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SHORT COMMUNICATION

On a nest of Yellow-chinned Spinetail (*Certhiaxis cinnamomea* – Passeriformes, Furnariidae) built with bites of wire

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The suboscine family Furnariidae (ovenbirds) comprises 299 species that range through virtually all habitats in Neotropical region (Ridgely & Tudor, 1994). One of the most remarkable characteristics of the representatives of this family is the large diversity of nest placements and structure (Vaurie, 1980; Sick, 1997).

The Yellow-chinned Spinetail, *Certhiaxis cinnamomea*, is a small and inconspicuous bird (*c.* 14 cm), which inhabits long grasses along watercourses, marshes, and mangroves throughout the South America (Ridgely & Tudor, 1994). Except for the information of general researches dealing with Furnariidae family (*e.g.*, Vaurie, 1971, 1980), little has been published about the Yellow-Chinned Spinetail. Here, we describe a nest of the Yellow-chinned Spinetail, built with bites of wire.

The nest was found by one of us (SAR) on August 1987 in the area of "Industria Brasileira Portela", a paper factory located at the municipality of Jaboatão dos Guararapes (*ca*. 08º10'S - 35º00'W), state of Pernambuco, Brazil (Figure 1). This nest was found on the tank of the water treatment station nearby the central heating.

The nest is domed in shape with the entrance tunnel curved upward. The outside structure consist approximately 95% of bites of wire and few dry wood sticks. The bottom of the incubation chamber was lined with a thin circular pad of leaves, principally Gramineae and Cyperaceae. The nest weighted 1.84 kg and the measurements are as follows: total longitudinal length, 26 cm; transversal length of incubation chamber, 20.5 cm; incubation chamber height, 14 cm; tunnel length, 11 cm; and tunnel entrance diameter, 3.5 cm.

The nest's construction characteristics are similar to those described by Euler (1900), Sick (1997), and Zyskowsky & Prum (1999). Though in the literature there are not previously reports on the use of bites of wire by *C. cinnamomea* in the nest architecture, there is a nest of *C. cinnamomea* constructed with some bites of wire housed at the "Museu de História Natural do Parque de Dois Irmãos", Recife. It was found in Recife (*ca*. 08º03'S - 34º56'W), Pernambuco on 1960, during the repair in the central building of "Superintendência de Desenvolvimento do Nordeste" SUDENE (Petrônio Cavalcanti pers. comm.).

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There are other cases in the literature of nests built with wire for other birds such as *Troglodytes aedon* (Troglodytidae), and *Passer domesticus* (Passeridae) (Viana, 1932). More specifically, for the Furnariidae family there is a case of a nest of *Synallaxis spixii* built with wire (Schirch, 1929). In all cited cases, the nests were found in urban areas near factories or construction areas.

According to Zyskowski & Prum (1999), some intra-specific variations in the nest architecture are correlated with environmental variation in material availability. For example, Nores & Nores (1994) reported that some species of Furnariidae family (*e.g.*, *Synallaxis*, and *Certhiaxis* genera) seems to prefer thorny sticks in the construction of their nests, but they make use of non-thorny sticks if the preferred material is unavailable. In human disturbed habitats, sticks could be replaced by wire or barbed wire (Sick, 1997). Thus, the high level of urbanization of the locality where the nest was found plus the scarcity of vegetation and the abundance of wire probably explain the high percentage of this material in the nest bulk.

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Figure 1 - The nest of Yellow-Chinned Spinetail, *C. cinnamonea*, discovered on August 1987 in the area of "Industria Brasileira Portela", municipality of Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Pernambuco state, Brazil.