

**FIRST RECORDS OF THE WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON
 (*COLUMBA LEUCOCEPHALA*), THE RUFIOUS-NECKED WOOD-
 RAIL (*ARAMIDES AXILLARIS*), AND THE SNOWY COTINGA
 (*CARPODECTES NITIDUS*) FOR GUATEMALA**

Knut Eisermann¹

Fundación Mario Dary (FUNDARY), 5a avenida 9-62, 3er Nivel Apto. 2, Zona 1, Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala.

Primeros registros de la Paloma Coroniblanca (*Columba leucocephala*), del Rascón Cuellirrufo (*Aramides axillaris*), y de la Cotinga Nivosa (*Carpodectes nitidus*) en Guatemala.

Key words: *Aramides axillaris*, *Carpodectes nitidus*, *Columba leucocephala*, Guatemala, mangrove, Punta de Manabique.

During the 165 days of observation carried out from September 2000 to June 2001 on the avifauna of the peninsula Punta de Manabique (hereafter Manabique), Izabal, Guatemala, a total of 314 bird species were recorded (Eisermann in prep.), with three of these species being considered new records for Guatemala: the White-crowned Pigeon (*Columba leucocephala*), the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides axillaris*), and the Snowy Cotinga (*Carpodectes nitidus*). These species were not previously reported for the country in Howell & Webb (1995), nor in the updated database of the checklist of birds in Guatemala (I. Arias, Fundaeco, pers. com.). Manabique is a marine-terrestrial protected area situated on the Atlantic coast of Guatemala (15°50'N 88°30'W). The terrestrial sec-

tion is characterized by palm swamp forests, coastal brush, mangrove and a mosaic of forest fragments and agricultural land.

The White-crowned Pigeon was observed various times in Manabique from October to April: 1 immature (13 October 2000), 1 adult (27 January 2001), 1 adult (28 February 2001), 1 adult (13 March 2001), 2 adults (30 March 2001), and 1 adult (10 April 2001). The pigeons were observed feeding in coastal coco-plum shrub (*Crysobalanus icaco*), in mangrove forest (*Rhizophora mangle*) along the shoreline of estuaries, and in secondary grow shrub. Reproductive behavior has not been observed. The nearest area where reproductive populations are known to exist are the Belize Cays at a distance of 80 km, and the Caribbean islands of Honduras (Howell & Webb 1995), at an approximate distance of 170 km. Howell & Webb (1995) mention population movements of this species from the nesting grounds on the islands to the

¹Current address: P.O. Box 098 Periférico, Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala, Centro América. E-mail: qawakennes@hotmail.com

coastal mainland for feeding and during winter months. The absence of the species in the study area after 10 April leads to the assumption that the White-crowned Pigeon observed in Manabique was present due to winter migration.

The Rufous-necked Wood-Rail was observed in Manabique only once on 13 March 2001. It was seen clearly with binoculars at a distance of 8 m, feeding on the mud between the stilt roots of mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), along the bank of a small, tide-influenced creek in the La Graciosa Bay. The mangrove stands were 10 to 15 m wide on both banks of the stream, with a closed canopy over the water. Local fishermen have also seen this species previously and are able to distinguish it from the larger Grey-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) (C. Paz Bigiela, pers. com.), which is more common in Manabique. The site where this species was observed matches with the habitat requirements described by Howell & Webb (1995). The absence of other sightings of the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail in parts of its range with suitable habitat is attributed to the reduced detectability of the species due to its skulking habits.

The Snowy Cotinga was also spotted in Manabique once, on 10 May 2001. An adult male was observed perching for 15 min on a bald tree on the beach near the mouth of the Motagua river on the border with Honduras. The northern limit of the range of this species is designated by the Sula Valley in western Honduras (Stiles *et al.* 1989, Howell & Webb 1995). Considering this lone observation, the species should be considered a guest in Manabique.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and USAID provided financial support to the Manabique bird study. I would also like to thank FUNDARY for the technical support and Dylan Stearns for his revision of this English manuscript.

REFERENCES

- Howell, S. N. G., & S. Webb 1995. A guide to the birds of Mexico and northern Central America. Oxford Univ. Press, New York, New York.
- Stiles, F. G., A. F. Skutch, & D. Gardner 1989. A guide to the birds of Costa Rica. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, New York.

Accepted 31 August 2002.