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

Fernando Angulo Pratolongo and Renzo P. Piana

Received 9 November 2010; final revision accepted 23 February 2011

Cotinga 33 (2011): 87–89

Reportamos el registro de *Accipiter collaris* en el norte de Perú. La especie fue observada, grabada y fotografada 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 Peru. 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 m². In Colombia *A. collaris* is known from 600–1,800 m in the Western, Central and Eastern Andes, 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 m². In Peru the species is considered rare in humid montane forest on the east slope of the Andes at 1,500–2,500 m³. In all four countries, *A. collaris* has been reported from the interior of montane forest and at forest borders and clearings with scattered trees.²,³,⁹,¹⁰

In Peru, Semi-collared Hawk was first reported in 1980 based on a specimen collected in 1974 from Aputinye, dpto. Cusco, at 1,730 m². Since then, the species has been reported at just two further localities in Cusco: Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary, below 2,000 m³, and in the San Pedro sector of the Cosquípata drainage, near Manu Biosphere Reserve and adjacent to the border with dpto. Madre de Dios, at 1,100–2,500 m³, but most frequently at 1,300 m (B. Walker pers. comm.). Valdez & Osborne also recorded it in the Cosquípata drainage but without offering precise details. On 31 July 2005, at c.16h00, D. F. Lane (pers. comm.) observed an adult at Affuente, dpto. San Martin, at 1,400 m, but his record is unpublished.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 (8°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*). 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 m³ yet in Venezuela is known to 1,800 m³. 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 perching 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 Cosquípata 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). Fig. 1. Our records confirm the species’ occurrence in northern Peru, as suggested by Schultenberg et al., 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’Neill found the species perched atop a tall dead tree at the
edge of the Aputinaye 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. found *A. collaris* in the subcanopy of forest interior and edges at 1,400–1,750 m in the Cordillera Central (Colombia), and Freile & Chaves 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 Threatened. In Peru the species is not included in the national list of threatened wildlife species, but a proposal has been prepared to list it as Near Threatened due to the paucity of sightings in the country (Piana in press).

**Acknowledgments**

We thank Tom Schulenberg, Barry Walker and Manuel Plenge for providing references and comments on the species’ distribution in Peru. Dan Lane shared his observations from Aflouente. Andrés Cuervo and Juan Freile kindly shared bibliography. We thank Christian Artuso for sharing his photograph of Semi-collared Hawk. BirdLife International and the Marshall-Reynolds Foundation funded our field work project ‘Northern Peru Threatened Endemics’. Noga & Sam Shane of Neotropical Primate Conservation provided logistics and permits to access the area. We also thank community members at La Esperanza for help in the field. Finally, C. Witt made useful comments on the manuscript.

**References**


Collared Hawk in northern Peru

The species usually perches at forest edges, where it presumably overlaps with the population, A. collaria is listed as Near Threatened. In Peru, it is included in the national list of species, but a proposal has been made to list it as Near Threatened due to habitat losses in the country (Piana

Barry Walker and Manuel Pereira, and the Marshallsound our field work project Endemics’, Noga & Sam Primates Conservation provided access to the area. We also thank La Esperanza for help in the

Cotinga 33


Fernando Angulo Pratolongo
BirdLife International Peru Program & CORBIDI, Las Zafrales LL-13, Miraflorres, Piura, Peru. E-mail: fernando.angulo@birdlife.org.

Renzo Piana
Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK; and The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho, USA. E-mail: rpiana@ecrbidi.org.

References


Barnes, P. C. & Calderón, D. Distributional bird data from the Department of the Colombian Andes, with notes on the biogeography of northwestern Colombia. Condor 110: 526–537.


