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Abstracts

FEATURE ARTICLES

VOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS AND RESPONSE TO CONSPECIFIC PLAYBACK IN THE SPOTTED ANTBIRD, A NEOTROPICAL SUBOSCINE

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Abstract. We studied individual variation in song characteristics of the Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naevioides*), a Neotropical suboscine, and tested for song discrimination using playback of male neighbors and strangers. Discriminant analysis of four frequency and temporal characteristics of the songs of 25 male and five female Spotted Antbirds revealed significant differences among individuals. Each song was assigned correctly to the individual that produced it with over 70% accuracy. However, during field playback, male Spotted Antbirds did not discriminate between neighbor and stranger song. Our results suggest that selection has not favored the evolution of neighbor-stranger discrimination, perhaps because all conspecific intruders pose a threat. The temporal characteristics of Spotted Antbird songs differed significantly between the sexes, but frequency characteristics did not. Females responded significantly less strongly to male playback than males, suggesting that each sex plays a distinct role in territorial defense.

Key words: *Hylophylax naevioides*, *neighbor-stranger discrimination*, *playback experiment*, *song*, *Spotted Antbird*, *tropical suboscine*, *vocal distinctiveness*.