

# Ornithological Observations



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Ornithological Observations accepts papers containing faunistic information about birds. This includes descriptions of distribution, behaviour, breeding, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and plumage. It will also consider for publication a variety of other interesting or relevant ornithological material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, and any other interesting or relevant material.

**Editor: Arnold van der Westhuizen**

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## **UNUSUAL DECORATIONS ON A COLLARED SUNBIRD *Anthreptes collaris* NEST AT TALA GAME RESERVE – KWAZULU-NATAL**

**Nigel Anderson**

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**UNUSUAL DECORATIONS ON A COLLARED SUNBIRD  
*Anthreptes collaris* NEST AT TALA GAME RESERVE –  
KWAZULU NATAL**

*Nigel Anderson*

Corresponding author: [nigelanderson28@gmail.com](mailto:nigelanderson28@gmail.com)

Collared Sunbirds *Anthreptes collaris* are well known for adorning their nests with decorations which range from bark, fibres, plant materials, leaves and cobwebs (Tarboton 2001). During December 2010 I observed a nest with the usual collection of decorations but also including a snake skin woven intricately throughout. Judging from the length and thickness of the skin I assume it was from one of the common bush snakes found in the Tala Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal.

Dr Warwick Tarboton has not previously observed the use of snake skins on Collared Sunbird nests (pers comm).

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**References**

Tarboton W 2001. A guide to nests and eggs of Southern African Birds. Stuiik Publishers (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town.



**Figure 1:** Collared Sunbird nest using snake skin for decoration