

A description of the nest of Fiery-capped Manakin *Machaeroterus pyrocephalus* from northern Bolivar, Venezuela

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The Fiery-capped Manakin *Machaeroterus pyrocephalus* is apparently local throughout its range which extends from the lowlands of eastern Peru (San Martin, south to Puno and Madre de Dios) and northern Bolivia (Pando, Beni, La Paz and Santa Cruz)² through Amazonian Brazil (Mato Grosso, east to Goias and north along the Rio Tapajos to southern Amapá)^{3,4}. Isolated populations are known from extreme northern Brazil (at the Maracá Ecological Station, Roraima) and Venezuela (along the lower Rio Caura, north-western

Bolivar)³. The Venezuelan (and possibly the Roraiman) birds belong to the subspecies *pallidiceps* characterized in the male which shows less extensive red in the crown. The species is uncommon in the lower and middle growth of humid forest, including transitional forest, old second-growth woodland and forest borders.

On 14 March 1995 the authors, together with Neil Bostock and Jon Hornbuckle, were birding from the road between Maripa and Las Trincheras, in the Caura Forest Reserve, northern Bolivar, Venezuela. A pair of Fiery-capped Manakins had already been observed, with Golden-headed Manakin *Pipra erythrocephala* seemingly common (from vocalizations) in the area. Whilst following a small bird party just inside the forest, a female Fiery-capped Manakin was located, perched unobtrusively in a tangle 3-5 m above the ground. It was subsequently joined by a male for a brief period, before flying down and settling on a previously unseen nest. Suspecting that the nest of this species may have been previously undescribed, CGB returned later with his camera and took a series of photographs of the sitting bird and the nest, which contained two eggs. As is typical of manakins, the eggs were dull white in coloration with varying amounts of brown streaking and mottling.

The cup-shaped nest was suspended from the leafy, horizontal fork of a sapling, c.1 m above the ground. Dead leaves were woven onto the outside of the nest which was lined with coarse grass-like fibres. In close proximity to this nest, a pair of Golden-headed Manakins were feeding two recently fledged young. Sick⁴ commented on the propensity of some species of manakin (usually from different genera) to co-exist at close quarters, and, apparently supporting this conclusion, in addition to the two species already mentioned, the Caura Forest Reserve is known to support populations of White-crowned Manakin *Pipra*



Fiery-capped Manakin nest (Chris Bradshaw)



Female Fiery-capped Manakin on nest (Chris Bradshaw)

pipra, White-bearded Manakin *Manacus manacus*, Dwarf Tyrant-manakin *Tyrannetes stolzmanni*, Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris*, and Saffron-crested Tyrant-manakin *Neopelma chrysocephalum*.

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Barry Wright for providing detailed notes on the Caura Forest Reserve.

References

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