

**New distributional records of Rufous-necked Puffbird *Malacoptila rufa* and Pearly Antshrike *Megastictus margaritatus* in Peruvian Amazonia**

We present the first confirmed records of Rufous-necked Puffbird *Malacoptila rufa* and Pearly Antshrike *Megastictus margaritatus* in the Pucallpa region of the Ucayali basin in Peruvian Amazonia. These records extend the known geographic range of *M. rufa* by at least 200 km south to dpto. Ucayali, and fill a significant gap in the known distribution of *M. margaritatus*.

Both species are restricted to tropical evergreen forests of Amazonia where they forage in the understorey, often in pairs<sup>7,9</sup>. *M. rufa* is fairly common within

its range, which spans parts of Peru, Bolivia and Brazil<sup>7,9</sup>, with two recognised subspecies, *M. r. rufa* and *M. r. brunnescens*, of which *M. r. rufa* occurs south of the Amazon, from north-east Peru to the Madeira River in Brazil, and from north-east Bolivia to eastern Mato Grosso, Brazil<sup>5</sup>. In Peru, the southernmost published record of *M. rufa* is from Sarayacu, Loreto<sup>8,11</sup>. West of the Ucayali, the southernmost published records of *M. rufa* are from Santa Cruz and Yurimaguas, Loreto<sup>10</sup>. Our records of *M. rufa* represent a range extension of c.200 km south.

*M. margaritatus* is a monotypic species that is rare to uncommon and patchily distributed throughout its range, possibly being most frequent in *terra firme*<sup>7,9</sup>. It occurs in southern Venezuela, eastern Ecuador, north-east and east-central Peru, west-central Brazil, and in extreme south-east Colombia<sup>13</sup>. In south-central Peru, it is very local<sup>7</sup>, with the southernmost records from Lagarto, on the east bank of the Ucayali River at 10°35'50"S 73°52'40"W<sup>12</sup>. West of the Ucayali, there are also records from the floodplain of the Cushabatay in Loreto<sup>1</sup>. Our records of *M. margaritatus* represent the first



Figure 1. Rufous-necked Puffbird *Malacoptila rufa*, prov. Coronel Portillo, dpto. Ucayali, south-west Peru, 8 August 2010 (Juan Molina Vilca)



Figure 2. Pearly Antshrike *Megastictus margaritatus*, prov. Coronel Portillo, dpto. Ucayali, south-west Peru, 29 July 2010 (Juan Molina Vilca)

Table 1. Capture information and mensural data for individuals of Rufous-necked Puffbird *Malacoptila rufa* and Pearly Antshrike *Megascictus margaritatus* captured in July and August 2010.

Species	Band number	Wing-chord	Weight (g)	Fat*	Pectoral muscle**	Capture date	Capture time	Capture location	
<i>Malacoptila rufa</i>	D000114	87	41.2	1	3	8 August	07h10	08°30'4.231"S	74°42'1.186"W
<i>Malacoptila rufa</i>	D000115	87				8 August	08h10	08°30'4.231"S	74°42'1.186"W
<i>Malacoptila rufa</i>	E000104	88	38.5	0	2	23 July	07h45	08°30'15.833"S	74°42'13.77"W
<i>Malacoptila rufa</i>	E000105	90	42	0	2	23 July	07h45	08°30'15.833"S	74°42'13.77"W
<i>Megascictus margaritatus</i>	C000119	72	20.9	0	2	29 July	09h56	08°30'15.833"S	74°42'13.77"W
<i>Megascictus margaritatus</i>	C000123	60	22.3	1	1	31 July	07h20	08°30'13.706"S	74°41'59.903"W

\* 0 = No visible fat, 1 = trace of fat

\*\* 1 = muscle rather depressed, 2 = muscle slightly rounded, 3 = muscle fully rounded

Codes taken from Redfern & Clark<sup>6</sup>

between these two sites, and help fill an apparent gap in the species' distribution.

During July–August 2010, we captured four *M. rufa* and two *M. margaritatus* in a forest on the west bank of the río Ucayali, south-west of Pucallpa in the Coronel Portillo district of Ucayali at 74°42'W 08°30'S. The forest was characterised by moderate levels of human disturbance from selective logging and subsistence hunting. All six individuals were trapped in mist-nets (12 m × 2.6 m; 36 mm mesh), measured, photographed and banded with aluminum bands marked with a unique code and the inscription 'PERU www.corbidi.org'.

We captured a pair of *M. rufa* together on 23 July 2010 at 07h45 and another pair on 8 August 2010 at 07h10. One bird (band no. D000115) escaped and we were only able to take a photograph and record its wing-chord. Of the other three individuals, none was reproductively active, or in body or wing moult. Because *M. rufa* is sexually monomorphic, sexing was impossible. Neither did we definitively age them, but all were probably adults based on the lack of obvious juvenile characters and the presence of two feather generations.

The first *M. margaritatus* was trapped on 29 July 2010 at 09h45 and the second on 31 July 2010 at 07h20; both were adult males based on plumage coloration and their completely pneumatized

skulls. Both had signs of a brood patch, but neither showed cloacal protuberance or feather moult. One (band no. C000119) was in light (1–10%) body moult. Both weighed close to 20.2 g, the mean body mass for this species<sup>2</sup>. We did not record any female *M. margaritatus* during our field work.

These new distributional records, discovered during a short field season, strongly argue the need for further ornithological inventories of lowland forests in the Ucayali drainage. Because this region remains understudied biologically (T. S. Schulenberg pers. comm.), it is probable that the area harbours other previously unreported resident birds. Some urgency exists for such baseline surveys as the region is being rapidly transformed by logging and agricultural expansion. In 1999–2005, >50% of all deforestation in Peruvian Amazonia was in the Pucallpa region<sup>4</sup>. Although *M. rufa* and *M. margaritatus* are considered Least Concern by the IUCN<sup>3</sup>, both species are highly sensitive to disturbance<sup>9</sup> and could disappear if logging and habitat fragmentation continue at present levels.

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