

= Purple @-@ throated cotinga =

The purple @-@ throated cotinga (*Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema*) is a species of bird in the cotinga family , Cotingidae . It is found in the western Amazonian region of South America ; its range extends from southern Colombia south through eastern Ecuador and Peru and east through extreme northwestern Bolivia and into western Amazonian Brazil . It lives in the canopy or along the borders of humid forest throughout its range . The purple @-@ throated cotinga is monotypic within the genus *Porphyrolaema* and has no known subspecies . It is one of the smaller cotinga species and expresses strong sexual dimorphism . Males have black upperparts with a bold white wingstripe and white edges to the tertial feathers and a white belly with some black barring on the rear flanks . The throat is a deep purple , giving the bird both its common and scientific names . Females are dark brown with pale buffy margins on the upperparts , buffy cinnamon with black barring on the underparts , and rufous on the throat . The male has a powerful voice .

Little research has been done on this species , and not much is known about its ecology . The purple @-@ throated cotinga is primarily frugivorous , although it does occasionally eat small insects . A solitary male attracts a female by perching in the canopy and letting the sunlight reflect off of its iridescent feathers . It is suspected to breed year @-@ round and is non @-@ migratory . Despite being considered naturally uncommon or rare across its vast range , the purple @-@ throated cotinga is listed as a species of Least Concern .

= = Taxonomy = =

The purple @-@ throated cotinga was originally described in 1852 as *Cotinga porphyrolaema* by Emile Deville and Philip Sclater from a male specimen collected near the Ucayali River in Peru 's Sarayacu District . The holotype is kept at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris . However , just two years later the species was split from the genus *Cotinga* into the monotypic genus *Porphyrolaema* by Charles Lucien Bonaparte . The generic and specific name of *porphyrolaema* comes from the Ancient Greek words *porphyros* " dark purple , " and *laimos* , " throat . "

While it is structurally similar to the *Cotinga* species , the purple @-@ throated cotinga differs from them in that it has a heavier , stubbier bill , distinctive pale fringing on the back feathers , and barred underparts in the female . While it is still generally considered to be closely related to the *Cotinga* species , recent molecular analysis has suggested that the species may in fact form a separate clade with other canopy @-@ dwelling cotingas , specifically the neotropical bellbirds of the genus *Procnias* , the cotingas of the genus *Carpodectes* , the black @-@ faced cotinga of the monotypic genus *Conioptilon* , and the bare @-@ necked fruitcrow of the monotypic genus *Gymnoderus* . Of these genera , the molecular analysis suggested that the purple @-@ throated cotinga was most closely related to the neotropical bellbirds . This cotinga does not have a recognized subspecies .

= = Description = =

The purple @-@ throated cotinga is strongly sexually dimorphic as male and female purple @-@ throated cotingas have few similarities in their plumage . The male has black upperparts , including the head , wings , and tail . The feathers on the bird 's back to its uppertail coverts , as well as its upperwing coverts , have white fringes . There is also a conspicuous white wingstripe and white edges to the tertial feathers . Additionally the male has a deeply purple throat and a white belly , with some black barring on its rear flanks .

In contrast , the female purple @-@ throated cotinga is a dark brown with pale buffy margins on the upperparts . The underparts are a buffy cinnamon with black barring . The throat is a deeper , unbarred rufous in coloration . The female 's tail feathers are longer and more pointed at the tip than those of the male . The juvenile purple @-@ throated cotinga resembles a paler , buffier female ; the plumage of the immature is undescribed .

The adult purple @-@ throated cotinga is about 18 @. 0 to 18 @. 5 cm (7 @. 1 to 7 @. 3 in) in length and weighs an average of 49 to 60 g (1 @. 7 to 2 @. 1 oz) . The cotinga has a

very wide bill with a strongly arched culmen and weakly developed rictal bristles . The bird 's iris is dark brown , while the bill and legs are black .

This species has a powerful if infrequently @-@ used voice , unlike the structurally @-@ similar Cotinga species , which are mostly silent . The male 's call is a high , plaintive " preeeeeer " that lasts for one or two seconds while dropping in pitch and is regularly repeated from a treetop perch .

= = Distribution and habitat = =

The purple @-@ throated cotinga is found from southern Colombia south through eastern Ecuador and Peru to the Madre de Dios region and east through extreme northwestern Bolivia and into western Amazonian Brazil . The eastern boundary of the species appears to be the lower Rio Negro and northern Mato Grosso in Brazil . The purple @-@ throated cotinga 's total range covers approximately 2 @, @ 190 @, @ 000 km² (850 @, @ 000 sq mi) , throughout which it occurs in patches at low population densities .

The cotinga can be found in the canopy or borders of humid forest up to 900 m (3 @, @ 000 ft) in elevation , but mostly is restricted to humid forests below 400 m (1 @, @ 300 ft) . It can be found in either unflooded humid forests or in várzea forests , which are seasonally flooded . It is non @-@ migratory .

= = Ecology and behavior = =

The purple @-@ throated cotinga feeds primarily on the fruits of forest trees , most notably those belonging to the genus Cecropia . It also occasionally consumes small invertebrates , such as insects . All reported observations of the species feeding involve the cotinga leaning down from its perch to pluck fruit off of a tree in the forest canopy . These birds are distinct from similar species in that they are often seen in pairs . This species perches in the canopy to take in the morning sun .

A solitary male purple @-@ throated cotinga attracts a female by perching above the canopy and letting the sun highlight its iridescent plumage . The breeding behavior of this species is largely unknown , but the range in molting times implies that this species may breed year @-@ round .

= = Status = =

The purple @-@ throated cotinga is not well known and appears to be naturally uncommon or rare across a widespread area ; however , it is almost certainly under @-@ reported due to its canopy lifestyle . The IUCN considers this species to be a species of Least Concern due in part to its large range . While the IUCN has not estimated the population size , it believes it is declining due to habitat loss .