February 16, 2018

Dear Dr. Kaspar Delhey, Editor-in-Chief of Ornitología Neotropical,

This cover letter accompanies our submission of a manuscript entitled “Nest description and nesting behavior of the Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*)” to be considered for publication in Ornitología Neotropical. This manuscript is based on original research performed by myself, Alana Demko, and my coauthor, Daniel Mennill. The manuscript is being submitted exclusively to Ornitología Neotropical, and the research reported herein has not been previously published elsewhere.

Our research is the first rigorous study of the nests and nesting behaviour of the Rufous-capped Warbler, a widespread Neotropical resident songbird, and expands on previous anecdotal accounts of nesting in this species. We provide information on the nest-building, incubation, and nestling periods based on focal observations and video monitoring of 11 nests in northwestern Costa Rica. The use of colour-banded adults allowed us to measure sex-specific contributions to nesting in this sexually monochromatic species. We found that females are the primary nest-builders and sole incubators, and that both males and females assist in nestling feeding. We also provide the first evidence that males of this species occasionally assist in nest-building, which is a rare behaviour overall in Neotropical wood-warblers. We believe our work will appeal to readers interested in avian breeding biology and tropical ecology.

We recommend the following reviewers for our manuscript, all of whom specialize in Neotropical ecology and ornithology:

1. Dr. Gustavo Londoño, Universidad ICESI, galondono@icesi.edu.co
2. Dr. Harold Greeney, Yanayacu Biological Station, [revmmoss@yahoo.com](mailto:revmmoss@yahoo.com)
3. Dr. Miguel Ângelo Marini, Universidade de Brasília, [marini@unb.br](mailto:marini@unb.br)
4. Dr. Kristina Cockle, IBIGEO-CONICET (Argentina), kristinacockle@gmail.com
5. Dr. Gilbert Barrantes, Universidad de Costa Rica, gilbert.barrantes@gmail.com
6. Robert Dobbs, United States Geological Survey (USGS), [rdobbs@usgs.gov](mailto:rdobbs@usgs.gov)

Sincerely,

Alana Demko (corresponding author)

On behalf of Alana Demko and Daniel Mennill

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