

Notas Breves

A SIGNIFICANT NORTHWARD RANGE EXTENSION OF MUNCHIQUE WOOD-WREN (*HENICORHINA NEGRETI*) IN THE WESTERN ANDES OF COLOMBIA

Una extensión significativa de la distribución del Cucarachero de Munchique (*Henicorhina negreti*)
hacia el norte en la Cordillera Occidental de Colombia

Niels Krabbe

Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, and Fundación ProAves-Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia.

E-mail: nkrabbe@zmuc.ku.dk and nkrabbe@proaves.org

ABSTRACT

Henicorhina negreti is reported from the the Department of Antioquia in the Western Andes of Colombia, 350 km north of the type-locality. This finding implies that the species is much more widespread than previously thought, and calls for a re-examination of its conservation status.

Key words: *Henicorhina negreti*, range extension, conservation status.

RESUMEN

Se documenta la presencia de *Henicorhina negreti* en el Departamento de Antioquia, en la Cordillera Occidental de los Andes de Colombia, 350 km al norte de la localidad típica. Este hallazgo implica que la especie está mucho más ampliamente distribuida que lo que se pensaba, y sugiere la necesidad de volver a examinar su estado de conservación.

Palabras clave: *Henicorhina negreti*, extensión de distribución, estado de conservación.

The Munchique Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina negreti*, Troglodytidae) was described recently by Salaman *et al.* (2003), who believed it to be confined to a small part of Munchique National Park, depto. Cauca, Colombia, and considered it to be "Critically Endangered". The species was later found further north, near El Cairo (*ca.* 4°45'N, 76°14'W), in the border between Valle del Cauca and Chocó (van Oosten & Cortes 2009), indicating that the distribution range of the species is more extensive than originally thought. Moreover, Southern Antioquia was included in the range of *H. negreti* by Kroodsmá & Brewer (2005), but no reference to the source of this information was given; the present note provides the basis for this inclusion.

During field work conducted in August 2004 above Finca Primavera at a locality called La Mesenia, above the municipality of Jardín, Antioquia, near the borders of Antioquia, Caldas, Risaralda, and Chocó departments in the western slope of the Western Andes of Colombia (5°29'N, 75°54'W), I noticed that wood-wrens on the upper parts of the slope sang differently from birds lower on the slope. Playback of both song types induced birds to approach, so they could be observed at very close range. They differed distinctly from each other: the high-elevation birds exhibited darker crown, breast and flanks, more distinctly streaked throat and breast, and distinctly narrower supercilium than lower-elevation birds. These differences are in accordance with the described differences between

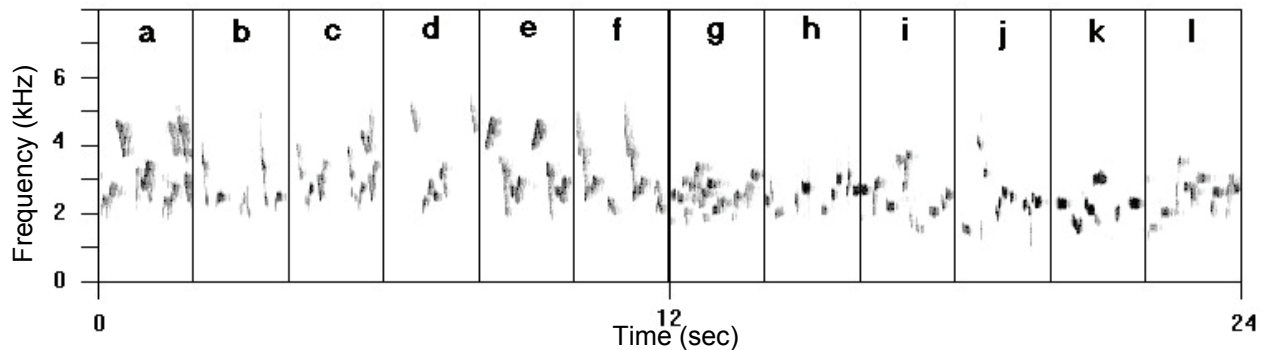


Figure 1. Extracts (2 s long) of songs of six *Henicorhina leucophrys* (a-f) and six *H. negreti* (g-l) from the Cordillera Occidental of the Andes, Colombia. Note the many long and relatively constantly pitched notes and the lack of high-pitched elements in songs of *H. negreti*. a-c: Páramo de Frontino, Antioquia, 3150 m (a), and 2600 m (b-c); d-i: above Finca Primavera, La Mesenia, Antioquia/Risaralda, 2250 m (d-f), 2300 m (g), and 2400 m (h-i); j: NW of Popayán, Cauca, 2400 m; k: Parque Nacional Munchique, Cauca, 2250 m; l: near El Cairo, Valle del Cauca/Chocó, 2200 m. Cuts a-i by N. Krabbe recorded in August 2004, j: by N. Athanas recorded in March 2005, k by P. Salaman recorded in July 2001, l by H. van Oosten recorded in February 2008.

Grey-breasted Wood-wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) and *H. negreti* (Salaman *et al.* 2003).

My recordings of songs of the high-elevation birds at La Mesenia were compared with recordings of *H. negreti* deposited at Xeno-Canto (XC 5147, 5148, 10651 and 18307) and were found to match them, most noticeably by being melodic, by having many long and pure notes varying little in pitch, and by lacking high-pitched elements (Fig. 1). Salaman *et al.* (2003) reported from the type locality of *H. negreti* that the two *Henicorhina* species did not respond to each others' song. On one occasion at La Mesenia, however, two family groups, one of each species, were seen to interact directly, getting within one or two meters of each other while singing loudly and giving frequent alarm calls.

Both species were encountered at the pass between Antioquia and Risaralda departments (2300 m), but *H. leucophrys* was rare on the wetter Risaralda side, *H. negreti* rare on the drier Antioquia side. At higher elevations than the pass, on the ridge itself, only *H. negreti* was encountered (to at least 2400 m). I did not venture below 2200 m on the Risaralda slope to establish whether *leucophrys* reappeared at lower elevations there.

The presence of *H. negreti* 350 km north of its type locality has important implications for conservation. Evidently, the species is much more widespread in the Western Andes than hitherto thought. Nearly all wood-wrens (including *H. negreti* above Mesenia) occur at high densities,

often in highly fragmented and disturbed habitat, and large areas in the elevational range of *H. negreti* between the type locality and Mesenia, as well as further north in Antioquia remain forested (Google Earth, July 2008). I therefore suggest that the species' conservation status as 'Critically Endangered' needs to be reevaluated. A detailed mapping of wet Pacific forest at appropriate elevations, an estimate of the rate of deforestation, and field work to establish the species' presence in highly fragmented forest and to determine its true elevational range would be needed in order to accurately assess its status.

I thank Gustavo Suárez, Pablo Flórez and José Castaño for companionship during the field work.

LITERATURE CITED

- KROODSMA, D. E. & D. BREWER. 2005. Family Troglodytidae (wrens). Pp. 356-447 in J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott & D. Christie, eds. Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 10. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- SALAMAN, P., P. COOPMANS, T. M. DONEGAN, M. MULLIGAN, A. CORTÉS, S. L. HILTY & L. A. ORTEGA. 2003. A new species of Wood-wren (Troglodytidae: *Henicorhina*) from the Western Andes of Colombia. *Ornitología Colombiana* 1:4-21.
- VAN OOSTEN, H. & O. CORTÉS. 2009. First record of Munchique Wood Wren *Henicorhina negreti* in dpto. Chocó, Colombia. *Cotinga* 31:64.

Recibido: 6 agosto 2008
Aceptado: 11 febrero 2009