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DOCUMENTED RECORDS OF ASH-COLORED CUCKOO (*Coccyua cinerea*) IN AMAZONIAN PERÚ

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ABSTRACT

The Ash-colored Cuckoo (*Coccyua cinerea*) it is considered a hypothetical species for Peru and there are no documented records of its presence within the country. It is considered to be a rare austral migrant to the lowlands of the southwest Peruvian Amazon. It is considered a vagrant in the northern Peruvian Amazon. Here we report four documented records of the species from the southern Peruvian Amazon and confirm its occurrence in the country. We further discuss the seasonality of the records and the species' status within Peru and propose to change its status from Hypothetical to rare austral migrant.

KEYWORDS: austral migrant, occurrence, peruvian amazon.

REGISTROS DOCUMENTADOS DEL CUCLILLO GRIS (*Coccyua cinerea*) EN LA AMAZONIA PERUANA

RESUMEN

El Cuclillo Gris (*Coccyua cinerea*) es considerado como una especie hipotética para el Perú y no existen registros documentados de su presencia dentro del país. Se le considera como un raro migrante austral en la llanura amazónica del suroeste peruano. Es considerado un divagante en el norte de la Amazonía peruana. Aquí reportamos cuatro registros documentados de la especie al sur de la Amazonía peruana y confirmamos su ocurrencia en el país. Además, analizamos la estacionalidad de los registros y el estado de la especie en Perú y proponemos cambiar su estado de hipotético a migrante austral raro.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Amazonía peruana, ocurrencia, migratorio austral

INTRODUCTION

The Ash-colored Cuckoo (*Coccyua cinerea*) is found in Paraguay (except in the far northwest), Uruguay, Northern Argentina (South to Río Negro) and locally in southern Brazil (Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul). It winters in central and west Brazil, east and north Bolivia, and southern and northeastern Peru and extreme southeast Colombia (Payne, 2018).

In Peru, *C. cinerea* it is considered a Hypothetical species (Plenge, 2018; Remsen *et al.*, 2018), since, as until now, there are no documented records of its presence in the country. Schulenberg *et al.* (2010) consider the species as a rare austral migrant to lowlands of the southwest and very rare on the north bank of the Amazon River.

There are at least two published undocumented records for the country. The first record belongs to one individual observed on July 13th 1977 in the Tambopata River, Madre de Dios department (12°50'S / 69°16'W, 205 m) (Parker, 1982) (Figure 1, red triangle 2). The bird was in transitional forest, hopping along branches and vines in the lower canopy of a tall forest tree, and was apparently associating with a mixed-species flock that included Chestnut-winged Hookbill (*Ancistrops strigilatus*), Rufous-tailed Xenops (*Microxenops milleri*), Spot-winged Antshrike (*Pygoptila stellaris*) and numerous tanagers, honeycreepers and greenlets.

The second published record pertains to one individual seen foraging low above the ground in an agricultural plot at Intuto, Loreto department (03°29'22''S / 74°46'59''W, 120 m) on February 19th 1994 (Figure 1, red triangle 5). This locality is along the Tigre River that flows to the Marañón just before this meets the Ucayali and forms the Amazon. Its occurrence is presumably accidental (Díaz-Alvan *et al.*, 2017).

As for documented records, one individual was observed and photographed (Figure 2, above left)

by Percy Avendaño on September 4th 2016 at Villa Carmen Biological Station, Cuzco department (12°53'40.5''S / 71°24'11.1''W, 517 m) (Figure 1, green square 12). The bird was in the gardens of the biological station.

On September 9th 2017, one individual was observed and photographed (Figure 2, above right) by JAAF at 6:23 am in a degraded gold mining area on the north bank of the Madre de Dios River, west of Puerto Maldonado (12°34'17.78''S / 69°04'18.56''W, 202 m) (Figure 1, green square 13). The bird was perched 2 m above the ground level in riverine vegetation surrounding a pond in flooded forest (including *Tessaria integrifolia*).

On September 12th 2018, two individuals were observed and photographed (Figure 2, bottom left) by FAP at 8:35 am at Amazonia Lodge, Madre de Dios department (12°52'10.86''S / 71°22'26.93''W, 493 m) (Figure 1, green square 15). There were perched at 6 m above the ground level in a leafless tree at the border of a forest clearing.

On October 7th 2018, one individual was observed and photographed at 9:55 am at Isla Rolín, an island on the Madre de Dios River, Madre de Dios department, just in front of Inkatererra Lodge (12°32'54.93''S / 69°03'9.27''W, 177 m) (Figure 1, green square 16). The observers were Dennis Osorio, Noé Huaraca, Plinio Arapa and the bird was photographed by David Ascanio (Figure 2, bottom right). The bird was perched on a *Tessaria integrifolia* bush, in successional vegetation.

Ash-colored Cuckoo was included as hypothetical on the birds of Peru list following the record by Parker (1982) (Schulenberg *et al.*, 2010; Plenge, 2018), and remained there due to the lack of confirmed published records from Peru. With this article, we document its presence within the country and propose to move it from Hypothetical to rare austral migrant status on the Peru list.

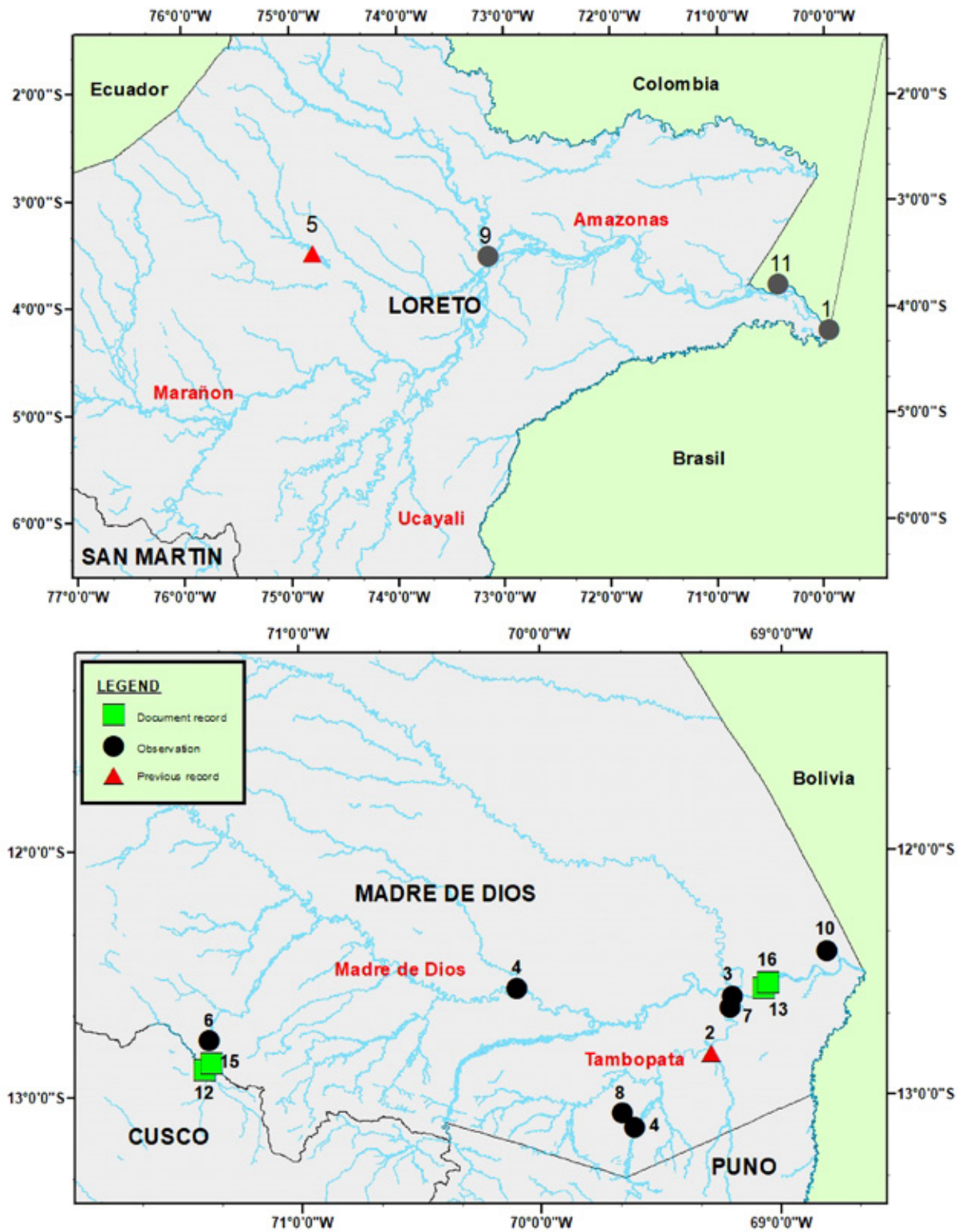


Figure 1. Records of *Coccyua cinerea* from Madre de Dios and Loreto departments and adjacent Colombia. Red triangles: previous published and undocumented records. Green squares: documented records presented in this manuscript. Black dots: other records from eBird (2018). Red text are river names.



Figure 2. *Coccyua cinerea* at Villa Carmen Biological Station, Cuzco department. Photo by P. Avendaño (upper left). *C. cinerea* at the north bank of the Madre de Dios River, west of Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios department. Photo by J. Alferez (upper right). A pair of *C. cinerea* at Amazonia Lodge, Madre de Dios department. Photo by F. Angulo (bottom left). *C. cinerea* at Isla Rolín, Madre de Dios River, Madre de Dios department. Photo by D. Ascanio (bottom right).

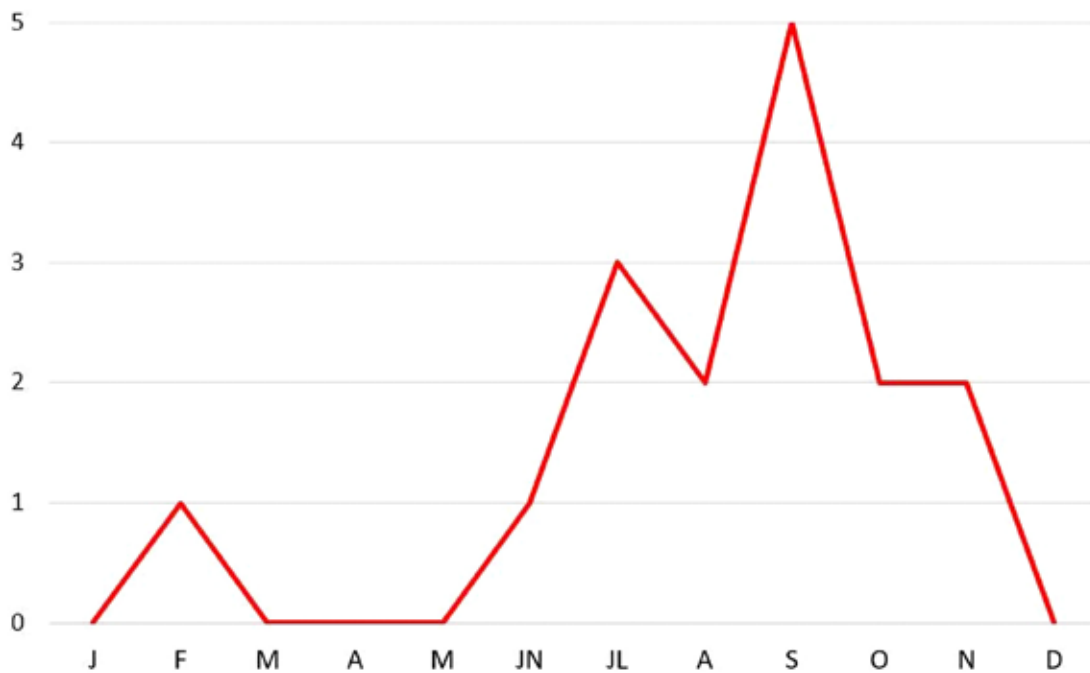


Figure 3. Number of records of *Coccyua cinerea* per months of the year.

Table 1: Records of *Coccyua cinerea* in Peru and adjacent Colombia. Records are chronologically displayed.

N°	Day	Month	Year	N° Ind.	Observers	Documented	Department/ Country	Coordinates
1	14	July	1975	1	John Luther / Don Roberson	---	Amazonas / Colombia	4°13'10.6" S - 69°56'39.4" W
2	13	July	1977	1	Ted Parker	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°50" S - 69°16" W
3	18	August	1987	1	Frank Murphy	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°36'14.1" S - 69° 12'05.4" W
4	11	June	1993	1	Andrew Kratter	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	13°08'14.1" S - 69° 36'42.9" W
5	19	February	1994	1	Jose Alvarez	---	Loreto / Peru	03°29'22" S - 74°46'59" W
6	22-23	September	2001	1	Douglas Stotz	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°46'18.1" S - 71° 23'07.8" W
7	18	November	2003	1	David Krueper	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°38'53.6" S - 69° 12'43.1" W
8	2	October	2005	1	Rudy Gelis	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	13°04'38.9" S - 69° 39'49.9" W
9	10	September	2009	1	Mauricio Ugarte	---	Loreto / Peru	3°30'52.4" S - 73°08'06.8" W
10	30	November	2012	1	Jhon Van Dort	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°24'55.7" S - 68° 48'35.8" W
11	4	July	2014	1	Luis Germán Naranjo	---	Amazonas / Colombia	3°47'39.7"S - 70°25'37.8"W
12	4	September	2016	1	Percy Avendaño	YES	Cuzco / Peru	12°53'40.5"S - 71°24'11.1"W
13	9	September	2017	1	Jesús Alferez	YES	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°34'17.78"S - 69°04'18.56"W
14	20	August	2018	1	Will Sweet / Alex Wiebe	---	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°33'58.7" S - 70° 06'03.0" W
15	12	September	2018	2	Fernando Angulo	YES	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°52'10.86"S - 71°22'26.93"W
16	7	October	2018	1	David Ascanio	YES	Madre de Dios / Peru	12°33'31.6" S - 69° 03'13.9" W

There are a minimum of 14 records of Ash-colored Cuckoo for Peru (Figure 1, Table 1) (eBird, 2018). All involve one individual, except the record from Amazonia lodge by FAP, which involves two. Most of the records are from Madre de Dios except one in Cuzco (Figure 1, green square 12), and two in Loreto: the record mentioned in Díaz-Alvan *et al.*, (2017), and one by M. Ugarte, which are located in Northern Amazonia (Loreto) (eBird, 2018) (Figure 1, red triangle 5, black dot 9). Thirteen (n=13) records are between June and November, with the highest number on September (n=5) and one is from February (Figure 3, Table 1). So, it would seem that the species is a rare austral migrant to the southern Peruvian Amazon and very rare to the northern Amazon. There are a further two records of the species in Colombia, adjacent to the Peruvian border in northern Loreto, near Leticia (eBird, 2018) (Figure 1, black dots 1 & 11). Both are from July, that makes records from July n=3 (Figure 3).

As for the habitat used by this species, and derived from the five records described in this article, we can see that the species primarily uses successional/transitional forest, forest border and secondary forest. As for the chronology of the records, there is one record from Peru as old as 1977, one from the 1980's, two from 1990's, and the rest are post 2000. It is interesting to note that the species is still documented 40 years after the first records. The FAP observation has been sent to review to the Peruvian Rare Birds Committee (Comité de Registro de Aves del Perú-CRAP).

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