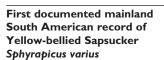
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Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Sphyrapicus varius is a northern migrant that winters in the southern and south-east USA, Middle America and the West Indies<sup>10</sup>. Vagrants have been recorded in the Netherlands Antilles<sup>11</sup> and there have been sight records on San Andrés Island<sup>7</sup> and the Santa Marta Mountains<sup>6</sup>. On the morning of 23 November 2010, members of a birdwatching tour were in the vicinity of the ProAves El Dorado Lodge (11°06'02"N 74°04'20"W; c.1,900 m) in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, dpto. Magdalena, Colombia. G. Roberts noticed a woodpecker he did not recognise and alerted PAG, who immediately identified it as a sapsucker and then pointed it out to the only other North American birder



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Figure I. Young female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Sphyrapicus varius, El Dorado Lodge, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, dpto. Magdalena, Colombia, November 2010 (Ketil Knudsen)

present, J. Skevington, who agreed with the identification; photographs were taken by K. Knudsen (Fig. 1). The bird was observed again on 25 November in the same trees, at heights of c.10–20 m for approximately ten minutes.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is the only species of Sphyrapicus whose wintering range generally approaches South America, although there are records of Red-naped Sapsucker S. nuchalis from Guatemala and Honduras<sup>4</sup>. Separation of S. varius from S. nuchalis can be difficult, especially in female nuchalis vs. male varius. In this case, however, identification is easier because of the golden head spangling characteristic of juvenile / immature varius at this late date (they are slower to develop adult plumage)1,8, whereas nuchalis would be in near-adult plumage by this time. The bird's underparts lack adult-like plumage including any hint of the breast shield, further denoting it is a juvenile (S. Shunk pers. comm.). It appears to lack any red on the throat, indicating a female, which sex tends to migrate further south<sup>10</sup>. This record constitutes another instance of vagrancy in Santa Marta<sup>2,3,9</sup>, which region is principally renowned for its high level of endemism.

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