

From: BirdOfTheWeek@abcbirds.org info@abcbirds.org
Subject: Cochabamba Mountain Finch: Rufous and Slate
Date: July 18, 2025 at 9:37 am
To: Mary Steggles maryannsteggles@icloud.com



American Bird
Conservancy

Bird of the Week

Cochabamba Mountain Finch

Fast Facts:

Scientific Name:

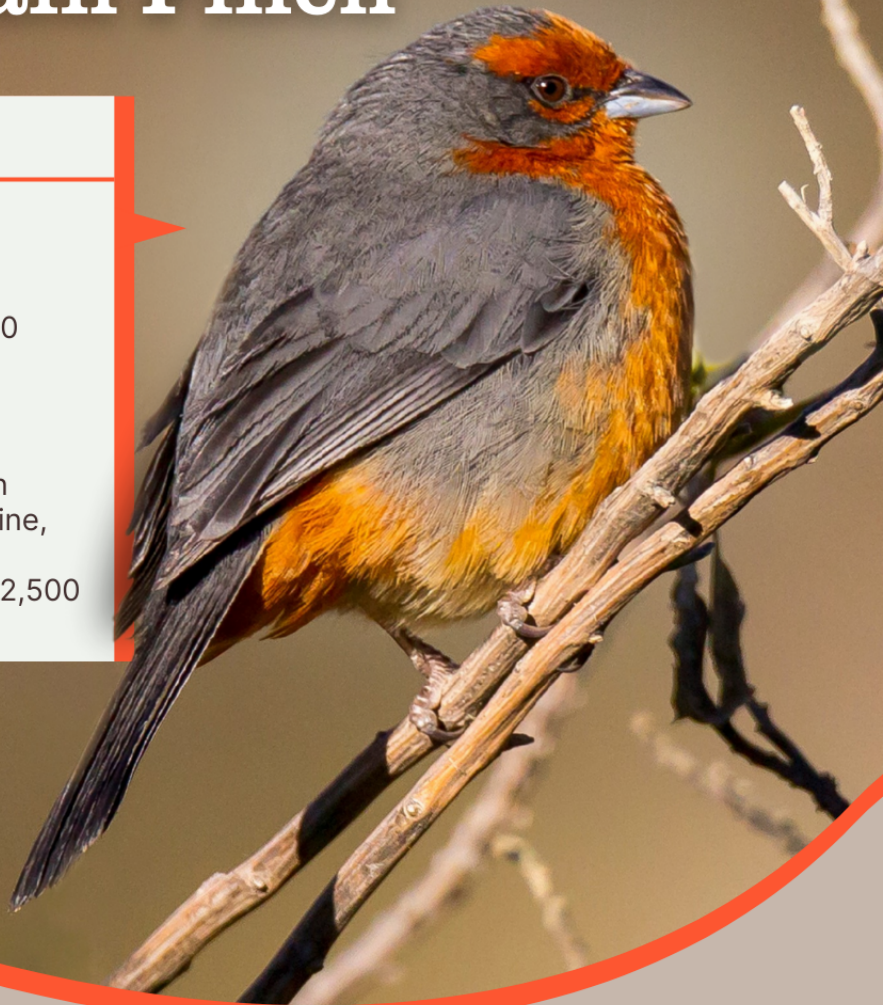
Poospiza garleppi

Population: 270-2,700

Trend: Decreasing

Habitat:

Inhabits inter-Andean valleys near the treeline, usually at altitudes between 9,800 and 12,500 feet



Named for the Bolivian city adjacent to the mountain slopes that

comprise its stronghold, the rare and beautiful **Cochabamba Mountain Finch** is actually more closely related to a tanager than to a finch. This sparrow-sized bird is a member of the *Poospiza* genus (warbling finches/mountain finches) and is distinguished by its distinct plumage and highly limited range around the city of Cochabamba in Bolivia.

The Cochabamba Mountain Finch is an eye-catching mix of colors, with a dark gray head, upperparts, and tail setting off vivid rufous-orange undersides and facial markings. Its eyes are a deep brown, and the bill is blackish with a paler lower mandible. The sexes look alike. Juveniles are grayish-brown above, with buffy, dusky-streaked undersides.

What other rare and restricted-range South American bird species are named for the places in which they are found?

[**Learn More About the Cochabamba Mountain Finch**](#)



**Conserving the
Cochabamba Mountain Finch**



The Cochabamba Mountain Finch's habitats are disappearing due to agricultural clearing, human development, and the cutting of native trees for firewood. Its habitats are also degraded by the establishment of non-native eucalyptus and pine tree plantations and uncontrolled wildfires. A changing climate presents a suite of often unpredictable threats to birds: extreme weather events, droughts, habitat loss due to fire, and intense heat are just a few ways climate change could put the Cochabamba Mountain Finch at further risk. The Cochabamba Mountain Finch's use of human-altered and agricultural landscapes also make it vulnerable to pesticide exposure and poisoning.

ABC and other members of the Conserva Aves partnership are **working to protect Key Biodiversity Areas** throughout the Tropical Andes while also fostering climate resilience and sustainable development. Our partner Asociación Armonía is one of the national conservation groups helping to implement this plan in Bolivia. ABC continues to collaborate with partner groups such as **Natura Bolivia** and Asociación Armonía to **create new reserves** that directly benefit local communities and ensure the conservation of endemic Bolivian species such as the Critically Endangered **Red-fronted Macaw**.

ABC, Asociación Armonía, and local Indigenous communities have worked in the Cochabamba area for many years to restore habitat for

worked in the Cochabamba area for many years to restore habitat for the Cochabamba Mountain Finch and a community of other endemic songbirds found there.

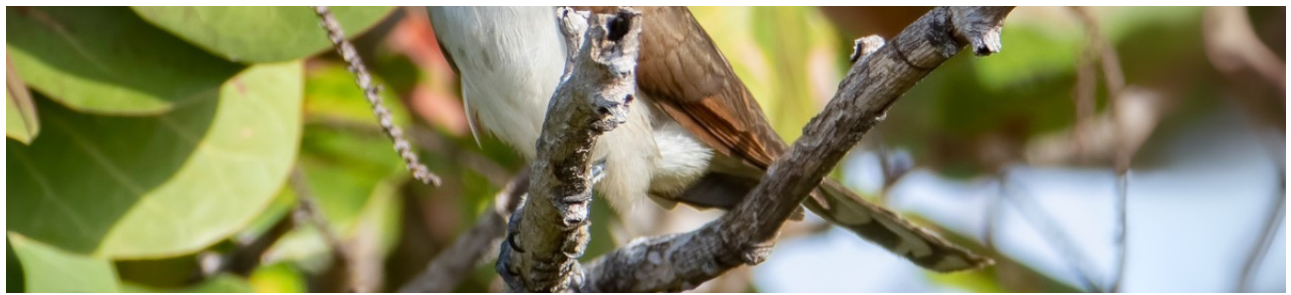
A photograph of three seabirds, likely Brown Boobies, perched on a dark, textured branch. The bird on the left is facing left, showing its white underparts and dark upperparts. The middle bird is facing left, showing its white underparts and dark upperparts, with a blue patch around its eye. The bird on the right is facing right, showing its white underparts and dark upperparts, with a red patch around its eye. The background is a clear blue sky.

Stories of Kinship with Seabirds

Free Webinar
Weds., July 23 at 4pm ET

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The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is one of the oldest **environmental laws** in the U.S. and has enjoyed decades of bipartisan support. **Recent actions by the current administration have weakened the law**, no longer requiring industries to take steps to prevent bird deaths resulting from their operations. The Migratory Bird Protection Act is needed to restore those basic provisions that make the MBTA a strong and effective law for birds.

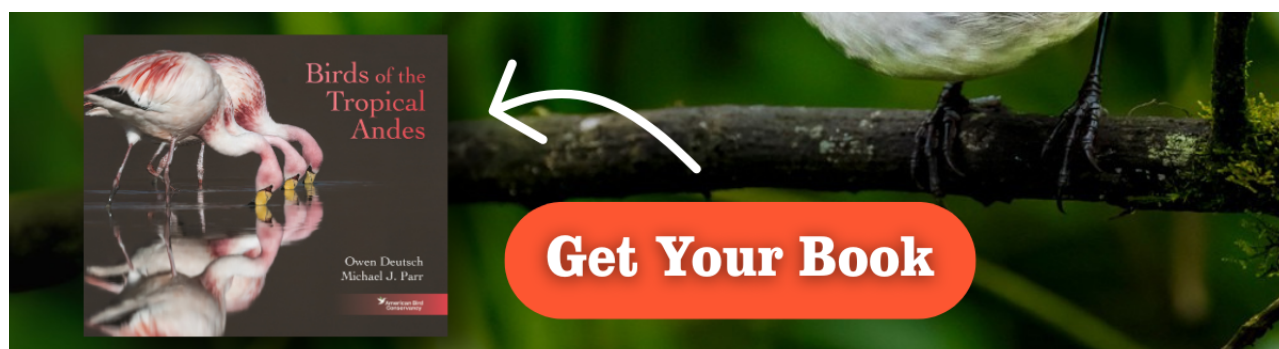
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Flycatcher:
Ash-breasted Tit-
Tyrant



World's Rarest
Macaw:
Blue-throated
Macaw

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