

Two new species for Peru: Lemon-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus icteronotus* and Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*

Renzo P. Piana, Fernando Angulo, Eduardo Ormaeche and Carlos Mendoza

Received 5 January 2005; final revision accepted 20 July 2005

Cotinga 25 (2006): 78–79

Durante la realización de una expedición ornitológica a la Zona Reservada de Tumbes (ZRT) en agosto del 2004, los autores encontraron dos nuevas especies de aves para el Perú: la Tangara Lomilimón *Ramphocelus icteronotus* y el Carpintero Carinegro *Melanerpes pucherani*. Ambas especies fueron encontradas en la Quebrada Faical y ninguna ha sido previamente registrada para el Perú. Según la bibliografía existente, la Tangara Lomilimón se distribuye desde Panamá al suroeste del Ecuador, cerca de las ciudades de Alamor y Celica, a menos de 40 km de la ZRT. De acuerdo con estas mismas fuentes, el Carpintero Carinegro se distribuye desde el sur de México hasta el suroeste de Ecuador, en las provincias de Guayas y El Oro, cerca de las localidades de Arenillas y Puyango, a 30 km de la ZRT. Es evidente que la ZRT merece estudios más intensivos y una mayor protección debido a que representa un hábitat crítico para las aves de la Zona Endémica Tumbesina y contiene una de las porciones más grandes y prístinas de bosques semi deciduos y siempre verdes.

The Tumbes Reserved Zone (TRZ) is a protected area, established in 1994, of 75,102 ha in dpto. Tumbes³. The TRZ was established to protect a representative sample of Tropical Pacific Forest³ and lies within the Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area—one of the most important such areas globally^{1,6}. The Endemic Bird Area (EBA) constitutes the southern distributional limit of many birds and is of great interest to conservationists and birdwatchers^{2,6–9}. The TRZ contains one of the last large, near-pristine tracts of semi-deciduous and evergreen forest⁴ and is considered of high conservation priority according to Peru's National Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity³ and by BirdLife International¹.

In August 2004 we visited the TRZ in order to locate a site to research the biology of the Grey-backed Hawk *Leucopternis occidentalis*, a Tumbesian endemic¹. Searches for this species were performed by walking trails and creeks (principally Quebrada Faical, 03°49'S 80°15'W; 340 m) at various times of day, usually starting at dawn and continuing until late afternoon. During this period we discovered two new species for Peru. Field identification was made using Ridgely & Greenfield⁵.

Observations

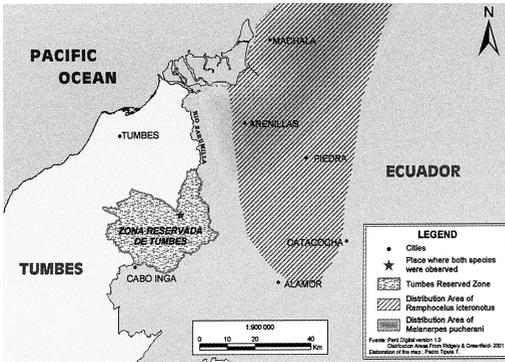
On 3 August 2004, a group of five (two male and three female) Lemon-rumped Tanagers *Ramphocelus icteronotus* was seen along the Quebrada Faical between 5 and 30 m from the observers. They were with four Blue-grey Tanagers *Thraupis episcopus*. On 5 August 2004, a group of three Lemon-rumped Tanagers (one male and two females) was observed in riverine habitat just 400 m from the first record. The birds were

vocalising in relatively disturbed habitat, c.1 km from El Caucho field station. Notes were taken on the diagnostic brilliant lemon-green rump and silver bill. This flock was less than 20 m away and 2–4 m above ground atop bushes. The birds, especially the male, displayed their rumps, puffing them up; behaviour typical of the species⁵. The females, much duller in coloration, kept close to the male. On 7 August another group, presumably the same, was encountered at the same location.

Lemon-rumped Tanager ranges from Panama to south-west Ecuador⁵. In Ecuador, it is common and favours shrubby clearings, gardens, forests and wooded borders on the west slope⁶. It has been recorded below 1,600 m in the southern provinces of El Oro and Loja, close to Alamor and Celica which are less than 40 km from the TRZ^{2,5}.

A Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani* was seen on 7 August 2004, less than 50 m from El Caucho field station, feeding on the main trunk of a dead tree 12 m above ground. The bird was observed for ten minutes and identified by its narrow, horizontal white bars on the back, which no other woodpecker in the region possesses⁵. It had a black midcrown, indicating that it was a female.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker ranges from southern Mexico to south-west Ecuador, where it reaches the provinces of Guayas and El Oro, mostly below 800 m⁵. It is common in the subcanopy and at forest borders, in secondary woodland and in clearings with scattered trees⁵. The species has been observed along the Arenillas–Puyango road⁵, just c.30 km from the TRZ.



Map of the study area.

Discussion

These records represent new species for Peru. Previous studies^{2,4,7-9} did not record these species, implying perhaps their ability to undergo seasonal movements rather than under-sampling by ornithologists. However, whatever the reasons, it is obvious that the TRZ still merits intensive studies and also greater protection, it being a critical region within the Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area.

Acknowledgements

Pedro Tipula from the Instituto del Bien Común helped create the map. Fernando Regal (Centro de Datos para la Conservación CDC—La Molina University) provided digital information concerning the study area. INRENA and Oscar Garcia, Director of the TRZ, provided permission to enter the reserve. Jeremy Flanagan, Thomas Valqui and Tom Schulenberg reviewed the manuscript.

References

1. BirdLife International (2003) World Bird Database. Version 2.0. www.birdlife.org.
2. Cook, G. (1996) Avifauna of the North-western Peru Biosphere Reserve and its environs. *Bird Conserv. Intern.* 6: 139–165.
3. INRENA (2003) *Estrategia nacional para las áreas protegidas: plan director*. Lima: Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales.
4. Parker, T. A., Schulenberg, T. S., Kessler, M. & Wust, W. H. (1995) Natural history and conservation of the endemic avifauna in north-west Peru. *Bird Conserv. Intern.* 5: 201–231.
5. Ridgely, R. & Greenfield, P. J. (2001) *The birds of Ecuador*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
6. Stattersfield, A. J., Crosby, M. J., Long, A. J. & Wege, D. C. (1988) *Endemic Bird Areas of the world: priorities for biodiversity conservation*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (Conserv. Series 7).
7. Valqui, T. (2004) *Where to watch birds in Peru*. Lima: Gráfica Nuñez.
8. Walker, B. (2002) Observations from the Tumbes Reserved Zone, dpto. Tumbes, with notes on

some new taxa for Peru and a checklist of the area. *Cotinga* 18: 37–43.

9. Wiedenfeld, D. A., Schulenberg, T. S. & Robbins, M. B. (1979) Birds of a tropical deciduous forest in extreme northwestern Perú. *Orn. Monogr.* 36: 306–315.

Renzo P. Piana

Avenida Petit Thouars 4377, Lima 18, Peru. E-mail: rpiana@ibcperu.org.

Fernando Angulo

Torres Paz 708, Chiclayo, Peru. E-mail: chamaepetes@gmail.com.

Eduardo Ormaeche

E-mail: ed_chaman@hotmail.com.

Carlos Mendoza

Departamento de Ornitología. Museo de Historia Natural, Avenida Arenales 1256, Lima, Peru. E-mail: tiocarlos_mendoza@hotmail.com.