

Important bird records from Alagoas, Pernambuco and Paraíba, north-east Brazil

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Apresentamos informações sobre a ocorrência de 23 espécies aves em áreas de Caatinga, Floresta Atlântica e áreas costeiras nos estados brasileiros de Pernambuco, Paraíba e Alagoas. Para Alagoas reportamos cinco novos registros: *Egretta caerulea*, *Parabuteo unicinctus*, *Amazona amazonica*, *Catharus fuscescens* e *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*. Na Paraíba foram registradas três novas ocorrências: *Aegolius harrisii*, *Podager nacunda* e *Stigmatura napensis*. Em Pernambuco foram assinalados quatro novos registros: *Pilherodius pileatus*, *Accipiter striatus*, *Melanerpes candidus* e *Euphonia cyanocephala*. O registro de *Catharus fuscescens* é o primeiro para a região nordeste. Há ainda informações adicionais de 12 espécies pouco documentadas ou raras nos três estados.

Brazil has 1,832 bird species⁴ distributed across its distinct biomes. In the north-east of the country the principal ecosystems are Caatinga, Atlantic Forest and coastal areas. Knowledge of this region's avifauna is developing rapidly, in common with that of Brazil in general. For example, in fewer than ten years three bird lists for the state of Pernambuco have been produced, each one updating the previous effort^{6–8}. Many species have been recorded recently in this region of the country for the first time^{5,14}. To further improve our understanding of avian distribution in north-east Brazil, we discuss recent records from this region, mainly from the Caatinga, including species for which there are few or no previous records in the states of Alagoas, Pernambuco and Paraíba. Many were documented by photographs or sound-recordings. In addition to records from the Caatinga, we present several records from Atlantic Forest and coastal regions of north-east Brazil. Avifaunal lists for Pernambuco and Paraíba were consulted to verify the status of birds in these states^{8,20}. For Alagoas we checked the relevant literature for data, given that no list of birds recorded in the state exists. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow the South American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union (SACC). Geographical coordinates are reported only at the first mention of a given locality.

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

One photographed flying over Canal de Santa Cruz (07°48'S 34°52'W), Igarassu, on 19 October 2008 (E. Pinto pers. comm.), was the third record for Pernambuco, where the species was previously recorded at Petrolina⁷ and at an unspecified location¹⁵. Another was captured by a farmer in *caatinga* in the municipality of Parnamirim (08°05'S 39°35'W) on 12 January 2011, and was

handed to the local environmental authorities for rehabilitation. In this region, the only previous records are from Ceará¹².

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Just two published records in Paraíba, one in the Caatinga¹³ and the other on the coast³: the third involved one photographed in the Caatinga at a lake at Fazenda Verdes Pastos (06°56'S 37°09'W), municipality of São Mamede, Paraíba, on 6 October 2009 (JM).

Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*

One photographed at a small pool amid *caatinga* in the municipality of Arcoverde (08°24'S 36°57'W) on 13 August 2010 is the first record for Pernambuco (Fig. 1; CA & TP).



Figure 1. Capped Heron *Pilherodius pileatus*, Arcoverde, Pernambuco, Brazil, August 2010 (Ciro Albano)



Figure 2. Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*, Delmiro Gouveia, Alagoas, Brazil, March 2008 (Claudio Humberto A. dos Santos)



Figure 3. Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*, Fazenda Verdes Pastos, Paraíba, Brazil, May 2009 (John Medcraft)

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Two observed in mangroves at Usina Coruripe on 10 March 2001 (CAM) and an adult photographed there on 7 November 2009 (LWLA) are the first records for Alagoas.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

Recorded twice in flight in the same area (probably the same individual) in the municipality of Trindade

(07°48'S 40°20'W) on 7–8 July 2011. The observer (DP) has extensive experience with the species and potential confusing similar ones. This is the first record for Pernambuco.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

A juvenile photographed c.8 km from Delmiro Gouveia (09°23'S 37°59'W) on 30 March 2008 (CHAS; Fig. 2), another photographed beside highway AL-130, municipality of Pão de Açúcar (09°34'S 37°19'W) on 17 December 2009 (SL), and two photographed on a transmission tower, municipality of Delmiro Gouveia on 16 February 2010 (CHAS), are the first documented records for Alagoas.

Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*

Flocks were observed in mangroves in the municipality of Roteiro (09°50'S 35°56'W) on 27 July 2007 (LWLA), and others were observed at Fazenda Pindoba (09°46'S 36°14'W), municipality of Campo Alegre, on 20 June 2008 (LWLA). These are the first records for Alagoas.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*

Flocks photographed at Fazenda Verdes Pastos, municipality of São Mamede in the *caatinga* of Paraíba, in May–June 2009 (JM; Fig. 3) are the first records for eastern Paraíba^{16,24}. At this site, the birds were usually found along streams.

Buff-fronted Owl *Aegolius harrisi*

In north-east Brazil known from Alagoas, Pernambuco, Ceará and Bahia^{9,13,21}, but unrecorded in Paraíba, where one was sound-recorded in *caatinga* between Água Branca and Imaculada (07°21'S 37°36'W) on 31 July 2009 (HFPA), providing the first state record.

Nacunda Nighthawk *Podager nacunda*

About 15 photographed in the early evening of 23 June 2010 as they flew over Fazenda Verdes Pastos, municipality of São Mamede (JM), provided the first record for Paraíba.

White Woodpecker *Melanerpes candidus*

One was sound-recorded and two observed in open *caatinga* in the municipality of Serra Talhada (08°00'S 38°18'W) on 20 December 2010 (GBMS). This is the first record for Pernambuco.

Planalto Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*

No published records in Paraíba and the only previous record from Alagoas is from the municipality of União dos Palmares¹³. Birds trapped and one collected (UFPE 4449) in *caatinga* in the municipality of Sumé on 21 December 2006 (HFPA) are the first records for Paraíba. One photographed in Atlantic Forest at Mata da Fazenda Lamarão



Figure 4. Rusty-backed Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpina*, Petrolina, Pernambuco, Brazil, December 2011 (Lúcio Claudio Serapião)

(09°36'N 35°54'W), municipality of Pilar, on 31 May 2009 (SL), is the second record for Alagoas.

Rusty-backed Spinetail *Cranioleuca vulpina*

In Pernambuco known only from the municipality of Petrolina^{13,14}, but no photographic documentation existed. One was photographed on the bank of the rio São Francisco, at Petrolina (09°21'S 40°26'W), on 29 December 2011 (LCHS; Fig. 4).

Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps*

In Alagoas, known from the municipalities of Quebrangulo^{13,23}, Murici, São José da Lage and Ibateguara¹⁷. Additional records for the state involved one observed at Sálvia (09°23'S, 37°06'W), municipality of Satuba, on 29 April 2009 (LWLA), and two photographed at Fazenda Pitimiju (09°20'S 36°09'W), municipality of Cajueiro, on 13 March 2010 (Fig. 5; SL & MTFT). All records are in the Atlantic Forest biome.

Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant *Stigmatura napensis*

No published records from Paraíba, where one was photographed and sound-recorded in *caatinga* at Fazenda Verdes Pastos, municipality of São Mamede, on 1 December 2009 (JM) and others were trapped and one collected (UFPE 4593) in *caatinga* in the municipality of Sumé on 29 November 2008 (HFPA). Several were seen and sound-recorded in brushy *caatinga* in the municipality of Imaculada (07°21'S 37°36'W) on 26 July 2009 (HFPA).

Greater Wagtail-Tyrant *Stigmatura budytoides*

In Alagoas, just one previous record, from the west of the state¹⁰. One was observed and sound-recorded in the municipality of Dois Riachos



Figure 5. Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilotriccus plumbeiceps*, Fazenda Pitimiju, Alagoas, Brazil, March 2010 (Sergio Leal)



Figure 6. Greater Wagtail-Tyrant *Stigmatura budytoides*, Serra da Taborja, Alagoas, Brazil, April 2009 (Sergio Leal)

(09°23'S 37°06'S) on 29 April 2009 (LWLA) and two observed (and one photographed) in *caatinga* at the Serra da Taborja, municipality of São José da Tapera, on 6 April 2009 (Fig. 6; SL & MTFT).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna*

In Paraíba, previously noted only at Guaribas Biological Reserve, municipality of Mamanguape¹. We photographed flocks of >50 birds at Fazenda Verdes Pastos, municipality of São Mamede, on 9 March 2010 (JM). This record falls within the November–June period during which the species occurs in Alagoas, Bahia and Pernambuco².



Figure 7. Veery *Catharus fuscescens*, Estação Ecológica de Murici, Alagoas, Brazil, January 2011 (Ciro Albano)



Figure 8. Male Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*, Maceió, Alagoas, Brazil, March 2010 (Sergio Leal)

Wing-barred Piprites *Piprites chloris*

Just two previous records from the Atlantic Forest north of the rio São Francisco, both in southern Pernambuco^{13,19}. Sound-recordings and observations of four individuals at Roncadorzinho (08°47'S 35°17'W), municipality of Barreiros, on 4–5 July 2009 (GAP), represent a third locality in the state of Pernambuco.

White-naped Xenopsaris *Xenopsaris albinucha*

In Paraíba known only from the municipality of Santa Terezinha²⁴, but we recorded it at Fazenda Verdes Pastos, municipality of São Mamede, where several were photographed in *caatinga*: an immature on 15 May 2009, an adult male on 15 July 2009, two adult males (one building a nest) on 13 January 2010, and an adult male was seen on 24 February 2010 (JM).

Veery *Catharus fuscescens*

No previous records of this boreal migrant in north-east Brazil. One was photographed in an area of Atlantic Forest in the Estação Ecológica de Murici, Alagoas, on 14 January 2011 (CA; Fig. 7).

Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*

In Alagoas, just one previous record, at Coimbra in the municipality of Ibataguara¹⁷. We made the following records: 12 photographed at Mata do Matão, municipality of Campo Alegre, on 19 April 2009; six seen at Mata da Fazenda Lamarão, municipality of Pilar, on 23 May 2009; and an adult male photographed in Maceió Municipal Park (09°36'S 35°45'W) on 11 March 2010 (Fig. 8) that was subsequently observed there again on 13 and 21 May 2010 (SL). In Pernambuco, several previous records in the east of the state^{5,17,18} and five sound-



Figure 9. Orange-fronted Yellow Finches *Sicalis columbiana*, near Petrolina, Pernambuco, August 2010 (Lúcio Cláudio Serapião)

recorded at Mata do Peru (08°34'S 35°08'W), Usina Trapiche, municipality of Sirinhaém, on 29 April 2007 (GAP). *T. viridis* is apparently migratory in this region, where most records from Alagoas and Pernambuco are in April–July, with two from October^{5,17}.

Orange-fronted Yellow Finch *Sicalis columbiana*

First recorded in Pernambuco in the municipalities of Belém de São Francisco, Nova Descoberta and Petrolina^{13,14}. In the latter region, small flocks were photographed at a locality c.18 km from Petrolina (09°20'S 04°34'W) on 12–13 June 2010 (LCS). At the same site, 46 (males, females and immatures) were photographed on 17 July 2010

and on 18 August 2010 (LCS; Fig. 9). All records are in *caatinga*.

Masked Yellowthroat *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*

Unrecorded in Alagoas despite records in neighbouring Sergipe²² and Pernambuco (Recife)¹¹. The first records in Alagoas involved a pair photographed in *restinga*, on Cavallo Russo dunes (09°48'S 35°52'W), in the municipality of Marechal Deodoro, on 6 September 2008 (SL), and three near Guaxuma refinery, Coruripe, on 22 July 2009 (SL).

Golden-rumped Euphonia *Euphonia cyanocephala*

In the north-east Atlantic Forest, records in Bahia and from the Estação Ecológica de Murici in Alagoas^{13,21}. Another was seen in Murici on 14 January 2011 (CA), while elsewhere an adult male was observed with a pair of Violaceous Euphonias *Euphonia violacea* at Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural Frei Caneca, municipality of Jaqueira, Pernambuco, on 7 February 2011 (CA).

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