

35.8 mm and was khaki with diffuse blotches of various shades of brown and lavender (Fig. 1). At the larger end the egg was adorned with several deep black squiggles and spots. Upon our return on 22 October, the nest still contained a single egg, and the female flushed from the nest when we were more than 15 m away, flying directly from the nest, crossing the road in gliding flight. We did not observe the fluttering 'falling leaf' departure described for *C. penduliger*¹. Subsequently, park guards informed us that the egg was probably taken by locals, and we collected the nest after taking measurements.

The broad, shallow nest, composed predominately of dry sticks, measured 25 cm in diameter (with sticks poking out an additional 40 cm). It was only 7 cm tall outside, with a shallow (3.5 cm) internal cup, 15 cm in diameter. We returned the nest to the laboratory to dry for several weeks then examined it. The nest contained 175 sticks, plus rotting, fungus-covered scraps of bark and twigs (see below). Sticks ranged in length from 5.5 to 75 cm (mean \pm SD = 21.4 \pm 13.3 mm). The sticks varied in the number of times they forked, with 29% unforked, 46% a single fork, 19% with two forks, 6% having three forks, and a single stick with four. The diameter of each was measured c.1 cm from each end, as well as in the centre, to estimate overall thickness. Mean central diameter of each stick was 2.3 \pm 1.5 mm and the mean of all diameter measurements (including ends) was 2.0 \pm 1.2 mm. The total dry mass of the nest was 156 g, 88% of the dry sticks described above. In addition, the nest contained a few soft, rotting twigs and strips of bark (no linear measurements taken), each densely covered in a film of white fungus. The fungus had spread throughout the nest, concentrated where adjacent sticks crossed, effectively fusing the entire nest (Fig. 1). The nest rested on top of the substrate branch with no actual attachment, and we could lift the entire nest off it without

losing a single stick due to the glue-like properties of the fungus.

The description of the nest and egg closely match those of previous nests^{3,4}. Other than Sick's³ nest in July 1949, and the observations of T. A. Parker of a female building a nest in south-east Peru in October 1974⁴, ours are the only observations of the nesting ecology of this poorly known species, and are the first for Ecuador or for any population above 600 m.

Acknowledgements

We thank John V. & the late Ruth Ann Moore, the Hertzberg Family Foundation and Field Guides Inc. for their generosity. Juan Carlos Calvachi showed us the nest. The work was funded in part by a donation from Matt Kaplan through the Population Biology Foundation, and additionally supported by the PBNHS. This is publication no.124 of the Yanayacu Natural History Research Group.

References

1. Greeney, H. F., McLean, A., Bucker, A. D. L., Gelis, R. A., Cabrera, D. & Sornoza, F. (2006) Nesting biology of the Long-wattled Umbrellabird (*Cephalopterus penduliger*). Part 1: incubation. *Orn. Neotrop.* 17: 395–401.
2. Sick, H. (1951) An egg of the Umbrella Bird. *Wilson Bull.* 63: 338–339.
3. Sick, H. (1954) Zur Biologie de amazonischen Schirmvogels, *Cephalopterus ornatus*. *J. Orn.* 95: 233–244.
4. Snow, D. W. (1982) *The cotingas: bellbirds, umbrellabirds and their allies*. London, UK: Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.).

Harold F. Greeney and Kimberly S. Sheldon

Yanayacu Biological Station & Center for Creative Studies, Cosanga, Napo, Ecuador; c/o 721 Foch y Amazonas, Quito, Ecuador, and Department of Biology, University of Washington, Box 351800, 24 Kincaid Hall, Seattle, Washington 98195–1800, USA. E-mail: revmoss@yahoo.com.

Received 15 July 2007; final revision accepted 26 July 2007

Threat display and hatchling of Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*

The nesting biology of Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* is fairly well reported from localities throughout its range^{1–3}. In Trinidad & Tobago, French² briefly described the threat display of an adult but did not mention if it was at a nest or day roost. While undertaking field work in Ecuador, we photographed an adult giving a threat display whilst brooding a newly hatched nestling. As this is the first illustrated example of this striking threat behaviour, we briefly describe our observations.

On 20 June 2006 we found a nest of Common Potoo at a farm beside the Tena–Loreto road (00°43'S 77°46'W), west of Tena, prov. Napo, Ecuador, at 1,200 m. As is typical of potoos^{1,3}, the nest was a shallow depression atop a broken vertical branch and formed by a 15 cm in diameter broken trunk of a dying *Inga* sp. (Mimosaceae) tree, and was 5 m above ground. The nest was in a large patch of regenerating forest, c.200 m from a cattle pasture.

On 13 July, we approached the nest to photograph the bird, at which time it was sitting with the bill pointing upwards and eyes closed. As we approached, the adult slowly began to turn its head and open its bright yellow eyes. As we continued, the bird commenced to slightly droop and spread its wings while fluffing its contour feathers, increasing its overall size considerably. Finally, when we were only 1 m away, the potoo leaned forward, spreading its gape wide, and lowering and slightly spreading its wings (Fig. 1).

On approaching to within 0.5 m, the adult flushed, revealing a single egg in the process of hatching (Fig. 2). The egg was white to pale cream-coloured, with fairly evenly distributed, but sparse, lavender and cinnamon flecks and blotches. The nestling was uniformly dark grey to black-skinned, including the legs and most of the bill, which had a



Figure 1. Threat display of Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus* while sitting on an egg in the process of hatching, west of Tena, prov. Napo, Ecuador, 13 July 2006 (Jose Simbaña)

distinct black stripe posterior to the apex, being more flesh-coloured than the rest, with a prominent white egg-tooth. The gape was slightly paler than the surrounding flesh, but we did not examine the mouth-lining. Whilst the down was still wet at the time, it appeared abundant, mostly covering the nestling, and blond. It is interesting that the down was similar in colour to the seed down of balsa trees, common in the area. On 18 July, the nestling and adult were absent.

Acknowledgements

We thank Field Guides Inc., John V. & the late Ruth Ann Moore, Matt Kaplan, Tim Metz, the PBNHS, Hertzberg Family Foundation and Humbolt Crew for supporting our field work. K. Sheldon commented on early drafts and revision by N. Cleere greatly improved the final version. This is publication no. 109 of the Yanayacu Natural History Research Group.

References

1. Cleere, N. (1998) *Nightjars: a guide to nightjars and related nightbirds*. Robertsbridge: Pica Press.
2. French, R. (1991) *A guide to the birds of Trinidad and*



Figure 2. Hatchling Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*, west of Tena, prov. Napo, Ecuador, 13 July 2006 (Jose Simbaña)

Tobago. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

3. Holyoak, D. T. (2001) *Nightjars and their allies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Harold F. Greeney, Jose Simbaña and Angel Pedro Tangila

Yanayacu Biological Station & Center for Creative Studies, Cosanga, Napo, Ecuador; c/o 721 Foch y Amazonas, Quito, Ecuador. E-mail: revmmoss@yahoo.com.

Received 23 April 2007; final revision accepted 26 October 2007

First records of Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* in the west Peruvian Andes

Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum* inhabits premontane and montane forests along creeks, streams and fast-flowing rivers with gravel and sandy banks^{4,9}, from the highlands of Costa Rica, northern Colombia and Venezuela to central and south-east Brazil, and north-west and north-east Argentina⁶ (Fig. 1a). In Peru, *T. fasciatum* occurs on the east slope of the Andes^{3,4,7}, where it is uncommon at 600–1,800 m, to 3,300 m in the semi-arid valleys of dpto. Cusco and possibly dptos. Ayacucho and Apurímac⁴. On the west slope of the Andes, it is known south only to prov. Loja, Ecuador, at Las Piñas and Guainche^{2,9} and Tierra Colorada¹ (Fig. 1). Here, we report the first records for the west slope of the Peruvian Andes, a 270 km

southward extension of its trans-Andean distribution. In addition, we report a new low limit of the species' altitudinal range.

On 10 December 2002, an adult *T. fasciatum* was observed along the río Tocmoche, dpto. Lambayeque (06°24'S 79°21'W; 880 m) by FA. On 24 June 2004, FA found an adult that had been recently shot at quebrada San Isidro (05°35'S 79°48'W; 350 m), near the border of dptos. Piura and Lambayeque (it could not be prepared as a specimen). On 18 June 2005, JB photographed an adult at quebrada La Pachinga, dpto. Lambayeque (05°45'S 79°41'W; 450 m), which was initially seen on rocks along a creek before it flew high into nearby trees. On 17 October 2005, FA & JGT photographed two adults at quebrada La Vega, dpto. Piura (05°31'S 79°39'W; 400 m) (Fig. 2). They were first seen along a creek before flying to a nearby tree. Two days later, a lone adult was observed in the same tree. During 14–17 February 2006, three singles were observed along different creeks near and within Laquipampa Wildlife Refuge, dpto. Lambayeque (06°19'S 79°26'W; 800–1,400 m) by FA and Pablo Venegas. All were adults and one was photographed by FA. Though confirmation is needed, we believe that the number of observations suggests the species is breeding in some western Peruvian valleys.

Discussion

Taczanowski¹¹ listed a specimen of Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum* from dpto. Lambayeque, north-west Peru. Apart from this, *T. lineatum* is also unknown south of Guayas, Ecuador⁹. Taczanowski did not indicate any details concerning the specimen and, to our knowledge, it has not been mentioned in any subsequent literature, and presumably now is lost. Its identity will remain in doubt, but we take this opportunity to draw attention to the possibility that this bird represents much earlier evidence for the presence of Fasciated Tiger Heron in western Peru.