

BREEDING, FORAGING, AND VOCAL BEHAVIOR OF THE WHITE-THROATED JACAMAR (*BRACHYGALBA ALBOGULARIS*)

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ABSTRACT.—We studied White-throated Jacamars (*Brachygalba albogularis*) at Manu National Park, Peru, finding a mean population density of 0.8 groups per km of suitable streamside habitat, and taking the first recordings of its song. Observations at nests provided the first evidence of cooperative breeding in the genus *Brachygalba*, as well as information on foraging tactics, prey selection, and provisioning behavior. Received 27 June 2002, accepted 18 December 2002.

The Jacamar family (Galbulidae) includes 18 species, all of which are cavity-nesting aerial insectivores confined to the Neotropics (Tobias 2002). Within this family, the genus *Brachygalba* contains four closely related allopatric species, which together form a super-species (Haffer 1974): the Dusky-backed Jacamar (*Brachygalba salmoni*), Pale-headed Jacamar (*B. goeringi*), Brown Jacamar (*B. lugubris*), and White-throated Jacamar (*B. albogularis*; Fig. 1). A description of breeding behavior has been published for the Pale-headed Jacamar in Venezuela (Skutch 1968), but no such information is available for its congeners, and very little is known about their diet, foraging behavior, and vocalizations (Tobias 2002). To help fill these gaps in knowledge we studied one of the most poorly known members of the family, the White-throated Jacamar, a species restricted to the forests of southeastern Peru, northeastern Bolivia, and western Brazil.

We gathered data over two months (August–September 2001) at Cocha Cashu Biological Station (71° 19' W, 11° 51' S), Manu National Park, Peru, a site within pristine lowland, tropical moist forest (see Terborgh 1983 for habitat description). White-throated Jacamars were associated with successional habitat (*Gynerium* cane and bamboo with an open canopy of *Cecropia* trees) in the immediate vicinity of shallow whitewater streams about 5 m wide; indeed, the species has never been observed away from whitewater streams dur-

ing the many years of fieldwork at the site (J. W. Terborgh pers. comm.). It also seems to be restricted to similar secondary growth at the edge of *várzea* forest and along whitewater streams or broader whitewater rivers in northern Bolivia (Parker and Remsen 1987), and western Brazil (Whittaker and Oren 1999). Its habitat requirements apparently are rather specialized.

We recorded two types of vocalizations during our field work, both of which, being distinctive, constituted the best means of locating the species. The call was a single (though disyllabic) upwardly inflected note (Fig. 2a), corresponding to the “plaintive, upslurred ‘psueet’” mentioned by Parker and Remsen (1987:98) and presented by Schulenberg et al. (2000). It was quite similar to, but slightly huskier and more disyllabic than, the call of the Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*, a species that was nesting alongside the jacamars in earthen banks along the creeks. Individual jacamars gave this call fairly frequently throughout the day (generally 1–2 times every few min), but the rate of calling increased markedly when they perched outside nest holes (mean = 10 calls/min \pm 12.8 SD, range = 0.7–55.0; data from a 6.5-h observation period on 27 August). Even when several adults sat together on the same perch near the entrance to their nest, calling simultaneously, they were relatively subdued and undemonstrative. They never bobbed the head or raised the crown feathers in the manner of *Galbalcyrrhynchus* jacamars, but sometimes flicked the tail and rotated the body from side to side when excited.

On about five separate occasions, while perched high above the ground, at least one of the jacamars gave a more complex (and

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