least ten minutes as it perched on the same branch c.8 m above ground and 10 m from us. The upperparts were green with a bluish sheen to the head, and the tail had white tips to the feathers. The underparts were greyish white with scattered green discs, and the bird had a white spot behind and in front of the eye, and a large white malar stripe. The green discs on the underside and white spots on the head are visible in the photographs and are diagnostic, together with the bill size and shape, of a female or a immature male Velvet-browed Brilliant *Heliodoxa xanthogonys,* which identification was confirmed by Steve Hilty, Brian O'Shea, Bret Whitney and David Ascanio (*in litt.* 2005). This hummingbird is not mentioned for Suriname by Haverschmidt & Mees[1], Hilty[2] or Ridgely & Tudor[3], but is included on an old list of birds recorded in Suriname kept by STINASU (The Foundation for Nature Conservation in Suriname), although the basis for this is unclear.

Also on 1 April, we encountered 2–3 birds vocalising in open undergrowth at 1–5 m above ground and less than 10 m from us. Two different plumages were noted, but the shape of the birds was identical. They were antbird-like, somewhat smaller than Cinereous Antshrike *Thamnomanes caesius,* but sturdy with a short tail, affording a manakin-like appearance, and a heavy bill. One was almost entirely black, except for a few very diffuse whitish wing-spots. The other had brown upperparts, with a somewhat paler crown, almost rufous. The underparts and face were heavily streaked white and grey. After checking the plate in Hilty[2] we reached the conclusion that the birds were identical to Venezuelan Antvireo *Dysithamnus tucuyensis,* but having consulted additional literature[1,3] we concluded that neither *D. tucuyensis* and *D. leucostictus* could be eliminated, although both species appear extremely unlikely, as the former is known only from coastal mountains in northern Venezuela and the latter from the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador. Yet we believe that the birds cannot be anything else then close relatives of these *Dysithamnus* species. They even could represent a subspecies or species new to science. Further research is urgently needed, because in the latter case it is not excluded that we encountered an endemic for the Table Mountain.

The vocalisations of White-chinned Swift *Cypseloides cryptus* and Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* were recorded and their identifications confirmed; both species were first observed in Suriname in 2003[4]. The flock of mainly White-chinned Swifts was seen again near Augustus Falls, and numbered more than 900 of which fewer than 5% were White-collared Swifts *Streptoprocne zonaris.* A group of 70 of the latter species was photographed clinging to the rock face near the base of the falls.

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## Cooperative breeding and first nest description for Golden Tanager *Tangara arthus*

Cooperative breeding in tanagers (Thraupidae) has been reported for at least nine species in five genera (*Tangara larvata*[5], *T. guttata*[5], *T. inornata*[5], *T. cyanoventris*[4], *T. mexicana*[6], *T. cabanisi*[3], *Neothraupis fasciata*[2], *Cypsnagra hirundinacea*[2], *Mitrospingus cassinii*[2], and *Habia fuscicauda*[7]). We present data for Golden Tanager, *Tangara arthus,* as another example of cooperative breeding in tanagers.

We found a nest of *T. arthus* on 31 March 2005, in humid forest of the 1,500-ha Mushullacta Community Forest Reserve (00º50'S, 77º34'W; 1,175 m) at the south-western base of the Galeras Mountains, c.8 km south-east of Guamani, on the Loreto Road, Ecuador. The cup nest with two, tiny, nearly naked chicks was c.10 m above ground and wedged in a clump of epiphytes, on a thick, horizontal branch of a subcanopy tree, on the steep slope of a small ravine. We made 10.5 hours of observations of the nest between 31 March and 11 April. The nest was discovered by following a noisy pair of adults carrying food. Of 68 visits to the nest, 20 were made by a trio of adult-plumaged birds. The remaining visits were either by one or two adult-plumaged birds. The high-pitched chips given by arriving adults were so evident that at times the adults were audible whilst still 25 m from the nest. Typically, adults arrived to within 1 m of the nest, continually vocalising and moving between perches, until one descended to the nest, fed one or both nestlings, and within 2–3 seconds departed the nest area to be replaced by another

1

2

3

4

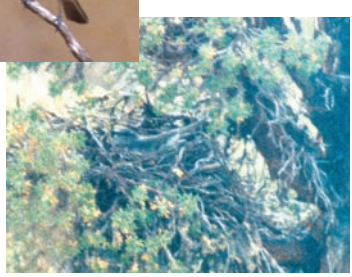
5a

5b

5c

6a

6b



6c

7a

7b

adult. Three katydids, other unidentified insects and an assortment of unidentified fruits and fruit pulp were fed to the nestlings. In the early nestling stage, faecal sacs were removed by adults. In the morning hours, adults visited the nest c.6 times per hour, during the early and near-fledging stages. On 11 April near midday, one chick fledged whilst the other remained in the nest. Early next morning the nest was empty and a live fledgling, presumably the second, was found near the nest on the ground. Three adults arrived and mobbed RAG by diving at him and calling sharply.

Based on our observations of young nestlings near the end of March and a fledging date 12 days later, the nestling period for Golden Tanager is c.2 weeks. This appears to be the first, albeit brief, detailed information concerning the nest of Golden Tanager. As has been noted previously, fruit and insects are brought to nestlings[1]. More detailed studies may elucidate how important cooperative breeding is for this species and other tanagers.

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**Captions to figures on opposite page**

1. Hembra del Pico Chato Pigmeo Descolado *Myiornis ecaudatus*, capturada en la Bahía de Turiamo, Parque Nacional Henri Pittier, Venezuela, 27 de julio del 2005 (Enrique Verea)
2. Tepui Greenlet *Hylophilus sclateri,* Augustus Falls, Suriname, 29 March 2005 (Otte Ottema)
3. Immature Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius,* Tinajones Reservoir, Lambayeque, Peru (Heinz Plenge)
4. *Polylepis racemosa* tree with nest cavity of *Leptasthenura xenothorax* (H. Lloyd)

5a–b. Male and female Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata,* Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais, Brazil (Sávio Bruno)

5c. Family party of Bare-faced Curassow *Crax fasciolata,* Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais, Brazil, July 2005 (Rafael Carvalho)

6a. Nest of Rufous-webbed Tyrant *Polioxolmis rufipennis,* south-east of Salar de Surire, Tarapacá province, Chile, 30 October 1999 (Steve N. G. Howell)

6b. Close-up of nest of Rufous-webbed Tyrant *Polioxolmis rufipennis,* with one egg partially visible, south-east of Salar de Surire, Tarapacá province, Chile, 30 October 1999 (Steve N. G. Howell)

6c. Rufous-webbed Tyrant *Polioxolmis rufipennis,* south-east of Salar de Surire, Tarapacá province, Chile, 30 October 1999 (Steve N. G. Howell)

7a–b. Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri,* east of Carriñue (prov. Cautín), Chile, 8 November 1999; note the fairly 'blank' face and fine chest streaking which does not extend strongly onto the flanks (Steve N. G. Howell)

## High-elevation records of bird species from Rucu Pichincha Volcano, Ecuador

Ecuador has become a world-renowned destination for bird tourism, but there are still relatively few observers compared to the USA and Europe, and most observations are made relatively close to roads. With the exception of Cotopaxi refuge parking lot, at 4,600 m, most roads frequented by birders are below 4,300 m. As a result, relatively few observations have been made above this elevation. Visits on foot to Rucu Pichincha Volcano, facilitated by Quito's cable car, led to the discovery of luxuriant páramo just north of the summit cone, at 4,400–4,600 m. This supports an abundant resident bird community of 22 species, including Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus,* which appears to breed in the vicinity. Records of ten species represented significant altitudinal extensions for Ecuador[7] and five for the Andes in general[2].

The study area is 9 km west-southwest of Quito airport, from the ridge at Cruz Loma, at 4,000 m, to the summit at 4,710 m. My observations were made during the transition from the dry to the wet season, with visits on 9, 16, 23 and 30 September, and 21 October 2005. Vegetation comprises three inter-