

Distribution, status and taxonomy of the near-threatened Black-bodied Woodpecker *Dryocopus schulzi*

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Summary

Studies of records of the Black-bodied Woodpecker *Dryocopus schulzi* through literature searches, communications with ornithologists, personal observations and data from museum specimens show that the distribution of the species is basically limited to xerophytic chaco woodlands in western Paraguay, northern and central Argentina, and southern Bolivia. Its western limit is defined by the transition zone between the chaco and the semi-humid montane forest on the east Andean slopes of southern Bolivia and north-west Argentina; in the extreme south it extends into the dry deciduous woodlands in the sierras of Córdoba and north-eastern San Luis. The taxonomic history of the species has been chequered; we present morphological and vocal differences from its closest relative that reaffirm its specific validity. It appears to have suffered an alarming decline over much of its former range in Argentina, and appears to survive only in two isolated population centres of significant importance, in Córdoba and adjacent San Luis and in the central part of the Paraguayan chaco. The main cause of its rarity is destruction of habitat for timber extraction and expansion of agriculture and cattle-raising.

El estudio de registros del Carpintero Negro *Dryocopus schulzi* mediante revisión bibliográfica, comunicaciones de ornitólogos, observaciones personales e información adjunta a especímenes en museos, muestra que la distribución de la especie básicamente se circunscribe al bosque chaqueño de carácter xerófilo del oeste de Paraguay, norte y centro de Argentina y sur de Bolivia. Su extremo occidental alcanza la zona de transición entre el chaco y los bosques semihúmedos montañosos en las sierras orientales andinas del sur de Bolivia y del noroeste argentino; en el extremo sur se extiende hasta los bosques secos decíduos de las sierras cordobesas y del noreste de San Luis. La historia taxonómica de la especie ha sido confusa; las diferencias morfológicas y vocales que aquí se presentan y comparan con su pariente más próximo reafirman su validez específica. Parece haber sufrido una disminución preocupante en la mayor parte de su distribución original en Argentina, y quedan aparentemente tan solo un par de núcleos poblacionales aislados de cierta importancia, en Córdoba y zona adyacente de San Luis y en la zona central del chaco paraguayo. La principal causa responsable de su rarefacción se debe a la destrucción del hábitat por la explotación de los recursos madereros y a la creciente expansión de la frontera agrícola y ganadera.

Introduction

The Black-bodied Woodpecker *Dryocopus schulzi* is restricted to the central and southern chaco, in Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina, and to the transitional subtropical forest at the low eastern edge of the Andes in southern Bolivia and north-west Argentina (see Figure 1). It was originally a candidate for inclusion

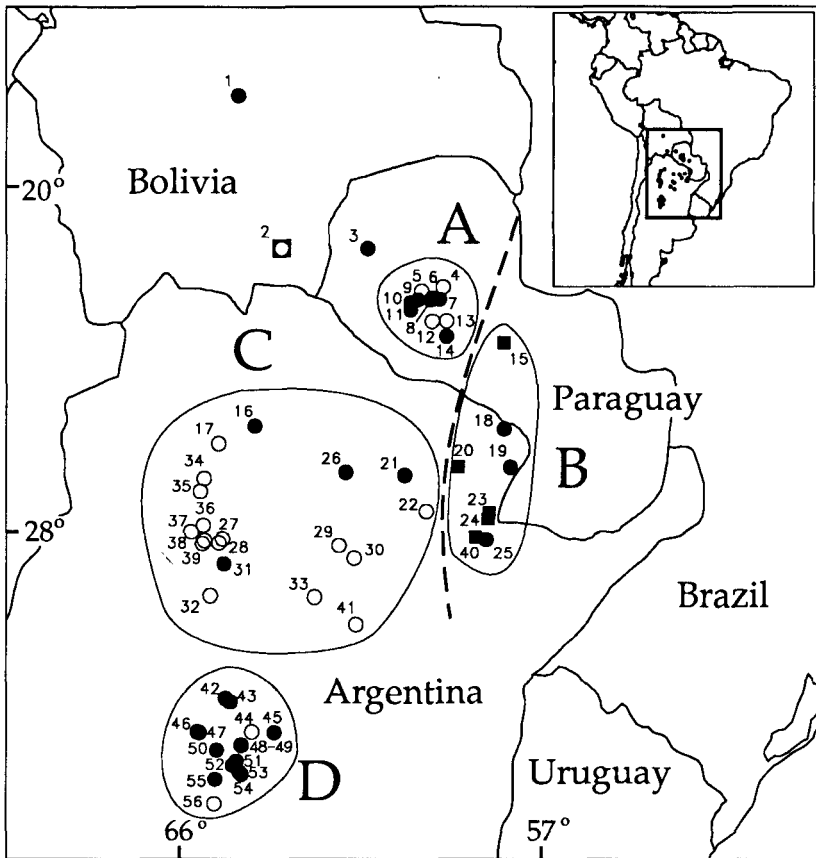


Figure 1. The distribution of *Dryocopus schulzi* showing historical (○ pre-1970), recent (● post-1970) and hybrid (■) records. Ringed areas represent the central dry Paraguayan chaco (A), humid chaco where most hybrids have been reported (B), dry chaco and transitional forest (C), and Córdoba and San Luis transitional (D); dashed line roughly separates dry chaco (to the west) and humid chaco to the east (following Hueck's 1972 map). See Appendix for key to numbered localities.

in *Threatened birds of the Americas* (Collar *et al.* 1992), as its distribution and habits were poorly known (e.g. Short 1975, 1982) and most published information and correspondence (with ICBP) remarked on its scarceness (see Population below). However, after deeper investigation in the literature and further inquiries to other ornithologists with field expertise in the region, it was decided to confine it to "near-threatened" status, adopted by ICBP as a term for "birds which, while apparently not (yet) seriously in danger of global extinction, give cause for concern" (see Collar *et al.* 1992). However, it was also agreed that in due course the analysis already begun on the species should be completed and published, partly because it is clearly valuable to review the status of such borderline species whenever possible, and partly because this bird is a particularly interesting representative of the chaco fauna: any conservation initiatives in the chaco should certainly take the species into account.

Methods

This paper constitutes a compilation of all published and unpublished information (available to us) on the Black-bodied Woodpecker. Museums are referred to in the text by abbreviations as follows: AMNH, American Museum of Natural History; ANSP, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; BMNH, British Museum of Natural History (Tring); IML, Instituto Miguel Lillo (San Miguel de Tucumán); MACN, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires; MCZ, Museum of Comparative Zoology (Cambridge, U.S.A.); UMMZ, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Part of the museum data was gathered by N. J. Collar during the early stages of preparing *Threatened birds of the Americas*; M. LeCroy provided the information from AMNH, J. R. Navas from MACN, R. A. Paynter from MCZ, R. W. Storer from UMMZ, while we ourselves studied the specimens held in BMNH. Considerable data were collected through personal communications with ornithologists familiar with the species and from our own observations in Argentina and Paraguay.

In the Appendix, records are organized within countries and provinces or departments (from north to south); coordinates are derived for every traced locality, which have been numbered and mapped in Figure 1; the coordinates are generally provided from the original source (published or not) or by reference to ornithological gazetteers (Paynter *et al.* 1975, Paynter 1985, 1989) or DSGM (1988). Most localities in Figure 1 have been circumscribed in four general areas (A–D) in order to facilitate discussion in different parts of the text. At least one source for each record is provided, although on several occasions several sources have been included in order to facilitate further research; for this same reason if specimens exist, the relevant museum (if known) is also given (very often collecting dates and descriptions of specimens are incomplete or lacking in the literature, but information in museums has greatly compensated for this deficiency). Approximate altitude of the record (provided in the original source or obtained from the gazetteers) is given if available, but no attempt has been made to provide figures for localities throughout the vast low chaco plain, where elevations move gradually from below 100 m near the Paraguay river in the east to 450 m in areas at the base of the Andes in the west (Short 1975, Paynter 1985, 1989).

Six study tapes of calls of Lineated Woodpecker *D. lineatus* from wide-ranging South American localities were compared with two available study tapes of *D. schulzi* from two different localities in Córdoba, Argentina (tape-recorded and published by R. Straneck; a copy is held in the British Library of Wildlife Sounds, National Sound Archive, London).

Taxonomy

The taxonomy of the Black-bodied Woodpecker has been the subject of much uncertainty, with various changes at both subspecific and specific level. The existence of several hybrids between *lineatus* and *schulzi* (see Appendix and below) and descriptions of invalid taxa (see below) have helped to muddle the already puzzling taxonomic position of the species.

Cabanis (1883) first described the species under the genus *Phloeotomus*,

although later generic designations of the species, or hybrids with *lineatus*, included: *Campephilus*, *Ceophloeus*, *Dryotomus*, *Neophloeotomus* (e.g. Dabbene 1915, Cory 1919, Peters 1948, Pergolani de Costa 1962), all of which were eventually synonymized (including the *lineatus* and *pileatus* allospecies) in *Dryocopus* (Peters 1948; also Pergolani 1941). However, this genus (*Dryocopus*) was fortuitously applied to the species by Burmeister (1861) (before it was known to science) when he referred to an immature “*D. [Dryocopus] atriventris*” (= Cream-backed Woodpecker *Campephilus leucopogon*), which, according to Cabanis (1883), was an individual belonging to the newly described species (*schulzi*) (see also Sclater and Hudson 1888–1889).

Dabbene (1915) described a new species (“*shiptoni*”) from Tucumán, which was identical to *schulzi* but for a white scapular bar; however, this taxon (although accepted by Cory 1919) was discarded by Dinelli (1931), who referred to the existence of specimens of *schulzi* (including paired birds) with and without this plumage feature. His opinion was supported by Mogensen (1932), who attributed this characteristic to the close relation with *D. lineatus*. The evidence of these two latter authors was not, however, followed by SOMA (1938) or Olrog (1959), who maintained specific distinction between *schulzi* and *shiptoni*, although the latter was soon after (and finally) discarded (Pergolani de Costa 1962, Short 1975, Olrog 1979).

A further taxonomic problem was introduced in 1916 by R. Dabbene, who described yet another race of *schulzi*, namely “*major*” (see Dabbene 1916, 1926). Both Mogensen (1932) and Pergolani de Costa (1962) believed this to be a good species, the former suggesting the name “*Ceophloeus ater*” and the latter “*Dryocopus major*”; nevertheless, the distinction was not accepted by Short (1975, 1982), who considered the form in question to represent a hybridization between *schulzi* and *lineatus*. Furthermore, Peters (1926) described the subspecies “*Dryocopus erythroptus fulcitus*” (type-specimen in MCZ; see also Peters 1948), which was also later considered a hybrid between *lineatus* and *schulzi* (Short 1982).

A similar taxonomic problem to that of “*shiptoni*” (possessing white scapular bars) led to the description of “*D. erythroptus*” (see Peters 1948), which represents *lineatus* without the white scapular bar, but again the specific distinction was not accepted, the form being relegated to subspecific level (i.e. *D. l. erythroptus*) (Pergolani de Costa 1962, Short 1975, 1982, Sibley and Monroe 1990). Interestingly, in the south-east of the Lineated Woodpecker’s range the race *erythroptus* is distinctive (i.e. all birds lack the white bar), with a zone of overlap where both nominate *lineatus* and *erythroptus* “morphs” are present (see figure 37 in Short 1975), whereas within the range of *schulzi* no such isolation is present inasmuch as both morphs (typical *schulzi* and the white-scapular “*shiptoni*”) can be found mixed throughout (see above) and, although southern birds are smaller than those from the northern chaco, variation is clinal (Short 1975, 1976, 1982).

Despite the morphological and ecological differences between *lineatus* and *schulzi* indicated by Short (1982), that author (p.412) remarked that “whether or not it [*schulzi*] is specifically distinct from *lineatus* is a moot point”. However, comparisons between the common call type of *lineatus* and *schulzi* through sonographic analysis tend to confirm that both represent valid taxa (see below);

furthermore, the following obvious morphological differences are judged sufficiently important as definitely to maintain *schulzi*'s full specific status: (a) the red crown in *schulzi* females extends over most of the forehead leaving only c.0.5 cm (or less) of grey feathering above the base of the bill, whereas c.1.5 cm (or more) of grey is exposed in *lineatus*; (b) *schulzi* has pale grey or whitish ear-coverts, whereas in *lineatus* this area is black or dark grey; (c) the throat in *schulzi* is white to dirty grey with or (usually) without fine brownish streaks (also Short 1982), whereas in *lineatus* it tends to be heavily streaked giving a much darker appearance; (d) bill colour in *schulzi* is predominantly white, whereas in *lineatus* it is typically blackish to grey; (e) nine specimens in BMNH were labelled as having "coffee" and "bright coffee" irides, whereas in *lineatus* eye colour varies from white to pale yellowish orange, although the young may have brown eyes at first (Short 1982; also his plate 77); (f) belly, flanks, vent and undertail-coverts are black in *schulzi*, sometimes with very fine barring, usually on the flanks and abdomen, unlike *lineatus* which always shows heavy barring; (g) underwing-coverts are white in both species, but *schulzi* presents an irregular, usually large black patch (sometimes nearly lacking; Short 1982) on the bend of the wing, whereas in *lineatus* this same area is entirely white, although occasionally with a small or, rarely, moderately sized black patch (Short 1982); (h) the rectrices in *schulzi* show white shafts (visible in the field and on BMNH specimens) which are dark in *lineatus*.

The vocalizations on both sets of (*schulzi* and *lineatus*) recordings appear to be constant in form and duration between different localities: the loud ringing "wick wick wick" call types of *schulzi* and *lineatus* (see Figure 2) are very similar in the quality, structure and frequency of their notes, with the fundamentals and double harmonics of *lineatus* falling within the frequency ranges of those of *schulzi*. The vocalizations do, however, differ as follows: (a) the *schulzi* vocal-

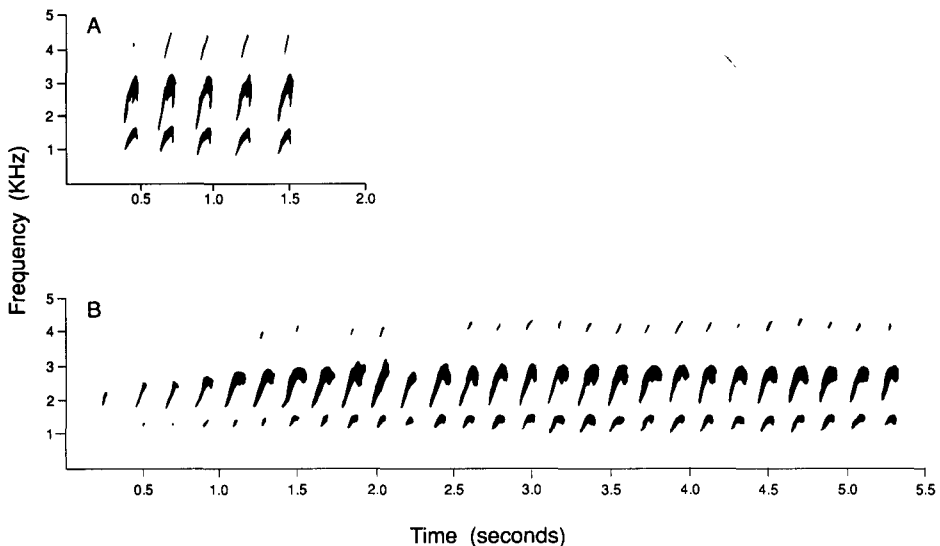


Figure 2. Sonograms of typical calls of *Dryocopus schulzi* (A) and *D. lineatus* (B) in the 300 Hz bandwidth.

ization is delivered at four notes per second compared with the faster delivery of *lineatus* at six notes per second; (b) *schulzi* shows a broader pitch variation (see Figure 2); (c) *schulzi* typically delivers only five notes compared with 29 (mean from six study tapes) in *lineatus*. It should be noted that *schulzi* is capable of delivering a longer variation of this call type, although it has only been reported by one observer, and was then judged to be atypical; we would expect differences between (a) and (b) mentioned above to be constant within such a vocalization. The differences between calls in this analysis suggest that *schulzi* is specifically distinct from *lineatus*, but only a small sample for *schulzi* was available and the evidence presented here therefore needs further investigation.

A second vocalization, "ti-chrr", with the second note being a harsh rattle, is very common in *lineatus* but rare in *schulzi*; we have been unable to make a sonographic comparison in the absence of a recording of this call type for *schulzi*. It should be noted that drumming of the two species is very similar, with *lineatus* giving 17.8 strokes per second (mean from five study tapes), and *schulzi* giving 17.6 strokes per second (mean from two study tapes), whilst duration of the drum (the same study tapes) was 1.2 seconds in *schulzi* compared to 1.6 seconds in *lineatus*, although a factor such as the state of pre-nuptial activity presumably precludes the possibility of a valid comparison.

Whilst the morphological and vocalization differences (regardless of the ecological habitat preferences: see Short 1975, 1982; also Ecology below) are judged important enough to maintain *schulzi* as a valid species, the high number of hybrids recorded in areas of sympatry (area B in Figure 1), general structure of call types (see above and Figure 2) and certain phenotypic characters occasionally present in both species (i.e. a character not expected for *schulzi* but for *lineatus* and vice versa) serve to emphasize the common ancestral origins of these two species.

Distribution

The Black-bodied Woodpecker has a relatively restricted range in south-central South America, where it has been recorded from south-central Bolivia (Santa Cruz and Tarija; see Remarks 1), western Paraguay (Nueva Asunción, Boquerón and Presidente Hayes) and north-central Argentina (Salta, Formosa, Chaco, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero, Corrientes, Santa Fe, Córdoba and San Luis) (see below; also Figure 1).

Bolivia

The species is only known from two localities in the central and southern parts of the country on the eastern slopes of the low Andes (see Figure 1 and Appendix). The recent record from Comarapa, Santa Cruz (record no. 1), extends the previous known range to the north by c. 375 km, and it seems likely that birds will also be found in appropriate habitat in between (see Ecology). Furthermore, the record of a bird at Teniente Enciso, in the Paraguayan chaco near the Bolivian border (record no. 3), suggests that the species probably occurs in the chaco lowlands of eastern Chuquisaca and Tarija near the Paraguayan border.

Paraguay

All records are west of the Paraguay river where all but one (from Nueva Asunción) are from Boquerón and Presidente Hayes departments. The record at Teniente Enciso in extreme western Paraguay suggests that the species occurs throughout the dry chaco westward to the eastern environs of the low Andes in Bolivia. The species appears to be absent from the northern chaco (Chaco department) and from south-eastern Santa Cruz department (Bolivia), where it has never been recorded (e.g. Short 1975, Remsen and Traylor 1989, Hayes *et al.* 1991; also in fieldwork by A.M.N.). The northern limit of the species's range in the Paraguayan chaco is yet to be ascertained.

Argentina

Most of the records in the country are from the western edge of the chaco in the foothills of the eastern sierras of the Andes in the provinces of Salta, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero and from the sierras of western Córdoba; however, the species also occurs to the east in the chaco lowlands reaching eastern Formosa, Chaco and Corrientes (for hybrids with *lineatus* see Figure 1 and Appendix) and north-west Santa Fe (Corrientes and Santa Fe provinces are not mentioned, or included, in the distribution maps given by Narosky and Yzurieta 1987 and Canevari *et al.* 1991). Dabbene (1926) referred to a female collected at Santa Ana, Misiones, by F. M. Rodríguez (this specimen, according to him, had been sent to MACN), and to a second specimen taken in the "same territory" by E. Budin. We have been unable to trace the location of either of the above-mentioned specimens, which are presumably the source of other authors listing the species for that province (e.g. SOMA 1938, Peters 1948, Pereyra 1950, Olrog 1959, 1963). It is likely that there was a confusion with *D. lineatus* (for which there is a large series from the same locality: see, e.g., Pergolani de Costa 1962). Later reviewers and maps of the species's distribution (see, e.g., Olrog 1979, Narosky and Yzurieta 1987, Canevari *et al.* 1991) excluded the province from its range, and there appears to have been no further mention of these two specimens from Misiones. The southernmost known locality for the species is in north-eastern San Luis province at 32°50'S (see Appendix and Figure 1).

Population

Bolivia

The species appears to be very rare; there are only four records from two localities (in 1936 and 1991, one a hybrid: see Appendix). The record from Valle de Comarapa, Santa Cruz, much the northernmost site for the species, suggests that it may occur in the intervening region (see Figure 1), although T. A. Parker (verbally 1992) has not found it in the above-mentioned area despite extensive fieldwork there, nor did J. Fjeldså and S. Maijer during long treks in the pre-montane zone of Chuquisaca in September–October 1991 and March 1992 (J. Fjeldså *in litt.* 1992). However, as already stressed in Distribution, it is likely that the species occurs in the chaco woods of Chuquisaca near the border with

Paraguay, where there is still extensive undisturbed forest (A.M.N. pers. obs.). The paucity of records from the country does not allow an assessment of past status, and it remains unclear as to whether the species has suffered a considerable decline or was always very rare there.

Paraguay

Very little is known about the status of the species over a large part of the country. Most records come from the central chaco between Boquerón and Presidente Hayes departments (area A in Figure 1) within the environs of Menonite colonies (i.e. Filadelfia, vicinity of Lichtenau, Loma Plata, Colonia Neu-land, Orloff; see Appendix). These records suggest that the species was once and perhaps still is at least locally common (at least 13 specimens were collected in the early 1970s; also Short 1976). Neris and Colmán (1991) found the species "abundant" (i.e. "found daily" in their study area; see Appendix) between April 1988 and March 1989, suggesting that it has not suffered a notable decline; however, Neris and Colmán's (1991) categorization should be treated with caution because daily observations in one particular locality or area may well represent repetition of sightings of the same individual(s). Furthermore, A.M.N. spent a total of two months during the winter of 1989 and 1990 at site no. 10 (see Figure 1), which is very close to the locality indicated by Neris and Colmán (1991), but only observed a single individual, whereas other species of Picidae were frequently encountered. It is also worth mentioning that F. E. Hayes (*in litt.* 1991, 1992) spent roughly a month in the central Paraguayan chaco, where he observed two different birds on the same day twice at localities nos. 7, 8 and 9 (see Appendix). The lack of additional records from the remaining Paraguayan dry chaco (at least near the Bolivian border) presumably reflects the lack of fieldwork in this area and the species's status there remains, for the time being, undetermined.

Argentina

After the species was described (Cabanis 1883; see Remarks 2) Stempelmann and Schulz (1887) listed it for the province of Córdoba as a permanent resident ("not rare": Frenzel 1891), and Lillo (1902) also included it in his list of the birds of Tucumán; however neither of them gave an indication of its status. By 1910 the species had still only been recorded from the above-mentioned provinces (Dabbene 1910). Ménégau (1925) reported it for Santiago del Estero for the first time (vicinity of Icaño), thus considerably extending the previous known range south-south-east into the chaco lowlands. He described nesting habits (see Ecology) and referred to pairs and groups of "five to six individuals"; furthermore he indicated that the species was very rare in collections, as already noted by Dabbene (1915). Dinelli (1931) collected 11 birds at Las Termas, Santiago del Estero, between 10 and 21 September 1930; although he did not refer to the status or abundance of the species, the large number of specimens taken suggests that it was at least locally common in the area. Mogensen (1932) referred to the scarcity of the species in Tucumán, despite there being at least 22 specimens collected in the province between 1909 and 1928 (18 of which were taken

between 1909 and 1918; see Appendix). Nores *et al.* (1983) judged it to be “fairly scarce” in Córdoba, an opinion shared by D. Willis (*in litt.* 1991); Narosky and Yzurieta (1987) considered it “rare or very difficult to find”; Canevari *et al.* (1991) judged it “rare” throughout its range and “poorly known”, and M. Nores (*in litt.* 1992) believes it to be scarce although remarking that it appears always to have been so. The evidence presented above suggests that the population in the Argentine chaco (area C in Figure 1) may have declined severely, there being only four recent (post-1970) records (see Figure 1 and Appendix) compared with 30 (from 15 different sites; see Remarks 3 and Threats) historical (pre-1970) records. In the sierras of Córdoba (Grande/Comechingones) and nearby areas (e.g. north-east San Luis province, area D in Figure 1), the species has been recorded more often (although considered scarce: see above) and there are recent (post-1970) records for most known localities, in some of which (e.g. nos. 43, 51, and 46) it is regularly observed (Canevari *et al.* 1991, R. J. Straneck *in litt.* 1992; also Appendix). In this region the Black-bodied Woodpecker appears to be relatively safe in those areas where the forest remains fairly well preserved. The area B (in Figure 1), i.e. humid chaco, is considered possibly atypical habitat for the species (see below; also Short 1975), with five of the eight records there being hybrids, and the occurrence of the species in it may be only occasional: for instance, in Río Pilcomayo National Park there were only two sightings in c. 8 years in the 1980s by a park guard (verbally to M.P.), and many ornithologists visited the area without observing the species (J. C. Chebez *in litt.* 1992; see Remarks 4). Finally, it is worth noting the lack of records between areas A (in Paraguay) and C (mainly in north-east Salta and the western parts of Formosa and Chaco), which may be attributable to a general lack of fieldwork in the area.

Ecology

The Black-bodied Woodpecker inhabits the central and southern dry chaco of Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina, the isolated mountain range of Sierra Grande/Comechingones of western Córdoba and north-eastern San Luis, and the fringe of the east Andean sierras in Bolivia and Argentina. In the latter ecotone, the vegetation where the species occurs is a transitional gradation between the chaco and that of the high sierra, being above 1,500 m (Short 1975, 1982, Nores *et al.* 1983, Clarke 1991, data in this paper: Remarks 5; Figure 3). The highest elevation at which the species has been recorded is 1,800 m (in Santa Cruz, Bolivia) (Clarke 1991), but most records are below 1,000 m (see Appendix). At the above-mentioned locality (no. 1), the habitat where the species was observed corresponded to the division between semi-humid montane forest with a predominance of *Alnus* and *Tipuana* and semi-arid intermontane vegetation, where more xerophytic vegetation was dominated by cacti spp., *Acacia*, *Prosopis*, *Schinopsis* and *Tipuana* (Clarke 1991; also Remsen and Traylor 1989). The species is unrecorded north of Joaquín V. González, Salta, in the continuing strip of montane forest (semi-humid forest or “yungas”) which extends into Bolivia, where extensive fieldwork has been conducted in Calilegua National Park, Jujuy, and Baritú National Park, Salta, indicating that the species has never occurred in this ecotone. Within the humid chaco (see Figure 1), the



Figure 3. Transitional woodlands at Cerro Uritorco, Sierra Grande, Córdoba, Argentina, March 1991 (photo: M. Pearman).

species has rarely been recorded in Formosa (two records); at Río Pilcomayo National Park birds were observed in an isolated woodland dominated by *Prosopis* sp. surrounded by marshland (park guard verbally to M.P.). Given that five of the seven other humid chaco records refer to hybrids (see Figure 1 and Appendix), it seems conceivable that the humid chaco is unusual habitat for the species, and further investigation on this hybridization zone needs to be conducted in order to shed more light about the status of the species there.

Brief descriptions of the habitat where the species has been recorded in the dry chaco of central western Paraguay (Boquerón department) can be found in Steinbacher (1962) and Neris and Colmán (1991); R. Straneck (*in litt.* 1992) describes the area where he has observed the species on different occasions (locality no. 51) as dominated by *Lithraea molleoides*, *Celtis tala* and *Acacia caven* (see also Nores *et al.*'s 1983 descriptions of the vegetation of this general area). For more detailed descriptions of the vegetation throughout the species's range see, e.g., Hueck (1978), SAB (1982) and Spichiger and Ramella (1989). M. Nores (*in litt.* 1992) has reported that the species also appears in semi-modified areas, perhaps thus indicating a degree of adaptability to environments affected by man.

There is no information about food or feeding behaviour other than that foraging occurs on trunks and major tree limbs in typical woodpecker fashion (pecking and probing, hammering, etc.) (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 1991, pers. obs.). The breeding season has been given as October and November, with a moult following nesting from February to April (Short 1982); two birds collected in

October in the vicinity of Lichtenau had enlarged gonads (Short 1976). The nest is drilled in the trunk of dead trees (Ménégaux 1925); a pair bred in a telegraph pole by a secondary road at Alta Gracia, Córdoba (M. Nores *in litt.* 1992); a pair frequented a roost/nest hole in a dead tree in May 1991 (M. Sulley verbally 1992), and a bird was observed drumming on a telephone pole in March 1991 (F. R. Lambert verbally 1992).

Pairs or single birds are usually reported. However, Ménégaux (1925) observed groups of five or six birds (presumably a family group). Nothing is known about seasonal displacements or other questions such as territory size, clutch-size, breeding success, etc. The species appears to be a permanent resident at least in Argentina and Paraguay (Nores *et al.* 1983, Neris and Colmán 1991).

Threats

Bolivia

The chaco habitat in Tarija and Chuquisaca is being cleared in places for water and oil prospecting (T. A. Parker verbally 1992) which, as in other parts of the chaco, is associated with human colonization and thus further deforestation.

Paraguay

Neris and Colmán (1991) noted the increasing deforestation of the central Paraguayan chaco for agriculture and cattle-raising. This deforestation became more severe after the settlement of Mennonite farmers during the early decades of the 1900s; although they started with a subsistence economy based on agriculture, from the 1950s onwards they modernized their technology and thus production increased enormously, inevitably involving deforestation at an alarming rate for additional farmland, pasture and wood extraction (notably "quebracho colorado" *Schinopsis balansae*). Furthermore, electricity in the Mennonite colonies (e.g. at Filadelfia, Loma Plata) is produced by wood burning in electric plants. Another reason for concern is the relatively recent (early 1980s) introduction of the "jojoba" *Simmondsia chinensis*, notably in the relatively pristine chaco near the Bolivian border, resulting in large areas being cleared. This plant from the Sonoran Desert of Mexico and the U.S.A. is cultivated for the production of fine oils and cosmetics.

Argentina

Bucher and Nores (1988) and Canevari *et al.* (1991) indicated that the species may be negatively affected by the destruction of its natural habitat. This is clearly reflected by the notable absence of records from the dry chaco, undoubtedly owing to the extensive logging of quebracho (*Aspidosperma* spp., *Schinopsis balansae*) and algarrobo (*Prosopis* spp.) for charcoal, tannins, railway sleepers and land clearance for agriculture, which has occurred on a vast scale since European colonization and continues today. Much of the land in which the species was previously recorded in area C (see Figure 1) is now deforested, accounting for the lack of recent records.

Conservation

Protection in the form of managed reserves is urgently required to secure the habitat where the two remaining healthiest populations occur: the dry chaco forest of west-central Paraguay (area A) – i.e. the “central Paraguayan chaco” – and the dry forest in the sierras of Córdoba (area D). Within these areas the species only receives protection in Argentina’s Chancaní and Copo Provincial Parks (4,920 ha and 114,250 ha respectively; protection in the latter is insufficient), both areas deserving more attention from the conservation point of view (J. C. Chebez *in litt.* 1992). The population in the central Paraguayan chaco is clearly under great threat (see Threats) and the creation of reserves there is of great priority before yet another population disappears. In Paraguay the species should be searched for in Teniente Enciso and Tinfunqué National Parks, which are adjacent to area A (F. E. Hayes *in litt.* 1992). Meanwhile, ecological and population studies are needed in order to design a network of reserves that would guarantee the species’s survival in the long term. Additionally, in the Paraguayan chaco the main Mennonite colonies desperately need electrification in order to avoid wood burning for electricity; this should be available from Itaipú Binational Dam in the Paraná basin (F. E. Hayes *in litt.* 1992). The status of the species in Bolivia and in the Argentine chaco of Salta, western Formosa and Chaco, including its possible presence in Chaco National Park and Formosa National Reserve (J. C. Chebez *in litt.* 1992), needs clarifying as well as in the hybridization zone (area B in Figure 1).

Remarks

1. Short (1982) erroneously referred to the species as occurring in Chuquisaca department, Bolivia; Remsen *et al.* (1986, 1987) published the details of this record (given to them by Short) as: “CH [Chuquisaca]: Monteagudo, 325 m, 13 May 1917 (Mus. Comp. Zool. #86762)”. Paynter (1992) spotted this mistake (also present in Remsen and Traylor 1989); the specimen was collected by L. M. Dinelli in Monteagudo, Tucumán (R. A. Paynter *in litt.* 1992).
2. Although Cabanis (1883) only indicated that the species was observed in “central Argentine” by M. F. Schulz, the type-locality has been attributed to Tucumán (e.g. Cory 1919, Peters 1948, Pergolani de Costa 1962), while Dabbene (1915) indicated that it was discovered by Schulz in Córdoba.
3. This refers to different dates of observation without taking into account the number of birds observed on each given date.
4. Records nos. 18 and 19 are sightings and it is therefore difficult to assess whether these birds might have been hybrids as well.
5. The records in Salta, Tucumán and western Santiago del Estero (Figure 1 and Appendix) are on the western edge of the chaco and in the transitional forest with the “yungas” (see, e.g., Figure 1 in Nores and Cerana 1990, and the map in Esteban 1969: 93).

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Appendix. Summary of the records for Black-bodied Woodpecker *Dryocopus schulzi* throughout its range.

Country	Location/Coord./Alt. (m)	Date	No. of birds involved	Source
Bolivia (Santa Cruz)	(1) Cerro Picacho, Comarapa 17°53'S 64°30'W (1,800)	23.01.91	*2	Clarke 1991
Bolivia (Tarija)	(2) Villa Montes 21°15'S 63°30'W (c.600)	29.10.36	*1	Bond and Meyer de Schauensee 1942, Remsen <i>et al.</i> 1986, 1987 Short 1982, ANSP
		30.10.36	1	Remsen <i>et al.</i> 1986, 1987
		4.11.36	1	Remsen <i>et al.</i> 1986, 1987
Paraguay (Nueva Asunción)	(3) Teniente Enciso 21°15'S 61°30'W	21.07.75	1	AMNH
Paraguay (Boquerón)	(4) 195 km west of Puerto Casada c.22°05'S 59°45'W	7.06.37	1	UMMZ
		9.06.37	1	UMMZ
		20.03.38	1	UMMZ
	(5) 265 km W Puerto Casado c.22°10'S 60°15'W	24.06.36	1	Brodkorb 1937
	(6) Orloff, Colonia Mennonita c.22°19'S 60°00'W	28.11.56	1	Steinbacher 1962
		15.04.57	1	Steinbacher 1962
	(7) Loma Plata 22°21'S 59°50'W	8.12.1988	*1	F. E. Hayes <i>in litt.</i> 1991
	(8) South of Filadelfia 22°21'S 60°02'W	8.12.1988	*1	F. E. Hayes <i>in litt.</i> 1991
	(9) Estancia (= Fortín) Toledo 22°21'S 60°20'W	22.01.1988	*2	F. E. Hayes <i>in litt.</i> 1991
	(10) Estancia Campo Verde c.22°25'S 60°30'W	27.07.1989	*1	A. Madroño Nieto

Appendix. (cont.)

Country	Location/Coord./Alt. (m)	Date	No. of birds involved	Source
	(11) 48 km west of Colonia Neuuland 22°35'S 60°30'W	1988–1989	*S	Neris and Colmán 1991
	(12) 50 km south of Orloff c.22°50'S 60°00'W	28.11.1956	1	Steinbacher 1962
	(13) vicinity of Lichtenau c.22°50'S 59°40'W	27.07.1960	1	Steinbacher 1962
		10.02.1970	1	AMNH
		7.06.1970	1	AMNH
		9.06.1970	2	AMNH
		10.06.1970	1	AMNH
		25.03.1971	1	AMNH
		7.10.1972	1	AMNH
		28.10.1972	1	AMNH
		4.05.1974	1	AMNH
		24.05.1974	2	AMNH
Paraguay (Pres. Hayes)	(14) 70 km south of Lichtenau c.23°10'S 59°40'W	22.07.1972	1	AMNH
	(15) "Lapachio", 110 km west of Concepción (presumably Los Lapachos) c.23°18'S 58°20'W	not given	x1	Short 1982
Argentina (Salta)	(16) c.6 km north-east of Joaquín V. González 25°06'S 64°07'W	04.1990	*1	Gardner and Gardner 1990
	(17) Metán 25°29'S 64°57'W (850)	1.06.1905	1	AMNH
Argentina (Formosa)	(18) Sección Laguna Blanca, Río Pilcomayo National Park c.25°10'S 58°20'W	1980s	*1	Park guard verbally
		1980s	*1	Park guard verbally
	(19) Guaycolec 25°59'S 58°11'W	21.11.1985	*1	T. Narosky per J. C. Chebez
Argentina (Chaco)	"Chaco, Argentina"	1988	1	ANSP
	(20) Castelli 25°59'S 60°38'W	6.06.1976	*1	T. Narosky per J. C. Chebez
	(21) Napalpi 26°54'S 60°08'W	07.1924	1	Steullet and Deautier 1946
	(22) Río de Oro (= General Vedia) 26°56'S 58°40'W	not given	x1	Short 1982
	(23) río San Juan (possibly Riacho San Juan: Paynter 1985) 25°58'S 59°23'W	24.11.1924	x1	Dabbene 1916, Pergolani de Costa 1962, Short 1982; MACN
	(24) Las Palmas 27°04'S 58°42'W	19.04.1915	x1	Peters 1926, Mogensen 1932, Short 1982; MCZ

Appendix. (cont.)

Country	Location/Coord./Alt. (m)	Date	No. of birds involved	Source
Argentina (Santiago) del Estero)	(25) Resistencia 27°27'S 58°59'W	19.07.1915	x1	Peters 1926, Short 1982
		7.08.1915	x1	Dabbene 1916, 1926, Short 1982
		11.1915	x1	Dabbene 1926
	(26) Reserva Provincial Copo 26°05'S 62°00'W	18.02.1989	*1	D. A. Gómez per J. C. Chebez in litt. 1992
	(27) Las Termas 27°29'S 64°52'N (260)	11.1929	1	Dinelli 1931
		10.09.1930	2	Dinelli 1931; BMNH
		15.09.1930	3	Dinelli 1931, Nores et al. 1991; IML
		19.09.1930	2	Dinelli 1931, BMNH
		20.09.1930	2	Dinelli 1931, BMNH
		21.09.1930	2	Dinelli 1931, BMNH
	(28) Villa Río Hondo 27°34'S 64°57'W	8.04.1947	1	Nores et al. 1991
	(29) Girardet 27°37'S 62°10'W	09.1923	1	Steullet and Deautier 1946
	(30) Campo del Cielo 27°53'S 61°49'W	23.11.1927	2	Nores et al. 1991; MACN
(31) Sierra de Guasayán 28°00'S 64°50'W	28.10.1980	2	Nores et al. 1991	
(32) Frías 28°39'S 65°09'W	16.11.1946	1	Nores et al. 1991	
(33) near Icaño 28°41'S 62°44'W	07.1903	1	Ménégaux 1925, Nores et al. 1991	
Argentina (Tucumán)	"Tucumán"	3.08.1929	1	BMNH
(34) Trancas 26°13'S 65°17'W (782)	10.1926	2	Dinelli 1931; IML	
(35) Vipos 26°29'S 65°22'W (786)	3.04.1913	1	Dabbene 1915; MACN	
	5.07.1917	1	MACN	
(36) Leales Medio (presumably c. Leales) 27°12'S 65°18'W (310)	15.08.1915	1	AMNH	
(37) Concepción 27°20'S 65°35'W	3.02.1909	1	AMNH	
	8.07.1916	1	MCZ	
	26.10.1924	1	MACN	
	28.07.1928	1	MACN	
(38) Monteagudo 27°31'S 65°17'W	13.05.1917	1	MCZ	
(39) Toro Muerto 27°35'S 65°20'W?: Paynter 1985	31.10.1918	2	MCZ	
	2.11.1918	1	MCZ	
	4.11.1918	3	MCZ	

Appendix. (cont.)

Country	Location/Coord./Alt. (m)	Date	No. of birds involved	Source
	Monte Toro (untraced)	12.08.1910	1	MACN
		08.1910?	2	Dabbene 1926
		27.02.1915	1	Dabbene 1926, MACN
		28.02.1915	1	Dabbene 1926, MACN
		03.1915?	2	Dabbene 1926
		5.11.1916	1	MCZ
Argentina (Corrientes)	(40) Laguna Pampín c.27°30'S 58°45'W	not given	1	Contreras and Contreras 1984
Argentina (Santa Fe)	(41) Tostado 29°14'S 61°46'W	26.01.1945	1	Giai 1950; MACN
Argentina (Córdoba)	(42) south-east of San Marcos Sierra c.30°44'S 64°48'W	late 1980s	n?	A. Johnson <i>per</i> J. C. Chebez <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(43) base of Cerro Uritorco Capilla del Monte 30°48'S 64°41'W (c. 1,000)	02.1990	*3	G. Pugnali <i>per</i> J. C. Chebez <i>in litt.</i> 1992
		13.03.1991	*1	M. Pearman <i>et al.</i>
		03.1991	*1	F. R. Lambert verbally 1992
		10.05.1991	*1	M. Sulley verbally 1992
		6.10.1991	*1	P. Hayman verbally 1992
		17.11.1991	*1	B. M. Whitney <i>in litt.</i> 1991
		18.11.1991	*1	B. M. Whitney <i>in litt.</i> 1991
	(44) Quebrada Honda, Unquillo 31°14'S 64°20'W (c.500)	6.06.1988	*2	M. Nores <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(45) Córdoba 31°24'S 64°11'W	29.08.1939	1	MCZ
	(46) Parque Provincial Chancaní 31°24'S 65°27'W (620) (= Los Pocitos)	currently		Canevari <i>et al.</i> 1991, and from information sent by R. J. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992
		27.08.1980	*2	D. Yzurieta <i>per</i> M. Nores <i>in litt.</i> 1982
		6.01.1981	*2	D. Yzurieta <i>per</i> M. Nores <i>in litt.</i> 1992
		02.1989	*3	J. C. Chebez <i>et al.</i> <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(47) Quebrada de la Mermela, Chancaní 31°25'S 65°24'W (740)	10.07.1992	*2	R. J. and M. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(48) Alta Gracia 31°40'S 64°26'W	15.02.1977	*1	M. Nores <i>in litt.</i> 1992
		not given	*2	M. Nores <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(49) Serranita La Rancherita 31°40'S 64°25'W	undated	*1	D. Yzurieta verbally
	(50) Nono 31°46'S 65°00'W (900)	26.01– 8.02.1987	*S	C. Henschke <i>per</i> R. J. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(51) Villa General Belgrano, Calamuchita 31°59'S 64°32'W (740)	20.12.1988 1990–1992	*1 *5	R. J. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992 R. J. and M. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992

Appendix. (cont.)

Country	Location/Coord./Alt. (m)	Date	No. of birds involved	Source
	(52) Castelar, Calamuchita 31°60'S 64°32'W	18.12.1990	*1	M. Straneck per R. J. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(53) Parador de la Montaña, Calamuchita 32°04'S 64°38'W (1,100)	10.12.1988	*1	R. J. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(54) Embalse del Río Tercero 32°12'S 64°28'W	undated prior 1967	*1	A. Azategui per J. C. Chebez <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(55) Chulome, Calamuchita 32°15'S 64°25'W (640)	21.08.1980	*1	A. Azategui per R. J. Straneck <i>in litt.</i> 1992
Argentina (San Luis)	(56) near Merlo 32°21'S 65°02'W (c.800)	01.1986	*1	G. Pugnali per J. C. Chebez <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(56) Salto del Tabaquillo, near Merlo c.32°21'S 65°02'W (c.800)	16.08.1992	*3	M. Babarskas per J. C. Chebez <i>in litt.</i> 1992
	(57) La Estanzuela 32°50'S 65°03'W (840)	undated	n?	Casares 1944

Numbers before localities are matched with spots in Figure 1; *, sight record; ×, hybrid between *schulzi* and *lineatus*; S indicates "several" records, but number not specified; n? applies to a record but number of birds involved unknown.

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