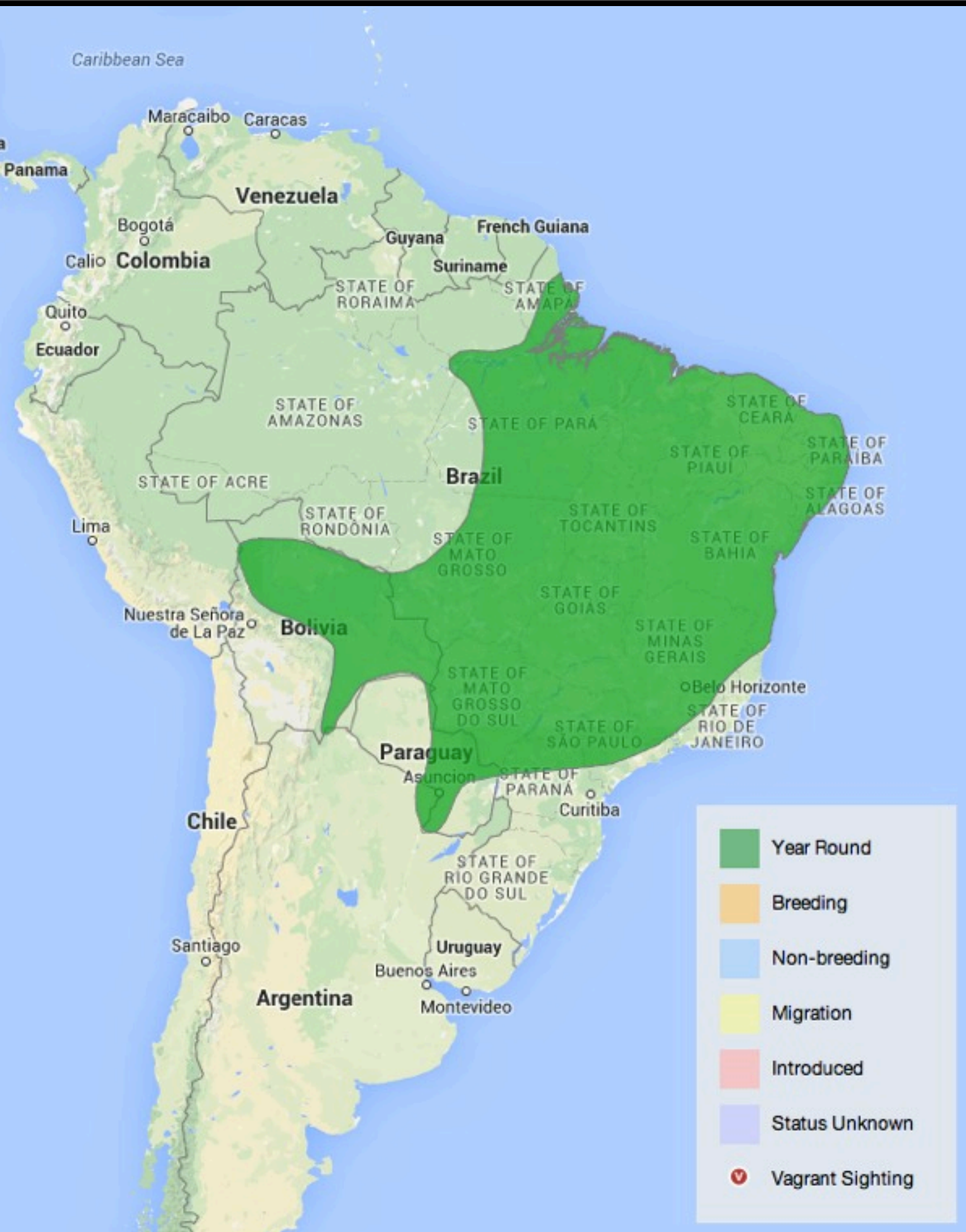
Peach-fronted Parakeet  
*Eupsittula aurea*



# Peach-fronted Parakeet

## *Eupsittula aurea*

The Peach-fronted Parakeet is an inhabitant of savanna, gallery forest and cerrado from Suriname to south to northern Argentina, and west to extreme southeastern Peru. The Peach-fronted Parakeet has a peachy orange forehead and midcrown; a pale orange orbital ring; dull blue wings, tail and hindcrown; and olive brown cheeks and underparts that fade to yellow-green on the undertail coverts. This parakeet is superficially similar to the Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga canicularis*), and the two may form a superspecies; but the Orange-fronted Parakeet is confined to Central America, and there is no geographic overlap between the two. Peach-fronteds spend much of their time foraging on the ground where they feeds on seeds, flowers, leaves and insects. At times Peach-fronted Parakeets also raid fields of soybeans, rice and corn.





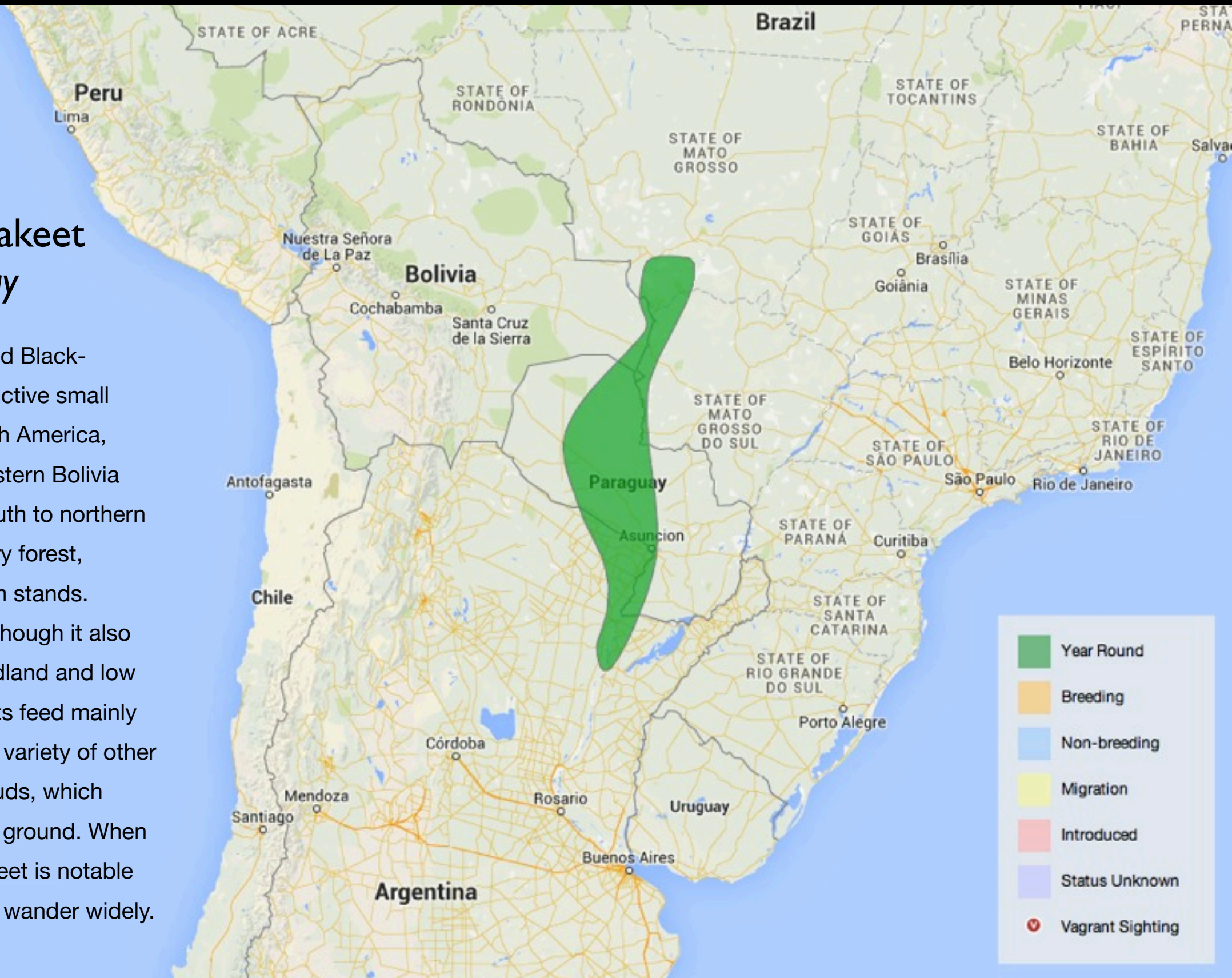


**Black-hooded Parakeet**  
*Aratinga nenday*

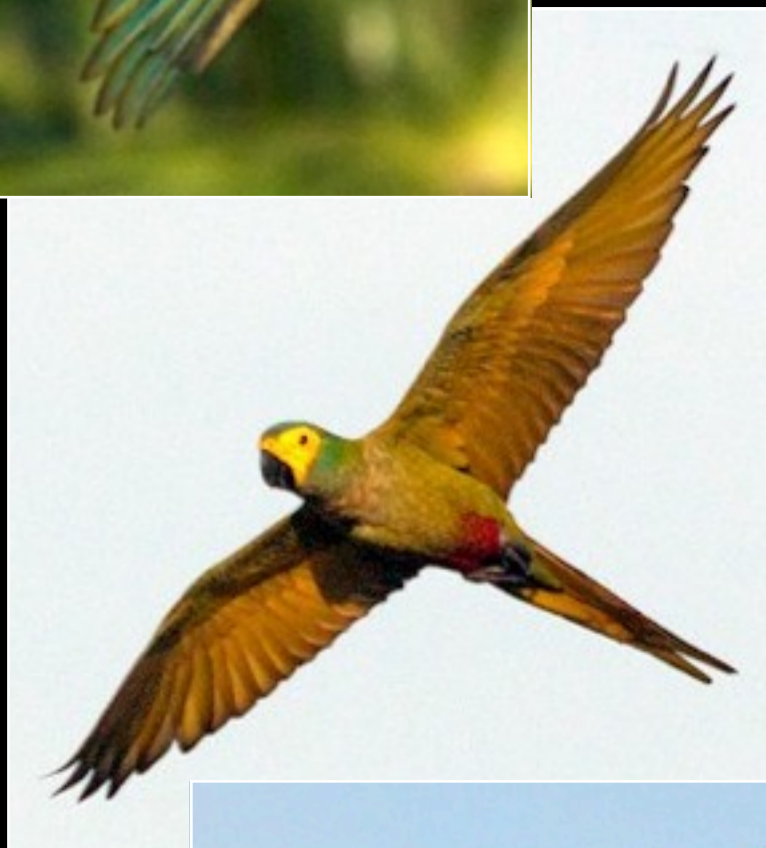


## Black-hooded Parakeet *Aratinga nenday*

Nanday Parakeet, also called Black-hooded Parakeet, is a distinctive small parrot of south central South America, which occurs from southeastern Bolivia and southwestern Brazil south to northern Argentina. It occupies gallery forest, deciduous forests, and palm stands, primarily in the Pantanal, although it also occurs in moist chaco woodland and low dry scrub. Nanday Parakeets feed mainly on palm nuts but will take a variety of other seeds, fruits, flowers and buds, which often are procured from the ground. When not breeding Nanday Parakeet is notable for forming large flocks that wander widely.





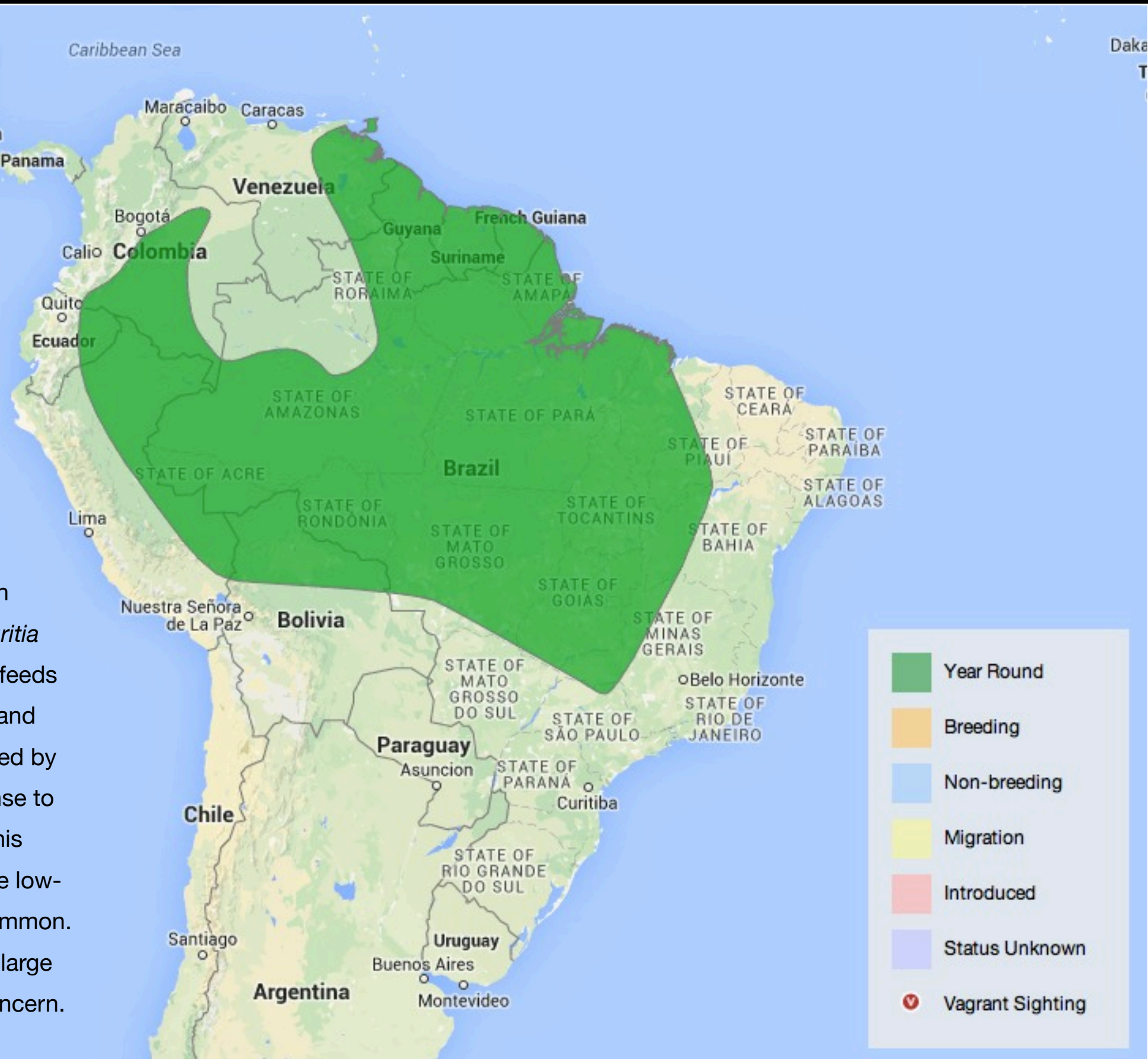


Red-bellied Macaw  
*Orthopsittaca manilatus*



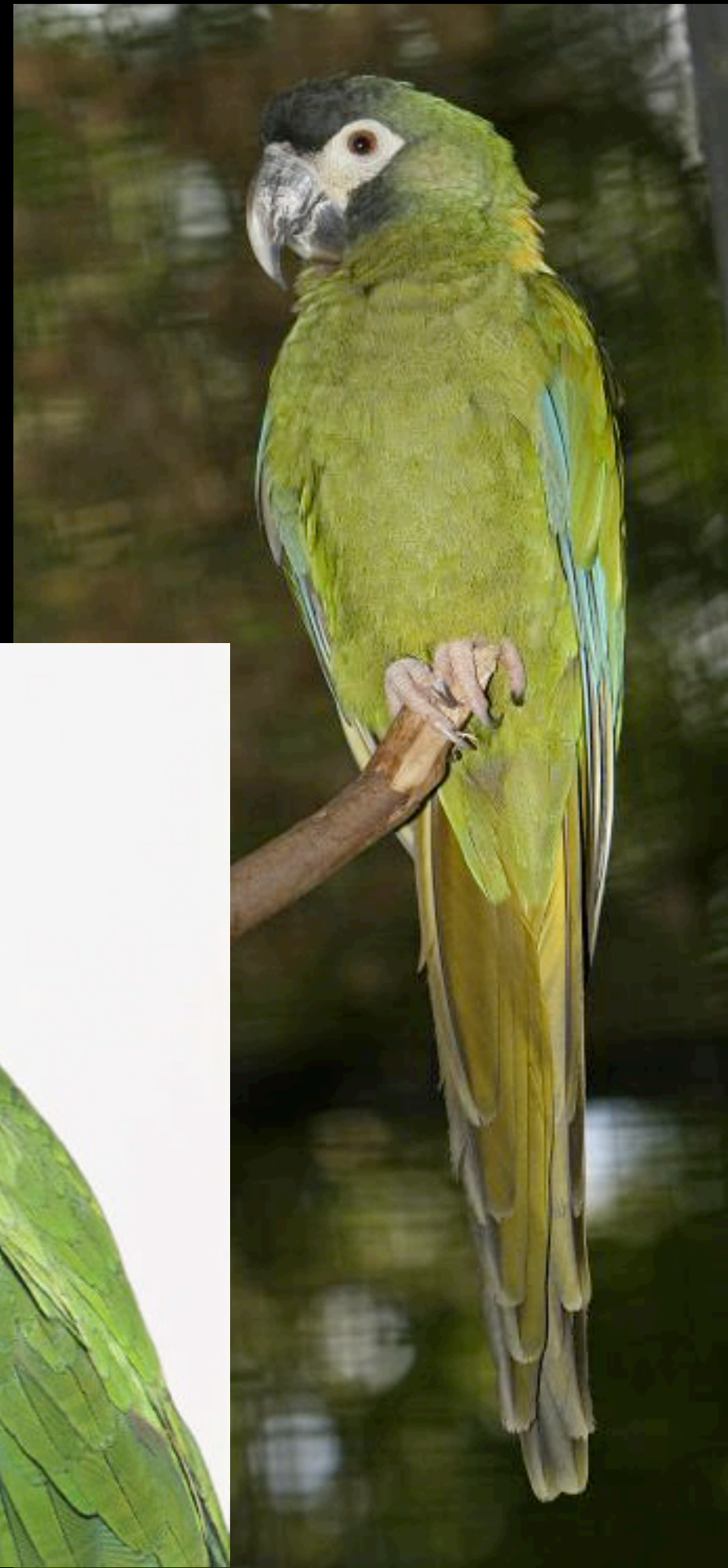
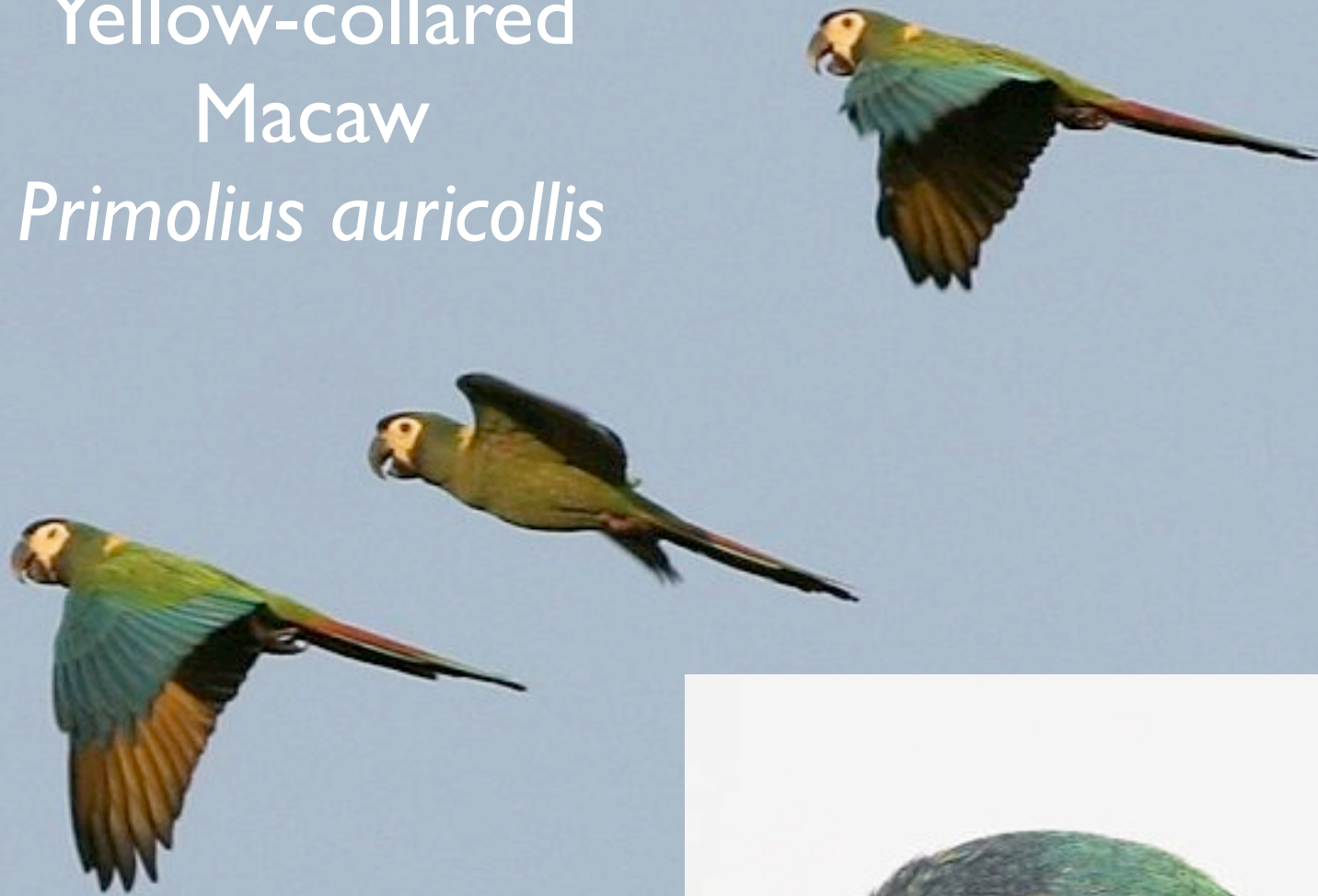
## Red-bellied Macaw *Orthopsittaca manilatus*

The Red-bellied Macaw is a small, green macaw closely associated with the *Mauritia* palm tree of northern South America. It feeds almost exclusively on the palm's fruits, and nests in a hole in a dead palm surrounded by water. It may move seasonally in response to the regional availability of palm fruits. This species is widespread, particularly in the low-lying areas where *Mauritia* palms are common. Unlike many macaws, it has a relatively large population and is not a conservation concern.





Yellow-collared  
Macaw  
*Primolius auricollis*





# Yellow-collared Macaw

## *Primolius auricollis*

The Yellow-collared Macaw is a handsomely colored resident of northeastern Bolivia, northern Paraguay, east-central and southwest Brazil and northern Argentina. Primarily green, Yellow-collared Macaws have a bare white facial patch, a blackish green forehead and nape, a narrow yellow collar which reaches to the sides of its breast, blue on the primaries and primary coverts and a red and blue tail. These parrots can be found in gallery woodland in Pantanal, deciduous Chaco woodland, agricultural plots and ranchland and humid tropical forest. Flocking behavior has been observed in Yellow-collared Macaws outside of their breeding season, fueling the suggestion that these birds undergo local seasonal movements.







Blue and Yellow Macaw  
*Ara ararauna*



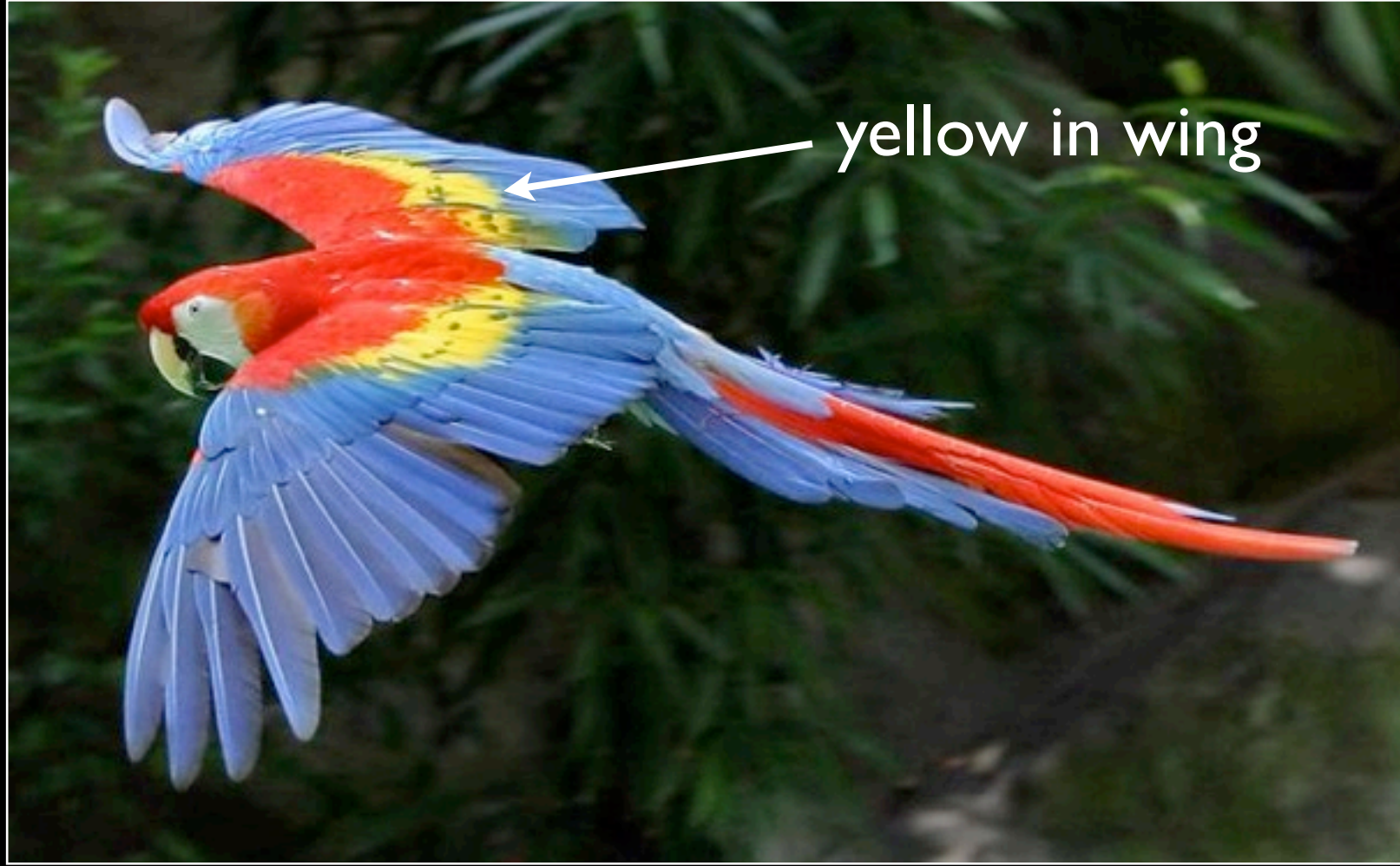
# Blue and Yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*







Scarlet Macaw  
*Ara macao*



yellow in wing



no red stripes in face



# Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*







**Red and Green Macaw**  
*Ara chloropterus*



# Red and Green Macaw *Ara chloropterus*







Blue-crowned Parakeet  
*Thectocerus acuticauda*



# Blue-crowned Parakeet

## *Thectocerus acuticauda*

The Blue-crowned Parakeet occurs in lowland dry forests in South America. A remarkable aspect of this species is that it occupies these deciduous forests in several widely separated regions: in northern Colombia and northern Venezuela; in the interior of northeastern Brazil; and from eastern Bolivia and south central Brazil south through Paraguay to north central Argentina. The Blue-crowned Parakeet is a large Aratinga, mostly green with a light blue crown; the extent of the blue is variable geographically, and is most restricted in the subspecies of northeastern Brazil. This species often travels in flocks, and may fly long distances between roosting sites and feeding areas. Populations of Blue-crowned Parakeet are suspected to be in decline, due to ongoing habitat loss, and from losses sustained in the international parrot trade.







Red-shouldered Macaw  
*Diopsittaca nobilis*



©Nick Athanas



# Red-shouldered Macaw

## *Diopsittaca nobilis*

The Red-shouldered Macaw is a small, green macaw of savanna and open woodland in the lowlands of northern South America. It occurs from Venezuela south to Bolivia and east to northeastern Brazil. It has a small area of white facial skin, red in the shoulder, and a blue forecrown. Like many parrots, it occurs in flocks that move about the landscape in search of seeds, fruits, and flowers. It may also feed on crops and rice in agricultural areas. Nesting occurs in a hole, usually in a live palm.







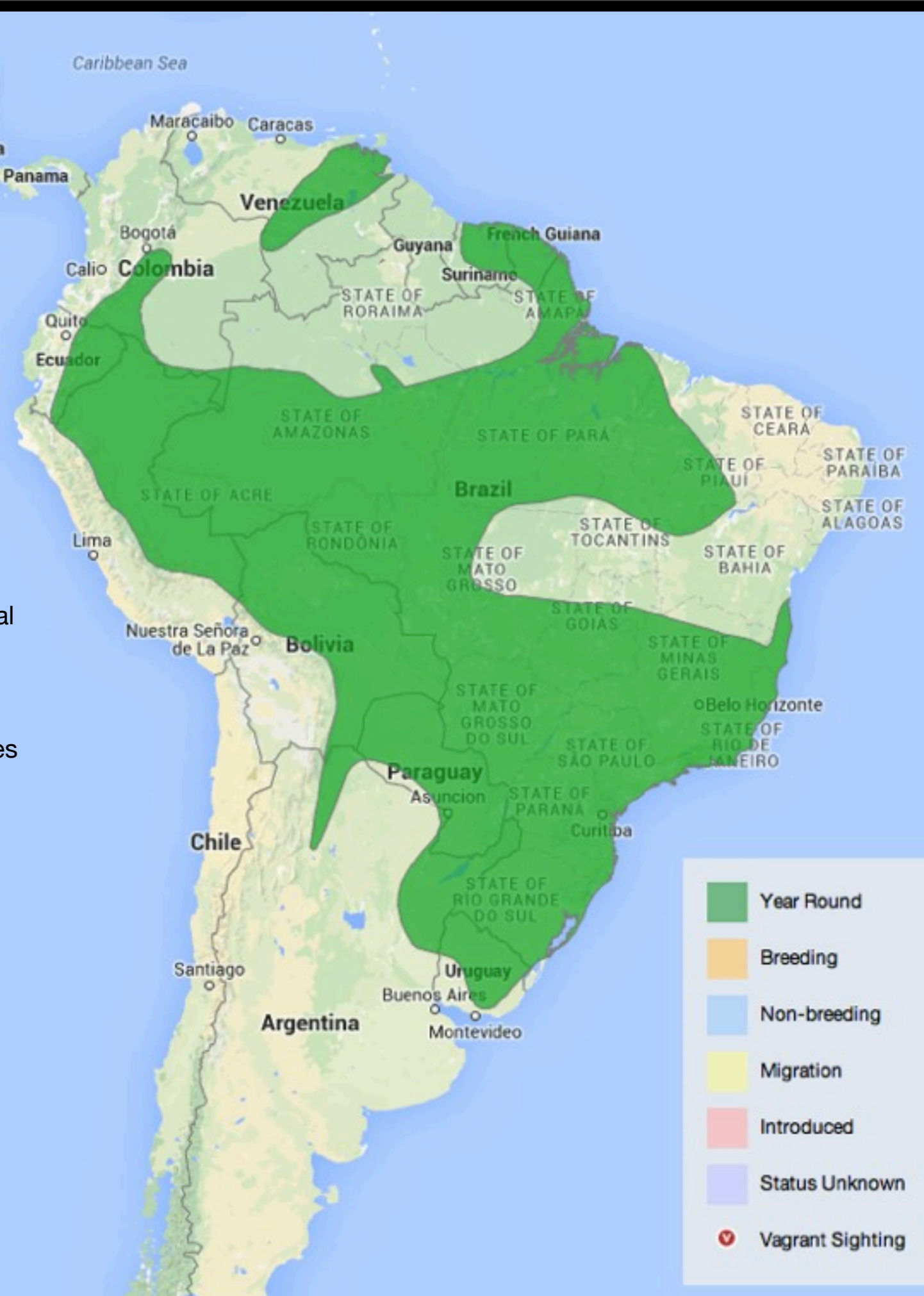
White-eyed Parakeet  
*Psittacara leucophthalmus*



# White-eyed Parakeet

## *Psittacara leucophthalmus*

The White-eyed Parakeet is a medium-sized, conspicuous green parrot widespread in the lowlands of northern and central South America. It resembles many other *Aratinga* parakeets in being largely green with a white orbital eye ring, red under the wrists, and a variable amount of red on the head. In this species the red on the head is restricted to scattered flecks, which combined with its range should allow easy recognition. It inhabits a suite of habitats including forest, savanna, scrub, *Mauritia* palm swamps, and mangroves. Like other *Aratinga* parakeets, it often occurs in noisy flocks, which are often spotted flying overhead, coming to clay licks, or feeding in fruiting trees. Food items are primarily fruit, but also may include flowers, seeds, and occasionally arthropods. This species nests in a cavity in a tree or in the top of a palm. It occurs in lowlands from Venezuela south east of the Andes to northernmost Argentina.





# THAMNOPHILIDAE





female



male

Great Antshrike  
*Taraba major*





male



male



female

Barred Antshrike  
*Thamnophilus doliatus*





male



male



female

**Bolivian Slaty Antshrike**  
*Thamnophilus sticturus*



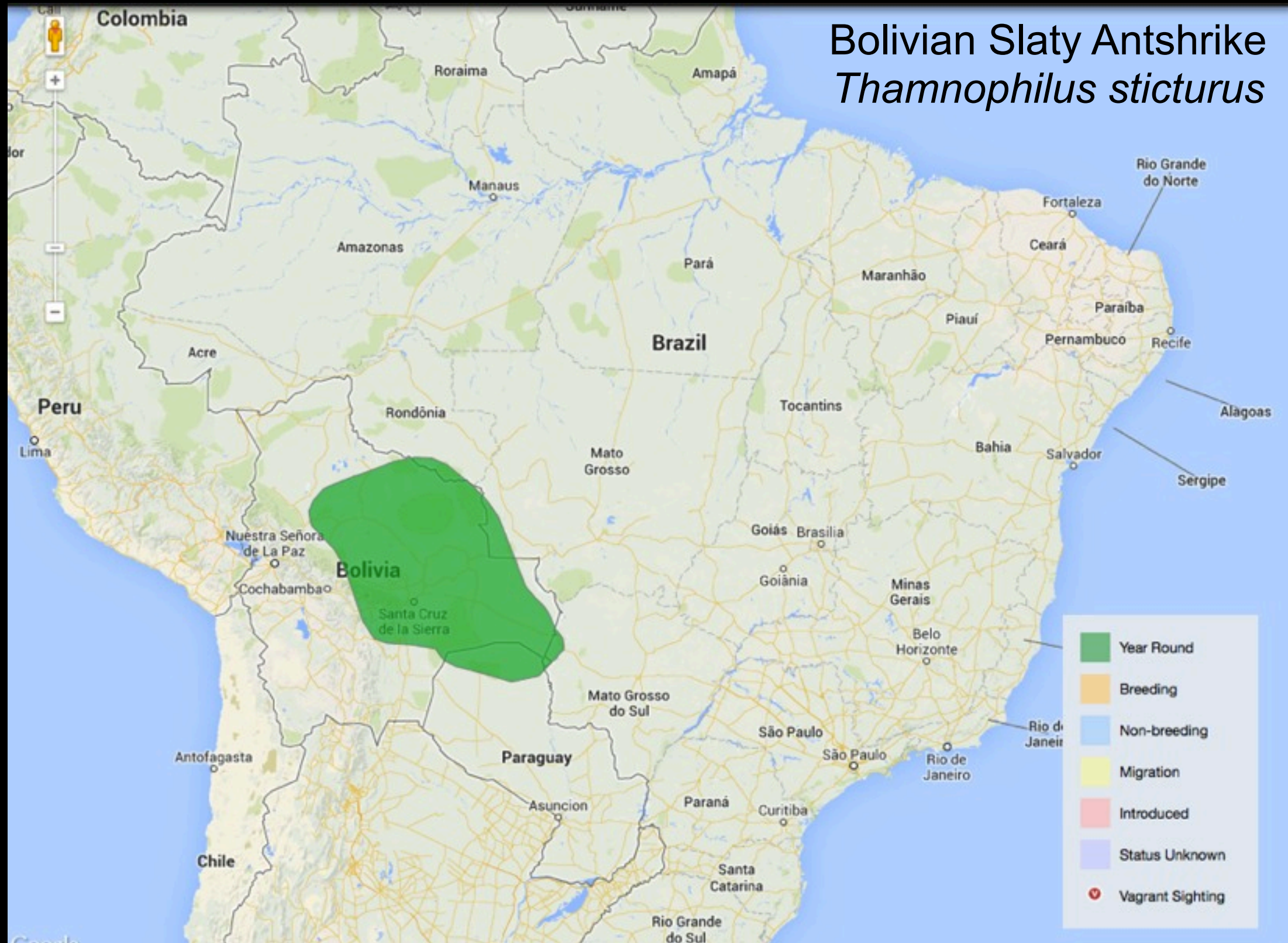
male



male



# Bolivian Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus sticturus*



The most range-restricted of the *Thamnophilus punctatus* (former Eastern Slaty-Antshrike) superspecies, the Bolivian Slaty-Antshrike does, nonetheless, reach beyond the confines of Bolivia, it being found from northern Paraguay and southwest Brazil across eastern and central Bolivia, where this antshrike is generally fairly common. Found to around 950 m, the Bolivian Slaty-Antshrike favors vine-dominated forests and their edges, in common with the remainder of the species complex, and typically forages alone or, more frequently, in pairs, searching for arthropods and habitually ‘shivering’ the tail following a change of perch, also like the other members of the superspecies. However, unlike the Planalto Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus pelzelni*) and the Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ambiguus*), both of which routinely join mixed-species foraging flocks, such behavior has yet to be recorded by the present species.





male



female



female

**Planalto Slaty Antshrike**  
*Thamnophilus pelzelni*



male



female



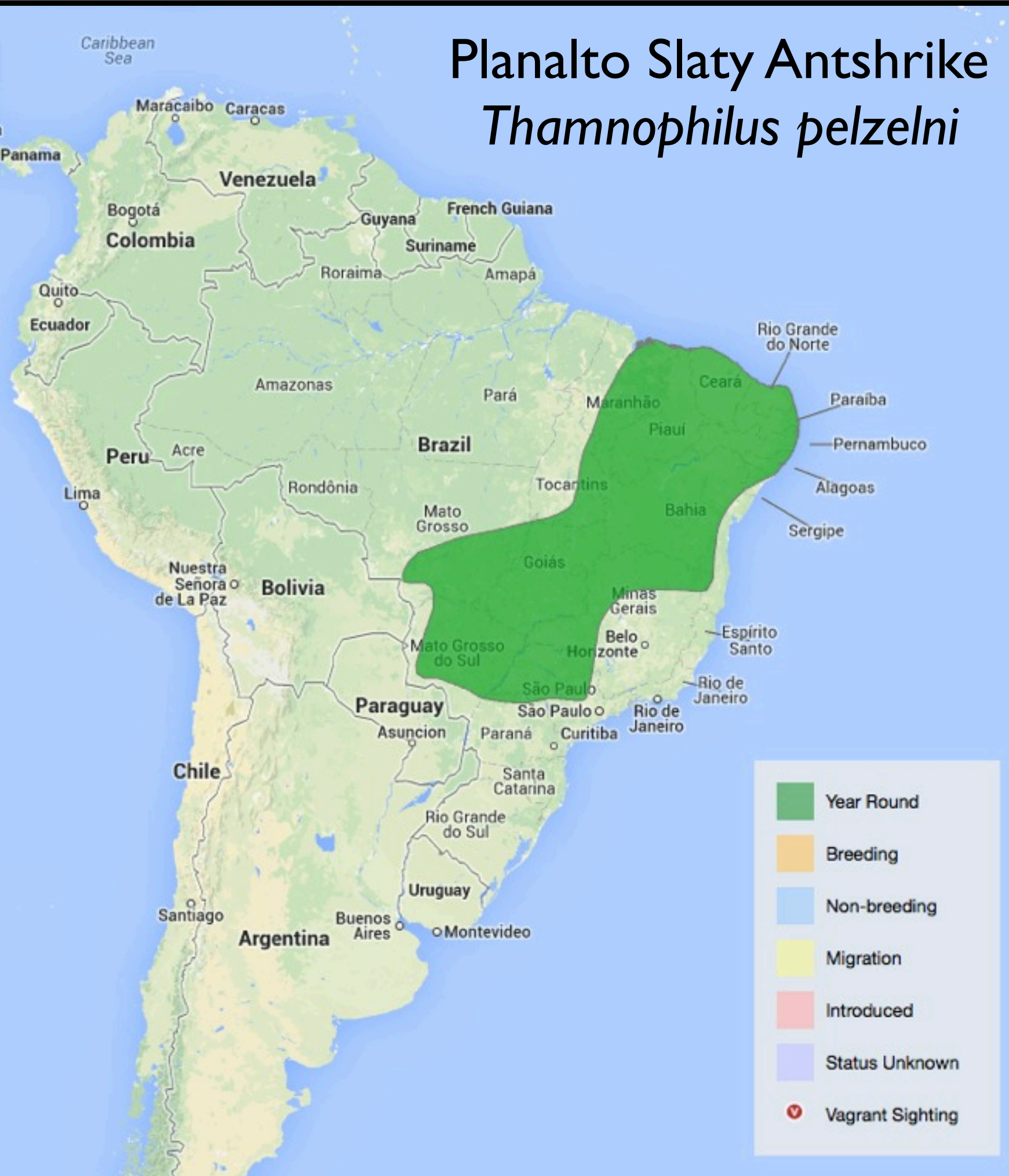
male



# Planalto Slaty Antshrike

## *Thamnophilus pelzelni*

This species replaces the coastal-restricted Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus ambiguus*) across much of the interior of eastern and central Brazil, where it ranges from eastern Maranhão south to western São Paulo and northern Paraná. The Planalto Slaty-Antshrike prefers vine-dominated deciduous and semi-deciduous forests, where it forages, usually in pairs and frequently within mixed-species flocks, in the lower to midstories, searching primarily for insect prey. Throughout its distribution, this is generally one of the commonest and most easily observed thamnophilids. Like many antshrikes it is easily attracted using playback, with the male typically approaching first, and usually only thereafter does the rather more colorful female come in for a look. The species' loudsong is distinctive within its range, and easily learned, but does not differ dramatically from that of the morphologically similar Sooretama Slaty-Antshrike.





male



female



male



Variable Antshrike  
*Thamnophilus caerulescens*

male



female





# Variable Antshrike

## *Thamnophilus caerulescens*

The Variable Antshrike is an inhabitant of tropical evergreen forest edge from Peru south along the Andes to Argentina and in Eastern Brazil. As the name implies, the Variable Antshrike has an incredible variability in plumage among the eight subspecies scattered across its range. The male from the nominate race is grey overall with a black forehead and crown, black lower back and wing coverts spotted white and a pale grey belly. Females are clay colored overall with cinnamon-tawny underparts, dark brown wings and grey throat and upperbreast. Variable Antshrikes are usually encountered in the forest understory 1 to 8m from the ground, often in more open situations than other antshrikes. When foraging Variable Antshrikes make short hops, changing directions frequently and stopping every couple of seconds to scan for insects and fruit. When an insect is spotted, Variable Antshrikes lunge to glean prey from surrounding foliage or make quick upward stabs to take prey from the bottom sides of leaves.







male



male



female

Plain Antwireo  
*Dysithamnus mentalis*





female



male

Gray Antwren  
*Myrmotherula menetriesii*



male



male



male



Stripe-backed Antbird  
*Myrmorchilus strigilatus*

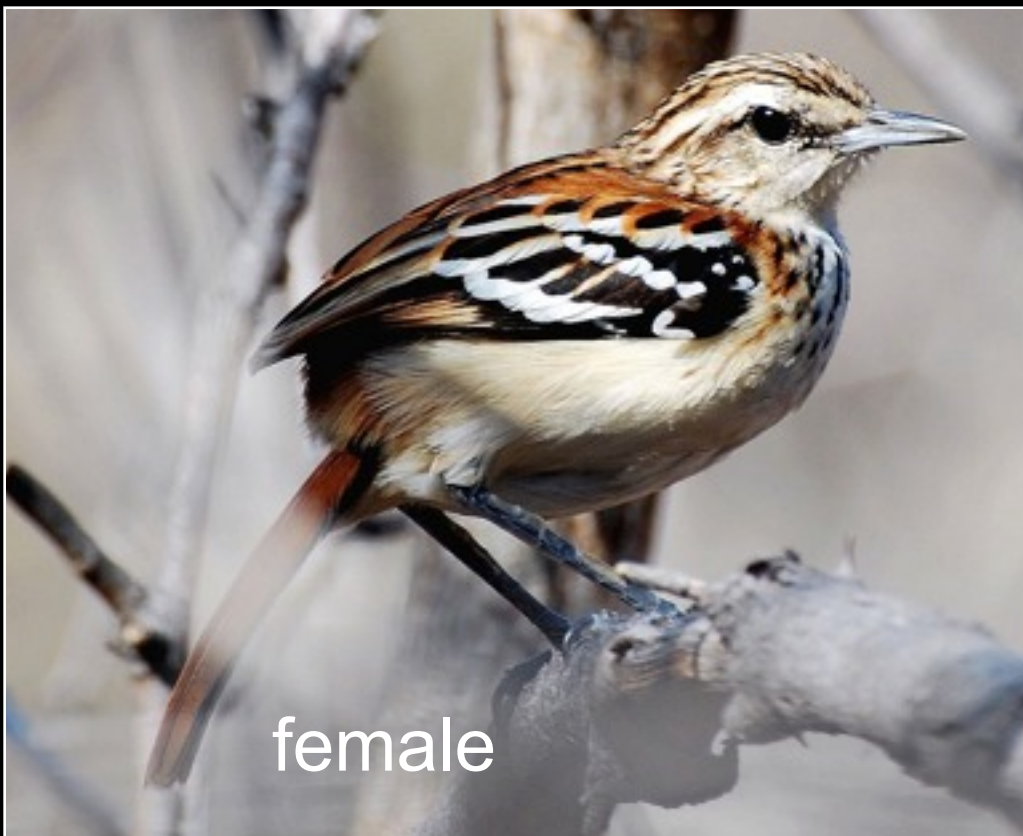
female



female



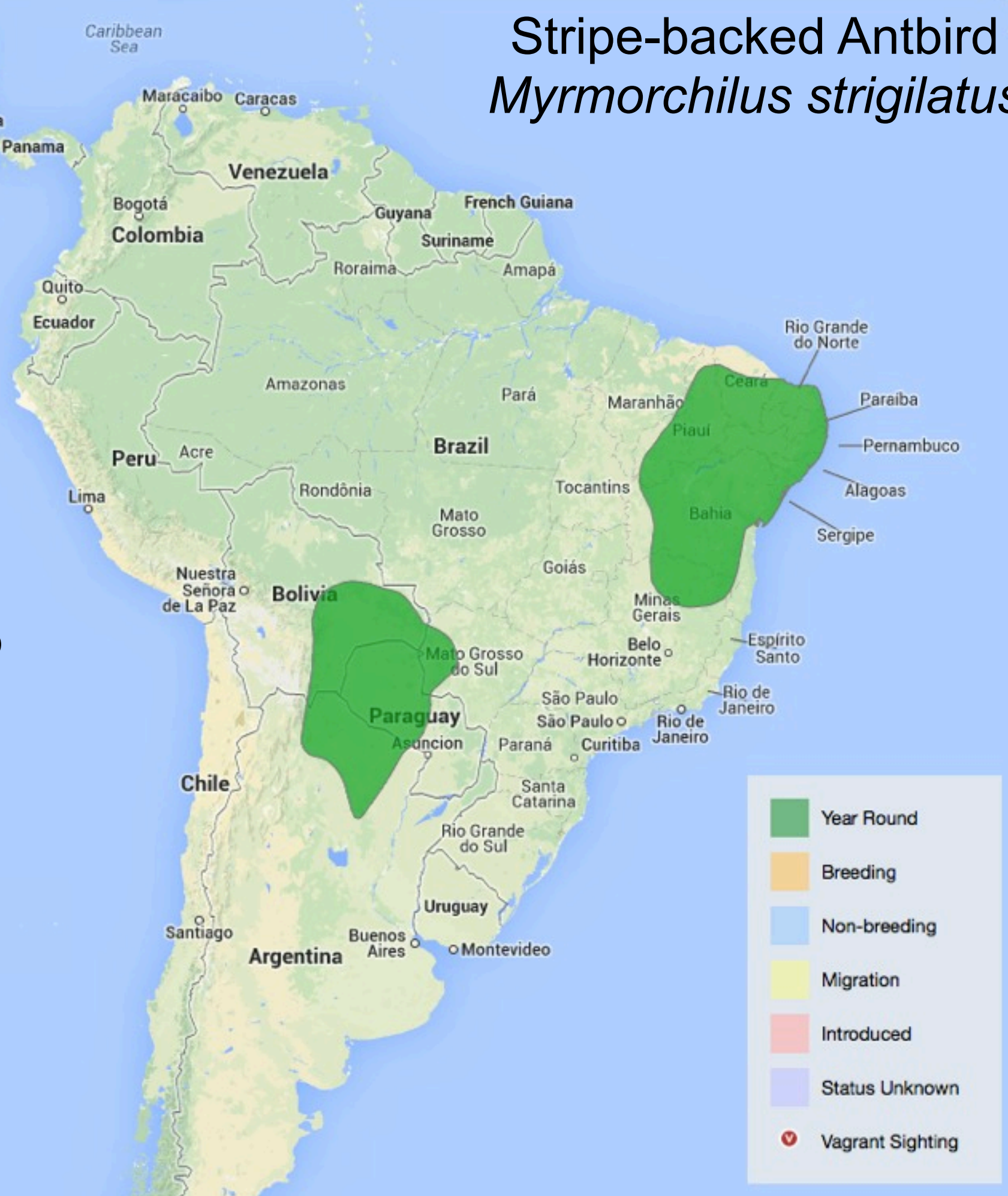
female





# Stripe-backed Antbird *Myrmorchilus strigilatus*

The Stripe-backed Antbird is the only antbird with a long tail, brown streaked upperparts, and a black throat in the male. It occurs disjunctly in the caatinga of northeastern Brazil (*M. s. strigilatus*) and the Chaco of southeastern Bolivia, western Brazil, western Paraguay, and northern Argentina (*M. s. suspicax*). It occurs in dense understory in woodland and scrub, particularly in areas with dense ground bromeliad growth. Individuals and pairs forage for arthropods on or near the ground, sometimes kicking with their strong legs to disturb prey. A nest in Argentina was a cup of dried grass placed on the ground.







female



male



male

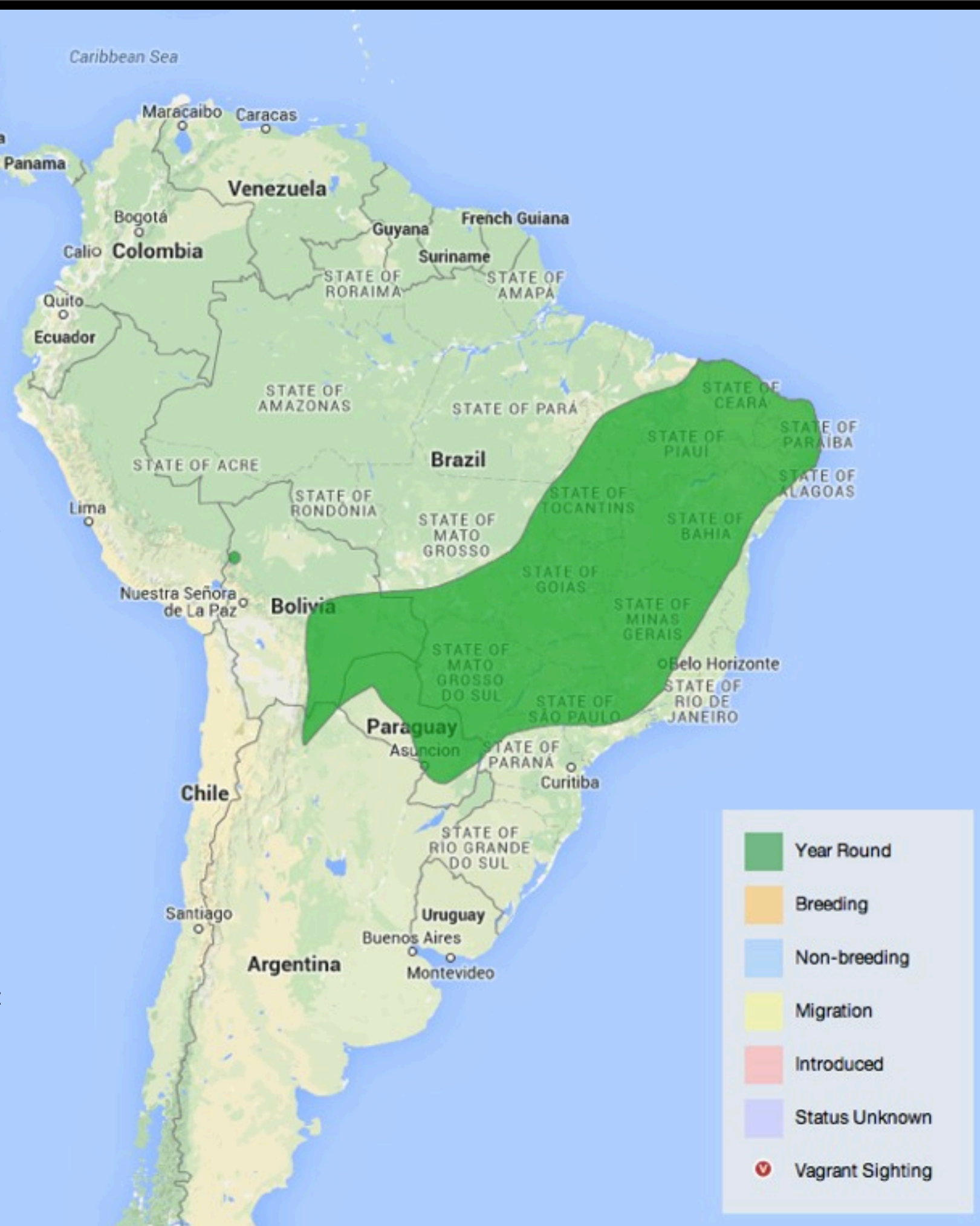
**Black-capped Antwren**  
*Herpsilochmus atricapillus*



# Black-capped Antwren

## *Herpsilochmus atricapillus*

The Black-capped Antwren is an inhabitant of gallery forest and deciduous forest from Eastern Brazil to Bolivia and Paraguay. The Black-capped Antwren has grey upperparts with a black crown and nape, long white supercilium, a long blackish postocular streak, black wings and grey underparts. These antwrens are usually encountered in pairs and family groups traveling with mixed species flocks, 7 to 20m above the forest floor. Black-capped Antwrens are methodical feeders. As they forage, Black-capped antwrens constantly flick their wings progressing through short hops and stopping every couple of seconds to scan for prey. When prey is sighted these antwrens make short lunging stabs or quick diagonal sallies to snatch the insect or spider from a branch or leaf.





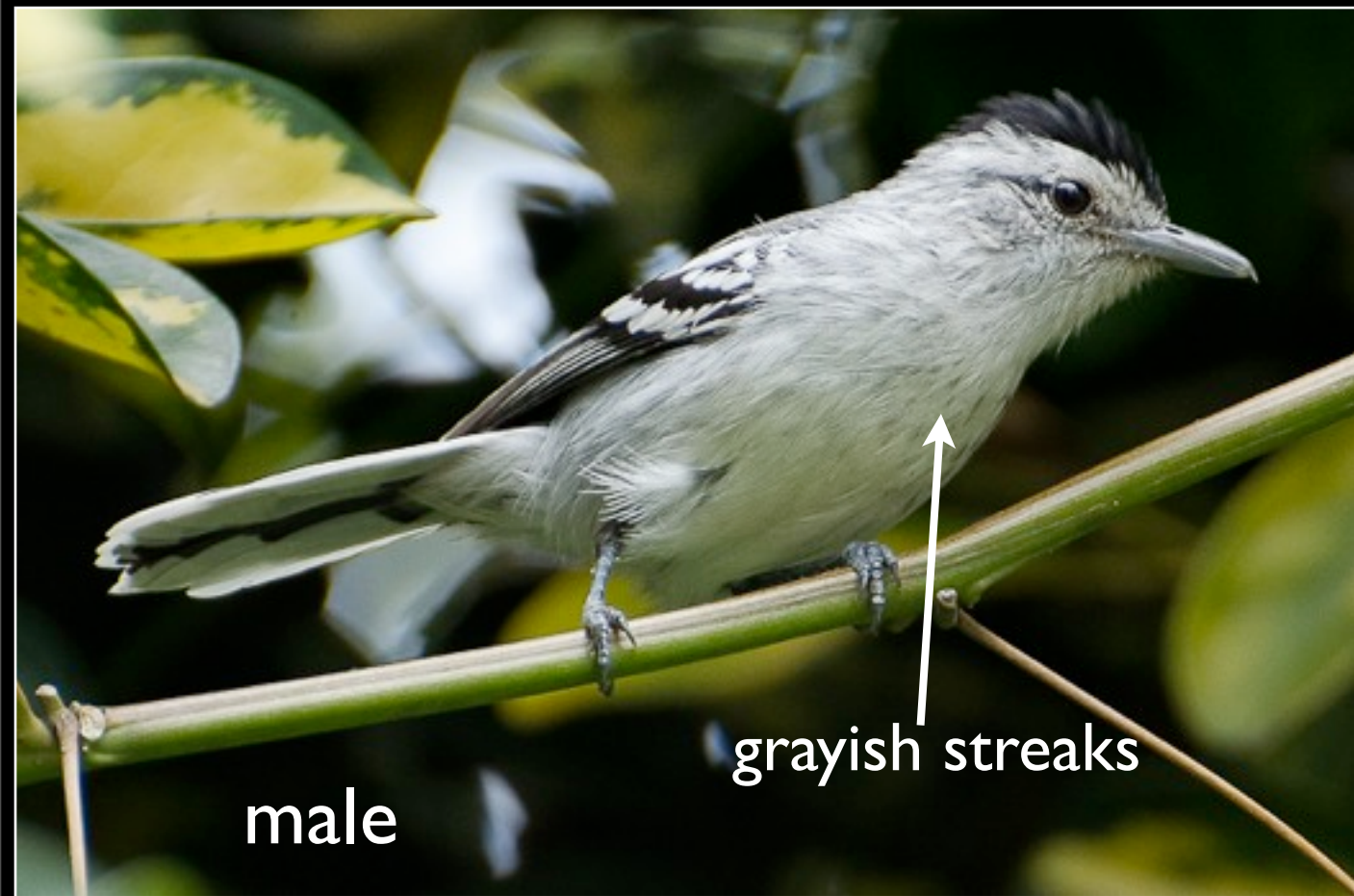


male



female

**Large-billed Antwren**  
*Herpsilochmus longirostris*



grayish streaks

male



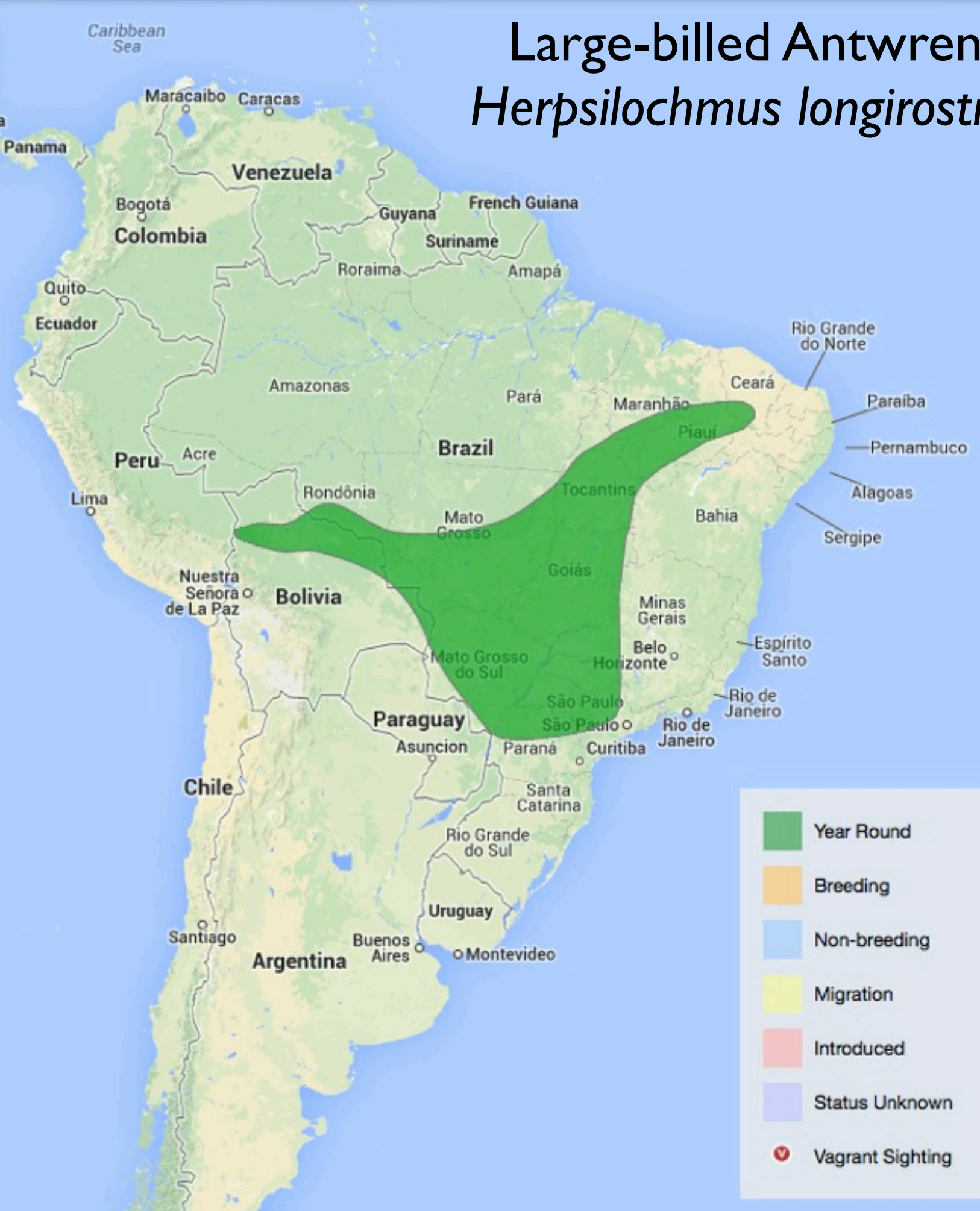
female



# Large-billed Antwren

## *Herpsilochmus longirostris*

Occupying a relatively large pre-Amazonian range across the interior of central South America, the Large-billed Antwren is most easily identified in female plumage, which is characterized by a bright orange head, becoming slightly paler over the underparts. In contrast, the male's mix of black, white, and gray is pretty much typical of the vast majority of *Herpsilochmus* antwrens. The Large-billed Antwren is distributed from northeast Brazil south and west to northeast Bolivia, and is found in gallery forest, semi-deciduous and deciduous woodland, and in palm groves. It frequently occupies relatively small woodlots within cerrado formations, and also occurs on river islands. Throughout its range, the Large-billed Antwren is somewhat unusual amongst its genus in that it regularly descends to the understory to feed, although the species also occurs to canopy levels. Like congeners, it regularly joins mixed-species flocks, but is usually found in pairs.







**White-fringed Antwren**  
*Formicivora grisea*



# White-fringed Antwren *Formicivora grisea*

Some recent authorities have separated the eight subspecies of the wide-ranging White-fringed Antwren into two species-level groups, northern (*Formicivora intermedia*) and southern (*Formicivora grisea*). Overall, the White-fringed Antwren is distributed from northwest Colombia across much of the northern two-thirds of South America, primarily east of the Andes. There are several insular populations, including one on the Pearl Islands in southern Panama. This antwren occupies a relatively wide variety of scrubby, wooded habitats, including caatinga in northeast Brazil, coastal restinga in eastern Brazil, and even mangrove in northern Venezuela. Although, like other *Formicivora*, the species joins mixed-species flocks of insectivores, it is more usually found foraging alone, usually in close-knit pairs, low in the undergrowth, but sometimes ascending to the midstory.







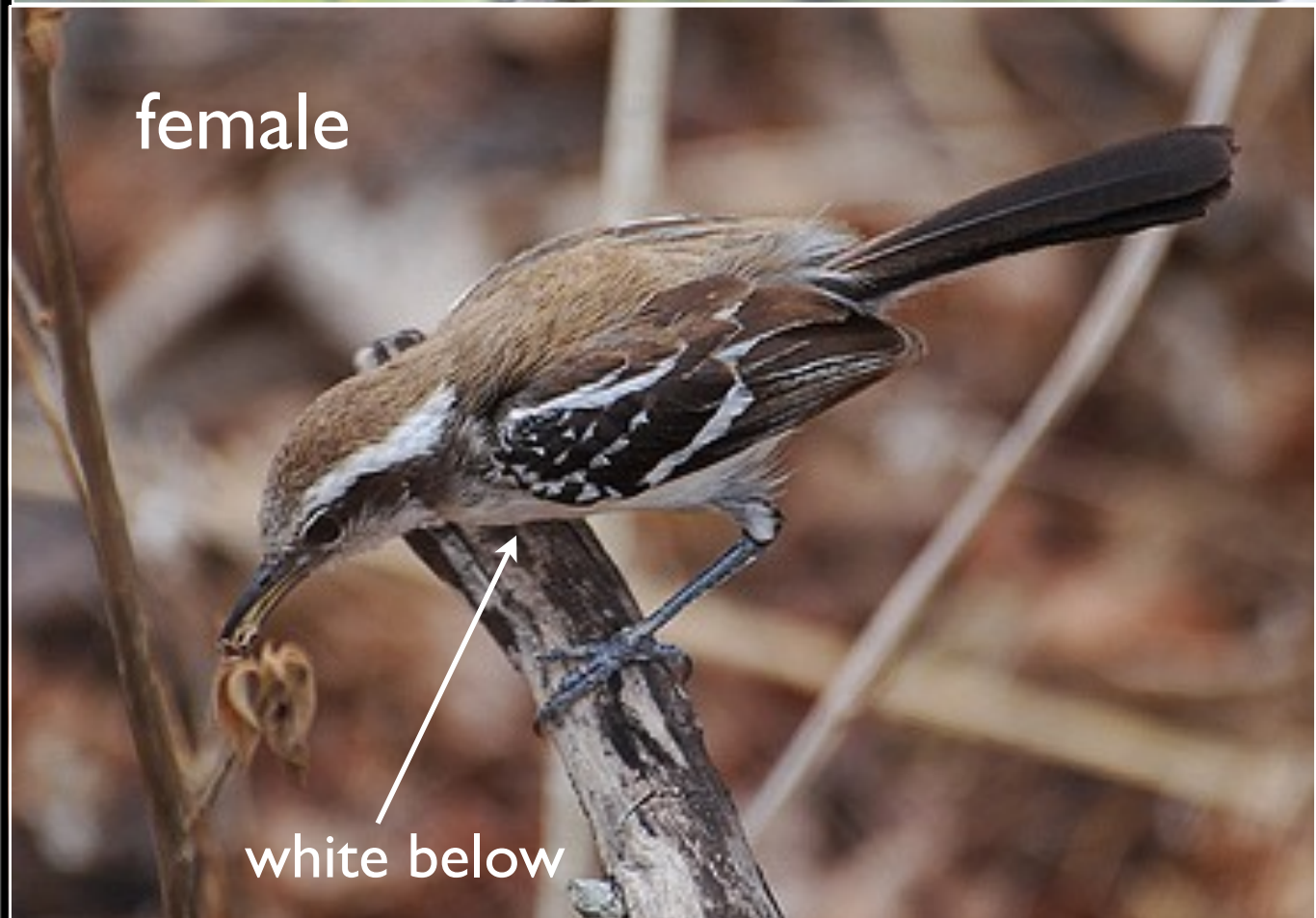
male

Black-bellied Antwren  
*Formicivora melanogaster*



male

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female

white below



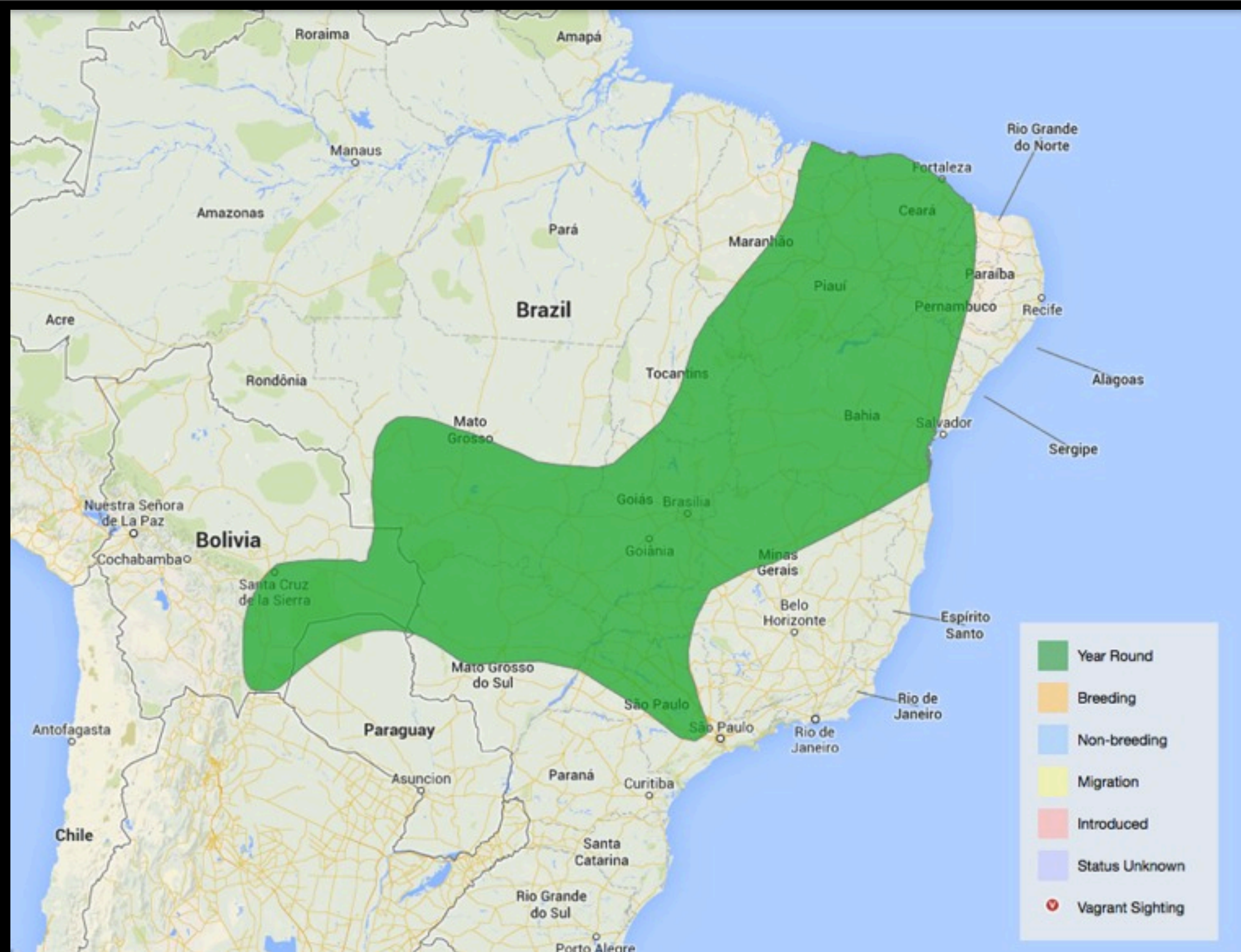
white edging

male

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Despite this species' undoubtedly large range across eastern and central South America, it is almost endemic to Brazil, as the Black-bellied Antwren only narrowly extends into northern Paraguay and southeast Bolivia. Throughout its distribution, the species is fairly common, although it is perhaps more sensitive to habitat degradation than some of the Caatinga's other avian inhabitants. In plumage, the Black-bellied Antwren recalls the partially sympatric White-fringed Antwren (*Formicivora grisea*), but males are rather darker above, with much less obvious white flanks, while females are even more easily separated by the broad white supercilium contrasting with the dark mask, and paler underparts. The Black-bellied Antwren is typically found in pairs in the under- or midstory of taller caatinga, tropical deciduous woodland, or even second growth at the ecotone between caatinga and cerrado.



## Black-bellied Antwren *Formicivora melanogaster*





male



female

streaked below

**Rusty-backed Antwren**  
*Formicivora rufa*



male



male



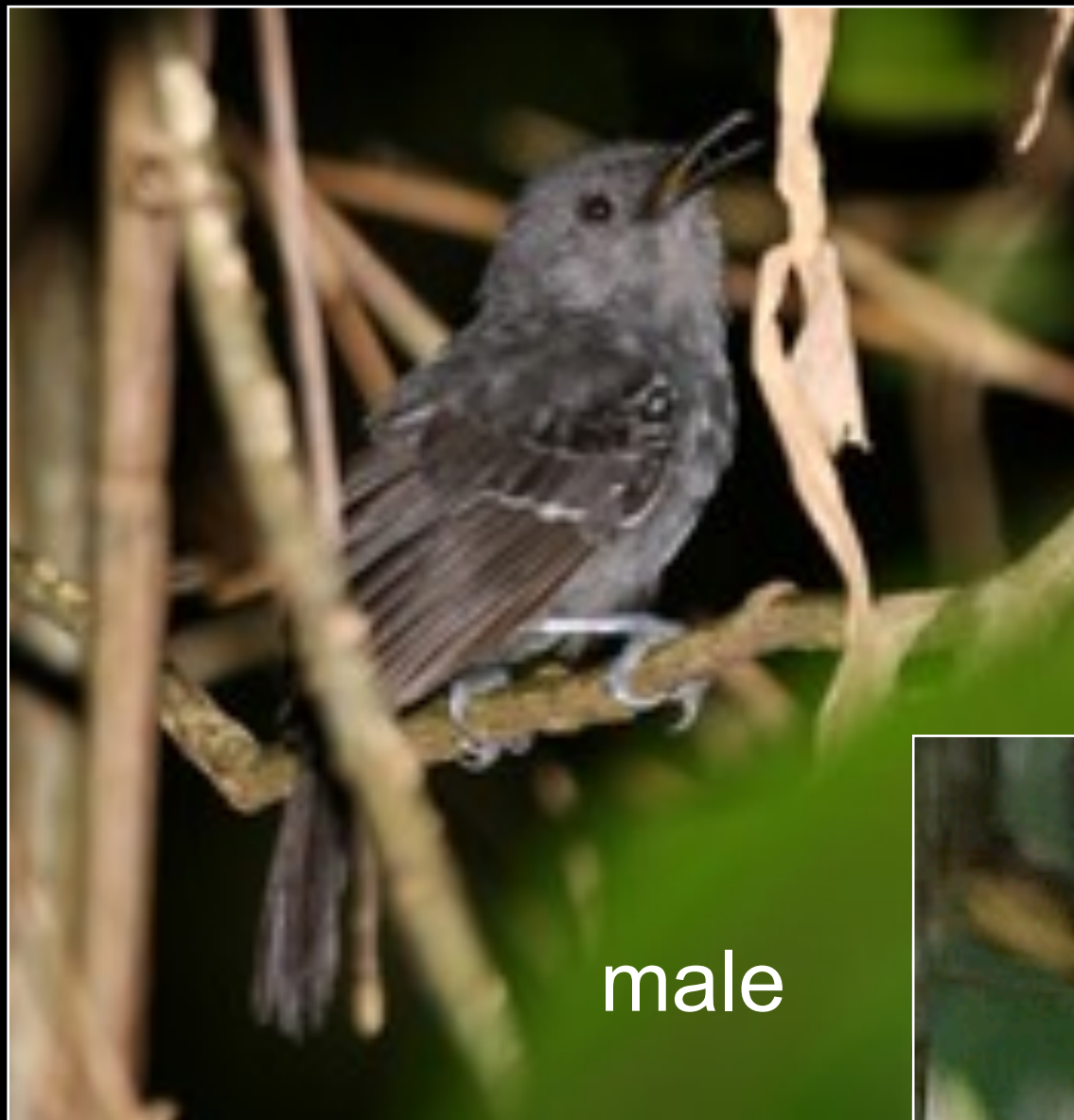
# Rusty-backed Antwren

## *Formicivora rufa*

The Rusty-backed Antwren is a small, long-tailed, rufescent antbird of undergrowth in open habitats. It occurs broadly across cerrado and other open habitats in central Brazil, with isolated populations in savanna patches in eastern Amazonia and in Andean foothills in Peru. The male has an extensive black throat bordered in white, while the female is white streaked with black below. Both sexes are more rufescent above than any other *Formicivora* antwren. This species forages actively for arthropods, but stays in undergrowth and can be difficult to spot. A nest in Brazil was a cup of grass placed on a branch fork in a shrub.







male

Gray Antbird  
*Cercomacra cinerascens*



male





male



female

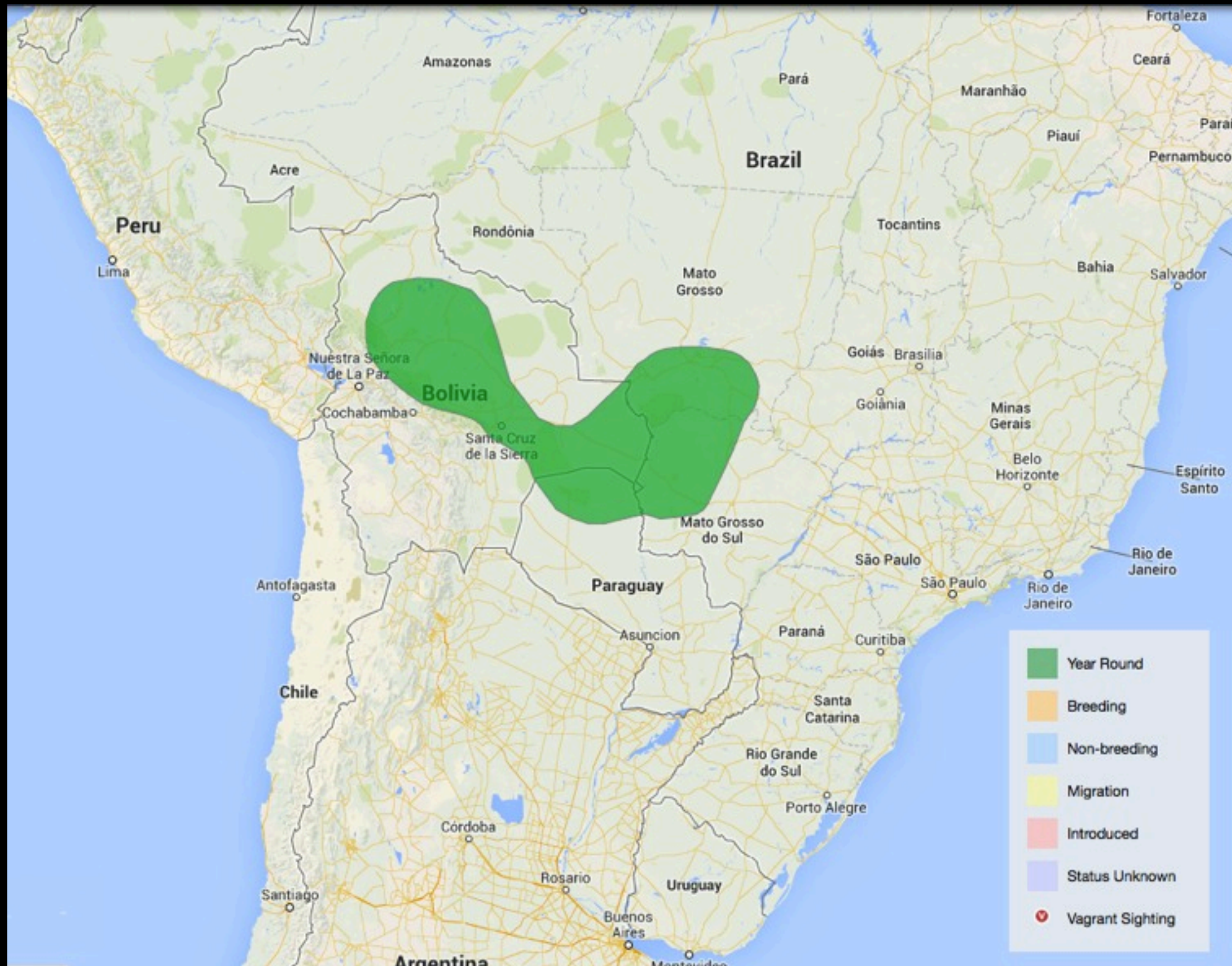


male

**Mato Grosso Antbird**  
*Cercomacra melanaria*

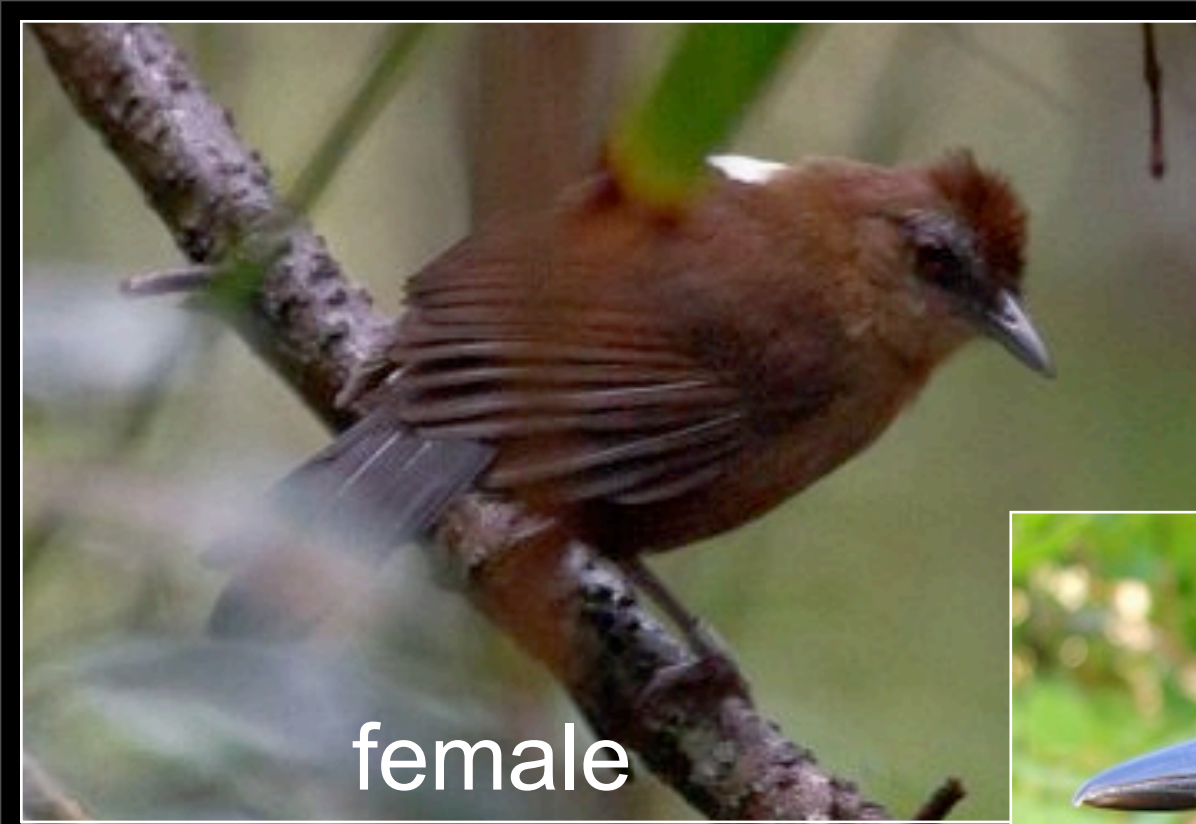


The Mato Grosso Antbird is common in the pantanal region of Mato Grosso, Brazil, but the distribution extends west to north central Bolivia, and it also occurs in far northern Paraguay. In general appearance, this antbird is a typical *Cercomacra*: medium sized, with a graduated tail and a fairly long, slender bill. The male is mostly black, with white-tipped wing coverts and white tips to the rectrices; the male is very similar to several other species in the genus, especially to the Rio Branco Antbird (*Cercomarca carbonaria*), the Jet Antbird (*Cercomacra nigricans*), and the Bananal Antbird (*Cercomacra ferdinandi*). All of these species are distributed around the edges of Amazonia, and do not overlap geographically with each other. The female is mostly gray-brown, paler on the underparts, but with the wing and tail pattern as in the male. Mato Grosso Antbirds typically forage as pairs in the under- and midstory of thickets in gallery forest and the edge of deciduous forests.



## Mato Grosso Antbird *Cercomacra melanaria*



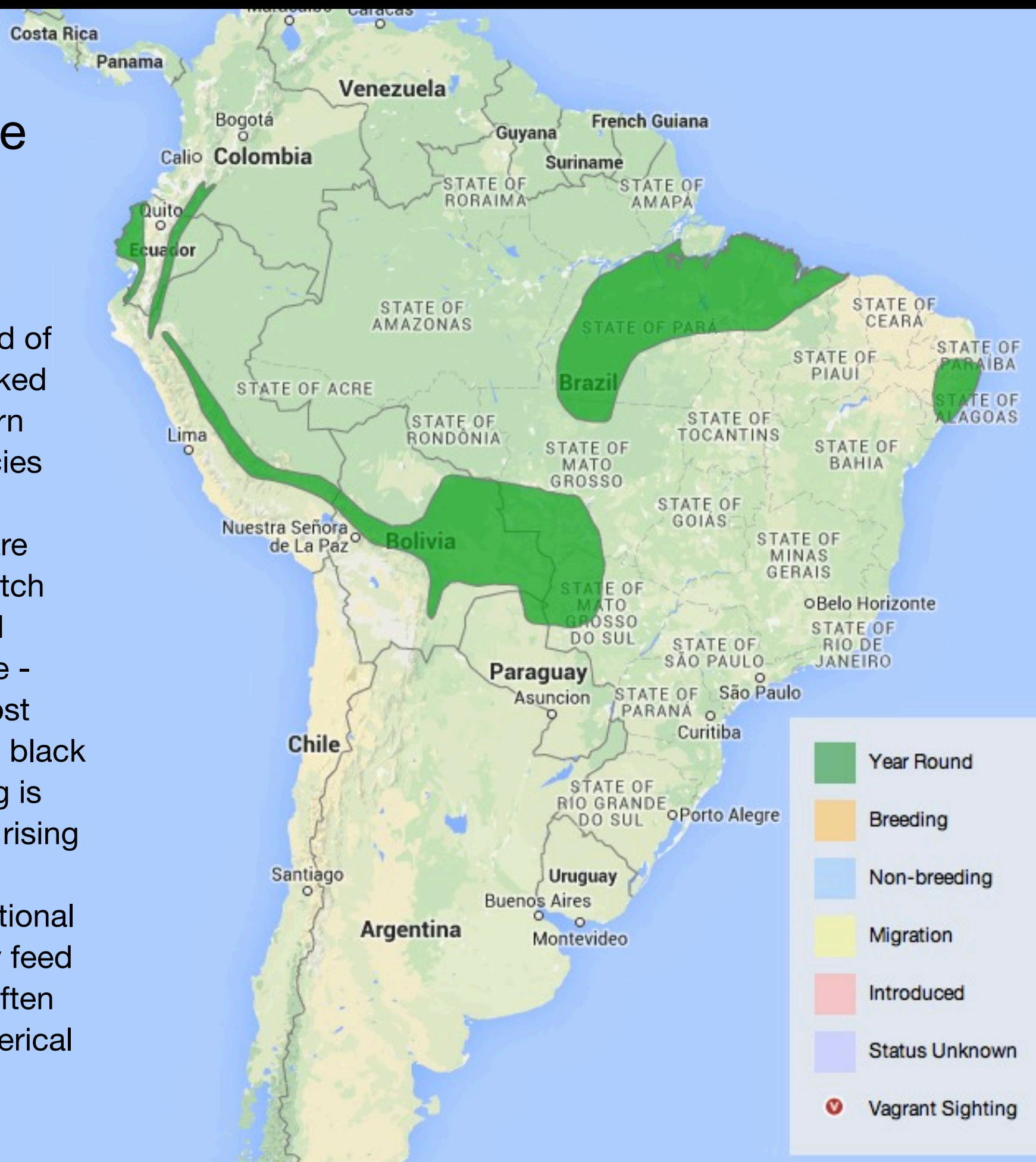


White-backed Fire-eye  
*Pyriglena leuconota*

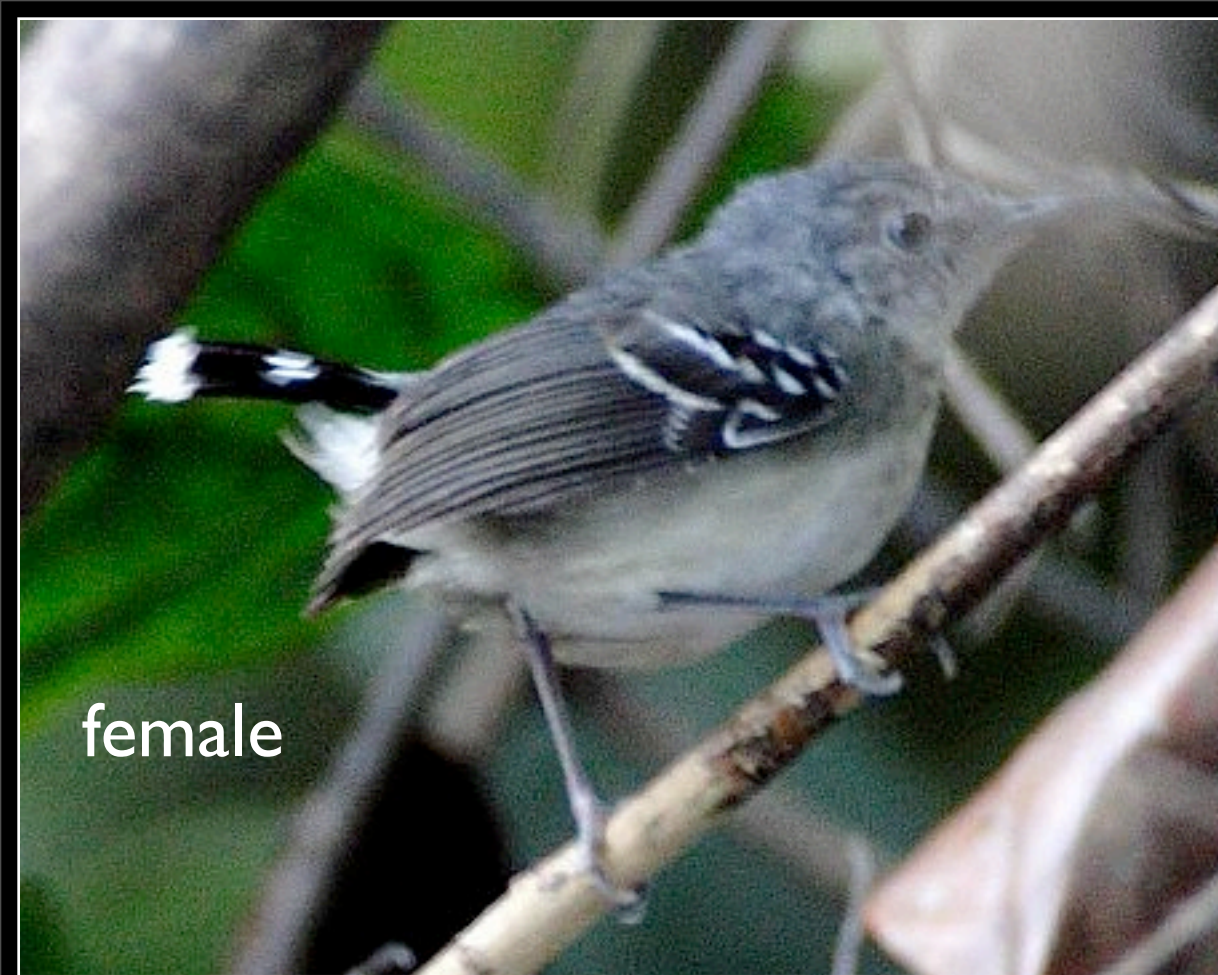


# White-backed Fire-eye *Pyriglena leuconota*

White-backed Fire-Eye is an antbird of forest understory that exhibits marked variation across its range in northern South America. Likely several species are involved, but further study is required. Males in all populations are black overall, with a small white patch on the lower mantle, and bright red eyes. Females are far more variable - some shade of brown overall in most populations, but strongly bicolored black and brown in others. The loud song is generally a series of short whistles rising and falling in pitch. All populations inhabit forest understory, but elevational ranges vary between regions. They feed on arthropods and small reptiles, often at army ant swarms, and build spherical nests of leaves.







female



white terminal  
band on tail

female



male

**Band-tailed Antbird**  
*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*



# CONOPOPHAGIDAE





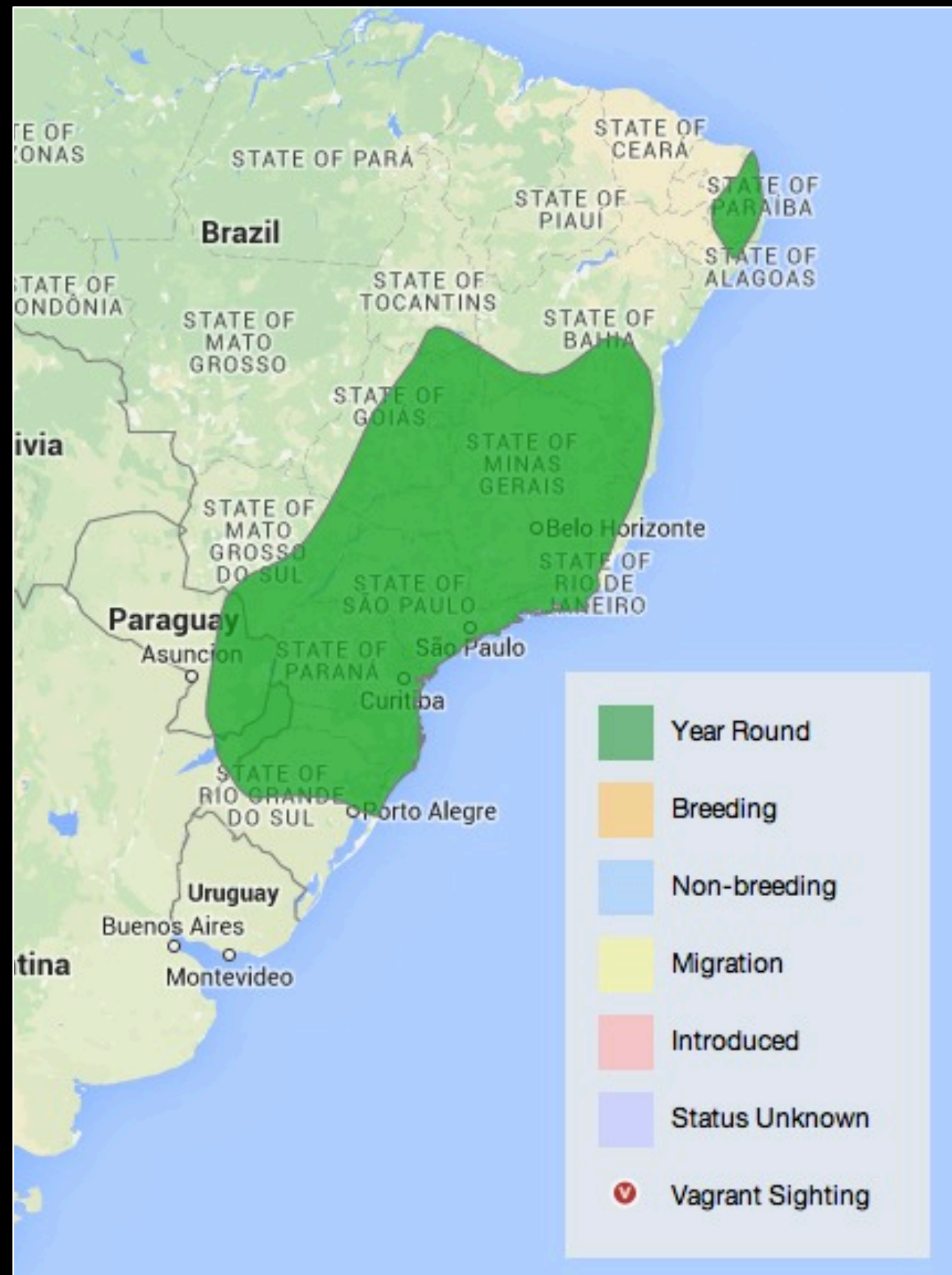
Rufous Gnateater  
*Conopophaga lineata*



# Rufous Gnateater

## *Conopophaga lineata*

The Rufous Gnateater is a fairly common bird of forest understory. It is best known from the coastal mountains of southern Brazil, where it occurs in montane evergreen forest, especially near thickets of bamboo. Elsewhere in its range, however, it occupies a broader range of forest types. Subspecies *cearae* in northeastern Brazil has a different plumage pattern and vocalizations, and may be a separate species.





# FURNARIIDAE





Olivaceous Woodcreeper  
*Sittasomus griseicapillus*





Wedge-billed Woodcreeper  
*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*





**Black-banded Woodcreeper**  
*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*





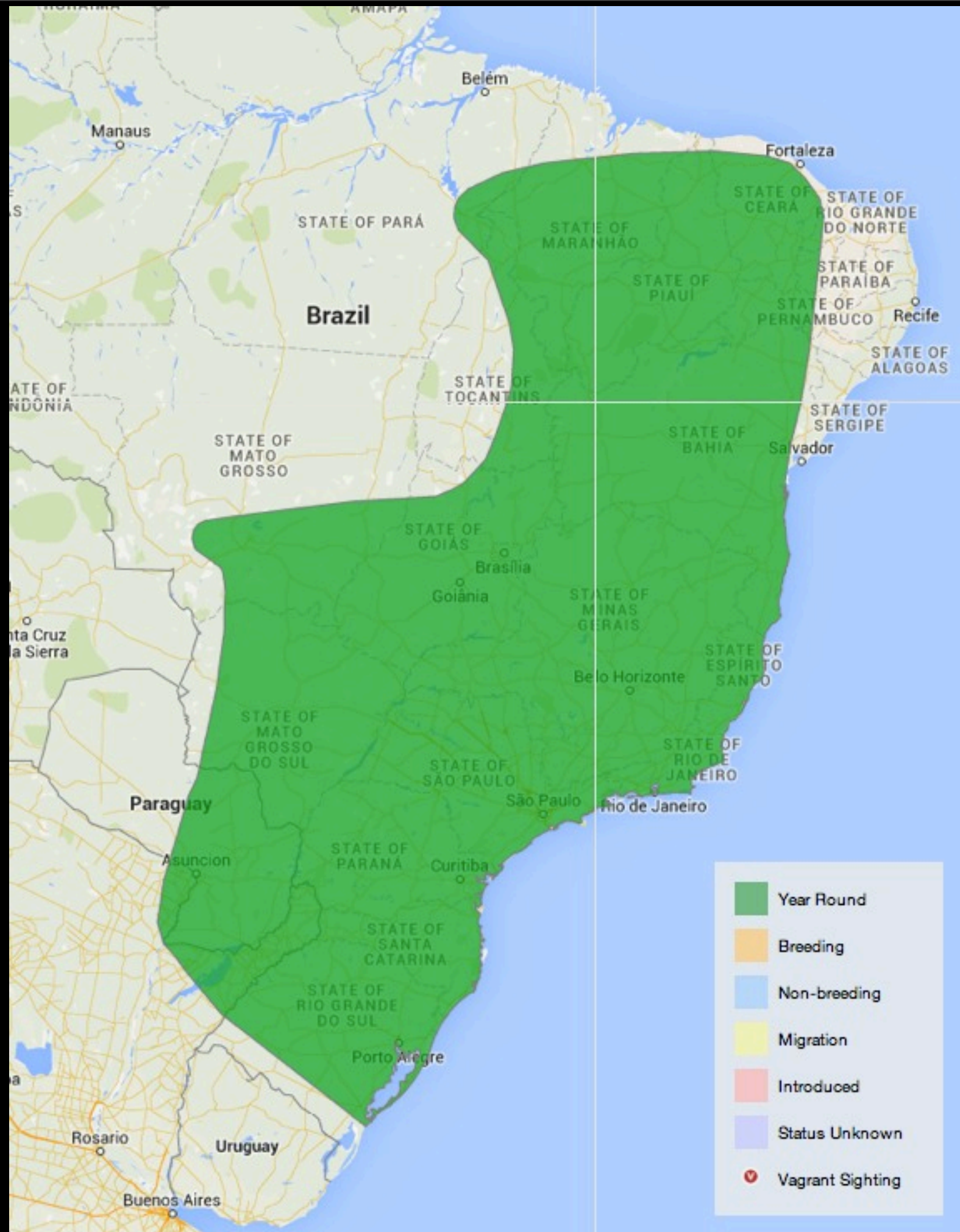
Planalto Woodcreeper  
*Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*



# Planalto Woodcreeper

## *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*

Although the Planalto Woodcreeper is probably most closely related to the Hoffmann's Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes hoffmannsi*) and the Black-banded Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes picumnus*), it is the larger-bodied and larger-billed, sympatric White-throated Woodcreeper (*Xiphocolaptes albicollis*) that is most likely to be confused with the present species. The Planalto Woodcreeper occurs from northeast Brazil south to southeast Paraguay and northeast Argentina, and is found in humid montane forest in the littoral, as well as deciduous and gallery forests over the interior. The species is found to 2100 m. Its diet is mainly arthropods, but some vegetable matter and even occasional small vertebrates are also taken. In the past, the Planalto Woodcreeper was often considered a 'professional' follower of ant swarms, but this does not seem to be the case.



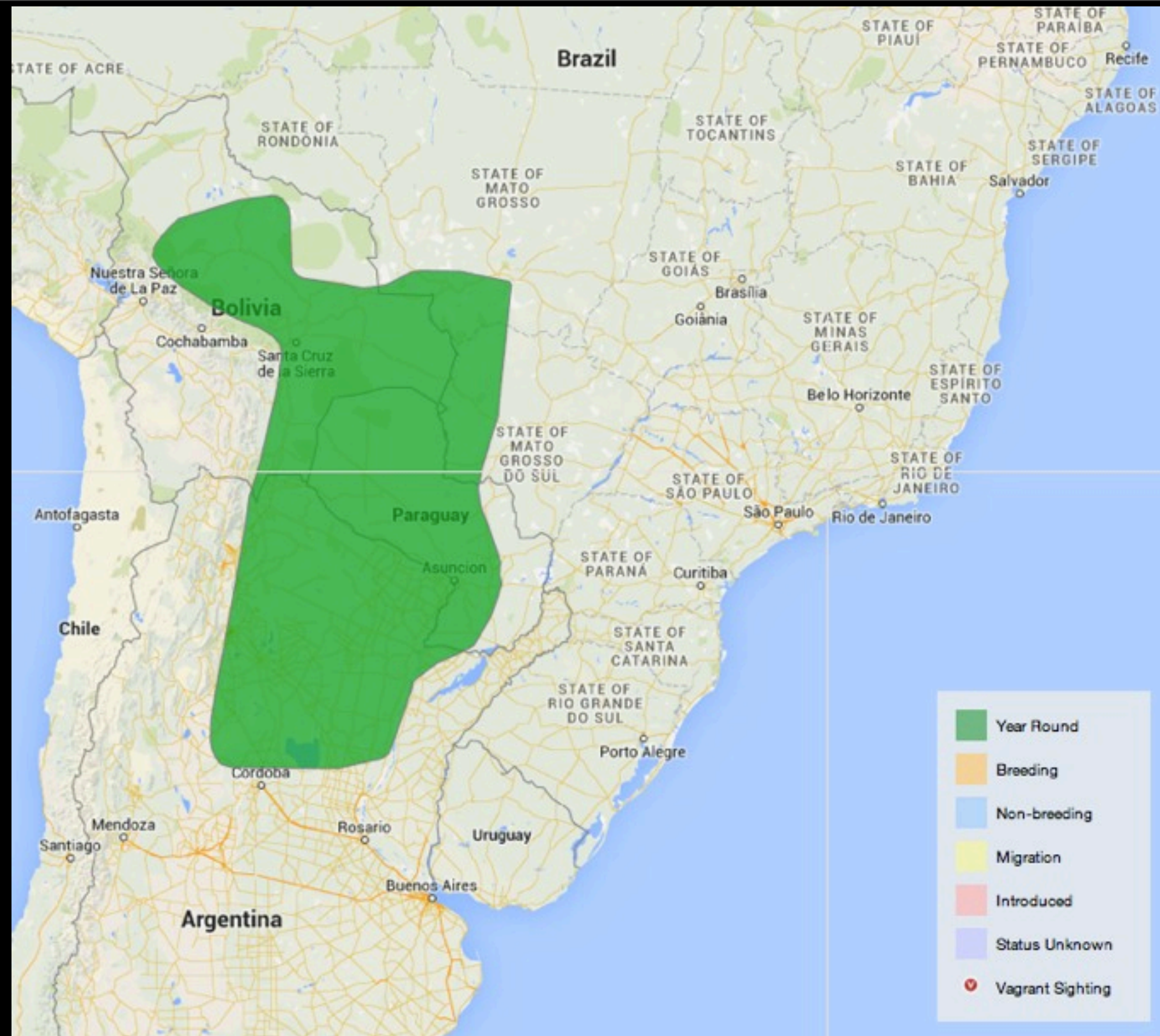




Great Rufous  
Woodcreeper  
*Xiphocolaptes major*



# Great Rufous Woodcreeper *Xiphocolaptes major*



The Great Rufous Woodcreeper is a giant among woodcreepers; it is not only large and big bodied but has a thick and stout bill. This denizen of Chaco forest is well named as it is big and rufous. Many other woodcreepers have a predominance of rufous coloration, but the Great Rufous is evenly rufous with little to no markings on that rufous plumage. It lacks strong streaking, barring or spotting as is typical in this family. The throat is whitish; the eyes reddish, and the bill a pale blue-grey. However a most striking feature is that the lores are entirely black, creating a black-masked look that is distinctive, and contrasts with the pale blue-grey bill. Vocally this is a loud woodcreeper but it does not vocalize all that often, but has a vocalization similar to that of the other large *Xiphocolaptes* woodcreepers. It is a slowing, lilted series of awkward sounding notes “yaaa....yaaa....yaaa..... yaaa.....yaaa...”





Buff-throated Woodcreeper  
*Xiphorhynchus guttatus*





**Straight-billed Woodcreeper**  
*Dendroplex picus*









Narrow-billed Woodcreeper  
*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*





Lineated Woodcreeper  
*Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*





Plain Xenops  
*Xenops minutus*







Streaked Xenops  
*Xenops rutilans*





Point-tailed Palmcreeper  
*Berlepschia rikeri*





Pale-legged Hornero  
*Furnarius leucopus*





Rufous Hornero  
*Furnarius rufus*



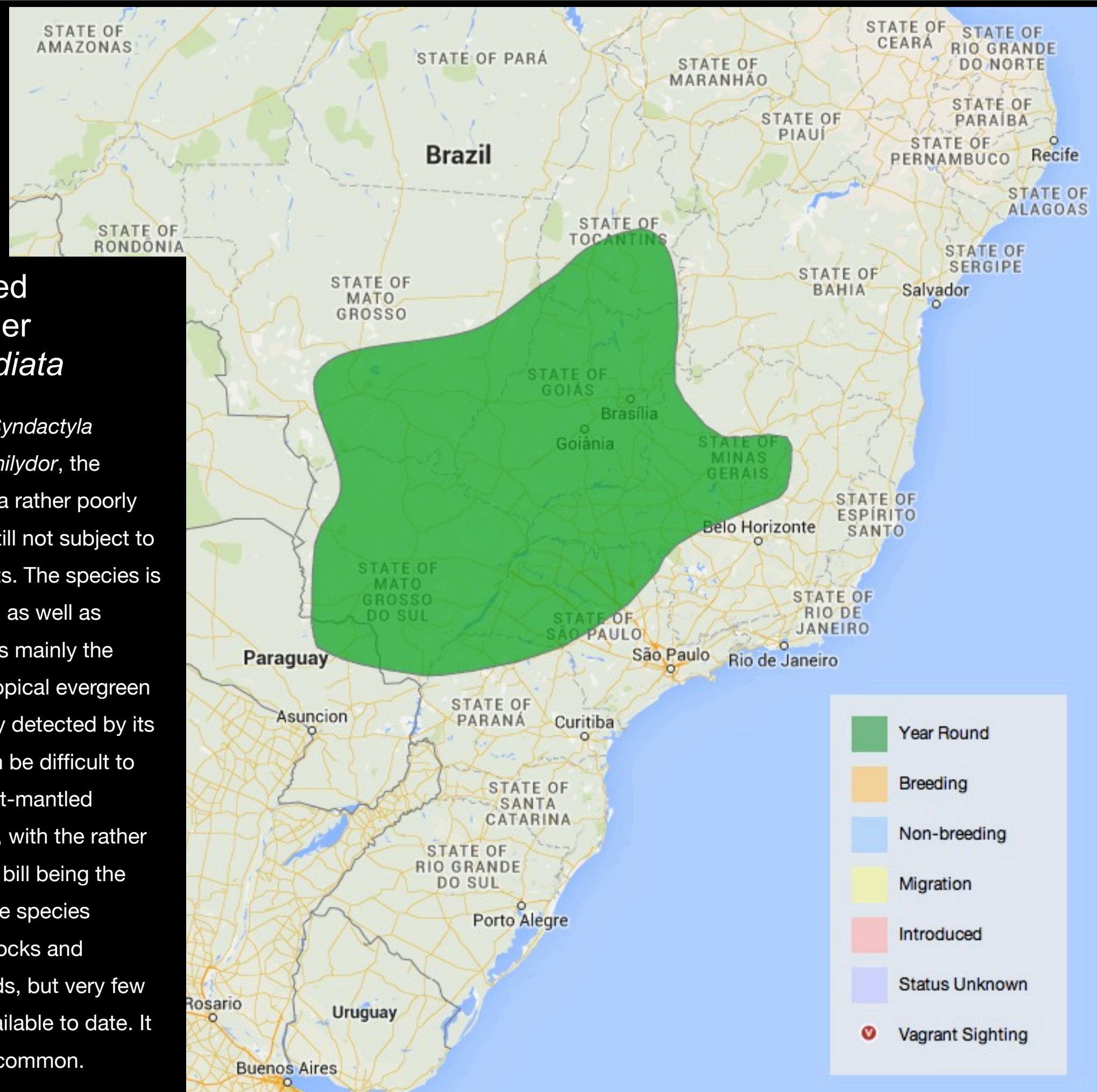


Russet-mantled Foliage-Gleaner  
*Syndactyla dimidiata*



## Russet-mantled Foliage-Gleaner *Syndactyla dimidiata*

Recently transferred to the genus *Syndactyla* following an protracted period in *Philydor*, the Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner is a rather poorly known bird, whose main range is still not subject to extensive fieldwork by ornithologists. The species is found mainly in south-central Brazil as well as adjacent Paraguay, where it inhabits mainly the understory of gallery forests and tropical evergreen forests, to 1200 m. It is most readily detected by its staccato, 'chattering' song, but can be difficult to see even with playback. The Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner is largely rufescent, with the rather long, slightly upturned and pointed bill being the most striking feature of the bird. The species occasionally joins mixed-species flocks and probably feeds largely on arthropods, but very few natural history observations are available to date. It seems to be rare or at best locally common.







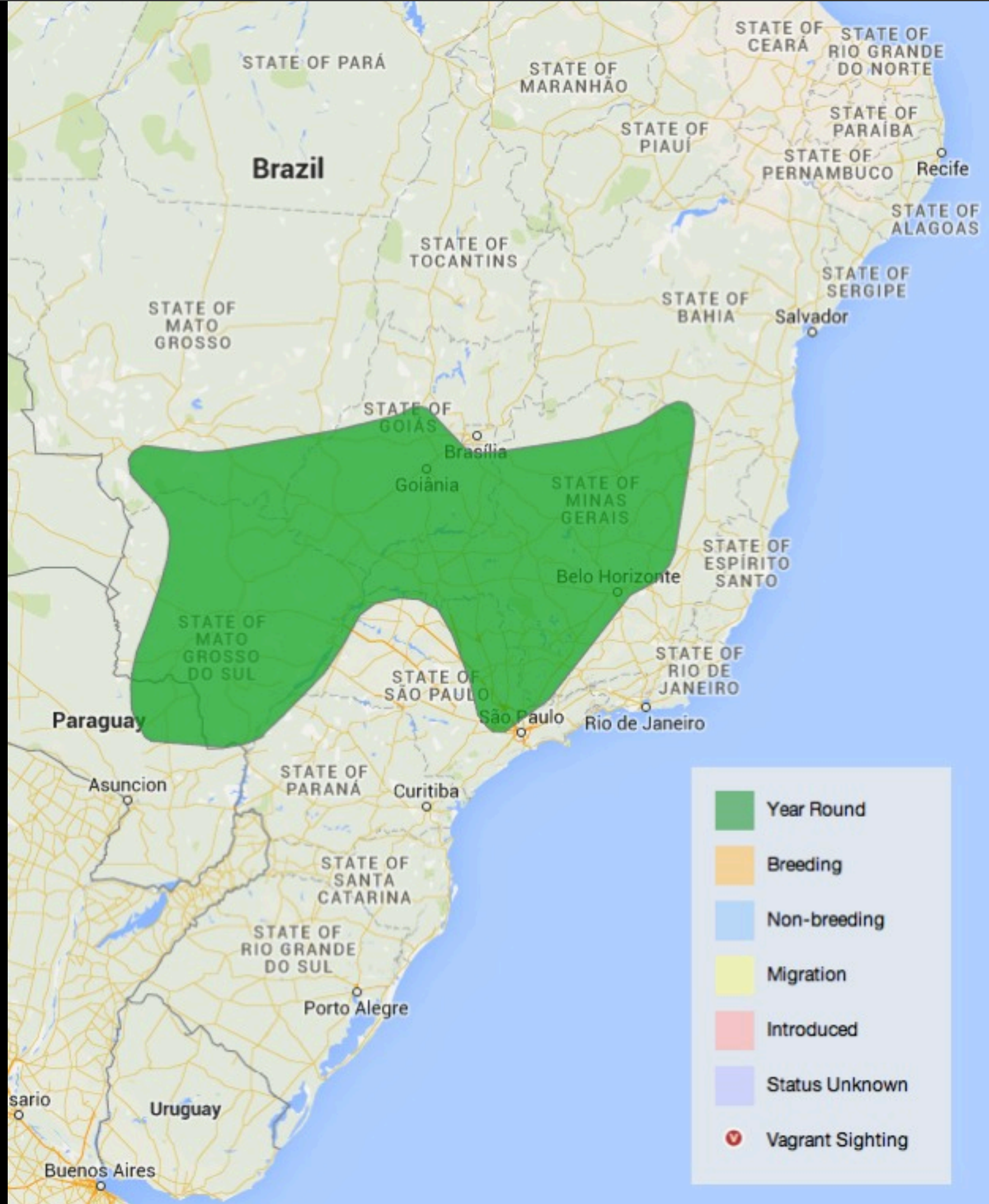
Chestnut-capped  
Foliage-Gleaner  
*Clibanornis rectirostris*





# Chestnut-capped Foliage-Gleaner *Clibanornis rectirostris*

Although sometimes placed in the genus *Automolus*, the Chestnut-capped Foliage-gleaner is more usually considered a member of *Hylocryptus*, with its closest relative being the Tumbesian endemic, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner (*Hylocryptus erythrocephalus*). In contrast, the range of the present species lies almost a continent away in the interior of south-central Brazil and eastern Paraguay. Until recently, this region was not frequently visited by ornithologists, but it is now known to be a reasonably common inhabitant of deciduous woodland and gallery forests, even being found in relatively small and isolated patches of habitat. It is a strikingly plumaged bird, usually first located by virtue of its highly distinctive vocalizations that sound rather like a 'demented' domestic fowl. Virtually the entire head and body are rufous, deepest on the face and wings, with bright yellow irides, a long tail and a heavy bill.







Rufous-fronted Thornbird  
*Phacellodomus rufifrons*





# Rufous-fronted Thornbird

## *Phacellodomus rufifrons*

The Rufous-fronted Thornbird occupies arid scrub in four disjunct regions of South America. The northern population occurs in northeastern Colombia and in Venezuela; the western population resides in southern Ecuador and northern Peru; the eastern population occurs in eastern Brazil; and the southern population occupies eastern Bolivia and southern Brazil. Rufous-fronted Thornbirds are a rather nondescript furnariid, with a dull buffy supercilium, brown upperparts and brownish white underparts. Most subspecies also have a rufous forecrown, although the crown is uniformly brown in the two subspecies that are found in northern South America. Recognized more for their incredible nests than for their appearance, Rufous-fronted Thornbirds build cylinder shaped nests out of thorny sticks. The nests are 0.5 to 2.5 m long, and 25 to 100cm wide. These nests are usually located in the high branches of a tree, and are laced with tunnels, entrance holes, and antechambers. Rufous-fronted Thornbirds usually forage on the ground, gleaning insects from leaf litter.





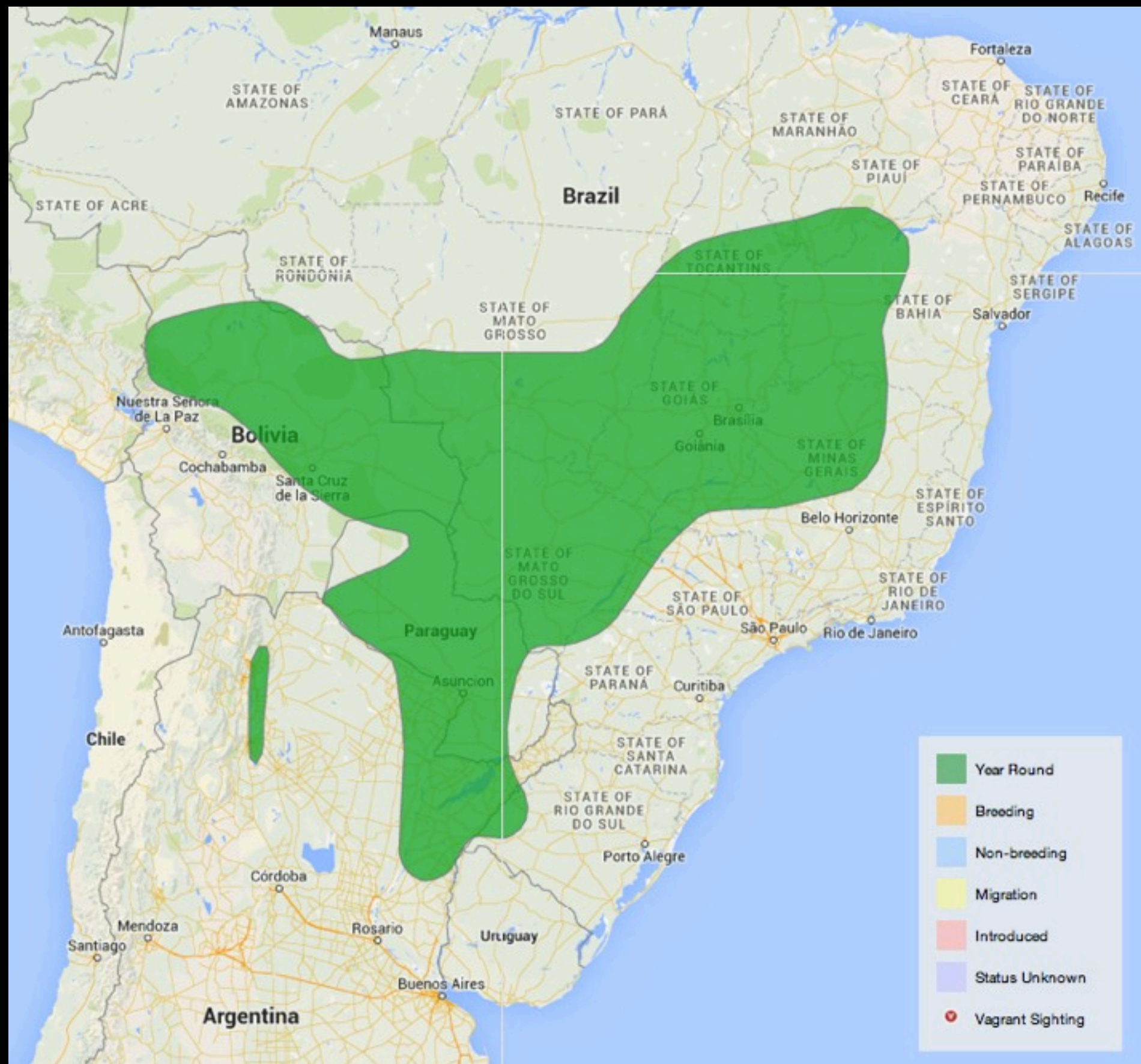


Greater Thornbird  
*Phacellodomus ruber*



# Greater Thornbird *Phacellodomus ruber*

The Greater Thornbird is, appropriately, the bulkiest member of the genus *Phacellodomus*, and has largely reddish-colored upperparts, along with strikingly yellow irides. It occupies a relatively wide range over east-central South America, from northeast Brazil south to northern Argentina, Paraguay, and northern Bolivia, wherein the species is found in gallery woodland, thickets, and scrub, nearly always in reasonably close proximity to water. It can descend to the ground to feed, and is usually observed in pairs, which regularly sing in duet, especially in defense of the nest. This thornbird builds a relatively substantial cone-shaped nest of twigs and branches, and this, in common with many congeners, is often the first clue to the species' presence in any given area. The nest is often placed over water, but can sometimes be sited on man-made structures, such as telegraph poles.







Firewood-Gatherer  
*Anumbius annumbi*







Rusty-backed Spinetail  
*Cranioleuca vulpina*





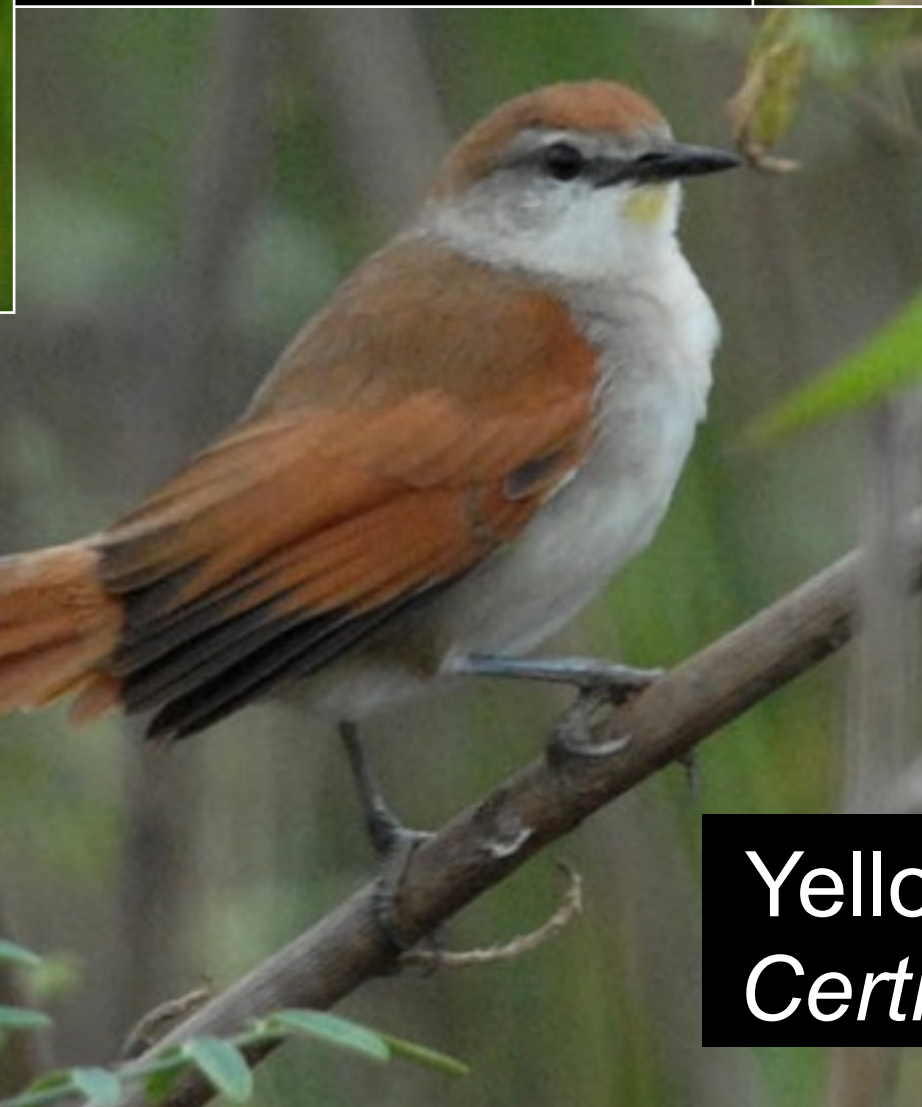
Rufous Cachalote  
*Pseudoseisura unirufa*











Yellow-chinned Spinetail  
*Certhiaxis cinnamomeus*



# *Synallaxis* Spinetails



Sooty-fronted Spinetail  
*Synallaxis frontalis*



Cinereous-breasted Spinetail  
*Synallaxis hypospodia*



White-lored Spinetail  
*Synallaxis albilora*





Ochre-cheeked  
Spinetail  
*Synallaxis scutata*



Foto: Guilh





White-lored Spinetail  
*Synallaxis albilora*





# White-lored Spinetail *Synallaxis albilora*

Two subspecies of the White-lored Spinetail are recognized, with the nominate race found commonly in the Pantanal region of southeast Bolivia, southwest Brazil, and northern Paraguay, and *Synallaxis albilora simoni* (known as the Araguaia Spinetail) occupying an even more restricted range in central Brazil, in the Araguaia Valley. The latter differs from the nominate race in having a uniform cinnamon-rufous mantle, mainly white underparts, and a browner crown; their vocalizations are similar, both having a decidedly 'squeaky' quality, but appear to differ in some aspects. Both subspecies occur in the undergrowth of gallery and riparian woodlands, often in seasonally flooded areas, foraging in pairs usually within just a few meters of the ground, and often among heavy vine tangles.







Cinereous-breasted Spinetail  
*Synallaxis hypospodia*









Pale-breasted Spinetail  
*Synallaxis albescens*  
©2004 Tom Stephenson  
Chapada, Brazil 9.2004



# Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*





# Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*

Of circum-Amazonian distribution, although it is absent from the western fringes of the basin, the Pale-breasted Spinetail is one of the most widespread and common members of the genus *Synallaxis*. It also reaches as far north as southwest Costa Rica and offshore islands such as those of Trinidad and Margarita. This spinetail is found in grassy and scrubby habitats throughout its range, but never ventures into closed forest. As befits the species' name, the Pale-breasted Spinetail is generally paler below than many sympatrically distributed spinetails; the tail is generally brown, rather than rufous, and on the wings the rufous is largely confined to the coverts. Like many other *Synallaxis*, the species constructs a globular nest of dried grasses and twigs.







Sooty-fronted Spinetail  
*Synallaxis frontalis*





# Sooty-fronted Spinetail

## *Synallaxis frontalis*



The Sooty-fronted Spinetail has a wide range in eastern South America, from northeast Brazil south to Argentina and Uruguay, where it is generally fairly common in disturbed habitats and forest edge, and it is most easily detected by its distinctive double-noted vocalizations. Despite this abundance relatively little has been published concerning its ecology and behavior, although the species' nest has been well described. In terms of its plumage, the Sooty-fronted Spinetail is a rather typical *Synallaxis*. The upperparts are generally brown, becoming more rufous on the cap, wings, and tail, with dull gray underparts, a blackish throat patch, and a pale chin and malar streak.





# TYRANNIDAE





Forest Elaenia  
*Myiopagis gaimardii*





female



male



Gray Elaenia  
*Myiopagis caniceps*

female



male





# Gray Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps*

Generally uncommon and sometimes difficult to see, the Gray Elaenia is very widely distributed over South America, with a small extension of its range into eastern Panama. Its distribution extends south over the Pacific slope to northwest Ecuador, and then over much of Amazonia, except the extreme northeast, as well as much of the Atlantic Forest and into northwest Argentina. It inhabits tropical lowland forests and their borders, between sea level and approximately 1200 m. The Gray Elaenia is unusual among smaller flycatchers in being sexually dimorphic, and there is also considerable geographical variation. Males are generally grayish, with two whitish wing bars and paler underparts, but some subspecies have a greenish mantle and tail, whilst females are pale yellow below, a pale throat, and greenish upperparts, other than the gray head.







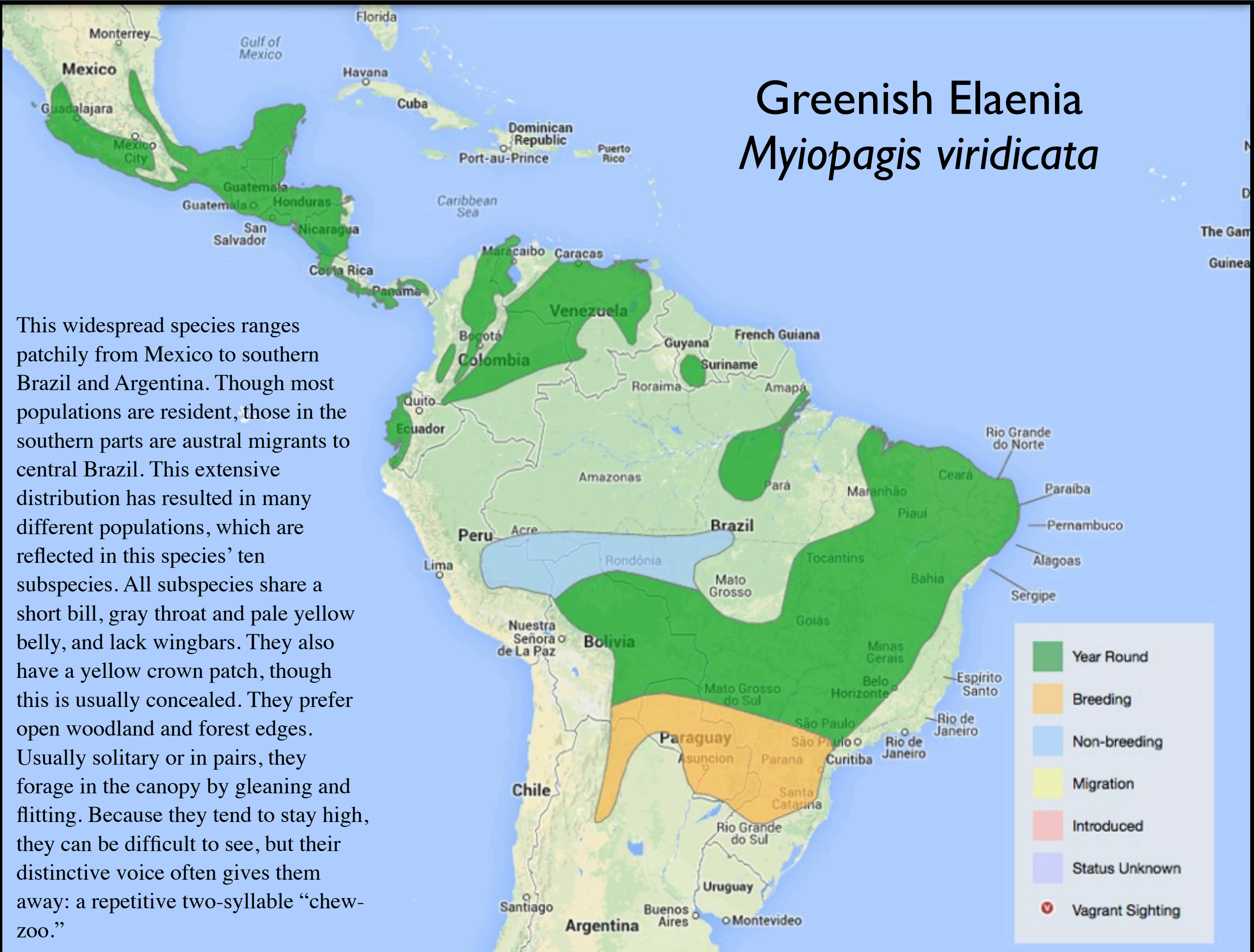
**Greenish Elaenia**  
*Myiopagis viridicata*



# Greenish Elaenia

## *Myiopagis viridicata*

This widespread species ranges patchily from Mexico to southern Brazil and Argentina. Though most populations are resident, those in the southern parts are austral migrants to central Brazil. This extensive distribution has resulted in many different populations, which are reflected in this species' ten subspecies. All subspecies share a short bill, gray throat and pale yellow belly, and lack wingbars. They also have a yellow crown patch, though this is usually concealed. They prefer open woodland and forest edges. Usually solitary or in pairs, they forage in the canopy by gleaning and flitting. Because they tend to stay high, they can be difficult to see, but their distinctive voice often gives them away: a repetitive two-syllable "chew-zoo."





Yellow-bellied  
Elaenia  
*Elaenia flavogaster*

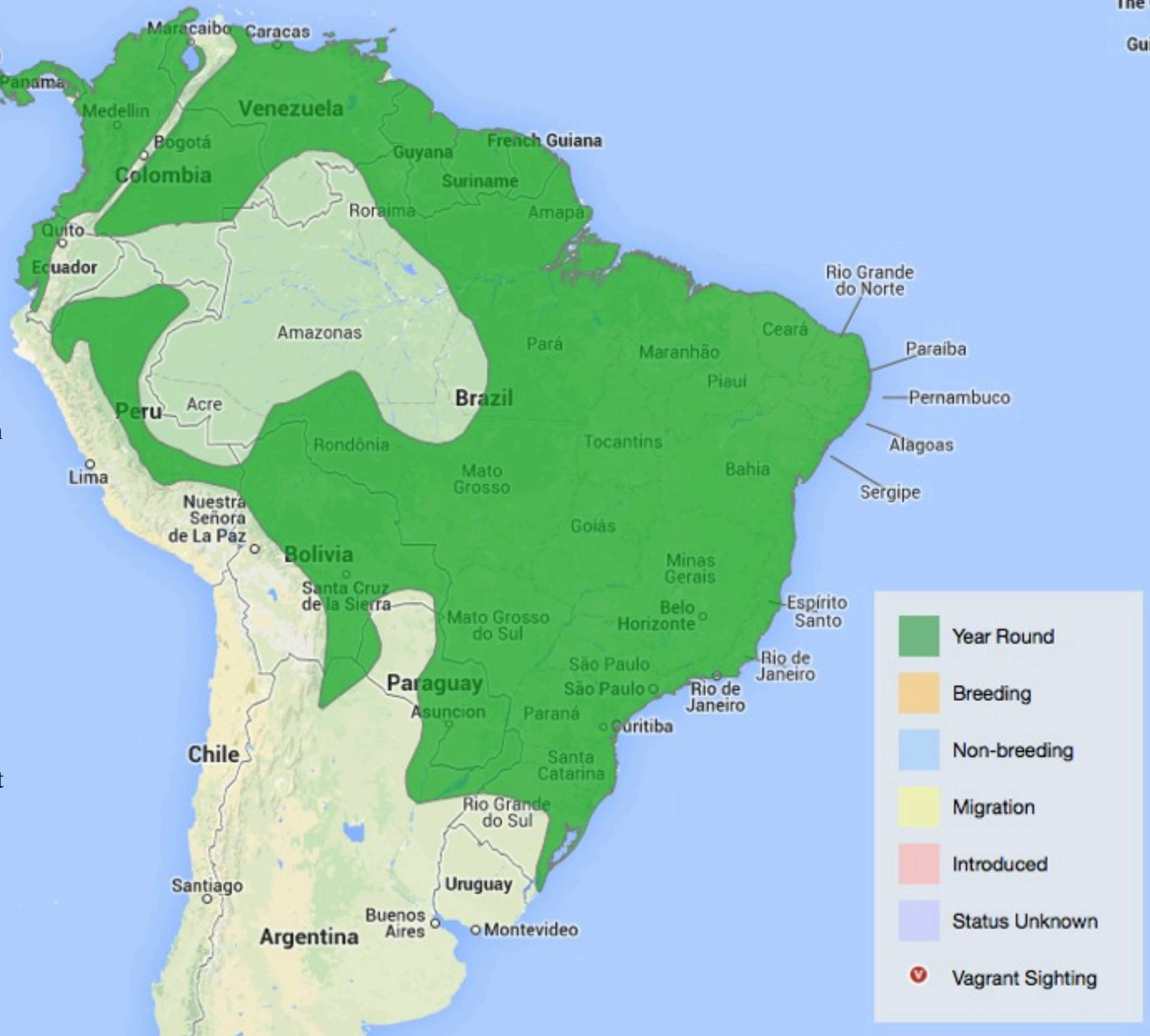
split in  
erect crest





# Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*

The Yellow-bellied Elaenia is a medium sized, widespread elaenia found from southeastern Mexico south to northeastern Argentina. Generally Yellow-bellied Elaenias are brownish olive above with two white wing bars, a pale gray breast, and pale yellow belly. Yellow-bellied Elaenia have a conspicuous bushy crest that often is raised when the bird calls, revealing a white coronal patch. These flycatchers inhabit a variety of woodland habitats as well as scrub and savanna, and feed on fruits and insects. Yellow-bellied Elaenias often are relatively conspicuous, perching in the open and vocalizing frequently.







third wingbar  
on lesser upper  
wing coverts

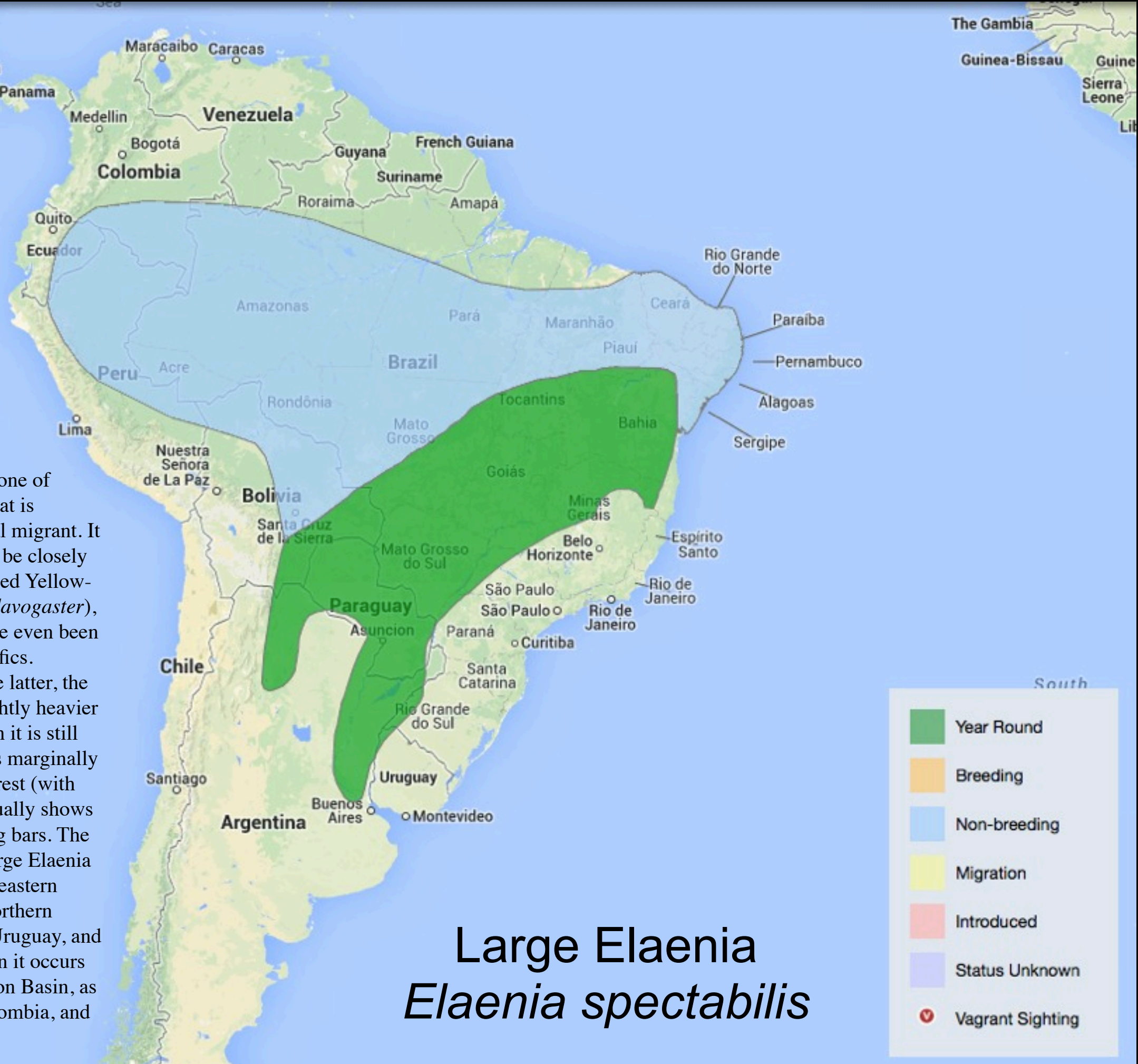
# Large Elaenia

*Elaenia spectabilis*





The Large Elaenia is just one of several *Elaenia* species that is considered to be an austral migrant. It is generally considered to be closely related to the similarly sized Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*), and these two species have even been considered to be conspecifics. However, compared to the latter, the Large Elaenia prefers slightly heavier wooded habitats (although it is still usually found at edges), is marginally larger, shows almost no crest (with little or no white), and usually shows three (not two) white wing bars. The locally fairly common Large Elaenia breeds across central and eastern Brazil, eastern Bolivia, northern Argentina, and northern Uruguay, and in the non-breeding season it occurs across much of the Amazon Basin, as far north as southeast Colombia, and west to eastern Peru.



# Large Elaenia

## *Elaenia spectabilis*







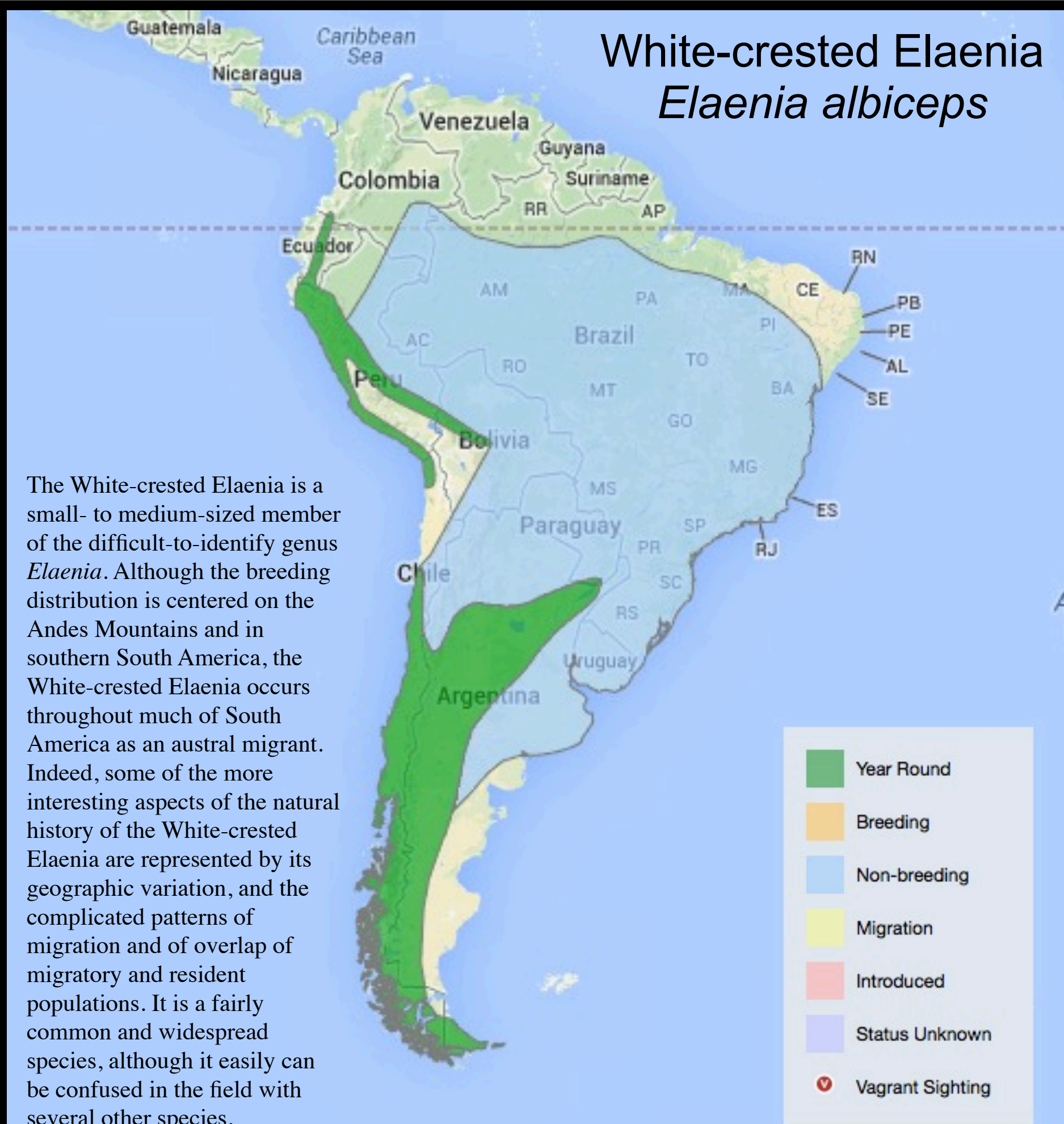
White-crested Elaenia  
*Elaenia albiceps*





# White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

The White-crested Elaenia is a small- to medium-sized member of the difficult-to-identify genus *Elaenia*. Although the breeding distribution is centered on the Andes Mountains and in southern South America, the White-crested Elaenia occurs throughout much of South America as an austral migrant. Indeed, some of the more interesting aspects of the natural history of the White-crested Elaenia are represented by its geographic variation, and the complicated patterns of migration and of overlap of migratory and resident populations. It is a fairly common and widespread species, although it easily can be confused in the field with several other species.







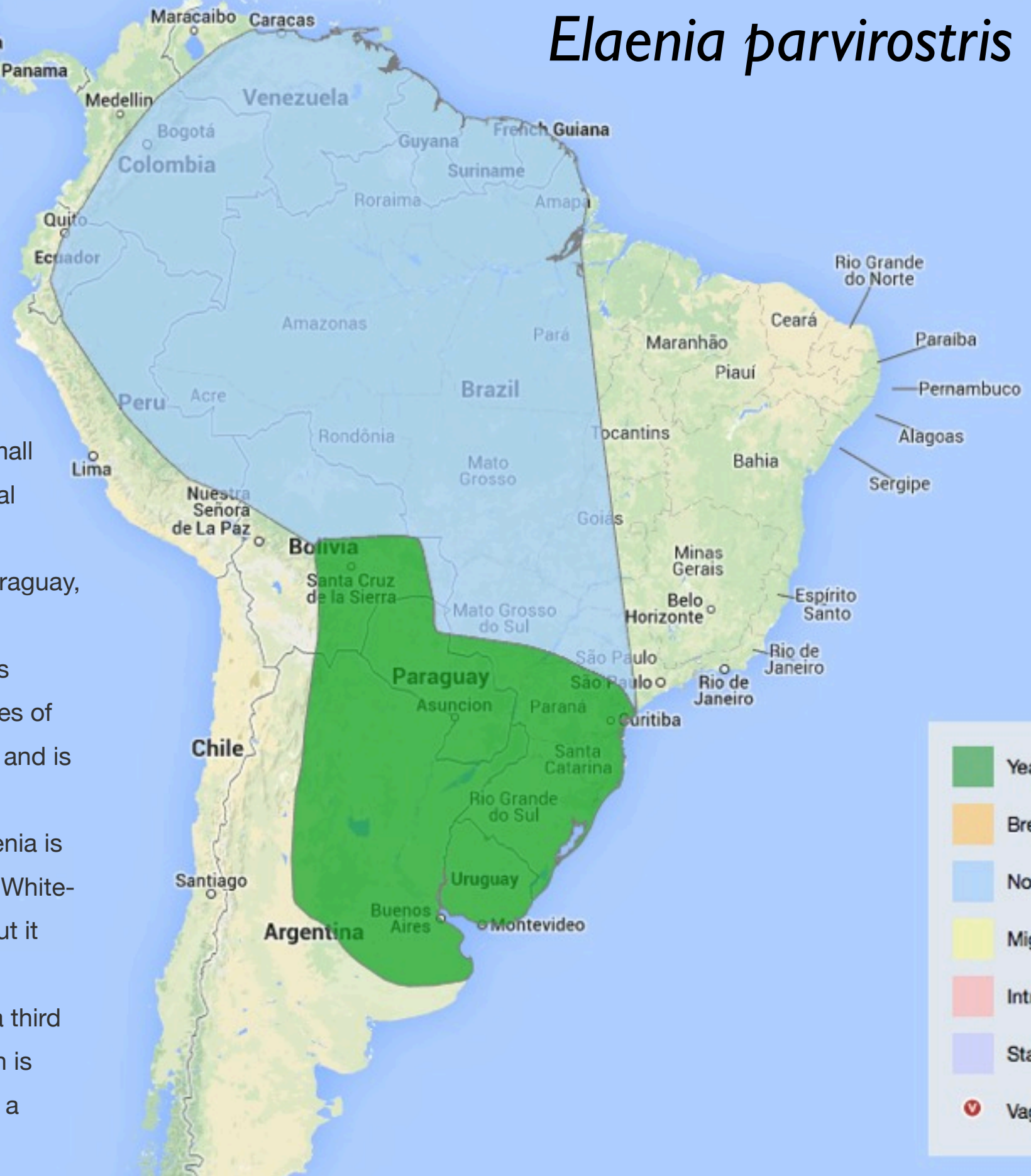
Small-billed Elaenia  
*Elaenia parvirostris*



# Small-billed Elaenia

## *Elaenia parvirostris*

The Small-billed Elaenia is a small dull-toned flycatcher. An austral migrant, this species breeds in Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and winters in northern South America east of the Andes. It is commonly found in several types of forest, edge habitat, and parks and is usually active and vocally conspicuous. Small-billed Elaenia is rather similar in appearance to White-crested Elaenia (*E. albiceps*), but it can be identified by grayer underparts, a shorter bill, and a third wingbar; however, identification is difficult in this pair and voice is a more reliable separation.







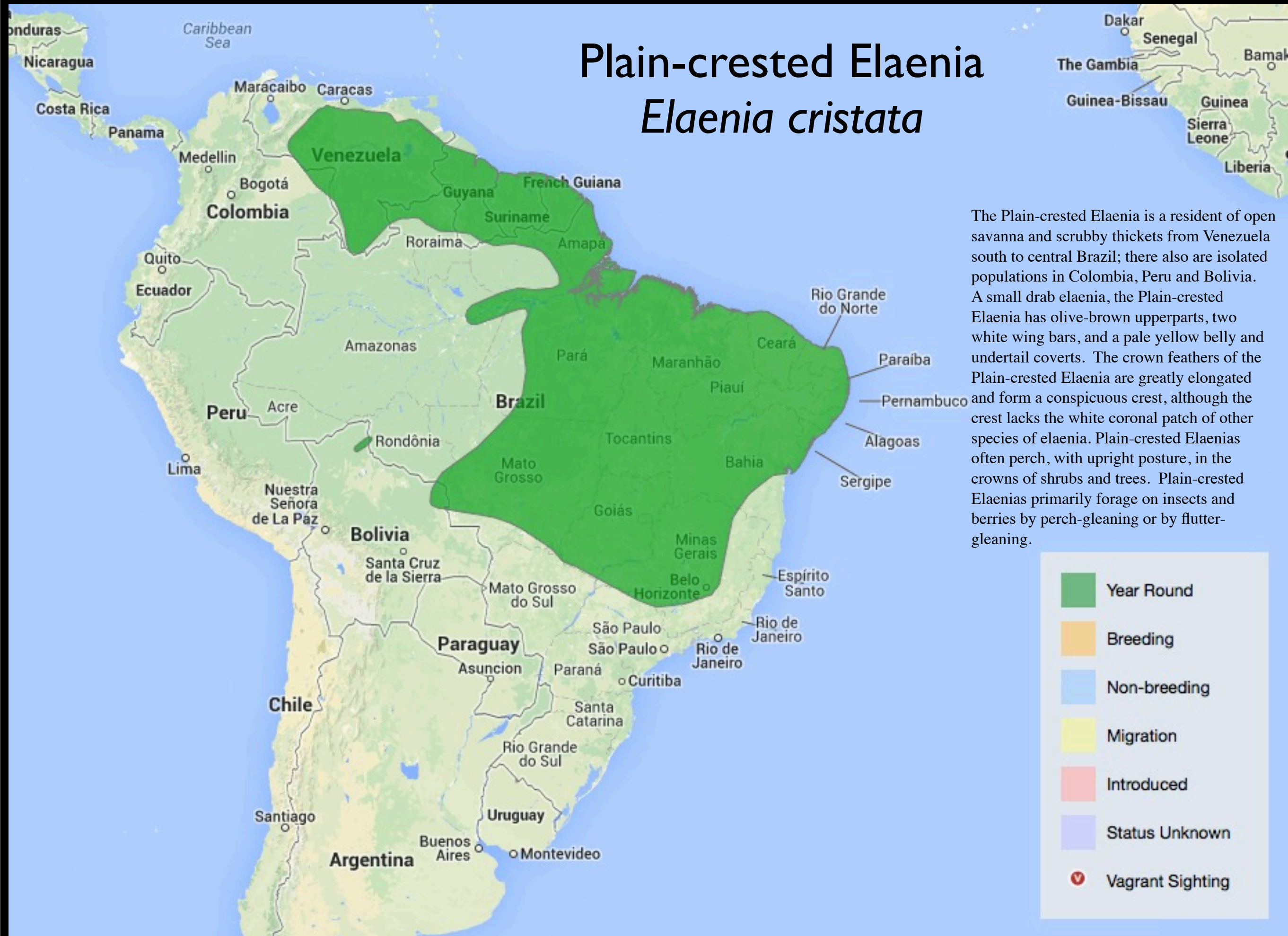
Plain-crested Elaenia  
*Elaenia cristata*





# Plain-crested Elaenia

## *Elaenia cristata*



The Plain-crested Elaenia is a resident of open savanna and scrubby thickets from Venezuela south to central Brazil; there also are isolated populations in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. A small drab elaenia, the Plain-crested Elaenia has olive-brown upperparts, two white wing bars, and a pale yellow belly and undertail coverts. The crown feathers of the Plain-crested Elaenia are greatly elongated and form a conspicuous crest, although the crest lacks the white coronal patch of other species of elaenia. Plain-crested Elaenias often perch, with upright posture, in the crowns of shrubs and trees. Plain-crested Elaenias primarily forage on insects and berries by perch-gleaning or by flutter-gleaning.

- Year Round
- Breeding
- Non-breeding
- Migration
- Introduced
- Status Unknown
- Vagrant Sighting





Lesser Elaenia  
*Elaenia chiriquensis*





# Lesser Elaenia

## *Elaenia chiriquensis*



The Lesser Elaenia is an unassuming flycatcher of a wide area in South America and southern Central America. Ranging from Costa Rica south across much of northern and central South America, the species inhabits overgrown clearings and other open areas with scattered vegetation below 2000 meters in elevation. Visually it is rather indistinct from other *Elaenia* species, being olive above with white eyering, two white wingbars, a grayish throat blending into an olive chest and whitish-yellow belly. However, the species can be identified by its calls, two part, burry *cheee-brrrr*.





Southern Beardless Tyrannulet  
*Camptostoma obsoletum*





pale tip to tail



**Suiriri Flycatcher**  
*Suiriri suiriri*





White-crested Tyrannulet  
*Serpophaga subcristata*





# White-crested Tyrannulet *Serpophaga subcristata*

The White-crested Tyrannulet is widespread east of the Andes in the southern Cone, found from C Bolivia to E Brazil and south to the northern edge of Patagonia in Argentina. This is a small flycatcher which tends to perch in a rather horizontal manner and often half-cocks its tail as it forages or when excited. It has a grayish crown with a white central crown stripe that is usually relatively easy to see in the field. The grayish face shows a distinct pattern with a dark eyeline and a paler supercilium. Otherwise above it is greenish, and the blackish wings show nicely marked white wing bars and edgings to the tertials and coverts; below the throat and breast are whitish but the belly is strongly suffused with yellow. This species is found in a variety of edge, second growth, and shrubby habitats. It takes well to urban areas and may be found in city parks and in shrubbery in agricultural areas for example. It is found in pairs or sometimes family groups. This species and the White-bellied Tyrannulet need to be looked at more closely to determine their taxonomic status. Some consider the two to be conspecific, while other unpublished reports suggest that the two are narrowly sympatric in central Argentina. The classic contact call of the White-crested Tyrannulet is a jovial sounding “*chip-chrr Ritza!*” that is distinctive and unique once learned.







Mouse-colored Tyrannulet  
*Phaeomyias murina*



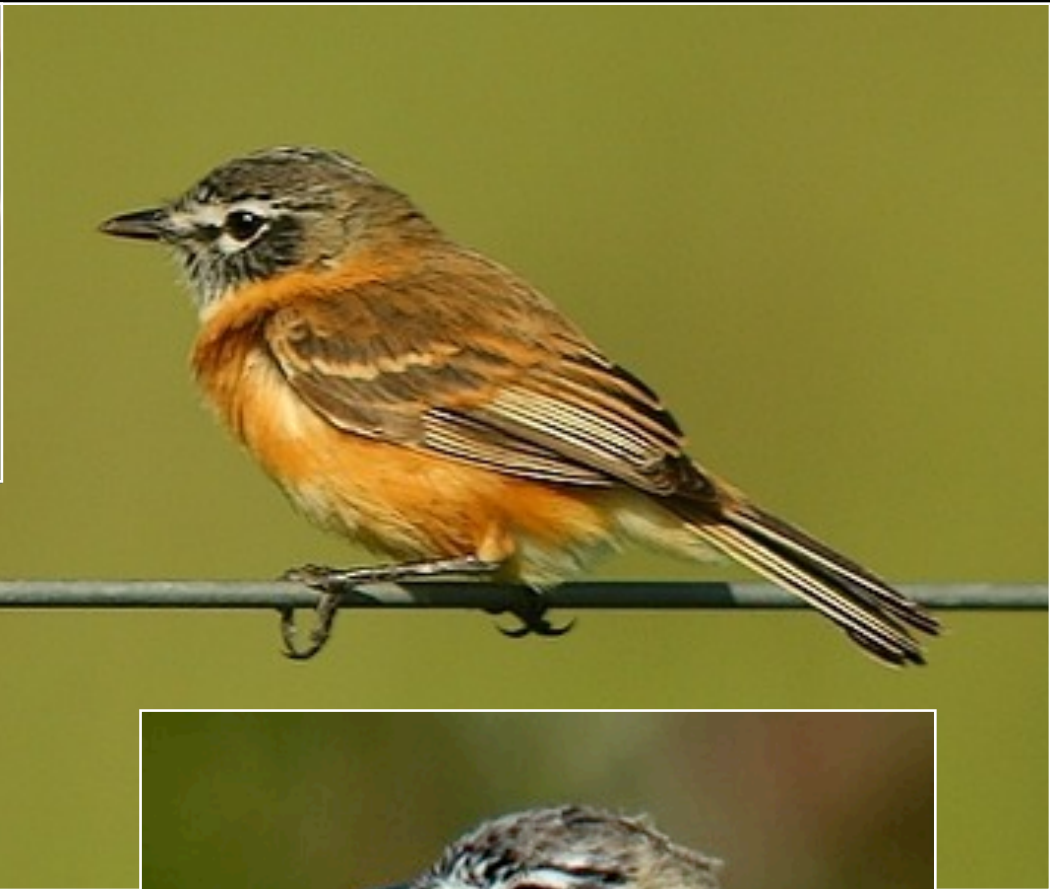


Yellow Tyrannulet  
*Capsiempis flaveola*





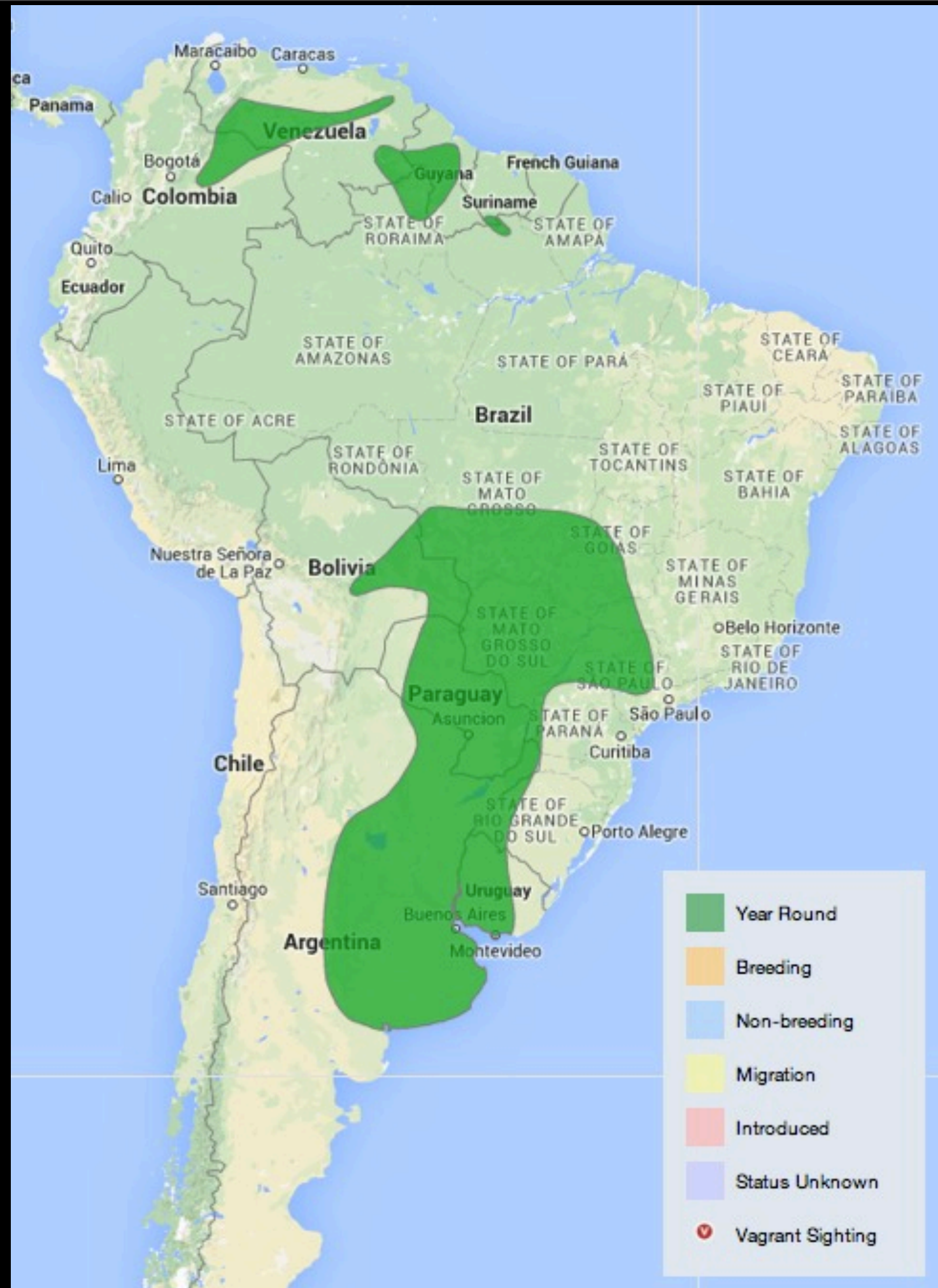
Bearded Tachuri  
*Polystictus pectoralis*





# Bearded Tachuri *Polystictus pectoralis*

The Bearded Tachuri is a Near Threatened species that has a very local and disjunct distribution primarily across eastern South America. A very small population (perhaps now extinct) is known from the Andes of Colombia, but the main range is in the savannas of the Guianan Shield, and thereafter in central-south Brazil, Paraguay, southern Uruguay, and eastern Bolivia (where it is again possibly extinct). Further south, the Bearded Tachuri is an austral summer visitor to central-east Argentina. Three subspecies have been named. Virtually everywhere this attractive bird appears to be in decline, especially in southern Brazil, the result of conversion of native grasslands to agriculture. Males have a largely black head, with a white stripe in front of the eye, rufous underparts, and largely brown upperparts. Females lack the black feathering on the head, but do possess a pale supercilium.







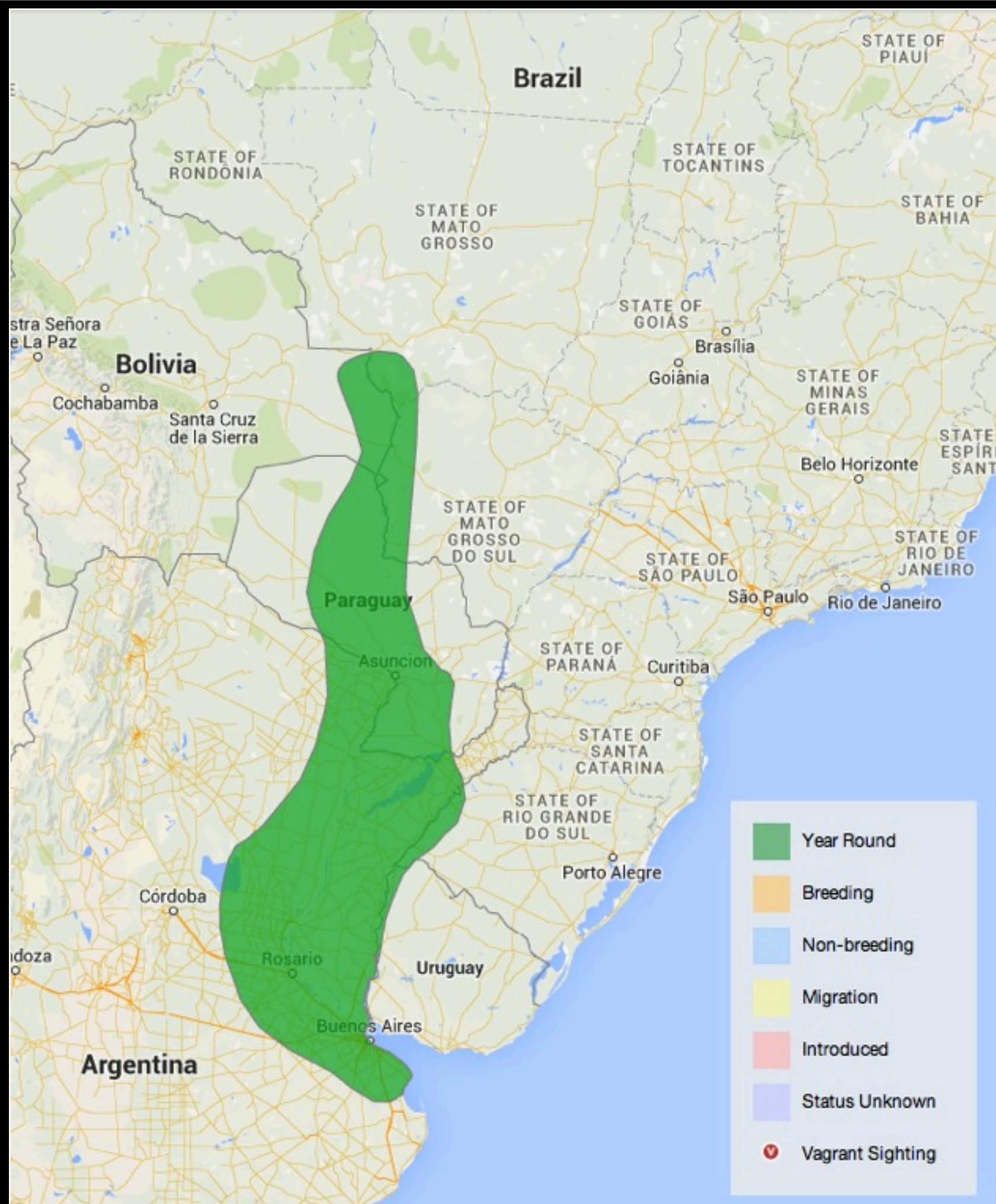
Crested Doradito  
*Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*



# Crested Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*

The Crested Doradito is a bright flycatcher with a curiously patchy distribution across much of South America. It is a small bird, olive above and yellow below with a black eye mask, dusky wings with two grayish wingbars, and a short crest.

The species is distributed in dense marsh and marsh edge habitat inundated with water, most densely in the Pantanal and northern Argentina but also in many scattered locations east of the Andes and north to Venezuela and Trinidad. The Crested Doradito is often detected by its song, a high, squeaky, four-part series, or its call, a short, high, sibilant note.







Subtropical Doradito  
*Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*



## Subtropical Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*

The Subtropical Doradito is a yellowish flycatcher of marshy habitats in the Andes. It resembles the three other doraditos, but is brighter olive above. Individuals often forage singly, and can be quite surreptitious as they move low through reeds and grasses. They feed on arthropods and construct deep cup nests of grass. Displaying birds emit a whirring sound, presumably produced by the notches in their outer primaries.

Movements in this species are poorly understood, but at least southern populations seem to move north and east during the austral winter, with non-breeders occurring in southwestern Amazonia and the Chaco.







Southern Antpipit  
*Corythopsis delalandi*







Tawny-crowned Pygmy-Tyrant  
*Euscarthmus meloryphus*







dark patch on ear coverts



Sepia-capped Flycatcher  
*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*





Southern Scrub-Flycatcher  
*Sublegatus modestus*





# Southern Scrub-Flycatcher

## *Sublegatus modestus*

The Southern Scrub-Flycatcher has a very wide range, generally to the south of the congeneric Amazonian Scrub-Flycatcher (*Sublegatus obscurior*), but with some overlap at least in the austral winter. The present species is distributed from central Peru south and east to eastern Brazil, Uruguay, and northern Argentina, with some birds moving north post-breeding, reaching regularly to northern Peru and central Amazonian Brazil, and even as far as southeast Colombia. However, the true extent of the species' movements might be significantly underestimated, due to the species' relatively inconspicuous behavior. During the breeding season the birds inhabit arid scrub and open deciduous woodland. The Southern Scrub-Flycatcher is unremarkable to look at, being mainly grayish brown above, with a very slight pale supercilium and grayish wing bars, a pale gray breast, becoming more yellowish ventrally.



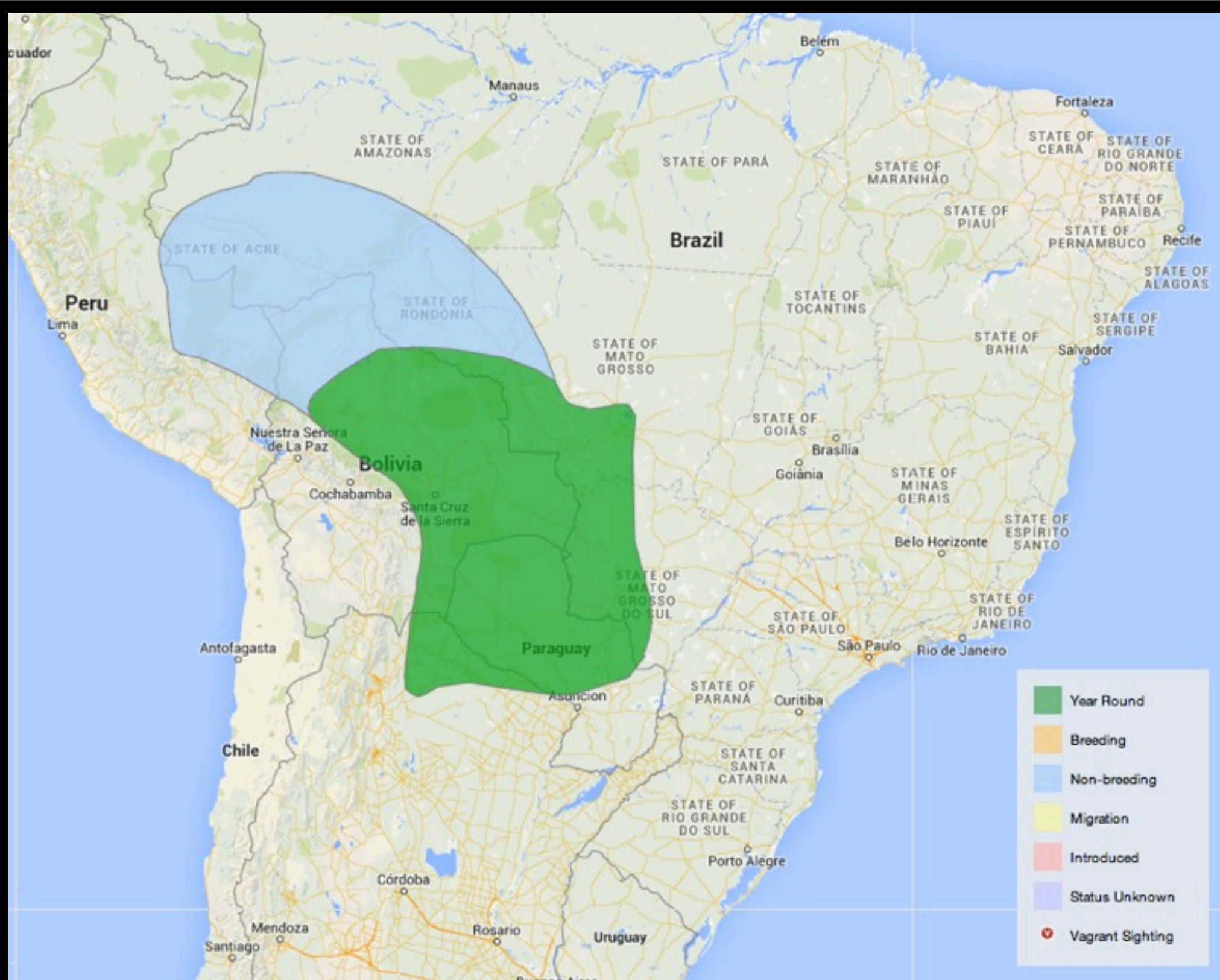




Plain Tyrannulet  
*Inezia inornata*



# Plain Tyrannulet *Inezia inornata*



Like other *Inezia*, this species was originally placed in the genus *Serpophaga* and was only recently removed to its current position. The Plain Tyrannulet is found from southeast Peru across Bolivia and southwest Brazil to northern Paraguay, and northwest Argentina during the breeding season, but in winter it moves north to a generally unappreciated extent, reaching for example parts of the Brazilian Pantanal. Its status overall is not well known, although the species appears to be generally uncommon. This tyrannulet occurs in deciduous and semi-deciduous woodland in breeding season, but during the austral winter it seems to prefer riverine vegetation, including early successional vegetation along Amazonian rivers. The upperparts are grayish olive-brown, marked by two narrow white wing bars, an equally indistinct pale supercilium, with a gray face and pale yellowish ventral underparts.





Stripe-necked  
Tody-Tyrant  
*Hemitriccus striaticollis*





# Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus striaticollis*

Formerly considered conspecific with the exclusively western Amazonian Johannes's Tody-Tyrant (*Hemitriccus iohannis*), with which the present species is found sympatrically at several sites in Peru and Bolivia, the Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant is a distinctively plumaged small tyrant-flycatcher with a broad and somewhat disjunct range. In the north it is found locally in eastern Colombia and northeast Peru, then more continuously from southeast Peru to the mouth of the Amazon, and south to Minas Gerais, Brazil. There is also another isolated population in the declining coastal forests of eastern Brazil, in the state of Bahia. The Stripe-necked Tody-Tyrant is generally uncommon, or locally fairly common, and is typically observed alone or in pairs, perching quietly in the understory, although the species is most easily located when vocalizing. Its nest has only recently been described.







Pearly-vented Tody-Tyrant  
*Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*





©Nick Athanas



**Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher**  
*Poecilatriccus latirostre*





Common Tody-Flycatcher  
*Todirostrum cinereum*





Photo by Chan Robbins



Yellow-olive Flycatcher  
*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*





Yellow-breasted Flycatcher  
*Tolmomyias flaviventris*





White-throated Spadebill  
*Platyrinchus mystaceus*





photo by  
Winthrop Harrington

**Bran-colored Flycatcher**  
*Myiophobus fasciatus*





Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher  
*Myiobius barbatus*





Cliff Flycatcher  
*Hirundinea ferruginea*





Euler's Flycatcher  
*Lathrotriccus euleri*





Fuscous Flycatcher  
*Cnemotriccus fuscatus*





Tropical Pewee  
*Contopus cinereus*







Vermillion Flycatcher  
*Pyrocephalus rubinus*





Cinereous Tyrant  
*Knipolegus striaticeps*



male



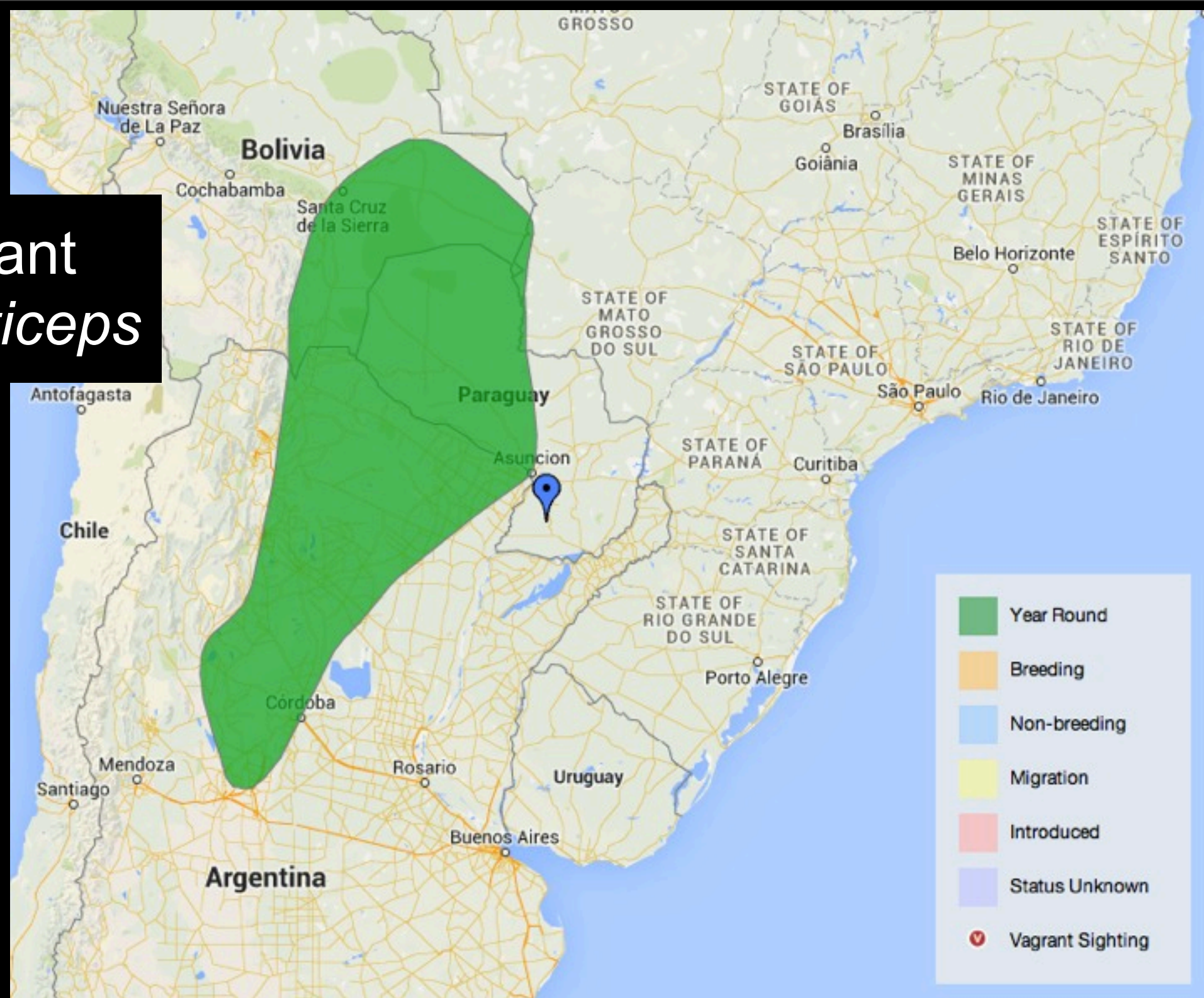
male



female



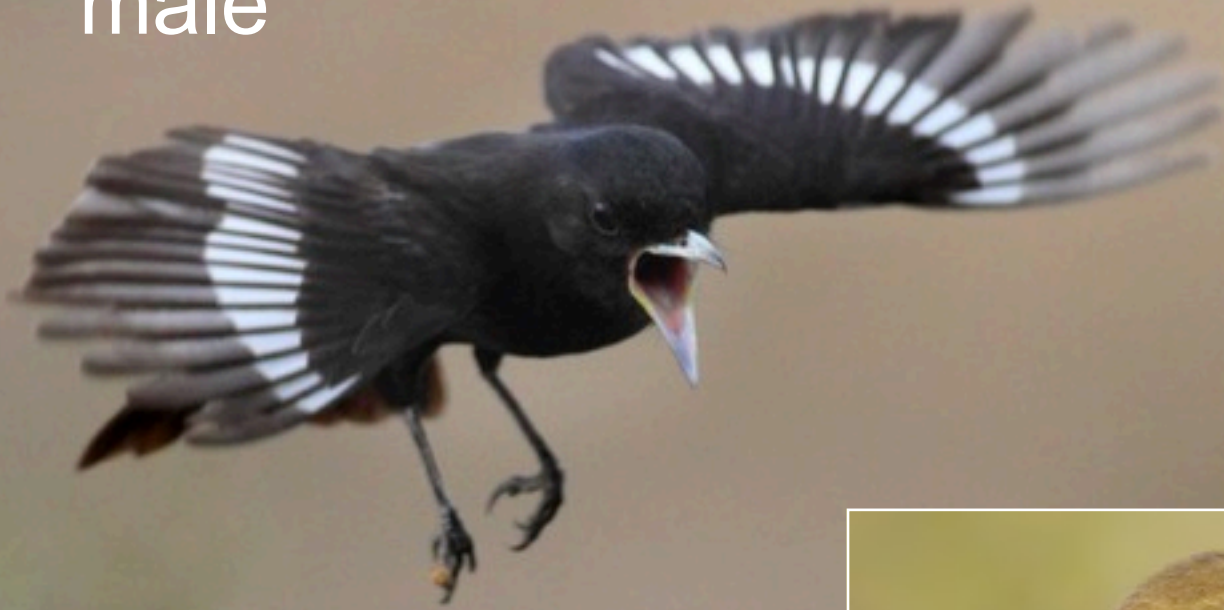
# Cinereous Tyrant *Knipolegus striaticeps*



The Cinereous Tyrant is a dark, lowland flycatcher of central South America. Distributed in and around the chaco, it is found in woodland and open habitats in northern Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and the southwestern edge of Brazil below 1000 meters in elevation. Overall males are black with red irides, two gray wingbars, gray lower underparts, and gray outer webs to the outer tail feathers. Females are olive-brown above with rufous on the crown, nape, and uppertail coverts, white lores and two white wingbars, and blackish tail with rufous on the inner webs of the feathers. Cinereous Tyrant is typically found alone or in pairs, actively twitching the tail and gleaning insects from bush and tree tops.



male



male



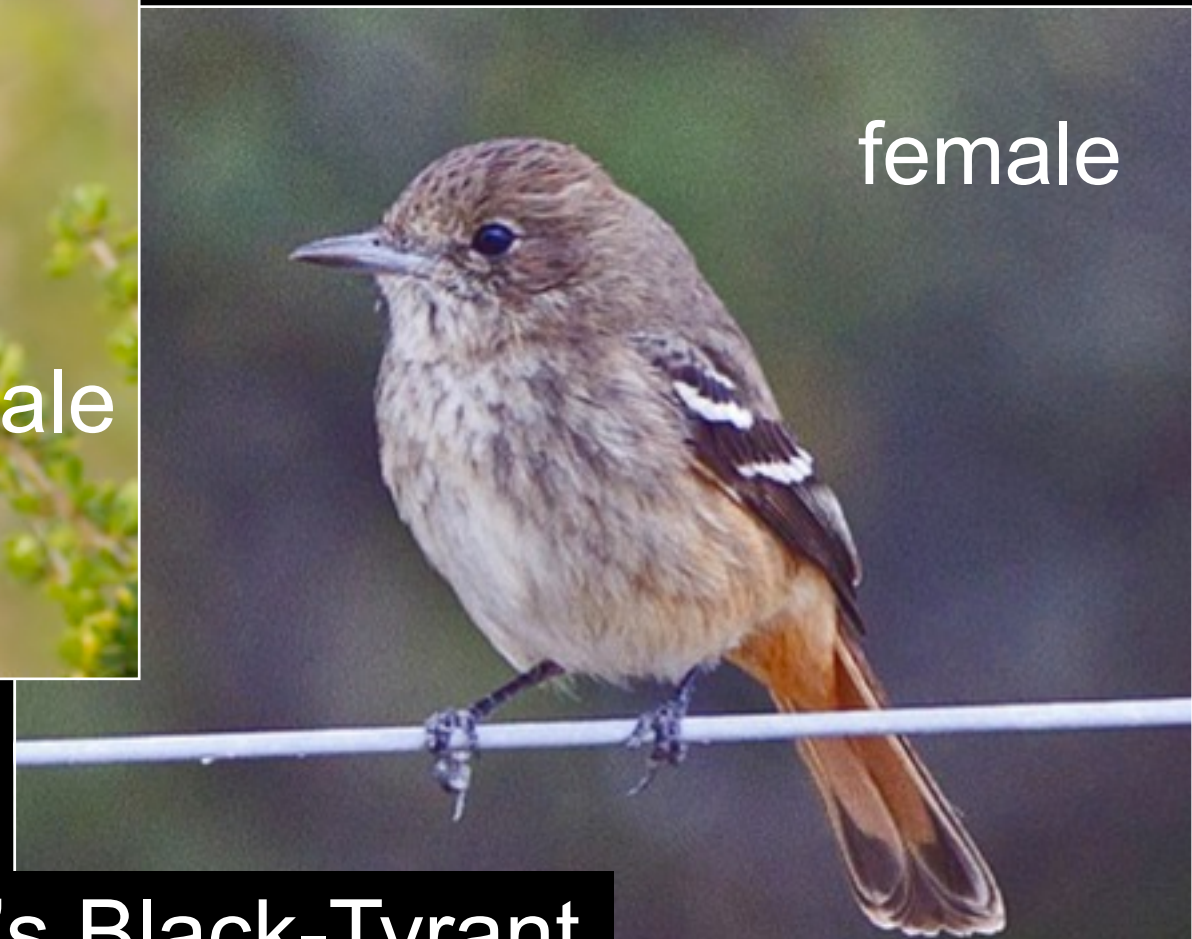
female



female



female



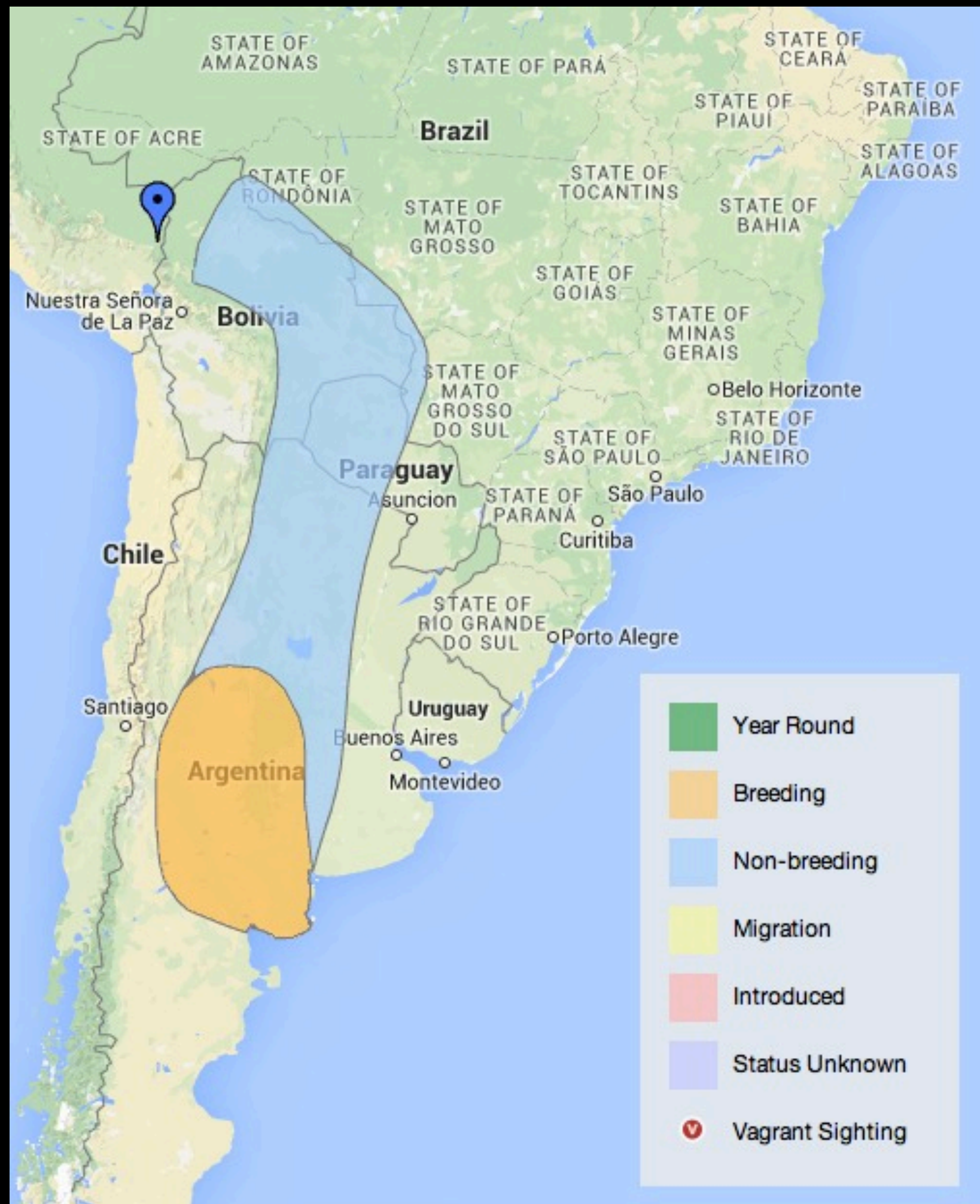
Hudson's Black-Tyrant  
*Knipolegus hudsoni*



# Hudson's Black-Tyrant

## *Knipolegus hudsoni*

Hudson's Black-Tyrant is named for Argentina's premier naturalist, William Henry Hudson, who later in life was also one of the first officers (in the 1890s) of a fledgling organization known as the RSPB in Britain. This is a highly sexually dimorphic flycatcher. Males are black with a white wing stripe in flight, and two hidden white patches on either side of the lower back. The female is brownish, streaked below with a rufous rump and largely dark tail. It is similar to the White-winged Black-Tyrant (*Knipolegus aterrimus*) but smaller, less strikingly plumaged, and the Hudson's keeps to more shrubby habitats and is less conspicuous. This species is highly migratory, but the details of its movements remain to be worked out. It appears to breed largely in the Monte and Espinal habitats of Argentina, and migrates north to Bolivia and W Paraguay in the non-breeding season.





male



male



female



female



female



male



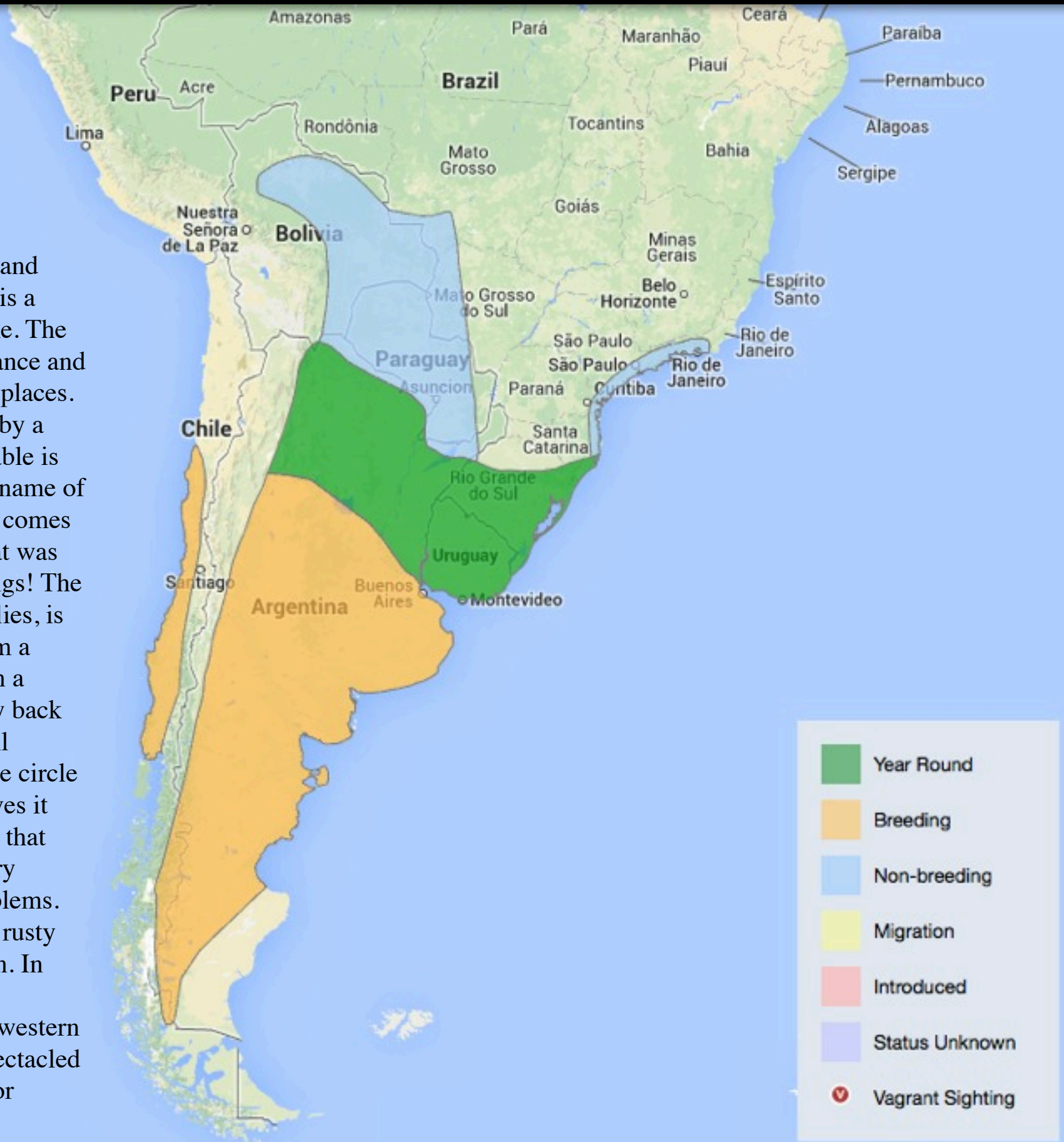
Spectacled Tyrant  
*Hymenops perspicillatus*



# Spectacled Tyrant

## *Hymenops perspicillatus*

For those from northern temperate regions, it seems ludicrous that a tyrant flycatcher could be so boldly and beautifully patterned as the Spectacled Tyrant. This is a looker of a bird, one that makes you do a double take. The bird is black, but also has a characteristic upright stance and long legs and chooses to perch in open and obvious places. On the face is a very large yellow spectacle created by a large fleshy orbital ring, similarly bright and noticeable is the yellowish white bill. This gives it the Argentine name of “pico de plata” or silver bill. But the black plumage comes to life when the bird takes flight and shows that what was hidden beneath all this black were largely white wings! The startling contrast of the white wings when the bird flies, is fantastic to see live. Not only that, the males perform a noticeable aerial display where they start perched on a noticeable perch and then fly up and circle vertically back to the perch, as they do so the white wings are in full display and a short wing snap occurs at the top of the circle which also creates a finger-snapping sound. This gives it the Chilean name “run-run” which is a child’s game that makes a whirring snapping sound. The female is very unlike the male, and often causes identification problems. She is largely brownish above with rusty wings and rusty streaking; below she is off white and streaked brown. In Chile and southern Argentina this species is highly migratory. As there are no wintering populations in western Peru or northern Chile it is clear that all Chilean Spectacled Tyrants cross the Andes to winter on the Argentine or Bolivian side of the mountains!







Yellow-browed Tyrant  
*Satrapa icterophrys*



# Yellow-browed Tyrant *Satrapa icterophrys*

The Yellow-browed Tyrant is a common inhabitant of pastureland, forest edge and scrubland in Venezuela and from Central Brazil south to Argentina. The male Yellow-browed Tyrant is greyish-olive above, with a bright yellow supercilia and underparts and a dusky black tail and wings. Females are paler overall and have olive mixed in with the yellow on the breast. A quiet flycatcher, the Yellow-browed Tyrant is often encountered perched singly on low vegetation. Yellow-browed Tyrants capture their insect prey by making aerial sallies or gleaning from foliage and bark. Yellow-browed Tyrants are austral migrants that move from their southern breeding grounds to areas closer to the equator.







Gray Monjita  
*Xolmis cinereus*



# Gray Monjita *Xolmis cinereus*

The Gray Monjita occupies grasslands from Suriname south through central South America to southeastern Peru and to Argentina. As the name implies, the Gray Monjita is predominantly gray, with a white supercilium, loreal stripe and throat; a black submoustachial stripe; black wings; and a white belly. The Gray Monjita often perches conspicuously on fences, bushes and wires, dropping to the ground to catch prey. The Gray Monjita is a fast graceful flier, and has the interesting habit of often flying with its legs dangling. These flycatchers are well adapted to human disturbance, and are often seen perched in city centers sitting on buildings and television antennae. Gray Monjitas are mostly resident, but southern populations are migratory during the colder months.





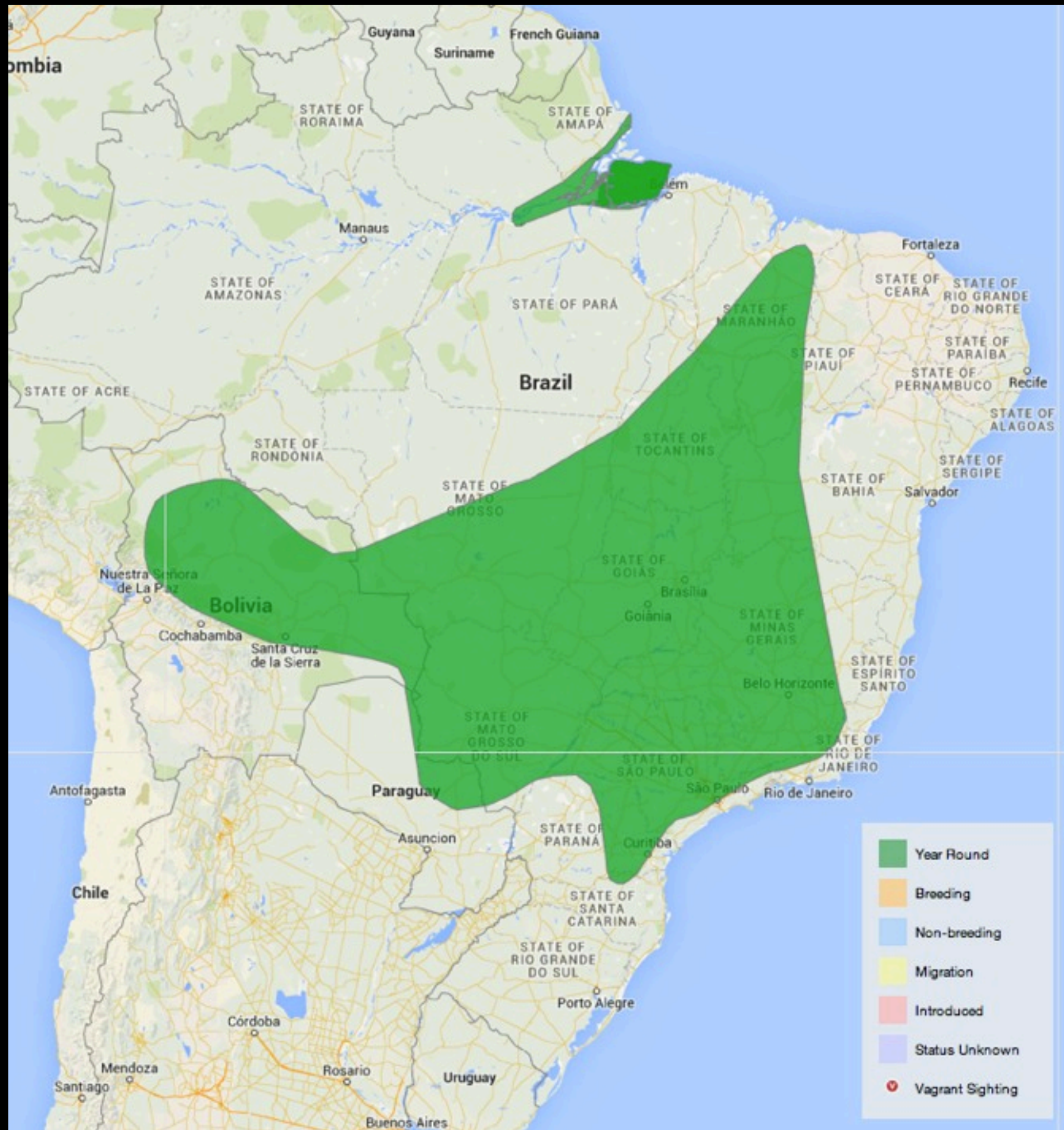


White-rumped  
Monjita  
*Xolmis velatus*



# White-rumped Monjita *Xolmis velatus*

The White-rumped Monjita is a resident of cerrado and grassland in central Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. The White-rumped Monjita is mostly white, with a pearly gray hindneck, brownish-grey back, black wings and a black tail. White-rumped Monjitas usually are found in pairs, often perched conspicuously on fence posts, wires or bushes. These flycatchers catch insects by dropping to the ground or making aerial sallies from a perch. The White-rumped Monjita is a cavity nester, but does not excavate its own nests. Instead, this flycatcher nests in the abandoned burrows of Campo Flickers (*Colaptes campestris*) or Orange-fronted Parakeets (*Aratinga canicularis*), often found in large ant hills.





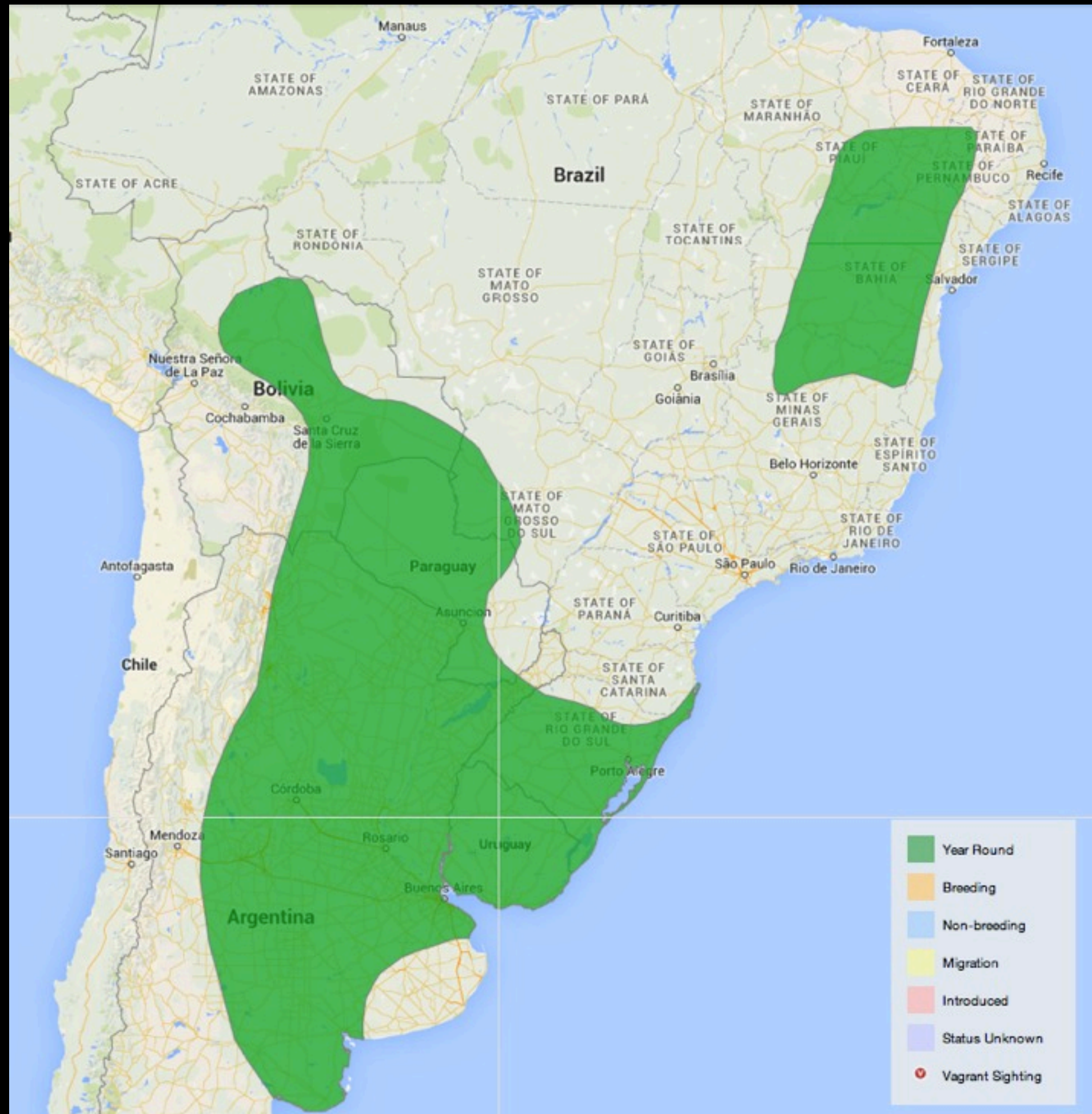


White Monjita  
*Xolmis irupero*



# White Monjita *Xolmis irupero*

Largely or entirely white birds are rare and most are associated with Polar Regions. This makes this endearing flycatcher all the more striking, a bold white bird perched on an obvious branch in the middle of the savanna! White Monjitas do stand out, and are a species that can be considered “unmistakable” although in parts of the range the nearly white Black-and-white Monjita can be found as well. Why White Monjitas are white is a good question, one could propose a sexually selected trait although the typical pattern of sexually selected traits is that only one sex has them. The White Monjita on the other hand has both males and females equally white and obvious, although females are a tad duller with some grey wash on the upperparts. Their posture, thickset body proportions, general size and even the habitats it chooses and the favored perches suggest a North American bluebird (*Sialia sp.*), although in an all-white plumage. Like a bluebird it forages often by flying out and hovering over potential prey before pouncing on it on the ground, or by directly sallying to the ground to make its catch. The White Monjita is widespread from central Bolivia south to central Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and southern Brazil. A separate and isolated population (subspecies *nivea*) is found in easternmost Brazil; based on biogeographical considerations it may be a good species pending research on its voice and genetics.







Streamer-tailed Tyrant  
*Gubernetes yetapa*



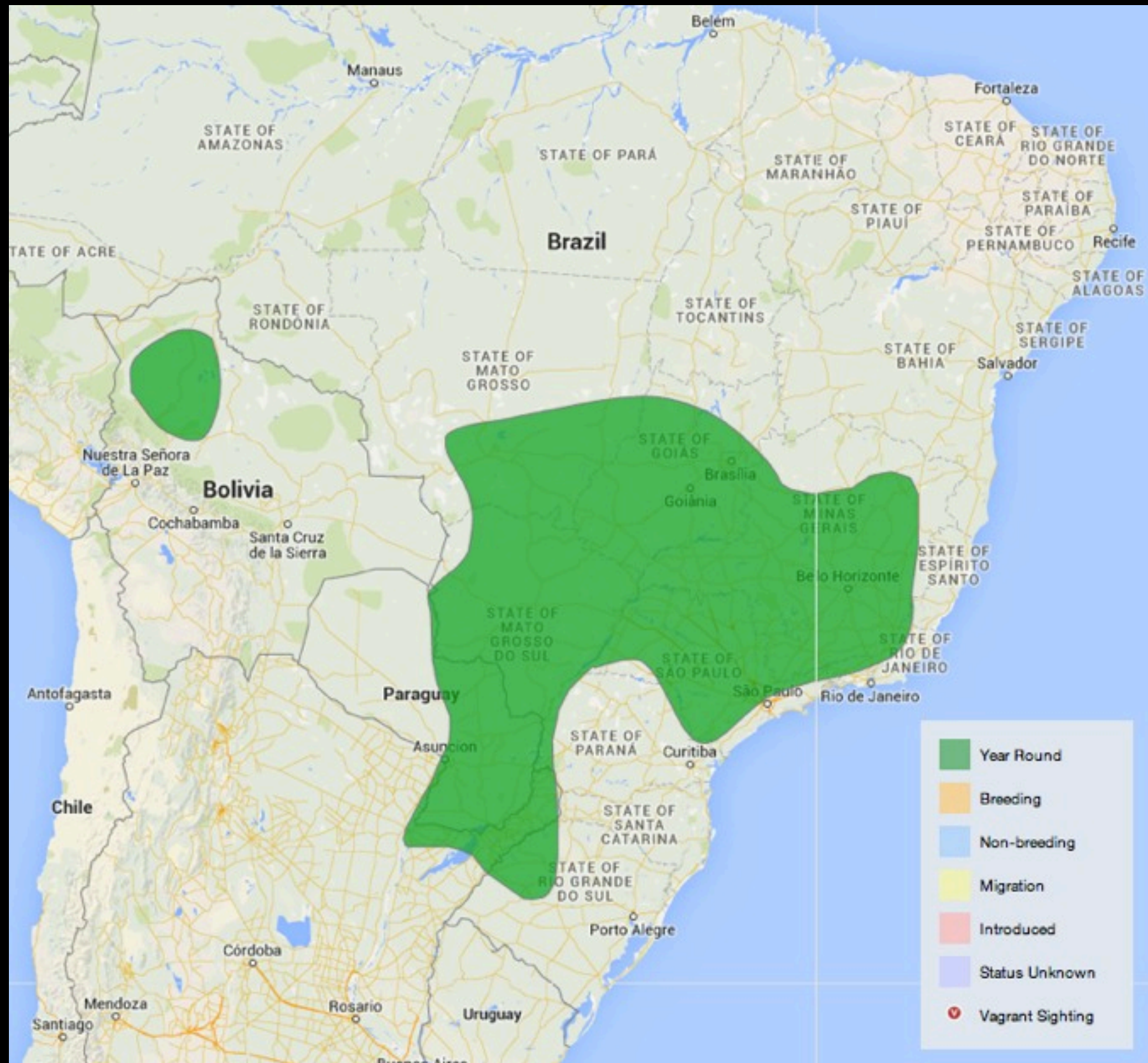


# Streamer-tailed Tyrant

## *Gubernetes yetapa*

The Streamer-tailed Tyrant is a distinctive resident of *Buriti* palm groves and seasonally wet grassland from western Bolivia to central Brazil and to northeastern Argentina. Overall these birds appear pale gray with black wings that are highlighted by a patch of cinnamon at the base of the primaries. Aptly named, the Streamer-tailed Tyrant has a long deeply forked tail. Streamer-tailed Tyrants often perch conspicuously on the tops of low trees and bushes and utter a harsh repeated "wurreep" call. They forage by flying low over marshy areas before pouncing to the ground to catch large arthropods.

During courtship, the members of a pair of Streamer-tailed Tyrants perch 10-50 cm apart facing one another, while each bird alternately lowers their head and raises and fans their long tail. The birds then proceed to lower their tail and raise their heads while raising their wings and calling continuously.





Black-backed Water-Tyrant  
*Fluvicola albiventer*







female



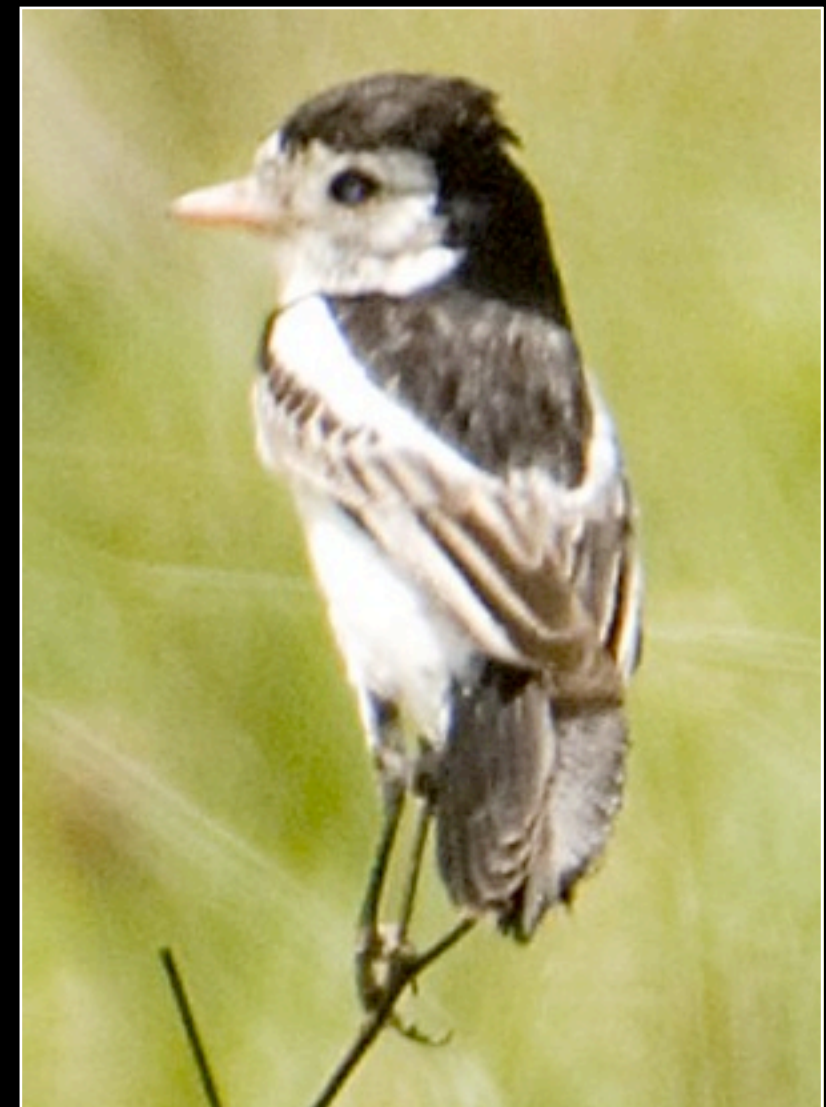
male

**White-headed Marsh-Tyrant**  
*Arundinicola leucocephala*





Cock-tailed Tyrant  
*Alectrurus tricolor*

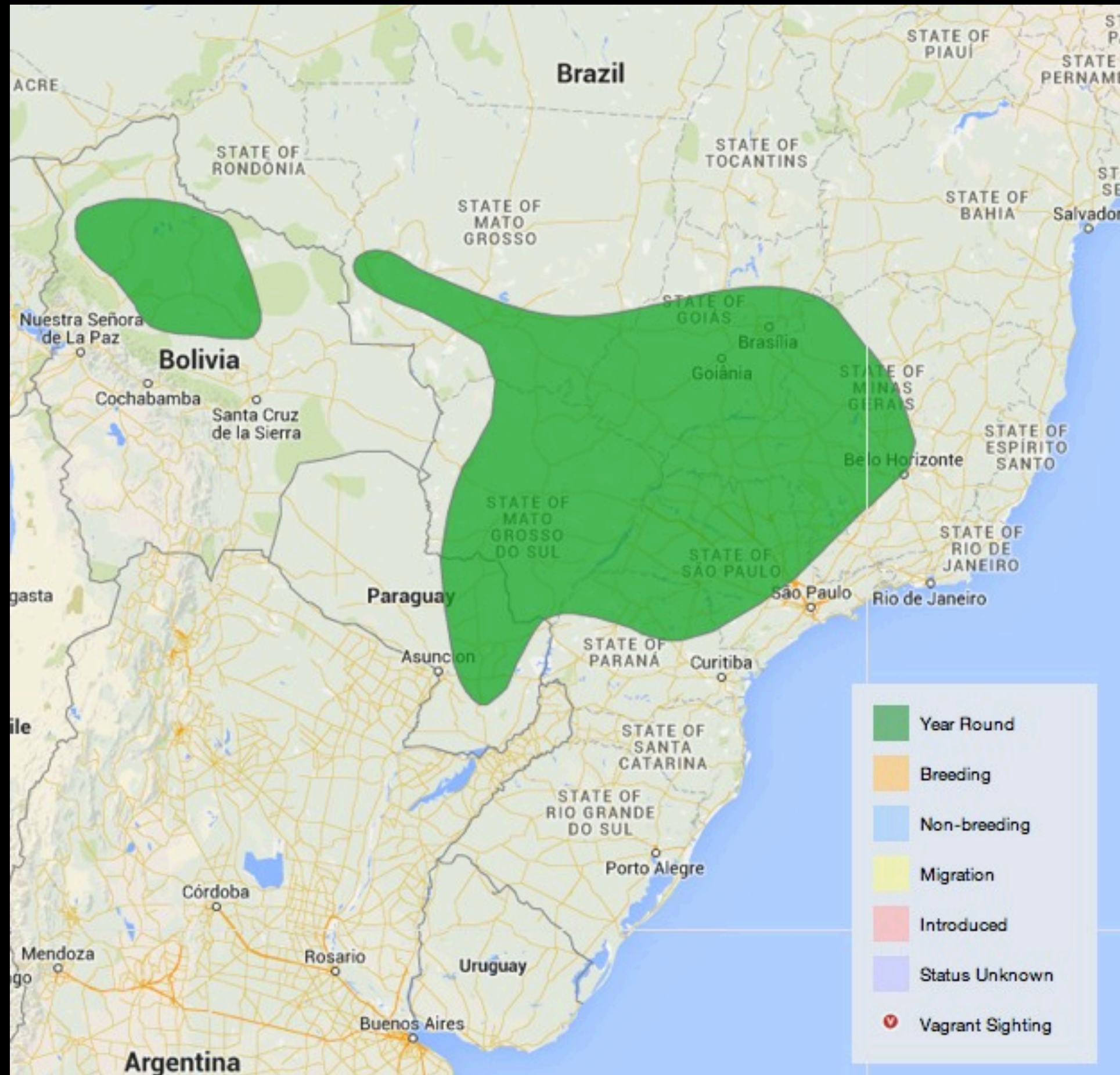




# Cock-tailed Tyrant

## *Alectrurus tricolor*

Being largely restricted to unmodified native, seasonally wet and dry grasslands, and endemic to the Cerrado biome of central South America, the Cock-tailed Tyrant is now considered globally threatened due to ongoing habitat destruction throughout much of its wide range. Although this tyrant is principally found in southern Brazil, there are also populations in northern and eastern Bolivia, and eastern Paraguay, and at least formerly the Cock-tailed Tyrant was known from extreme northeast Argentina, but there have been no records in the last-named country since the late 1970s. The species is heavily dependent on the protected areas network, and the Cock-tailed Tyrant remains locally common in some national parks and reserves. This is a striking bird, with the male being mainly black above, relieved by a gray rump and white shoulder patch, face, and underparts; the tail is also black with broad central rectrices, which are longer and oriented perpendicular to the others. The female has brown feathering replacing the black, whitish below, and has an unmodified, short tail. Breeding commences at the start of the wet season, in September–October, but some details concerning the species' nesting biology have only recently been elucidated.







Long-tailed Tyrant  
*Colonia colonus*





**Cattle Tyrant**  
*Machetornis rixosus*







Piratic Flycatcher  
*Legatus leucophaeus*





Rusty-margined Flycatcher  
*Myiozetetes cayanensis*





Social  
Flycatcher  
*Myiozetetes similis*



# Social Flycatcher

## *Myiozetetes similis*

The Social Flycatcher is a widespread and familiar member of the avifauna throughout much of the Neotropics. It can be quite common near water in forest and edge habitats ranging from northern Argentina north to Mexico. Similar to other stocky yellow, black and white flycatchers, Social Flycatcher is medium sized with brown upperparts and tail, a short, decurved bill, bold black and white striped head, and yellow underparts that run from the white throat to the undertail coverts. The species is easily detected, sits out in the open and gives loud, harsh and sometimes chattering calls.

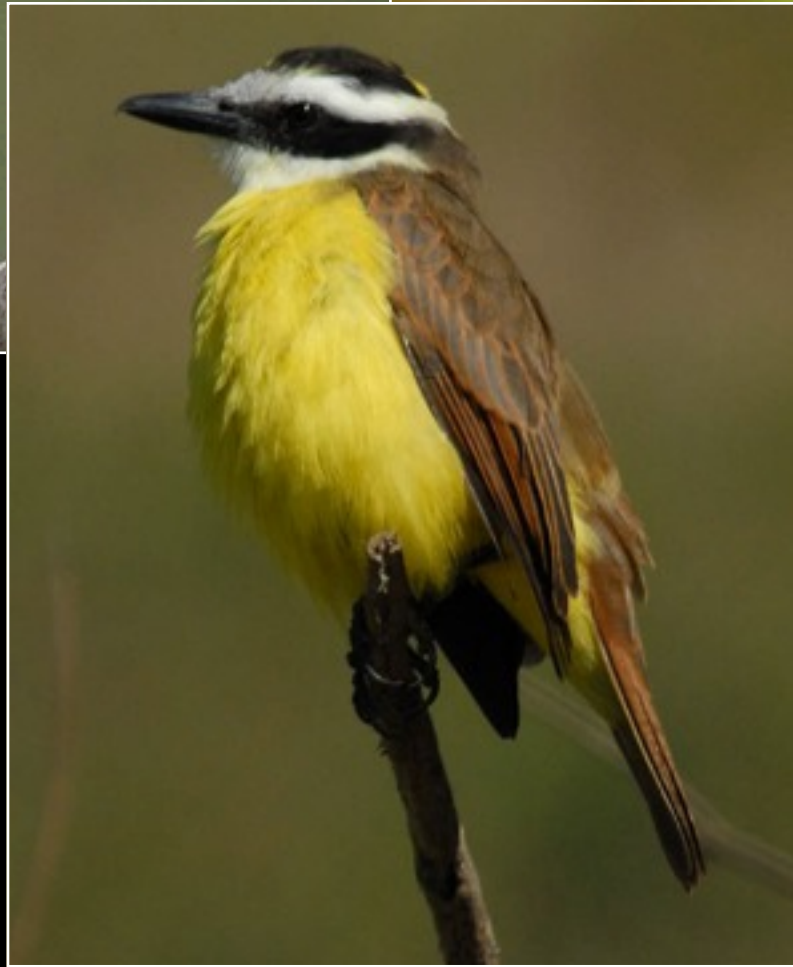
### Habitat

Social Flycatchers are a common species found in shrubby clearings, gardens and residential areas (Ridgley 2001). They are often found in large groups near water sources, lake and river margins, pastures and cultivated regions (del Hoyo et al. 2004). In the eastern and south parts of Brazil, they are commonly found on forest and woodland borders; however, they are practically absent from the Northern Pantanal and Chapada dos Guimarães (Gwynne et al. 2006). Social Flycatchers are often found in humid forests, and in the lowlands and foothills of Ecuador (Ridgley and Greenfield). They are also commonly found in second growth, agricultural land and on the banks of rivers and ponds throughout their distribution (Stiles and Skutch 1989). As described by Restall et al., Social Flycatchers are well adapted to urban areas (2006).





Great Kiskadee  
*Pitangus sulphuratus*







Lesser Kiskadee  
*Pitangus lictor*

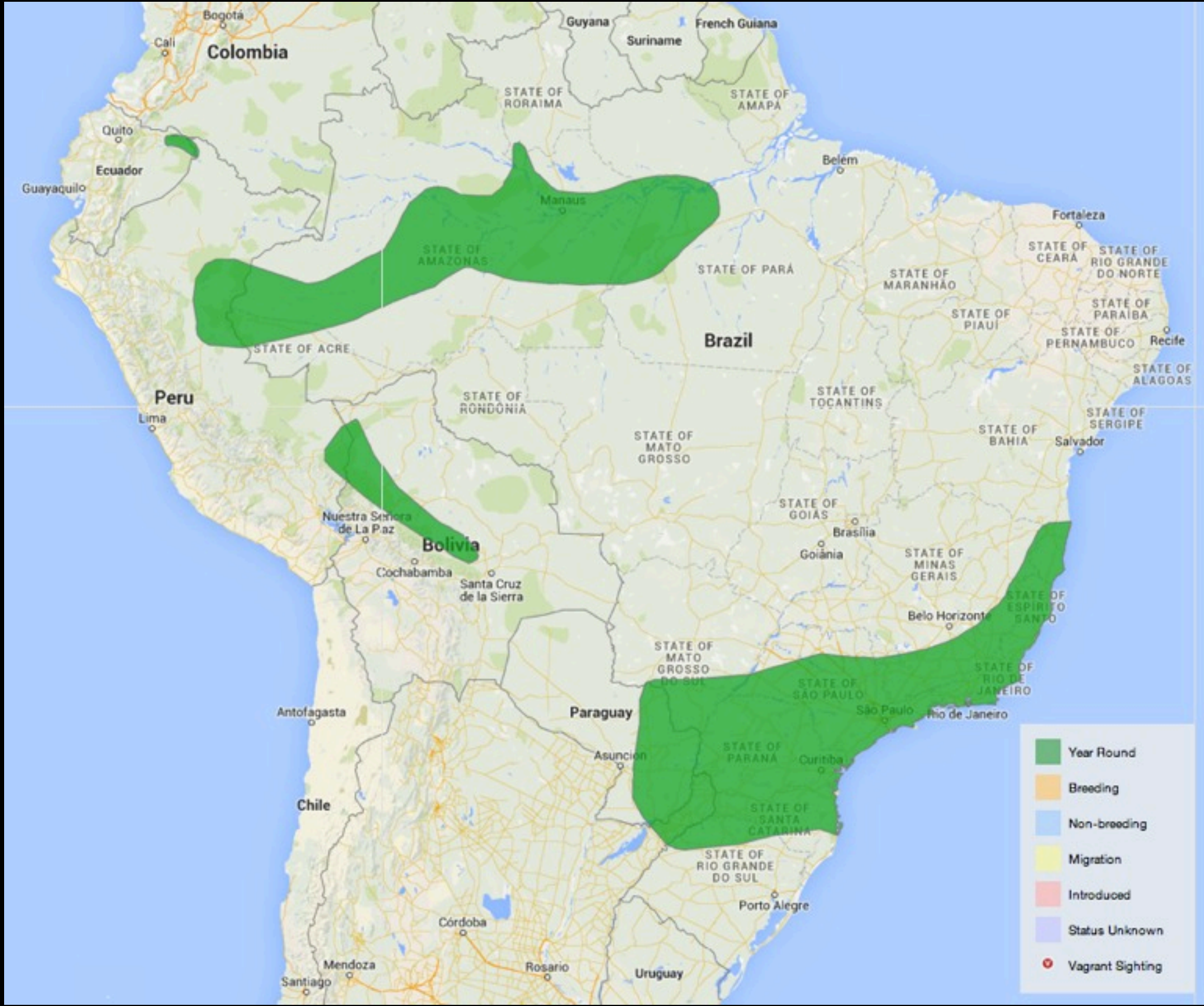




Three-striped  
Flycatcher  
*Conopias trivirgatus*



# Three-striped Flycatcher *Conopias trivirgatus*



The Three-striped Flycatcher is a widespread species of South American lowlands with several disjunct patches in its distribution. It is found in humid forest below 300 meters in elevation in a large area of the central Amazon Basin, a large area in southeastern Brazil, and several patches widespread along the eastern base of the Andes. The species is quite striking, olive above with blackish wings, black head with very broad superciliary, a short, stout bill, and bright yellow underparts. It is typically easy to find as it forages alone, in pairs, or in mixed flocks, and can sometimes be detected by its scratching calls.





**Streaked Flycatcher**  
*Myiodynastes maculatus*





Boat-billed Flycatcher  
*Megarhynchus pitangua*



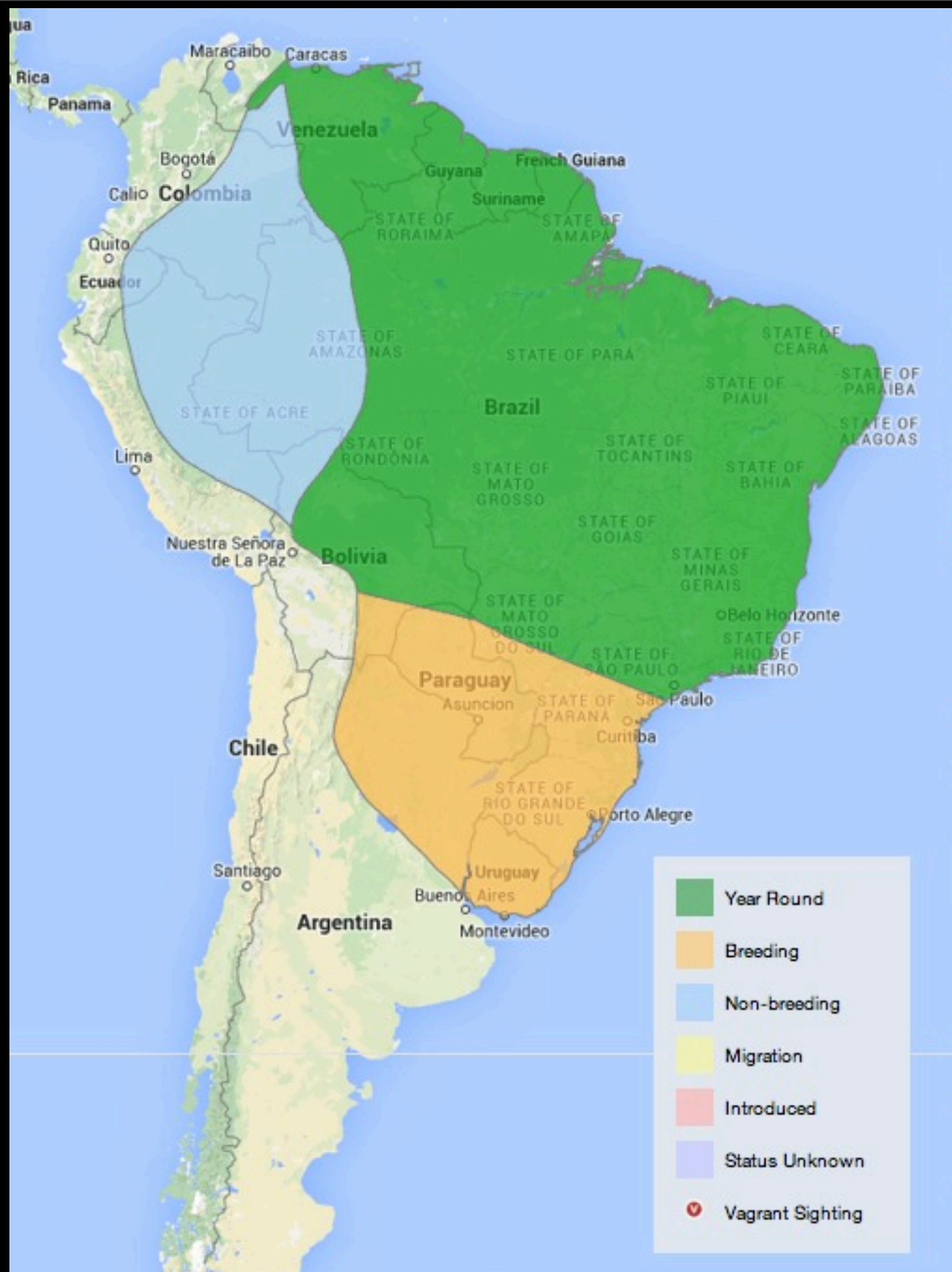


Variegated Flycatcher  
*Empidonomus varius*



# Variegated Flycatcher *Empidonomus varius*

The Variegated Flycatcher breeds in much of South America east of the Andes south to northern Argentina, although it is apparently absent as a breeder from western Amazonia. The nominate subspecies (*E. v. varius*) vacates the southern portion of its breeding range during the austral winter, moving north to northern South America, including the western Amazon basin. As with some other austral migrants, this species is prone to vagrancy, and there have been several records from the United States and Canada. One of several similar "streaked" flycatchers, the Variegated is intermediate in size between the smaller Piratic (*Legatus leucophaius*) and larger Streaked (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) flycatchers. It is fairly common and conspicuous in forest patches, edge habitats, and more heavily-wooded savannas, where it sallies for insects and also regularly consumes small fruit.







Crowned Slaty Flycatcher  
*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*



# Crowned Slaty Flycatcher

## *Empidonamus aurantioatrocristatus*

Crowned Slaty Flycatcher was formerly given its own genus, *Griseotyrannus*, at which point it was considered the longest scientific name of any bird, a dubious distinction. A close relationship to Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonamus varius*) is clear, however, both in its weak vocalization and the juvenile plumage of the Crowned Slaty, which looks a tad more like a Variegated than does the adult Crowned Slaty. This flycatcher breeds in open woodlands, as far south as central Argentina, and it is abundant in parts of the Monte Desert and Chaco, often being one of the most common birds there. Its breeding range extends north through the arid belt through central Brazil. This flycatcher is highly migratory and the bulk of the population winters in the Amazon Basin. Peculiarly, in winter it can be found on the crowns of emergent trees, and other tree-tops of lowland forest. Structurally these tree-tops sticking out beyond the canopy are in some ways structurally similar to the isolated trees and shrubby forests it takes during breeding. In a sense the requirement is a tree to perch in, and plenty of open space to sally to for insects. As records begin to accumulate it is clear that this migrant is prone to vagrancy, a subject that is yet not well known in South America. There are records of overshoots in Venezuela and Louisiana in the United States, as well as a record from northern Chile. Wrong way disorientation (180° disorientation) may also be occurring based on a recent record from Panama.





# Crowned Slaty Flycatcher

## *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*

### Distribution

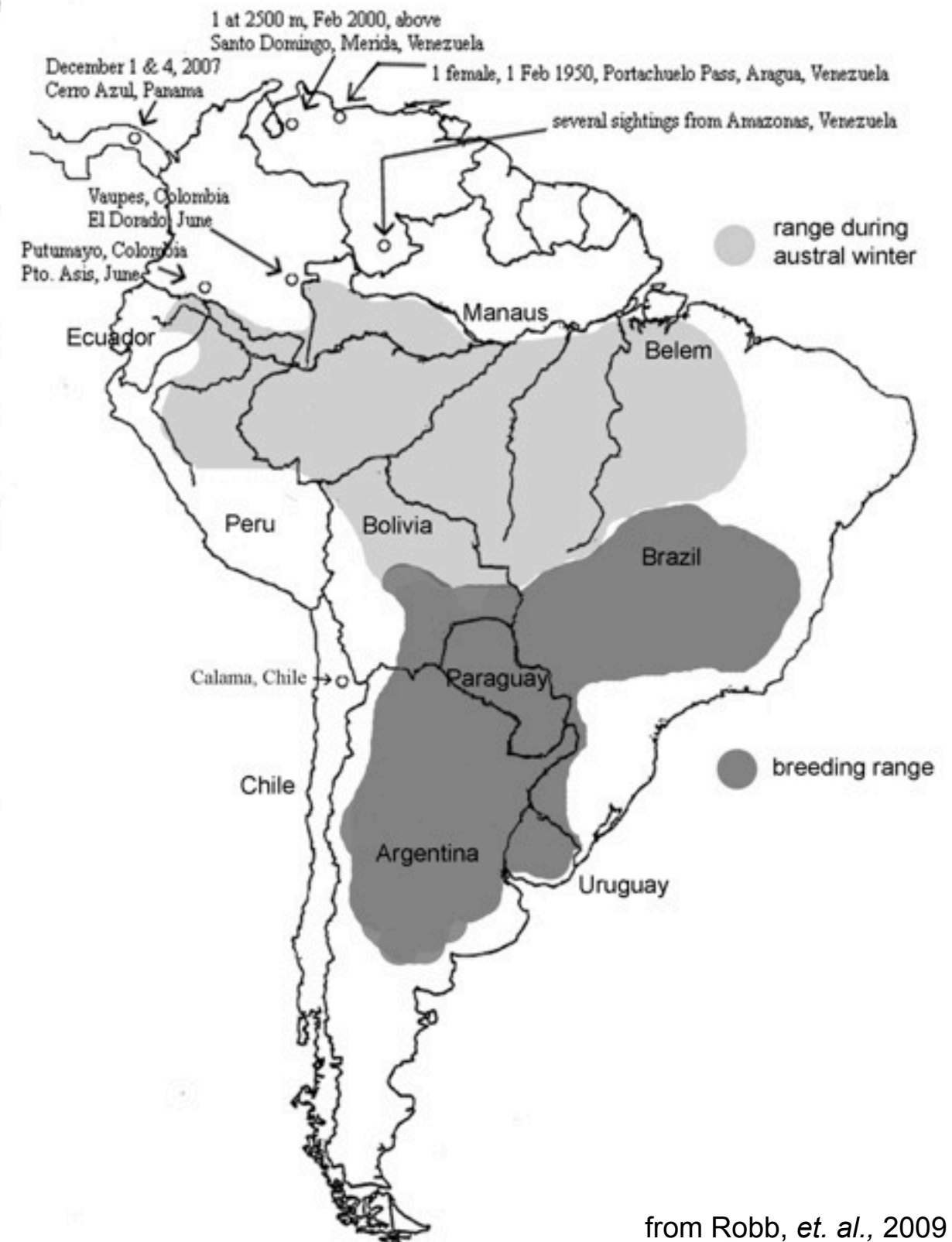
The nominate subspecies of Crowned Slaty Flycatcher breeds in southern and eastern Bolivia (north to Beni), west central and southern Brazil (southern Mato Grosso, east to west Minas Gerais, south to Mato Grosso do Sul, extreme western Paraná, Santa Catarina and western Rio Grande do Sul), north and central Argentina (south to Mendoza, La Pampa, northern Rio Negro and Buenos Aires), Paraguay (especially west of Río Paraguay) and Uruguay (Traylor 1979, Mobley 2004). This population migrates north in the austral winter, mainly to western Amazonia, to as far north as eastern Ecuador, southeastern Colombia, southern Venezuela, and northern Brazil (Traylor 1979, Ridgely and Tudor 1994, Hilty 2003).

Subspecies *pallidiventris* is resident, and occurs in east central Brazil, from eastern Pará east to Maranhão and Piauí, south to northern Goiás (Zimmer 1937, Traylor 1979, Mobley 2004). Crowned Slaty Flycatcher primarily occurs in the lowlands; wintering *aurantioatrocristatus* occur up to ca 1050 m in Venezuela (Hilty 2003), mostly below 1100 m in Ecuador (Ridgely and Greenfield 2001b), up to 1000 m in Peru (Schulenberg et al. 2010). There also are breeding records at up to 2500 m in the intermontane valleys of Bolivia (Chesser 1995; or even to 2800 m? Hennessey et al. 2003). There are several extralimital records of Crowned Slaty Flycatcher. In Ecuador it has been reported from Vilcabamba, Loja, at 1600 m, a site that is west of the east slope of the Andes. It also has been encountered in Ecuador as high as 2500 m (Ridgely and Greenfield 2001a), and to 3300 m in Bolivia (Chesser 1995). There also is a record from west of the Andes at Calama, Antofagasta, Chile (Jaramillo 2003). Records north of the regular wintering grounds include a specimen taken at Paso Portachuelo, Aragua, Venezuela, in February 1950, and sight records from above Santa Domingo, Mérida, Venezuela (Hilty 2003). Farther north, there are more recent sightings include the first North American record at Cerro Azul, Panama, in December 2007 (Robb et al. 2009) and the first United States record, an adult male collected in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, in June, 2008 (Conover and Myers 2009).

### Habitat

On the breeding grounds Crowned Slaty Flycatcher occurs in deciduous forest, the edges of gallery forest, in lighter woodlands, scrub and cerrado with scattered trees (Belton 1985, Parker et al. 1996, Gwynne et al. 2010). Wintering birds in Amazonia prefer the canopy of humid forest edges, forest openings and clearings (Hilty and Brown 1986, Ridgely and Greenfield 2001a, Hilty 2003, Schulenberg et al. 2010). They utilize both terra firme and varzea and are found in the lowlands and foothills (Hilty and Brown 1986, Ridgely and Greenfield 2001a).

Sightings of Crowned Slaty Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*)



from Robb, et. al., 2009





White-throated Kingbird  
*Tyrannus albogularis*



The White-throated Kingbird is an inhabitant of gallery forest and open savanna from Venezuela south to Bolivia. The White-throated Kingbird has a pale grey head with a semi-concealed yellow coronal patch, a dusky-black eyeline, olive-green upperparts, bright yellow underparts and a dull blackish-brown tail and wings. White-throated Kingbirds can be distinguished from the similar Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) by their slightly smaller size, square-ended tail, greyer back, whiter throat and paler underparts. When foraging, the White-throated Kingbird sallies for insects from a perch 3 to 4 m above the ground. An austral migrant, the White-throated Kingbird migrates to the western Amazon as far north as Colombia during the southern winter.



White-throated Kingbird  
*Tyrannus albogularis*





Tropical Kingbird  
*Tyrannus melancholicus*







Fork-tailed Flycatcher  
*Tyrannus savana*





Sibilant Sirystes  
*Sirystes sibilator*





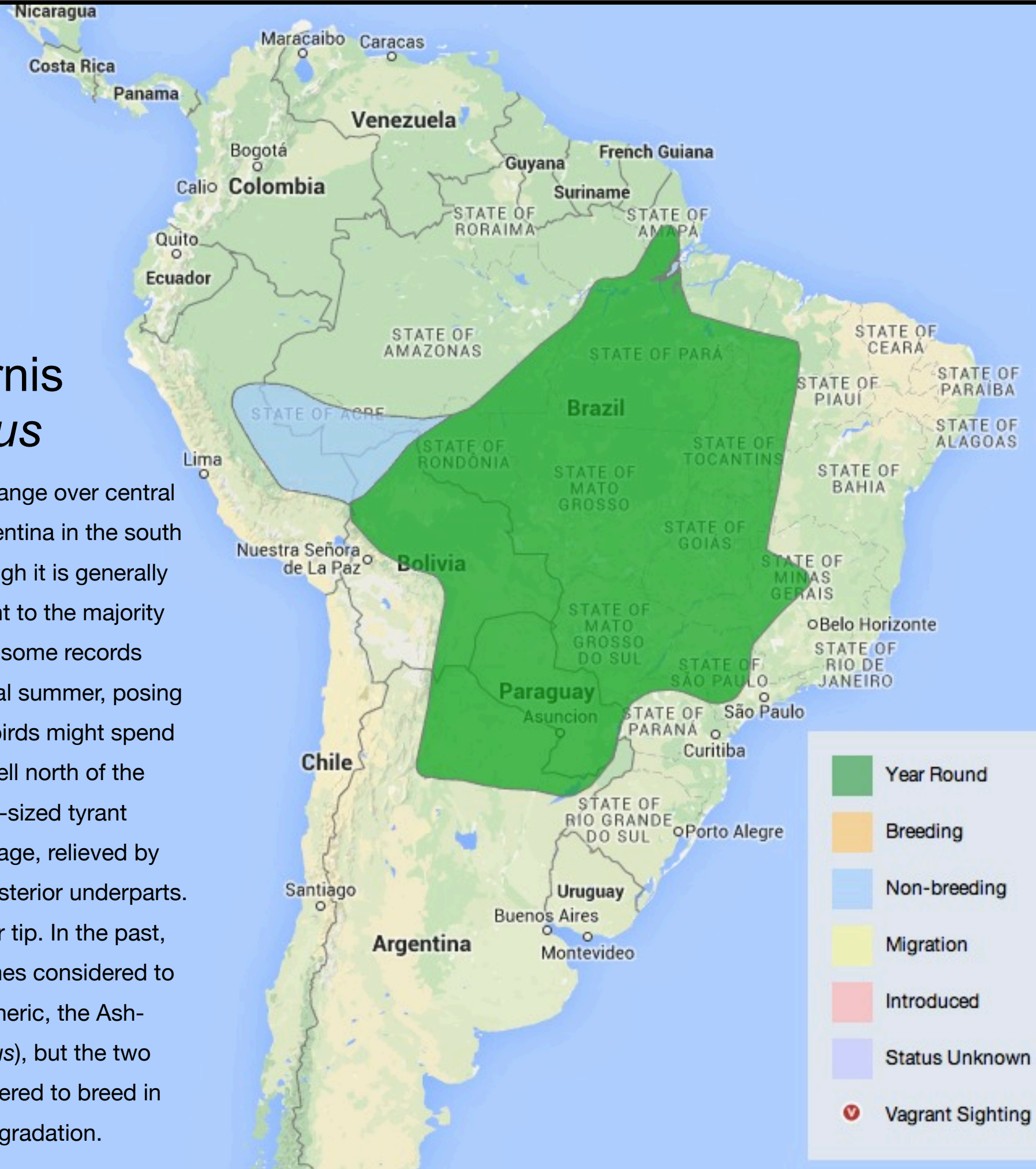
Rufous Casiornis  
*Casiornis rufus*



# Rufous Casiornis

## *Casiornis rufus*

The Rufous Casiornis has a wide range over central South America, from northern Argentina in the south north as far as the Amazon. Although it is generally considered to be an austral migrant to the majority of its perceived Amazonian range, some records from this region are from the austral summer, posing the question as to whether some birds might spend the whole year, and even breed, well north of the main breeding range. This is a mid-sized tyrant flycatcher with largely rufous plumage, relieved by slightly darker wings, and paler posterior underparts. The bill is largely pale with a darker tip. In the past, the Rufous Casiornis was sometimes considered to be conspecific with its only congeneric, the Ash-throated Casiornis (*Casiornis fuscus*), but the two species have recently been discovered to breed in sympatry with no evidence of intergradation.







Swainson's Flycatcher  
*Myiarchus swainsoni*





Short-crested Flycatcher  
*Myiarchus ferox*





Brown-crested Flycatcher  
*Myiarchus tyrannulus*





Cinnamon Attila  
*Attila cinnamomeus*







Dull-capped Attila  
*Attila bolivianus*



# COTINGIDAE





Amazonian  
Umbrellabird  
*Cephalopterus ornatus*





Bare-necked  
Fruitcrow  
*Gymnoderus foetidus*





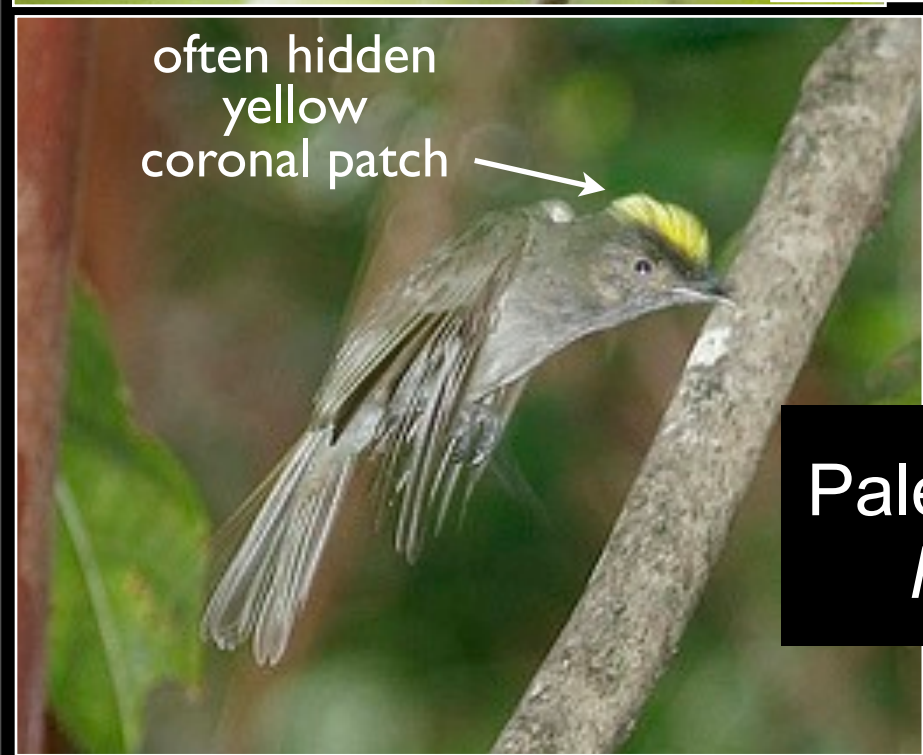
# PIPRIDAE





Pale-bellied Tyrant-manakin, Tamandaré, Pernambuco, Brazil, October 2008

© A Pale-bellied Tyrant-manakin, Tamandaré, Pernambuco, Brazil, October 2008



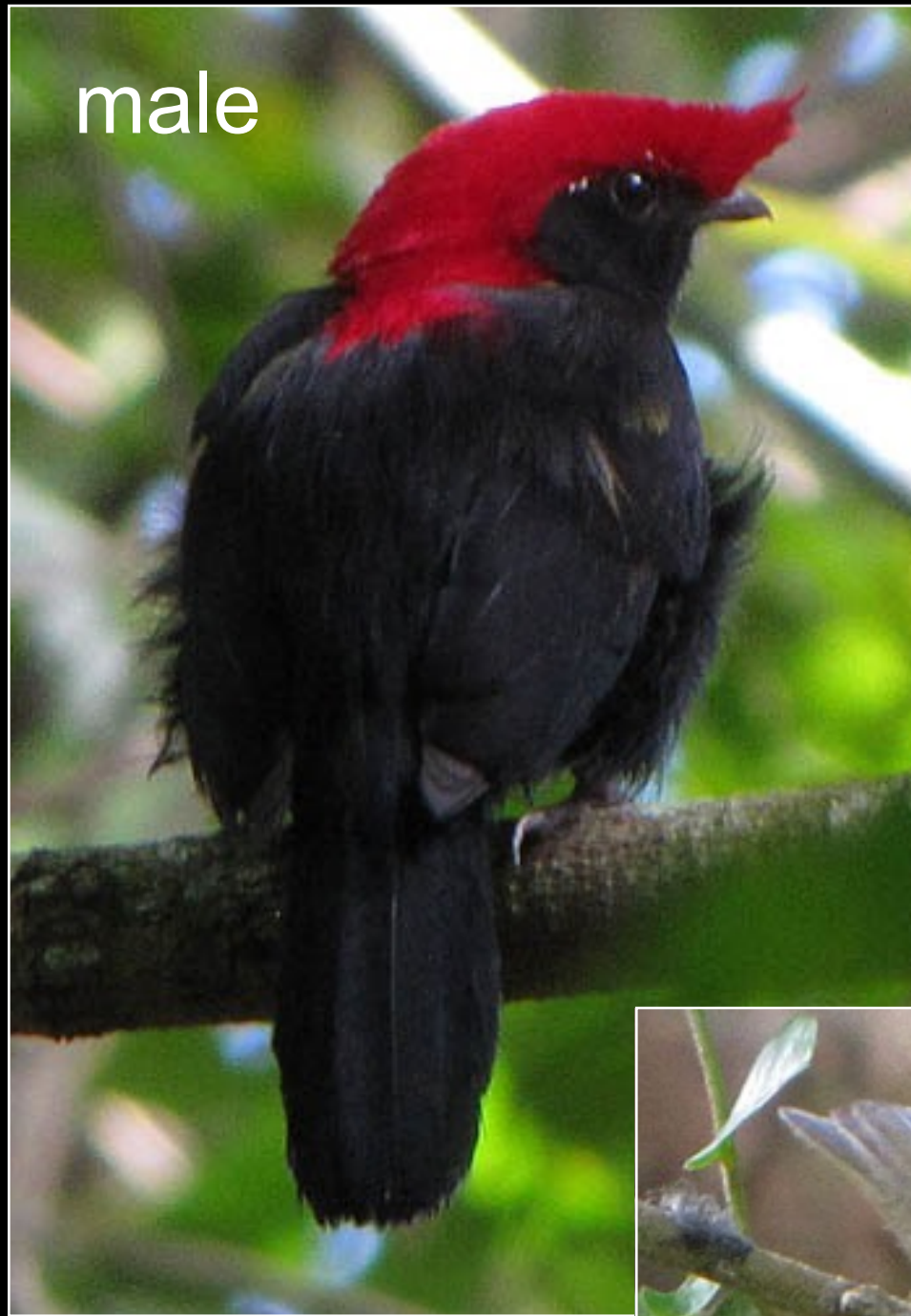
often hidden  
yellow  
coronal patch

**Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin**  
*Neopelma pallescens*





male



male



female



Helmeted Manakin  
*Antilophia galeata*





male



male



immature  
male



male

Swallow-tailed  
Manakin  
*Chiroxiphia caudata*



female





**Band-tailed Manakin**  
*Pipra fasciicauda*





# TITYRIDAE





Black-crowned Tityra  
*Tityra inquisitor*



female

Black-tailed Tityra  
*Tityra cayana*



male







female



male

Masked Tityra  
*Tityra semifasciata*





White-naped Xenopsaris  
*Xenopsaris albinucha*

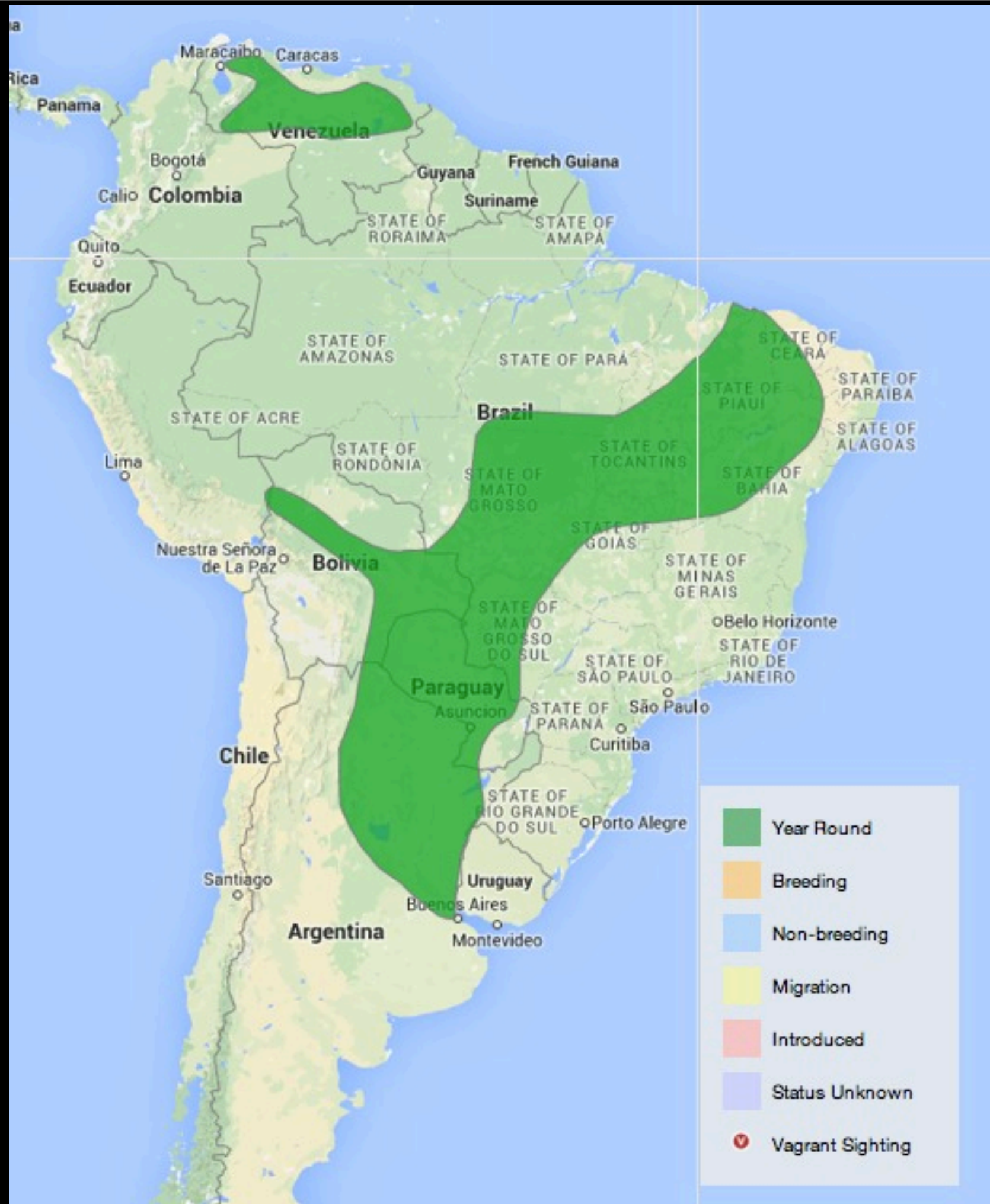




# White-naped Xenopsaris

## *Xenopsaris albinucha*

The xenopsaris is among the more enigmatic birds of the Neotropics. It is distributed widely south of the Amazon basin in brushy riparian growth, light woodlands and edges often near water but also is found in similar habitats across Venezuela and northern Brazil. Its status is very unclear over much of its range with evidence of nomadism and opportunistic breeding. Adding to the enigma, the xenopsaris is the only member of its genus, and its affinities within this group long have been obscure; recent research suggests it be closely related the becards. Superficially similar to many flycatchers and becards, the White-naped Xenopsaris has a gray back and wings with slightly scalloped white wing-bars and pale edging to the secondaries and a solid black cap with slight a crest contrasting with white throat, cheeks and underparts; it easily confused most easily with Cinereous Becard (*Pachyramphus rufus*).







male

©Nick Athanas



female



female



male



male

Green-backed Becard  
*Pachyramphus viridis*





female



male

White-winged Becard  
*Pachyramphus polychopterus*





immature  
male



female

Crested Becard  
*Pachyramphus validus*



# VIREONIDAE





Rufous-browed  
Peppershrike  
*Cyclarhis gujanensis*



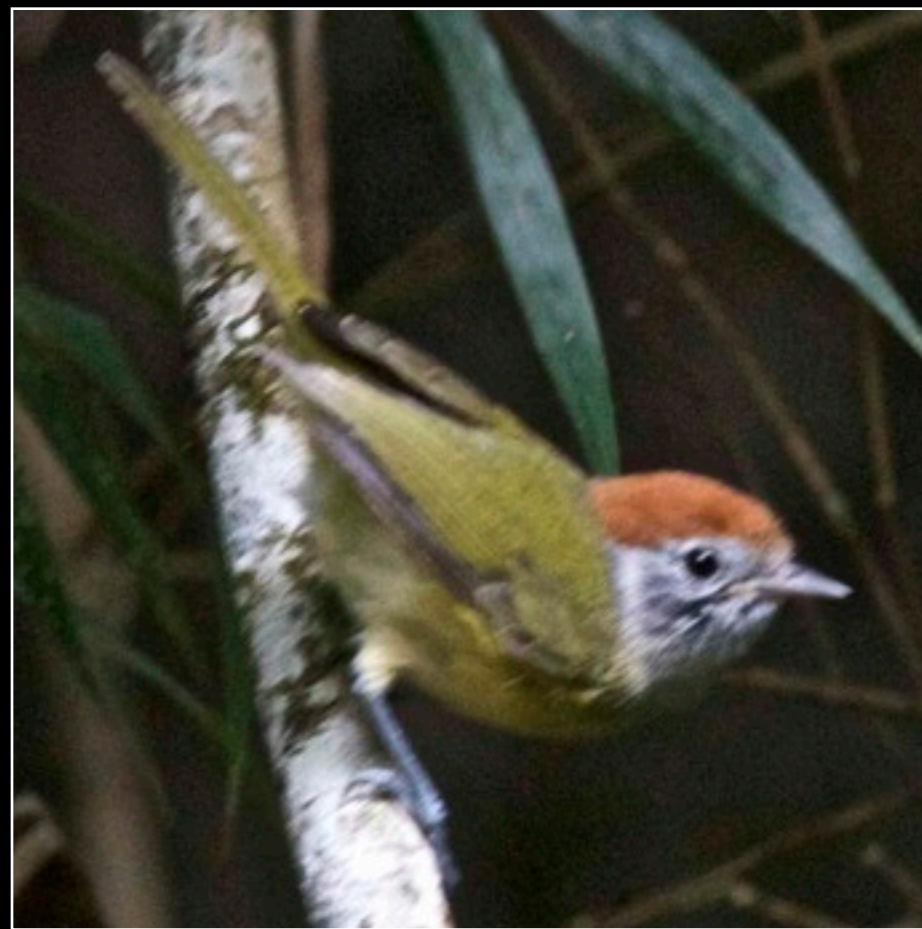


Red-eyed (Chivi) Vireo  
*Vireo olivaceus chivi*





Rufous-crowned  
Greenlet  
*Hylophilus poicilotis*





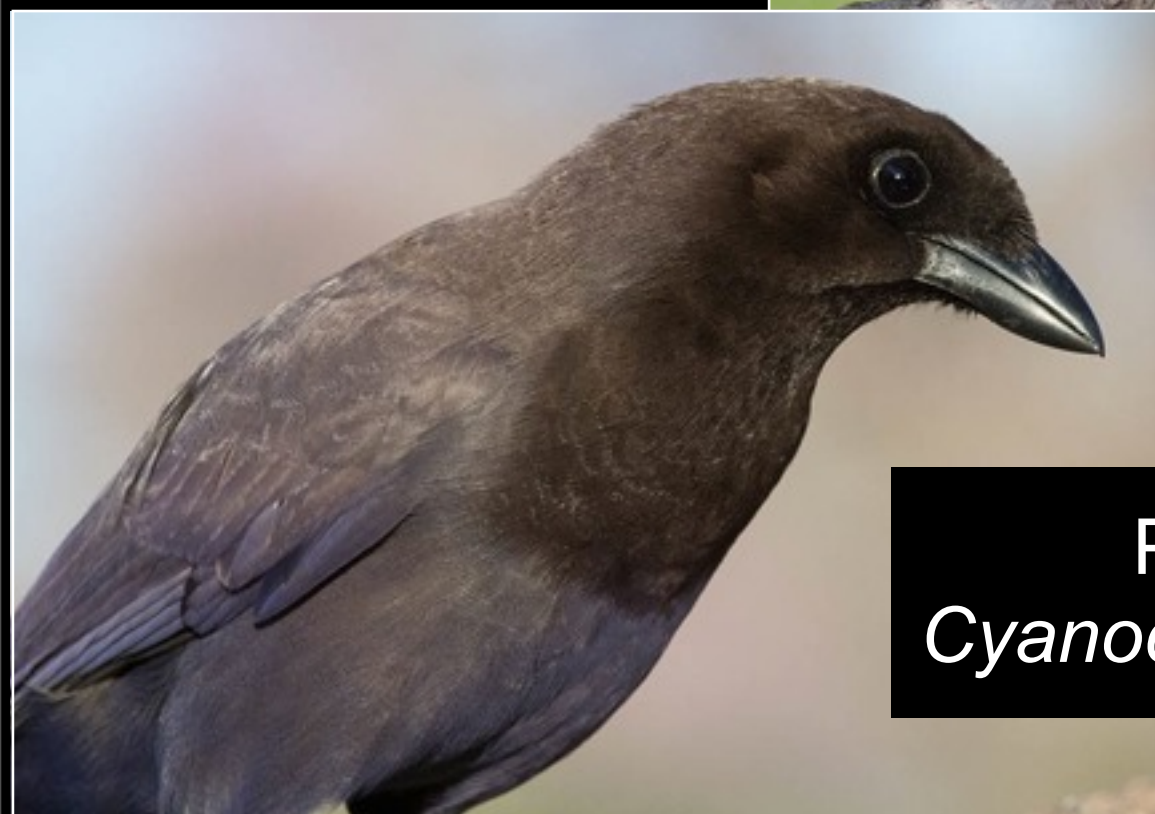
Ashy-headed Greenlet  
*Hylophilus pectoralis*





# CORVIDAE





Purplish Jay  
*Cyanocorax cyanomelas*





Curl-crested Jay  
*Cyanocorax cristatellus*





Plush-crested Jay  
*Cyanocorax chrysops*





# HIRUNDINIDAE



Blue-and-White Swallow  
*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*











Tawny-headed Swallow  
*Alopochelidon fucata*

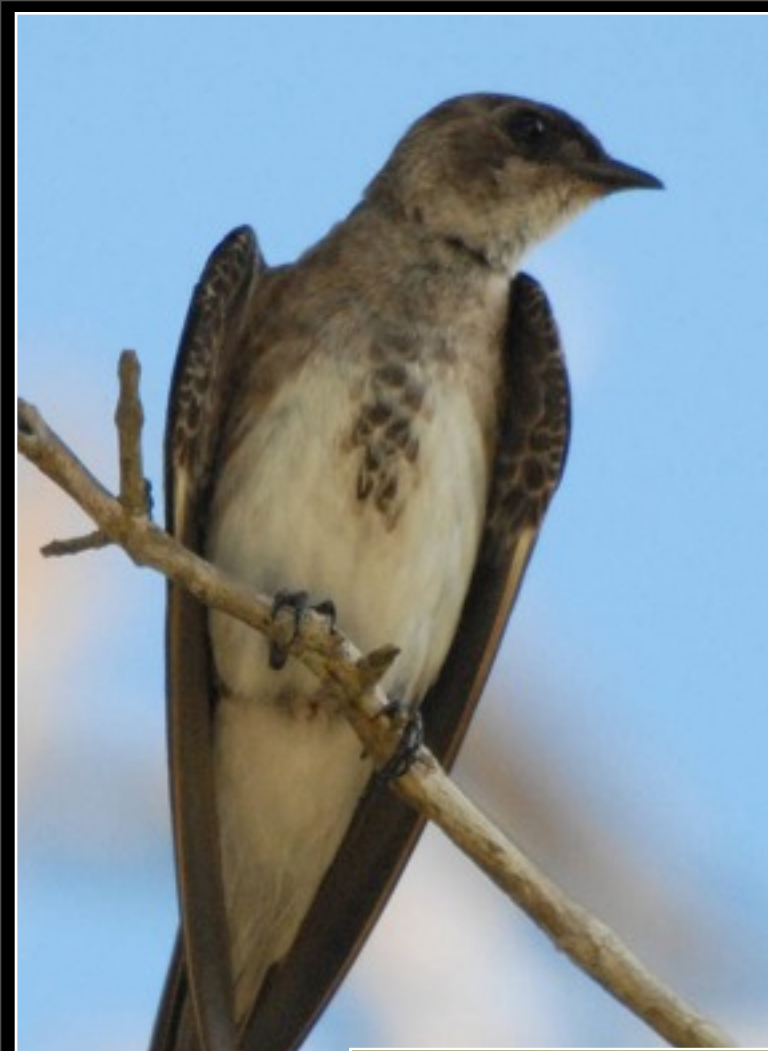






Southern Rough-winged Swallow  
*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*





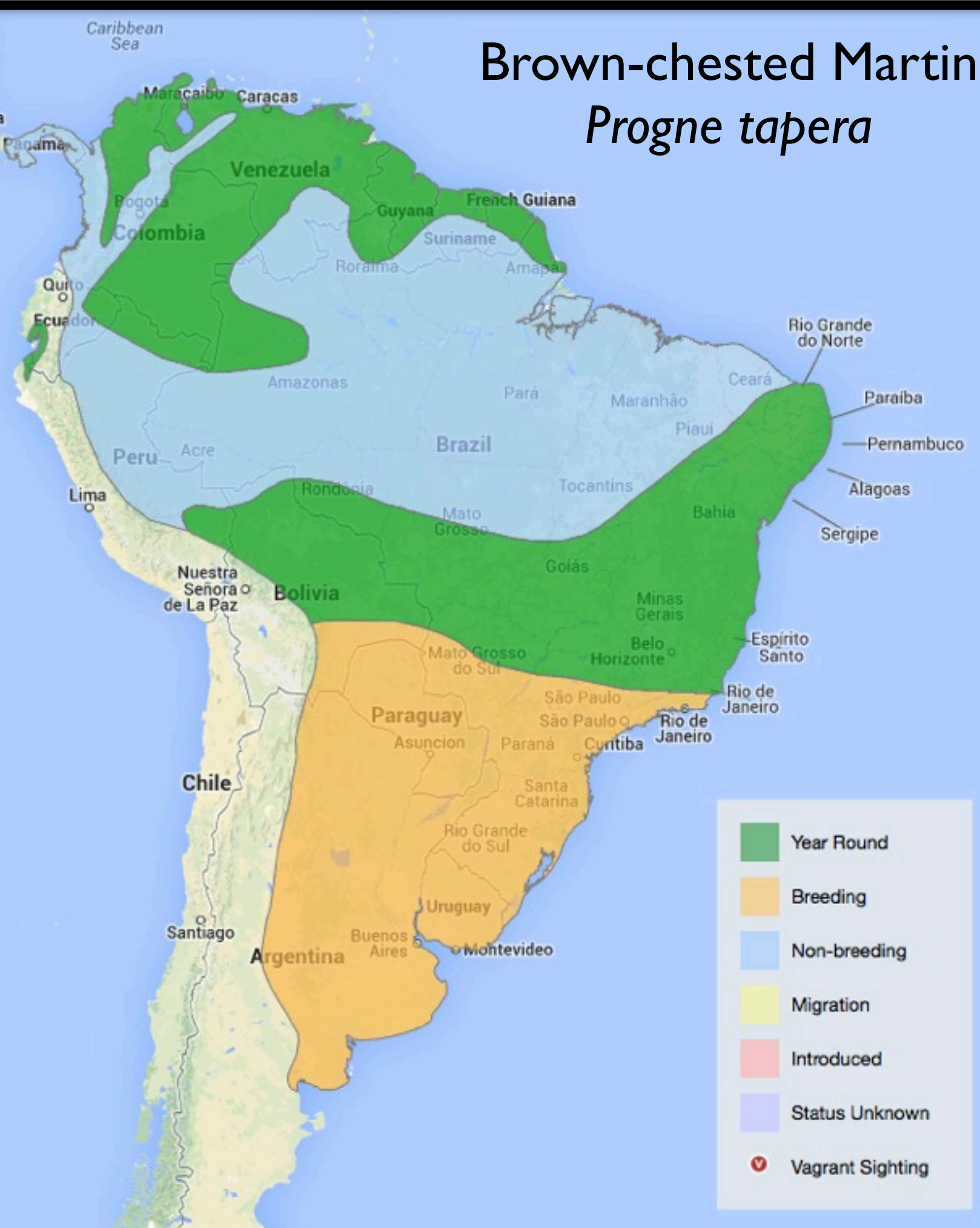
Brown-chested Martin  
*Progne tapera fusca*



# Brown-chested Martin

## *Progne tapera*

The Brown-chested Martin is a common inhabitant of grasslands and other open habitats from Colombia south to Argentina. All populations of Brown-chested Martins have sandy upperparts and crown, white underparts and an indistinct brown breast band. The southern subspecies, *fusca*, also has a string of dusky marks down the center of the breast, and so often can be identified in the field. Brown-chested Martins can be distinguished from the similar [Bank Swallow \(\*Riparia riparia\*\)](#) by their much larger size. With a diet of flying insects, Brown-chested Martins forage by flying low and fast over grassland or open water. The southern subspecies *fusca* is migratory, and forms large post-breeding flocks of hundreds of thousands of birds. The southern populations of the Brown-chested Martins migrate as far north as Panama.





male



female



male



female



immature  
male



Purple Martin  
*Progne subis*



male

male







Gray-breasted Martin  
*Progne chalybea*





White-winged Swallow  
*Tachycineta albiventer*





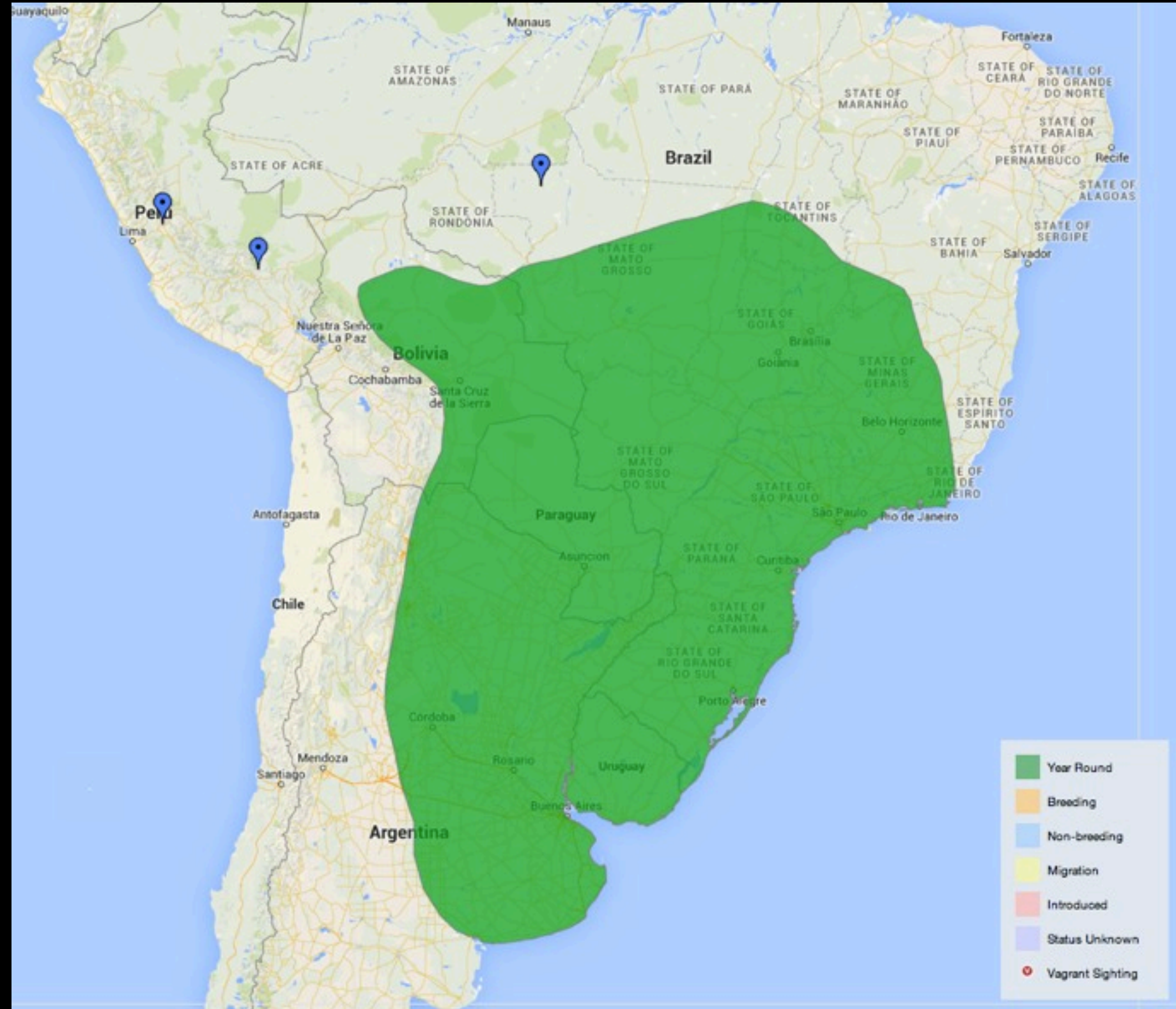
White-rumped Swallow  
*Tachycineta leucorrhoa*



# White-rumped Swallow

## *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*

The White-rumped Swallow is a classic species of the genus *Tachycineta*, iridescent blue above and white below. As the name mentions, it also shows a white rump. The White-rumped Swallow is extremely similar to the more southern and western Chilean Swallow (*Tachycineta meyeni*); the two do not overlap in breeding distribution. The White-rumped is slightly more greenish above in coloration, and it shows a narrow white patch on the forehead that the Chilean Swallow does not. The White-rumped Swallow takes variable open habitats including agricultural areas, towns, forest edge, and Pampas grassland. It nests in a cavity, natural or man-made such as under the eaves of a house. In early spring males sing a wonderful bubbly song, either from a perch or in flight. During winter the distribution shifts northwards a bit, but many are resident, being hardy enough to take the southern cone winter, at this time they can be found side-by-side with the look-alike Chilean Swallow.



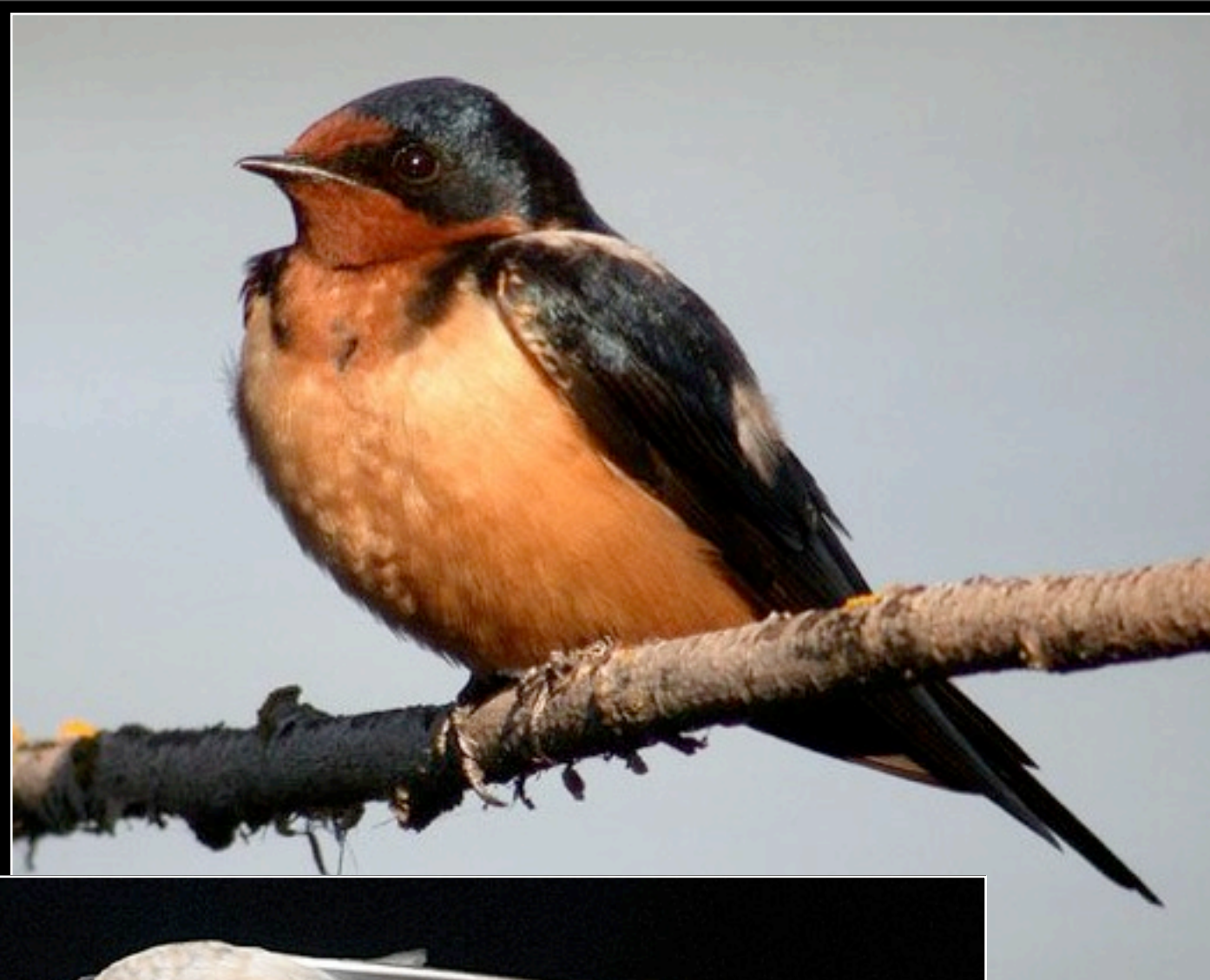




Bank Swallow  
*Riparia riparia*







Barn Swallow  
*Hirundo rustica*





Cliff Swallow  
*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*



# TROGLODYTIDAE





House Wren  
*Troglodytes aedon*







Thrush-like Wren  
*Campylorhynchus turdinus*





Moustached Wren  
*Pheugopedius genibarbis*







Buff-breasted Wren  
*Cantorchilus leucotis*







Fawn-breasted Wren  
*Cantorchilus guarayanus*





# POLIOPTILIDAE



Masked Gnatcatcher  
*Polioptila dumicola*



female



male



# DONACOBIIDAE





Black-capped  
Donacobius  
*Donacobius atricapillus*



# TURDIDAE



Pale-breasted Thrush  
*Turdus leucolaemus*





Rufous-bellied Thrush  
*Turdus rufiventris*







Creamy-bellied Thrush  
*Turdus amaurochalinus*





male



male



female



Slaty Thrush  
*Turdus nigriceps*





White-necked Thrush  
*Turdus albicollis*



# MIMIDAE



adult



adult



immature



Chalk-browed Mockingbird  
*Mimus saturninus*





White-banded Mockingbird  
*Mimus triurus*





# MOTACILLIDAE



Yellowish Pipit  
*Anthus lutescens*





# THRAUPIDAE





Red-crested Cardinal  
*Paroaria coronata*





Yellow-billed Cardinal  
*Paroaria capitata*





Magpie Tanager  
*Cissopis leveriana*



female



Hooded Tanager  
*Nemosia pileata*



male





Orange-headed Tanager  
*Thlypopsis sordida*







White-rumped Tanager  
*Cypsnagra hirundinacea*









Gray-headed Tanager  
*Eucometis penicillata*



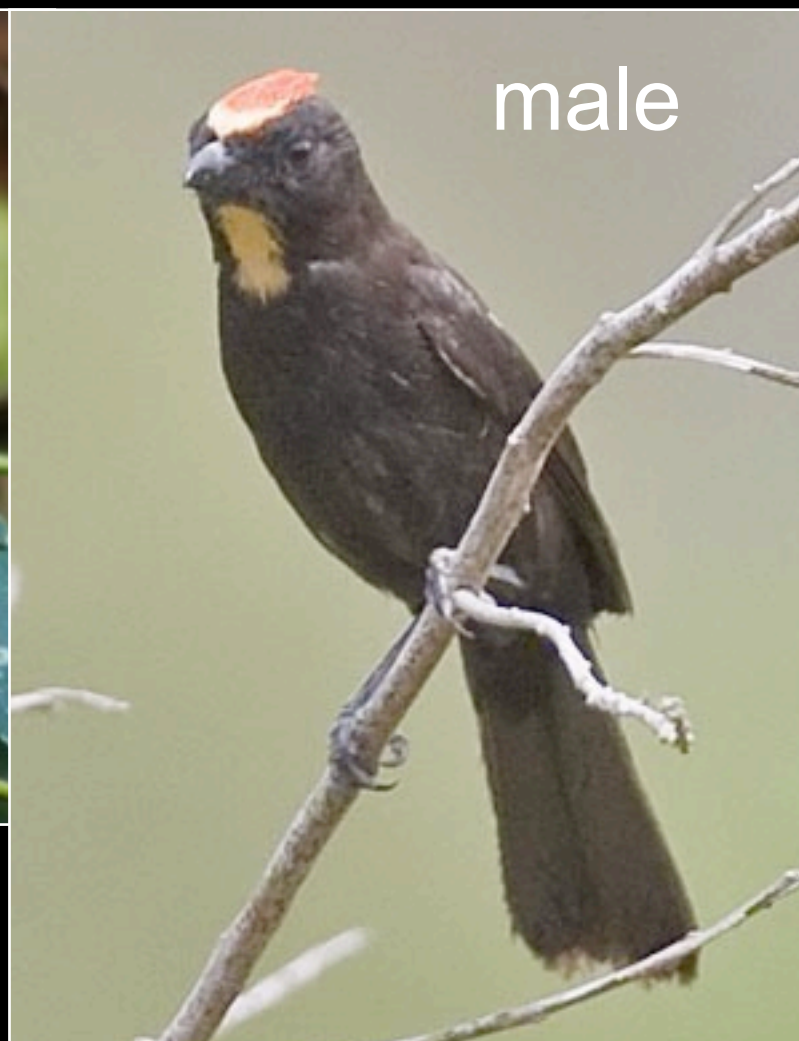
immature







male



male



female



male

Flame-crested Tanager  
*Tachyphonus cristatus*



The Flame-crested Tanager is one of eight species within the genus *Tachyphonus*. It is the most geographically variable *Tachyphonus*, with no fewer than 10 recognized subspecies. It has a wide range throughout northern and central South America. It inhabits the canopy and mid-level of tropical forests, where it forages primarily for insects but also consumes fruits and seeds. They typically live in pairs and can be found in interspecific as well as intraspecific flocks. Males are easily recognizable by their narrow red ("flame-colored") crest and yellowish chin and throat (or bib). There is little information about populations and demographics of the Flame-crested Tanager, but in view of its wide distribution, its conservation status is rated as of Least Concern.



Flame-crested Tanager  
*Tachyphonus cristatus*





male

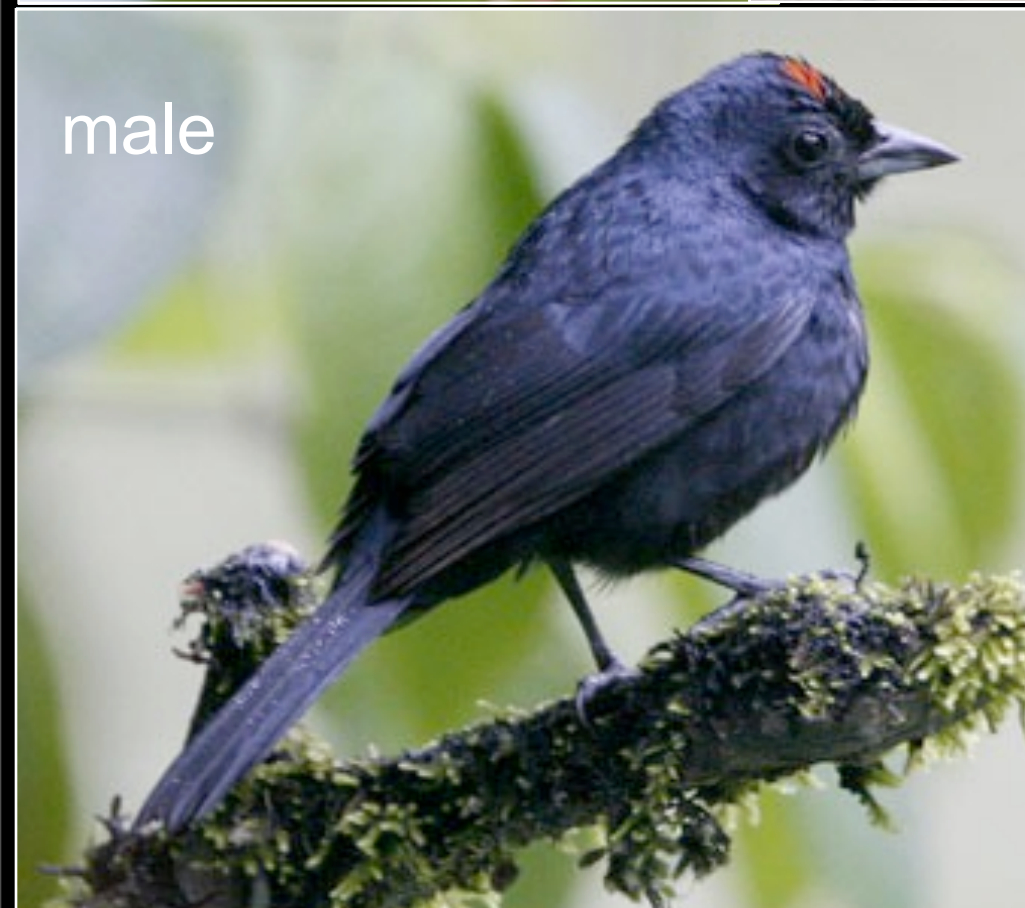


female

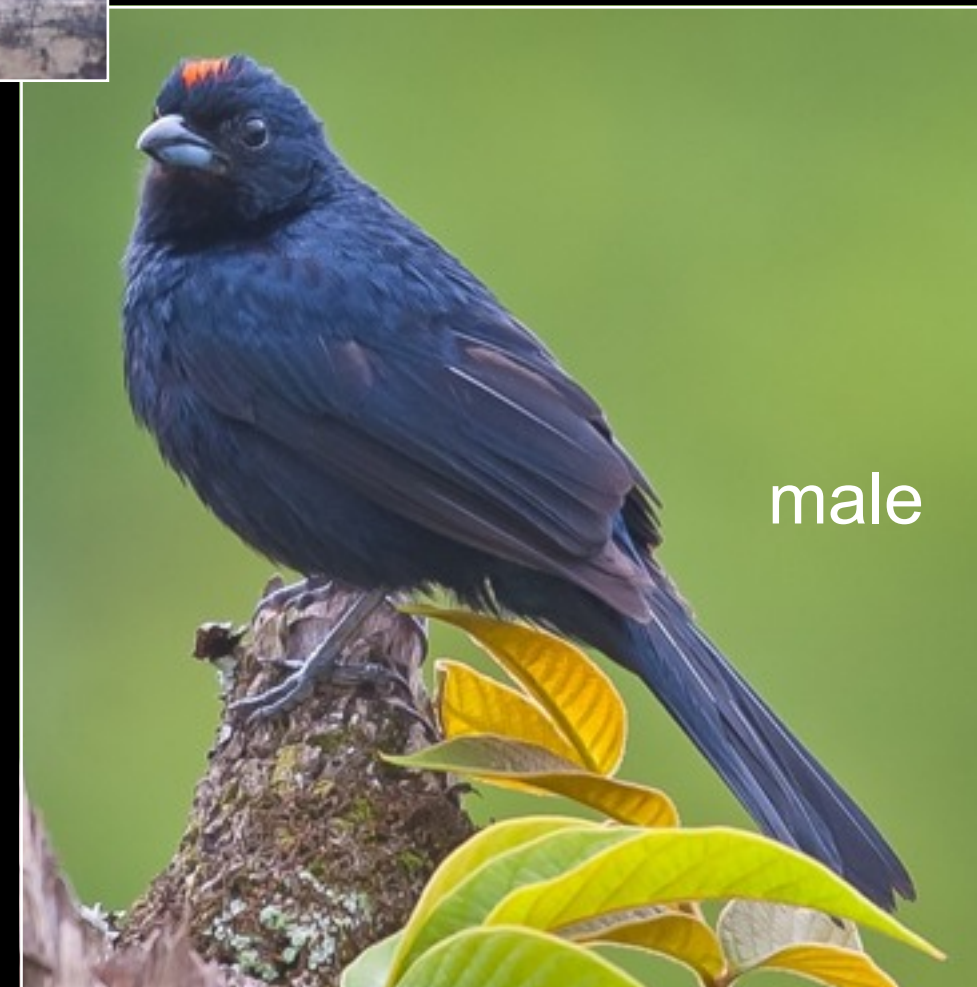


female

Ruby-crowned Tanager  
*Tachyphonus coronatus*

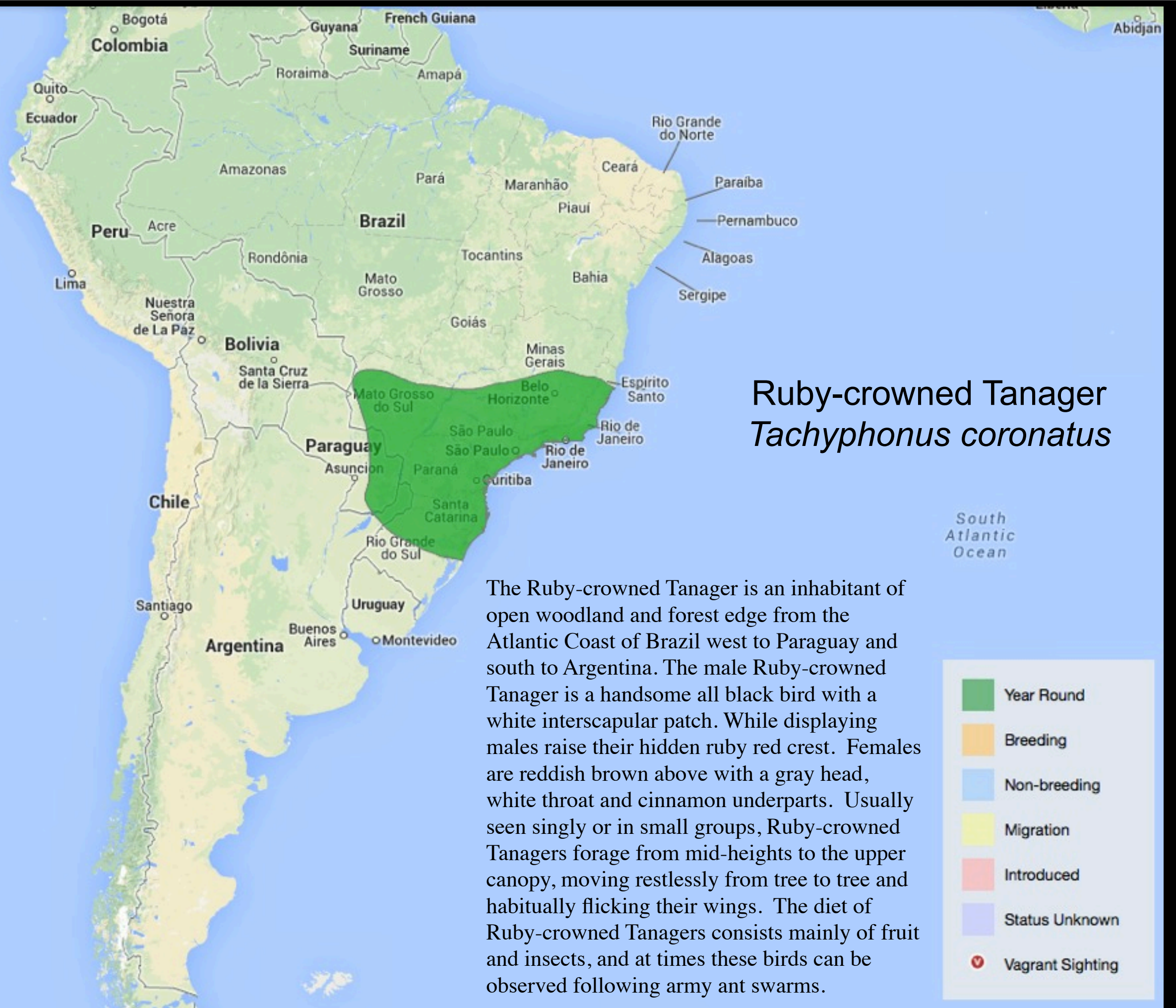


male



male







White-lined Tanager  
*Tachyphonus rufus*



male



female



male



Silver-beaked Tanager  
*Ramphocelus carbo*



female





Sayaca Tanager  
*Thraupis sayaca*





Palm Tanager  
*Thraupis palmarum*





Burnished-buff Tanager  
*Tangara cayana*





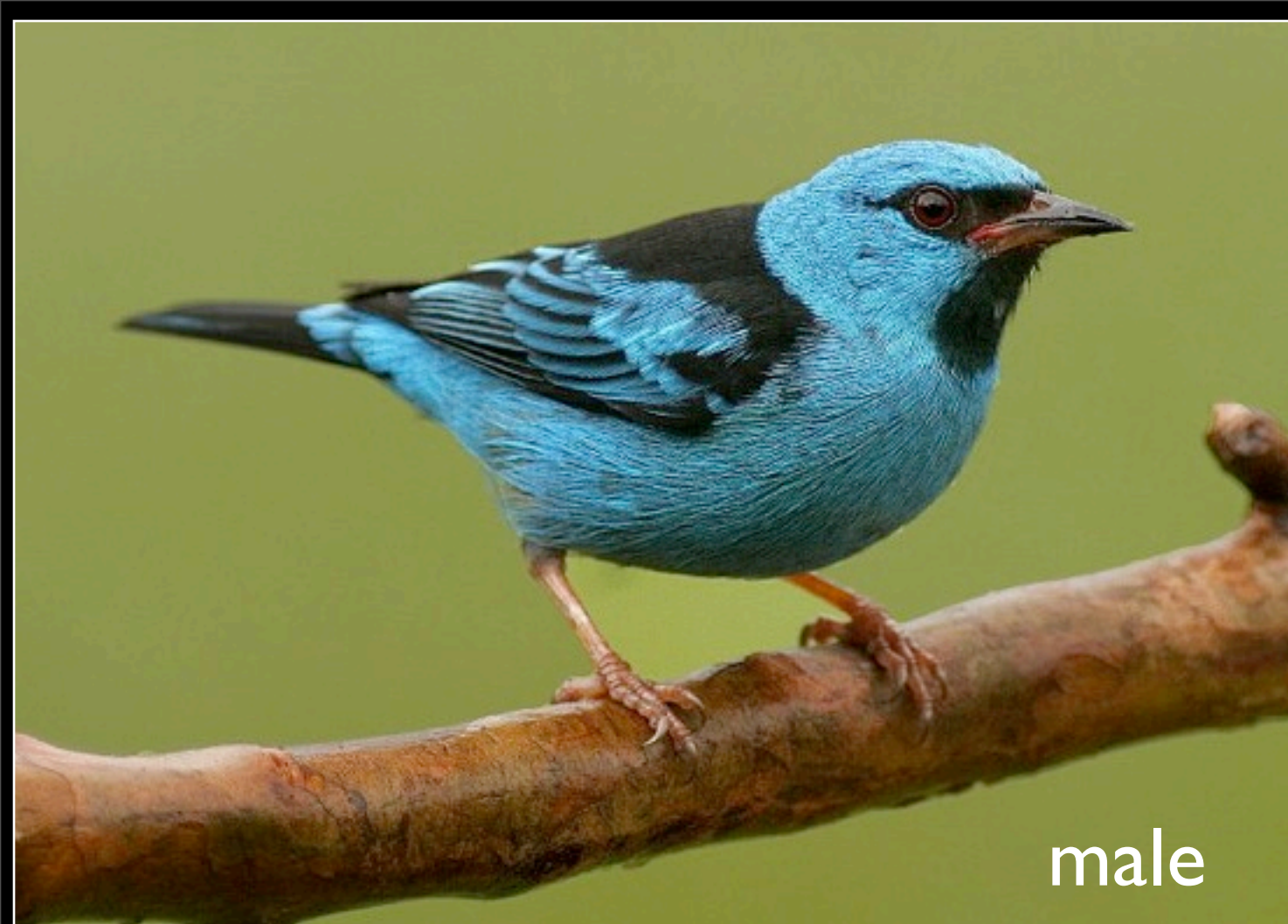
male



female

Swallow-Tanager  
*Tersina viridis*





male



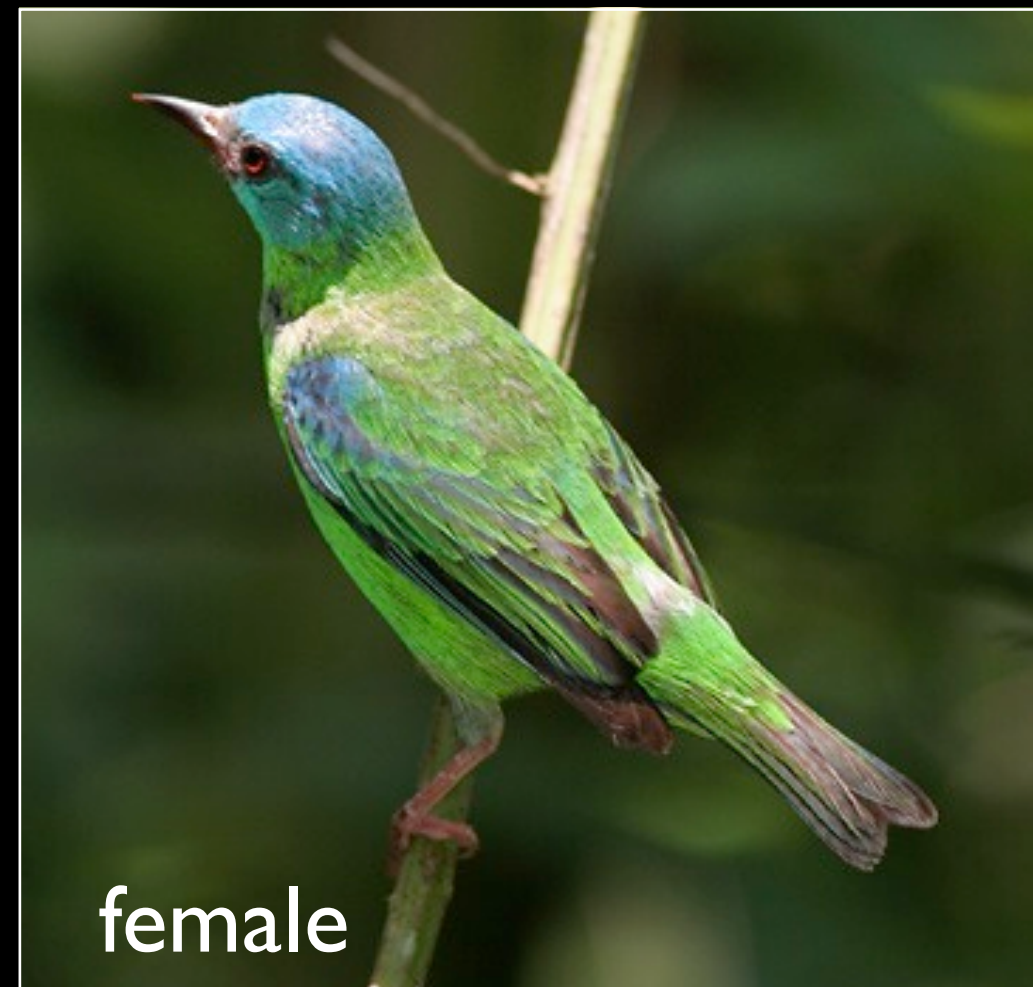
male

**Blue Dacnis**  
*Dacnis cayana*



female

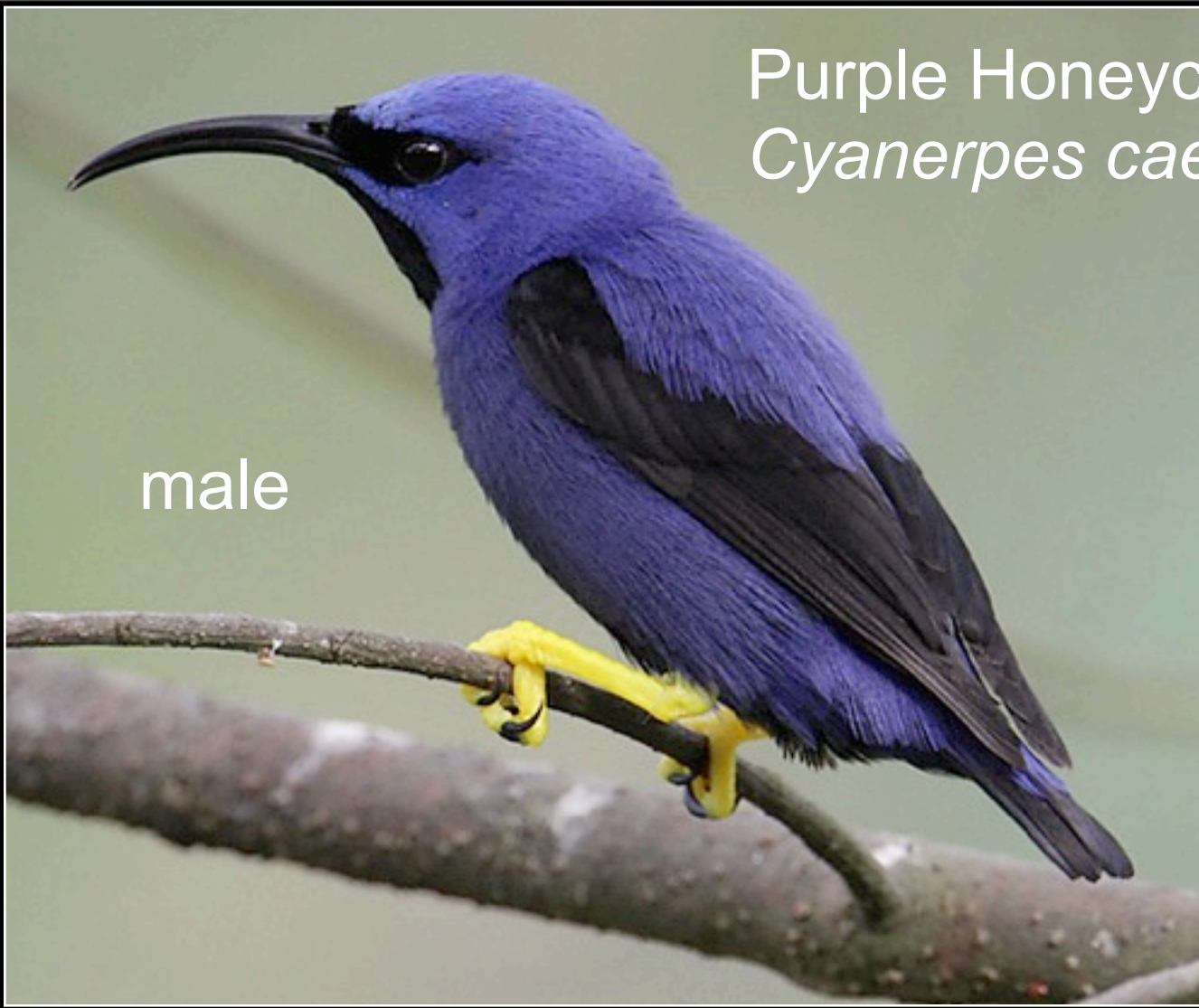
male



female



Purple Honeycreeper  
*Cyanerpes caeruleus*



male



male



female



female





male



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male

**Guira Tanager**  
*Hemithraupis guira*



female





Chestnut-vented Conebill  
*Conirostrum speciosum*





male



female

**Blue Finch**  
*Porphyrospiza caerulescens*



male



male



# Blue Finch

## *Porphyrospiza caerulescens*

Also sometimes known as the Yellow-billed Blue Finch, a rather unnecessarily long name, this Cerrado endemic is almost confined to Brazil, where it ranges from the state of Maranhão in the north as far south as Sao Paulo, albeit always being a local and uncommon bird, with a small extension of its range into eastern Bolivia. The slender yellow bill is immediately distinctive in all plumages, as it is only breeding-plumaged males that are clad in bright cobalt blue; note also their dull reddish legs. Females, in contrast, are chiefly rufous-brown above, streaked dusky over a buffy whitish background below. In the post-breeding season, both sexes gather into small flocks, which feed unobtrusively on the ground. However, when nesting, males perch prominently atop a low perch, on a tree or rock, uttering their sweet, thin songs for prolonged periods, both during the morning and afternoon. Blue Finches inhabit open grassy cerrados and the species is undoubtedly declining due to the widespread and virtually unchecked conversion, degradation, and fragmentation of such grasslands due to agricultural expansion.





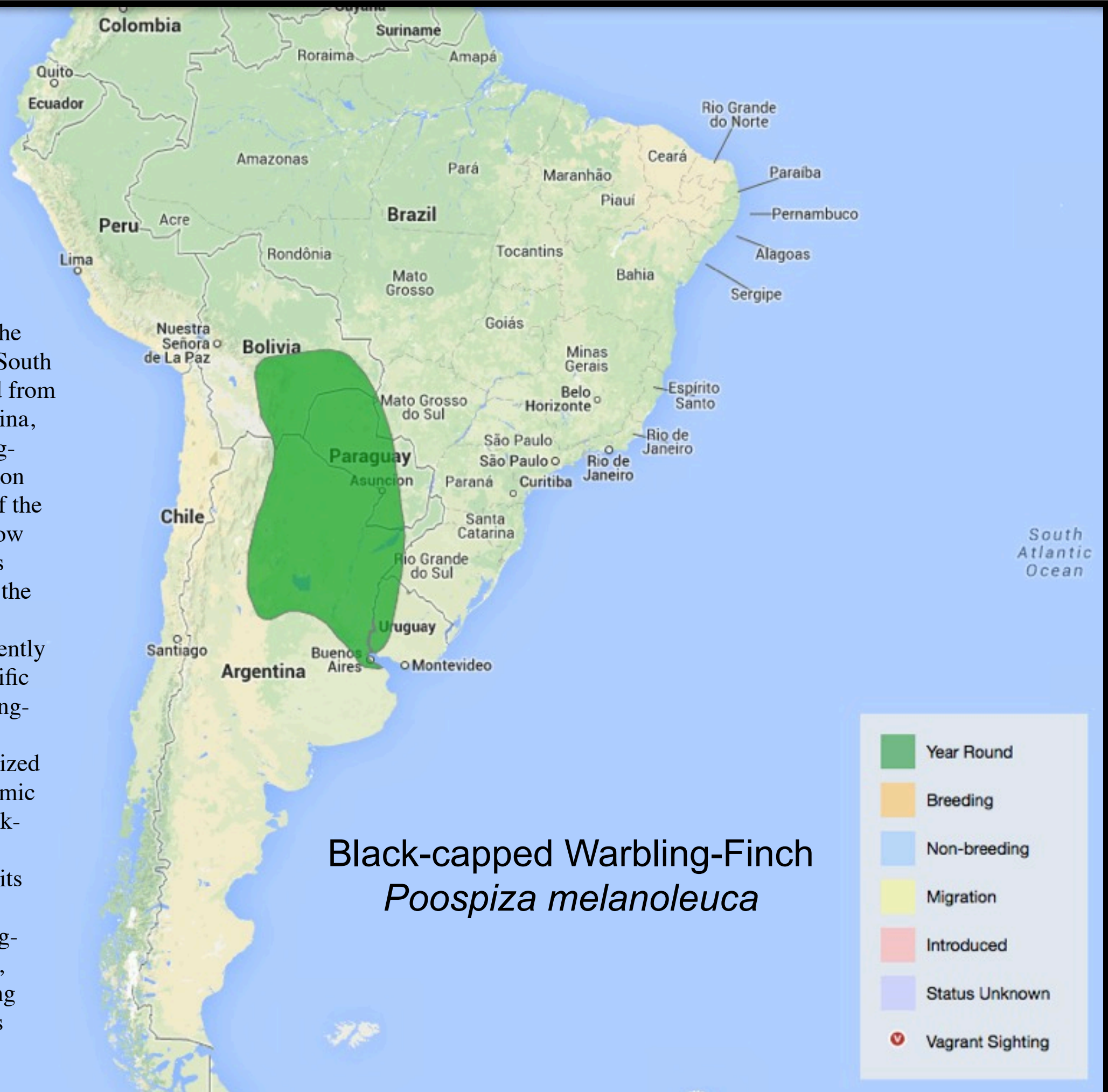


Black-capped  
Warbling-Finch  
*Poospiza melanoleuca*





With a range centered on the Chaco region of southern South America, where it is found from Bolivia to northern Argentina, the Black-capped Warbling-Finch is a generally common and widespread member of the avifauna associated with low woodland and scrub in this region of the continent. In the past, the Black-capped Warbling-Finch was frequently regarded as being conspecific with the Cinereous Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza cinerea*), which is nowadays recognized as being a threatened endemic of central Brazil. The Black-capped Warbling-Finch is generally unmistakable in its range, once the partially sympatric Ringed Warbling-Finch (*Poospiza torquata*), which has white in the wing and a white supercilium, is eliminated.





male



female



Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch  
*Sicalis citrina*

male



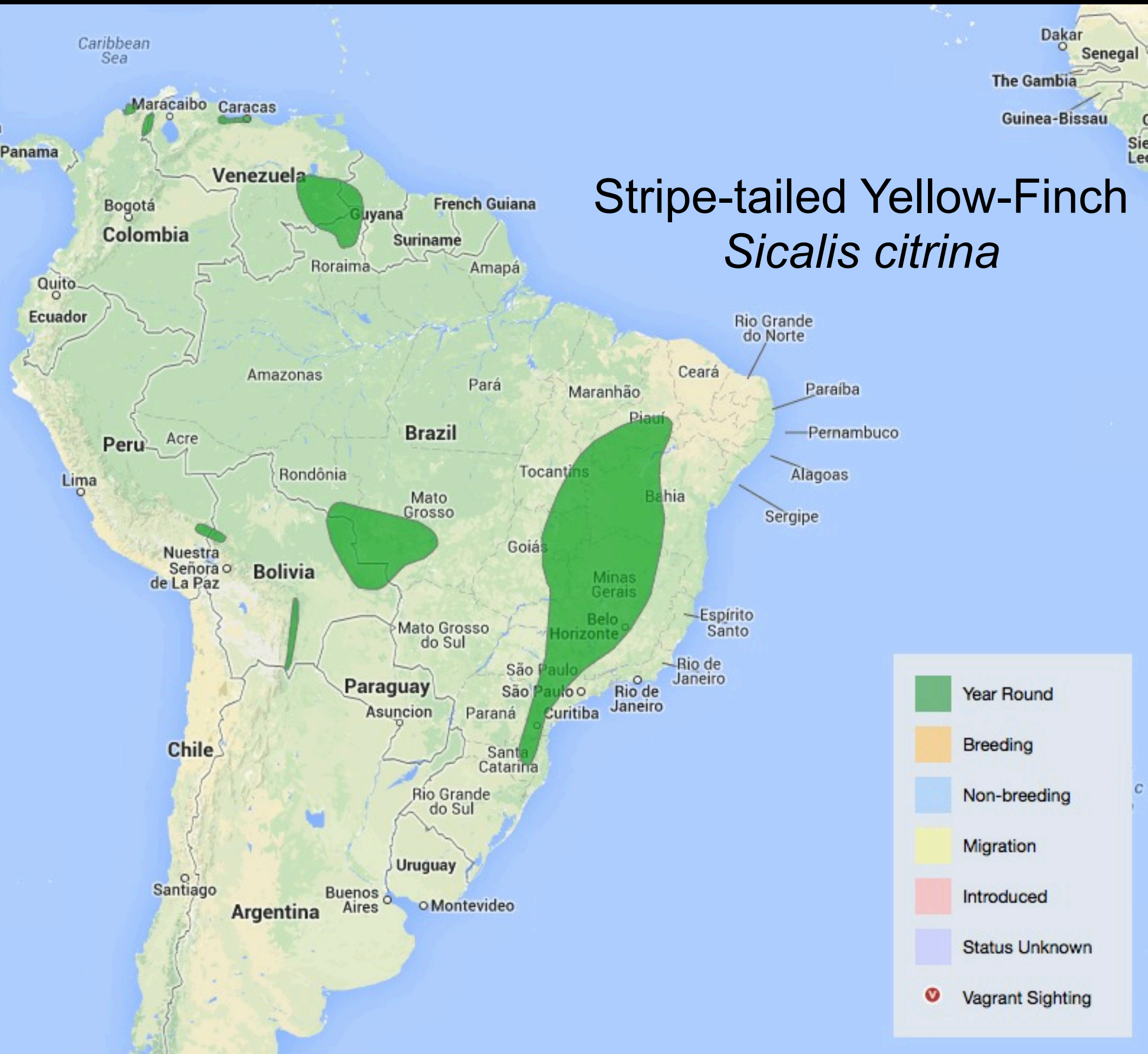
male





# Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch *Sicalis citrina*

This yellow-finch has a curiously disjunct distribution across upland areas of eastern and northern South America entirely east of the Andes. It is most widespread in the Brazilian interior, roughly coincident with the expanse of the Cerrado biome. In some respects it is a poorly named bird for the white in the tail is often difficult to see, except from below. Instead, identification of this bird from the sympatric Grassland Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis luteola*) should focus on the plain olive-colored face and citrine forecrown of males, and the streaked underparts on a yellow background in females. Stripe-tailed Yellow-Finch is generally quite common, but often local, and sometimes forms mixed-species flocks with Grassland Yellow-Finch, especially in the non-breeding season.





male



male



male



Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch  
*Sicalis columbiana*

male



female



female





# Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch *Sicalis columbiana*

A smaller and even less streaked version of the more familiar Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*), the Orange-fronted Yellow-Finch is a dainty little bird with an orange forecrown and otherwise largely yellow plumage in males. Females are olive-brown above with a grayish-buff tone to the breast-sides. Orange-fronted Yellow-Finches like open ground, often in close proximity to standing water, and is usually found in pairs or small flocks, often around habitation. Like some other yellow-finches, it has a curiously disjunct range, with three main populations: in the Orinoco basin of northeast Colombia and central Venezuela; central Amazonia in Brazil; and the interior of eastern Brazil, especially in the northern half of the Cerrado biome, where it is apparently most abundant.





female



male



female



male

Saffron Finch  
*Sicalis flaveola*



immature  
male



# Saffron Finch

## *Sicalis flaveola*

A bright yellow songbird of South America, there has been some disagreement as to whether the Saffron Finch belongs in the family Emberizidae with the sparrows or Thraupidae with the Tanagers. The Saffron Finch can be found in open and semi-open areas in lowlands outside the Amazon Basin. There are three, separate populations one in northern Colombia and Venezuela; another in Ecuador and Peru and the third in north-east Brazil to central Argentina. Mainly a seed eater, the Saffron Finch generally searches for seeds and small arthropods on or near the ground. Commonly kept as caged-birds, the Saffron Finch is very adaptable to human-modified habitats and subsequently is quite common throughout its range.







Grassland Yellow-Finch  
*Sicalis luteola*





# Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola*

In the genus *Sicalis*, the yellow-finches, this is certainly the most widespread species and the only one that ventures north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Given the huge range, and the fact that the distribution is broken up into various subpopulations, a moderate amount of geographic variation has been described. The southern and often migratory population has at times been separated as a separate species, the Misto Yellow-Finch. It is quite likely that within Grassland Yellow-Finch there are more than one species level taxa, but not enough work has been done either on vocalizations, morphology and DNA to sort this all out. In general the species takes various types of open, grassy habitats, including agricultural areas. The southern cone lowland form (the Misto) is common and widespread, and found almost anywhere an open area with some grass is to be found, including empty lots in towns as well as native habitats like Pampas Grasslands. The Andean populations are more fragmented and found in moister grassy habitats, so absent from dry Puna Grasslands and may even be considered more of a marsh-grass inhabitant. The more tropical lowland populations in Mexico and Central America, as well as Venezuela take various short grass habitats. Unlike most species in the genus, the Grassland Yellow-Finch performs a beautiful song, often while in flight. This flight song is comprised of various trills at different pitches, giving the effect of the song of captive canaries. They give a two note flight call that is quite distinctive once learned. In the non-breeding season Grassland Yellow-Finches form small flocks, although the migratory birds that winter in eastern Bolivia may form large flocks in the thousands there.







Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch  
*Emberizoides herbicola*



Blue-black Grassquit  
*Volatinia jacarina*





male



female



male



Lined Seedeater  
*Sporophila lineola*

male



male



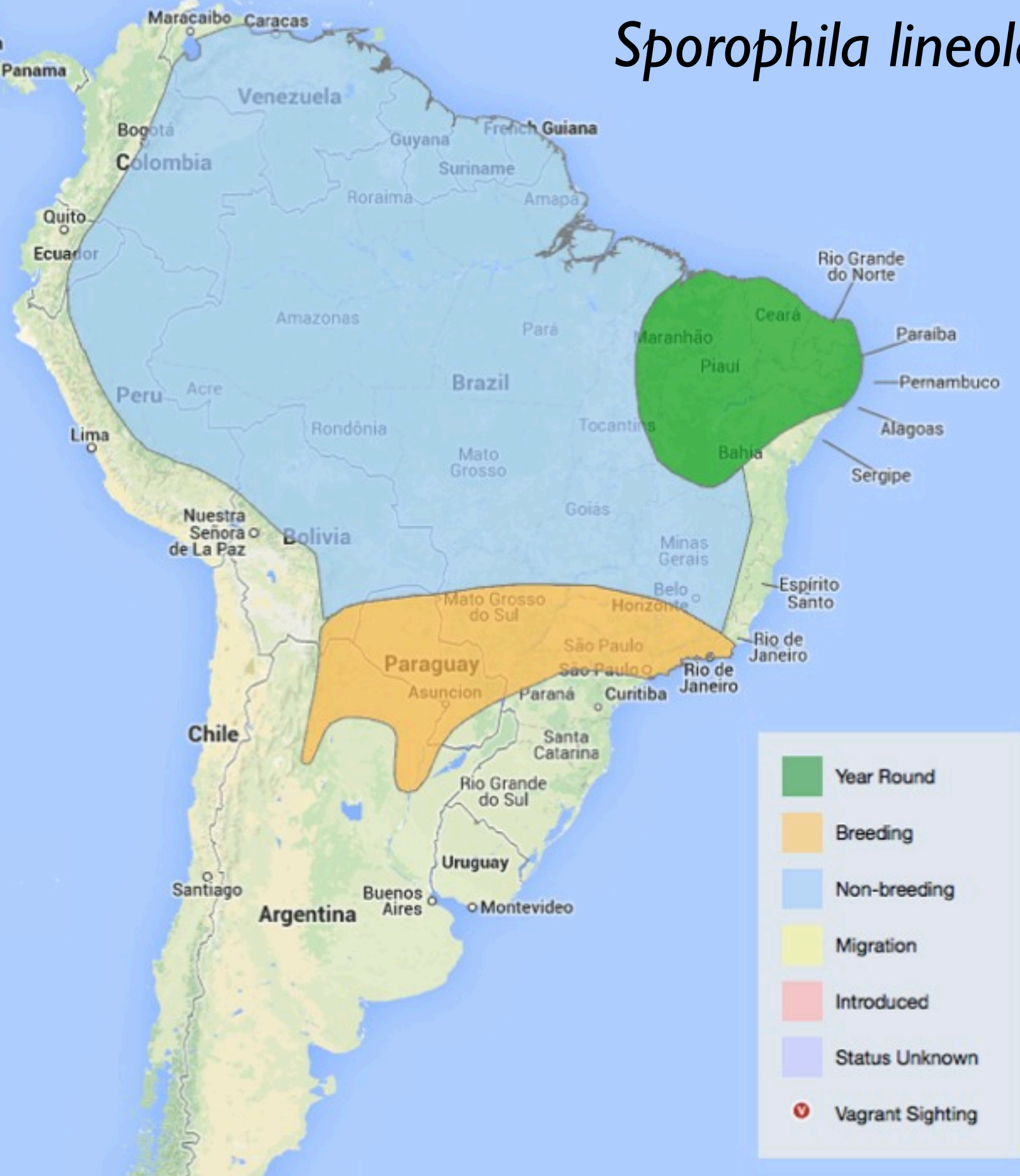
female





# Lined Seedeater *Sporophila lineola*

The Lined Seedeater is an inhabitant of scrubland and pastureland from Venezuela west to Ecuador and south to Argentina. Male Lined Seedeaters are black above with a white crown stripe, white malars and a white spot at the base of the primaries. Females are olive brown above with buffy white on the breast, belly and undertail coverts and yellow flanks. Female Lined Seedeaters are indistinguishable from female [Lesson's Seedeaters \(\*Sporophila bouvronides\*\)](#) in the field. Lined Seedeaters are usually encountered in grassy areas alone or in small loosely associated groups. These birds feed predominantly by perching on grass stems and reaching for the seeds. Lined Seedeaters are austral migrants that move from the south of their range into Northern South America during the winter.





male



male



male



female



White-bellied Seedeater  
*Sporophila leucoptera*

male



imm.  
male



female





# White-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila leucoptera*

The White-bellied Seedeater is widely but disjunctly distributed across principally eastern South America. Its main range is in central and eastern Brazil, eastern Paraguay, and northeast Argentina, with isolated populations in Amazonia, at the mouth of the Amazon, and in southern Suriname. Further afield, there are records from southeastern Peru and a population in northern and eastern Bolivia, which is afforded separate taxonomic status. Throughout the species' range, it is found in grassy areas with scattered bushes and trees, often in reasonably close proximity to water. Males are basically grayish above (or blackish in Bolivia) with a white wing speculum, and white underparts, and a dull yellow to pinkish bill, whilst females are olive-brown above and buffy-brown below, becoming paler over the belly. Some authorities have suggested that the relatively distinctive *Sporophila leucoptera bicolor* is perhaps better treated as a separate species.





*S. bouvreuil pileata*  
male



*S. bouvreuil pileata*  
male



female



Capped Seedeater  
*Sporophila bouvreuil*

male

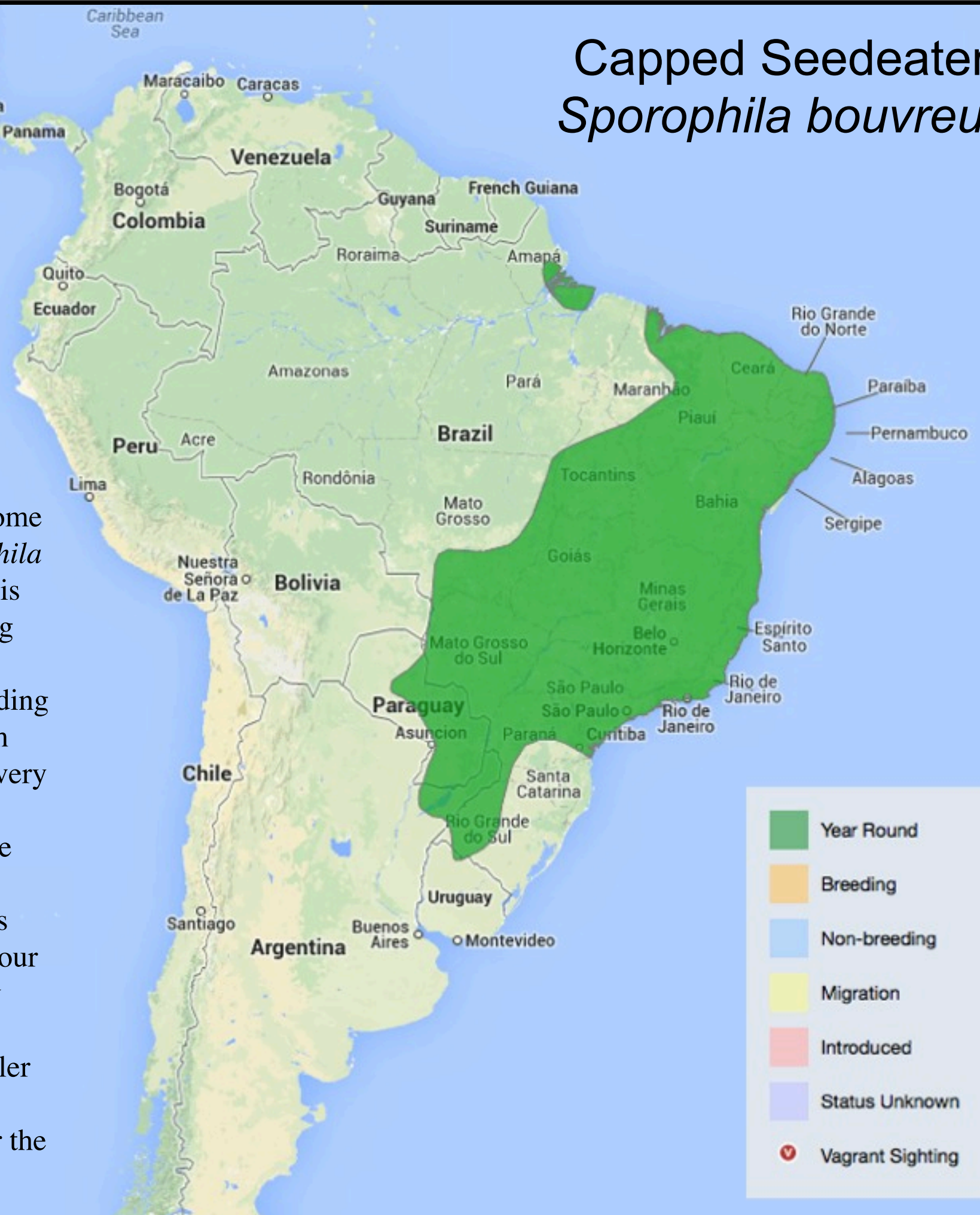


*S. bouvreuil pileata*



# Capped Seedeater *Sporophila bouvreuil*

Principally a bird of cerrado regions, being less tolerant of substandard habitats than some other open-country seedeaters, this *Sporophila* is very distinctive in male plumage, which is mostly cinnamon-colored with a contrasting black crown, wings, and tail, with a white wing speculum. Especially in the non-breeding season, the species frequently consorts with other congeners, which sometimes form very large flocks in suitable habitat. Widespread over eastern South America, from Suriname locally south to northeast Argentina and eastern Paraguay, the Capped Seedeater has traditionally been considered to comprise four subspecies, but the results of a recent study suggest that it might be better to treat the complex as two species, one with rather paler body plumage, and the other with deep cinnamon feathering. Vernacular names for the two species have yet to be suggested.





male



male

male



**Tawny-bellied Seedeater**  
*Sporophila hypoxantha*





# Tawny-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila hypoxantha*

Similar morphologically to the decidedly rarer but partially sympatric Rufous-rumped Seedeater (*Sporophila hypochroma*), the Tawny-bellied Seedeater is also rather more widespread. It is found in native grassland, including alongside roads and in marshes, from northern and eastern Bolivia to southern Brazil, and south across Paraguay to northern Argentina. Males are primarily brownish gray over the upperparts, with a white wing speculum, while the rump and underparts are tawny rufous, becoming paler over the face. Females, in contrast but like those of many other *Sporophila*, are difficult to identify, being mainly brown above and buffy brown below. Especially during the non-breeding season, this species is frequently found in mixed-species flocks, e.g. in rice fields, with other open-country *Sporophila*, which can be hundreds of individuals strong.







male



male



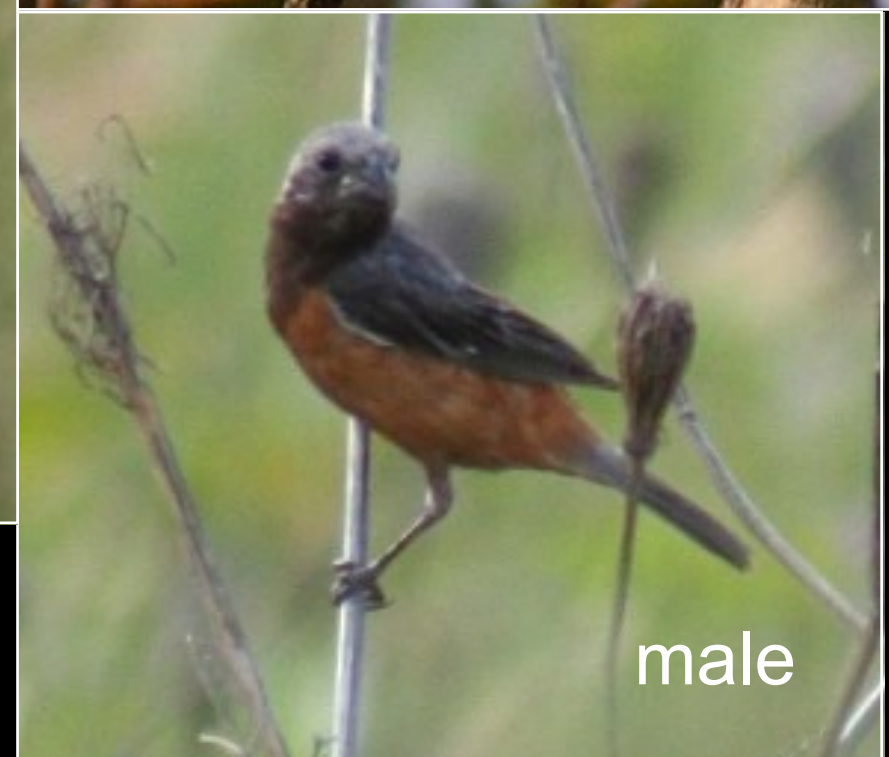
male



female



male



male

Dark-throated Seedeater  
*Sporophila ruficollis*



# Dark-throated Seedeater *Sporophila ruficollis*

The Dark-throated Seedeater is one of the “capuchino” subgroup of seedeaters, these are largely southern South American species that often appear capped in the breeding male plumage. The group is very closely related, species limits are still being worked out, and several show polymorphisms, some of which have been considered separate species in the past. The male Dark-throated Seedeater is gray above, including the cap, and chestnut below. However, the throat to the upper-breast is a rich rusty-brown, which is definitely darker than either the belly or the cap. Recently a rare morph has been described where the brown of the throat extends to the hind neck. Females as is typical in this group are dull and unicolored, buffy brown all over and impossible to identify to species. As is usually the case in this group, these seedeaters are often found in little groups, and sometimes even in mixed species flocks particularly during migration and the non-breeding season. It is a highly migratory species, breeding from NE Argentina to SC Brazil and migrating to various open country areas south of the Amazon Basin in winter. This is a species that specializes in foraging on unopened grass seeds, so the grass still on the stalk. They are small and light and can perch on larger grass stalks without breaking them, often handing down to retrieve the seeds.





Marsh Seed eater  
*Sporophila palustris*



male



male



male



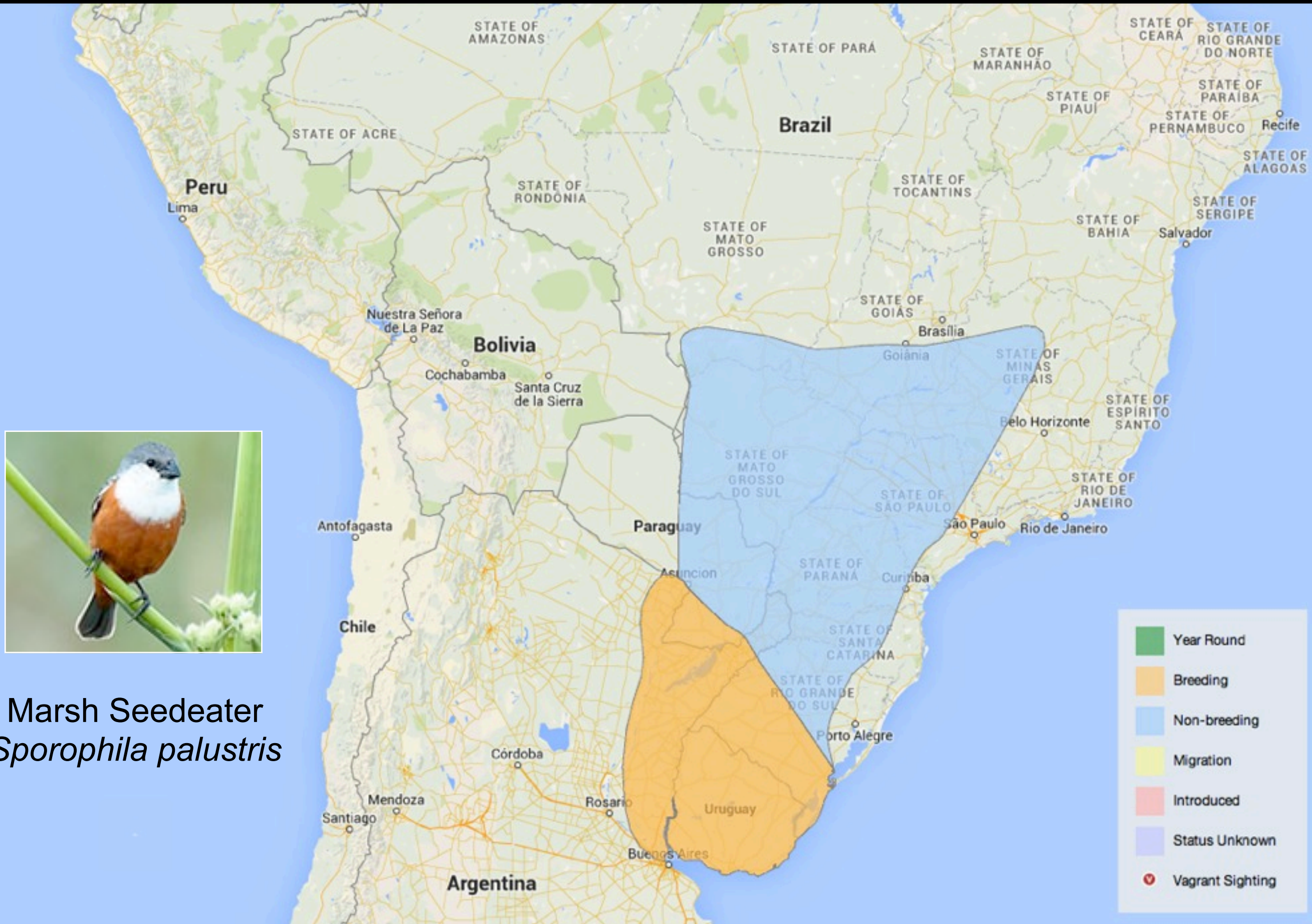
female

male





Marsh Seedeater  
*Sporophila palustris*







## Marsh Seedeater *Sporophila palustris*

The Marsh Seedeater is patchily distributed and is relatively rare, leading to a designation as an Endangered Species. Its breeding distribution is largely restricted to areas in NE Argentina and Uruguay, although even in this area populations are small and isolated. This is another one of the closely related “capuchino” group of seedeaters which appear to have undergone a rather recent spurt of diversification and speciation, with species limits still being worked out. It is a well named seedeater as compared to its relatives it is the species which most likes tall marsh habitats adjacent to grassland; often singing from tall *Eryngium* plants in the marsh. When foraging however, it is a grass seed specialist, preferring the seeds still on the stalks. So it may nest in the marsh, but forage in grassy areas adjacent to the marsh. Like most capuchino seedeaters, this species is a strong migrant, moving north to sites south of the Amazon Basin in Brazil during the non-breeding season. The Marsh Seedeater is a uniquely colored seedeater, having a bold and contrasting white throat and upper breast. The rest of the underparts are chestnut, while the upperparts including the cap are pale gray, although the rump is chestnut as on the underparts. The Narosky’s Seedeater (*zelichi*) is now considered to be a morph of this species as it is only found where Marsh Seedeaters are found, and sings exactly like the Marsh Seedeater. The main distinction is that the Narosky’s type had the white of the throat extending as a collar on the hind neck.





female



male



male



male

Rufous-rumped Seedeater  
*Sporophila hypochroma*





Rufous-rumped Seedeater  
*Sporophila hypochroma*





## Rufous-rumped Seedeater *Sporophila hypochroma*

The Rufous-rumped Seedeater is a rare and poorly known *Sporophila* of the grasslands of south central South America. The primary breeding range is in northeastern Argentina and in southern Paraguay, although small numbers also breed as far north as Bolivia. Following breeding, this species migrates north to southwestern Brazil and to northern and eastern Bolivia. This species breeds in seasonally wet grasslands and uses similar habitats throughout the year, although when not breeding it also may occur in pastures and savannas. The plumage pattern of the Rufous-rumped Seedeater is very similar to that of the Tawny-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila hypoxantha*): the upperparts of the male are gray, with a small white speculum (white patch at the base of the primaries) and a rufous rump, and with rufous underparts, and the female is buffy brown. The male Rufous-rumped Seedeater differs from Tawny-bellied Seedeater, however, by being a bluer gray above, and by darker, more chestnut, underparts. Otherwise little is known about this seedeater. The conservation status of the Rufous-rumped Seedeater is rated as Near-Threatened, in view of habitat loss within its relatively small geographic range, and because of persecution from the cagebird trade.





male



male



male

**Chestnut Seedeater**  
*Sporophila cinnamomea*



# Chestnut Seedeater *Sporophila cinnamomea*

The Chestnut Seedeater is another member of the southern “capuchino” group of *Sporophila* seedeaters. These appear to be a group in which all members are extremely closely related genetically, meaning they have diversified very quickly and recently largely in the southern Cone of South America. The Chestnut Seedeater male is a gorgeous species, all dark chestnut save for a grey cap and dark grey wings and tail. The females are typically dull and uncolored and cannot be identified to species in the field. This seedeater is found sympatrically with various other species in the south, and how the various capuchinos subdivided the habitat is still being determined. One study found that the Chestnut Seedeater prefers tall undulating grassland, over moist grassland, or *Eryngium* thickets. Much of this tall grass habitat is either overgrazed or is being converted to forestry plantations or soy bean, as such the Chestnut Seedeater is listed as Vulnerable as it has a small range, small population and there appear to be population level declines. The Chestnut Seedeater is a migrant as are most capuchinos, breeding in Uruguay and NE Argentina mainly and moving north to southern Brazil in the non-breeding season.





male



male

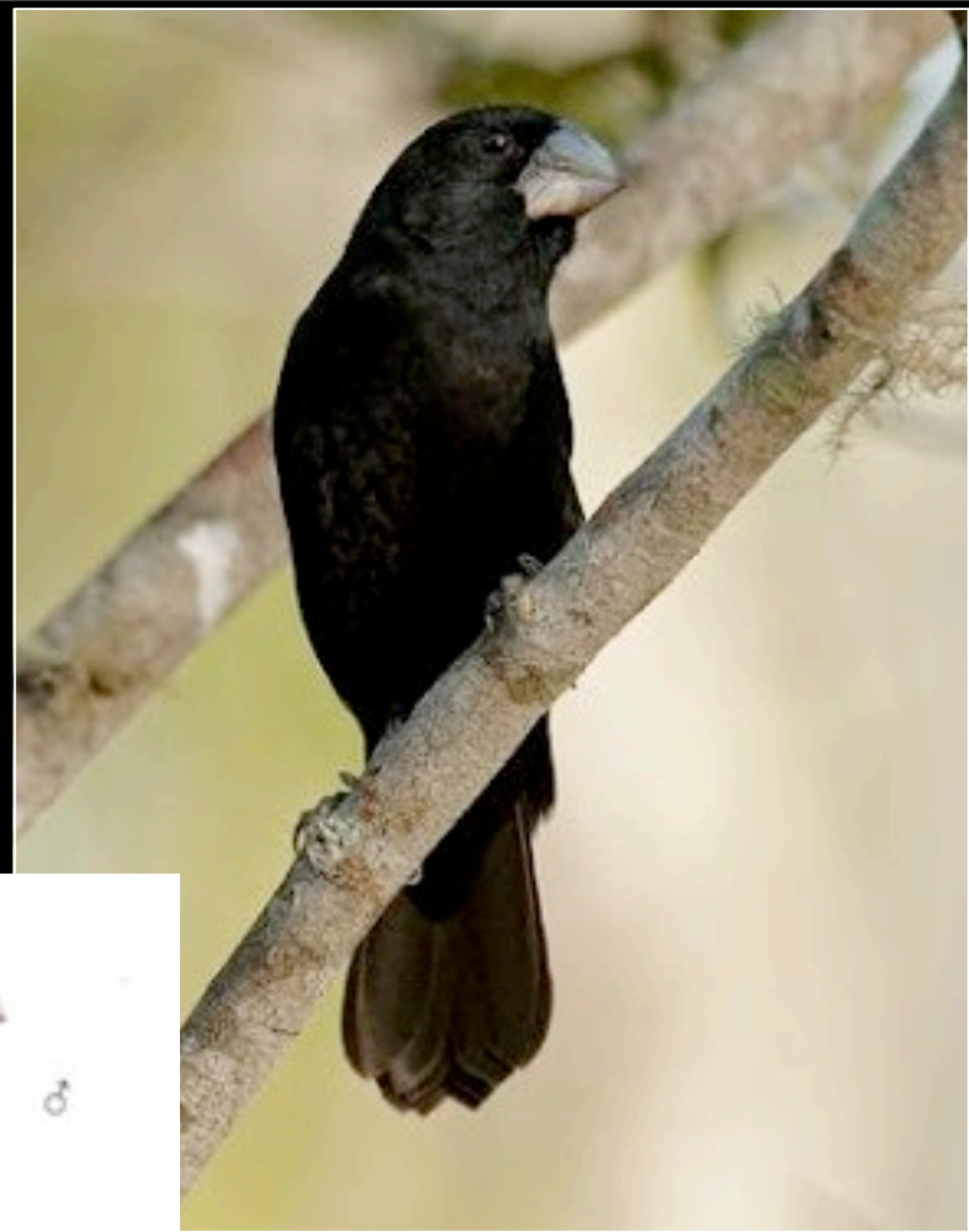
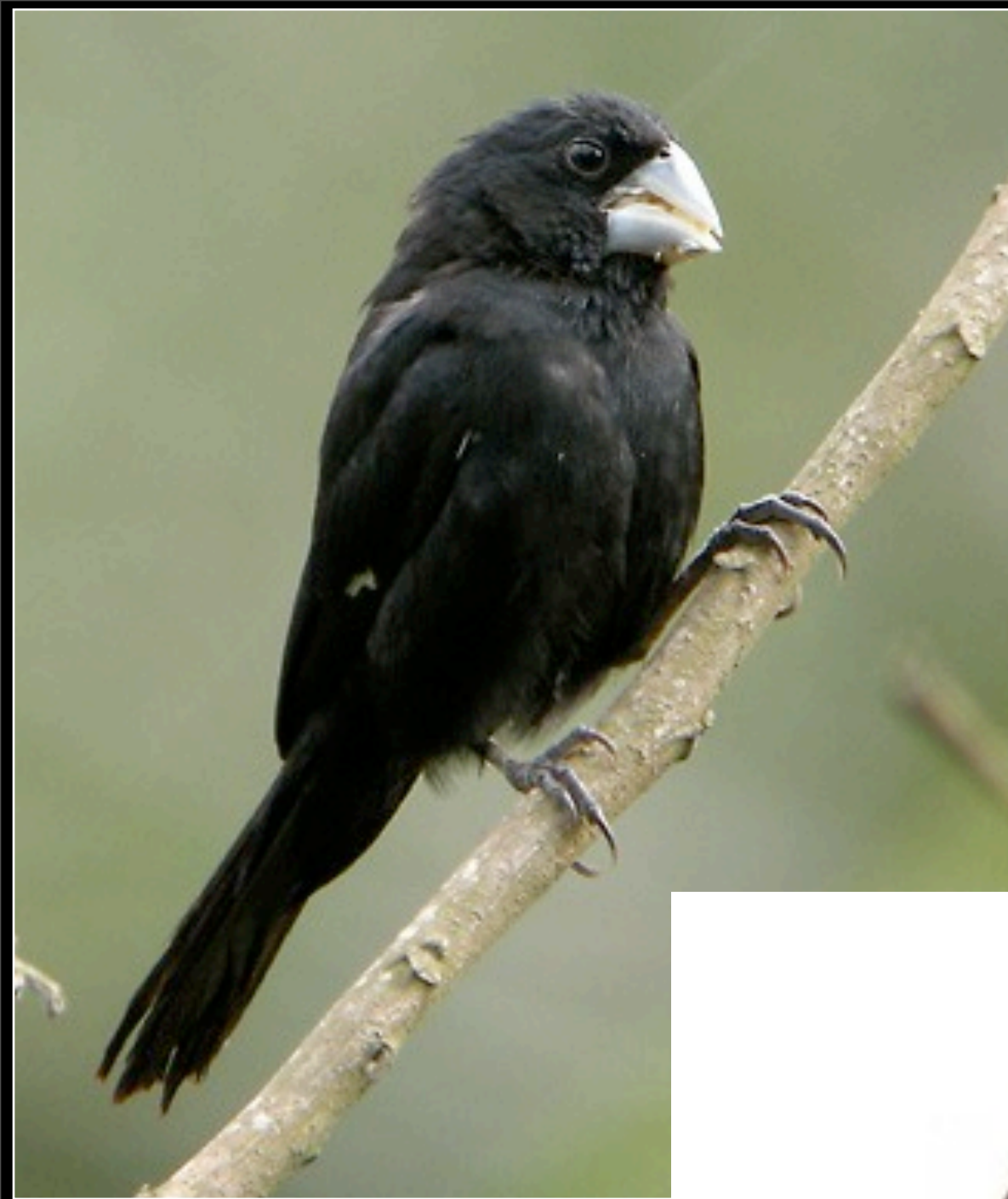


male



Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch  
*Sporophila angolensis*





Great-billed Seed-Finch  
*Sporophila maximiliani*



# Great-billed Seed-Finch *Sporophila maximiliani*

This seed-finch has a disjunct distribution with populations in N Venezuela, and Trinidad as well as in the region bordering the mouth of the Amazon River, and finally in East-Central Brazil. This seed-finch has an enormous bill, such that it looks to engulf the entire head, leaving no room for a forehead and therefore appearing as if the base of the culmen comes out of the crown! The bill is also wide, and clearly designed for cracking thick or hard foods, but what that is exactly still needs to be determined. The bill of this seed-finch is ivory-white, although the texture of the bill is not smooth and often looks to have fissures or ridges on it. The males are entirely black, save for the white primary bases (the white ‘handkerchief’) as well as white wing linings, although these are not visible while the bird is perched. The males perform a wing raise display to show the hidden white under wings to the female during the breeding season. The female is entirely warm brown in coloration, lacking obvious features other than the big bill. Males give a rapid and beautiful flute-like song.

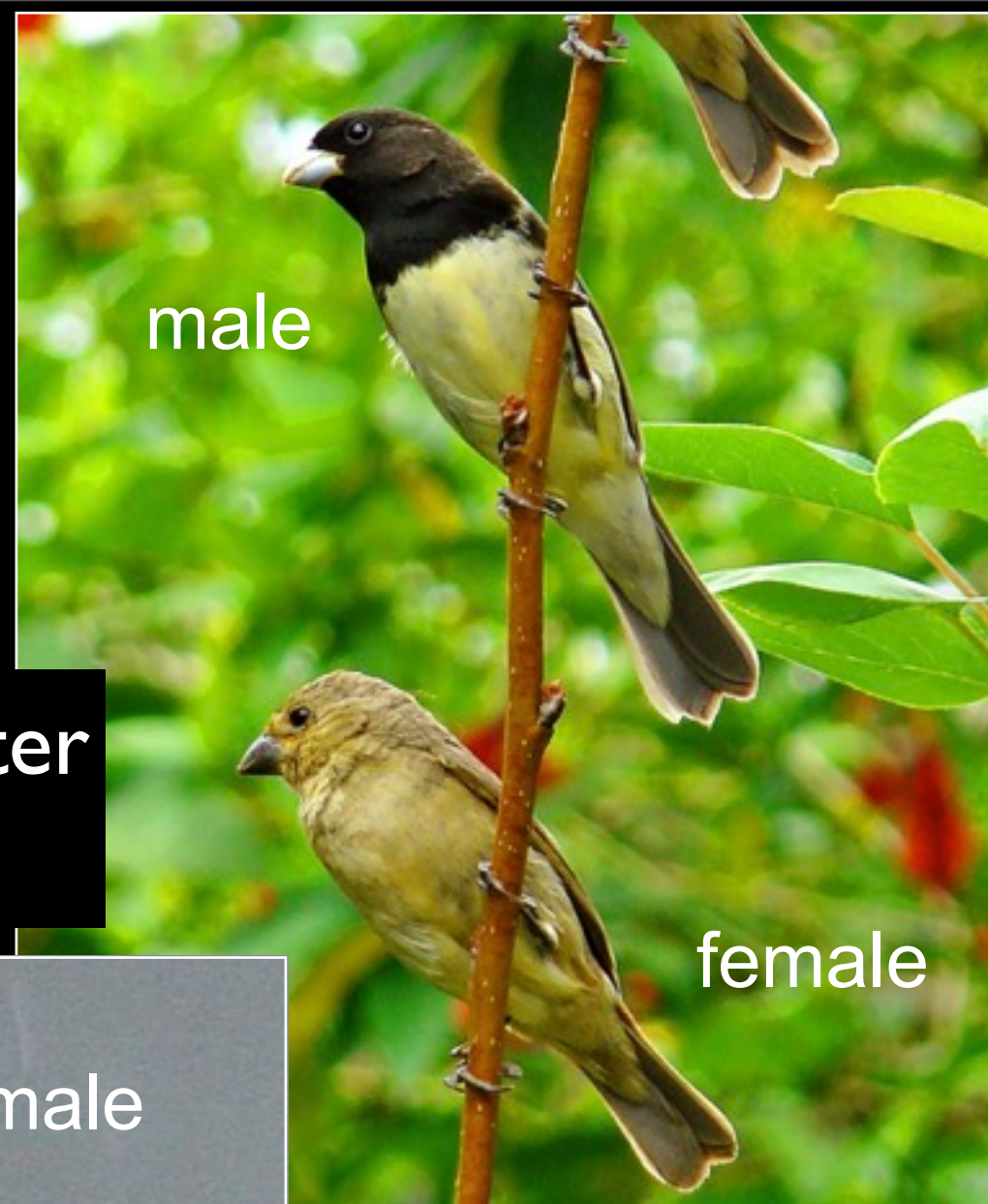




male



male



Yellow-bellied Seedeater  
*Sporophila nigricollis*

female

female



male





# Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila cinnamomea*

Yellow-bellied Seedeaters are common residents of grassland and agricultural areas from Costa Rica south to Brazil, although they are absent from much of the Amazon Basin. The name Yellow-bellied Seedeater is slightly misleading as even the mostly brightly colored males have only pale yellow underparts. More characteristic of the male is the black hood and olive upperparts. During the breeding season males hold territories and sing perches on the tops of shrubs and trees. When not breeding, Yellow-bellied Seedeaters gather in mixed flocks and forage for seeds with other species of seedeaters and grassquits.







male

Double-collared  
Seedeater  
*Sporophila caerulescens*



male



Copyright James C Lowen

male



female



Celi Aurora

female



# Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens*

A very widespread member of the *Sporophila*, the male Double-collared Seedeater is one of the most familiar and abundant seedeaters across the southern half of the continent. Females are probably largely indistinguishable from the same sex of several other congeners, most notably the widely sympatric Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*), except in the latter case perhaps by bill color. These two species probably flock together regularly, e.g. in Brazil. Double-collared Seedeaters move farther north in the post-breeding season, when they also gather into large flocks, sometimes with Blue-black Grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*), and have even been found as far north as southeast Colombia. The species has also wandered as far afield as the Falkland Islands.







female



male



male



female

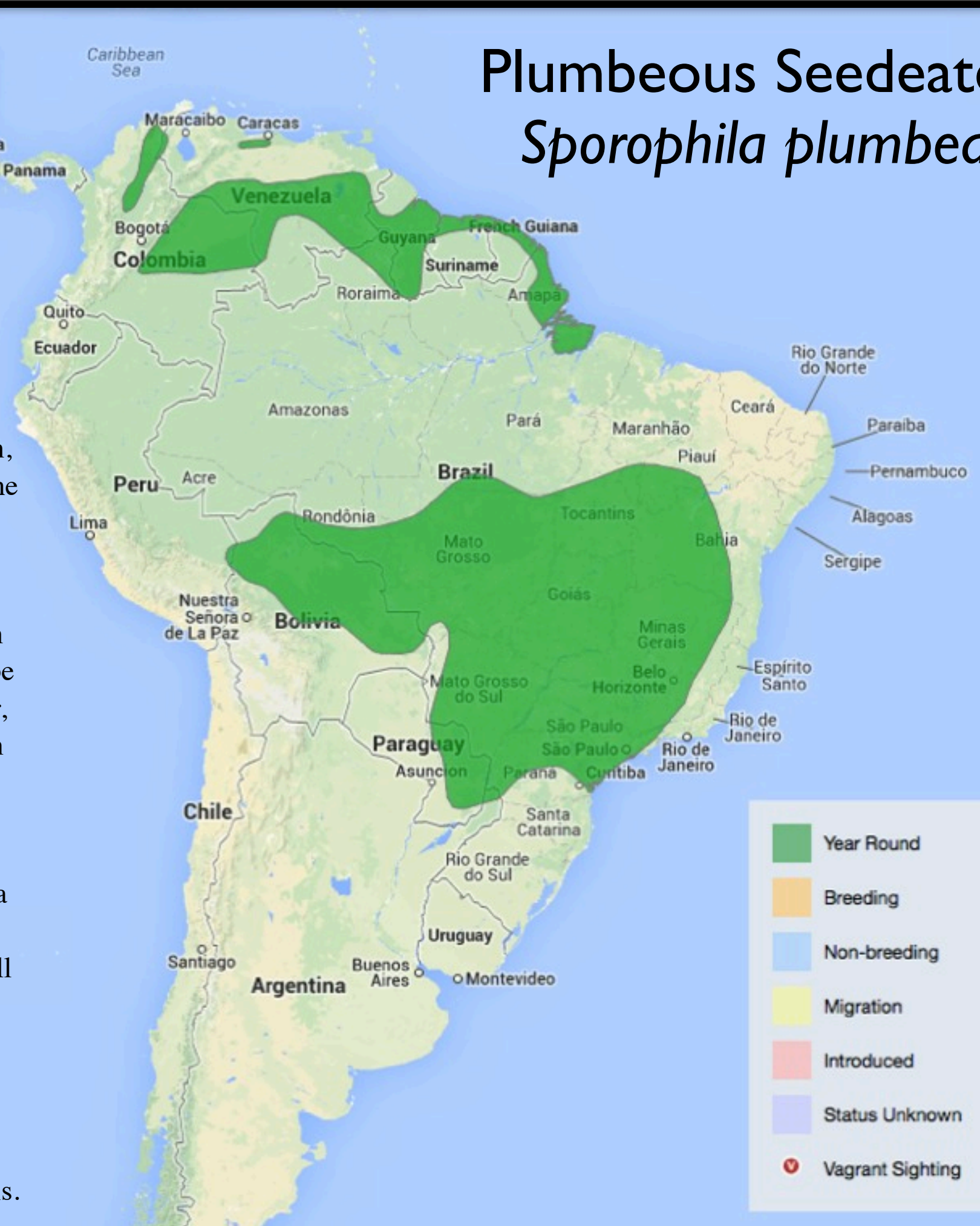
male

Plumbeous Seedeater  
*Sporophila plumbea*



# Plumbeous Seedeater *Sporophila plumbea*

The Plumbeous Seedeater ranges across northern South America north of the Amazon, generally between northeast Colombia and the Guianas, and then reappears much further south in southern and eastern Brazil, east to southeasternmost Peru, and south to eastern Paraguay and northeast Argentina. At least in some parts of the species' range it seems to be somewhat migratory. Often found near water, the species always prefers grassy areas, often with a few scattered bushes, and frequently consorts with congeners in mixed-species flocks. Male Plumbeous Seedeaters are very distinctive being largely grayish above with a white wing speculum, black wings and tail, and largely white underparts, with a black bill (over most of the range). Females are also dark-billed, but otherwise largely similar to several other species of *Sporophila*. Recent evidence suggests that two species might be involved, given that in the south of the range males have yellow (rather than all-black) bills.







male  
*S. collaris collaris*



male  
*S. collaris melanocephala*

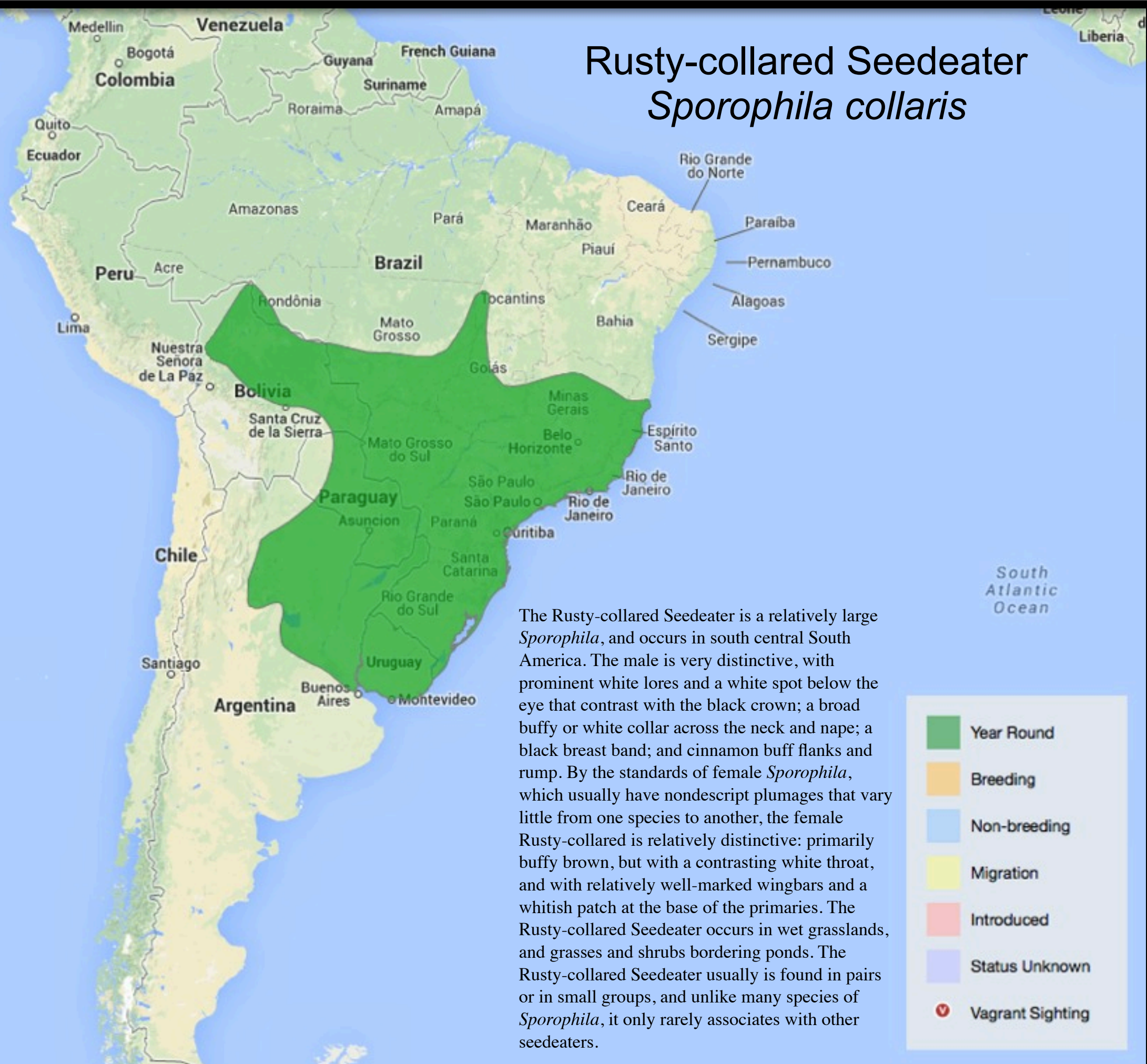


female  
*S. collaris melanocephala*

Rusty-collared Seedeater  
*Sporophila collaris*



# Rusty-collared Seedeater *Sporophila collaris*



The Rusty-collared Seedeater is a relatively large *Sporophila*, and occurs in south central South America. The male is very distinctive, with prominent white lores and a white spot below the eye that contrast with the black crown; a broad buffy or white collar across the neck and nape; a black breast band; and cinnamon buff flanks and rump. By the standards of female *Sporophila*, which usually have nondescript plumages that vary little from one species to another, the female Rusty-collared is relatively distinctive: primarily buffy brown, but with a contrasting white throat, and with relatively well-marked wingbars and a whitish patch at the base of the primaries. The Rusty-collared Seedeater occurs in wet grasslands, and grasses and shrubs bordering ponds. The Rusty-collared Seedeater usually is found in pairs or in small groups, and unlike many species of *Sporophila*, it only rarely associates with other seedeaters.

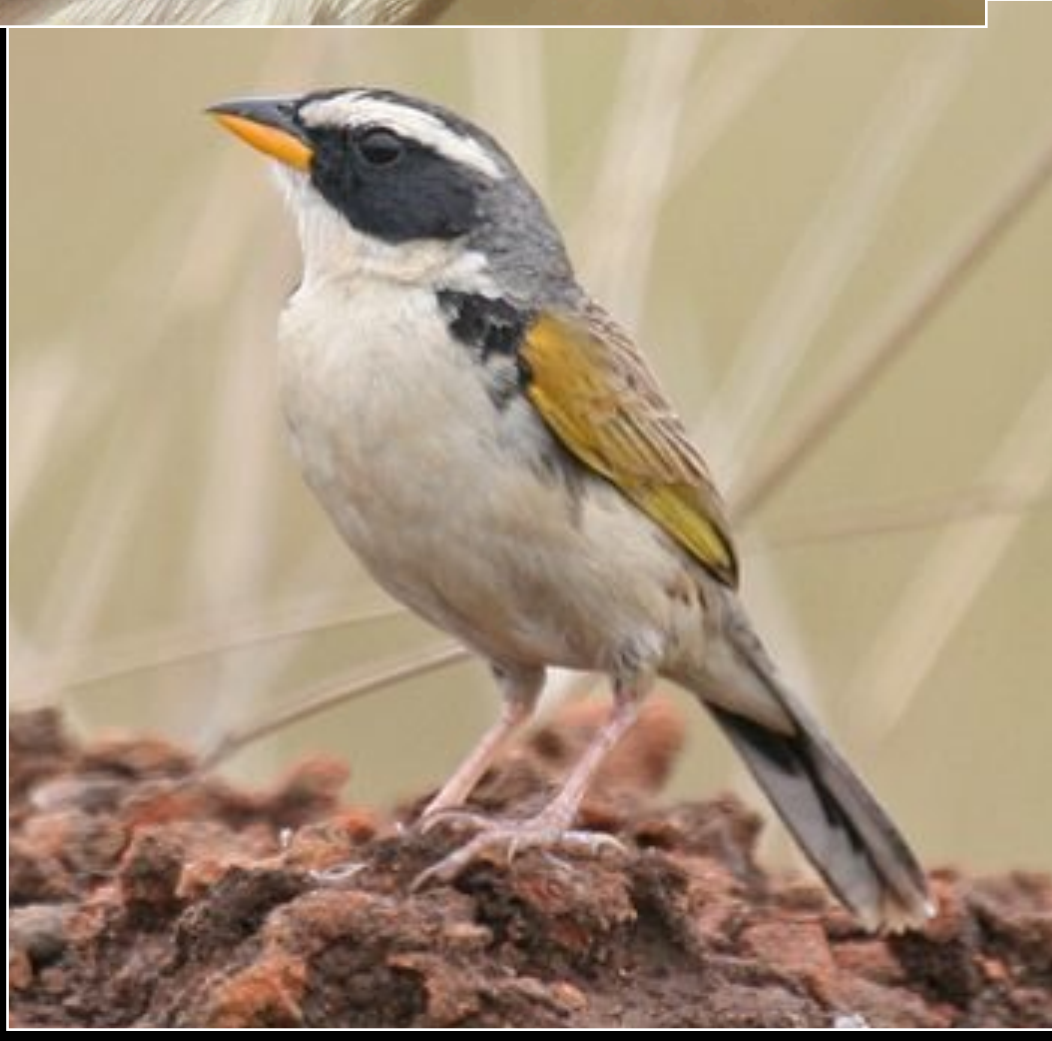
- Year Round
- Breeding
- Non-breeding
- Migration
- Introduced
- Status Unknown
- Vagrant Sighting



Black-masked Finch  
*Coryphaspiza melanotis*



© Jon Hornbuck







male



male



male



female



male

Red-crested Finch  
*Coryphospingus cucullatus*



Bananaquit  
*Coereba flaveola*





male



female

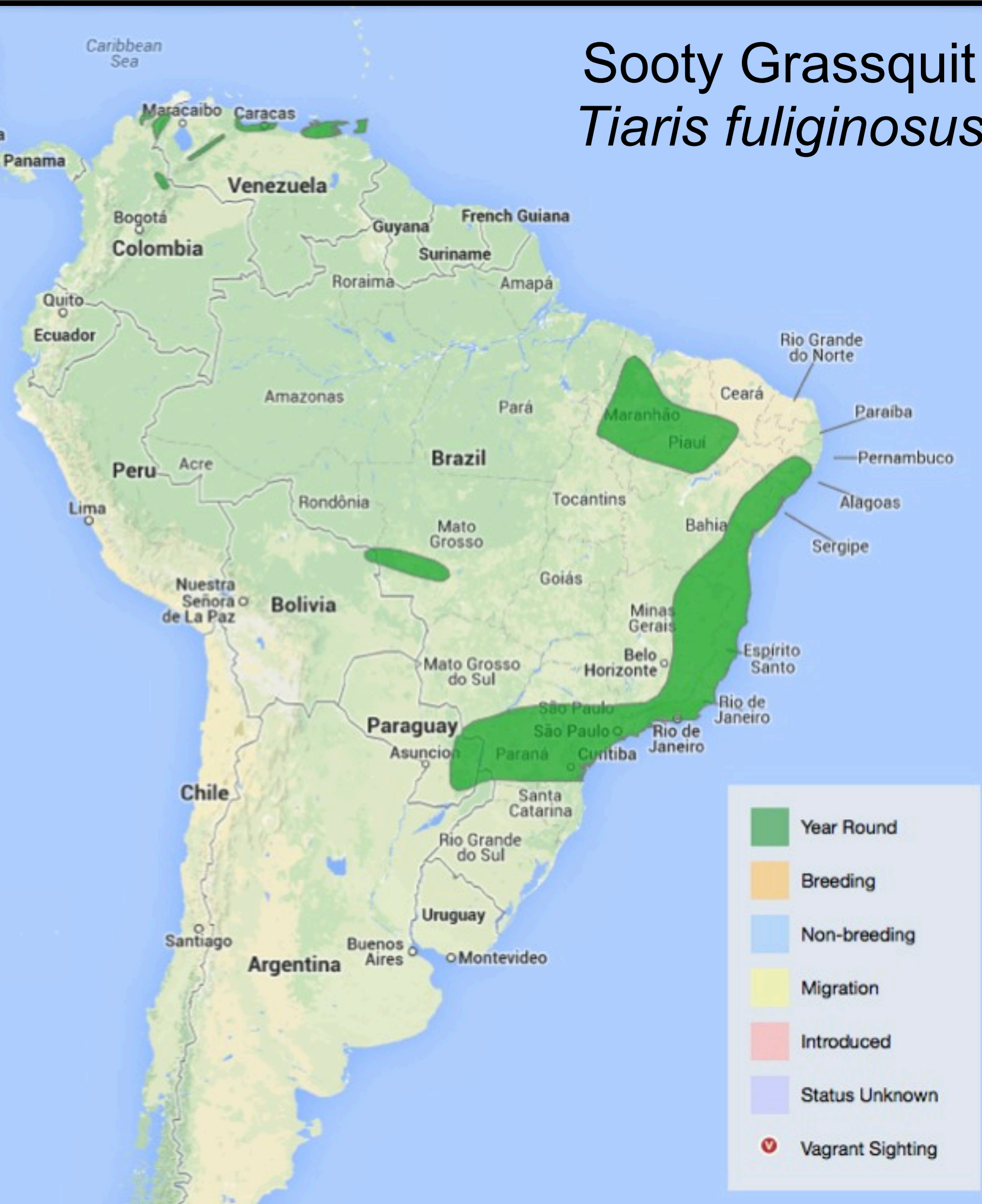


Sooty Grassquit  
*Tiaris fuliginosus*



# Sooty Grassquit *Tiaris fuliginosus*

This *Tiaris* grassquit has a curiously disjunct range that encompasses parts of northernmost South America, as well as Trinidad, but the species is most widespread in the eastern third of the continent, across Brazil. Like many other small seed-eating birds, males are far more distinctively plumaged than females, which are dull olive-brown virtually throughout, becoming paler ventrally. Adult males, in contrast, are uniform sooty black, also usually becoming paler below, and have a blackish bill (paler in females). Males are perhaps most likely to be confused with the Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*), although note that the Sooty Grassquit is typically encountered in more wooded situations, and rarely forms large flocks or consorts with other species. Adult male Blue-black Grassquits are distinctly glossier, and bluer, than males of the present species, which also lacks the white axillaries of the generally much commoner *Volatinia jacarina*.





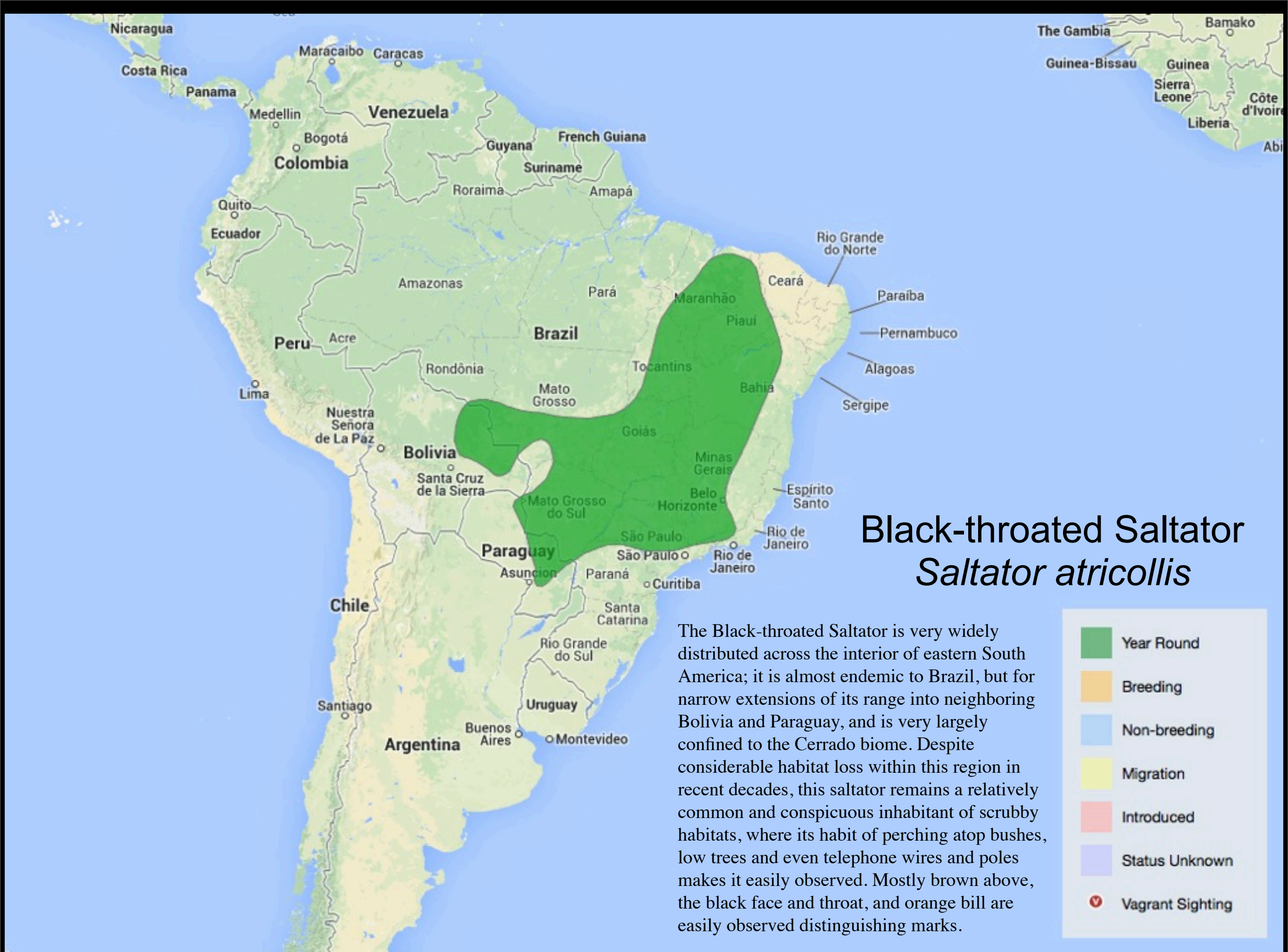
# INCERTAE SEDIS





Black-throated  
Saltator  
*Saltator atricollis*





## Black-throated Saltator *Saltator atricollis*

The Black-throated Saltator is very widely distributed across the interior of eastern South America; it is almost endemic to Brazil, but for narrow extensions of its range into neighboring Bolivia and Paraguay, and is very largely confined to the Cerrado biome. Despite considerable habitat loss within this region in recent decades, this saltator remains a relatively common and conspicuous inhabitant of scrubby habitats, where its habit of perching atop bushes, low trees and even telephone wires and poles makes it easily observed. Mostly brown above, the black face and throat, and orange bill are easily observed distinguishing marks.





Buff-throated Saltator  
*Saltator maximus*





immature

adult

Grayish Saltator  
*Saltator coerulescens*

immature

adult

adult



Green-winged Saltator  
*Saltator similis*





# Green-winged Saltator *Saltator similis*

Targeted by cagebird trappers and thus reduced in numbers, the Green-winged Saltator is resident over much of the Atlantic Forest region, from southern and eastern Brazil, south to Uruguay, and northeast Argentina. Mostly found below 1200 m, this saltator inhabits the middle levels and canopy of humid woodland and forest, where it is usually first located by virtue of its distinctive *chew, chew, cho, chewee* vocalizations. It partially overlaps in geographical range with the Thick-billed Saltator (*Saltator maxillosus*), which is generally but not exclusively found at higher altitudes, and the Grayish Saltator (*Saltator coerulescens*). Largely grayish above, the mantle is olive-tinged and the wings are bright green, while the underparts are principally dingy gray, with a white throat bordered black over the malar.







adult



immature



adult

Golden-billed Saltator  
*Saltator aurantirostris*



immature



adult



immature



## Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantirostris*

The Golden-billed Saltator is a large, colorful passerine widely distributed in Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru. Though the group has been traditionally allied with the Cardinalidae, it appears to be more closely tied to the Thraupidae. Adults show orange bills, a black facial scarf with white throat and auricular border, gray upperparts, yellow/ orange belly, and a gray and white tail. Found in a number of woodland and edge habitats, often in groups, Golden-billed Saltator can frequently be found by its loud, clear, ringing song.





# EMBERIZIDAE



Grassland Sparrow  
*Ammodramus humeralis*







Saffron-billed Sparrow  
*Arremon flavirostris*

Rogério Dias



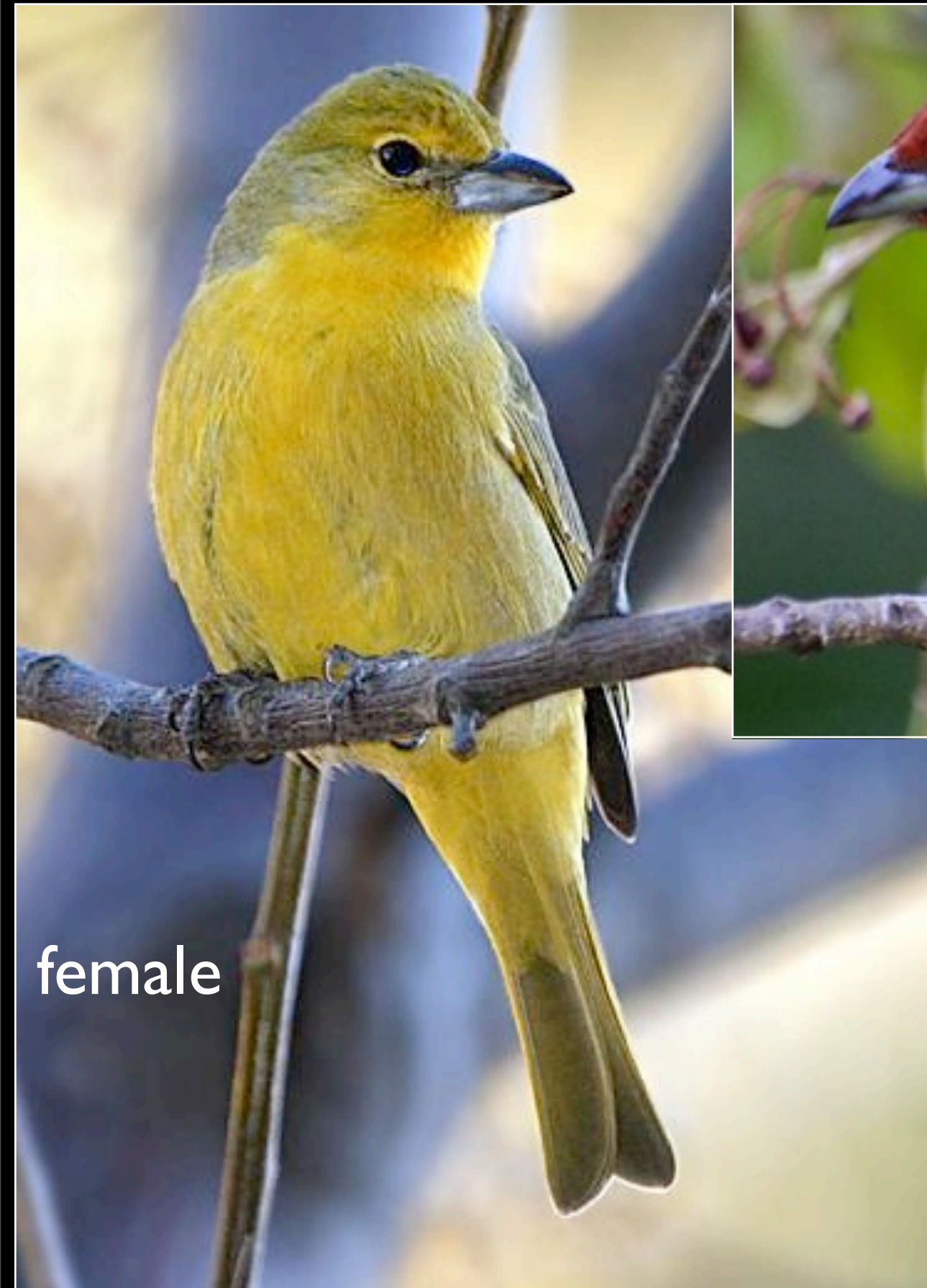


Rufous-collared Sparrow  
*Zonotrichia capensis*



# CARDINALIDAE





female



male

Hepatic Tanager  
*Piranga flava*



# Hepatic Tanager

## *Piranga flava*

Even though the Hepatic Tanager is currently considered one species, much evidence, including a recent study of molecular genetics, indicates that up to 3 species could be recognized, corresponding to the 3 groups of subspecies combined long ago. These groups and their respective species names are the Hepatic Tanager (*P. hepatica*) of montane pine-oak forests from the southwestern United States to Nicaragua, the Tooth-billed Tanager (*P. lutea*) of forest edges in foothills and mountains from Costa Rica to northern and western South America, and the Red Tanager (*P. flava*) of open woodlands of eastern and southeastern South America.







**Black-backed Grosbeak**  
*Pheucticus aureoventris*



female



male



Ultramarine Grosbeak  
*Cyanocompsa brissonii*

imm.  
male



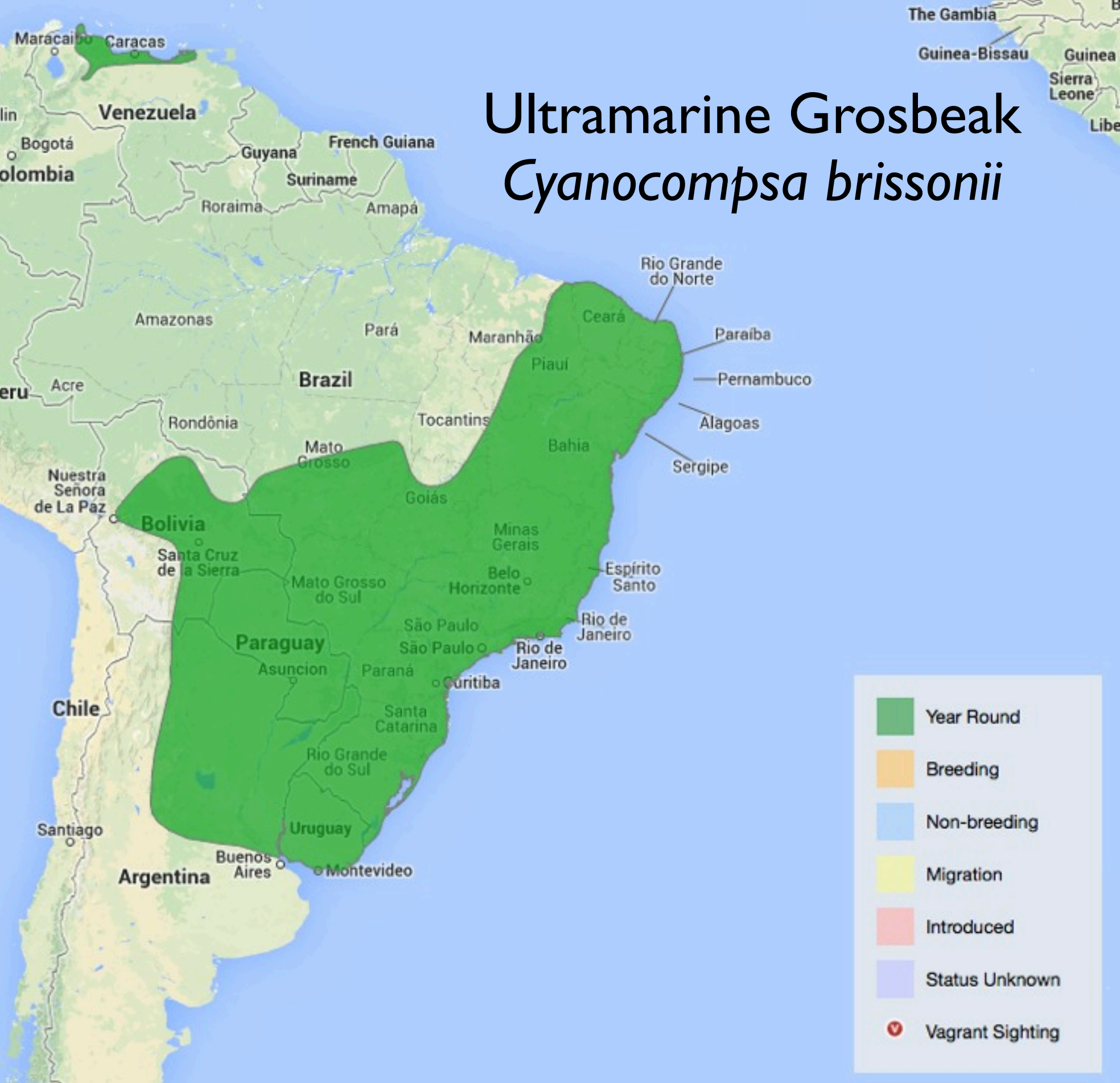
male





# Ultramarine Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa brissonii*

The Ultramarine Grosbeak is a widely-distributed denizen of forest, scrub and disturbed habitats throughout the lowlands of eastern South America between the Amazon basin and the Patagonian steppe; with disjunct populations in Venezuela and Colombia. The Ultramarine Grosbeak is sexually dimorphic, with the males showing a deep, rich blue color to the plumage with a pale supercilium and malar, and black lores. The female is uniformly chocolate-brown. Both sexes show a large, thick bill with a pale base to the mandible. Two subspecies are currently recognized, which segregate by habitat: *C.b.argentina*, which occurs in shrub, and *C.b. sterea*, which inhabits forests, and is smaller than *C.b.argentina*. this species is more commonly heard than seen, as it can inhabit thick patches of scrub and be reclusive at times, but sings a loud, far-reaching song.





# PARULIDAE



immature



adult



Connecticut Warbler  
*Oporornis agilis*

immature



adult











Tropical Parula  
*Setophaga pitiayumi*





Carlos Henrique L. N. Almeida



Flavescent Warbler  
*Myiothlypis flaveola*







Golden-crowned Warbler  
*Basileuterus culicivorus*

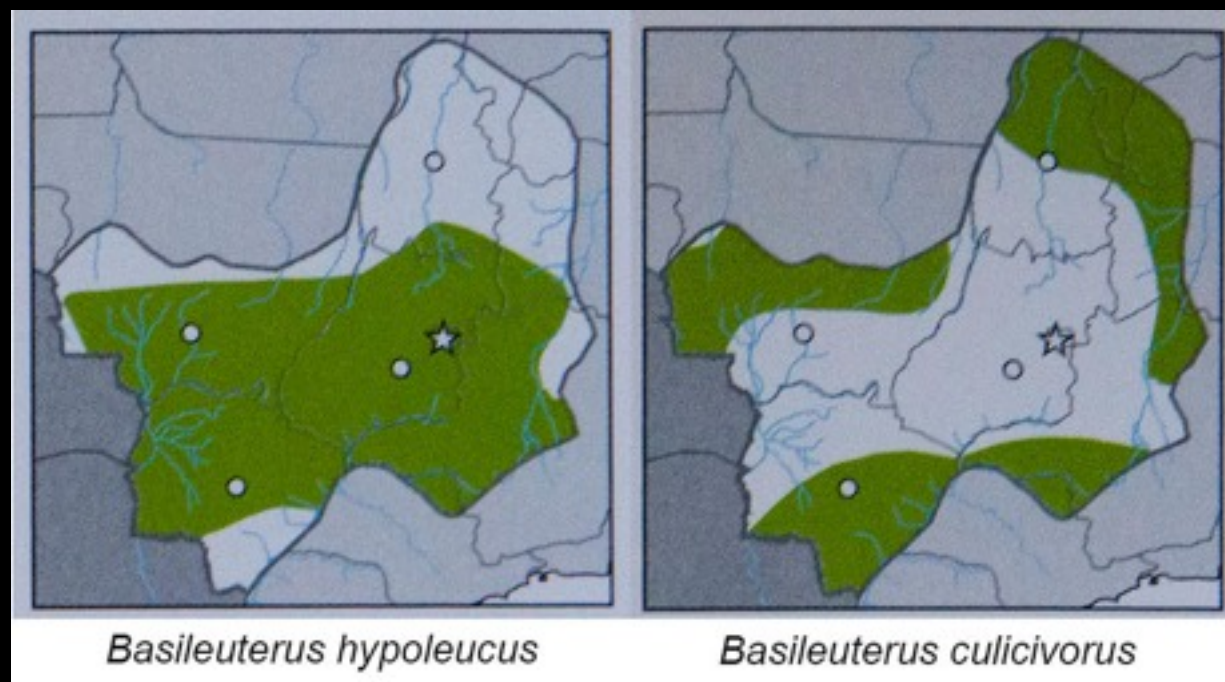
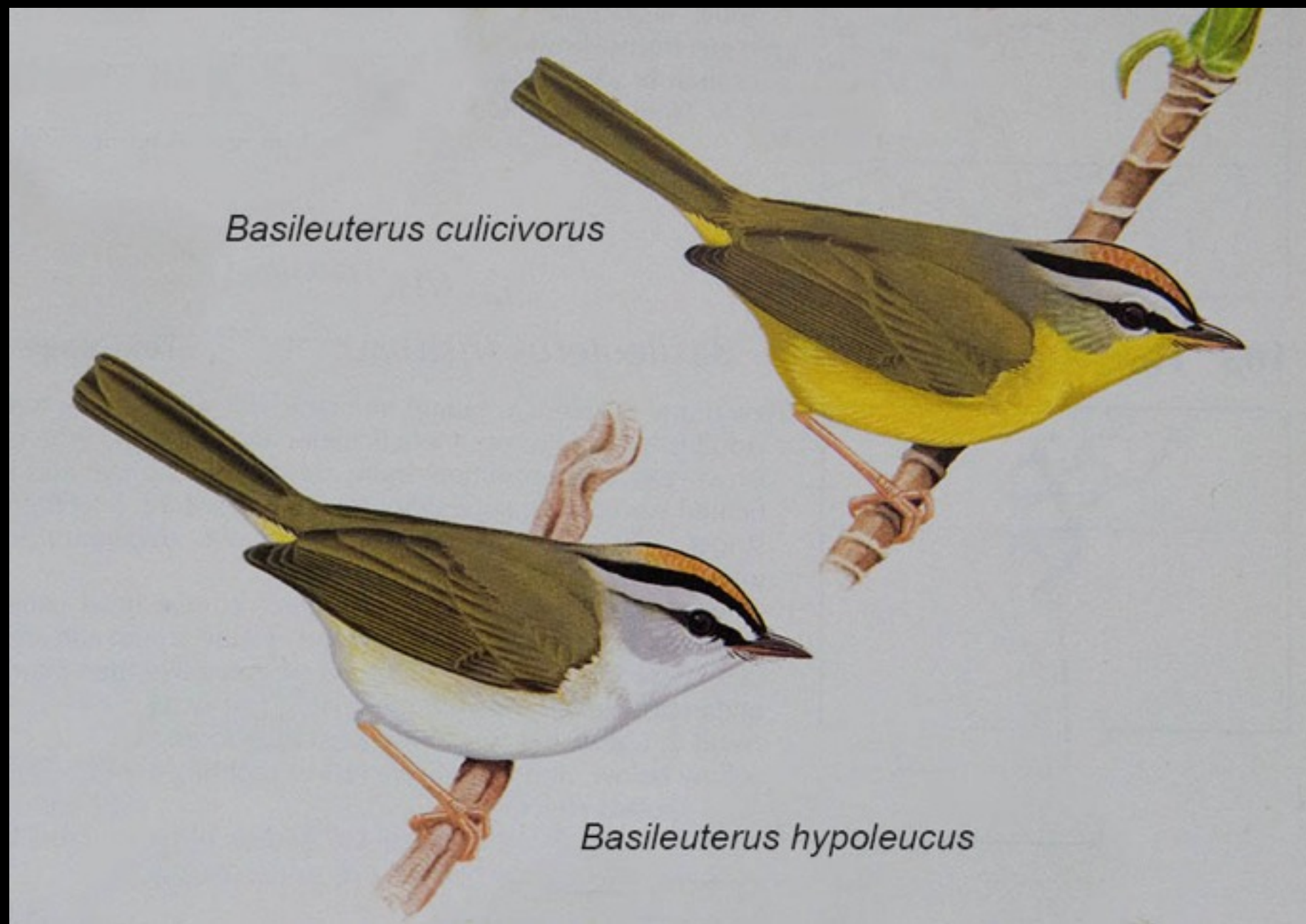


## Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*

The Golden-crowned Warbler is one of the most widespread members of its family, at least for a non-migratory species. It breeds from Mexico south to Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is a warbler with yellow underparts, greenish to grayish upperparts, and a striped head with a yellowish or golden stripe on the mid-crown. As would be expected for a species with such an ample distribution, the Golden-crowned Warbler shows substantial geographic variation – a total of 13 subspecies are recognized! These subspecies form what appear to be three natural groups: one from Mexico to Central America (*culicivorus* group); another in northern South America (*cabanisi* group); and the third one in southeastern South America south of the Amazon Basin (*auricapillus* group). These groups differ in plumage, as well as in song and calls. It appears that the Golden-crowned Warbler is comprised of more than one species, but more research is necessary to determine relationships within the group. There may be more potential species level taxa, and the relationship of the White-bellied Warbler (*B. hypoleucus*) to the Golden-crowned needs investigation. The two are considered to hybridize at some sites.







In the most recent version of the South American Classification Committee's checklist of birds, *Basileuterus hypoleucus* has been included as a subspecies of *B. culicivorus*.





Golden-crowned Warbler  
(formerly White-bellied Warbler)  
*Basileuterus culicivorus hypoleucus*



# ICTERIDAE





Crested Oropendola  
*Psarocolius decumanus*





immature



adult

Solitary Cacique  
*Cacicus solitarius*





Golden-winged Cacique  
*Cacicus chrysopterus*



# Golden-winged Cacique

## *Cacicus chrysopterus*

The Golden-winged Cacique is a little bit of an oddball in this group. It is a small and relatively quiet cacique. The main flash color is yellow. It is a small black, shaggy crested, cacique with a yellow rump and wing patch. It has yellow or whitish eyes, sometimes pale blue. The Golden-winged Cacique is found in pairs or family groups rather than flocks, and most often it is seen alone. It feeds in trees on fruit and insects, by diligently probing into epiphytes, dry leaves and flaking bark, usually keeping to the middle strata. It is an active and curious cacique, resembling an oriole in its general behavior. It is found in two separate populations, in the Yungas of Bolivia, south to Tucuman, Argentina as well as another in Paraguay, S Brazil, Uruguay and adjacent NE Argentina. This cacique is a solitary nester, not colonial like most in the genus. It builds a hanging basket nest which is 60 cm to 1m in length; a very long nest given that this is a small cacique! Many of the nests are woven with a black fibre that is the hyphae of a fungus of the genus *Marasmius*. The nests are placed relatively low in trees, usually less than five meters from the ground.







Yellow-rumped Cacique  
*Cacicus cela*





Red-rumped Cacique  
*Cacicus haemorrhous*





Orange-backed Troupial  
*Icterus croconotus*





rusty lesser  
wing coverts



Variable Oriole  
*Icterus pyrrhopterus*





Chopi Blackbird  
*Gnorimopsar chopi*





Scarlet-headed Blackbird  
*Amblyramphus holosericeus*





immature



male



female



female



female

Unicolored Blackbird  
*Agelasticus cyanopus*





male



male



female

**Chestnut-capped Blackbird**  
*Chrysomus ruficapillus*





Grayish Baywing  
*Agelaioides badius*



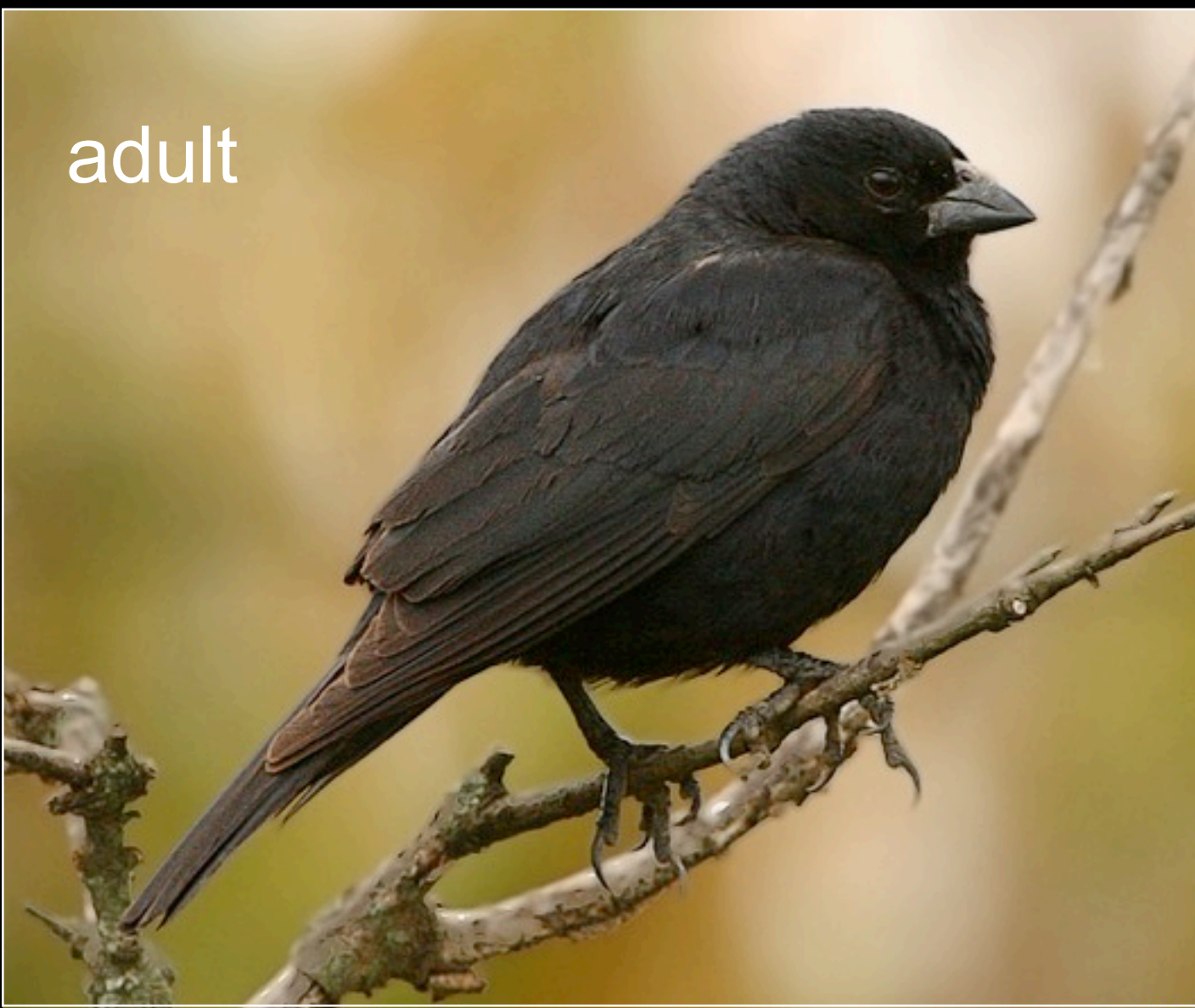




adult



molting



adult

**Screaming Cowbird**  
*Molothrus rufoaxillaris*



juvenile



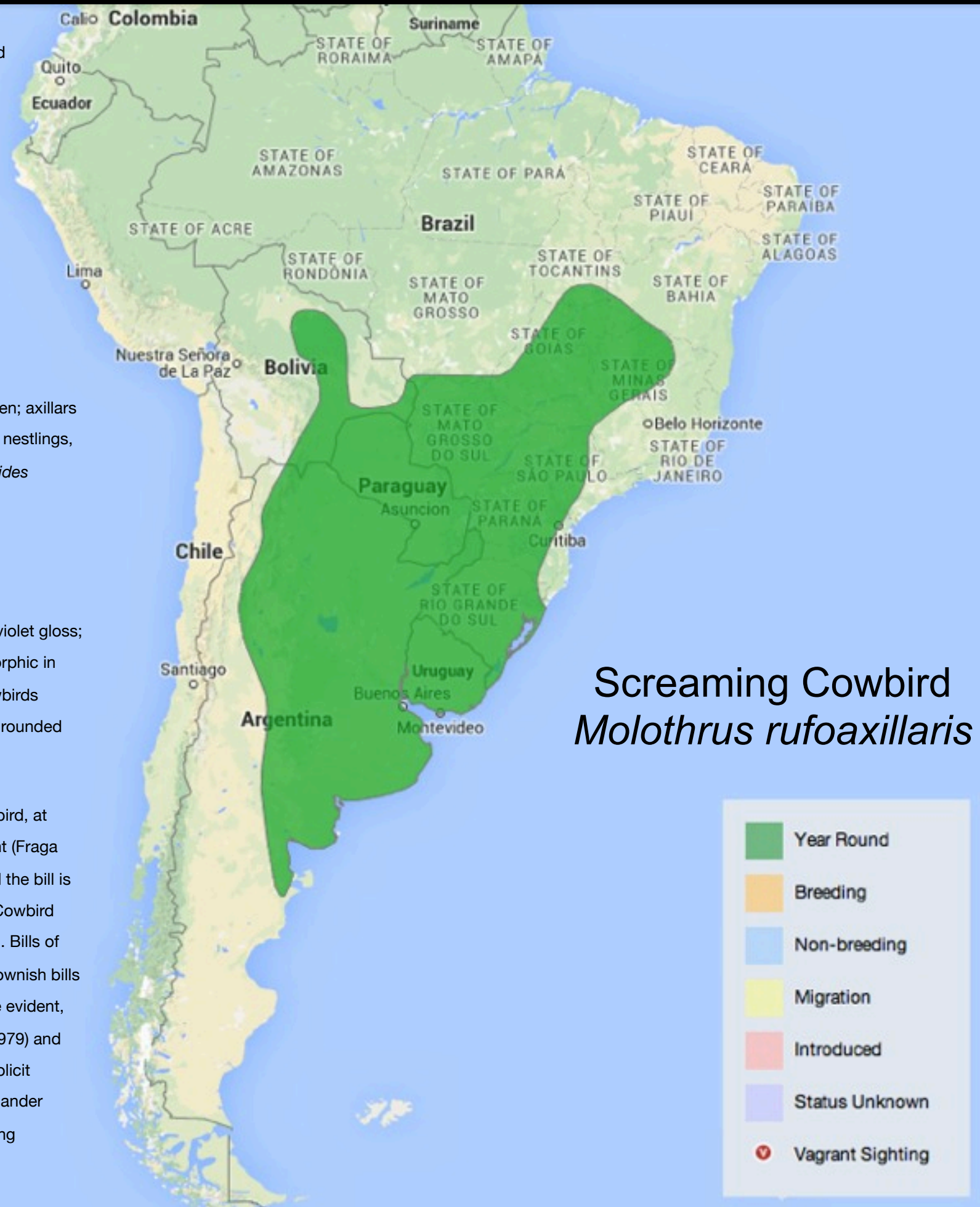
The Screaming Cowbird is a specialist brood parasite, parasitizing almost exclusively the Grayish Baywing (*Agelaioides badius*). This host-parasitic relationship was first realized on 12 April 1873 by W. H. Hudson (1874, 1920) when he collected, from a flock of Bay-winged Cowbirds, young Screaming Cowbirds, which were molting from their "Bay-winged" juvenile plumage to the "Screaming Cowbird" adult plumage. Hudson then understood that the "extra" eggs in Bay-winged Cowbird nests must be those of the Screaming Cowbird -- "the eggs of the two species are identical in form, size, and coloration, and that, stranger still, the mimicry is as perfect in the young birds as in the eggs" (Hudson 1874: 162; see also Hudson 1920: 104). Because of this in-the-nest similarity, information of both species are presented for comparative purposes in some sections of this account.

Sexes similar but noticeably dimorphic in size. Black with only slight greenish blue sheen; axillars rufous, but these usually are not apparent in the field (Ridgely and Tudor 1989). The eggs, nestlings, and juveniles are very similar to the corresponding stages of the Grayish Baywing (*Agelaioides badius*)

### Similar Species

Adults are similar to the male Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*), which has a strong violet gloss; Screaming Cowbirds only infrequently flock with Shiny Cowbirds (which are sexually dimorphic in plumage), thus the lack of sexual dimorphism in pairs or groups indicates Screaming Cowbirds (Ridgely and Tudor 1989). Furthermore, the Shining Cowbird has a longer bill, and a more rounded shape to the head (Jaramillo and Burke 1999).

Screaming Cowbirds are very similar to their principal host species, the Bay-winged Cowbird, at several stages of their life cycle (eggs, nestlings, and juveniles), but differences still evident (Fraga 1979). At hatching, the reddish skin of the Bay-winged Cowbird soon dries to orange, and the bill is pinkish with a dark area around the white eggtooth. The skin of the hatchling Screaming Cowbird becomes pink or pale pink, and the bill is pinkish without a dark area around the eggtooth. Bills of postfledging Screaming darken to black, while Bay-winged Cowbird young retain dark brownish bills with lighter tips which slowly darken to black in 2-3 months. A size difference also may be evident, as Bay-winged Cowbird adults average  $44.48 \text{ g} \pm 0.65 \text{ SD}$  (range 39 - 51,  $n = 24$ ; Fraga 1979) and some Screaming Cowbird fledglings can exceed this range. Bay-winged Cowbirds may solicit preening by assuming "Allopreening Invitation Posture" [= Head-Down display (?); see Selander 1964] which Screaming Cowbirds have not been seen to do (Fraga 1979); young Screaming Cowbirds may utter a version of their unmistakable adult vocalization (Fraga 1979).







Giant Cowbird  
*Molothrus oryzivorus*



Shiny Cowbird  
*Molothrus bonariensis*

male



male



male



female



male







© Mar

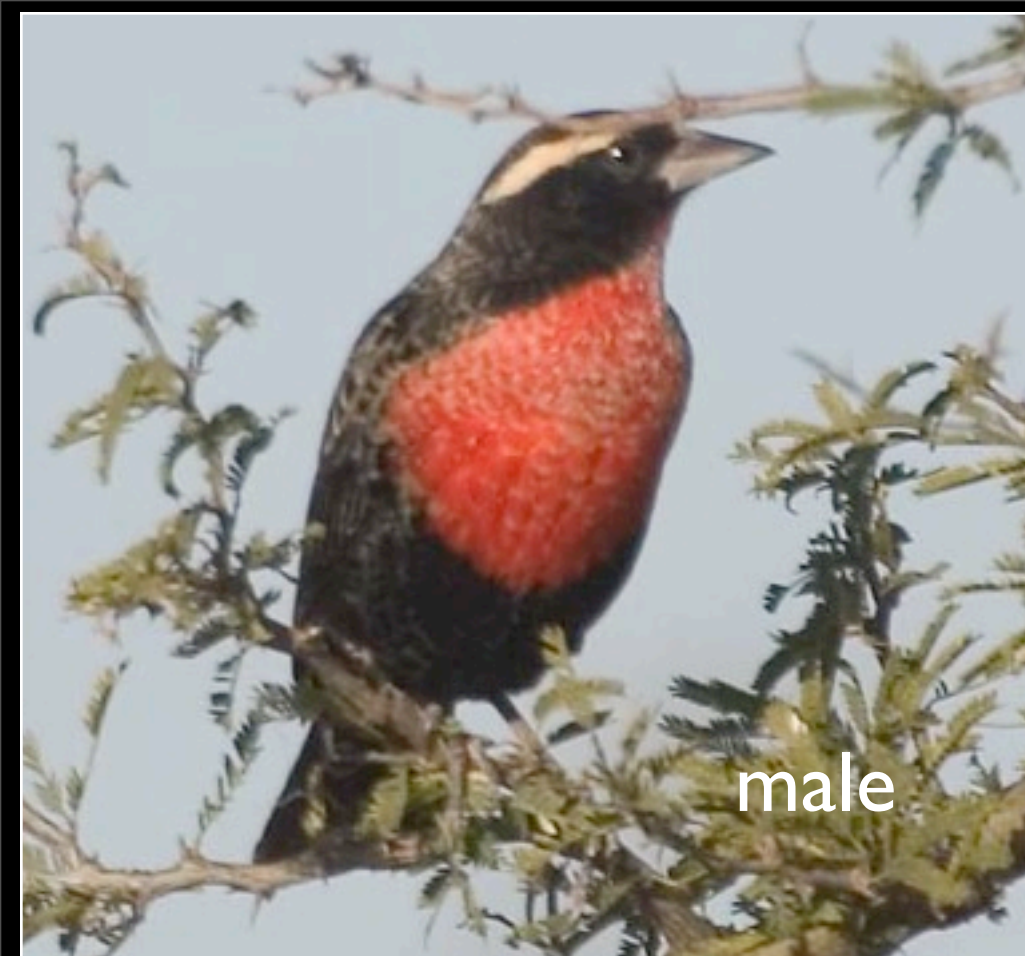
**Bobolink**  
*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*



© Lillian Stokes, 2006







male

White-browed  
Blackbird  
*Sturnella superciliaris*



female



male



male



# FRINGILLIDAE





Hooded Siskin  
*Sporagra magellanica*





# Purple-throated Euphonia

*Euphonia chlorotica*





male



molting  
immature male



female



Violaceous Euphonia  
*Euphonia violacea*



# Violaceous Euphonia

*Euphonia violacea*







adult male



female



molting immature male

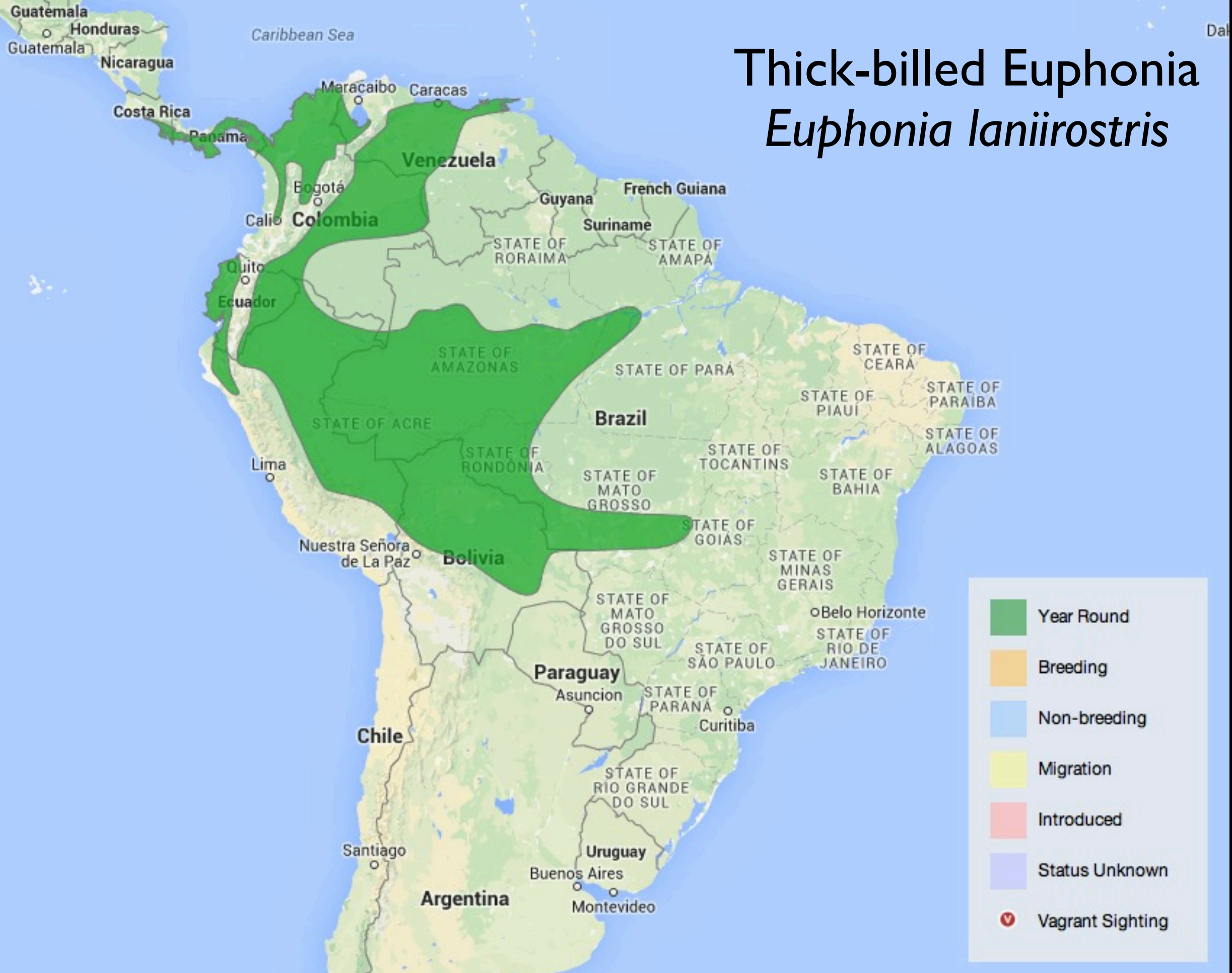
# Thick-billed Euphonia

*Euphonia lanirostris*

©Stiver Photos



# Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*





# PASSERIDAE



female



male



female



House Sparrow  
*Passer domesticus*