

Discovery of Tumbes Tyrant *Tumbezia salvini* in Ecuador

On 27 December 2008, we photographed (Fig. 1) a Tumbes Tyrant *Tumbezia salvini* near Zapotillo in prov. Loja, south-west Ecuador. The bird was at the edge of a steep, wooded gully with dense, tangled undergrowth, at 280 m, c.2.5 km north-west of the town at 04°22'12"S 80°15'36"W. It approached in response to playback of Peruvian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium peruanum*, along with a pair of Tropical Gnatcatchers *Poliophtila plumbea* and a pair of Tumbes Sparrows *Aimophila stolzmanni*. It did not vocalise. Most of the habitat around Zapotillo is sparsely vegetated desert, but the bird was at the edge of a deciduous forest that appeared to extend c.1 km south and west of us. Prior to settlement of the río Chira Valley, this forest perhaps continued to the border with Peru, c. 4 km to the south.



Figure 1. Tumbes Tyrant *Tumbezia salvini*, near Zapotillo, prov. Loja, south-west Ecuador, 27 December 2008 (Nicholas Athanas)

This is the first record of Tumbes Tyrant from Ecuador, though it is known from several relatively nearby sites in Peru. There is a M. A. Carriker specimen¹ from 'Romerós', whose coordinates Stephens & Traylor² listed as 04°30'S 80°24'W, which is barely on the Peruvian side of the border and c.24 km south-west of our Ecuador record. J. Flanagan (*in litt.* 2009) suggested that 'Romerós' refers to the small village of Encuentros de Romero, located near the border at 04°26'05"S 80°17'24"W, and just c.8 km south-west of our Ecuadorian locality. Even if the specimen's locality cannot be precisely pinpointed, our Ecuador record represents only a very minor range extension. More recent records of *Tumbezia* from northernmost Peru are from the Coto de Caza El Angolo in northern dpto. Piura, and quebradas Fernández and Bocapán, in dpto. Tumbes (J. Flanagan & F. Angulo *in litt.* 2009), as well as from near Zorritos, dpto. Tumbes, where the species was sound-recorded and photographed in October 2008 (G. M. Kirwan *in litt.* 2009).

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References

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Nicholas Athanas

Tropical Birding, Calle El Cóndor Oe4–145 y Avenida Brasil, Primer

Piso, Quito, Ecuador. E-mail: nick_athanas@hotmail.com.

Alan Davies and Ruth Miller
Flat 12, Ormeside Court, Church Walks, Llandudno, Conwy LL30 2HG, UK. E-mail: info@thebiggesttwitch.com.

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