

Rediscovery of Striated Antbird *Drymophila d. devillei* in Ecuador and several new elevational records

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Se documenta el redescubrimiento del Hormiguero Estriado *Drymophila devillei* para Ecuador, provincia de Napo, así como cinco nuevos registros altitudinales para la Amazonia Ecuatoriana.

Striated Antbird *Drymophila devillei subochracea* occurs in south-east Peru, north Bolivia and south Amazonian Brazil³. However, the nominate subspecies, from Ecuador and Colombia, had not been recorded in Ecuador for nearly 50 years, since T. Mena obtained a male (specimen held in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia) at Payamino, in January 1950. In the early 1990s, bamboo near the lower Payamino River was specifically inventoried for Striated Antbird without success². On 8 June 1999, we rediscovered *Drymophila d. devillei* in Napo province, 17 km east of Archidona (00° 57'S 77° 43'W, 750 m). An unidentified song was heard and tape-recorded, and in the late afternoon a male and a female were seen foraging 6–8 m above ground. None of us was familiar with the vocalisations of the species, but it was identified from a written description of its song¹ and confirmed during a telephone call to Paul Coopmans. The next day several additional tape-recordings were made in the same area and two adjacent pairs were observed in a vocal dispute at the boundary of their territories. In total, three pairs were found along a short loop trail of no more than 500 m, within tall second-growth forest with a broken canopy and heavily mixed with *Guadua* bamboo. This specific habitat, a mix of bamboo stands and trees, appears very local. In extensive areas dominated only by *Guadua* the species appears to be absent; the same is true where there is no bamboo (pers. obs.). Nevertheless, it may be relatively common at the site, as half of the 600 ha is old, mixed second growth that could support significant numbers.

Five new elevational records for Ecuador

At the same site (750–800 m), we also made five new elevational records for Ecuador: Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum*, Yellow-billed Nunbird *Monasa flavirostris*, Dusky-tailed Flatbill *Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*, Opal-crowned Tanager *Tangara callophrys* and Ecuadorian Cacique

Cacicus sclateri. On 8–9 June 1999, a Ferruginous Pygmy-owl was heard and tape-recorded from a road beside tall second-growth forest. This species was formerly known only to c.500 m². Four Yellow-billed Nunbirds were observed on the same days, one being tape-recorded. This species was formerly recorded up to c.400 m². A pair of Dusky-tailed Flatbill was seen after playback. They responded from 3–4 m above ground, within the dense canopy of a bushy tree. The forest here was tall second growth, with a broken canopy, heavily mixed with *Guadua* bamboo, and the birds were at the edge of the forest close to a pasture. There are only five other records of this species in Ecuador, all below 400 m². Two groups of Opal-crowned Tanagers accompanied mixed-species flocks, including other *Tangara* tanagers, in tall second growth. This species was previously known to 600 m². Two Ecuadorian Caciques were frequently observed within a very degraded area at the start of the trail, being originally identified by voice. This species was formerly known up to 400 m².

References

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3. Ridgely R. S. & Tudor, G. (1994) *The birds of South America*, 2. Austin: University of Texas Press.

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