

Records of Semi-collared Hawk *Accipiter collaris* in northern Peru

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Reportamos el registro de *Accipiter collaris* en el norte de Perú. La especie fue observada, grabada y fotografiada en el departamento de Amazonas. Este registro es el primero documentado fuera del dpto. de Cusco, estando a 1,100 km al noroeste de los registros en este departamento y a 220 km al sureste del registro más al sur en Ecuador. Este reporte nos permite suponer que la especie se encuentra distribuida a lo largo de la vertiente este de los Andes del Perú entre los 1,100 y 2,500 m.

Semi-collared Hawk *Accipiter collaris* is a very rare and poorly known Neotropical raptor that occurs in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru⁴. In Venezuela it has been recorded in humid montane forest in the Andes of Táchira and Mérida, and in north-west Barinas, at 1,300–1,800 m⁷. In Colombia *A. collaris* is known from 600–1,800 m in the Western, Central and Eastern Andes⁶, while in Ecuador it is a very rare to rare resident in the subtropical zone on both slopes (Pichincha, Napo and Zamora-Chinchipe) at 1,500–2,200 m⁹. In Peru the species is considered rare in humid montane forest on the east slope of the Andes at 1,500–2,500 m¹⁰. In all four countries, *A. collaris* has been reported from the interior of montane forest and at forest borders and clearings with scattered trees^{4,7,9,10}.

In Peru, Semi-collared Hawk was first reported in 1980 based on a specimen collected in 1974 from Aputinye, dpto. Cusco, at 1,730 m⁸. Since then, the species has been reported at just two further localities in Cusco: Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary, below 2,000 m¹², and in the San Pedro sector of the Cosñipata drainage, near Manu Biosphere Reserve and adjacent to the border with dpto. Madre de Dios, at 1,100–2,500 m¹³, but most frequently at 1,300 m (B. Walker pers. comm.). Valdez & Osbourne¹¹ also recorded it in the Cosñipata drainage but without offering precise details. On 31 July 2005, at c.16h00, D. F. Lane (pers. comm.) observed an adult at Afluente, dpto. San Martín, at 1,400 m, but his record is unpublished.

New sightings

On 3 September 2010 at 12h00, we photographed a juvenile *A. collaris* flying over a pasture with scattered trees in El Toro sector, 6 km south of the town of La Esperanza, dpto. Amazonas (05°39'16"S 77°54'44"W; 1,935 m; Fig. 1). The bird called in flight and its vocalisations were sound-recorded. Playback was performed and it (or another bird) flew towards us and perched for a few seconds on a lone tree 200 m distant and c.25 m above ground.

After one minute the bird flew towards a forested hillside where it disappeared.

It was identified as a juvenile rufous-morph Semi-collared Hawk due to the obvious collar at the base of neck, which is absent in *A. superciliosus*, and the rufous tail (lacking in *A. striatus*⁴) (Fig. 1a). C. Artuso photographed another *A. collaris* at the same location, on 26 August 2010 (Fig. 1b). His photograph shows a rufous-morph Semi-collared Hawk based on the collar at the base of the neck, yellow irides and incomplete breast barring (leaving the central underparts unbarred), which separate the species from *A. superciliosus*. *A. superciliosus*, which is smaller than Semi-collared Hawk but possesses a similar rufous morph, has been reported in Peru only to 1,350 m¹⁰ yet in Venezuela is known to 1,800 m⁷. On 3 September 2010 at 16h00 we recorded another juvenile Semi-collared Hawk, this time of the brown morph, perched atop an isolated tree in what appeared to be an abandoned pasture with scattered bushes and trees at the same site. An adult *A. bicolor* was seen perched in similar habitat 700 m away, but was easily separated by its pale grey underparts.

Discussion

Few records of *A. collaris* are available for Peru and all published reports are from the area between the Cosñipata and Urubamba basins, within c.2,700 km² in Cusco. Ours are the first to be documented outside dpto. Cusco and lie c.1,100 km north-west of the previous northernmost record in Peru (Aputinye) and 220 km south-east of the southernmost in Ecuador (Zamora-Chinchipe province)⁹ (Fig. 1). Our records confirm the species' occurrence in northern Peru, as suggested by Schulenberg *et al.*¹⁰, and 'fill' a large gap in its distribution in the Peruvian Andes, indicating that *A. collaris* might be present along the entire east slope of Peru at 1,100–2,500 m.

Habitat requirements of this species have not been studied in detail and are known only from a few published reports. Parker & O'Neill⁸ found the species perched atop a tall dead tree at the

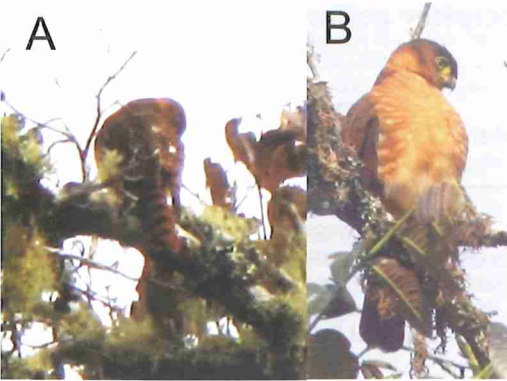


Figure 1 (a) Juvenile rufous-morph Semi-collared Hawk *Accipiter collaris*, La Esperanza, dpto. Amazonas, Peru, 3 September 2010 (Renzo Piana); note the brown tail narrowly barred black, and the pale collar on the neck-sides; (b) juvenile rufous-morph Semi-collared Hawk *Accipiter collaris*, La Esperanza, dpto. Amazonas, Peru, 26 August 2010 (Christian Artuso)

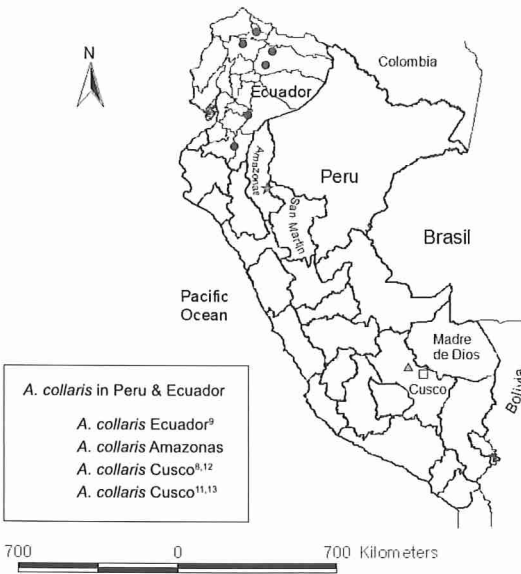


Figure 2. Known localities for Semi-collared Hawk *Accipiter collaris* in Peru and Ecuador.

edge of the Aputinye cloud forest at 1,730 m, and D. F. Lane (pers. comm.) saw one c.25 m up in a *Cecropia* tree amid second growth beside a road. Cuervo *et al.*² found *A. collaris* in the subcanopy of forest interior and edges at 1,400–1,750 m in the Cordillera Central (Colombia), and Freile & Chaves⁵ soaring above a cleared area adjacent to primary forest and attacking bush tanagers at a secondary forest edge (north-west Ecuador at 1,900 m). These observations are consistent with

ours and indicate that the species usually perches in tall trees at forest edges, where it presumably waits for prey.

Due to its small population, *A. collaris* is considered globally Near Threatened¹. In Peru the species is not included in the national list of threatened wildlife species³, but a proposal has been prepared to list it as Near Threatened due to the paucity of sightings in the country (Piana in press).

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