

**Black Bushbird *Neotantes niger*: new record from Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Peru**

On 20 September 2011 we mist-netted an adult female Black Bushbird *Neotantes niger* (Fig. 1) in a patch of *Guadua weberbaueri* bamboo and secondary forest, in Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Puno, Peru, at 289 m (13°23'20.16"S 69°29'44.19"W). We trapped the bird during a survey of Cerro Cuchilla, as part of a biological inventory for the Wildlife Conservation Society. The bird was not in breeding condition: 37 g, bill length (to skull) 16.2 mm, bill width 5.01 mm, bill depth 7.25 mm, wing 77 mm, tarsus 23.53 mm and tail 60 mm.

Black Bushbird is widely but patchily distributed in Amazonia<sup>4,7</sup>, mainly in north-east Peru (Loreto) and adjacent Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador<sup>5</sup> (Fig. 2). More isolated populations occur in Manu National Park in south-east Peru<sup>6</sup> and along the

middle rio Madeira and western Pará (Brazil)<sup>5</sup>. However, given its rarity<sup>6</sup>, the species is easily overlooked. The nearest known locality to Bahuaja Sonene National Park is Cocha Cashu Biological Station (Manu National Park), 270 km to the north-west, where despite being one of the most studied areas in the Peruvian lowlands the only reports of Black Bushbird are those of Terborgh *et al.*<sup>6</sup> and Lambert<sup>2</sup>. In 2011, a team led by G. Londoño (pers. comm.) found Black Bushbird for the first time in the Kosñipata Valley, south-east Peru, despite having surveyed the same area over the previous four years. The species was not reported during a rapid inventory of the Candamo watershed in 1993<sup>3</sup>, although INRENA<sup>1</sup> mentioned *N. niger* for Bahuaja Sonene National Park, without clarifying the basis for the species' presence on this list.

We believe our Cerro Cuchilla record represents a previously undocumented resident population within Bahuaja Sonene National Park and the Tambopata watershed. This population has gone undetected probably due to the species' skulking behaviour and lack of coverage. Our record is the southernmost of the species and the first for Puno. We hypothesise that its range could extend into Bolivia, where the species should be searched



Figure 1. Female Black Bushbird *Neotantes niger*, Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Puno, Peru, September 2011 (Gabriel Jamie / Wildlife Conservation Society)

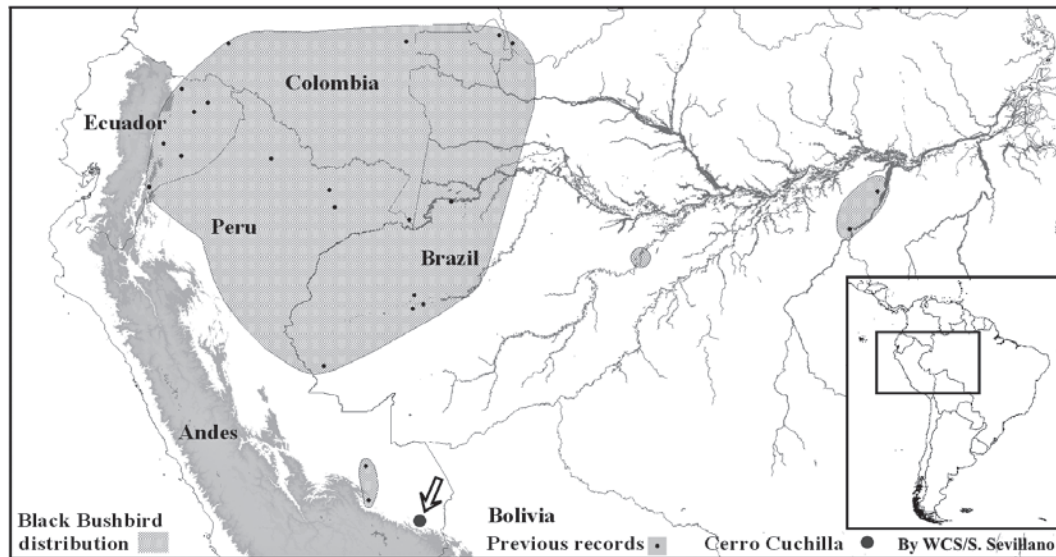


Figure 2. Map showing Black Bushbird *Neotantes niger* distribution following Ridgely et al.<sup>5</sup>, with arrow indicating Cerro Cuchilla, Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Puno (Peru).

for in Madidi National Park, which shares similar habitats to those where it has been found in south-east Peru.

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