Avifauna from Boqueirão da Onça region, São Francisco River Basin, Bahia, Brazil

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The region of Boqueirão da Onça is part of the São Francisco River Basin and it is located among the municipalities of Sento Sé, Campo Formoso and Umburanas, in the extreme northwest of the State of Bahia. The predominant vegetation is the caatinga, whereas in the upper parts there are also savanna and rocky field patches (campos rupestres), which can still be found protected due to the difficulty in accessing the area. There is a proposal to create a National Park in the region, which is in process in the Brazilian government. In May and August 2009, the CEMAVE, with collaborators from northeastern non-governmental organizations and educational and research institutions, conducted two expeditions, performing captures with mist nets, accomplishing an effort of 3600 hours/net. Active researches in the surrounding areas were also conducted in an attempt to register species less conspicuous. The main purpose was to carry out a survey of the local bird diversity in the region. As a result, it was registered 235 species belonging to 72 families, and the registration of endemic and endangered species listed in IUCN (2009) and MMA (2003). We emphasize the presence of Gyalophylax hellmayri and Megaxenops parnaguae as endemic species of the Caatinga Biome, as well as some globally threatened species such as Penelope jacucaca, Anodorhynchus leari, Augastes lumachella, Xiphocolaptes falcirostris and Sporagra yarrellii. Given the environments found in the region, it is believed that the near threatened Knipolegus franciscanus may be found. These findings reinforce the need and urgency in the creation of the national park.