

## First record of Yellow-cheeked Becard *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* in Madre de Dios, Peru, and notes on birds from the same locality

Daniel J. Lebbin

Cotinga 22 (2004): 30–33

Este artículo informa sobre las observaciones de pájaros dentro de un derrumbe encima del Amazonia Lodge en el sudeste de Perú. Una pareja de Cabezón Cachetiamarillo *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* se observó cuatro veces en este sitio. Estas observaciones y una espécimen de museo no publicada representan los registros del extremo sur para ésta especie, y los primeros registros en el dpto. Madre de Dios. Un Alirrufo Gargantilistada *Myiotheretes striaticollis* se observó también varias veces en este sitio que, a 888 m, es más bajo que la elevación típica de esta especie en Perú. Los orígenes de las aves en el derrumbe se discuten también.

### Study site

Amazonia Lodge in south-east Peru is a popular tourist destination for birdwatchers and ecotourists. The lodge (12°52'S 71°22'W) is situated between the río Alto Madre de Dios and the Pini Pini Ridge, at km 192 on the Cuzco–Shintuya road, in dpto. Madre de Dios. This location is inside the Cultural Zone of the Manu Biosphere Reserve, at 514 m. Atop the Pini Pini ridge, just above the lodge, is a large landslide (12°52'S 71°23'W) that has cleared an area from the top of the mountain to the river below (Fig. 1). Although present since at least 1978 (R. Yábar pers. comm.), it has only a few spots of young secondary vegetation and is mostly bare due to continuing erosion. Birds were observed from the top of the landslide, at 888 m.

### Observations

In June–July 2002, I made seven trips to the landslide. All birds seen and heard were recorded (Appendix). Yellow-cheeked Becard *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* and Streak-throated Bush-tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* were observed and photographed on multiple occasions. *P. xanthogenys* has not been recorded previously in dpto. Madre de Dios or this far south. *M. striaticollis* is not typically found at elevations this low. Neither had been previously recorded at Amazonia Lodge<sup>10</sup> and these records bring the list of birds known from Manu Biosphere Reserve to 999 (B. Walker pers. comm.).

### Yellow-cheeked Becard *Pachyramphus xanthogenys*

A pair observed in scrubby vegetation within the landslide. The female was seen 27 June, the pair on 2 July, a male (and possibly a female) on 8 July, and the pair on 11 July. Photographs were taken on 2 and 11 July (Fig. 2), and I tape-recorded the male on 11 July. The female was first observed briefly at close range. Field marks included a rounded, grey head with yellow eye-ring surrounding a dark eye, yellow breast-band, white belly, and solid olive-green back, wings and tail. Further details, such as the chestnut shoulder patch, were seen during subsequent observations. Field marks observed on the male included a black cap, white lores, unbarred yellow cheeks, throat and breast, white belly, and solid olive-green back, wings and tail.

### Streak-throated Bush-tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis*

One photographed at the landslide on 18 and 27 June, and 1, 2, 8 and 11 July (Fig. 3). It sallied from rocks or low perches, and sometimes beat captured insect prey against rocks. In flight, this species and Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* both reveal bright cinnamon-rufous patches in the wings and tail. Both were present at the landslide, often for side-by-side comparison. *M. striaticollis* was distinguished from *H. ferruginea* based on its larger size, streaked throat, proportionately larger head and stronger bill. Also, the belly of *M. striaticollis* is a paler or brighter rufous than the more chestnut-coloured belly of *H. ferruginea*. *M. striaticollis* had faint wingbars and pale edging to tertials, whereas *H. ferruginea* did not possess any sign of wingbars.

**Table 1.** Published<sup>1,7,8</sup> altitude distributions for five species found at 888 m, at Amazonia Lodge.

Cliff Flycatcher <i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>	Mostly below 2,000 m
Streak-throated Bush-tyrant <i>Myiotheretes striaticollis</i>	2,000–3,500 m, lower to 500–1,000 m perhaps seasonally
Rufous-tailed Tyrant <i>Knipolegus poecilurus</i>	900–2,200 m
Yellow-cheeked Becard <i>Pachyramphus xanthogenys</i>	800–1,400 m; 650–1,700 m in Ecuador
Black-and-white Seedeater <i>Sporophila luctuosa</i>	1,200–3,500 m, lower to 100–300 m perhaps seasonally



Figure 1. Landslide above Amazonia Lodge, 888 m elevation.



Figure 2. Male Yellow-cheeked Becard *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* within the landslide above Amazonia Lodge, July 2002.



Figure 3. Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant *Myiotheretes striaticollis* within the landslide above Amazonia Lodge, July 2002.



Figure 4. Cliff Flycatcher *Hirundinea ferruginea* within the landslide above Amazonia Lodge, July 2002.



Figure 5. Rufous-tailed Tyrant *Knipolegus poecilurus* within the landslide above Amazonia Lodge, July 2002.



Figure 6. Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa* within the landslide above Amazonia Lodge, July 2002.

### Discussion

The landslide is certainly a younger landscape feature than the forests surrounding it. Therefore, hill forest surrounding the landslide, and riparian habitats at the bottom of the landslide, provide two local sources of potential colonists. Of the 47 species recorded at the landslide, I observed 35 (75%) of these within adjacent hill forest. Seven (15%) of the

remaining 12 were not observed within hill forest but are typical of more disturbed vegetation, like that of the floodplain below the landslide, which ends at a river channel, where river dynamics create naturally disturbed habitats characterised by more open vegetation (e.g. *Gynerium* cane, *Tessaria* shrubs). All seven species were observed near the river or in disturbed habitats within 1 km

of Amazonia Lodge. Therefore, these could probably colonise the landslide without ever having to cross dense forest. One of these, Silver-beaked Tanager *Ramphocelus carbo*, has been previously recorded in *terra firme* forest in the east Andean foothills of Peru and Bolivia<sup>5</sup>. The remaining five (representing 11% of the total 47 species) were observed neither in hill forest nor in disturbed habitats at lower elevations. These are all typically found in more open habitats at higher elevations<sup>1,6-8</sup> than the river floodplain at c.500 m (Table 1), but Black-and-white Seedeater *Sporophila luctuosa* has also been recorded in riparian matorral at c.600 m in the Apurímac Valley<sup>11</sup>.

*Hirundinea ferruginea*, Rufous-tailed Tyrant *Knipolegus poecilurus* and *Sporophila luctuosa* have previously been recorded at Amazonia Lodge<sup>11</sup>, but *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* and *Myiotheretes striaticollis* have not. Where could these two species have originated? It would be unsurprising to find *M. striaticollis* at an 888-m landslide if they migrate to lower elevations, but Amazonia Lodge's landslide is located on a ridge, which reaches a maximum altitude of c.1,200 m and is not connected to the main Andean chain. The ridge above Amazonia Lodge does connect to the Pantiacolla ridge, but *P. xanthogenys* and *M. striaticollis* are unknown from there<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, birds making altitudinal or latitudinal migrations from the Andes must have crossed low-elevation valleys to reach the ridge above Amazonia Lodge. This is particularly the case with *P. xanthogenys*, which is known from as far south as the San Juan and Perené<sup>4</sup>, in the Chanchamayo region, in dpto. Junín, Peru<sup>9</sup>. The Chanchamayo region is centred on the towns of La Merced and San Ramón<sup>9</sup>, and the landslide at Amazonia Lodge is c.480 km south-east of San Ramón. The Field Museum of Natural History has an unpublished specimen of a male *P. xanthogenys* (FMNH 320306) collected at Hacienda Cadena, on 20 October 1963 (T. Schulenberg pers. comm.). Hacienda Cadena is located in the Marcapata Valley, dpto. Cuzco, Peru. The town of Marcapata is c.545 km south-east of San Ramón and c.77 km south-east of Amazonia Lodge. The Amazonia Lodge and Hacienda Cadena records of *P. xanthogenys* probably represent a resident local population or populations, expanding the known range by more than 500 km. It is unclear if this population is continuous or not with populations in Junín. Perhaps more *P. xanthogenys* will be subsequently found at sites between Hacienda Cadena and Amazonia Lodge within the appropriate elevational band.

Exceptionally cold *friajes* occurred in south-east Peru in July 2002, creating a humanitarian crisis in the Andean highlands<sup>3</sup>. Inclement weather may have forced species such as *M. striaticollis* to move large distances to more northern latitudes or to

lower elevations. Alternatively, the *M. striaticollis* at Amazonia Lodge could represent post-breeding dispersal. I consider weather to be a more likely cause, given that the site has been well surveyed by highly skilled ornithologists since the 1980s and the species had not been previously recorded.

#### Acknowledgements

My research was supported by an Andrew W. Mellon Student Research Grant. Transportation to Amazonia Lodge from Cuzco was provided by Manu Expediciones and the Yábar family. I thank the Yábar family for their hospitality and support at Amazonia Lodge. Tom Schulenberg provided specimen information from the Field Museum and Barry Walker information on the birds of Manu. David W. Winkler, Gary M. Langham, Marita Davison and an anonymous reviewer provided useful comments on the manuscript.

#### References

1. Clements, J. F. & Shany, N. (2001) *A field guide to the birds of Peru*. Temecula, CA: Ibis Publishing Company.
2. Have, W. T. (2003) Checklist of the birds of Pantiacolla Lodge. <http://www.tanagertours.com/english/index.html>.
3. Lutheran World Relief (2002) Emergency in Peru and Bolivia. <http://www.lwr.org/emergencies/02/perubol.html>.
4. Meyer de Schauensee, R. (1953) Manakins and cotingas from Ecuador and Peru. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 105: 29–43.
5. Remsen, J. V. & Parker, T. A. (1983) Contribution of river-created habitats to bird species richness in Amazonia. *Biotropica* 15: 223–231.
6. Ridgely, R. S. & Greenfield, P. J. (2001) *The birds of Ecuador*, 2. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
7. Ridgely, R. S. & Tudor, G. (1989) *The birds of South America*, 1. Austin: University of Texas Press.
8. Ridgely, R. S. & Tudor, G. (1994) *The birds of South America*, 2. Austin: University of Texas Press.
9. Stephens, L. & Traylor, M. A. (1983) *Ornithological gazetteer of Peru*. Cambridge, MA: Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard University.
10. Stotz, D. F., Fitzpatrick, J. W. & Willard, D. E. (1985) *Birds of Amazonia Lodge and vicinity*. Most recent revision by Yábar, R. (2002) <http://www.amazonialodge.com/birds.html>.
11. Terborgh, J. & Weske, J. S. (1969) Colonization of secondary habitats by Peruvian birds. *Ecol.* 50: 765–782.

#### Daniel J. Lebbin

Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University, E148 Corson Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. E-mail: [djl42@cornell.edu](mailto:djl42@cornell.edu).

## Appendix

All birds recorded in the landslide are listed in the table below. The first to seventh columns under the 'Date recorded' heading show if each species was seen (X) or heard (H) that day. A question mark (?) indicates that the species may have been seen or heard, but that identification could not be confirmed. The eighth to tenth columns under the 'Use of landslide' heading indicate where each species was seen. If a species was seen perched within the open centre of the landslide, then a 1 is assigned to it in the 'Open centre' category. If a species was not seen perched within the open centre of the landslide, but was seen flying over it, a 1 was placed in the 'Overhead aerial' category for that species. Finally, if a species was not recorded perched within or flying over the landslide, but was recorded from the landslide as seen or heard in the forest bordering the landslide, then a 1 was assigned to that species in the 'Forest edge' category. Under 'Probable origins' heading, the potential source of colonisation for individual species were postulated based on where each species had been recorded near the landslide and published<sup>7,8</sup> habitat preferences. Species typical of vegetation occurring in low elevation clearings or riparian disturbances were assigned a 1 under the 'Lowland disturbed/Riparian origin' category. Species seen in and typical of forest habitats were assigned a 1 under the 'Forest origin' category. All remaining species were assigned a 1 under the 'Highland disturbed/Long-distance origin' because these species are typical of either open areas of higher altitudes or clearings within montane forests of similar altitude.

Bird species list	Date recorded							Use of landslide			Probable origins		
	18 Jun	25 Jun	27 Jun	1 Jul	2 Jul	8 Jul	11 Jul	Open centre	Overhead aerial	Forest edge	Lowland disturbed/Riparian origin	Forest origin	Highland disturbed/Long-distance origin
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>							X	1				1	
King Vulture <i>Sacroramphus papa</i>		X							1			1	
Swallow-tailed Kite <i>Elaeoides forficatus</i>		X								1		1	
White Hawk <i>Leucopternis albicollis</i>		X					X	1				1	
Solitary Eagle <i>Harpyhaliaetus solitarius</i>					X				1			1	
Military Macaw <i>Ara militaris</i>						X				1		1	
Blue-and-yellow Macaw <i>Ara ararauna</i>							X		1			1	
Red-and-green Macaw <i>Ara chloroptera</i>				X	X					1		1	
Blue-headed Macaw <i>Primolius couloni</i>			X			H				1		1	
White-eyed Parakeet <i>Aratinga leucophthalmus</i>	X							1					
Blue-headed Parrot <i>Pionus menstruus</i>	X			X	X					1		1	
Mealy Parrot <i>Amazona farinosa</i>						H	X?			1		1	
Squirrel Cuckoo <i>Playa cayana</i>				H	X	H	H			1		1	
White-collared Swift <i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>	X						X			1		1	
Grey-rumped Swift <i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>	X?		1			1							
Sparkling Violetear <i>Colibri coruscans</i>			X		X					1		1	
Fork-tailed Woodnymph <i>Thalurania furcata</i>			X		X					1		1	
Golden-tailed Sapphire <i>Chrysura oenone</i>					X			1				1	
Piculet sp. (Bar-breasted?) <i>Picumnus sp. (aurifrons?)</i>						X				1		1	
White-throated Woodpecker <i>Piculus leucolaemus</i>			X		H					1		1	
Lineated Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>	X									1		1	
Cliff Flycatcher <i>Hirundinea ferruginea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	1					1
Streak-throated Bush-tyrant <i>Myiotheretes striaticollis</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	1					1
Rufous-tailed Tyrant <i>Knipolegus poecilurus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	1					1
Long-tailed Tyrant <i>Colonia colonus</i>										1	1		
Social Flycatcher <i>Myiozetetes similis</i>			X	X	X	X		1				1	
Streaked Flycatcher <i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>				X				1				1	
Tropical Kingbird <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>		X	X	X			X	1			1		
Yellow-cheeked Becard <i>Pachyramphus xanthogenys</i>			X		X	X	X	1					1
White-winged Becard <i>Pachyramphus polychopterus</i>		X								1		1	
Masked Tityra <i>Tityra semifasciata</i>				X			H			1		1	
Southern Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>			X	X			X	1			1		
Scaly-breasted (Southern Nightingale) Wren <i>Microcerulus marginatus</i>										1		1	
Rufous-browed Peppershrike <i>Cyclarhis gujanensis</i>				H	H	H	X			1		1	
Bananaquit <i>Coereba flaveola</i>				X	X	X		X	1			1	
Magpie Tanager <i>Cissopis leveriana</i>			X		X	X		X	1			1	
Silver-beaked Tanager <i>Ramphocelus carbo</i>			X		X	X			1		1		
Palm Tanager <i>Thraupis palmarum</i>		X		X	X					1		1	
Paradise Tanager <i>Tangara chilensis</i>					X					1		1	
Blue-necked Tanager <i>Tangara cyanicollis</i>		X				X	X	1				1	
Turquoise Tanager <i>Tangara mexicana</i>						X				1		1	
Opal-crowned Tanager <i>Tangara callophrys</i>					X					1		1	
Blue Dacnis <i>Dacnis cayana</i>			X							?		1	
Yellow-bellied Dacnis <i>Dacnis flaviventer</i>					X				1		1		
Black-and-white Seedeater <i>Sporophila luctuosa</i>					X				1				1
Chestnut-bellied (Lesser) Seed-finch <i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>			X	X	X	H	X	1			1		
Yellow-browed Sparrow <i>Ammodramus aurifrons</i>			X	X	X	X			1		1		
TOTALS								19	5	22	7	35	5