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## **First record of Tyrannine Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla tyrannina* for Bolivia**

*by Christopher J. Vogel & Oswaldo Maillard Z.*

*Received 12 July 2006*

Two specimens of Tyrannine Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla tyrannina* were collected, on 22 November 2001, in Área Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional Apolobamba, Bolivia, dpto. La Paz, prov. Franz Tamayo, near the río Palcabamba (14°49'S, 68°56'W), at c.2,500 m. The specimens were mist-netted in tall, humid second-growth woodland bordering a cleared pasture, adjacent to primary montane forest, and were prepared as study skins (American Museum of Natural History [AMNH] 834016, 834017).



The humid broadleaf evergreen forest in this area has been cleared and has regenerated at various periods in the past, creating a patchwork of mossy, bromeliad-laden forest at various stages of succession, interspersed with clearings, likewise of varied age. The largest trees are *c.* 1.5 m dbh, with crowns approaching 30 m. A dense undergrowth of bamboo (*Chusquea* spp.), ferns and terrestrial bromeliads is rampant in more recently disturbed areas and in areas of slightly more mature second growth; old landslides also contribute to the mosaic. Tall forest ends rather abruptly at a variable and artificial treeline, usually at *c.* 2,800–3,000 m. The *Puya* spp. and tall-grass-dominated puna (Poaceae) above the treeline is maintained by local residents through periodic burning.

The two Tyrannine Woodcreepers were caught in different mist-nets almost simultaneously. The nets were separated by 50 m; one was in tall second-growth forest, the other a few metres out in a clearing. Both specimens had skulls completely ossified. The male (AMNH 834016) was moulting p6, in addition to being in the process of renewing the central rectrices, with light body moult (on the upper breast); it also had some subcutaneous fat, and its largest testis measured 10 × 5 mm. The female (AMNH 834017) likewise had a completely ossified skull, a granular ovary that measured 7 × 5 mm, but had no fat or moult. The skull ossification, as well as bill colour (dark brown with a dull reddish-chestnut or brick-red cast, paler at the base, rather than blackish), indicate that both were adults (Willis & Oniki 1995). The stomach contents of both individuals consisted exclusively of arthropods.

On 28 November, another, lone Tyrannine Woodcreeper was seen quietly foraging on an exposed bare tree trunk in an old treefall. This was the only other record of Tyrannine Woodcreeper at our study site, which was worked for 14 days.

The specimens were identified using previously published data (Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, Ridgely & Tudor 1994) and museum specimens, and CJV has prior field experience with the species. These birds differ significantly from the named subspecies in *D. tyrannina* (Marantz *et al.* 2003), but whether this represents individual, clinal, specific or subspecific variation is presently under review (Maillard & Vogel in prep.).

Of interest not only due to the timing but proximity to the present record is that, on 1 December 2001, A. Bennett Hennessey sound-recorded a Tyrannine Woodcreeper in dpto. La Paz. Four minutes of audio tape were obtained at an elevation of 2,450 m, near Tokoaque, in Madidi (A. B. Hennessey *in litt.* 2006). This sound-recording compliments the present record rather well, as we were unable to obtain recordings during our stay near the río Palcabamba. Hennessey's recording is soon to be published in a DVD of birds of the region.

Although Fjeldså & Krabbe (1990) speculated that Tyrannine Woodcreeper might occur in Bolivia, the species has previously been recorded only as far as southern Peru, with the southernmost records being from dpto. Cuzco (Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, Marantz *et al.* 2003). Thus, the current specimens represent a southward extension of *c.* 500 km, in addition to being the first record from Bolivia.



The Cordillera Apolobamba, however, also has biogeographic affinities with the cordilleras of southern Peru (Vilcanota, Carabaya), more so than the Bolivian Cordilleras (Cordillera La Paz, Cordillera Cochabamba) to the south (CJV unpubl.). Recent surveys have found several species and subspecies thought to be more characteristic of points further north than Bolivia, such as Taczanowski's Tinamou *Nothoprocta taczanowskii* (Vogel *et al.* 2001), Puna Thistletail *Schizoeaca helleri* (of the undescribed form originally discovered in dpto. Puno, Peru; Remsen 2003), Streak-backed Canastero *Asthenes wyatti* and the south Peruvian (non-collared) subspecies of Hooded Mountain-tanager *Buthraupis montana saturata*, all of which reach or almost reach their southern range limit in the Apolobamba. Tyrannine Woodcreeper, considered uncommon throughout its range (Stotz *et al.* 1996) and rare and local in Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), may represent another species with this distribution pattern, or may well occur (as it does everywhere in its range, and as suggested by the present spate of records) at low density (Willis & Oniki 1995) more extensively in the Yungas of La Paz, where appropriate elevations have not been sampled thoroughly. It should also be looked for in similar humid, mid-elevation forests of the Bolivian Andes in dptos. Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

### Acknowledgements

We thank Susan E. Davis for organising the expedition, which was funded by the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), and the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, Columbia University, New York, and led by Dr James Aparicio E., of the Colección Boliviana de Fauna, La Paz, Bolivia. We thank Nick Acheson for his assistance in the field and Melina Laverty for her editorial acumen. Thanks also to Paul R. Sweet, AMNH Dept. of Ornithology, and J. V. Remsen, Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Sciences, for their usual helpfulness. We also acknowledge the cooperation of the Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas and the invaluable help of the guards and officials of Parque y Área Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional Apolobamba, as well as the Dirección General de Biodiversidad y al Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Bolivia who graciously provided the necessary permission to collect specimens.

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## Breeding records from the north-east Andean foothills of Ecuador

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Received 13 July 2006

Recent years have witnessed an increase in Ecuadorian ornithological publications (Freile 2005). From the early work of Marchant (1959, 1960) in the south-west, to more recent studies there and elsewhere in Ecuador (e.g. Marín & Carrión 1994, Best *et al.* 1996, Greeney *et al.* 2004, Greeney & Nunnery 2006), we are slowly expanding our knowledge of the breeding patterns of Ecuador's mainland avifauna. One area which seems particularly understudied ornithologically, especially with respect to natural histories, is the foothills of the east Andean slope. A few recent contributions have added to our knowledge for certain species (Gelís *et al.* 2006a,b, Greeney *et al.* 2006, Vaca *et al.* 2006), but we still lack sufficient data for proper analysis of seasonality. Here we begin to rectify this with observations on 35 species from the Andean foothills of prov. Napo, north-east Ecuador.

We made all observations opportunistically, during the course of other field work in 2002–06, and thus on their own they are not useful to assess seasonality. We hope, however, that these data will form the framework with which future workers may begin to compile breeding information for this area. We made observations at elevations around 1,150 m in the community-owned reserve of Mushullacta, adjacent to the Galeras sector of Sumaco-Napo Galeras National Park (NG), along the Tena–Loreto road at elevations of 1,000–1,400 m (LR), on and around the slopes of Volcán Sumaco at elevations of 1,650–1,750 m (SU), in the vicinity of Tena at 300–450 m (TE), at Hakuna Matata Lodge (800 m) near Archidona (HK), and in areas immediately surrounding Archidona (AR) at 600–750 m. Taxonomy follows Ridgely & Greenfield (2001).

### Species accounts

#### **BLACKISH NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus nigrescens*

On 29 March 2005, at 1,350 m on LR, we flushed an adult male off a single egg at 12.00 h. The egg was pale brown, heavily marked with dark brown and lavender blotches and black squiggles. It measured 25.9 by 20.1 mm and weighed 5.654 g.



Vogel, Christopher J. and Oswaldo, Maillard Z. 2007. "First record of Tyrannine Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla tyrannina* for Bolivia." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 127, 233–236.

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