

= Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock =

The Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) , also known as tunki (Quechua) , is a large passerine bird of the cotinga family native to Andean cloud forests in South America . It is widely regarded as the national bird of Peru . It has four subspecies and its closest relative is the Guianan cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock .

The Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock exhibits marked sexual dimorphism ; the male has a large disk @-@ like crest and scarlet or brilliant orange plumage , while the female is significantly darker and browner . Gatherings of males compete for breeding females with each male displaying its colourful plumage , bobbing and hopping , and making a variety of calls . After mating , the female makes a nest under a rocky overhang , incubates the eggs , and rears the young , all by herself .

The Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock eats a diet of fruit , supplemented by insects , amphibians , reptiles , and smaller mice . It is distributed all across the cloud forest of the Andes , having a range of around 260 @,@ 000 km² (100 @,@ 000 sq mi) . Even though it is being affected by destruction of its habitat , the Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock is not classified as threatened .

= = Taxonomy and etymology = =

One of two species in the genus *Rupicola* , the other being the Guianan cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock , the Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock was first described by English ornithologist John Latham in 1790 . It is classified in the Cotingidae , a family of largely frugivorous tropical forest suboscine passerines . The generic name is derived from the Latin stems *rupes* " rock " or " cliff " , and *cola* " inhabiting " , and is derived from its habit of nesting in rock walls . Its specific epithet *peruvianus* " of Peru " is masculine despite the -a ending of the genus name (in Latin , names in -cola were masculine or neuter) ; *peruviana* is seen in older works .

Four subspecies are known :

R. p. peruvianus ? (Latham , 1790) , nominate subspecies

R. p. aequatorialis ? Taczanowski , 1889

R. p. sanguinolentus ? Gould , 1859

R. p. saturatus ? Cabanis and Heine , 1859

= = Description = =

The Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock is a large passerine , approximately 32 cm (13 in) long and weighing around 265 grams (9 @.@ 3 oz ; 0 @.@ 584 lb) , although males are somewhat larger and the heaviest specimens can reach 300 grams (11 oz ; 0 @.@ 66 lb) . The birds is one of many birds species to exhibit marked sexual dimorphism . The male has a large disk @-@ like crest and brilliant scarlet or orange plumage . It has black tail and wings , and pale greyish scapulars . The female is significantly drabber and browner than the male and has a less prominent crest . The bill is yellowish in the male , and dark with a small yellow tip in the female . Depending on gender and subspecies there are significant variations in the colour of the iris , ranging from red over orange and yellow to bluish @-@ white in the male , and whitish over reddish to brown in the female . In addition to the display calls described in the breeding section below , foraging birds give a loud querulous ? tank ? ? when disturbed or in flight .

= = Distribution and habitat = =

The Andean cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock is distributed in cloud forests of the Andes . It lives in a large range of about 260 @,@ 000 km² (100 @,@ 000 sq mi) across Venezuela , Colombia , Ecuador , Perú , and Bolivia , mostly in ravines and forested streams in montane areas at 500 to 2 @,@ 400 m (1 @,@ 600 to 7 @,@ 900 ft) elevation . It typically stays in the lower and middle

forest levels , but will range higher in fruiting trees and will sometimes enter and cross clearings . It is generally shy and inconspicuous , often seen only briefly after being flushed out or while swiftly flying down a valley .

R. p. aequatorialis is the most widespread subspecies , ranging across the Andes of East Columbia to West Venezuela , East Ecuador and East Peru . The nominate subspecies , *R. p. peruvianus* has a small range stretching only through the Andes of Central Peru . *R. p. sanguinolentus* ranges throughout the Andes in West Columbia to Northwest Ecuador . The subspecies *R. p. saturatus* has a range across Southeast Peru and West Bolivia .

= = Behavior = =

= = = Food and feeding = = =

The diet consists mainly of fruit and insects , although small reptiles and frogs have been recorded . The fruits consumed are often from the plant families Lauraceae , Annonaceae , and Rubiaceae , although a few other plant families have also been reported in their diet . They are one of many species recorded following army ants . They occasionally will eat high protein fruits , but they prefer to eat the other fruits on their menu .

= = = Breeding = = =

Male cocks @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock are polygamous , and have nothing to do with nesting once mating is done . The male ? s energy instead is devoted to very elaborate display rituals that show off its magnificent plumage . These displays take place in communal leks , where males gather to challenge rivals and beckon the females . The males are easily disturbed , so their behavior is not easy to see . One study reported that the display activity is dependent on light intensity , with the morning display period occurring during the same light intensity level as the afternoon period .

At the lek , males have been observed to break up into pairs , performing ? confrontation displays ? . This consists of facing each other while bowing , jumping , and flapping their wings , sometimes even snapping their bills , and at the same time giving off various squawking and grunting calls . When the female approaches , it becomes even more intense . The display turns into a cacophony of bright color and a frenzied activity filling the air with very strange sounds .

Breeding takes place during different times of year in different areas . In Colombia , breeding normally happens in February until July . In Ecuador , the breeding interval spans from July until February .

= = = Nesting = = =

The nests , built entirely by the female , are mud plastered to cave entrances or rocky outcrops in forest ravines . The nests are often constructed from the saliva of the females mixed in with vegetable matter and mud . The nest is shaped like a concave cup . The female typically lays two white eggs . The females incubates these eggs for about 25 to 28 days .

= = = Impact on environment = = =

Andean cocks @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rocks influence the environment around them . It was found that a white @-@ capped dipper renovated an abandoned cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rock nest to lay its eggs in . Cock @-@ of @-@ the @-@ rocks also change the surrounding flora through seed dispersal . Seeds that the birds ingest often are found deposited around lek and nesting sites . This favours the germination and growth of those seeds . The diversity of these types of seeds has been found to be increased at lek and nests and decreased throughout the surrounding forest .

== Predators ==

Andean cocks of the rock face slightly larger predators than smaller songbirds . Predators are attracted to leks by the conspicuous behavior of the displaying males . The animals reported to prey on adult cocks of the rock including hawk eagles , hawks , forest falcons , jaguar , mountain lion , ocelot and the boa constrictor .

== Relationship with humans ==

The Andean cock of the rock is regarded as the national bird of Peru . Juveniles and adults have occasionally been used as pets .

== Conservation ==

The worldwide population size and trends in population numbers have not been determined , but is it believed that the Andean cock of the rock is not threatened . The species is evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species despite habitat destruction . It is patchily distributed , but its range is large enough to sustain it at a Least Concern status .