

FIRST RECORD OF *THERISTICUS CAERULESCENS* (AVES: THRESKIORNITHIDAE) IN YUNGAS ECOREGION, NEW ALTITUDINAL RECORD AND NEW RECORD FOR COCHABAMBA DEPARTMENT, BOLIVIA

PRIMER REGISTRO DE *THERISTICUS CAERULESCENS* (AVES: THRESKIORNITHIDAE) EN LA ECORREGIÓN DE LOS YUNGAS, NUEVO REGISTRO ALTITUDINAL Y NUEVO REGISTRO PARA EL DEPARTAMENTO DE COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA

Daniel Torrico-Bazoberry

Laboratorio de Servicios Académicos e Investigación/Laboratorio de Ecología Química, Facultad de Ciencias y Tecnología, Universidad Mayor de San Simón. Parque La Torre, Cochabamba, Bolivia. E-mail: torricobazoberry@gmail.com

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Palabras clave: Bandurria Mora, Bolivia, bosque nublado, Cochabamba, *Theristicus caerulescens*, Yungas.

Plumbeous Ibis (*Theristicus caerulescens* Vieillot 1817) is one of the three bird species described for this genus in the Threskiornithidae family (Rodríguez Mata *et al.*, 2006; BirdLife International, 2012). It is found in lagoons, shallow lakes, dams and seasonally flood areas, rice fields, ponds and marshes in central South America, ranging in south-western Brazil, north-eastern Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and northern Bolivia (Figure 1), where it feeds on insects, snails and other aquatic mollusks (Rodríguez Mata *et al.*, 2006; Neotropical Birds Online, 2010). This bird often feeds solitary or in pairs (Rodríguez Mata *et al.*, 2006; Neotropical Birds Online, 2010; BirdLife International, 2012).

On October 29 of 2010 an adult individual of *T. caerulescens* (Figure 2) was observed foraging in a cloud forest's shallow lake at Incachaca (17°15'11.4'' S, 65°49'02.4'' W, 2358 masl), Chapare Province, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Even though this species has been already recorded for the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni and Tarija (J.A. Balderrama & Asociación Armonía, pers. com.), this is the first record ever reported for *T. caerulescens* in the Yungas (cloud forest) ecoregion. It is also a new altitudinal record for the species and the highest in Bolivia (previously recorded only at 400 m, J.A. Balderrama & Asociación Armonía, pers. com.); and it is also the first record for this species for Cochabamba department.



Figure 1. Range map of the Plumbeous Ibis (*Theristicus caerulescens*). Red dot show the new record at Incachaca. Map: BirdLife International, IUCN.

Figura 1. Mapa de distribución de bandurria mora (*Theristicus caerulescens*). El punto rojo muestra el nuevo registro en Incachaca. Mapa: BirdLife International, IUCN.



Figure 2. Individual of Plumbeous Ibis (*Theristicus caerulescens*) recorded in a cloud forest's shallow lake at Incachaca, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Photo: D. Torrico-Bazoberry (October 29 of 2010).

Figura 2. Individuo de Bandurria Mora (*Theristicus caerulescens*) registrado en una laguna de los Yungas en Incachaca, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Foto: D. Torrico-Bazoberry (29 de Octubre de 2010).

Given that the population in northern Bolivia is far away from the other populations in other countries (Neotropical Birds Online, 2010) and this species doesn't have any subspecies described, it is probably that migration of individuals between these areas is occurring (Wilson & Brown, 1953). In this scenario, this shallow lake at Incachaca could constitute one of the resting places for individuals during their dispersal, and should therefore be protected.

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