

Royal Sunangel *Heliangelus regalis* at Yankuam Lodge, Ecuador

Yankuam Lodge is located at 900 m in the humid upper tropical zone of Zamora-Chinchi province, south-east Ecuador (Nangaritza Valley, 2 km south of Las Orchideas and 8 km north of Shaime; 04°15'S 78°39'W), immediately west of Cordillera del Cóndor. It was established in 2002 and is the southernmost tourist accommodation in the Nangaritza Valley. The lodge arranges trips to Shaime, less than an hour away, where Orange-throated Tanager *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron* is regularly seen (cf. Capper & Pereira, 2007, *Neotrop. Birding* 2: 44–47). Immediately above the lodge is a small, flat-topped sandstone mountain that reaches a little over 1,600 m. Roraiman Flycatcher *Myiophobus roraimae*, difficult to find elsewhere in Ecuador, is fairly common here.

The tepui is also the only fairly easily accessible place in Ecuador where Royal Sunangel *Heliangelus regalis* can be observed. The species was first seen in Ecuador in 1999, when C. Canaday and J. Rivadeneyra observed a female at a nest with two chicks on a sandstone outcrop, near Banderas in the upper Coangos watershed, a place of difficult access in the northern Cordillera del Cóndor; they mist-netted the female, but it escaped, calling, which attracted a

male that was also observed at close range (C. Canaday pers. comm.). There were no further reports from Ecuador until 2006, when FLA observed the species above Yankuam Lodge. Fruitless attempts to mist-net the species were made there by NK in 2007 but, finally, on 11 February 2008 we mist-netted an adult male at 1,525 m, the first documented record in Ecuador (Fig. 1).

Many other interesting birds can be found near Yankuam Lodge. On the tepui, Bar-winged Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucoptera* is common (several seen daily), Rufous-browed Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes superciliaris* fairly common, and Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias plumbeiceps* and Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant *Hemitriccus cinnamomeipectus* also occur. Just above the lodge, Zimmer's Antbird *Myrmeciza castanea* is fairly common. Over 420 bird species have been recorded from the valley to date (see <http://nangaritzabirds.wetpaint.com/>).

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Figure 1. Royal Sunangel *Heliangelus regalis*, above Yankuam Lodge, 11 February 2008 (Niels Krabbe)