A nest of Blue-bellied Parrot Triclaria malachitacea in southern Brazil

Blue-bellied Parrot Triclaria malachitacea is endemic to the Atlantic Forest of Brazil. The species’ ecological requirements are still poorly known, it being one of the most secretive parrots in the world. In respect of its breeding biology, some data are available from captivity plus descriptions of eight nests in the wild. However, most wild nests lack even basic measurements. As this species is Near Threatened globally, more data are important. Here we describe the first nest of T. malachitacea found in Santa Catarina, southern Brazil.

On 24 October 2015, during an avifaunal survey of montane forest (28°11′18.80″S 49°23′21.91″W; 490 m) near the southern headquarters of Serra Furada State Park, municipality of Grão Pará, Santa Catarina, Brazil, we heard begging calls emanating from a natural cavity (Fig. 1) in the trunk of a live Alchornea triplinervia tree. Using a phone camera, we could still see two nestlings (Fig. 2a) and a pure white elliptical egg (Fig. 2c). Nestlings were covered with greyish plumes with some green feathers emerging. Given the age of the nestlings (c.10 days), the egg was presumably not viable.

This is the most detailed description of a wild nest of T. malachitacea to date, as well as the first confirmed breeding evidence in Santa Catarina. In relation to previous data, our observations corroborate the known breeding period in southern Brazil (October–January), mean nest height above ground and the results of Bencke, who found that Alchornea triplinervia may be one of the most suitable nesting trees in southern Brazil. Clutch size, eggs and nestlings are still little known in the wild. Bencke observed two eggs in one nest, while data from captivity suggest clutches of 2–4 eggs, which puts our observation of two nestlings plus one egg within the known range.

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grasses and a Cyperaceae species reaching 1 m tall. This record represents a range extension of 290 km north from the nearest record in Rio Grande do Sul¹.

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