

Taxonomic Round-up



A new species of piha from the Colombian Andes

Andrés Cuervo and colleagues have discovered a new species of piha in the Cordillera Central of Colombia. *Lipaugus weberi*, the Chestnut-capped Piha, is closely related to Dusky Piha *L. fuscocinereus*, a much more widespread Andean species. It is, however, much smaller with a chestnut-brown crown, yellow orbital ring, two modified primaries in the male, and unique vocalisations. The new species is restricted to a very narrow belt of super-humid premontane forest, a habitat now highly fragmented within its range.

- Cuervo, A. M., Salaman, P. G. W., Donegan, T. M. & Ochoa, J. M. (2001) A new species of piha (Cotingidae: *Lipaugus*) from the Cordillera Central of Colombia. *Ibis* 143: 353–368.

A new *Myiopagis elaeinia* from eastern Peru and eastern Ecuador

Paul Coopmans and Neils Krabbe have described a new elaeinia from eastern slope submontane Andean forests of Ecuador and Peru, in the vicinity of Volcán Sumaco in the north to dpto. Ayacucho in the south, and within the drainage of the río Apurímac. *Myiopagis ollalai*, the Foothill Elaenia, is perhaps most closely related to Grey Elaenia *M. caniceps* of lower elevations, and Forest Elaenia *M. gaimardii*, with which it is syntopic. The new species possesses distinctive vocalisations, as well as some differentiating plumage features, but it has only been located at the edge of very humid primary submontane forest, a habitat that within its range is under severe pressure from colonists.

- Coopmans, P. & Krabbe, N. (2000) A new species of

flycatcher (Tyrannidae: *Myiopagis*) from eastern Ecuador and eastern Peru. *Wilson Bull.* 112: 305–312.

A new tyrannulet from the white-sand forests of Peru

José Alonso and Bret Whitney have described a new *Zimmerius* tyrannulet from poorly drained white-sand forest in the vicinity of Iquitos, dpto. Loreto, Peru. *Zimmerius villarejoi*, the Mishana Tyrannulet, is closely related to the syntopic Slender-footed Tyrannulet *Z. gracilipes*, but differs in its concolorous upperparts, lack of whitish feathering in the superciliary, loreal and frontal regions, and by its distinctly pinkish (rather than blackish) lower mandible. Earliest indications are that the new species may prove to be endemic to this microhabitat in a geographically restricted area, though the authors suggest searching for it in the Tarapoto–Moyobamba region of Peru, and even perhaps in eastern Ecuador and Colombia.

- Alonso, J. A. & Whitney, B. M. (2001) A new tyrannulet (Aves: Tyrannidae) from the white sand forests of northern Amazonian Peru. *Wilson Bull.* 113: 1–9.

A new *Poecilotriccus* from northern Peru

Previously depicted in these pages (see *Cotinga* 12: 25), Ned Johnson and Robert Jones have recently described the *Poecilotriccus* first collected in 1970. The new species, Lulu's Tody-tyrant *Poecilotriccus lulae*, occurs in mid-elevation forests of the Cordillera de Colán and adjacent eastern mountains in the north-east Peruvian Andes. It is separated from the allopatric Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant *P.*

ruficeps by the río Marañón, and can be distinguished from the latter form by virtue of its different song, facial pattern and belly coloration.

- Johnson, N. K. & Jones, R. E. (2001) A new species of tody-tyrant (Tyrannidae: *Poecilotriccus*) from northern Peru. *Auk* 118: 334–341.

Geographic variation in Suiriri Flycatcher

Floyd Hayes has recently analysed geographic variation within the three distinct taxa described among the Suiriri Flycatcher complex, namely *Suiriri suiriri suiriri* (of the Chaco/Pampas), *S. s. affinis* (in the Cerrado and southern Amazonia) and *S. s. bahiae* (of the Caatinga). A leapfrog pattern is evident, with the nominate *suiriri* and *bahiae* most closely resembling one another, and it appears that ancestral *suiriri* split into three isolated populations of which *affinis* differentiated most rapidly. Following secondary contact, *affinis* freely hybridised with nominate *suiriri*, while the intermediate size and increased plumage variability of *bahiae* resemble those of *suiriri* x *affinis* hybrids. For now, the possibility that *bahiae* is not a hybrid cannot be wholly discredited. Similarly disjunct patterns can be observed among several sister taxa inhabiting the Chaco/Caatinga biomes, without intervening in the Cerrado, implying that a shared historical process of vicariance is involved.

- Hayes, F. E. (2001) Geographic variation, hybridization, and the leapfrog pattern of evolution in the Suiriri Flycatcher (*Suiriri suiriri*) complex. *Auk* 118: 457–471.

Geographic variation in *Boissonneaua*

The German team, headed by Karl Schuchmann, continue their prolific work on hummingbirds with an analysis of the biogeography and geographic variation within the genus *Boissonneaua*, which comprises three species, *B. flavescens*, the Buff-tailed Coronet, *B. matthewsii*, the Chestnut-breasted Coronet and *B. jardini*, the Velvet-purple Coronet. The three are rather poorly differentiated morphologically and are closely related to the *Eriocnemis* and *Haplophaidia* puffleg genera. *B. flavescens* and *B. matthewsii* are clearly very closely related and the authors suppose that the centre of origin for the genus to lie on the eastern Andean slope. Subsequent trans-Andean invasion and isolation events are presumably responsible for the separation of *jardini* and the subspecies *tinochlora* of *flavescens*.

- Schuchmann, K. L., Weller, A.-A. & Heynen, I. (2001) Biogeography and geographic variation of the Andean hummingbird taxon *Boissonneaua* Reichenbach, 1854 (Aves: Trochilidae). *Orn. Neotrop.* 12: 93–108.

Unicolored Tapaculo revisited

Paul Coopmans, Niels Krabbe and Thomas Schulenberg have analysed the vocalisations of the taxa formerly comprising *Scytalopus unicolor* (Zimmer 1939): *unicolor*, *latrans*, *subcinereus*, *intermedius* and *parvirostris* and have concluded

that *latrans*, *subcinereus* and *intermedius* be collectively ranked as a species *S. latrans* (Blackish Tapaculo), with the caveat that there may be more than one species involved, distinct from *S. unicolor* (Unicolored Tapaculo). *S. parvirostris* had already been diagnosed as a separate species (Krabbe & Schulenberg 1997).

- Coopmans, P., Krabbe, N. & Schulenberg, T. S. (2000) Vocal evidence of species rank for nominate Unicolored Tapaculo *Scytalopus unicolor*. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.* 121: 208–213.

More on *Thamnophilus punctatus*

Following on from their paper in *Orn. Monogr.* 48 examining species limits within the *Thamnophilus punctatus* complex (see *Cotinga* 9: 14), the Islers and co-workers have returned to the subject with the benefit of new vocalisation data. The latter suggest that the forms *leucogaster* (extreme southern Ecuador and northern Peru) and *huallagae* (north-east Peru) are distinct from most taxa within the complex, but are insufficiently differentiated from each other, or nominate *punctatus*, to warrant more than subspecies status within the latter. Both *leucogaster* and *huallagae* are potentially threatened by increasing agricultural development within their apparently tiny ranges.

- Isler, M. L., Isler, P. R., Whitney, B. M. & Walker, B. (2001) Species limits in antbirds: *Thamnophilus punctatus* complex continued. *Condor* 103: 278–286.

New subspecies of Velvet-browed Brilliant

Velvet-browed Brilliant *Heliodoxa xanthogonys*, which has traditionally been viewed as monotypic, is endemic to the Pantepui of northern South America. In reviewing the biogeography of the species, André Weller and Swen Renner recently discovered biometric and coloration evidence that suggest that those birds on the Serranía de la Neblina and Sierra Imeri, in southern Amazonas, Venezuela and straddling the border with Roraima, Brazil, warrant subspecific recognition. The new taxon is named *H. x. willardi* in honour of the collector of the type-series, David Willard. The authors suggest that *H. xanthogonys* probably originated from descendents in the north-east Andes that subsequently invaded the Pantepui tablelands.

- Weller, A.-A. & Renner, S. C. (2001) A new subspecies of *Heliodoxa xanthogonys* (Aves: Trochilidae) from the southern Pantepui highlands, with biogeographical and taxonomic notes. *Ararajuba* 9: 1–5.

More on Bahia Spinetail

Following an examination of the six syntypes of *Synallaxis cinerea* Wied, 1831, it has been deduced that three of them and Bahia Spinetail *S. whitneyi* represent the same taxon. The latter name is therefore considered a synonym of *S. cinerea*, which is the name applicable to the Bahia Spinetail.

- Whitney, B. M. & Pacheco, J. F. (2001) *Synallaxis whitneyi* Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995 is a synonym of *Synallaxis cinerea* Wied, 1831. *Nattereria* 2: 34–35.