that size. All of the trees and shrubs were artificially planted as part of the hotel's landscaping. The pool area is highly disturbed both by personnel and noisy guests. Therefore, I was intrigued to determine whether this breeding attempt would be successful or not.

The nest was located c.2.1 m above ground in a fork of the *Ficus*, approximately 2 m from the pool area. The predilection of Yellow Warblers to breed near water probably influenced their nest-site selection. The nest consisted of a deep cup of plant fibres, down and strips of bark. The exterior was covered with plant down and fine fibres, giving it a cotton-like appearance. The inside of the cup was lined with fine fibres, down and feathers, i.e. consistent with descriptions in the literature[1].

I observed breeding behaviour over the next few days by visiting the area intermittently and documenting progress photographically. Two eggs were laid the day after the nest's discovery. Incubation was performed by the female alone, which left the nest for periods of c.20 minutes to feed. I never observed the male bring food to the incubating female. However, I frequently heard the male vocalising, probably protecting the territory from other males. After an incubation period of 11–12 days the altricial young hatched synchronously. Both parents fed the young at c.20-minute intervals. I never saw the parents forage outside the wooded area of the hotel, as evidently there was sufficient food in nearby trees. The female removed the nestlings' faecal sacs and frequently re-adjusted the nest material, maintaining the integrity of its structure. The fledglings left the nest c.2 weeks later.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis* parasitism of Yellow Warblers is a serious problem in Puerto Rico with up to 76% of nests being parasitised[2]. The absence of parasitism here is probably the result of a successful active cowbird control programme in the nearby CRNWR as part of an initiative to re-establish the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird *Agelaius xanthomus* population. Another possible and interesting explanation would be that by nesting in the artificial environment the Yellow Warblers avoided cowbird parasitism as an adaptive behaviour.

Successful nesting in a man-made and disturbed locality is sure indication of this species' adaptability to changing environmental conditions and helps explain why its breeding range is the most widespread of the parulids.

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New records concerning range and altitudinal distribution of Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* in Ecuador

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Se reportan dos nuevas localidades para el Sinsonte Colilargo *Mimus gilvus* en Ecuador. Junto a estos registros la especie es conocida por cuatro observaciones en el país, todas ubicadas en los Andes del norte de Ecuador. Se sugiere que *Mimus gilvus* puede estar extendiendo su rango de distribución desde Colombia, colonizando nuevas áreas posiblemente debido a la modificación de hábitats por actividades antropogénicas. Además, se presenta una extensión al rango altitudinal de la especie (laguna de Cuicocha 3.100 m).

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus* is widespread from southern Mexico to Brazil[1,2]. It was introduced and is now widespread in Panama[3] and has recently expanded its range in Nicaragua[4] and El Salvador[5]. In Colombia, it is common in the north[2], but in Nariño, near the border with Ecuador, the species was not recorded until 1996[6]. The highest altitudinal records are from Colombia: 2,600 m in the Bogotá savanna, and 2,100 m in Tolima[1–3].

The species has only recently been recorded in Ecuador, where it is known from two localities in the northern Andes: near Otavalo (where initially

discovered by C. Vogt and J. Nilsson in September 1996), Imbabura province (00°14'N 78°16'W; 2,600 m) and one found at Cosanga (by M. Lysinger in September 1998), Napo province (00°36'S 77°52'W; 1,900 m)[3]. Ridgely & Greenfield[3] considered its status in Ecuador uncertain, as both records may have involved natural vagrants from Colombia, and indeed the Cosanga record probably does relate to a vagrant, supporting this hypothesis[3].

On 17 November 2001, during a trip of the '2001 Protected Areas' group of the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, an adult and juvenile *M. gilvus* were observed on Padre Yerovi island, within Cuicocha Lagoon, Imbabura province (00°18'N 78°22'W; 3,100 m). The adult was feeding the juvenile within a patch of native bushes near the shore. This represents the first proof of breeding in Ecuador. The habitat was montane forest and elfin forest, dominated by shrubs and low trees.

On 5 April 2002, two adults were observed at Yaguarcocha Lagoon, near Ibarra, Imbabura province (00°22'N 78°07'W; 2,450 m). They were foraging in the ornamental garden of a tourist resort, on the north-west side of the lagoon, 50 m from the shore. Away from the garden, the dominant vegetation was xerophytic scrub, with scattered *Mimosa* trees, according with the species' known habitat requirements[3], i.e. semi-open agricultural lands and suburban areas. The two were in flight together, and one was heard singing several times. This behaviour could suggest pair-formation and possible breeding activity. Identification was straightforward given the grey upperparts and white underparts, the white supercilium and tail pattern.

The new localities are also in the northern Andes of Ecuador, and suggest that the species may be currently colonising Ecuador from Colombia, a spread perhaps promoted by the modification of natural environments by human activity, as in Nicaragua[4]. The Cuicocha record is also the highest known site for the species, at 3,100 m, representing an altitudinal range extension of 500 m.

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