

FIRST DESCRIPTION OF EGGS OF THE GOLDEN-BROWED CHLOROPHONIA (*CHLOROPHONIA CALLOPHRYS*)

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Primera descripción de los huevos del Rualdo (*Chlorophonia callophrys*).

Key words: Golden-browed Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia callophrys*, eggs, nest.

The genus *Chlorophonia* has five species recognized in Middle and South America. They are mostly highland birds, found from central Mexico to southeastern Brazil (Isler & Isler 1987). The Golden-browed Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) is endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama and is a common resident throughout its range. It occurs in the canopy and edges of cloud forest and pastures with isolated trees, from 3000 down to 2000 m (Stiles & Skutch 1989). Although several nests of Golden-browed Chlorophonia have been described and photographed, to our knowledge no egg has ever been described (Skutch 1954, Isler & Isler 1987, Stiles & Skutch 1989).

On 26 May 2007, C. Quesada and L. Chaves saw a pair of Golden-browed Chlorophonias flying away from a road bank while driving a dirt road 1.5 km NW from Santa Elena, Monteverde, Province of Puntarenas, Costa Rica (10°20'N, 84°49'W, 1460 m). Chaves checked the bank and found a nest with three eggs. The nest was placed in a ver-

tical bank 2 m from the ground, carved into a very thick mat of mosses, grasses and few orchids.

The nest was globular in shape, with a side entrance partly obscured by bryophytes. The entrance measured 6 x 7 cm. The inner chamber height was 8 cm. The inner diameter was 8 x 9 x 8 cm. The walls varied from 1 to 0.6 cm in thickness. The egg cup depth was 4.8 cm, and its width was 6 cm. The nest was made of mosses (*Papillaria impoderosa*) and liverworts (*Taxilejeuna* sp., *Omphalanthus* sp., and *Porella* sp.) and rootlets. The cup lining was built of fine vegetable fiber, cow hairs, inflorescences of grasses, and rootlets. The habitat where the nest was found consisted of pastures with isolated trees, and the nearest forest was located 200 m away.

The three eggs were dull white, spotted with red-brown blotches concentrated at the blunt end of the egg (Fig. 1). They were short oval in shape (Harrison 1975). Measurements (and masses) of the eggs were: 18.45 x 15.45 mm (2.3 g), 19.5 x 15.2 mm (2.24 g) and 18.3



FIG.1 Eggs of Golden-browed Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia callophrys*), Santa Elena, Monteverde, Province of Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 26 May 2007.

x 15.45 mm (2.35 g), respectively. All three eggs had small embryos. The nest and eggs were deposited at the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica (M.N.C.R. # 310, 484, respectively).

Only the eggs of two other *Chlorophonia* species, the Blue-naped (*C. cyanea*) and the Blue-crowned (*C. occipitalis*) chlorophonias, are described, and in both species the eggs are similar to our finding. Eggs of the closely related genus *Euphonia* are mostly white in color but some are yellowish or greenish-blue. All the *Euphonia* eggs described have some kind of reddish, purplish or brown markings. This finding also reinforced the use of banks or road cuts as a nesting site of the genera *Chlorophonia* and *Euphonia*. (Isler & Isler 1987).

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