

Figure 1. Photograph and line tracing of the nest of a Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus* at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Costa Rica. The globular nest was constructed of moss and plant fibres, and positioned on the underside of a thick branch high in the canopy. The adult delivered food to the nest from the entrance, which is oriented downwards from the bottom of the nest (Daniel J. Mennill)

quiet, thin *seet* at or near the nest. Each visit lasted no more than 2 seconds. On two occasions, we observed the adult carrying prey, presumably an arthropod, the wings of which extended at least 1 cm either side of the bill. The adult visited in bouts, returning every 2–3 minutes during a feeding bout. The longest between-bout interval was 18 minutes.

Directly below the nest, the leaves in the understorey were covered with nestling faecal material. During the two hours of observation, we observed faecal material falling from the nest four times.

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A nest of Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula* depredated by a Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa*

On 26 November 2003 we found a nest of Rufous Antpitta *Grallaria rufula* at Tapichalaca Biological Reserve (04°30'S 79°10'W), north of Valladolid in south-east Zamora-Chinchipe province, Ecuador, at an elevation of c. 2,500 m. The nest, which held two entirely turquoise eggs (25.3 x 22.6, 25.4 x 22.5 mm),

was a large mossy cup lined with pale fibres and dark fungal rhizomorphs. It was located 2 m above ground on the side of a mossy tree trunk (12 cm diameter at breast height), supported by a shelf created by an abnormal growth of the tree and epiphytic bromeliads. Its measurements were: inside cup diameter 10 cm, cup depth 6.5 cm, outside diameter 20 cm, and outside height 12 cm. A large quantity of moss was stuffed onto the front of the ledge below the nest, apparently to increase its support. This extended 9 cm below the bottom of the nest. The nest and eggs closely matched the only other nest description for *G. rufula*².

Both adults incubated the clutch and frequently arrived at the nest with fungal rhizomorphs to add to the lining. While incubating, adults sat deep in the nest cup and were not visible above the rim of the nest. Both were observed to stand and rapidly probe into the lining of the nest, frequently consuming small objects, as described for Scaled Antpitta *Grallaria guatemalensis*¹.

On 28 November, during remote filming of the nest, a Turquoise Jay *Cyanolyca turcosa* arrived while no adults were present. We videotaped the jay eating both eggs, spending c. 5 minutes at the nest. It consumed both eggs entirely, breaking them open in the nest and eating small pieces of the shell and yolk with its head below the rim of the nest. No vocalisations were heard from the adult antpittas during this period.

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Third record of Rufous-chested Plover *Charadrius modestus* in Peru

Rufous-chested Plover *Charadrius modestus* breeds in southern South America, in Chile and Argentina^{2,3}. Part of the population is migratory and reaches northern Chile and southern and, exceptionally, south-east Brazil^{2,6} during the austral autumn/winter. Post-breeding migration mainly occurs in March–April and return to the breeding areas is in late August–September³.

On 25 August 1995, C. Chevalier, F. Fontaine, PP and FS observed a Rufous-chested Plover on the beach immediately west of Pisco (dpto. Ica), just 200 m from the sea. It was larger than the nearby Sanderling *Calidris alba* and Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus*, but clearly smaller than American Golden Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* and Killdeer *Charadrius vociferous* present on the same beach. It had the characteristic plover combination of rounded head and relatively short bill. The bird was in breeding plumage, with a rufous chest separated from the white belly by a black bar, and grey cheeks separated from the brown cap by a white supercilium.

Previous records in Peru involve a breeding-plumage female at Playa Ventanilla, north of Lima, on

10–17 June 1972, which was collected on the final date⁴, and an adult male collected on the south-west shore of Paracas Bay, on 22 June 1975⁵. As the species is easily identified and may occur in areas frequently visited by birdwatchers (e.g. Lagunas de Mejia, the Pisco, Paracas and Lima areas), the paucity of records suggests the species is genuinely a vagrant to Peru, rather than being merely overlooking (*contra* Clements & Shany¹).

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An incomplete nest of *Poecilurus kollari* in Roraima, Brazil

The trio of species in the genus *Poecilurus* are often placed in the

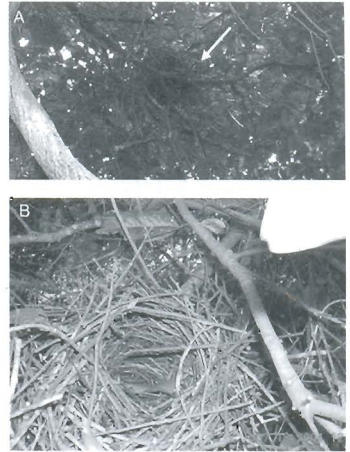


Figure 1. Nest of *Poecilurus kollari* at Alagadiço, Roraima, Brazil. A) general view of nest placement; B) close-up showing that it was apparently incomplete and abandoned (note leaves inside).

genus *Synallaxis*¹, or considered a subgenus². Hoary-throated Spinetail *Poecilurus kollari* is endemic to riverine forests along the upper rio Branco and its tributaries, in extreme northern Brazil and adjacent Guyana¹. Its tiny range and ongoing forest loss have meant that *P. kollari* is considered globally threatened³. Nonetheless, the species is poorly known, and none of its known range is formally protected (although a large portion lies within indigenous reserves).

On 4 August 2004, we found a nest of *P. kollari* at Alagadiço, Fazenda Truarú, on the west bank of the rio Uraricoera, Roraima, Brazil (03°24'N 60°37'W). The nest was supported from a branch 3 m above ground, in a dense bush c.10 m from the riverbank (Fig. 1A). Two individuals, presumably a male and female, were nest building using twigs from a common vine, locally known as erva de passarinho (Loranthaceae). We revisited the nest 12 days later, on three subsequent days. At that time the nest was not yet lined, and we observed no change in its structure. It was a round cup, 35 cm in external diameter, 11 cm