

White-whiskered Puffbird
***Malacoptila panamensis*, a new**
species for Peru

On 14 December 2007, together with Juvenal Ccahuana and Jim & Vicki King, I discovered two pairs of White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis* in the Tumbes Reserved Zone, north-west Peru (03°49'S 80°15'W). The first pair was found at 07h30, c.1 km from the INRENA station 'El Caucho' towards Campo Verde. The first bird was perched for c.10 minutes, and had an obvious orange lower throat; only the upper breast was coarsely streaked, whilst the belly, head and upperparts were unstreaked. It was immediately clear that I had never seen the species before and that it was possibly new for Peru. Subsequently—using Ridgely & Greenfield²—I identified the bird as a female *M. panamensis*. JK took some photographs. The bird flew c.30 m whereupon a second bird, more rufous on the upperparts (thus a male), joined it. To our surprise we found another pair at c.10h30, halfway between

Las Naranjas and Pozo del Pato. The female was 3–4 m away, before perching again 10 m away. JK also photographed this bird. Photographs of both birds have been archived at VIREO, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, USA.

In Ecuador, White-whiskered Puffbird is rather widespread in the lowlands and foothills west of the Andes. Overall, its range extends from western Colombia south through Ecuador, to prov. El Oro², almost as far as the border with Peru. The only other vaguely similar Bucconidae that occurs west of the Andes in Ecuador is Barred Puffbird *Nystalus radiatus*, which was also recently discovered in Peru¹. Given that we found four birds in one morning, it appears probable that *M. panamensis* has colonised this part of Peru.

Acknowledgements

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References

1. Mischler, T. (2006) Buco Barreteado (*Nystalus radiatus*), nueva especie de ave para el Perú, con una lista de aves observadas en el Parque Nacional "Cerros de Amotape", Tumbes. *Bol. Lima* 144: 83–94.
2. Ridgely, R. S. & Greenfield, P. J. (2001) *The birds of Ecuador*. London, UK: Christopher Helm.

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