



FIGURE 2. Songs of *Thryomanes bewickii* (left column) and *Troglodytes aedon* (right column) from Oregon. Numbers indicate corresponding syllable types of the *T. bewickii* song mimicked by *T. aedon*, mentioned in this study. (Reproduced with modifications from Kroodsmma 1973).

Campana Station and E. S. de Pearson Foundation allowed access to areas where field work was conducted.

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### NEST AND EGGS OF THE STRIPE-BACKED ANTBIRD (*MYRMORCHILUS STRIGILATUS*)<sup>1</sup>

SANDRA M. CAZIANI AND JORGE J. PROTOMASTRO

Departamento de Biología, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciudad Universitaria,  
1428 Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Key words:** Argentina; Copo Reserve; chaco woodland; eggs; Formicariidae; Myrmorchilus; nest.

The nest and eggs of the Stripe-backed Antbird (*Myrmorchilus strigilatus*, Formicariidae) have not been previously described. On 26 November 1988, we found a nest of this species in the Copo Reserve (26°15'S,

61°55'W, 114,000 ha), Santiago del Estero Province, Argentina, in an area of dry quebracho woodland with *Schinopsis quebracho-colorado*, *Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco* and *Zizyphus mistol*, dense and tall shrubs and open understory. The nest was on the ground in old secondary woods, quite like mature woodland. We discovered it in a fresh path opened to mist-net birds. The nest with the two eggs was moved 2 m away to a similar place. The adults remained near the nest. The next day the eggs had been rearranged by the adults, but three days later it was abandoned.

The nest was an open cup (Fig. 1), which measured

<sup>1</sup> Received 21 May 1990. Final acceptance 21 November 1990.



FIGURE 1. Nest and eggs of *Myrmorchilus strigilatus* in the Copo Reserve, Santiago del Estero Province, Argentina. Drawing based on a photograph.

9 cm inside diameter, and 10.5 cm outside diameter by 4 cm deep. It was loosely built of dry grasses (*Setaria* sp.) with a lining of garabato rachises (*Acacia praecox*). *A. praecox* is an abundant shrub in the woodland, and *Setaria* sp. is the dominant herb in the understory. The eggs were pale pink with maroon blotches mainly on the large end. The eggs measured 21.6 mm by 11.3 mm and 23.2 mm by 11.6 mm, and weighed 3.2 g and 3.5 g (Pesola scales), respectively. Stripe-backed Antbirds are common in the reserve and can be heard frequently; we observed them walking on the ground or moving between lower branches of shrubs. Between 1986–1989, we mist-netted 14 *M. strigilatus* during 7,457 net hr with 1,459 captures. All Antbirds were trapped in the two lower folds of the nets, almost touching the ground. Body mass mean was 23 g ( $n = 10$ ,  $SD = 1.7$ , Pesola scales).

The eggs (maroon markings) and nest form (open cup) are like those of related antbird genera (Fraga and Narosky, Nidificación de las Aves Argentinas—Formicariidae a Cinclidae, Asociación Ornitológica del Plata, Buenos Aires, 1985; Skutch, Life Histories of Central American Birds III, Pacific Coast Avifauna N° 35, Berkeley, 1969).

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