

Field observations on copulation by White-rumped Hawk *Buteo leucorrhous*

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Cotinga 14 (2000): 12

Describimos el comportamiento y las vocalizaciones de una pareja del Gavilán Lomiblanco *Buteo leucorrhous* observados en cópula en la Reserva Cerro Golondrinas, noroccidente de Ecuador. Además discutimos brevemente sobre la reproducción en esta especie sobre la cual existe escasa información documentada.

On 3 June 1999, at Bosque Protector Cerro Golondrinas, Carchi province, north-west Ecuador (00°49'N 78°07'W, 2,100 m) we observed a pair of White-rumped Hawk *Buteo leucorrhous* copulating in an emergent tree, in a regenerating area dominated by bamboo and scattered second growth.

A female was initially observed perched in a tall *Cecropia* uttering a series of high-pitched *pihi* whistles, the first syllable higher, followed by c.7–8 rapidly ascending notes, and ending in 2–3 descending and less continuous notes (like a sharp *neigh*). While calling, the tail was moved like a pendulum. This call was very similar to the display flight call described in Moore & Lysinger (1997). Five minutes later, a male arrived from an area of secondary forest, landed on the female's back and initiated copulation. While copulating one bird, presumably the male, gave a single, short, sharp *pyee*, sometimes repeated 2–3 times (see description in Fjeldsà & Krabbe 1990) and the other (the female?) gave a short version of the *pihi* call, rapidly and apparently without constant rhythm (both vocalisations recorded by JFF). After 2–3 minutes, the male flew, disappearing behind the ridge-top, and the female began its *pihi* calls and tail movements again.

Hilty & Brown (1986) reported an active nest of this species in dpto. Huila, Colombia, in February–March. Generally, tropical *Buteo* species can start copulating 2–3 weeks before eggs are laid, but copulation may also be used to strengthen or maintain the pair bond (T. de Vries pers. comm.), and some

species even copulate after eggs have been laid (R. Bierregaard pers. comm). Further information is required concerning this species' breeding cycle.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank T. de Vries, Rob Bierregaard and N. Krabbe for reviewing the manuscript, F. Brown assistance with the English and J. M. Guayasamin for his help analysing the tape recordings.

References

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