



Figure 1. Nest of Grey-throated Warbler *Basileuterus cinereicollis*, Reserva Hormiguero de Torcoroma, near Ocaña, dpto. Boyacá, Colombia, 20 June 2007 (Scott Olmstead)

and Táchira) and north-east Colombia (south to Cundinamarca and west Meta)¹. Almost nothing is known of the species' breeding biology² and its relative scarcity may be the result of the large-scale destruction of its montane forest habitat^{3,5}.

On 20 June 2007, at Fundación ProAves' Reserva Hormiguero de Torcoroma near the town of Ocaña, dpto. Boyacá, northern Colombia, whilst observing an adult Grey-throated Warbler in the understorey with a prey item, apparently a small worm, insect larva, or other invertebrate, the bird suddenly hopped down to the forest floor and disappeared briefly from view. On close inspection I found the bird's nest, which was on a steep slope in the interior of low, stunted forest on sandy soil, at c.1,600 m. Like the nests of other tropical species of Parulidae, it was on the ground, under a slight overhang where the slope was particularly steep. It was oven-shaped and constructed of bark fibres, small twigs and vines. The side entrance revealed two sparsely feathered nestlings, apparently less than one week old. As I watched the nest for another 20 minutes, both adults flitted around the vicinity of the nest and sang.

The nest of Grey-throated Warbler *Basileuterus cinereicollis*

Grey-throated Warbler *Basileuterus cinereicollis* is one of 22 species of *Basileuterus*⁴. BirdLife International lists it as Near Threatened and describes the species as 'local and uncommon to rare throughout most of its disjunct range in the Andes of extreme west Venezuela (Mérida

During three days at the reserve, I found several nests, including those of Yellow-legged Thrush *Turdus flavipes* and Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*. It seems possible that there is a seasonal peak in bird breeding activity at this time of year, coinciding with the transition from the wet season to the dry season.

Grey-throated Warbler was fairly common and conspicuous during my visit to the reserve, which was established to protect the rare Recurve-billed Bushbird *Clytoctantes alixii* and would appear to provide excellent opportunities to further study this warbler.

References

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Scott Olmstead

Barón de Carondelet 250 y Sánchez de Ávila, Ed. Torre Cristal 24, Quito, Ecuador. E-mail: sparverius81@hotmail.com.

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