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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

MECHANICAL SOUNDS AND SEXUAL DIMORPHISM IN THE CRESTED DORADITO

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Abstract. We observed the Crested Doradito (Tyrannidae: *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*) in southeastern Bolivia and southern Paraguay. We describe aspects of natural history and morphology not previously reported, which include mechanical sounds, flight display, and microstructural modifications of flight feathers. Mechanical bill-snaps precede and are embedded in the song of *P. sclateri*. Introductory bill-snap notes may be functionally homologous to vocal notes in the songs of other *Pseudocolopteryx* species. Males differ from females in their head and bill coloration, intensity of breast coloration, and their shortened and pointed primaries 6 and 7. Males also exhibit microstructural modifications of the bases of primaries 6–9 in the form of open external vanes. Further research on *P. sclateri* and its congeners is needed to uncover the proximate causes, function, and evolution of some of the unusual tyrannid characters described herein.

Key words: *bill-snaps, mechanical sounds, modified feathers,* Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*, sexual dimorphism, Tyrannidae*.

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