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FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST AND EGGS OF THE WHITE-STRIPED WARBLER (*BASILEUTERUS LEUCOPHRYS*)

Miguel Ângelo Marini* & Roberto Brandão Cavalcanti

Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade de Brasília, 70910 Brasília, DF Brasil

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The White-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus leucophrys*) is endemic to gallery forests in the savanna region of Brazil's central tableland, but little is known about its biology (Sick 1985, Antas & Cavalcanti 1988). During our study of gallery forest birds in Brasília, Brazil, we found a nest with eggs, which apparently had not been described for this species. Although Sick (1985) stated that the White-striped Warbler is parasitized by the Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*), we were unable to find any published report of its nest and eggs. The White-striped Warbler primarily inhabits flooded or moist gallery forest (Marini & Cavalcanti 1993). Our study site at the Ecological Station of the University of Brasília (15° 58' S, 47° 56' W) includes 2300 ha of native cerrado savanna and gallery forests (for details see Eiten 1984, Ratter 1980, Marini & Cavalcanti 1993).

We found the nest of the White-striped Warbler in a flooded gallery forest on 30 September 1988, 18 m from the forest edge and 30 m from the stream. The canopy above the nest was approximately 10 m high, and the understory was open with many lianas. The nest was on the ground on a small hummock (20 cm high) formed by roots, dead leaves, and branches, with a sapling just behind it. The globular nest had a side entrance and was built of fine roots and twigs, with an outer layer of leaves covering the bottom and sides. Its entrance was 5.5 cm high, and 6.5 cm wide. The total height was 8.5 cm and the total width was 14 cm. We made a total of four visits to the nest, 30 September, 11, 13 and 25 October 1988.

* *Current address:* Departamento de Biologia Geral, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, 3000 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brasil.

Two individuals, probably the nesting pair, responded to our presence on two of our four visits, on 30 September and 13 October. Both birds vocalized and hopped on the ground and from sapling to sapling near the nest. One individual brushed its wings on the ground, a behaviour we interpreted as a distraction display. On 11 October the nest contained two eggs. Both were light beige, with small brown speckles and a brownish wreath around the wider end. Length, width and mass for each egg were respectively: 22.9 mm, 16.7 mm, 3.5 g; 23.2 mm, 17.0 mm, 3.6 g. The two eggs were still present on 13 October, but on 25 October the nest was empty and flattened, probably due to predation. The nest was collected, and is stored in the collection of the Zoology Department, University of Brasília.

The White-striped Warbler apparently breeds between September and January, a common pattern in the insectivorous passerines of the region (Cavalcanti & Pimentel 1988). An adult bird banded in January 1989 had brood patch, but five individuals banded in March, June and August 1988 and January 1989 lacked brood patch. At our study area the White-striped Warbler occurred sympatrically with two congeners, the Flavescent Warbler (*B. flaveolus*) and the White-bellied Warbler (*B. hypoleucus*). All three species breed at the same time of the year, build similar nests and perform similar distraction displays (Marini & Cavalcanti, unpubl. data). The Flavescent Warbler and the White-bellied Warbler nest in the drier areas of the gallery forest.

The nest of the White-striped Warbler is very similar to those reported for other species in the genus. *Basileuterus* nests are globular, placed on

the ground, often near a sapling, bush or rock, or on an earth bank, with a side entrance (e. g., Pinto 1953, Hilty & Brown 1986). The pigmentation pattern of the eggs, having a light-ground color with speckles and a dense ring at the wider end, is also found in other species of *Basileuterus* (e. g., Hilty & Brown 1986).

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