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Ejemplares de la Parina Chica
(*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*)
Foto: Rodolfo Vicetti

Record of a nesting Chestnut-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rufaxilla*) at Abra Patricia, Peru, during the dry season

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RESUMEN

Presento la primera documentación de un nido de la Cotinga de Cresta Castaña (*Ampelion rufaxilla*) para el noreste de Perú y el primer registros en el mes de junio para la especie. El nido fue encontrado el 08 de junio de 2010 en Abra Patricia, departamento de Amazonas, Perú. Tenía una estructura similar a la descrita anteriormente. Se discute brevemente la relación temporal con otras observaciones reproductivas publicadas para esta especie.

Palabras clave: Abra Patricia, *Ampelion rufaxilla*, Cotinga de Cresta Castaña, departamento de Amazonas, Perú.

ABSTRACT

In this paper, I present the first documentation of a Chestnut-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rufaxilla*) nest for northeastern Peru and during the month of June for this species. The nest was found on June 8, 2010 at Abra Patricia, Amazonas department, Peru. It has a similar structure to previously reported nests for this species. The timing of this

nesting observation is briefly discussed in relation to other published breeding observations for this species.

Key words: Abra Patricia, *Ampelion rufaxilla*, Chestnut-crested Cotinga, Amazonas department, Peru.

Little is known about the timing of nesting behavior of the Chestnut-crested Cotinga (*Ampelion rufaxilla*) (Schulenberg 2012). For the *antioquiae* subspecies of Colombia and northern Ecuador, two birds in breeding-condition were collected during March-April in the southwest department of Huila, Colombia (Hilty & Brown 1986); and S. Bird and D. Calderón-Franco photographed nesting individuals in May at Jardín in department of Antioquia, Colombia (Kirwan & Green 2011). For the nominate subspecies distributed from southern Ecuador through Peru into Bolivia, Kirwan & Green (2011) note one nest described by T. Schulenberg (*in* Snow 1982) as a shallow open unlined cup made of slender twigs and lichens located 12 m up in the crown

southeastern Peru at c. 2,000 masl and another nest observed by H. Lloyd halfway up and 2 m out from the main trunk of an alder (*Alnus sp.*) in alder dominated forest at c. 2,700 masl. These observations included nest building in early December and incubation in November. In southeast Ecuador, Greeney *et al.* (2010) observed two nests during the second week of May. In Bolivia, Whitney *et al.* (1994) observed an adult and independent juvenile together during March in the Serranía de Siberia. Kirwan & Green (2011) also note that the Harvard University Museum of Vertebrate Zoology holds two males collected in breeding condition from Peru in late August and early October. Throughout its range, breeding observations have been recorded throughout the year in March, April, May, August, October, November and December, with observations concentrated during March-May in Ecuador and Colombia, and during August-December in Peru and Bolivia.

On June 8, 2010, I observed and photographed (Fig. 1-2) a Chestnut-crested Cotinga presumably incubating on a nest

between 4:22 and 4:51 pm, near the [Owlet Lodge and Research Center](#), within the Abra Patricia-Alto Nieva Private Conservation Area (PCA) in department of Amazonas, northern Peru. The nest was located 13-15 m up in the crown of a *Myrcianthes sp.* (Myrtaceae) tree, along the “mono” trail, c. 400 m from the Owlet Lodge, on a steep section past the junction of this trail and the *Grallaria* trail, near a small wooden sign indicating previous sightings of White-faced Nunbird (*Hapaloptila castanea*), c. 2,200 masl. I found the nest after seeing an adult bird dive into the crown of the tree from upslope and disappear. After locating the bird on a nest in the tree, the bird remained relatively still throughout my observation. No nest measurements were taken or recorded. The nest appeared to be an open cup constructed mainly of lichen with some small twigs (Fig. 3).

Nest structure and materials observed at Abra Patricia were similar to those previously described and photographed elsewhere. To my knowledge, this is the first nest observed in northern Peru and the first recorded in the month of June throughout



Figure 1. Chestnut-crested Cotinga on nest (inside white oval), as seen from below, downslope.

the range. June nesting is later in the year than previous observations in Ecuador and Colombia, and earlier than records from Peru and Bolivia. At Abra Patricia, nesting might be expected for most birds during the beginning of the wet season, corresponding to the August-December timeframe of

other observations elsewhere in Peru and Bolivia. At Abra Patricia, June is one of the drier months of the year, but it is possible that Chestnut-crested Cotingas nest during wetter months as observed elsewhere in Peru.



Figure 2. Chestnut-crested Cotinga on nest, as seen from upslope of the base of the nesting tree.



Figure 3. Chestnut-crested Cotinga on nest, as seen from upslope of the base of the nesting tree (same image as Fig. 2, but cropped).

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