

The identity of Marcgrave's 'Ibiiau' and its bearing on the nomenclature of the Scissor-tailed Nightjar *Hydropsalis torquata* (Caprimulgidae)

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The 'Ibiiau' and 'Guiraquerea' were the first caprimulgids to be described from South America (Marcgrave 1648) and were subsequently renamed *Caprimulgus brasiliensis* and *Caprimulgus torquatus* by Gmelin (1789). Schneider (1938) determined that they represented the female and male of the same species, namely *C. brasiliensis* Gmelin (1789), this name having page priority over *C. torquatus* Gmelin (1789). Teixeira (1992) however, suggested that the 'Ibiiau' was unidentifiable and that the name of the species should be based on the 'Guiraquerea'. He therefore accepted *Caprimulgus* (= *Hydropsalis*) *torquatus* as the valid name for the Scissor-tailed Nightjar and treated *C. brasiliensis* as a species *incertae sedis*. Examination of Marcgrave's work reveals that the 'Guiraquerea' is clearly a male Scissor-tailed Nightjar, but the identity of the 'Ibiiau' seems worthy of further comment.

The original watercolour of the 'Ibiiau' appeared as page 260 in the first volume of Count Moritz's *Handbook*, which later became *Libri Picturati* A36 (Schneider 1938, Whitehead 1976). The bird is depicted on the branch of a tree stump and is fairly nondescript, although the head is small and rounded, there are no rictal bristles and the tail is slightly forked. The lack of rictal bristles is of special interest, since they are clearly illustrated on Marcgrave's other nightjars, including the 'Guiraquerea'.

In Marcgrave (1648), the watercolour was reproduced as a woodcut (middle figure) on page 195. As a result, the bird is even more nondescript, although the features of the head, tail and lack of rictal bristles are reproduced, and the tree stump is replaced by what appears to be a rock. The accompanying description is rather poor, but contains several points of interest, namely, that the bird is the size of a swallow, has wings which reach the end of the tail which is two inches long and has underparts which are barred black and white like a sparrowhawk. No mention is made of rictal bristles or a nuchal collar, although both are included in the description of the 'Guiraquerea'.

I believe that the illustration and description of the 'Ibiiau' in Marcgrave (1648) could represent either the Least Nighthawk *Chordeiles pusillus* or the Band-tailed Nighthawk *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*, the latter a fairly widespread species in Brazil (Cleere 1998) even though it does not occur in the region visited by Marcgrave. I therefore agree with Teixeira (1992), that the 'Ibiiau' is best considered unidentifiable and the correct name for the Scissor-tailed Nightjar should be *Hydropsalis torquata* (Gmelin 1789).

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Species limits in the Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata* complex

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Most of the currently recognized subspecies of Brown Boobook or Brown Hawk-owl *Ninox scutulata* were originally described as separate species, but subsequent authors have followed Peters (1940) in maintaining them as members of a single species. Indeed, most of these taxa are quite similar morphologically. However, like Oba (1988), but *contra* König *et al.* (1999), I found that the territorial songs of some of the races differ so markedly as to call their conspecificity into question. Given that voice is the primary means of communication for nocturnal birds, selective pressure for intraspecific retention of stereotyped songs is likely to be strong, and nocturnal birds with different songs are therefore likely to represent different species.

The aim of this paper is to examine the taxonomy of this group of owls in relation to the form of their songs. Tape recordings were obtained of the territorial songs of each of the 11 subspecies of *Ninox scutulata* recognised by König *et al.* (1999). The sources of these recordings are given in the Acknowledgements. Sonograms were made using Canary 12.4, the Cornell Bioacustics Workstation of the Bioacustics Research Program at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.



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