

## Observations of nest-building by Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematoderus militaris* in the central Amazon, Brazil

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Apresento novas informações sobre a reprodução do anambé-militar *Haematoderus militaris*. Entre 28 de junho e 10 de julho de 2015 uma fêmea da espécie foi observada por 13 dias em Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil, coletando teias de aranhas coloniais *Anelosimus eximius* (Theridiidae) e levando para um ninho em construção, porém abandonando o ninho sem concluir a reprodução. As informações apresentadas complementam o pouco conhecimento sobre a biologia reprodutiva dessa espécie.

Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematoderus militaris* is a large, bright red cotinga with obvious sexual dimorphism<sup>6</sup>. The male has crimson in the head, underparts and rump, and dark brown wings and tail; the female has duskier, dark brown upperparts<sup>6</sup>. This rare species is most easily detected by its vocalisation: a low-pitched *bock*, repeated at irregular intervals<sup>9</sup>. It has been recorded in Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil<sup>2-4,6</sup>. In Brazil, it occurs mainly north of the Rio Amazonas in the states of Amapá, Pará, Maranhão and Amazonas<sup>6,8</sup>, and west of the Rio Negro and south of the Rio Amazonas in Rondônia<sup>9</sup>. As is typical among cotingas, Crimson Fruitcrow is a canopy-dweller. It inhabits the upper levels of *terra firme* forests

with an average height of 35 m (and emergent trees over 50 m), growing on nutrient-poor soils. It also occurs in forests along rivers and savannas, and may be found in fragmented landscapes<sup>1,3,8</sup>.

The breeding behaviour of Crimson Fruitcrow is poorly known, like that of many large cotingids. Bigger members of the family are mainly polygynous, with nesting duties performed exclusively by the female<sup>6</sup>. The reproductive biology, feeding behaviour and displays of the Crimson Fruitcrow have been unveiled only during the last two decades<sup>3</sup>. Previous information about the species' foraging behaviour and display flights has been obtained from canopy towers, due to the species preference for the upper strata of forests<sup>1,3,8</sup>.



Figure 1. Female Crimson Fruitcrow *Haematoderus militaris*, near Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, 5 July 2015 (Tomaz Nascimento de Melo): inspecting the surroundings before collecting spiderweb for the nest.