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BOOK REVIEWS—RESEÑAS DE LIBROS—RESENHAS DE LIVROS

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Cotingas and Manakins. — Guy M. Kirwan & Graeme Green, illustrated by Eustace Barnes. 2012. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, USA. 624 pp. ISBN 978-0-691-15352-0. Hard cover. Price $55.00.

"Cotingas and Manakins" is an impressive volume of over 600 pages, densely packed with detailed, up-to-date information. In their preface, the authors acknowledge their debt to the late David Snow whose many publications have contributed so much to our understanding of these extraordinary birds. They express the hope that David Snow would have approved of their book. I am sure that he would.

Cotingas and manakins include some of the most colorful and ornate of all birds, including many with bizarre courtship displays and vocalizations. Some have been studied intensively, contributing much to our understanding of lekking behavior and relationships between fruit eating and seed dispersal, while others are among the rarest and least known of birds.

The systematics of the cotingas and manakins have long been controversial and have been much revised over the past few decades. When the authors began work on their book, just the two families, the Cotingidae and Pipridae, were involved. Now, as a result of past and ongoing morphological and genetic studies, five families are involved. One new family, the Tityridae, has been erected and includes *Schiffornis*, *Iodopleura*, *Laniocera*, and *Laniisoma* as well as tityras and becards. The Sharpbill (*Oxyruncus cristatus*) is reinstated in its own family, the Oxyruncidae. The enigmatic Broad-billed Sapayoa (*Sapayoa aenigma*) has been shown to be more closely related to the Old World broadbills (Eurylaimidae) and "Cotingas and Manakins" uses that family name. Illustrating the changing nature of our understanding of systematics, however, the sapayoa has more recently been placed in its own family (Sapayoidae) (Remsen *et al.* 2012). The affinities of *Calyptura*, *Phibalura*, and the three species of *Piprites* remain uncertain and they are treated as *Incertae Sedis.*

As a result of these taxonomic changes, the species included in "Cotingas and Manakins" have become a rather arbitrary selection. The authors have understandably chosen to include the interesting genera *Sapayoa*, *Oxyruncus*, and the three that are *Incertae Sedis*. They have also included part of the new family Tityridae (*Schiffornis*, *Laniocera*, *Laniisoma*, and *Iodopleura*) but have left out the tityras and becards which were removed from the cotingas as early as the 1970s.

The text of "Cotingas and Manakins" is scholarly, comprehensive and up-to-date, making good use of the more than 1,700 publications listed in the huge bibliography. The introductory chapters, dealing with such general topics as movements and migrations, breeding biology, food and foraging, etc., are

excellent and comparable with the equivalent material in the cotinga and manakin entries in the "Handbook of the Birds of the World" (Snow 2004a, b). The individual species accounts are very detailed, including sections on identification, distribution, movements, habitat, description, measurements, geographical variation, voice, natural history, food and feeding, display, breeding, status, and references. The range maps for each species appear to be accurate. Some include the ranges of subspecies, particularly in cases where there are potential "splits." I would have preferred the international boundaries to be more prominently outlined on the maps, making the distributional limits of species within countries a little easier to see.

The 34 plates are decorative but variable in quality. Some are good, capturing the "jizz" or *gestalt* of the birds well, but in a few the birds seem a little stiff and in others the colors appear to be not quite right. The eye-catching cover, depicting Guianan Cocks-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), is very good. In addition to plates, the book includes about 400 photographs chosen "to illustrate aspects of the identification and life history of the species concerned." As a whole, they are not as technically or aesthetically excellent as the superb selection of photographs in the "Handbook of the Birds of the World." Nevertheless, they are a valuable addition, illustrating typical plumages, postures, and behavior.

There seem to be very few typos or misprints in the text, although I did notice that one tyrant-manakin is "more readily **censured** using mist-nets than by other techniques" (Fig. 1 caption, page 123). There are a couple of design features that are rather disconcerting. Almost half the species accounts begin on the right-hand page facing a full page of photographs of the preceding species. It would have been more sensible and useful for text and photographs on these spreads to feature the same species. Also, many readers will find the font size too small for comfortable reading.

To summarize, "Cotingas and Manakins" is a superb reference book and a valuable addition to any library. It invites comparison with the cotinga and manakin entries in the "Handbook of the Birds of the World." Both works have excellent introductory chapters and for general background I would recommend referring to both. For detailed information about individual species, "Cotingas and Manakins" includes much more information and is more up-to-date. However, it is a heavy volume (weighing in at about 1.8 kg) and probably not one that I would take on a field trip to South America.

To complete this review, I am going to comment on a few of the cotingas that my wife and I have come to know well while living in Costa Rica (30 years adjacent to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve) and NW Ecuador (eight years in the Tandayapa Valley).

Scaled Fruiteater (Ampelioides tschudii). Williams (2002) reported Scaled Fruiteaters feeding on arboreal snails. In the chapter on food and foraging in "Cotingas and Manakins", this behavior is described as "aberrant" but it is a method of feeding that we have seen or heard on many occasions and regard as entirely normal for this species. The sound of a snail being smashed against a branch is often the first indication that a Scaled Fruiteater is in the area. Apparently, there are few data on fruits eaten by the Scaled Fruiteater. The following are important in the Tandayapa Valley: *Acnistus arborescens* (Solanaceae), *Hedyosmum* (Chloranthaceae), *Heliconia burleana* (Heliconiaceae), and *Palicourea* (Rubiaceae).

Three-wattled Bellbird (Procnias tricarunculatus). Over the last few decades, the Three-wattled Bellbird has declined throughout its range, though the magnitude of the decline is not widely appreciated. During the 30 years

(1977–2007) that we lived next to the Monteverde Preserve, we regularly monitored bellbird numbers. In 1979 and 1982, before the decline, we took compass bearings on birds that we could hear from our house, several of which were the same as those mapped by Barbara Snow (1974). The bearings showed the presence of at least 10–12 males calling from fixed territories during the first few weeks of the breeding season (late March and April). During bouts of peak calling, we could hear 50-65 calls per minute and, including birds with temporary territories, there were probably 20 males in the area. By 1995, there was a maximum of only five calling birds at any one time and calling rates never exceeded 15 calls per minute. A few males continued to visit and call in the area during the late 1990s and early 2000s, but they moved around, called only sporadically, and no longer occupied permanent, traditional calling sites. In 2002, one of the worst years, we counted every call that we heard during a 9-week period from mid-April to late June. We heard calls on only nine days and a total of only 48 calls – less than a minute's worth during peak calling in the 1970s or 1980s.

Bare-necked Umbrellabird (Cephalopterus glabricollis). The descriptions of the lekking behavior of this species in "Cotingas and Manakins" involve two different types of behavior. As with the other two umbrellabirds, Bare-necked Umbrellabirds display on traditional, exploded leks which are used daily during the breeding season and year after year. Males are well separated and interactions between males and females typically take place early in the morning and "in private." It is also quite common to encounter gatherings of males engaged in prolonged and noisy bouts of display. Such gatherings often occur in the vicinity of a fruiting tree and, inevitably, sometimes within the area of a lek (exploded leks occupy several hectares). However, in our experience (Fogden & Fogden 1997), the gatherings of males are unpredictable in timing and often occur away from leks. They are not in any sense traditional and not part of normal lekking behavior. Also, as the males are so active, engaging in supplanting attacks and chases, it is difficult to imagine that successful mating could take place. I suspect that the gatherings are to do with establishing male dominance hierarchies. It is quite common to encounter similar gatherings of Andean Cocks-of-the-Rock (see below).

Olivaceous Piha (Snowornis cryptolophus). All accounts of this species state that it is largely silent. We agree. It is a species that we encounter regularly on our property in the Tandayapa Valley but we have heard it vocalise only twice, our notes describing the calls as "a soft, guttural rattle". Both calls were made during chases at fruiting trees. We have never heard anything that sounded like song and nothing resembling the loud and distinctive song of the closely related Grey-tailed Piha (*Snowornis subalaris*). Fruits taken by the Olivaceous Piha include *Clusia* (Clusiaceae), *Hedyosmum* (Chloranthaceae), *Disterigma* (Ericaceae), *Ossaea* (Melastomataceae), *Palicourea*, and *Psychotria* (Rubiaceae).

Andean Cock-of-the-Rock (Rupicola peruvianus). Most sources, including "Cotingas and Manakins," state that the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock feeds mainly on fruit which is plucked in flight. In our experience (watching birds feeding around our house in the Tandayapa Valley), taking fruit while perched is equally common, which method is used depending on the distribution of fruit on plants. Many fruits (e.g. in the Lauraceae) are borne on the tip of slender twigs, or on long peduncles, where they are inaccessible to perched birds as heavy as cocks-of-the-rock. Such fruits are plucked in flight. However, many other plants bear their fruits on, or within reach of, substantial branches, twigs, or other supports. Figs are an obvious example. Fruits that are commonly taken by Andean

Cocks-of-the-Rock while perched include *Dendropanax* (Araliaceae), *Cecropia* (Cecropiaceae), *Hedyosmum* (Chloranthaceae), *Heliconia* (Heliconiaceae), *Ficus* (Moraceae), *Palicourea*, and *Psychotria* (Rubiaceae). Taking fruit in flight is energetically more expensive than taking fruit while perched, so it makes sense that birds should take advantage of perches whenever they can do so efficiently.

Soon after settling in the Tandayapa Valley, we encountered a gathering of 6–8 male cocks-of-the-rock displaying together and making a tremendous din. We thought we had found a new lek. Since then we have encountered similar gatherings on numerous occasions, usually in the mid to late morning, sometimes in the vicinity of a fruiting tree. Such gatherings have never occurred in the same area for longer than a few successive days and all have been several hundred metres away from the nearest known lek. It seems likely that such gatherings have to do with establishing male dominance hierarchies.

Black-necked Red-Cotinga (Phoenicircus nigricollis). In 1987, we spent six weeks at Explornapo Lodge in Peru, part of which time was spent watching and photographing the lekking behavior of the Black-necked Red-Cotinga. Most of what we observed was similar to published accounts, namely calling and displaying on horizontal lianas about 10 m above the ground. However, on our last morning we heard loud noises from behind our photographic blind and had brief glimpses of activity taking place on the ground on what later inspection showed to be a small cleared area. Unfortunately, we had no time for more observations. In this context, it is interesting that Olalla (1943) described this species "dancing" and performing communal displays like manakins. More observations are badly needed and likely to be very rewarding. – Michael Fogden, Old Hall Farm Barns, Cley Next The Sea, Norfolk NR25 7SF, UK. *E-mail*: michael.fogden@fogdenphotos.co.uk

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