

## Occurrence of Western Slaty-antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica

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*Thamnophilus atrinucha* es un residente común a lo largo de lo pendiente caribeña de Costa Rica. Se observó una pareja de esta especie el 8 de marzo de 1998 en el Parque Nacional Santa Rosa; el macho fue documentado fotográficamente. Este representa el primer registro bien documentado de la especie en la pendiente pacífica de Costa Rica. Existen otros dos registros visuales en la misma localidad.

Western Slaty-antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* in much of Central America is considered to be confined to the Caribbean lowlands, but it occurs east on both slopes from Cocle, Panama<sup>1,4</sup>. Within Costa Rica, *T. atrinucha* is known from the entire length of the Caribbean slope<sup>5,6</sup>. A sight record from the Pacific slope of Costa Rica, at Parque Nacional Santa Rosa, Guanacaste, is mentioned by Isler *et al.*<sup>3</sup>. On 8 March 1998, I observed a pair of Western Slaty-antshrike at Parque Nacional Santa Rosa. During the observation, the birds were easily approached to within 4 m and the male was photographed (Figs. 1 & 2). These photographs represent the first documentation for this species on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica. *Thamnophilus atrinucha* occurs as close as 28 km to Parque Nacional Santa Rosa on the Caribbean slope of the Cordillera de Guanacaste. Seasonal movements have not been noted for the primarily insectivorous *T. atrinucha* or other species in the slaty-antshrike complex (M. L. Isler pers. comm.).



Figures 1 and 2. Male Western Slaty-antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha* at Parque Nacional Santa Rosa, Guanacaste, Costa Rica, 8 March 1998 (Mark W. Lockwood)



Map of the study area.

The birds were observed for c.20 minutes. They foraged in the understorey of the forest and remained in close association with each other. The birds did not forage at heights greater than 3 m and never associated with other birds. The male frequently gave a rattle call similar to that described by Isler *et al.*<sup>3</sup>. The birds were in evergreen forest at an elevation of 230 m, c.4.9 km south-west of the Interamerican Highway along the main park road that continues to the park headquarters and Casona Santa Rosa. This forest extends both north and south from the road and is surrounded by tropical dry semideciduous forest<sup>2</sup>. The forest composition

at this location is similar to tropical moist forest<sup>2</sup> with canopy trees 25–30 m tall and subcanopy trees up to 20 m tall. Along the paved park road where the canopy had been disturbed there was considerable undergrowth. The surrounding forest where the canopy was undisturbed had a less developed understorey. This mesic forest borders both sides of the park road for c.100 m and is the only habitat of this type along the paved portion of the road.

Prior to this observation, no specimens, photographs or audio recordings existed to document the occurrence of *T. atrinucha* on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica. However, there have been at least two additional sight records from the same general location as the above-mentioned record (B. M. Whitney pers. comm.). These records provide substantial evidence that *T. atrinucha* is a low-density resident in the evergreen forest in Parque Nacional Santa Rosa.

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