

Supposed sympatry of *Corapipo* manakins in the Tacarcuna region of Colombia, and a comment on *Schiffornis*: a response to Renjifo *et al.* (2017)

by Dale Dyer

Received 14 June 2017; revised 14 October 2017; published 11 December 2017

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:D62398CB-1A42-4796-94F1-A5D55F49E686>

A demonstration of sympatry would be a decisive factor in the determination of species limits, which have been controversial in *Corapipo* manakins. Renjifo *et al.* (2017) claimed to document the occurrence of White-bibbed Manakin *Corapipo leucorrhoea* on the Colombian slope of Cerro Tacarcuna, a mountain straddling the border between Panama and Colombia. Their species account recognised the distinction between *C. leucorrhoea* and White-ruffed Manakin *C. altera*, which has sometimes been treated as a subspecies of *C. leucorrhoea* (AOU 1983, Ridgely & Gwynne 1989). Ridgely & Gwynne (1989) and Wetmore (1972) are cited for localities where *C. leucorrhoea* (*sensu stricto*) has been documented in Panama, and the authors claimed sympatry in Panama between *C. leucorrhoea* and *C. altera* based on these references.

However, neither Ridgely & Gwynne (1989) nor Wetmore (1972) reported nominate *C. leucorrhoea* from Panama. Wetmore's (1972) *Corapipo* records for eastern Panama were all attributed to *C. a. altera*, and comparing it with *C. leucorrhoea* he noted 'the two groups . . . are not in contact'. Ridgely & Gwynne (1989) included *altera* within *C. leucorrhoea*, but wrote 'birds from Middle America to northwestern Colombia were formerly often considered a distinct species (*C. altera*, White-ruffed Manakin) from those of northeastern Colombia and western Venezuela (*C. leucorrhoea*, White-bibbed Manakin)', so their eastern Panama records plainly also refer to *altera*. Thus, there is no previous published evidence of sympatry for *C. leucorrhoea* and *C. altera* (see also Kirwan & Green 2012). Nor did Renjifo *et al.* (2017) give a basis for their identification of their birds as *C. leucorrhoea*. The principal diagnostic character, length and shape of the outer primary, is not described in their text nor shown in their photo, and no measurements are given. If verified, this record would represent a significant range extension for *C. leucorrhoea*.

Renjifo *et al.* (2017) also reported documenting *Schiffornis* at their study site on Cerro Tacarcuna, but their text and Appendix 1 contradict each other as to which species is involved. The text (p. 59) listed *Schiffornis veraepacis acrolophites* as 'among first or second specimen records of subspecies endemic to the Darién . . . foothills'. The Appendix 1 (p. 65), a list of birds recorded, does not list *S. veraepacis* but instead refers to *S. stenorhyncha* at their study site as a visual, aural, trapped and specimen record. Both species are known from the Tacarcuna region (Wetmore 1972). Co-author J. E. Avendaño (*in litt.* 2017) subsequently reported that the specimen he collected (ICN 38178) has been identified as *S. v. acrolophites*, and that Appendix 1 was in error.

References:

- American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1983. *Check-list of North American birds*. Sixth edn. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington DC.
- Kirwan, G. M. & Green, G. 2012. *Cotingas and manakins*. Princeton Univ. Press.
- Renjifo, L. M., Repizo, A., Ruiz-Ovalle, J. M., Ocampo, S. & Avendaño, J. E. 2017. New bird distributional data from Cerro Tacarcuna, with implications for conservation in the Darién highlands of Colombia. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 137: 46–66.

Ridgely, R. S. & Gwynne, J. A. 1989. *A guide to the birds of Panama with Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras*.
Second edn. Princeton Univ. Press.

Wetmore, A. 1972. *The birds of the Republic of Panama*, pt. 3. Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC.

Address: Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, USA, e-mail: ddyer@amnh.org