

NESTING BEHAVIOUR OF *METHOPOTRIX AURANTIACUS* IN ECUADOR¹

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RESUMEN. Conducta nidificatoria de *Methopotrix aurantiacus* en el Ecuador. El nido de esta especie de dudosa clasificación es desconocido. Observé individuos construyendo un nido de grandes palitos, llevados atravesados en el pico, en la ruta Puyo-Tena, provincia de Napo. Esta conducta indicaría que *Methopotrix* es un furnárido de la subfamilia Synallaxinae.

There is no information on the nesting habits of the Orange-fronted Plushcrown *Methopotrix aurantiacus* (Hilty and Brown 1986). The systematic placement of this passerine has been debated (Meyer de Schauensee 1966), but nowadays it is usually placed with the Furnariidae (Vaurie 1971, 1980). By reason of its greenish and yellow colouration *Methopotrix* is different from most furnariids, so its taxonomic placement within the family is also uncertain (Vaurie 1971). The following information on the nesting behaviour of *Methopotrix* may help to solve these problems.

On 6 January 1990 I saw *Methopotrix* nest building on an unidentified *Ficus* tree, 4.5 km south of the Rio Napo, on the Tena-Puyo road, province of Napo, Ecuador. The isolated nest tree was growing in a cultivated area, near the road. One or two birds

were carrying twigs to a place in the tree crown. The twigs were 2 to 3 times the length of the bird, i.e. about 25 cm long, and were carried crosswise in the bill. This behaviour was repeated 6 times in about 30 min. I visited the tree two days later, but no birds or nest were seen.

The use of large twigs for nesting, and the way of carrying this material, at once suggested that *Methopotrix* is a furnariid. The idea that *Methopotrix* could be related to the Pipridae (Meyer de Schauensee 1966) is not supported by its nesting behaviour. The use of twigs indicates that, within the Furnariidae, *Methopotrix* probably belongs to the subfamily Synallaxinae (for nest of this subfamily in Argentina see Narosky et al 1983). Vaurie was then correct in his classification of *Methopotrix*.

I acknowledge my travelling companions, Andrea and Reiner Weischedel.

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NUEVOS APORTES A LA BIOLOGIA REPRODUCTIVA DE LA GARCITA AZULADA *BUTORIDES STRIATUS* (AVES: ARDEIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: We carried out observations on reproduction of eight breeding pairs of *Butorides striatus fuscicollis* nesting in the Zoological Experimental Station of Santa Fe city during spring-summer 1989-1990.

Twenty six eggs were laid, 20 hatched and 19 fledglings were produced. The hatching time was 21 days and the nestling stayed in the nest 14 days.

La información referida a la biología reproductiva de la Garcita Azulada *Butorides striatus fuscicollis* en el Paraná medio se limita a recientes contribuciones (Beltzer, en prensa; Beltzer y Molet, inéd.). Aportes a su distribución, biología alimentaria y características del nido y huevos han sido mencionados por otros autores.

Continuando con los estudios citados precedentemente, en este trabajo se describen las observaciones sobre la reproducción de la Garcita Azulada efectuadas en la Estación Zoológica Experimental de la ciudad de Santa Fe con visitantes ocasionales de esta especie durante el período primavera-estival 1989-1990.

Se efectuaron observaciones en 8 parejas de Garcitas Azuladas visitantes ocasionales que nidifi-

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