First description of the nest, eggs and nestlings of Scallop-breasted Antpitta *Grallaricula loricata*

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The genus *Grallaricula* (Grallariidae) comprises 8–9 species of small, semi-terrestrial antpittas (Krabbe & Schulenberg 2003, del Hoyo *et al*. 2017, Remsen *et al*. 2017). Following the first nest description for Rusty-breasted Antpitta *G. ferrugineipectus* (Schwartz 1957), the first for the genus, our knowledge of the breeding biology of other *Grallaricula* remained a mystery until the start of the 21st century, when the first nests were described for Ochre-breasted Antpitta *G. flavirostris* (Holley *et al*. 2001, Maillard-Z. & Vogel 2003). Less than a decade later, nest descriptions and reproductive data were available for half of the species (Greeney *et al*. 2008), with the most recent addition being a nest description for Crescent-faced Antpitta *G. lineifrons* (Greeney & Jipa 2012). To date, nest descriptions are available for five species and egg descriptions have been published for six species (see Discussion), with Ochre-fronted Antpitta *G. ochraceifrons* and Scallop-breasted Antpitta *G. loricata* being the only two species lacking descriptions of both nests and eggs.

Scallop-breasted Antpitta is endemic to the north coastal mountains of Venezuela, where it inhabits the understorey of humid montane forests, generally above 1,400 m (Verea & Greeney 2014, Greeney 2018). As a range-restricted species facing severe habitat loss, it is currently considered Near Threatened (BirdLife International 2017). Despite several studies in the past two decades that have improved our knowledge of its distribution, plumage, moult, and basic habits (Verea *et al*. 1999, 2009, Verea 2004, 2007, Verea & Solórzano 2011), the reproductive biology of Scallop-breasted Antpitta remains completely unknown (Verea & Greeney 2014). Here we provide the first descriptions of the nest, eggs and nestlings, based on two active nests and five inactive nests found in Venezuela’s Sierra de Aroa National Park.

**Methods and Results**

All of the following observations were made in the El Silencio section of Sierra de Aroa National Park, near Pico El Tigre, Yaracuy, Venezuela. We found the first active nest (hereafter nest 1), containing two nestlings, on 26 May 2013, at an elevation of 1,696 m along the road to Pico El Tigre (10°24'36"N, 68°48'39"W). Both nestlings were still in the nest the following day but we found the nest empty, but intact, upon our return on 31 May. The second active nest (hereafter nest 2) was c.0.25 km south-east of nest 1 at an elevation of 1,767 m, and contained a single egg on 1 June 2013 at 13.30 h. Upon our return at 06.30 h on 2 June, the nest held a second egg. We visited this nest until 3 June and subsequently on 21 June. During the first three weeks of June 2013 we found five additional nests, all inactive when found, but almost certainly belonging to Scallop-breasted Antpitta based on similarities in architecture with the two active nests (see below) and based on the experience of HFG with the nests of other *Grallaricula*. Three of these were very close to nest 1 and probably belonged to the same pair. One was close to nest 2, and the final inactive nest was at 1,943 m near the crest of a ridge c.1.1 km south-east of nest 2 (10°24'15"N, 68°48'01"W).

All nests were architecturally very similar, being shallow, open cups composed externally of moss and neatly lined with dark fibres and rootlets (Fig. 1). A conspicuous