

References

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New altitudinal record of Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae*

Consultation of Ridgely & Greenfield¹ permits researchers in Ecuador to easily determine possible range extensions. On 24 July 2000, we captured a Brown Violetear *Colibri delphinae* in a mist-net c. 1 km north of the protected forest of El Tundo near Sozoranga, Loja, at 2,250 m. The site was dominated by shrub habitat of the Melastomataceae family and within 50 m of the edge of a narrow corridor of riparian forest dominated by Neotropical Walnut *Juglans neotropica* with thickets in the understory of bamboo *Chusquea* spp. Brown Violetear is rare in southern Ecuador, and has previously been recorded mainly in Zamora-Chinchipe province to the east¹. This record is the first known capture in Loja province, and was also at an elevation much higher than most of those previously recorded¹.

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First nest record of Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii*

Current literature presents very few data on timing of breeding for Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet *Touit huetii* and nothing regarding its nesting behaviour. A male in apparent breeding condition was reported in Venezuela in April, and possible nesting from Mato Grosso, Brazil, in September–December^{3,6}. We observed a pair excavating a presumed nest in an arboreal termitarium 2 m above ground on 11 October 2001 near Pantiacolla Lodge, by the río Madre de Dios, Peru. The incomplete cavity was c. 15 cm deep and had an entrance hole 8 cm wide; the termitarium itself was quite small, c. 50 cm deep and c. 30 cm broad. Both individuals excavated over a 20-minute period. The timing (in mid-dry season) coincides with peak breeding activity in most bird species in lowland forests of south-east Peru⁷. Though very few nesting records exist for any *Touit* (many members of this Neotropical genus being inconspicuous or apparently nomadic), nests have been reported in tree holes and arboreal termitaria^{3,6}. It is likely that *Touit* parrotlets, like some *Aratinga* and *Brotogeris* parakeets, regularly breed in the arboreal nests of social insects, joining a rather long list of birds that are known to do so^{1,2,4,5}.

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A new site for Royal Cinclodes *Cinclodes aricomae* and other noteworthy records from the Ilampu Valley, Bolivia

Parque Nacional y Area Manejo Integrado (Cotapata) covers c. 60,000 ha in the Andes north-east of La Paz, Bolivia. Encompassing an altitudinal range of 1,100–5,600 m in the Cordillera La Paz (within the Cordillera Real), Cotapata has a rich diversity of ecosystems, one of the most imperilled of which is semi-humid *Polylepis* woodland.

The Ilampu Valley, in the south-west corner of Cotapata (16°15'S 68°01'W) supports fragments of this fragile ecosystem, of which only c. 2% is extant along the entire east slope of the Bolivian

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