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A record of Scissor-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis torquata*) in the upper Rio Mayo Valley, San Martin, Peru

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Scissor-tailed Nightjar (*Hydropsalis torquata*) is a widespread South American Caprimulgid ranging from southern Suriname to northern and central Argentina, and from the Atlantic coast to north-eastern Bolivia and east-central Peru. Seasonal movements are poorly known and some populations may be partially migratory (Del Hoyo *et al.* 1999).

In Peru, it is both a rare austral migrant in pastures, grasslands and forest edge in Madre de Dios, and a rare to uncommon resident locally in Cuzco, Junin and Pasco in dry intermontane valleys with open habitats up to 1700 m (Schulenberg *et al.* 2010). Its status in northern Peru is poorly known, with Schulenberg *et al.* (2010) mapping its occurrence along the Loreto-San Martin border. We are unaware of any additional published information describing its range in northern Peru in more detail, while a search for specimens in North American collections using the ORNIS database (www.ornisnet.org) returned 31 documented records (12 from Cusco, 10 from Ucayali, 3 from Puno, and 3 from Madre de Dios, plus 3 without precise localization). Eight of these records are from July, 4 from August, 2 from April, 2 from June, and one from each October and November, the others

being without precise date. A search of records deposited in the Avian Knowledge Network through eBird (www.ebird.org) found no other records for northern Peru, while there are no records at all for Peru in Xeno-canto (www.xeno-canto.org) (all sites consulted 2016, November 5).

In September 2008, after two weeks of field work in Amazonas department, we spent September 2-10 at Quebrada Misquiyaquito/Waqanki, near Moyobamba. On September 3, while climbing the main trail to the ridge ($6^{\circ}4'52.47"S$ / $76^{\circ}59'12.65"W$, 1400 m), we found two feathers of a Scissor-tailed Nightjar, an outermost right rectrix and a left secondary remex (Fig. 1). The rectrix measured 274 mm and the secondary 115 mm. Specific identification was straightforward and based on the length and shape of the rectrix, the large apical inner edge off-white, and the main coloration sandy-ginger with dark brown bars.

The feathers are preserved at the Carmagnola Museum of Natural History (MCCI-B-3294). The habitat where the tail feathers were found consisted of a small patch open, dry scrub on sandy soil within a matrix of subtropical montane forest.



Figure N°1: The outermost right rectrix of a male *Hydropsalis torquata* photographed where it was found, 1400 m. at Quebrada Misquiyakillo/Waqanki (Moyobamba, San Martin, Peru). The Morro de Calzada can be seen in the left background, 3 September 2008 (Photo by G. Boano).

Other species typical of dry habitats and with a very local distribution in northern Peru found in this patch of scrub included Rusty-backed Antwren (*Formicivora rufa*), Cinereous-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis hypospodia*), and Mishana Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius villarejoi*).

In light of the limited amount of published information on the status of this species in northern Peru, we present this vouchered record as a contribution to better document its presence in this part of the country.

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