

A record of Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* west of the Andes, at the border between Ecuador and Peru

We identified a female Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* perched on a cable spanning the río Macará from the international bridge at La Tina (04°23'34"S 79°23'34"W; 400 m elevation), just south of the town of Macará, Loja province, Ecuador. We first saw the bird at c.15h00 on 14 January 2020, and returned the next morning at c.09h00 to obtain photographs (Fig. 1.). We identified the bird as a female based on the lack of a rufous breast-band, and as *C. amazona*, rather than the smaller Green Kingfisher *C. americana*, by the long and especially deep bill, and lack of white speckling on the wing-coverts or barring on the primaries^{5,9}. We watched the bird for a total of c.1 hour as it foraged in the river.

In Ecuador and Peru, Amazon Kingfisher occurs primarily east of the Andes^{5,9}. It has been recorded as high as 2,500 m in northern Venezuela⁴, and there are several photo-documented records on eBird³ along the río Zamora in southern Ecuador, upstream as far as the town of Zamora, at c.900 m³. There is a single documented record in Ecuador west of the Andes, with a male and female photographed at the same location as our Amazon Kingfisher on 14 November 2018³. Whether the 2018 sightings involved the same bird we saw in 2020 or not, the repeated occurrence of Amazon Kingfisher in apparently appropriate habitat suggests the possibility of breeding and evidence of such should be sought.

The Andes are often described as a barrier to dispersal and therefore a promoter of speciation^{6,10}, making the presence of Amazon Kingfishers at La Tina evidence of substantial dispersal. The mountain passes closest to La Tina are still c.2,800 m above sea level, an unusually high elevation for the species, given its overall distribution. Given that kingfishers are confined to



Figure 1. Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*, La Tina, Macará, Ecuador, 15 January 2020 (Richard R.Veit)

aquatic habitats, rivers represent the most likely dispersal routes, so the availability of Amazon Kingfisher records along the río Zamora^{3,5} suggests a possible route for these birds to have crossed the Andes. That some aquatic birds are capable of crossing the Andes on a regular basis, at elevations of at least 4,000 m, is attested by satellite-tracking of Black Skimmers *Rynchops niger* nesting on the río Manu¹ and Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea* migrating south towards Antarctica².

There are recent records of Amazon Kingfisher outside its known range in North America north of Mexico⁷: one in Laredo, Texas, in January 2010^{8,14}, with several additional records there through 2017, and at least one photographic record in southern Texas in November 2013, as well as a scattering of records north to central Tamaulipas, Mexico³, also north of the regular range⁷. Vagrants also appeared on Aruba and Curaçao in 2016¹³. Together, these records suggest a more widespread increase in vagrancy, and perhaps range expansion by Amazon Kingfisher, given the established link between vagrancy and range expansion^{11,12,15}.

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Ocurrencia del Gavilán Semiacollarado *Accipiter collaris* en el centro de Perú

El Gavilán Semiacollarado *Accipiter collaris* es una rapaz diurna de tamaño pequeño (80–90 g), restringida a los bosques montanos andinos entre 600 y 2.500 m^{4,12}. Su distribución abarca desde el occidente de Venezuela, a través de Colombia y Ecuador, hasta el sur de Perú⁴. Se la considera en general rara y es difícil de detectar debido a sus hábitos sigilosos⁸. Como otras especies de *Accipiter* con dedos y garras largas, sobre todo las especies pequeñas, se cree que tiene una dieta especializada en aves e insectos^{5,11}. La extensiva pérdida de los bosques montanos es probablemente la principal amenaza para la conservación

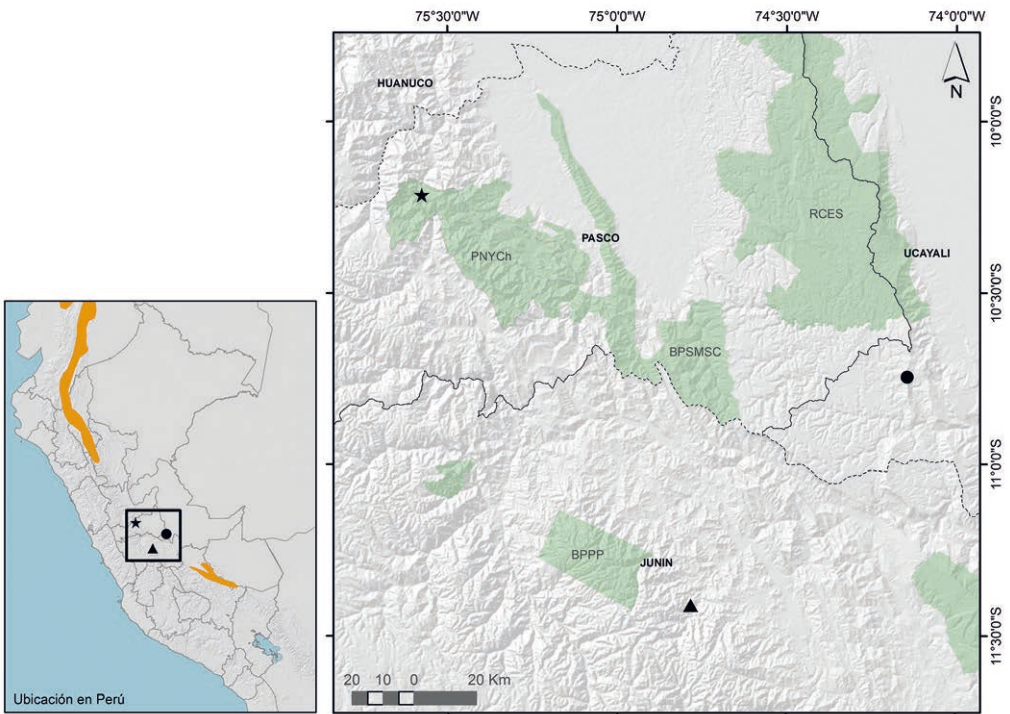


Figura 1. Nuevas localidades del Gavilán Semiacollarado *Accipiter collaris* en Perú. Estrella negra: región de Pasco; círculo negro: Ucayali; triángulo negro: Junín. En verde claro se muestran las áreas naturales protegidas cercanas. En el inserto se muestra su distribución potencial en Perú según BirdLife International².