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NEST BUILDING BEHAVIOUR OF ENDEMIC DULL-BLUEFLYCATCHER (*Eumyias sordidus*) AT HORTON PLAINS, SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Nest building behaviour of endemic Sri Lanka Dull-blue Flycatcher (*Eumyias sordidus*) was studied from January 2016 to January 2018. The studied population is located in Montane Cloud Forests of Horton Plains National Park, situated in the highland plateau of the NuwaraEliya District. Three main habitats were classified as Cloud Forest habitat, Cloud Forest Die-back habitat and Grassland habitat. Nest building behaviours were observed during March-May (Main breeding season) and August-October (Late breeding season). Global Positioning System device (GPS) was used to locate the nesting sites when observed adult birds carrying nesting materials. Nest building activities were recorded on three consecutive days during the breeding season, from 0600h to 1800h. Rangefinder (BUSHNELL PRO 1600™) was used to measure the flying distances of the birds from the nesting sites. Most nests were located inside the cavities of road banks and tree holes, in Cloud forest and Cloud forest die-back habitats. Total of 32 nest building events was observed. Nest building in *E. sordidus* was done exclusively by females (N=32) after pair-formation and site selection nest building takes between 2–3 days. Females collect nest material tens or even thirty of meters.