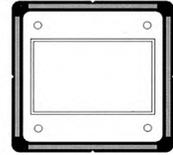


Lanceolated Monklet

Micromonacha lanceolata



The Lanceolated Monklet *Micromonacha lanceolata* has a fairly wide distribution in the Neotropics. There are a handful of records for the species from Costa Rica and just three noted in Panama³. However, it occurs widely in South America from the Pacific slope of the Colombian West Andes, south into western Ecuador and from the southern end of the Colombian East Andes, south into eastern Ecuador and western Amazonian Brazil, with some regularity at several localities in northern Peru¹ (T. A. Parker *in litt.*). Several authors have considered *M. lanceolata* to be a rare puffbird^{1,4,5} although T. A. Parker (*in litt.*) suggested that the species occurs evenly throughout its range, noting that “few Piciforms are more difficult to find”. The regularity of observations in south-eastern Ecuador suggests that this area may be a stronghold for the species (M. Pearman *in litt.* 1994). Due to low population densities and increasing pressures on the species’s habitat it is considered “near-threatened” by BirdLife International².

M. lanceolata favours the edge of (or clearings within) primary forest and mature secondary growth (possibly showing some affinity to water) mainly in the upper tropical and premontane forest zones (M. Pearman *in litt.* 1994). Birds often sit motionless, with their head tilted, on exposed understorey branches (usually 4-8 m up) from where they make short, fluttering sallies for large insectivorous prey items (always landing on a new perch) or glean from small branches and foliage⁷ (also M. Pearman *in litt.* 1994). Although this species is normally regarded as occurring solitarily, groups of up to three birds (probably family groups) have been occasionally recorded (M. G. Kelsey verbally 1994, M. Pearman *in litt.* 1994) with Cardiff³ reporting a male collected from a mixed-species flock. The species utters a thin, high-pitched *tsip tsip* contact call although a short high-pitched and descending trill has been heard (M. Pearman *in litt.* 1994). Immature birds lack the white lores, chin and black smudge through the eye, with the streaking on the underparts finer and sparser than on adult birds (which at close range show dull reddish

irides) (M. Pearman *in litt.* 1994).

The individual shown on the back cover was one of two birds mist-netted at 500 m at Patio, between Junín and Barbacoas, Nariño department, Colombia during August 1992 by an Anglia Polytechnic expedition. Another was observed in the same area during July 1993. In the field *M. lanceolata* can be rather confiding and the birds at Patio proved to be no exception.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Mark Pearman and Martin Kelsey for providing supplementary information and to Joe Tobias and David Wege for their comments on an earlier draft of this note. Full acknowledgements for the expedition are given in Salaman⁶.

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Lanceolated Monklet *Micromonacha lanceolata*
Patío, Nariño department, Colombia, August 1992 (David Gandy)



Zigzag Heron *Zebrilus undulatus*
La Selva Lodge, Río Napo, Ecuador 1993 (David Waugh)

