

Known with certainty from just one specimen taken in French Guiana during 1917, this nightjar is unknown in life.

DISTRIBUTION The Cayenne Nightjar (see Remarks) is endemic to French Guiana where it is known with certainty from just one record. The type- and apparently the only specimen (a male) was taken at Saut Tamanoir (5°09'N 53°45'W; on the Fleuve Mana, c.10 km above its confluence with Riviere Cokioco: Stephens and Traylor 1985) in April 1917 (Todd 1920). However, J.-L. Dujardin (*in litt.* 1986, 1991) caught a bird at Saül airstrip (3°35'N 53°12'W) in September 1982 which he considered referable to this species, and which J. Ingels (*per* J.-L. Dujardin *in litt.* 1986) thought 75-80% likely to be a female of the species.

POPULATION Nothing is known. However, the closely related and sympatric Blackish Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigrescens* (see Remarks) is common in suitable habitat in the Guianas (Ingels and Ribot 1983, Ingels 1988) and despite recent, quite intensive mist-netting of this species in French Guiana, no Cayenne Nightjars have yet been recorded (J. Ingels *in litt.* 1988).

ECOLOGY Nothing was recorded of the habitat in which the type-specimen was collected, although two basic habitats have been identified at the locality: the lower reaches of the river has many boulder-strewn rapids, and is bordered by (1) closed-canopy forest, or (2) more open areas characterized by large boulders, sandy or stony river banks, and (rare) savanna-like clearings (Ingels 1988). The bird caught by J.-L. Dujardin (*in litt.* 1986, 1991) was in a clearing along the airstrip at Saül. At both the above localities Blackish Nightjar was also present (Dick *et al.* 1984, Ingels 1988).

THREATS None is known.

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED Re-examination of the type may help determine the validity of the species, as would an investigation (e.g. whether or not a specimen was taken) into the bird caught in 1982. Specific efforts should be made to mist-net *Caprimulgus* species at both Saut Tamanoir and Saül, with the aim of confirming the species's continued existence and validity.

REMARKS Although Peters (1940) and Sibley and Monroe (1990) considered the Cayenne Nightjar a full species (following Todd 1920), with so little material on which to base such a conclusion there must remain some doubt: J. M. Thiollay (*in litt.* 1986), J.-L. Dujardin (*in litt.* 1986), and J. Ingels (*in litt.* 1988) all questioned the validity of the taxon, and recognized that the bird would be extremely difficult to identify from Blackish Nightjar in the field, thus perhaps explaining the lack of subsequent records. However, no formal or clearly argued case has been presented questioning the true identity of the specimen, and most recently J.-L. Dujardin (*in litt.* 1991) still considered the nightjar a full species, and that the bird he caught referred to a female.