

## First record of Bicoloured Antpitta *Grallaria rufocinerea* from Ecuador, with notes on the species' vocalisations

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Se informa sobre la primera observación y registro sonoro del formicarido *Grallaria rufocinerea* en Ecuador, previamente encontrada sólo en Colombia y considerada una especie amenazada. Las aves Ecuatorianas pertenecen a la raza *romeroana*, identificada por su garganta roja. El hallazgo ocurrió el 11 de noviembre de 1999, cerca de la frontera con Colombia, a 3,7 km al este de Santa Bárbara sobre el camino a la Bonita, y la especie probablemente no existe más al sur. Se comparan sonogramas de los cantos de ambos sexos de las dos razas, los cuales resultan muy similares.

During a field trip to the Amazonian slope of the Andes in Sucumbíos province, north-east Ecuador, JN and RJ together with Mark Mulhollam and Jim Sipiora observed and tape-recorded two, presumably a pair of, Bicoloured Antpittas *Grallaria rufocinerea* from 09h45 to 10h30, on 11 November 1999. They were on the ground in humid roadside scrub adjacent to secondary forest, near the río Chingual, which forms the border with Colombia, by the road between Santa Bárbara and La Bonita, 3.7 km by road east of Santa Bárbara, at c.00°39'N 77°30'W, at 2,700 m.

One responded strongly to playback of its song, and was observed briefly at close range. Its solid rufous throat accorded with the features of the sub-

species *romeroana*. This subspecies is known only from two specimens and one sight record in Colombia. The type series was collected, in 1970, west of Versalles in Puracé National Park, Cauca Department, at 02°20'N 76°17'W, at 3,000 m<sup>1,3</sup>, and one was observed c.20 km east of San Francisco, Putumayo Department, at c.01°11'N 76°53'W, altitude 2,450 m<sup>1,4</sup>, c.90 km north-east of the Ecuadorian locality.

Nominate *rufocinerea* is confined to the Central Andes of Colombia, where it is mainly known from 2,500 to 3,150 m<sup>1</sup>. Known localities were given by Collar *et al.*<sup>1</sup>, who considered the available data insufficient to make a firm assessment of its possible status as a threatened species. Bicoloured Antpitta tolerates considerable disturbance<sup>1</sup> and is probably not under immediate threat in Colombia. At the new locality, in Ecuador, it faces total habitat loss within forthcoming decades. It appears unlikely to occur elsewhere in the latter country, as its loud and distinctive voice has not been noted at such well-surveyed sites as Guandera<sup>2</sup> and Cerro Mongus<sup>5</sup>, just 30–40 km south-west of Santa Bárbara.

As evidenced by the sonograms, *G. r. romeroana* (B–F) is vocally very similar to the nominate form (A and G). The typical song, presumably given by the male, is a loud, 1-second-long, slightly rising whistle at c.2 kHz, which is repeated at 3–4 second intervals. The very end of each note is often up- and downslurred (D, E) or vice versa (B). A 5–6 second-long series of 6–7 whistles, descending from c.2.5 to 2 kHz (E–G) is perhaps a female vocalisation. It is sometimes given in duet with the male song (E). The only other antpitta that we have heard give duets of two distinctly different songs is Chestnut-naped Antpitta *G. nuchalis*.

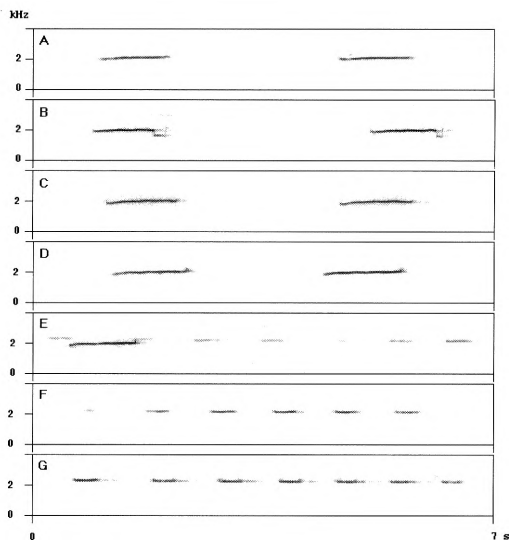


Figure 1. Sonograms of vocalisations of *Grallaria rufocinerea*. A–D is presumed male, E duet, and F–G presumed female. A and G: *G. r. rufocinerea* in humid secondary forest surrounded by fields, Tolima, Central Andes of Colombia, at 2,800 m; B. López-Lanús, 9 June 1998, 09h30 and 10h16. B–F: *G. r. romeroana* in humid roadside shrubbery adjacent to secondary forest, Sucumbíos, north-east Ecuador, 2,700 m; J. Nilsson, 11 November 1999, 09h45–10h20.

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