

Nava's Wren *Hylorchilus navai* in Oaxaca, Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva G. and Andrés M. Sada

Se describe el primer registro del Estado de Oaxaca del Cuevoero de Nava *Hylorchilus navai*, el 8 de mayo de 1995. Dado que el sitio es de más fácil acceso que otros sitios donde se ha encontrado esta especie, se describe brevemente cómo llegar y algunas otras especies que pueden verse allí.

Nava's Wren *Hylorchilus navai* is a Mexican endemic with a tiny range and very specific habitat requirements, being known only from south-east Veracruz and western Chiapas, in humid evergreen forest on large karst outcrops¹. Howell & Webb² add that it is "probably also [to be found in] adjacent Oax[aca]". A preliminary exploration of the Uxpanapa road in winter 1991–92 resulted in it being "seen in two places just inside Veracruz [less than 5 km from the Veracruz–Oaxaca border (HGdS, Steve Howell)], but none were seen at an apparently suitable site in adjacent Oaxaca"¹. Suitable habitat for the species occurs as small remnant patches of forest on karst outcrops along this road from the border to at least 20 km into Oaxaca².

At 06h00 on 8 May 1995, the authors, searching for this species, stopped at a patch of suitable forest 500 m from the Uxpanapa road, along a side-road to the south marked "Río Amaca". This area (17°08'N 94°50'W) is inside Oaxaca, 10 km by road from the Veracruz border. The characteristic alarm call/contact note of Nava's Wren (a nasal *ink ink...*) was the first sign of the species. Entering the forest at this point, we found an individual calling, and later singing, less than 5 m from the road, and had excellent views, noting all the diagnostic features of this distinctive species. It even came to the roadside and sang in full sunlight, then flew across the road to a smaller patch of forest c.50 m away.



Nava's Wren *Hylorchilus navai* (Phil Atkinson/BirdLife)

We continued on the road to Río Amaca, trying to discover whether karst forest extends further south than this point (the continental divide, and a very different avifauna, lie south of Río Amaca). In fact, there is karst only for c.10 km toward Río Amaca.

There are other small patches of forest closer to Sarabia, Oaxaca, where the Uxpanapa road starts. However, these appear drier and show signs of having been logged. A brief search for Nava's Wren in one of these patches in April 1996 was unsuccessful (HGdS pers. obs.).

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References

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Héctor Gómez de Silva G.

Xola 314-E, 03100-México, D. F. Mexico.

Andrés M. Sada

Apartado Postal 1124, Monterrey, Nuevo León 64000, Mexico.