

Guira Cuckoo

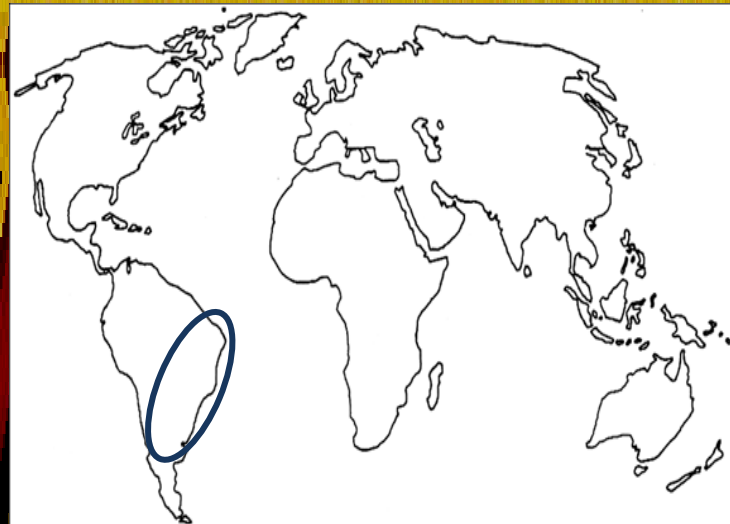
Guira guira



Small, cute and energetic, the Guira Cuckoo is found in East and South Brazil, West to Bolivia and Paraguay, and South to Uruguay and North and East Argentina.

The Cuckoos are probably best known for laying their eggs in the nests of other birds and not raising their own chicks. The Guira Cuckoo though is one of the exceptions to this. They incubate their own eggs and raise their own chicks in colonies; up to 10 females will lay their eggs in one nest and all will share the parenting duties. Having said this, they will occasionally lay their eggs in the nests of other cuckoos. The young develop exceptionally quickly and will leave the nest by day 5 or 6 if disturbed, but typically fledge at day 15!

They live in second-growth scrub, drier tree and scrub savannah and scrub woodlands, pampas, pastures and coastal dunes. Groups will huddle together on cold days in trees to keep warm.



Lifespan: 10 Years
Weight: 140 - 143 g
Size: 36 cm
Breeding Season: May - December
Incubation Period: 10 - 15 Days
Number of Chicks: 1
Diet: Insects, Grasshoppers, Cicadas, Flying Termites, Frogs, Eggs and Nestlings of other birds
Problems They Face: None – benefit from habitat destruction.
Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened