The Thorn-tailed Rayadito (Aphrastura spinicauda) is a Passerine belonging to the Furnariidae family and is endemic to the Andean-Patagonian forests of South America (Godoy Guinao 2013; Remsen & Bonan 2020). This species belongs to the group of secondary cavity nesters (Cornelius 2006). Due to its role in forest pest regulation (see Gunnarsson 1996; De la Maza 2013), it is considered an important species for forest processes (Lantschner & Rusch 2007), and of special interest since it is one of the southernmost Passerines in the world (Moreno et al. 2005). Although Thorn-tailed Rayaditos are considered to be primarily insectivorous (Vuilleumier 1967; De la Maza 2013; Espindola-Hernández 2017), recently they have been reported feeding on seeds of Pinius radiata (Estades 2001) and Maytenus magellanicus (McGeehe 2007), as well as fruits of Berberis sp., Ribes sp. and Gunnera sp. (Remsen & Bonan 2020). For this reason, it should be considered an insectivorous species, and secondarily granivorous and frugivorous (see also Jaksic & Feinsinger 1991; Estades 1997; González-Goméz et al. 2006). This species has been observed feeding almost exclusively on trees, especially on trunks and secondarily on tree foliage (Vuilleumier 1967; De la Maza 2013; García Betoño 2021), and occasionally on shrubs or on the ground (Rensmen Jr. & Bonan 2020). In this work, a new feeding strategy for the species is described, which was observed in the framework of a study of its reproductive and feeding biology. Between September and January of the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 reproductive seasons, we made 305 Ad-libitum observations (Altmann 1974) of Thorn-tailed Rayadito individuals foraging in Nire forests (Nothofagus antarctica) subject to different management regimes in central-western Chubut province, Argentina. We recorded the instantaneous behavior of each foraging individual, along with the feeding substrate (tree, bush or soil) and vertical position of the individual if it was on a tree (trunk, high foliage, etc.).

To achieve sample independence, we observed birds that were ≥ 50 m distant apart (De La Maza 2013). In a Nire forest with moderate firewood extraction on 3 December 2017, we observed a Thorn-tailed Rayadito capture an unidentified lepidopteran in flight while moving between two patches of trees. The Thorn-tailed Rayadito usually uses “hanging” and “subsurface” maneuvers (Remsen & Robinson 1990) as foraging behavior (Pers. Obs.). However, the flight maneuver here observed can be described as "sally" (Remsen & Robinson 1990) where the bird flies from a perch to the prey and usually return to the same perch or even "dart" (Greenberg 1984 quoted by Remsen & Robinson 1990) in which case the bird doesn’t return to the perch and continues in the same direction. The distance between trees was 20 m with a diagonal-down sally-angle (Remsen & Robinson 1990), with a differential high estimated in to 4 to 2 m between the start of the attack and the end of it when the individual land in a trunk of Nire healthy tree, with the prey still in its beak. It is important to consider that aerial maneuvers are the foraging strategies with more categories described (see Remsen & Robinson 1990). Although this is the first record of this foraging strategy for the species, it cannot be determined whether it was an occasional event, or just a frequent strategy for the species not previously described due to its concealing nature. The in-flight foraging event was observed in a cleared forest patch. Perhaps, this strategy is an adaptation of the species to avoid competition. Although, this would be the result of less food availability, which may result in new forms of feeding in Nire forest with firewood extraction. These processes would work together to permit Thorn-tailed Rayadito to develop greater arial activity.

**AGRADECIMIENTOS**

We appreciate the improvements in English usage made by Daniel Brooks through the Association of Field Ornithologists’ program of editorial assistance.
REFERENCIAS


