

## A new photographic record of Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus* from southern Central America, with notes on a threat display

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El Chotacabras Norteño *Antrostomus vociferus*, un migrante neártico de larga distancia y especie casi amenazada según la UICN, pasa el invierno boreal entre el sur de Estados Unidos y Centroamérica, pero rara vez se reporta en la parte sur de su distribución, en Costa Rica y Panamá. Repasamos reportes de esa región y presentamos un nuevo registro fotográfico de Monteverde, prov. Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Encontramos que hay poca documentación de *A. vociferus* en la parte sur de Centroamérica. De los seis especímenes conocidos de esta región, cinco son hembras, y todos los registros documentados son de elevaciones medias en la vertiente pacífica. También describimos un comportamiento defensivo interesante, consistiendo en un movimiento brusco de la cabeza con la boca abierta, el cual se asemeja al movimiento de mordida de una culebra.

Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus* is a Nearctic migrant that breeds locally from southern Canada to south-east USA and is thought to winter from south-east USA to Central America<sup>8,25</sup>. The species is rarely documented during its non-breeding season and, recent technological advances notwithstanding, its winter distribution remains poorly known<sup>1,8</sup>. It is classified as Near Threatened by IUCN<sup>15</sup> and is thought to be declining in many parts of its breeding range<sup>8</sup>.

Most authors have considered *A. vociferus* a rare winter resident or vagrant in Central America<sup>11,18,23,29</sup>. Only Dickey & van Rossem<sup>9</sup> called it a “common winter visitant” in El Salvador and reported 10 specimens taken at Mt. Cacaguatique, dpto. San Miguel, in December 1925. To the south, *A. vociferus* was long known from just three specimens in Nicaragua, of which at least one was implied to correspond to nominate *vociferus*<sup>18</sup>. Carriker<sup>5</sup> concluded that “they are common in winter further north, but evidently are

only stragglers in Costa Rica”. Carriker’s remarks are consistent with recent studies using geolocators that suggest the main winter range in Middle America to be the Pacific slope of southern Mexico and adjacent northern Central America<sup>2,12,26</sup>.

A search of regional monographs and museum databases for records of *A. vociferus* from the southern portion of the known winter distribution in Costa Rica and Panama returned just two published sight records and six specimens (Table 1; Fig. 1). The earliest record is a specimen from San José, Costa Rica, listed by Cherrie<sup>6</sup> as deposited in the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica. Slud<sup>27</sup> mentioned four specimens from Costa Rica without details, but these likely include the specimen mentioned by Cherrie, two specimens taken by Austin Paul Smith and a 1963 specimen of uncertain sex preserved in alcohol collected by Jorge Pérez (Table 1). A single specimen from prov. Chiriquí, Panama, is the southernmost documented record<sup>31</sup>. Published sight records include a female at Taboga,

Table 1. Specimens from Costa Rica and Panama catalogued as Eastern Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus vociferus* in bird collections of natural history museums. Collections: *MNCR* Museo Nacional de Costa Rica; *AMNH* American Museum of Natural History; *UMMZ* University of Michigan Museum Zoology; *CUMV* Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates; *FMNH* Field Museum Natural History; *USNM* United States National Museum. Sex: *F* female.

Collection no.	Sex	Verbatim locality	Date	Collector
MNCR 2823	F	San José, Costa Rica	24 Feb 1889	George K. Cherrie
AMNH 389419	F	El Pozo, Rio Térraba, Costa Rica	15 Dec 1923	Austin P. Smith
UMMZ 134965	F	Puntarenas, Costa Rica	18 Jan 1931	Austin P. Smith
FMNH 159700	F	Alajuela, Zarcero, Costa Rica	6 Dec 1934	[not known]
USNM 458478	F	Cerro Punta, Potrero Cuatro Mil, Chiriquí, Panama	8 Mar 1955	Alexander Wetmore
CUMV 38331	(?)	Turrialba, Cartago, Costa Rica	7 Feb 1963	Jorge Pérez