

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Aves, Accipitridae, *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*: a documented record in the Pantanal wetland

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The Crowned Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* (Vieillot 1817), is a large bird of the family Accipitridae, with a long visible crest, which occurs at low abundance in *Cerrado* (Brazilian savanna) and other open landscapes in central South America (BirdLife International 2006), especially in central Brazil. The species is also distributed in the northern region of Argentina and in eastern

Bolivia. Presently, the Crowned Solitary Eagle is an endangered species in Brazil (Sick 1997; Maceda et al. 2003; BirdLife International 2006; Silveira and Straube 2008). The decline and fragmentation of its population is the result of habitat loss caused by the development of intensive agriculture and poaching (BirdLife International 2006; Nunes et al. 2006; Sarasola and Maceda 2006).



Figure 1. Adult of Crowned Solitary Eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*) photographed at the western Nhecolândia region, Pantanal, Corumbá, MS, Brazil. Photo: W. M. Tomas.

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Records of the Crowned Solitary Eagle in the Pantanal wetlands are nevertheless scarce (Tubelis and Tomas 1999; 2003). Most of these records are secondary, because no valid documentation, such as skin, photography, or vocalization records, has been obtained. The species has been reported in southern Pantanal (Sick 1997), and in the Nhumirim, Leque, Rio Negro, and Fazendinha Ranches (Tubelis and Tomas 2003; Tomas et al. 2004).

Our observation of the Crowned Solitary Eagle occurred on January 28th, 2007, at a cultivated pasture (19°03' S; 56°36' W) located in the western portion of the Nhecolândia region, Pantanal, municipality of Corumbá, state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. We observed an immature individual accompanied by an adult eagle (Figure 1) near a nest built atop a Jatobá tree (*Hymenaea stigonocarpa*). The nest was 20 m above the ground and was roughly constructed with sticks and branches. Later, on 22 July 2007, these two individuals were spotted again, vocalizing intensively near the nest site (Figure 2), which had been almost completely dismantled by this time. The vocalization was recorded and deposited in the database of Xeno-canto America (Xeno-canto 2008).

The area around the nest was covered by a *cerradão* forest (Ratter et al. 1988) until 2004. Deforestation was carried out to increase the area of pastures for cattle, accomplished through the cultivation of exotic grass species (*Brachiaria* spp.). Most of the trees and shrubs in the *cerradão* areas were removed, resulting in an open area with trees scattered across a layer of grass. The presence of this species in a partially altered landscape is not unexpected because the Crowned Solitary Eagle is typical of a savanna biome (the *Cerrado* of central Brazil) with large grassland areas (Sick 1997; BirdLife International 2006). The natural landscape in the Pantanal is composed of a mosaic of forest patches, extensive grasslands, open woodland savannas, and aquatic environments (Ratter et al., 1988). This type of landscape may be favorable to the Crowned Solitary Eagle, although some areas have been modified to some extent. In other regions, such as São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul states of Brazil, where deforestation and habitat modification have been almost completed in very large scales, *H. coronatus* is highly threatened (Nunes et al., 2006). Thus, regions where landscapes have been maintained intact with little modification, such as the Pantanal, may be fundamental to the conservation of the Crowned Solitary Eagle.

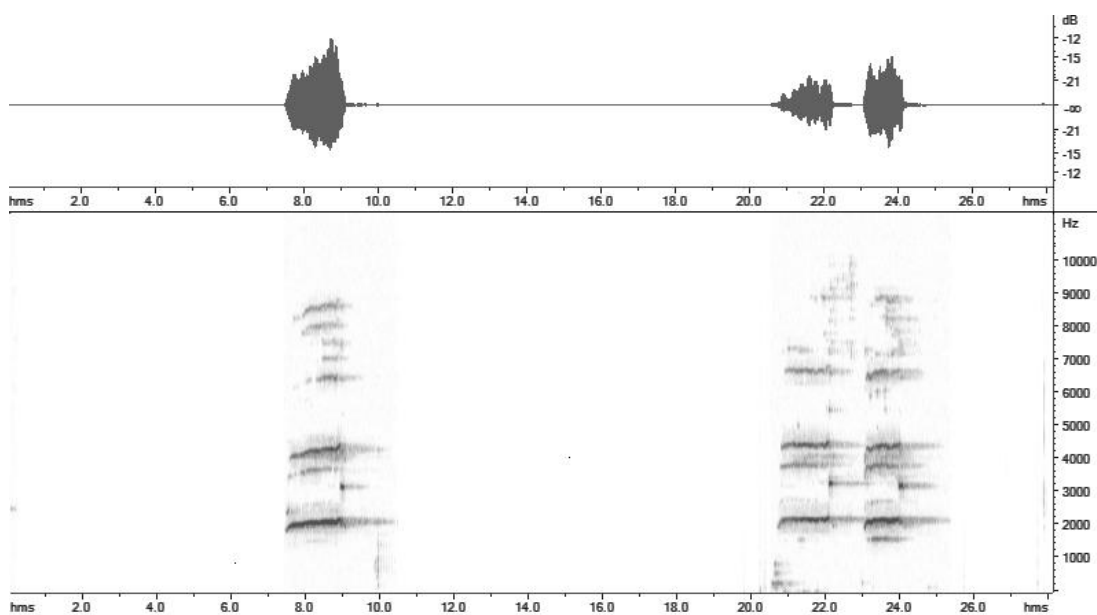


Figure 2. Oscillogram (above) and sonogram (below) of the Crowned Solitary Eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*) calls recorded at the western Nhecolândia region, Pantanal, Corumbá, MS, Brazil.

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