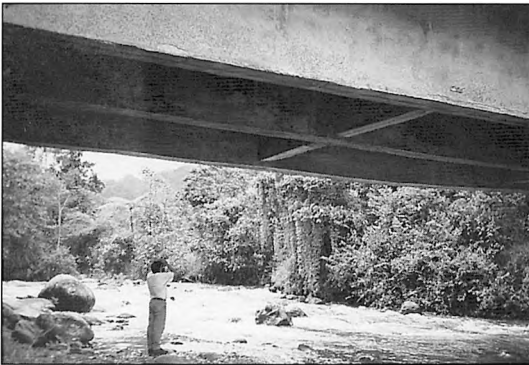


## Andean Cock-of-the-Rock *Rupicola peruviana* nest under a bridge

Vinicio Pérez and Jane A. Lyons de Pérez

Según varios estudios y observaciones, la hembra del Gallo de la Peña *Rupicola peruviana* siempre construye su nido de forma vertical en rocas o piedras dentro de cuevas o quebradas. Se describe aquí un nido de esta especie construido de forma horizontal dentro de un puente de cemento sobre un río cerca de Mindo, Ecuador. Se observó el sitio durante unos 48 días, período durante el cual la hembra y dos pichones ocuparon el nido.



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock nesting bridge  
(J. A. Lyons de Pérez)



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock nest (J. A. Lyons de Pérez)

On 22 September 1997, near Mindo, north-west Ecuador, VP discovered an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock *Rupicola peruviana* nest with two young in it and attended by an adult female. The nest was placed on a crossbeam under a concrete bridge. The adult female had been observed by VP on 8 September near the bridge, and a subsequent search revealed the nest-site. It was c.5 m above the river, directly over its mid-point and well-hidden with only a few small sticks visible. The female was visible as a dark lump on the crossbeam, and usually only one wing or the head was visible from certain angles. The nest was c.1 m below the top and 5 m from the sides of the bridge, and thus appeared extremely well-protected from mammalian predators. The nest-site is 5 km downstream from an active lek of the species. Other nests have been regularly discovered at various sites upstream of the bridge. Subsequent visits to the nest on 26 September (at 10h00), 27 September (at 16h00) and 28 September (at 10h30) always found the female on the nest. Unless disturbed, she remained there. Once disturbed, she would fly directly into shrubs on the riverside, on two occasions remaining there until we left. On the third visit, she stayed only

briefly in the shrubbery before returning and settling on the nest, facing us.

The area around the bridge is mostly cut-over secondary forest, with some primary forest 0.5 km away. There are several farms along the road at the bridge with livestock which cross the bridge to graze adjacent grassy areas. People regularly utilise the river at the bridge and birds are hunted for food by some local people.

The nest was observed during subsequent weekly visits until 12 November 1997. Each time, the female was on the nest with the two young birds, of different sizes and one obviously a male. As we approached, the female would fly to thick vegetation adjacent to the bridge. Once, she called and quickly returned to the nest, but on all other occasions remained hidden and quiet in the vegetation. On 8 November, 48 days after the nest was discovered, the chicks were large and obviously near fledging. On 12 November, the nest was empty and no birds were seen.

This is apparently the first record of either species of *Rupicola* nesting on a bridge. According to the available literature, both *Rupicola peruviana* and *R. rupicola* typically place their nests on rock

faces among boulders in caves, crevices or ravines<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>. The fledging period for the young birds under the bridge was at least 4–6 days longer than the 42–44 days described in the literature<sup>2,5</sup>.

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