

FIRST REPORT OF THE NEST OF THE BARRED HAWK (*LEUCOPTERNIS PRINCEPS*) IN PANAMA

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Primer reporte de anidación del Aguilucho Barreteado (*Leucopternis princeps*) en Panamá.

Key words: Barred Hawk, *Leucopternis princeps*, Accipitridae, nest, Neotropical raptors, Panama.

The Barred Hawk (*Leucopternis princeps*) is a rare to locally uncommon forest species distributed on humid foothills and montane forests of Costa Rica, Panama, western Colombia and both Andean slopes of northern Ecuador (Ridgely & Gwynne 1989, del Hoyo *et al.* 1994). Few reports on the Barred Hawk have been published (Wetmore 1965, Robins *et al.* 1987, Thiollay 1991), and only one provides information on a suspected tree-top nest built mainly with a mass of epiphytes (Stiles & Skutch 1989).

On 25 February 2002, while conducting an aerial raptor survey by helicopter in the Darien region of southeastern Panama, we spotted an adult Barred Hawk, standing on a nest that contained a single unmarked white egg visible between the legs of the bird (nest location: 07°42'50"N, 78°05'40"W, 770 m a.s.l.). The nest was observed from above using 10 x 32 binoculars. It was also video taped and photos were taken with a 210-mm photographic lens from an approximate distance of 20 m. We positively identified the bird by the dark color of the upper body, the finely barred white belly, and the long, bright

yellow legs. This identification was verified by comparing the photos and video we obtained during our observations with descriptions in the literature (photos and video are available for identification purposes upon request). The nest was located on a forested rocky wall approximately 30 m above the forest canopy. It had been built on a narrow ledge in a cave-like area under a rocky overhang with vegetation growing around and above it. The nest was constructed with a mass of small branches and leaves, and was about one meter in diameter. Most of the surrounding vegetation was composed of long-leaf bromeliads, ferns, shrubs and vines. During our observations, we saw only one adult Barred Hawk, which remained at the nest during our observations.

Nests of two of other species of *Leucopternis* have been described previously, and both were built in trees (del Hoyo *et al.* 1994). As reported for White Hawks (*L. albicollis*), Barred Hawks may also favor places with abundant vegetation to build their nests (Draheim 1995). The presence of leaves at the nest has been previously reported for White

Hawks. A female was observed using these leaves to cover her egg prior to leaving the nest (Draheim 1995). The presence of leaves in the nest described above suggests the possibility of a similar behavior in the Barred Hawk.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank L. Kiff and L. Salas for valuable comments and suggestions to the manuscript, and H. Kiser for kind assistance in the final editing. We also thank T. Jakits for his fantastic skills as a pilot and his keen eye searching for birds.

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Accepted 19 October 2002.