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On the possible occurrence of Amazona dufresniana in Brazil (Psittaciformes: Psittacidae)

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RESUMO. Sobre a possibilidade da ocorrência de Amazona dufresniana no Brasil (Psittaciformes: Psittacidae). Embora a ocorrência de Amazona dufresniana no Brasil ainda não tenha sido documentada, ela é provável, uma vez que a espécie é conhecida de Saint Georges na Guiana Francesa, à margem do rio Oiapoque, divisa deste país com o Brasil. Uma evidência dessa possibilidade é o relato feito por Jean-Luc Dujardin ao autor em 1991 de que havia recentemente encontrado caçadores que teriam obtido esse papagaio em território brasileiro, no Estado do Amapá.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Amapá, Amazona dufresniana, Brasil, distribuição geográfica, Psittacidae.

KEY WORDS: Amapá, Amazona dufresniana, Brazil, geographical distribution, Psittacidae.

The status of the Blue-cheeked Amazon Amazona dufresniana (as distinguished at the species level from Red-browed Amazon A. rhodocorytha and Red-tailed Amazon A. brasiliensis) was reviewed by Wege and Collar (1991), who showed that, with the exception of a locality in Venezuela at 02°28'N, 65°14'W, all records stemmed from the Guianas and immediately adjacent Venezuela between roughly 52°W and 62°W. Indeed, the species's easternmost locality lies above Saint Georges on the Fleuve Oyapock (rio Oiapoque) separating French Guiana from Brazil, and clearly its occurrence inside the latter is likely.

I discussed this point with Jean-Luc Dujardin at the Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Quito in October 1991, at a time when Wege and Collar (1991) was in press. He had already corresponded with us over the species's status in French Guiana, but in Quito reported that he had recently met hunters who had shot it inside Brazilian territory across the Oyapock in Amapá.

He was going to seek and send further details of this record but, to the great detriment of South American ornithology, died in an accident at the start of 1992. Although his information as it stands does not have the authority of a conclusive first record, it would be a small tribute to his memory to be associated with the first evidence of the species in Brazil.

Incidentally, it was in Quito that Dujardin also provided me with hunters' reports of Hyacinth Macaw Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus in Amapá, the first good evidence of its survival there since Goeldi discovered it around Cunaní in 1895 (see Collar et al. 1992). Clearly the state holds many ornithological secrets yet.

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