

First description of nest and nestlings of White-winged Shrike-tanager *Lanio versicolor*

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Se presenta la primera descripción del nido y pichones de *Lanio versicolor*. El nido fue encontrado en bosque húmedo maduro cercano a la Estación Biológica de Cocha Cashu, Parque Nacional del Manu, Perú el 7 de noviembre de 1992. El nido estaba situado a 90 cm del suelo, sobre las bases de varias hojas del helecho epífita-de-tronco *Lomariopsis japurensis* (Lomariopsidae). El nido estaba oculto por varias hojas que colgaban por encima. El nido tenía forma de taza y estaba hecho de fibras vegetales, las cuales estaban tejidas en anillos concéntricos sobre una base formada por varias ramitas y hojas muertas. El diámetro externo del nido era de aprox. 8 cm, la altura externa de aprox. 8 cm, y la profundidad de aprox. 2 cm. Dos pichones (de menos de 5 días) fueron encontrados en el nido. Los pichones fueron pesados y medidos usando una balanza de resorte y un calibrador: primer pichón- peso= 10.75 g, longitud del ala= 24.75 mm, longitud del tarso= 10.75 mm; segundo pichón- peso= 7.75 g, longitud del ala= 19.45 mm, y longitud del tarso= 9.45 mm. Los dos pichones tenían los ojos parcialmente abiertos. No se observó que el diente-de-eclosión estuviera presente, la línea del pico era de color amarillo pálido y el paladar de color rojo-coral bastante intenso. En ambos pichones el abdomen estaba bastante distendido. La piel era de un color marrón-carne brillante. Tenían plumón gris en las regiones capital, espinal y ventral. Los cañones de las plumas rudimentarias eran de color gris oscuro, excepto por los flancos que eran de color amarillo-naranja. Lamentablemente, no se pudieron hacer más observaciones pues el nido fue depredado al día siguiente.

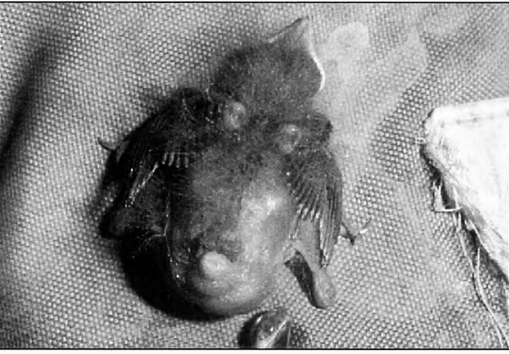
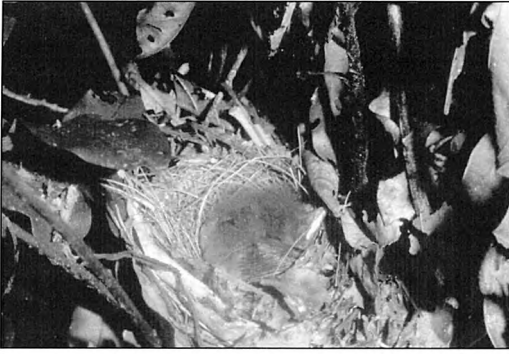
Shrike-tanagers *Lanio* spp. typically form part of the nucleus of mixed-species flocks of insectivorous birds that forage through the interior of forest canopies. The genus consists of four allopatric species that occur in dense forest from southern Mexico south to northern Brazil^{2,4}. Breeding records for the species in this genus are very scarce: *L. fulvus* is reported to nest in palm trees¹; one nest of *L. leucothorax*, found in a low bush near a stream, is known from Costa Rica⁶; and the nests of *L. aurantius* and *L. versicolor* are unknown.

White-winged Shrike-tanager *Lanio versicolor* occurs from the eastern base of the Andes, from San Martín, Peru, south to Cochabamba, Bolivia, and eastward south of the Amazon to eastern Pará (Rio Tocantins) and western Mato Grosso, Brazil². The only published observation of breeding behaviour of this species is by Munn & Terborgh³ who reported a nest under construction on 18 November 1976, in high-ground forest at Manu National Park, Peru. However, no specific details were provided.

On 7 November 1992, Renato Cintra showed me an unidentified bird nest; subsequent observations proved it to be of *Lanio versicolor*. The nest, containing two nestlings, was found in mature high-ground forest near Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Madre de Dios, Peru (c.11°54'S, 71°18'W, elevation c.400 m). Cocha Cashu is situated in warm tropical rainforest, and is described in detail by Terborgh⁵. The nest was 90 cm above the ground, positioned on the bases of leaves of the trunk-epiphyte fern *Lomariopsis japurensis* (Lomariopsidaceae). The nest was obscured from

view by hanging leaves. The nest was cup-shaped and constructed of plant fibres woven in concentric rings with a base of twigs and dead leaves. The outer diameter of the nest was approximately 8 cm, the outer height c.8 cm, and the inner depth c.2 cm. Two young chicks (less than 5 days old) were on the nest (eggs were seen 4–5 days prior to 7 November: Renato Cintra pers. comm.). Nestlings were weighed using a spring balance and measured with calipers: first nestling—weight = 10.75 g, wing chord = 24.75 mm, tarsus = 10.75 mm; second nestling—weight = 7.75 g, wing chord = 19.45 mm, and tarsus = 9.45 mm. The nestlings' eyes were partially open. No egg-tooth was apparent on the bills, the bill line was pale yellow, and soft palate was intense coral red. In both nestlings, the abdomen was greatly distended. The nestlings' skin was a bright brownish flesh colour. Grey down feathers were present on the capital, spinal, and ventral tracts. Pin feathers were dark grey, except for those on the flanks that were orange-yellow.

In response to gentle nest vibration, the nestlings extended their necks and thrust out open bills. When the nest branch was vigorously shaken, the young huddled silently in the bottom of nest, perhaps to decrease their conspicuousness to predators. At 09h50 on 7 November, both parents were observed returning with food to the nest. The female carried a caterpillar, and the male an unidentified prey item. No further observations were possible because the nest and nestlings had been predated by the following day.



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Figure 1. White-winged Shrike-tanager *Lanio versicolor* nest and nestlings in Manu National Park, Peru (Jose Tello / VIREO-v06/32/002)

Figure 2. White-winged Shrike-tanager *Lanio versicolor* nest and nestlings in Manu National Park, Peru (Jose Tello / VIREO-v06/32/003)

Figure 3. Dorsal view of nestling of White-winged Shrike-tanager *Lanio versicolor* (Jose Tello / VIREO-v06/32/001)

Figure 4. Ventral view of nestling of White-winged Shrike-tanager *Lanio versicolor* (Jose Tello / VIREO-v06/32/004)