

# POSTILLA

Published from 1950 to 2004, the short papers of the *Postilla* series reported on original research by the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History's curators, staff, and research associates, and their colleagues, in the natural science disciplines represented by the collections of the Museum's curatorial divisions.

The *Postilla* series, which ceased publication with Number 232 (2004), was incorporated into the journal *Bulletin of the Peabody Museum of Natural History*, available from BioOne Complete at <https://bioone.org/>.

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**Yale** PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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# *Postilla*

## YALE PEABODY MUSEUM

OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Number 60

May 7, 1962

New Haven, Conn.

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### NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM SURINAM

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During the period November 18 to December 17, 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Freund traveled in Surinam and made small collections of vertebrates and insects for the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. They collected birds at three localities in southern Surinam. One of these localities (Kaysergebergte Airstrip) had been visited in October of the same year by Mr. Harry A. Beatty who collected birds there for the Chicago Museum of Natural History (Blake, 1961). To our knowledge no previous collections of birds have been made at the two other localities visited by the Friends (Sipaliwini Airstrip and Paru Savannah).

The Friends collected a total of 117 birds which they preserved in 10 per cent buffered Formalin. When the specimens arrived at the Peabody Museum they were washed in water and then stored in 70 per cent alcohol. All specimens were dried with a jet of compressed air and then identified; 32 specimens were prepared as study skins by Mr. David H. Parsons.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Friends' trip to the interior of Surinam would have been impossible without the generous assistance of the govern-

ment of Surinam. Mr. and Mrs. Freund and the Peabody Museum of Natural History are especially grateful to the following people and institutions: Mr. Harold Nassy, Director of the Government Information Service; LARECO, the Land Reclamation Corporation; Mr. Fritz Barends, Mayor of Paramaribo; Dr. D. C. Geijskes, Director of the Surinam Museum; Corporal H. P. Pijpers of the Surinam Army; Mrs. Dorothy Badger, Surinam Tourist Bureau, New York; Surinamse Luftvaartmaatschappij (Surinam Airways); and Pan American Airways.

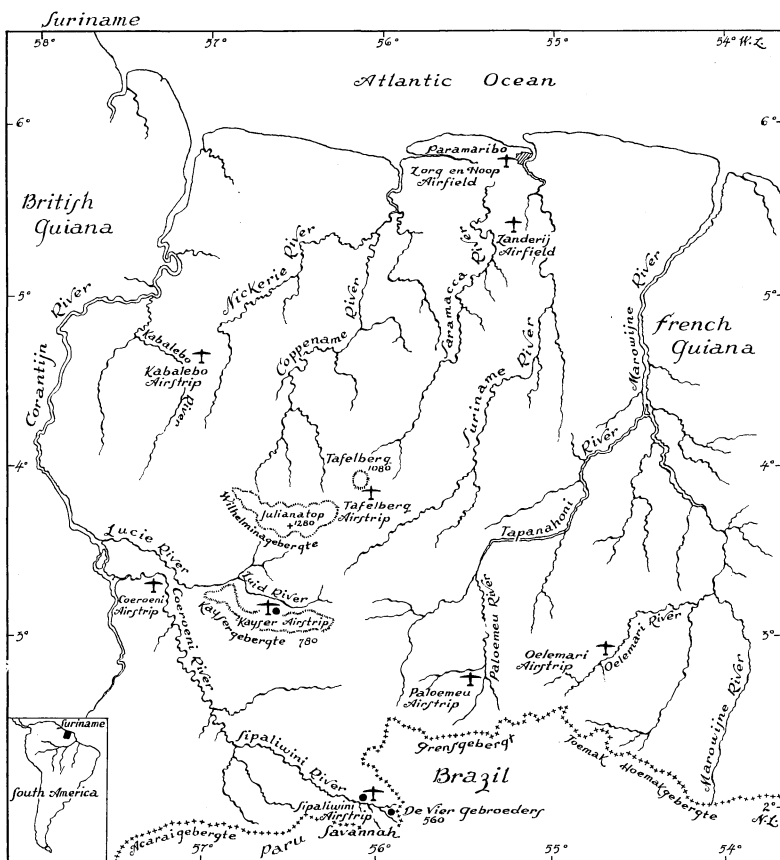
We are also grateful to Mr. Emmet R. Blake, Chicago Museum of Natural History; Mr. James Bond, Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences; Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, Carnegie Museum; and Dr. Dean Amadon, American Museum of Natural History, for use of specimens in their care. We are especially indebted to Mr. F. Haverschmidt for calling to our attention a species misidentified in the manuscript of this note and for bringing up to date our comments on three species. Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon and Mr. George E. Watson kindly examined specimens for us at the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, Mr. Peter Ames, and others have given us advice or assistance.

#### COLLECTING LOCALITIES

**Kaysergebergte Airstrip.** The Friends collected 58 birds at Kaysergebergte Airstrip (see map) from November 23 through December 6, 1961. This airstrip is one of seven recently built during "Operation Grasshopper," a program which is opening the previously almost inaccessible forested interior of Surinam to travel. Kaysergebergte Airstrip is a clearing of approximately 200 by 2000 yards in the tropical forest. Most of the specimens were collected near or at the forest edge bordering the airstrip; some were collected along trails from the airstrip to nearby Oranje Creek.

**Sipaliwini Airstrip and Paru Savannah.** The Friends collected 58 birds at Sipaliwini Airstrip and Paru Savannah December 7 through 11, 1961. Sipaliwini is the southernmost of seven airstrips constructed during "Operation Grasshopper"

(see map). It is close to the vast Paru Savannah which extends from British Guiana through southernmost Surinam and French Guiana down into northern Brazil where it forms the drainage basin of the northern tributaries of the Amazon.



Map of Surinam showing locations of airstrips and airfields. Black dots mark localities visited by Mr. and Mrs. Freund.

From Sipaliwini the Freunds traveled by dugout southeast up the Sipaliwini River to its junction with Vier Gebroeders Creek; from there they went on foot to a camp established in March, 1961, by Dr. Geijskes and Corporal Pijpers. The camp is

located on Vier Gebroeders Creek which at this point forms the meeting place of the tropical forest and the Paru Savannah. In December the Paru Savannah is criss-crossed with dry creek beds lined with Mauritius Palms, shrubs and luxuriant growth of grasses and sedges three feet in height. All birds were collected in vegetation bordering the dry creek beds.

## LIST OF SPECIES

*Harpagus bidentatus bidentatus* (Latham). ♀ skin (J 927), Sipaliwini River, December 11, 1961. Skin around eye light gray; cere green; beak black; feet yellow. Bird seen when it flew across trail in forest and landed forty feet up in tree at edge of trail; this individual was quite tame.

*Buteo magnirostris magnirostris* (Gmelin). Specimen in Formalin (J 776), collected along the roadside of "Garnizoen Pad," twenty-five kilometers from Paramaribo, going west to the Saramacca River, November 19, 1961.

*Colinus cristatus sonnini* (Temminck). ♂ ♀ skins (J 883, J 884), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 8, 1961. These specimens were collected at edge of airstrip in an area of dry, sandy clay soil with patches of grass and sedges varying in height from six to eighteen inches. Freund first saw these birds in a flock of six to eight which did not flush until after his second shot.

*Actitis macularia* (Linnaeus). Specimen in Formalin (J 837), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 1, 1961, collected 10:30 p.m. in a mist net set over a drainage ditch at the edge of the airstrip.

*Columbigallina passerina griseola* (Spix). Four specimens in Formalin (J 804, J 809, J 810, J 813), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 23 and 24, 1961. Freund found a nest on November 23 containing two eggs which hatched December 5. The nest was on the ground in a patch of grass in an area of dry, sandy soil at edge of airstrip.

*Columbigallina minuta minuta* (Linnaeus). Two specimens in Formalin (J 900, J 901), Paru Savannah, December 10, 1961.

*Leptotila rufaxilla rufaxilla* (Richard and Bernard). Three specimens in Formalin (J 917, J 925, J 926), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10 and 11, 1961.

*Ara manilata* (Boddaert). ♂ skin (J 835), palm tree at edge of Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 1, 1961; specimen in Formalin (J 899), Paru Savannah, December 10, 1961.

*Pyrrhura picta picta* (P.L.S. Müller). Specimen in Formalin (J 866), trail to Oranje Creek, Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 5, 1961.

*Piaya melanogaster melanogaster* (Vieillot). Specimen in Formalin (J 898), junction of Sipaliwini River and Vier Gebroeders Creek, December 9, 1961. Bill brilliant red; patch of skin around eye yellow and blue. Haverschmidt (*in litt.*) notes that he has collected several of these cuckoos since 1955 and that the species is "not common."

*Caprimulgus nigrescens nigrescens* Cabanis. ♂ skin (J 824), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 25, 1961. This nightjar was first seen in the beam of Freund's headlamp at 9:00 p.m.; its eyes glowed red. The bird was perched on a low branch of shrub at the beginning of a forest trail. ♀ skin (J 941), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961. This bird was collected at 4:00 p.m. at the forest edge. Haverschmidt (1955:70) lists this species as rather rare on savannahs.

*Polytmus theresiae theresiae* (Da Silva Maia). Sex? skin (J 868), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 6, 1961.

*Heliothryx aurita aurita* (Gmelin). Specimen in Formalin (J 943), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961. Considered rare by Haverschmidt (1955:76) who lists Neger Kreek as the only recent locality.

- Trogon viridis viridis* Linnaeus. Specimen in Formalin (J 935), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961. Flesh around eye pale blue; bill gray-black.
- Brachygalba lugubris lugubris* (Swainson). Specimen in Formalin (J 920), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.
- Galbula leucogastra leucogastra* Vieillot. Specimen in Formalin (J 888), Sipaliwini, December 8, 1961; ♀ skin (J 933), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961. J 888 was collected in a bamboo thicket.
- Bucco tamiata tamiata* Gmelin. Sex? skin (J 942), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961. Considered by Haverschmidt (1955: 80) to be "rather rare in the savanna belt."
- Monasa atra* (Boddaert). Specimen in Formalin (J 873), Oranje Creek, Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 6, 1961.
- Chelidoptera tenebrosa tenebrosa* (Pallas). Four specimens in Formalin (J 806, J 828, J 829, J 830), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 23 and 28, 1961. Specimen in Formalin (J 860), trail to Oranje Creek, Kaysergebergte, December 5, 1961. Two specimens in Formalin (J 893, J 939), Sipaliwini, December 8 and 11, 1961, (J 893, Surinam Museum).
- Picumnus exilis buffoni* Lafresnaye. Specimen in Formalin (J 885), Sipaliwini, December 8, 1961.
- Celeus elegans* subsp.? ♀ skin (J 819), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 25, 1961; eye reddish brown; bill bluish ivory.
- Dryocopus lineatus lineatus* (Linnaeus). Specimen in Formalin (J 807), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 24, 1961. Specimen in Formalin (J 906), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.
- Campephilus rubricollis rubricollis* (Boddaert). Three specimens in Formalin (J 826, J 827, J 867), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 26 and December 5, 1961.

- Glyphorhynchus spirurus spirurus* (Vieillot). ♂ skin (J 825), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 26, 1961.
- Xiphorhynchus guttatus polystictus* (Salvin and Godman). Specimen in Formalin (J 872), trail to Oranje Creek, Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 6, 1961.
- Lepidocolaptes albo-lineatus albo-lineatus* (Lafresnaye). ♀ skin (J 842), specimen in Formalin (J 871), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 3 and 6, 1961. Specimen in Formalin (J 907), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.
- Formicivora rufa* subsp. Sex? skin (J 904), Paru Savannah, December 10, 1961. To our knowledge this species has not been reported previously for Surinam. Collected along a dry creek bed lined with Mauritius Palms and heavy shrubs. This specimen is in streaked female plumage; it is darker ventrally than most specimens of *F. r. chapmani* but is matched by extreme specimens in series at the American Museum of Natural History, and a series before us from Carnegie Museum, Chicago Museum of Natural History, Philadelphia Academy, and Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.
- Thamnophilus punctatus punctatus* (Shaw). Specimen in Formalin (J 913), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.
- Tityra cayana cayana* (Linnaeus). Two specimens in Formalin (J 846, J 847), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 3, 1961.
- Tyrannus melancholicus despotes* (Lichtenstein). Five specimens in Formalin (J 817, J 823, J 831, J 832, J 858), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 25, 28, 29, and December 5, 1961. Specimen in Formalin (J 886), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 8, 1961.
- Tyrannus albogularis* Burmeister. ♀ ♀ skins (J 805, J 833). Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 23 and 29, 1961. Not previously reported for Surinam. Both specimens were collected at forest edge bordering the airstrip.



*Megarhynchus pitangua pitangua* (Linnaeus). Two specimens in Formalin (J 928, J 929), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961.

*Myiozetetes cayanensis cayanensis* (Linnaeus). Specimen in Formalin (J 874), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 6, 1961. Specimen in Formalin (J 896), Paru Savannah, December 9, 1961.

*Myiarchus ferox ferox* (Gmelin). Specimen in Formalin (J 910), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.

*Myiarchus* sp? Sex? skin (J 934), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961. Dr. Wesley E. Lanyon very kindly examined this specimen; he says (*in litt.*) that it is an immature bird and belongs to the *ferox-swainsoni* complex.

*Todirostrum cinereum cinereum* (Linnaeus). Specimen in Formalin (J 889), Sipaliwini, December 8, 1961.

*Colopteryx galeatus* (Boddaert). ♀ skin (J 921), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.

*Myiopagis gaimardii guianensis* (Berlepsch). Specimen in Formalin (J 940), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961.

*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster* Boddaert. Two specimens in Formalin (J 811, J 816), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 24 and 25, 1961. Listed by Haverschmidt (1955: 118) as a "numerous migrant . . . in open country in the coastal area."

*Turdus leucomelas albiventer* Spix. ♀ skin (J 897), Paru Savannah, December 9, 1961.

*Polioptila plumbea plumbea* (Gmelin). Four specimens in Formalin (J 864, J 865, J 869, J 870), trail to Oranje Creek, Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 5 and 6, 1961. Three specimens in Formalin (J 908, J 909, J 937), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10 and 11, 1961.

- Cyanerpes cyaneus cyaneus* (Linnaeus). Three ♂ and one ♀ skins (J 845, J 848, J 849, J 850) and one specimen in Formalin (J 851), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 3 (J 845) and 4, 1961. Specimen in Formalin (J 892), Sipaliwini, December 8, 1961 (Surinam Museum).
- Dacnis cayana cayana* (Linnaeus). Specimen in Formalin (J 863), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 5, 1961. Specimen in Formalin (J 931), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961.
- Cacicus cela cela* (Linnaeus). Specimen in Formalin (J 818), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 25, 1961; bill greenish ivory, eye light turquoise blue.
- Scaphidura oryzivora oryzivora* (Gmelin). Specimen in Formalin (J 859), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 5, 1961. For use of *Scaphidura* see Parkes (1954:229).
- Icterus cayanensis cayanensis* (Linnaeus). Specimen in Formalin (J 932), Sipaliwini, December 11, 1961. Haverschmidt (*in litt.*) notes that he has collected several since 1955 and that the species is "not common" in Surinam.
- Tersina viridis occidentalis* (Sclater). ♂ skin (J 890), savannah at Sipaliwini, December 8, 1961. Third specimen reported for Surinam (cf. Blake, 1961:182).
- Tanagra violacea violacea* (Linnaeus). Four specimens in Formalin (J 852, J 853, J 861, J 862), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 4 and 5, 1961.
- Thraupis palmarum melanoptera* (Sclater). Three specimens in Formalin (J 854, J 855, J 856), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 4, 1961. Two specimens in Formalin (J 930, J 938), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 11, 1961.
- Tachyphonus surinamus surinamus* (Linnaeus). Two specimens in Formalin (J 911, J 918), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.

*Tachyphonus phoenicius* Swainson. ♂ ♀ skins (J 919, J 936), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10 and 11, 1961; specimen in Formalin (J 944), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 11, 1961. Upper bill black, lower bill pale gray, feet black in male and female.

*Hemithraupis guira nigrigula* (Boddaert). Specimen in Formalin (J 844), path to Oranje Creek, Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 3, 1961.

*Hemithraupis flavicollis flavicollis* (Vieillot). ♂ skin (J 843), path to Oranje Creek, Kaysergebergte Airstrip, December 3, 1961. Third record reported for Surinam (cf. Blake, 1961:182).

*Schistochlamys melanopis melanopis* (Latham). ♂ skin (J 914), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.

*Zonotrichia capensis tocanzini* Chapman. ♂ skin (J 903), Paru Savannah, December 10, 1961. The occurrence of this form in southernmost Surinam confirms Chapman's (1940:400) suspicion that the species occurs from lower Amazonia to the range of nominate *capensis*.

*Sporophila lineola* (Linnaeus). ♂ skin (J 808), Kaysergebergte Airstrip, November 24, 1961. Listed by Haverschmidt (1955:136) as "not common in open places in the coastal area."

*Sporophila minuta minuta* (Linnaeus). ♀ skin (J 902), Paru Savannah, December 10, 1961.

*Myiospiza humeralis humeralis* (Bose). Specimen in Formalin (J 905), Paru Savannah, December 10, 1961; specimen in Formalin (J 912), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 10, 1961.

*Emberizoides herbicola sphenurus* (Vieillot). Two ♀ skins (J 887, J 916), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 8 and 10, 1961; two specimens in Formalin (J 891, J 915), Sipaliwini Airstrip, December 8 and 10, 1961.

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