

NESTING OF THE ORANGEQUIT (*EUNEORNIS CAMPESTRIS*) IN JAMAICA

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Resumen. –ANIDAJE DE *EUNEORNIS CAMPESTRIS* EN JAMAICA. Se reportan datos del anidaje de *Euneornis campestris*, un passeriforme endémico y común en Jamaica. Ambos sexos atendieron a los dos pichones en el nido, una masa holgada de bambú y enredaderas colocada en la rama de un árbol a 6 m de altura sobre una carretera.

Key words: behavior, breeding, *Euneornis campestris*, habitat, Jamaica, nest, Orangequit

I remember some years ago there was a discussion in the Gosse Bird Club (now BirdLife Jamaica) about the nesting of the Orangequit (*Euneornis campestris*). There existed very few reports on the nesting of this common endemic species of bird. The Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT) started a bird monitoring program in 1998. During this time I encouraged my co-workers to look for the nest of the Orangequit. On 11 May 2000, Dwight Pryce and Ryan Love, Park Rangers of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, found a nest with two young birds at Silver Hill in St Andrew.

The nest was approximately 6 m from the ground on a branch of a woman wood tree (*Alcornea latifolia*), overhanging the road. It was hidden in the fork of the branch behind some berries of the tree. The nest was approximately 12 cm in diameter and made of loosely woven bamboo leaves and small woody vines. The inside of the nest was lined with moss.

The sighting of this nest would have been missed had it not been for the noisy chirping of the nestlings. Both male and female Orangequits visited the nest. The male perched by the nest briefly and then

left to feed in a nearby tree. He was seen chasing a Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) and a hummingbird from the tree in which he was feeding. The female would visit the nest periodically and she would stay away for up to 10 min before returning to feed the nestlings. No observation was made of the type of food given to the young birds. One nestling was seen climbing out of the nest onto a branch of the tree while the other remained in the nest.

The nest was photographed using a digital camcorder with the photographer precariously perched on a small branch overhanging the road. The nest was visited again on 15 May but, by then, the young birds had fledged.

LITERATURE CITED

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dr. Rosemarie S. Gnam, Treasurer of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology, has recently moved to New York. Correspondence regarding the Society, including membership, should be addressed as follows:

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Membership renewals for 2001 will be mailed early in 2001. The Treasurer encourages all members to pay their 2001 membership dues and notes that only members who have paid their dues will be eligible to vote in Society elections.