

First record of Munchique Wood Wren *Henicorhina negreti* in dpto. Chocó, Colombia

Munchique Wood Wren *Henicorhina negreti*, a Colombian endemic recently described from the Munchique massif, dpto. Cauca³, is considered Critically Endangered¹. In contrast, Kroodsmas & Brewer² considered the species to be not globally threatened, because of the even more recent discovery of a population 350 km to the north, at the border between dptos. Antioquia, Chocó and Risaralda². The species inhabits various types of stunted and very wet montane cloud forest on the Pacific slope of the West Andes of Colombia at elevations of 2,250–2,640 m³.

We recently found *H. negreti* at a new locality (04°44'N 76°17'W; c.2,140 m) on the Pacific slope of the West Andes of Colombia, in dpto. Chocó, near the town of El Cairo, in dpto. Valle de Cauca. To our knowledge, this is the first record for dpto. Chocó. On 14 February 2008 we made a sound-recording of one individual, which is deposited at www.xeno-canto.org (XC 18307) and up to four others were heard nearby. Identification was based on the characteristic song (cf. Salaman *et al.*³), as the morphological characters that separate *H. negreti* from *H.l. brunneiceps*³ could not be discerned due to the poor light conditions.

Habitat degradation is ongoing in the municipality of El Cairo, principally through agricultural

expansion (especially clearance for cattle pastures). Local people plan to establish such pastures at the pass south-west of the area where we found *H. negreti* and are preparing to invade surrounding areas (OC pers. obs.). Furthermore, slash-and-burn agriculture and felling of montane forest for timber and charcoal production are still common (OC pers. obs.). Below 1,500 m, it was obvious that substantial areas of forest had been converted to agricultural use, but above this elevation forest cover is mainly intact and pristine, though undoubtedly threatened for the reasons elucidated. The occurrence of *H. negreti*, along with other globally threatened species such as Gold-ringed Tanager *Bangsia aureocincta*, Bicoloured Antvireo *Dysithamnus occidentalis* and Fulvous-dotted Treerunner *Margarornis stellatus*, all of which we observed during our two-day visit, make this area meritorious of effective protection.

Acknowledgements

We thank Jürgen Beckers of Trogon Trips for organising our transport and logistics. HvO was partly financed by the Dutch Fund for Nature Conservation Research (FONA), grant number S072.63. Special thanks to Thomas Donegan for greatly improving the manuscript.

References

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Received 18 August 2008; final revision accepted 20 November 2008 (published online 4 March 2009)