

New records for some poorly known birds of the Atlantic Forest in north-east Brazil

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A floresta Atlântica nordestina constitui-se numa importante área de endemismo, sendo, ao mesmo tempo, uma das regiões mais ameaçadas da América do Sul. Neste trabalho, apresentamos uma breve revisão da distribuição e relatamos novos registros para 13 táxons pouco conhecidos na floresta Atlântica nordestina. As informações apresentadas aqui estão baseadas em estudos na literatura, coleções ornitológicas e em várias expedições realizadas nos estados de Pernambuco e Alagoas.

The Atlantic Forest of north-eastern Brazil—Endemic Bird Area 071²⁵—includes all forests north of the rio São Francisco in the states of Alagoas, Pernambuco and Paraíba. It occupies an area of c.35,000 km² and has been considered an important area of endemism¹⁹. Despite its biological importance, most of the Atlantic Forest of north-east Brazil has been replaced by agriculture, principally sugarcane, and only c.2% of its original area remains, all in small fragments that suffer from selective logging, poaching, etc.^{7,20,27}. The avifauna of the region is rich, with 452 ‘biological’ species²⁶, seven of which are restricted to it²⁵. Although the area harbours a low number of endemic species relative to the rest of Atlantic forest, it holds the most threatened species of the biome^{6,9}.

Here we present a brief review of, and include new data on, the distribution of some poorly known birds in the region, based on literature surveys, studies in the Ornithological Collection of the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (hereafter UFPE), lists of specimens housed at the American Museum of Natural History, New York (hereafter AMNH) and our field work in Alagoas (AL) and Pernambuco (PE) in recent years. For simplicity, we list the first published reference for each species in the localities cited. All localities and their coordinates (some of which are taken from Paynter & Traylor¹⁵ and Vanzolini³⁰) are presented as an appendix.

Species accounts

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*

Sibley & Monroe²³ treated the White-collared Kite *L. forbesi* as a species restricted to the north-east Brazilian Atlantic Forest. However, Sick²⁴ considered *L. forbesi* as only a variant of the widespread Grey-headed Kite. We consider birds recorded by us to be *L. cayanensis* not *L. forbesi*. In this region, Grey-headed Kite was previously known from only two localities: São Miguel dos Campos (AL)²⁹ and Engenho Independência (PE)²¹. We observed the species on six occasions: at Mata do Estado, on 17 October 1999 and 9 November 2001,

at Engenho Triunfo, on 5 August 2001 (both PE); Mata do Pinto, on 10 November 2001, and at Engenho Coimbra (both AL), on 23 July 2000 and 13 November 2001.

Black Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*

This species occurs throughout most of Brazil²⁴. In the north-eastern Atlantic Forest, it was previously known from the highlands of Murici (AL)²⁸. In addition, the UFPE obtained one from Refúgio Ecológico Charles Darwin (PE) in December 1997 (UFPE 1829). On 20 February 2001, we observed one over the forest fragments at Engenho Coimbra (AL).

Great-billed Hermit *Phaethornis malaris margarettae*

Given the complicated and uncertain taxonomy of *Phaethornis ochraceiventer camargoi*¹⁰ and *P. margarettae*¹¹, we follow Hinkelmann & Schuchmann¹². This bird has been recorded in the highland forests of Murici (AL)²⁹. Hinkelmann¹¹ mentioned a specimen at the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP) from Água Azul (PE). UFPE has a specimen from Reserva Biológica de Salinho (UFPE 0859) and two are housed at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZ 28323, 28324) from PE, but without locality, date or collector information. On 1 June 1999, we observed one in the forest at Engenho Água Azul (PE). Two were mist-netted at Engenho Coimbra (AL; UFPE 3242, 3261).

Laeta's Antbird *Cercomacra laeta sabinoi*

We follow Bierregaard *et al.*⁵, who elevated *C. tyrannina laeta* to species level (*C. laeta*), and recognised three subspecies of *laeta*, of which *C. l. sabinoi* is considered endemic to the north-east Brazilian Atlantic Forest. It was previously recorded only in PE, at Fazenda São Bento¹⁷, Estação Ecológica do Tapacurá⁸ and Aldeia (where tape-recorded by B. M. Whitney and J. F. Pacheco, on 18 November 1993; J. F. Pacheco pers. comm. 2002). Two were mist-netted at Engenho Água Azul (PE), on 27–28 May 1999 (UFPE 1887, 1894), one at

Engenho Sacramento (PE), on 28 January 2000 (UFPE 2568) and one at Engenho Coimbra (AL), on 16 July 2000 (UFPE 3221).

Bare-throated Bellbird *Procnias nudicollis*

This species occurs in eastern Brazil, from PE to Minas Gerais, and Rio Grande do Sul and southern Mato Grosso, as well as in south-east Paraguay and north-east Argentina^{23,24}. In the Brazilian north-east, it had been recorded only at Usina São José (PE)⁴ and in the highland forests of Serra Branca, Murici (AL)²⁸. On 1 October 2000, we heard one at Engenho Coimbra (AL).

Slender-footed Tyrannulet *Zimmerius gracilipes*

In the Atlantic Forest of north-east Brazil, this canopy tyrannulet had been previously reported at Estação Ecológica do Tapacurá (PE)², Reserva Biológica de Pedra Talhada and Reserva Biológica de Murici (both AL)¹⁴, and from Reserva Biológica Guaribas (Paraíba)¹. There is a specimen from Estação Ecológica do Tapacurá (UFPE 3804). Two were mist-netted at Engenho Coimbra (AL), on 20 July 2000 (UFPE 3252) and 22 July 2000 (UFPE 3277).

White-lored Tyrannulet *Ornithion inermis*

This tyrannulet occurs locally in south-east Colombia, south Venezuela, the Guianas, east Ecuador, east Peru, north Bolivia and east Brazil²³. In the Atlantic Forest of north-east Brazil, it was known only from Fazenda do Prata (AL)²⁸ and from Reserva Biológica Guaribas (Paraíba)¹. We heard one singing in forest at Engenho Coimbra (AL), on 18 February 2001.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

Marini & Cavalcanti¹³ reported a single record of this austral migrant for PE, probably from the coast, but did not provide a precise locality. In the same state, we mist-netted one (UFPE 1876) on 25 May 1999 at Engenho Água Azul, and another on 7 July 1999 at Usina Frei Caneca (UFPE 1950).

Grey-crowned Flycatcher *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*

Although Ridgely & Tudor²² included the Atlantic Forest of north-east Brazil within this species' range, its presence in the region is documented solely by a specimen taken by Emil Kaempfer, on 4 August 1927, at Palmares, PE (AMNH 243664). On 29 January 2000 one (UFPE 2576) was mist-netted at Engenho Sacramento (PE).

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*

Sick²⁴ considered this species to be locally distributed throughout Brazil. However, in the north-eastern Atlantic Forest, it appears to be rather

infrequent and uncommon. On 15 July 2000, a male was collected (UFPE 3218) in a *Mangifera indica* tree outside the forest at Engenho Coimbra (AL).

Yellow-legged Thrush *Platycichla flavipes*

This species is local in south-east South America²³. In the Atlantic Forest of north-east Brazil it was known only from Mamanguape, Paraíba¹⁶. On 28 January 2000 we observed and tape-recorded several in the interior forest at Engenho Sacramento (PE).

Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia pectoralis*

Though well known in south-east Brazil²⁴, the only previous record for the north-eastern Atlantic Forest is from Murici (AL)²⁸. UFPE obtained two at Reserva Biológica de Saltinho, PE (UFPE 830 and 1042) and three were also taken at Engenho Coimbra, AL (UFPE 3231, on 18 July 2000 and 3253 and 3254, on 20 July 2000). At the latter, we observed it in mixed-species flocks with Violaceous Euphonia *E. violacea*, Opal-rumped Tanager *Tangara velia*, Burnished-buff Tanager *T. cayana*, Seven-coloured Tanager *T. fastuosa*, Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* and Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*.

Opal-rumped Tanager *Tangara velia cyanomelaena*

There are only two previous localities in the Atlantic Forest of north-east Brazil: São Lourenço da Mata¹⁶ and Parque de Dois Irmãos³ (both PE). UFPE obtained a specimen from Reserva Ecológica de Caetés (UFPE 1824) and two others from Recife (UFPE 2883 and 3884), both in PE. We also observed it in more open forest at Engenho Coimbra (AL) in mixed-species flocks with Violaceous Euphonia *Euphonia violacea*, Chestnut-bellied Euphonia *E. pectoralis*, Burnished-buff Tanager *Tangara cayana*, Seven-coloured Tanager *T. fastuosa*, Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum* and Swallow Tanager *Tersina viridis*. Four specimens were taken at this locality (UFPE 3183, on 11 July 2000; 3233, on 18 July 2000; and 3278 and 3282, on 22 July 2000). In PE, we found it in mixed-species flocks with Red-necked Tanager *T. cyanocephala* and *T. fastuosa* at Usina Frei Caneca, on 7–10 July 1999.

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