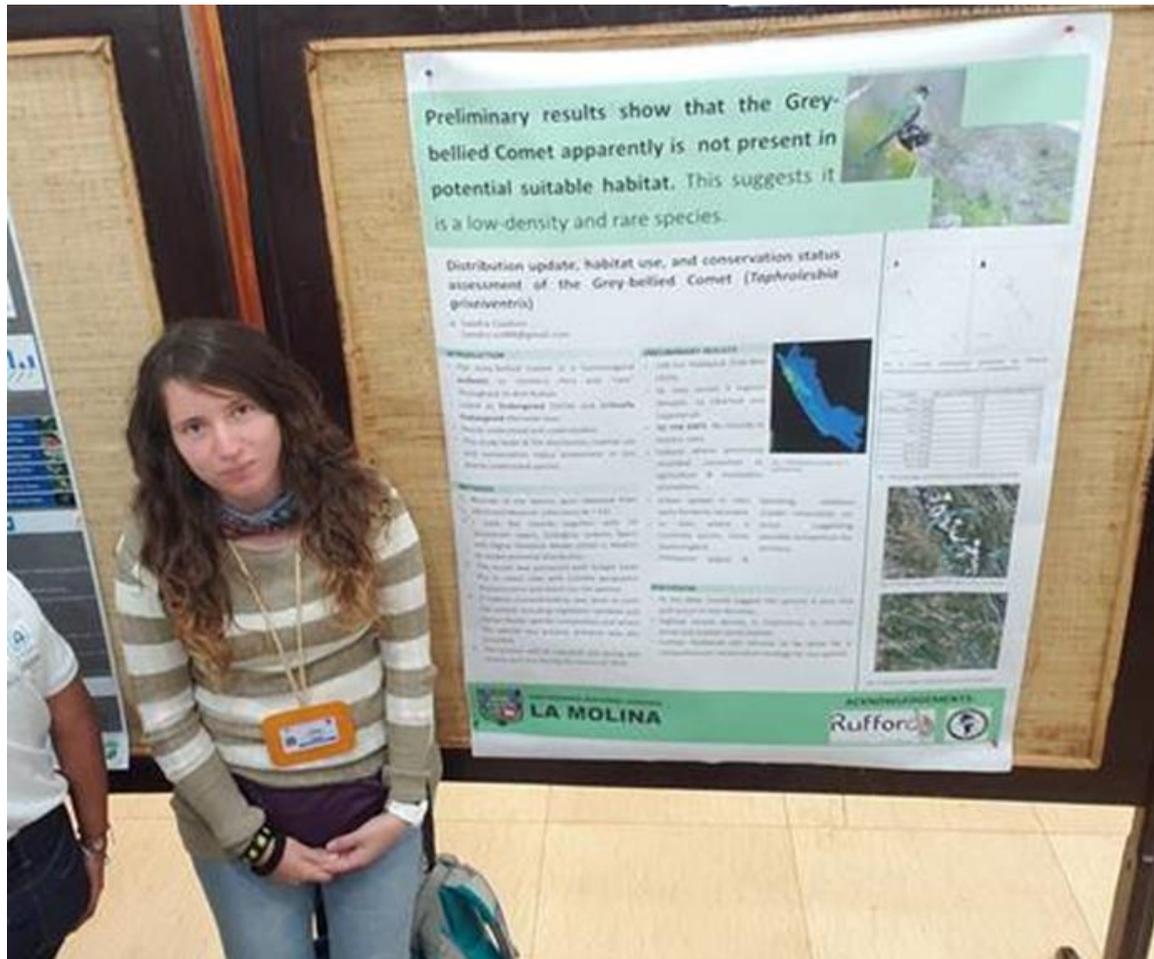


Project Update: August 2019

I presented the preliminary results of my research at the American Ornithology Society meeting in Anchorage in July 2019, and then at the ATBC 2019 in Madagascar, which the Rufford Foundation was also sponsoring.

Here I send some pictures of me presenting my poster at ATBC which I hope are of interest to you.



PTS/026

Preliminary results show that the Grey-bellied Comet apparently is not present in potential suitable habitat. This suggests it is a low-density and rare species.



Distribution update, habitat use, and conservation status assessment of the Grey-bellied Comet (*Tupholobesbia griseiventris*)

A. Garcia-Lopez
garcia@rufford.org.uk

Introduction

The Grey-bellied Comet is a Neotropical bird species endemic to the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador. It is a member of the Trogonidae family, which includes many other colorful birds. The species is known for its iridescent blue and green plumage and its habit of hovering like a hummingbird.

Methods

We conducted field surveys in the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador to assess the distribution and habitat use of the Grey-bellied Comet. Surveys were carried out in 2018 and 2019, covering a range of habitats from lowland forest to high-altitude páramo. We used a combination of visual searches and playback of recorded songs to identify individuals.

Conservation Status

The Grey-bellied Comet is currently listed as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List. However, our preliminary results suggest that the species may be more restricted in its distribution than previously thought, which could lead to a re-evaluation of its conservation status.

