

THE AUK

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
ORNITHOLOGY

VOL. 107

APRIL 1990

No. 2

CERCOMACRA MANU, A NEW SPECIES OF ANTBIRD FROM SOUTHWESTERN AMAZONIA

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ABSTRACT.—*Cercomacra manu* is a distinctive new species in the family Formicariidae. The species is distributed locally in southeastern Peru and adjacent Bolivia at elevations below 1,200 meters. *C. manu* is secretive and restricted largely to extensive bamboo thickets. The female is gray below; this unusual feature—along with other plumage and vocal characteristics—places *C. manu* within a species group that contains four other, allopatric South American taxa. We suggest that *manu* is closest to *C. melanaria* of eastern Bolivia and Mato Grosso, Brazil. Received 7 March 1989, accepted 23 October 1989.

IN 1975 we encountered an unusual antbird several times in mist nets set among dense riparian vegetation near the Manu River, well inside the Manu National Park of southeastern Peru (Terborgh et al. 1984). We tentatively identified these birds as *Cercomacra nigricans*, a species then thought to occur in the Amazon basin on the basis of one specimen taken by J. A. Feduccia and J. P. O'Neill at Balta, Department Ucayali, Peru, in 1964 (LSUMZ 34211; O'Neill 1969). Because the collection of specimens inside the Manu National Park is prohibited, our identification could not be confirmed.

Subsequently we obtained other specimens of this antbird during intensive surveys of the lower Manu River, the banks of the Alto Madre de Dios River, and adjacent Andean foothills. These specimens confirm that these birds are members of a distinctive new species of *Cercomacra*, to which the Balta specimen also belongs. The species is virtually restricted to dense bamboo thickets, as discussed more fully below.

Cercomacra manu sp. nov. Manu Antbird

Holotype.—Field Museum of Natural History no. 310653; adult female (skull 80% pneumatized), taken 12 river km downstream from Shintuya on left bank of Alto Rio Madre de Dios, Dept. Madre de Dios, Peru, 12°33'S, 71°17'W, elevation 420 m; collected 17 August 1980 by John W. Fitzpatrick, field number 80-221.

Diagnosis.—Medium-sized antbird, identifiable as *Cercomacra* by graduated tail with white-tipped rectrices, long bill with broad base and slightly hooked tip, and gray-bellied female plumage. Within the gray-bellied species group (see below), *manu* females are unique in having dull olive crown and dorsal plumage, rather than blackish or grayish upperparts. Males are extremely similar to *C. nigricans*, *carbonaria*, *melanaria*, and *ferdinandi*, but are dark sooty gray to dull black rather than deep, glossy black over most of their plumage. Flank plumes are dark gray, and suffused with olive in some specimens, rather than pure black as in the other similar species. White tips of rectrices, though variable, are narrower than in *nigricans*, *ferdi-*

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FRONTISPIECE. Male and female Manu Antbirds (*Cercomacra manu* on bamboo). In smaller scale are females of the four other closely related species (top to bottom: *nigricans*, *carbonaria*, *ferdinandi*, and *melanaria*). All five species are placed in their respective regions of northwestern South America, with the Amazon River shown for reference. Guache by John W. Fitzpatrick.

nandi, and *carbonaria*. Rictal, loral, and supraorbital bristles are longer, stiffer, and more numerous in *manu* than in the four related species; the longest are 6–8 mm and have basal barbs. All five members of this species group are allopatric (see below).

Description of holotype.—Overall appearance is “two-toned,” with olive-brown above and neutral gray below. Crown, dorsum, and outer webs of remiges dull olive-brown, between Olive (Color 30) and Olive-Green (Color 48; capitalized colors are from Smithe [1975, 1981]). Concealed interscapular patch white. Marginal coverts from shoulder to wrist white, producing a semiconcealed white “shoulder patch.” Wing linings white; lesser and median secondary coverts black, broadly tipped white; greater secondary coverts, primary coverts, and alula dusky brown, tipped white and with outer margins olive like back. Tail graduated; rectrices uniformly dark gray-brown, closest to Blackish Neutral Gray (Color 82), each narrowly tipped with white crescent, broadest on outermost (shortest) pair and reduced to a few white barbs at the tips of the central pair. Eying, lores, cheeks, and entire underparts uniform neutral gray, between Medium and Dark Neutral Gray (Colors 84 and 83); chin and throat slightly paler, faintly streaked with whitish; long flank plumes gray, suffused with dull olive. Long, black rictal bristles about eyes, face and gape. Soft part colors in life: irises pale sandy brown, maxilla black, mandible silvery gray mottled darkish; tarsi and feet pale gray.

Measurements of holotype (mm).—Wing chord 64.0, central rectrices 66.5, outermost rectrices 46.0, culmen from base 19.0, culmen from anterior edge of nostril 10.0, tarsus 22.0; mass 17.0 g.

Distribution.—*Cercomacra manu* occurs (Fig. 1) locally in bamboo thickets and associated habitats in the lowlands and lower Andean slopes (up to 1,200 m, above Pilcopata, Dept. Cusco) of southeastern Peru, and extreme northwestern Bolivia along the Rio Tahuamanu (2 km W Porvenir, Dept. Pando, 300 m). The northernmost record is the single specimen from Balta, Dept. Ucayali. The species is regularly encountered in bamboo along the banks of the Rio Manu and the Rio Madre de Dios. Numerous sight records exist from the Tambopata Reserve near Puerto Maldonado, and from the Rio Heath at the Bolivian border (T. A. Parker III pers. comm.). The species is not recorded from Brazil,

but almost certainly occurs in proper habitat in the state of Acre (Parker and Remsen 1987).

Etymology.—We are pleased to name this species in honor of the Manu National Park, one of the most important reservoirs of biological diversity on earth. Encompassing nearly 1.5 million hectares of pristine rain forest, cloud forest, and puna grassland, the park protects the richest avifauna in the world. To date more than 870 bird species are recorded from the vicinity of the park. The total species within the park is probably near 1,000. By honoring the historical and present-day importance of this region and park, we also honor the efforts of the Peruvian government and the World Wildlife Fund in protecting it for future generations. *Cercomacra manu* is a regular inhabitant of extensive bamboo thickets at lower elevations in the Manu region.

Specimens examined.—We examined the following specimens from Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de Sao Paulo (MZUSP), Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ), Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia (ANSP), American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (LACM), and Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMZ):

C. manu (14 males, 10 females): Peru—Dept. Ucayali: Balta (LSUMZ 1♂); Dept. Madre de Dios: Cerro de Pantiacolla, E slope, 5 km NNE Shintuya (FMNH 1♂, 1♀); Alto Rio Madre de Dios, left bank: 17 km downstream from Shintuya (FMNH 1♂ [plus 1 skeleton, 1 in alcohol], 2♀), 12 km downstream from Shintuya (FMNH 2♂), 10 km downstream from Shintuya (FMNH 1♀ in alcohol), 7 km downstream from Shintuya (FMNH 1♂); Rio Palotoa, left bank, 12 km from mouth (FMNH 1♂?); ridge above Hacienda Amazonia (FMNH 1♂, 1♀); lower Rio Manu, left bank (AMNH 1♂, 1♀); Dept. Cuzco: Consuelo (km #165), 17 road km above Pilcopata (FMNH 1♀). Bolivia—Dept. Pando: 2 km W Porvenir (LSUMZ 2♂ [plus 1 skeleton], 1♀ [plus 1♀ in alcohol]).

C. melanaria (30 males, 8 females): Brazil—Mato Grosso: Agua Blanca de Corumba (AMNH 1♂); Faz. San Juan, R. Cuyaba (AMNH 2♂, 1♀); Cuiaba (MZUSP 1♂); Descalvados (FMNH 2♂; AMNH 1♂; ANSP 2♂, 1♀); rio São Lorenzo (AMNH 2♂, 1♀); Chapada (AMNH 1♀); Porta Esperanza (MZUSP 1♂); Miranda (MZUSP 2♂, 1♀); R. Paraguay (MZUSP 1♂); Xarqueada Ottilia, R.

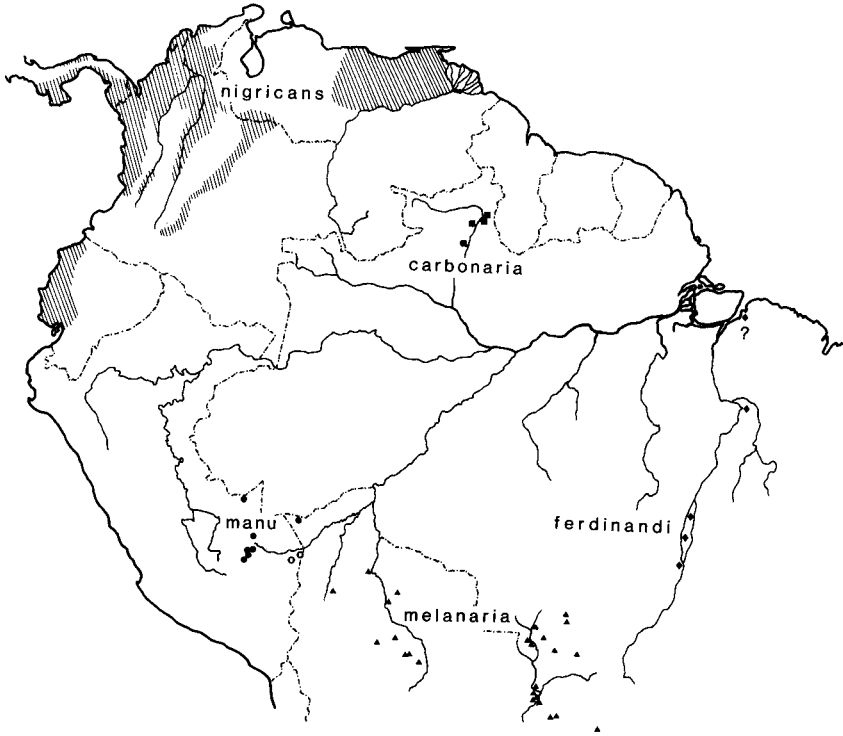


Fig. 1. Northwestern South America and the Amazon drainage basin, showing distributions in the “*Cercomacra nigricans*” species group: *nigricans* (hatched areas), *carbonaria* (squares), *ferdinandi* (diamonds), *melanaria* (triangles), and *manu* (closed circles = specimen localities, open circles = sight records). Northernmost plotted locality for *ferdinandi* is uncertain (see text).

Paraguay (MNRJ 1♂); Rio Piquiri (MNRJ 1♂); Porto Esperidião (MNRJ 1♂); Salobra (MZUSP 1♂, MNRJ 1♂); Caceres (MZUSP 1♂); Santo Antonio (MZUSP 1♂, 1♀). Bolivia—Dept. Santa Cruz: Buena Vista (LSUMZ 1♂); Isama (LSUMZ 1♀); Dept. Beni: Rio Yacuma, 2 km from mouth (AMNH 1♂); Rio Tijamuchi, 4 km from mouth (AMNH 1♂); Laguna Suarez, 5 km SW of Trinidad (FMNH 1♂); 6 road km SE of Trinidad (LSUMZ 1♂ [alcohol], 1♀); Dept. Cochabamba: mouth of Rio Chapare (ANSP 2♂); Todos Santos, Rio Chapare (ANSP 1♂).

C. carbonaria (11 males, 3 females): Brazil—Roraima: Rio Mucajai, S of Boa Vista (LACM 6♂, 2♀; FMNH 2♂; MZUSP 1♂); Ilha São Jose, Rio Branco (FMNH 1♀); Forte do Rio Branco (AMNH 1♂); Caracarahy, Rio Branco (AMNH 1♂).

C. ferdinandi (6 males, 6 females): Brazil—Goiás: Ilha do Bananal (MZUSP 1♀); Santa Isabel do Morro, Ilha do Bananal (MNRJ 1♂, 1♀); Furo de Pedra, Ilha do Bananal (MNRJ 4♂, 3♀); Araguatins (MZUSP 1♂, 1♀).

C. nigricans: more than 100 specimens, from Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Middle America.

REMARKS

Male plumage.—As discussed below, *manu* belongs to a species group in which male plumages are extremely similar. Males of all five species are black all over, with white interscapular patches and white tips to all rectrices, wing coverts, and wrists. Marginal coverts, wing linings, and innermost edges of secondaries also are white, not visible on the folded wing. The body plumage in *manu*, palest of the species group, actually is extremely dark, neutral gray, somewhat paler about the face, flank plumes, and crissum. Males are most similar to *melanaria* in both plumage and size. The most definitive distinguishing characters between males of these two species are tarsus lengths, in which the ranges are nonoverlapping (Table 1), and

TABLE 1. Measurements (mm) of five species of *Cercomacra* in "nigricans" species-group.*

Species	Wing chord	Longest rectrix	Shortest rectrix	Tarsus	Culmen	
					From base	From nares
Males						
<i>manu</i> (10)	70.7 ± 1.7 (67.0–72.5)	71.5 ± 3.7 (65.5–79.0)	42.4 ± 3.2 (38.5–49.0)	23.0 ± 0.9 (21.5–23.7)	20.7 ± 1.2 (19.5–22.5)	10.5 ± 1.0 (9.0–11.5)
<i>melanaria</i> (24)	70.7 ± 1.8 (67.0–74.5)	73.0 ± 3.6 (66.0–81.0)	44.5 ± 1.9 (41.0–48.0)	26.3 ± 0.8 (24.5–27.5)	20.0 ± 0.9 (18.0–22.0)	10.2 ± 0.6 (9.5–11.5)
<i>carbonaria</i> (11)	67.5 ± 1.0 (66.0–69.0)	64.0 ± 2.7 (59.5–67.0)	40.8 ± 1.8 (38.0–43.5)	23.4 ± 0.6 (22.5–24.5)	20.2 ± 0.4 (19.5–20.5)	10.7 ± 0.1 (10.5–11.0)
<i>ferdinandi</i> (5)	69.2 ± 1.6 (67.0–71.0)	68.3 ± 2.4 (64.5–71.0)	42.5 (n = 1)	24.0 (n = 2)	19.6 ± 0.7 (18.5–20.5)	10.7 ± 0.4 (10.0–11.0)
<i>nigricans</i> (10)	68.2 ± 2.4 (65.0–73.0)	63.4 ± 1.8 (61.0–65.5)	38.7 ± 2.4 (33.5–42.0)	23.2 ± 0.8 (22.0–24.0)	20.4 ± 0.6 (19.5–21.5)	10.7 ± 0.2 (10.5–11.0)
Females						
<i>manu</i> (8)	63.7 ± 1.0 (62.5–72.5)	62.9 ± 2.9 (59.5–66.5)	40.7 ± 2.7 (37.5–45.5)	21.6 ± 0.5 (21.0–22.5)	19.2 ± 0.5 (18.5–19.5)	9.2 ± 0.5 (8.0–10.0)
<i>melanaria</i> (5)	65.7 ± 1.0 (64.5–67.0)	68.3 ± 3.0 (65.5–72.5)	40.8 ± 1.1 (39.5–42.0)	25.4 ± 0.6 (24.5–26.0)	19.2 ± 0.9 (18.5–20.0)	9.6 ± 0.3 (9.5–10.0)
<i>carbonaria</i> (3)	63.8 ± 2.4 (62.0–66.5)	64.1 ± 5.0 (60.5–70.0)	35.0 (n = 1)	23.1 ± 0.1 (23.0–23.2)	18.9 ± 0.3 (18.5–19.0)	10.3 ± 0.3 (10.0–10.5)
<i>ferdinandi</i> (4)	64.5 ± 2.5 (61.0–67.0)	62.6 ± 4.5 (56.0–66.0)	37.0 (n = 1)	21.5 (n = 1)	17.4 ± 0.9 (16.5–18.5)	9.9 ± 0.5 (9.5–10.5)
<i>nigricans</i> (12)	62.9 ± 1.4 (60.5–65.5)	60.1 ± 3.0 (56.5–63.0)	37.3 ± 2.4 (33.0–40.5)	22.6 ± 0.7 (21.5–24.0)	19.1 ± 1.1 (17.5–21.0)	9.9 ± 0.4 (9.0–10.5)

* Mean ± standard deviation, range in parentheses; sample sizes for each sex follow species names.

rectral bristle development (see Diagnosis, and below). Overall, the amount of white on the wings and tail in *manu* is similar to *melanaria* but reduced compared to *C. nigricans*, *carbonaria*, and *ferdinandi*. White tips on rectrices are relatively narrow, averaging ca. 2–3 mm (range 1.0–5.0 mm). White tips of wing coverts are confined to the terminal 1–1.5 mm, and do not extend up the outer margins. The alula has a white tip, but lacks white on outer margin. Scapulars are blackish and virtually lack white on margins or tips. Outermost one or two remiges on most males are narrowly edged whitish (absent in *melanaria*, present in *carbonaria*, *ferdinandi*, and most *nigricans*). Compared with all other taxa in the genus, facial bristles in *manu* are more numerous, elongated (up to 8 mm), and stiffened about the gape, lores, and especially the anterior supraorbital region. Soft part colors in life: irises dark brown; maxilla and mandible black; tarsus and feet black.

Variation.—Males of *manu* are ca. 10% larger than females (Table 1). Mean body weight of males ($n = 12$) is 19.7 g, and of females ($n = 9$), 16.6 g.

Within adults of both sexes, variation exists

in the width of white tips on rectrices, though in all cases these tips are broadest on the outermost (shortest) two pairs and narrowest on the central pair. In females the white tips are consistently narrower than in males, form crescents rather than oval- or diamond-shaped patches, and sometimes are reduced to traces of white about the end of the rachis. Pale tips to wing coverts in some females are buffy-olive rather than white. Feathers on the belly of several female specimens are edged with pale gray, giving a pale wash to the underparts.

One male (FMNH no. 322003), with unpnematized skull and tiny, translucent testes, closely resembles adult females, and is olive-brown above and neutral gray below. Its median and lesser coverts are narrowly tipped buffy-olive. The rectrices are long and pointed, with narrow white tips rather than the more extensive oval patches typical of adult males. Measurements are similar to those of adult males. This specimen presumably is in juvenal plumage.

Breeding.—We obtained no direct evidence as to nesting dates. Specimens of *manu* have been collected between 24 June and 26 November, and include only one juvenile, collected on 8

September 1985 (see above). This individual is adult-sized, and was uttering typical adult vocalizations when collected. Dates of specimens apparently in breeding condition, and their gonadal measurements, are as follows: males: 24 June 1986 (testis 5×3 mm), 17 August 1980 (5×2.5 mm), and 6 October 1981 (4×2.5 mm); female: 6 October 1981 (largest ovum 10 mm, yolking).

Vocalizations.—Like other members of the genus, *manu* has several call types, including male-female duets. We recorded three distinct vocalizations, of which the most frequent is a deliberate, harsh "hert-CHUCK-hert-CHUCK-hert-CHUCK-hert-CHUCK" heavily accented on alternating syllables, and all syllables evenly spaced. This appears to be the primary advertising call, and is delivered principally or exclusively by the male in a pair. The second vocalization is a rapid, slightly descending whinny of 9–13 guttural, staccato notes: "tk-tk-tik-tik-tik-tek-tek-tek-tuk," softer and higher-pitched than the primary call. Both sexes deliver this call. Finally, a rapidly repeated "Chut-up, Chut-up, Chut-up, Chut-up" is delivered by either sex, and frequently in syncopated, antiphonal duets between members of the pair. The first of these three vocalizations shows structure homologous to the two-syllable "ker-Chup" elements given by other members of the species-group (see below).

Relationships.—Plumage patterns suggest two species groups within *Cercomacra*, with one species (*cinerascens*) intermediate. The groups are most easily recognized by female plumage, which is predominantly warm buffy-brown or orange-buff in *C. tyrannina*, *serva*, *nigrescens*, and *brasiliانا*, ("tyrannina-group"), and predominantly gray to olive-gray in *manu*, *melanaria*, *nigricans*, *ferdinandi*, and *carbonaria* ("nigricans-group"). In *cinerascens*, females are dull grayish brown. Both sexes of the *tyrannina*-group lack conspicuous white tips on the rectrices, present in both the *nigricans*-group and *cinerascens*.

Sound recordings are available for all members of the genus except *carbonaria* and *brasiliانا*, and D. F. Stotz (pers. comm.) recently wrote notes on the calls of *carbonaria* near Boa Vista, Brazil. Vocal similarities strongly support the species groups indicated above. All members of the *nigricans*-group have harsh, guttural primary vocalizations dominated by a two-syllable "ker-Chup" element not present in the *tyrannina*-group. In addition, only *manu*, *melanaria*,

and *ferdinandi* are known to have the staccato whinny in their repertoire (that of *ferdinandi* is joined to its "ker-Chup" element, producing a more complicated primary call). Recordings of *manu*, *melanaria*, *ferdinandi*, and *nigricans* are deposited at the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell University.

Relationships among the five members of the *nigricans*-group are less clear, with males barely distinguishable and female plumages generally too distinctive to reveal obvious common ancestries (see Frontispiece). Female *ferdinandi* are rare in collections. They appear most similar to those of *nigricans*, and are dark gray to blackish with narrow pale streaks on throat and breast. The streaked throat is shared with female *carbonaria*, which are paler and washed buffy below. A streaked throat is unusual (presumably derived) among female antbirds. We infer that *ferdinandi*, *nigricans*, and *carbonaria* are each other's closest relatives. Females of both *manu* and *melanaria* are unstreaked grayish below, although *melanaria* is much paler. Both sexes show more limited white on the tips of remiges and rectrices than in *ferdinandi*, *nigricans*, and *carbonaria*. Moreover, *manu* and *melanaria* are nearly identical in size (except for tarsus) and are larger than the other three species. On the basis of these shared characteristics we hypothesize that *manu* and *melanaria* are sister taxa, possibly close enough to be recognized as a superspecies. Finally, *cinerascens* probably belongs at the base of the *nigricans* species-group, based upon its white-tipped rectrices, dull grayish-brown (not bright buff) female plumage, and guttural vocalizations containing two-syllable phrases. In all of these features, *cinerascens* more closely resembles members of the *nigricans* group than do any of the remaining species in the genus.

Biogeography.—Four of the five species in the *nigricans*-group have limited distributions around the perimeter of the Amazon basin (Fig. 1). As suggested by their nearly identical female plumage, *ferdinandi* appears to represent a southern Amazonian relic that is related to *nigricans* far to the north and is now restricted to the Araguaia-Tocantins drainage. A male from "Belem," collected by J. Hidasi, was recently cataloged at the Museum of Zoology, São Paulo (D. Stotz pers. comm.). The precise locality for this specimen remains unconfirmed. *Cercomacra carbonaria* is known only from a cluster of localities along the Rio Branco and its major tributaries in northern Brazil. These include the



Fig. 2. Bamboo thickets of southeastern Peru. Holotype was collected from the dense thickets bordering seasonally flooded lagoons along the Alto Madre de Dios River (left; 12 river-kilometers downstream from Shintuya, Department Madre de Dios). *Cercomacra manu* pairs occupied overstory of bamboo thickets at elevations as high as 1,200 meters (right; Consuelo, near kilometer 165 on Cosñipata Road above Pilcopata, Department Cusco).

specimen (a badly shot male) from Caracarahy, Rio Branco, previously identified as *C. nigricans* (AMNH no. 236688). As this had been the only record of *nigricans* south of the Rio Orinoco (Peters 1951: 217), *nigricans* should be removed from the list of species known from Brazil.

Cercomacra manu and *melanaria* presumably stem from a common ancestor along the southwestern rim of the Amazon basin. *Cercomacra melanaria* now appears to be fragmented into two populations occupying moist, brushy habitats in largely open country south and east of *manu*. Although *manu* is the only member of the group to occur well within the Amazon forest, it, too, is nearly restricted to a specific habitat type (bamboo) usually associated with the forest edge.

Ecology and behavior.—*Cercomacra manu* is encountered almost exclusively in extensive, mature bamboo thickets. Parker and Remsen (1987) found it in second growth woodland adjacent to bamboo in Bolivia, and Parker (pers. comm.) observed it in tall riverine forest at the Tambopata Reserve in southeastern Peru. Our earliest netting records at Cocha Cashu Biological Station were from swamp forest and viny river-

edge forest with only scattered bamboo nearby (Terborgh et al. 1984). In bamboo thickets, closely knit pairs forage 8–15 m above the ground. Even when uttering their distinctive calls, they are secretive and difficult to spot in the leafy and vine-tangled bamboo overstory. At the type locality in July and August 1980, at least three pairs maintained contiguous territories several hundred meters long and fifty to one hundred meters wide within very large bamboo thickets that border stagnant lagoons (Fig. 2). Parker and Remsen (1987) estimated territory size for three pairs to be between 0.5 and 1.0 ha. Pairs sometimes joined mixed-species flocks when these came through the territory, but were more frequently found as lone pairs.

Other common inhabitants of bamboo at the type locality included the following (species found locally only in bamboo are marked with asterisk): *Nonnula ruficapilla*, *Percnostola lophotes*, *Cymbilaimus sanctaemariae**, *Dryophila devillei**, *Microrhopias quixensis*, *Myrmotherula ornata**, *Simoxenops ucayalae**, *Automolus dorsalis**, *A. melanopezus*, *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*, *Poeciloriccus albifacies**, *Hemitriccus flammulatus**, *Ramphotrigon megalcephala**, *Thryothorus genibar-*

bis. At elevations between 600 and 1,200 m, bamboo thickets abound also in southeastern Peru. Additional bamboo inhabitants we have encountered at these elevations include *Monasa flavirostris**, *Thamnophilus palliatus**, *Myrmotherula longicauda**, *Capsiempis flaveola**, and *Lophotriccus pileatus* (see also Parker 1982, Pierpont and Fitzpatrick 1983).

Foraging behavior of *manu* is similar to that of other *Cercomacra*. It consists of active hopping from perch to perch, gleaning arthropods from clusters of small bamboo leaves or leafy tangles. Parker and Remsen (1987) observed some sally-gleaning as well. The arching crowns of bamboo thickets include numerous vine tangles interspersed with bamboo branchlets, and these appear to be especially favored foraging sites. Rictal bristles are highly developed about the face of *manu*. We suspect that these provide protection for the eyes and face within the noxiously ant-ridden and spiny tangles into which these antbirds hop and thrust their beaks in pursuit of insects. Stomach contents included caterpillars, Orthoptera, and other small arthropods (stomachs on deposit at both LSUMZ and FMNH).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are most grateful to the Ministerio de Agricultura of Peru for permitting our extensive fieldwork in southeastern Peru during the 1970s and 1980s, and for permission to conduct research in the Manu National Park. John Terborgh stimulated our early interest in this area, for which we remain grateful. John Douglass, Enrique Deza, and Nina Pierpont participated in the memorable first expedition to collect the new form, and Douglass kindly provided the photograph of the type locality. Douglas Stotz has been instrumental in ornithological inventories involving collection of *Cercomacra manu*, and he also helped interpret certain distribution records. Stotz, Theodore A. Parker III, and Gary Graves made helpful comments on the manuscript. The Cornell Library of Natural Sounds and Theodore A. Parker III lent tape recordings of several species of *Cercomacra*, and Paul Baker produced sonograms of these recordings. For

information or specimens from the collections under their care, we thank Paulo Vanzolini (Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, MZUSP), Dante Teixeira (Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, MNRJ), Scott Lanyon (Field Museum of Natural History, FMNH), Frank Gill (Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, ANSP), François Vuilleumier (American Museum of Natural History, AMNH), D. Scott Wood and Kenneth Parkes (Carnegie Museum of Natural History, CMNH), Kimball Garrett (Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, LACM), J. Van Remsen (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, LSUMZ), and Raymond A. Paynter Jr. (Museum of Comparative Zoology, MCZ). Our ornithological explorations in southeastern Peru have been generously supported by the H. B. Conover Fund of the Field Museum of Natural History, the Bertha LeBus Charitable Trust, and the National Science Foundation (BSR-8508361). Archbold Biological Station and staff provided assistance in preparing the final manuscript.

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Publication of the Frontispiece was supported by the Donald L. Bleitz Fund.