

FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST WITH BREEDING AND FORAGING NOTES OF THE VERSICOLORED BARBET (*EUBUCCO VERSICOLOR*)

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Primer descripción del nido con notas sobre su reproducción y comportamiento de alimentación del Capitán verdiceleste (*Eubucco versicolor*).

Key words: Versicolored Barbet, *Eubucco versicolor*, nest, Capitonidae, behavior.

The Versicolored Barbet (*Eubucco versicolor*) is a central Andes zoogeographic regional endemic (Parker *et al.* 1996), common (pers. observ.) between 1500–1800 m (Hennessey *et al.* 2003) in humid yungas forests of Bolivia and Peru. It is considered to be a frugivore mostly observed within canopy flocks, but occasionally in small (family?) groups (pers. observ.). There has been no published information regarding the nesting of this species (Short 2001, Rasmussen *et al.* 2002).

On 7 October 2002 at 1750 m (08:05 EST) during a bird survey in slightly-sloped tall (c. 25 m) humid yungas montane forest at Torcillo-Sarayoj (14°37'S, 68°11'W, c. 20 km east of Apolo), Madidi National Park, Dept. La Paz, Bolivia, I observed a female Versicolored Barbet fly from a nesting hole. The hole (2.2 m high, 3.2 cm in diameter) was in a gray fungal-rotted barkless snag (2.3 m tall, 17 cm wide) topped by an epiphytic bromeliad. The nesting channel entered horizontally 6 cm, abruptly curving

downward 18 cm. The innerwood of the snag was soft, easily dented by a thumbnail. The nesting chamber had a diameter of 6 cm with only sawdust-like bedding 1 cm thick. There were 3 white spherical eggs in the nest (two of 1.6 cm x 2.0 cm; the third measured 1.7 cm x 2.2 cm).

October is the beginning of the rainy season in Madidi N. P. and northern Bolivia, and the breeding season for many bird species (see Hennessey & Gomez 2003). On 14 October 2002, I also observed a dull, smaller billed flying female juvenile Versicolored Barbet being fed by a male c. 10 m above the ground.

I observed many Versicolored Barbets daily in the Torcillo-Sarayoj area from 6 to 17 October 2002, between 1500 and 1800 m. Remsen & Parker (1984) classify the species as a dead-leaf-searching regular user based on non-frugivorous observations of birds seen searching dead leaves in 25–75% of their observations. One hundred percent of my non-frugivorous observations (N = 19) were

of individuals searching dead leaves. Individuals were observed frequently in long (1–5 s) hang-down, hang-sidewise, hang-upside-down and hang-up postures with probe, peek and pull maneuvers (see Remsen & Robinson 1990 for definitions of these terms) of dead bromeliad leaves, dead palm fronds and dead curled leaves. Foraging maneuvers were observed from 10 to 25 m above the ground. I found individuals frequently by searching for sounds of their dead leaf substrate manipulation.

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