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Black-throated Mango Hummingbird,

Anthracothorax nigricollis nigricollis

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Nesting Behaviour by a Male Plumaged Black-throated Mango Hummingbird, *Anthracothorax nigricollis nigricollis*

On the 19 January, 2012 at Sudama Steps in South Oropouche, the author and Feroze Omardeen observed a male plumaged Black-throated Mango Hummingbird exhibiting nesting behaviour. It was observed checking the nest and tucking in any stray bits. It flew off briefly but returned to spend much of its time sitting on the nest as though incubating.

In general, male hummingbirds are polygamous and may mate with several females during the breeding season. All nest building, incubation, and rearing of the young are carried out solely by the female (Schuchmann 1999). Schuchmann goes on to cite a few reports of males participating in incubation or rearing the young, particularly in some tropical species, but generally concludes that there is insufficient evidence to confirm any parental care by males.

There are several examples of what appear to be male hummingbirds involved in nesting behaviour, but it is usually considered an anomaly. With respect to the Black-throated Mango, a male has been photographed sitting on a nest (apparently with eggs) by Luciano Breves in Brazil (Breves 2010). Unfortunately, the nest was destroyed before the observer could determine whether the chicks would be reared successfully.

This record provides yet another example of a hummingbird in male plumage involved in nesting behaviour.

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Fig. 1. Male plumaged Black-throated Mango sitting on a nest. Photo: M. Rochford.