

Extension of the southern range of distribution of the Rufous-Brown Solitary *Cichlopsis leucogenys* (Aves, Turdidae) in Peru

Extensión del rango de distribución sur del solitario rufo-marrón *Cichlopsis leucogenys* (Aves, Turdidae) en el Perú

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Abstract

On September 4, 2022, we captured an individual of *Cichlopsis leucogenys* in locality of Megantoni (Cusco, Peru) in pre-montane forest at 1050 m above sea level. We extend the known distribution of the species in approximately 139 km south of its distribution.

Resumen

El 4 de septiembre DE 2022 se capturó un individuo de *Cichlopsis leucogenys* en la localidad de Megantoni (Cusco, Perú) en un bosque premontano a 1050 m de altitud. Se extiende la distribución conocida de la especie en aproximadamente 139 km al sur de su área de distribución.

Keywords:

Amazonia, premontane forest, Cusco, monitoring, subspecies.

Palabras clave:

Amazonía, bosque premontano, Cusco, monitoreo, subespecie.

Cichlopsis leucogenys Cabanis, 1851, a member of the thrush family (Turdidae), has a disjunct distribution across Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil (Collar et al. 2024). In Peru, the subspecies *C. l. peruviana* was described by Hellmayr (1930) and is known from only a few localities in the central Andes, specifically in the departments of Huánuco, Pasco, and Junín (Socular et al. 2013). It inhabits premontane forests at elevations ranging from 690 to 1570 m a.s.l. (Collar et al. 2024; Socolar et al. 2013).

Cichlopsis leucogenys is a distinctive thrush characterized by its uniform ochraceous-fawn coloration, with subtle tonal variations across the head, back, throat, chest, belly, and cloaca. The species also exhibits notable contrast due to its yellowish bill, orbital ring, and legs (Collar et al. 2024; Hellmayr 1930).

Here, we report a new locality for *Cichlopsis leucogenys* in the department of Cusco, extending its known distribution to the pre-montane forests in the southern part of the country.

On September 4, 2022, at 8:45 a.m., we captured an individual of *C. leucogenys* (Rufous-Brown Solitaire) using mist nets at 12°12'43.0"S; 73°00'36.0"W (1050 m a.s.l.; Fig. 1) in the Megantoni district, La Convención province, Cusco department. The bird was photographed and subsequently released; no morphometric measurements were taken. The photograph is deposited in the ornithology collection of the Natural History Museum at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (CONSTANCIA 09-2024-Ornitología,MHN).

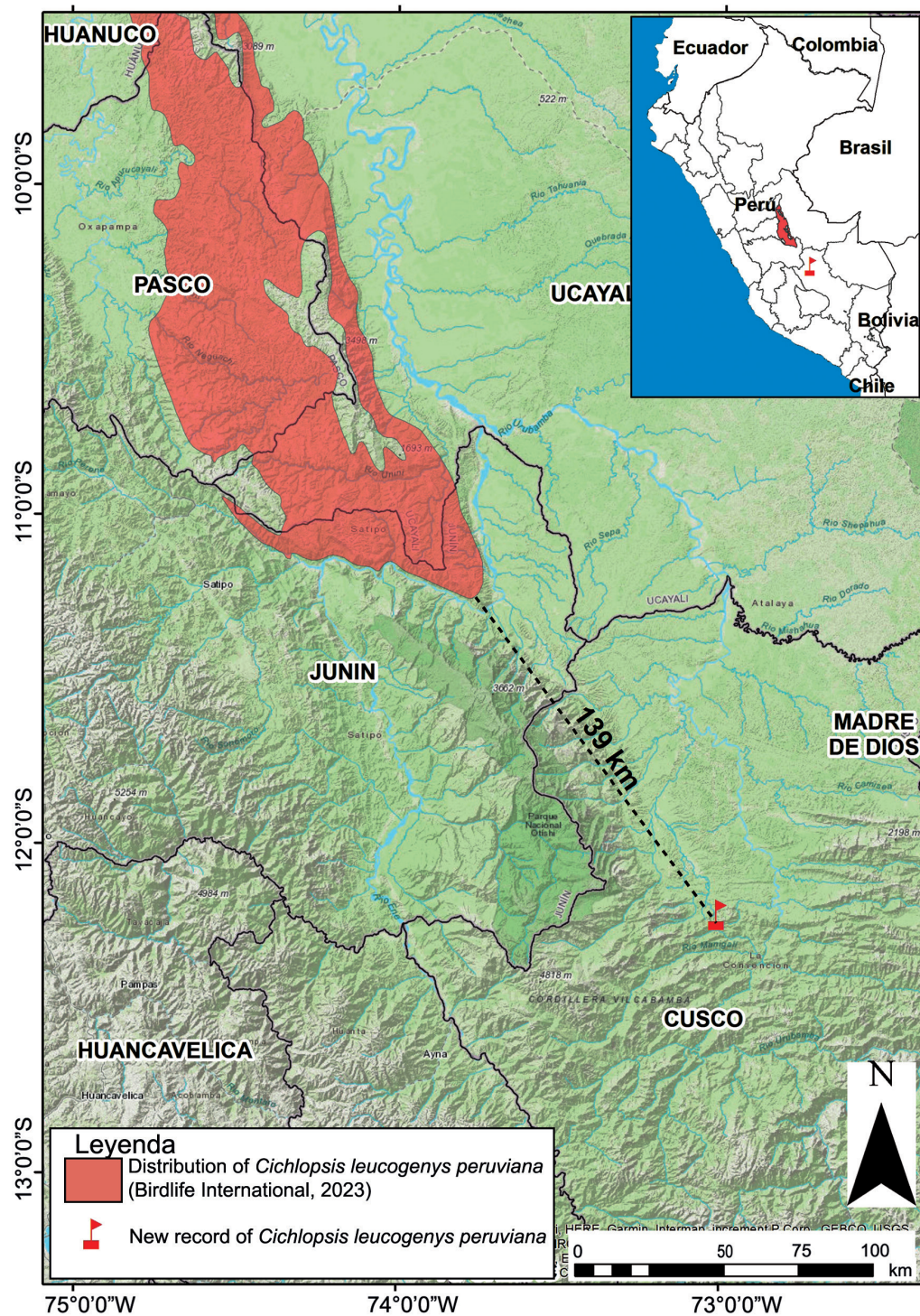


Figure 1. New record of *Cichlopsis leucogenys* in the department of Cusco, Peru, approximately 139 km South of current distribution (inset, BirdLife International 2024).

Identification was based on the plumage patterns of the species, the individual was a large bird (20–21 cm length) with nearly uniform ochraceous-brown coloration, showing slight tonal variations across different body regions (Collar et al. 2024) (Fig. 2). Additionally, the yellow coloration of the mandible, orbital rings, and legs is a distinguishing feature (Collar et al. 2024; Hellmayr 1930). The species is distinguished from other species of the family by its ochraceous coloration (Collar

et al. 2024). However, it could be confused with *Cnipodectes superrufus* (Tyrannidae), a species of similar size (18.4–24 cm in length) that inhabits bamboo patches (*Guadua* spp.) at lower elevations (<550 m a.s.l.) (Lane et al. 2007). Additionally, *C. superrufus* differs in having a red iris, a more reddish overall plumage, and modified primary wing feathers (Lebbin 2020).



Figure 2. Individual of *Cichlopsis leucogenys* captured in Megantoni (Cusco, Peru).

The individual was captured in premontane forest (700–2000 m a.s.l.), characterized by moderate to steep slopes (Vásquez et al. 2005). The forest canopy averages 12 m in height, with some emergent trees exceeding 20 m. The understory is composed of diverse herbaceous and shrubby vegetation, including small palms (*Geonoma orbignyana*) and montane bamboo (*Rhipidocladum* sp.). The floristic composition is highly heterogeneous and characteristic of these forests, with representative species such as *Tapirira guianensis* (Anacardiaceae), *Caryocar glabrum* (Caryocaraceae), *Hevea guianensis* (Euphorbiaceae), *Dendrobangia boliviana* (Metteniusaceae), and various species from the Moraceae (*Brosimum* spp., *Pseudolmedia laevigata*, and *Helicostylis towarensis*) and Rubiaceae (*Schizocalyx peruviana* and *Faramea candelabrum*).

This report represents the first record of *C. leucogenys* for the department of Cusco, extending its known distribution by approximately 139 km southward. Previous studies (Collar et al. 2024) have documented the species in similar premontane forest habitats. Furthermore, the elevation at which the individual was recorded (1050 m a.s.l.) falls within the known altitudinal range of 690–1570 m a.s.l. for the species (Mee et al. 2002; Socolar et al. 2013).

The *C. leucogenys* individual was captured during the biodiversity monitoring program (PMB) conducted by

Transportadora de Gas del Perú S.A. (TGP) in southern Peru. This region is recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot (CEPF 2015) and is characterized by rugged terrain with extremely limited accessibility. Without the logistical support provided by TGP's biological monitoring program, data collection in such areas would be significantly more challenging. This highlights the crucial role of long-term biodiversity monitoring programs, which provide sustained efforts and logistical resources to document and understand biodiversity across the country.

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