

A case of partial albinism in Giant Conebill *Oreomanes fraseri*

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Un individuo parcialmente albino del Pájaro de los Queñuales *Oreomanes fraseri*, fue observado y capturado en noviembre de 1997, en un bosque de *Polylepis incana* en la localidad de Japoni, Lima, Perú. Este constituye el primer registro de albinismo para esta especie. Se presenta documentación fotográfica del individuo aberrante.

Giant Conebill *Oreomanes fraseri* is a monotypic genus restricted to high-elevation *Polylepis* woodlands, from south Colombia to south-west Bolivia^{3,5}. Throughout the Andes of Peru *O. fraseri* is a conspicuous member of the highly threatened *Polylepis* avian community².

I visited a *Polylepis* woodland in Japoni (dpto. Lima, Huarochiri province, at 11°41'S 76°31'W and 4,140 m) from 28 November to 2 December 1997. A large (c.300 ha) *Polylepis incana* woodland extends along a chain of mountains, surrounded by bare terrain, or dry shrubby vegetation¹ (Fig. 1). On 30 November, a partially albinistic *O. fraseri* was observed foraging on the bark of *Polylepis* trees, with two normal individuals. I caught the albino in a mist-net placed within the understory. Partial albinos have only parts of their plumage or integument lacking pigments⁴. Excepting the lack of pigmentation in the ventral, dorsal and flank feathers (Fig. 2), it was similar to the other *O. fraseri* present at Japoni. This appears to be the first reported case of albinism for *O. fraseri* and closely related genera (e.g. *Conirostrum*).

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Figure 1. View of the 300-ha *Polylepis incana* woodland in Japoni, Lima, Peru (Grace P. Servat)



Figure 2. Partial albino Giant Conebill *Oreomanes fraseri*, Japoni, Lima, November 1997 (Grace P. Servat)