



First nesting record of White-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes albinucha*)

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Resumen

Primer registro de anidación de *Atlapetes albinucha*

Describo el primer nido localizado de *Atlapetes albinucha*, y los polluelos que contenía. Este nido lo localicé en un bosque de niebla del Estado de Oaxaca, México.

Palabras clave: *Atlapetes albinucha*, Bosque de Niebla, México, registro de anidación, Oaxaca.

Abstract

I report the first description of the nest of the White-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes albinucha*), which is based on a nest I found with two nestlings in a cloud forest in the state of Oaxaca, México.

Keywords: Cloud forest, nesting record, Oaxaca, Mexico, White-naped Brush-Finch.

Résumé

Première description du nid et des poussins du Tohi à calotte blanche (*Atlapetes albinucha*)

Je reporte le premier nid découvert d'*Atlapetes albinucha*, et les poussins présents. Ce nid fut découvert dans une forêt humide de montagne de l'état d'Oaxaca, Mexique.

Mots clés: *Atlapetes albinucha*, description de nid et nichée, Forêt humide de montagne, Oaxaca, Mexique.

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In the state of Oaxaca, México, *Atlapetes albinucha* (White-naped Brush-Finch) is a permanent resident in the Atlantic Region, in openings within the cloud forest of Sierra Juárez and Sierra de Zempoaltepec (Binford 1989). It had been recorded at Vista Hermosa, 24 and 27 km Southwest of Valle Nacional, Totontepec, and several localities along the Valle Nacional-Ixtlán road (Torres, 1992). Additional specimens had been secured from 3 km East of Metepec (July 20th 1991, OAX.AV-212) and 3.8 km Southeast of Tanetze de Zaragoza (June 26th 1994, OAX.AV- 371), and are currently deposited at the Oaxaca Ornithological Collection (OAX.AV) of the Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo Integral Regional (CIIDIR).

To date, the only breeding data recorded for this species was on a male with enlarged testes (8 x 4 mm) collected by Binford on April 25th 1961, 27 km Southwest of Valle Nacional, at an elevation of 1,478 m (Binford 1989); the nest and eggs of the White-naped Brush-Finch are undescribed (Howell and Webb 1995) and any other information on breeding season or behavior for this species is lacking. Here I report the first description of the nest of this species as well as information on its breeding season.

During a long-term survey of the cloud forest avifauna near Tanetze de Zaragoza and Talea de Castro, Sierra de Juárez, Oaxaca, a nest with two nestlings of the White-naped Brush-Finch was found in a small clearing of an abandoned road, on June 6th 2000, within cloud forest vegetation (17°22.67'N and 96°17.241'W), at an elevation



Figure 1. Nest of the White-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes albinucha*) after removal from the nest site at Tanetze de Zaragoza, Distrito Villa Alta, June 6th 2000 (Foto E. Cisneros).



of 1,815 m, about 1.4 km. ENE from Tanetze de Zaragoza, Villa Alta District, Oaxaca.

The nest was almost circular in shape and was located at 88 cm from the ground, within tall grass (*Isachne arundinacea* Poaceae) and some bracken fern (*Pteridium* sp. Dennstaedtiaceae). The inside diameter of the cup was 8 cm and had 15 cm of external diameter. The nest had a total depth of 6.5 cm, and a depth of 3 cm at the center of the cup. It was constructed with dry grass and portions of ferns (*Pteridium* sp., *Gleichenia* sp. Gleicheniaceae) and vines. It was lined with pine needles (*Pinus chiapensis* Pinaceae) and small thorns. An overhanging bracken fern and vine leaves provided shade to the nestlings (Figure 1). There were two nestlings,

approximately nine days old, with the central, white feathers of the head already erupted. The ventral sternal tract, the primaries, secondaries and rectrices were erupting (less than 4 mm. exposed). In spite of considerable effort to find a nest with eggs on the same breeding season and in following seasons, we could not find any others, probably because of the low number of individuals of this species in the area. During a four-year survey, the species was found at very low density, on average only 0.014 individuals per point count (0.19 ha).

The nest was collected in September and has been deposited at the Oaxaca Ornithological Collection of CIIDIR.

Literature cited

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