

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

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FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST OF THE ROUND-TAILED MANAKIN (*PIPRA CHLOROMEROS*)

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Primera descripción del nido del Saltarín Coliancho (*Pipra chloromeros*).

Key words: Nest description, Round-tailed Manakin, Pipridae, *Pipra chloromeros*.

Round-tailed Manakins (*Pipra chloromeros*) are found in eastern Peru and northern Bolivia, along the eastern slope of the Andes, and are uncommon to locally fairly common in lower and middle growth of humid forest in lowlands and foothills to 1400 m (Ridgely & Tudor 1994). Although male display behavior has been well characterized in this species (Tello 2001), the nest of the Round-tailed Manakin has not previously been described (Snow, 2004). Here, we provide the first nest description for this species.

On 1 December 2004, we discovered a female Round-tailed Manakin building a nest in the Reserva Nacional Tambopata, Dpto. Madre de Dios, Peru (12°50'15"S, 69°17'30"W). We located the female near the 4750 m marker on the Main Trail at the Explorer's Inn. Round-tailed Manakins are present in the forests of the Tambopata river basin, but are considered relatively uncommon in this area (Allan 1995). We observed the female from a distance of about 4 m from 10:30 to 11:30 h and 14:30 to 15:00 h on the day we located the nest.

We first observed a female Round-tailed Manakin sallying repeatedly for spider webs. She accumulated such a large quantity of spider webs that these were clearly visible in her bill. The female then began weaving these spider webs around the horizontal fork of a small branch about 3 m away. The branch was located 4–5 m above the ground. The branch supporting the nest was a broken, dead branch without any leaves, and was held up above the ground because it was tangled in some vines. For approximately 1 h, we observed the female carrying additional material to the nest site, primarily dead leaves, fungal rhizomorphs, and spider webs, and weaving these together. The female worked continuously on the nest for this entire period, gathering nesting material within sight of the nest and weaving it into a shallow cup. When we returned to the nest site 3 h later, the outside of the cup, which appeared to be composed primarily of dead leaves, was nearly complete. The female was still working on the nest. By this point, the nest structure was complete enough that the female occasionally

arranged some of the leaves on the outside of the nest from within the cup. At no point did the female appear to be alarmed by our presence, as she continued to work furiously despite our close proximity. Unfortunately, we left the reserve before we had the opportunity to observe the female line the cup or lay any eggs.

Based on our observations, the nest of the Round-tailed Manakin is similar in appearance to that of most manakin species. A small, open-cup nest, constructed of rhizomes and dead leaves, is characteristic of the nest architecture generally documented in this family, as is a nest constructed in the horizontal fork of a small branch (Snow 2004, pers. observ.). However, two features of this nest made it unusual. First, the placement of the nest in a dead branch hanging from a vine has not, to our knowledge, been previously reported, though we suspect that this was simply an idiosyncrasy. Second, a distance of 4–5 m above the ground is at the high end of the range of reported manakin nest heights, although higher nests have been discovered (Snow 2004). If Round-tailed Manakins routinely build their nests at such heights, this may help explain, in part, why the nest of this species had not previously been described. Finally, it should be noted that, because we discovered this nest being constructed in early December, the breeding season of Round-tailed Manakins likely extends longer than has

previously been reported. Tello (2001) reports that Round-tailed Manakins breed mainly from August to November in Peru, but our observation of a female initiating nest construction in early December suggests that their breeding period may extend into January [manakins have relatively long incubation period (16–19 days), and nestlings remain in the nest for some 13–15 days].

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