

## New records of Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* in Minas Gerais, Brazil

Eduardo Pio M. de Carvalho Filho, Jorge Sales Lisboa, Filipe Cristovão R. da Cunha, Gustavo Diniz M. de Carvalho, Mauro Guimarães Diniz, Marcelo Ferreira de Vasconcelos, Frederico Innecco Garcia, Carlos Eduardo Alencar Carvalho, Robson Silva e Silva, Luciene Alves and Renato Soares Moreira

Received 20 May 2010; final revision accepted 10 March 2011  
Cotinga 33 (2011): 102–104

Apresentamos novos registros do falcão-peregrino *Falco peregrinus* para o Estado de Minas Gerais, Brasil, acrescentando novos registros de locais de invernada. Os registros foram obtidos em dez localidades (nove dos quais são novos para a espécie), no período compreendido entre os anos de 2002–10.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* is a cosmopolitan species<sup>4,17</sup> with an extremely broad latitudinal distribution<sup>4</sup>. Nineteen subspecies are presently recognised<sup>17</sup> of which just three occur in South America: *F. p. anatum*, which migrates from North America (Alaska) to southern South America; *F. p. tundrius*, which breeds over northern North America and Greenland<sup>13,15</sup>; and *F. p. cassini*, which breeds in southern South America<sup>12</sup> with a single nesting record in Ecuador<sup>16</sup>. The species occurs in Brazil during September to April, and winters in the same localities each year<sup>12</sup>. The first Brazilian record of *F. peregrinus* was by Johann Natterer, in March 1835, at Praia de Cajutuba, Pará<sup>12</sup>. In Brazil *F. peregrinus* is a northern migrant<sup>14</sup> but *F. p. cassini* might occur in the south of the country<sup>6</sup>.

Five published records of *F. peregrinus* are available from Minas Gerais, in south-east Brazil.

In 1989, a record was reported by Sick from Viçosa municipality<sup>10</sup>. A *F. peregrinus* ringed in Texas, USA, was also recorded in the state between 1973 and 1985<sup>11</sup>. Individuals were recorded in December 1999 and January 2000 at Caraça reserve<sup>14</sup>, with other records in the state from Belo Horizonte (19°55'S 43°56'W)<sup>12</sup> and south of Janaúria<sup>5</sup>. Here we present 16 new records of *F. peregrinus* in Minas Gerais, involving nine new localities, and provide additional behavioural and ecological data.

### Methods

Records were obtained opportunistically during general ornithological surveys. We also report a bird received at a screening centre for wild animals operated by the Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais (IBAMA) in Minas Gerais. Where possible, we photographed

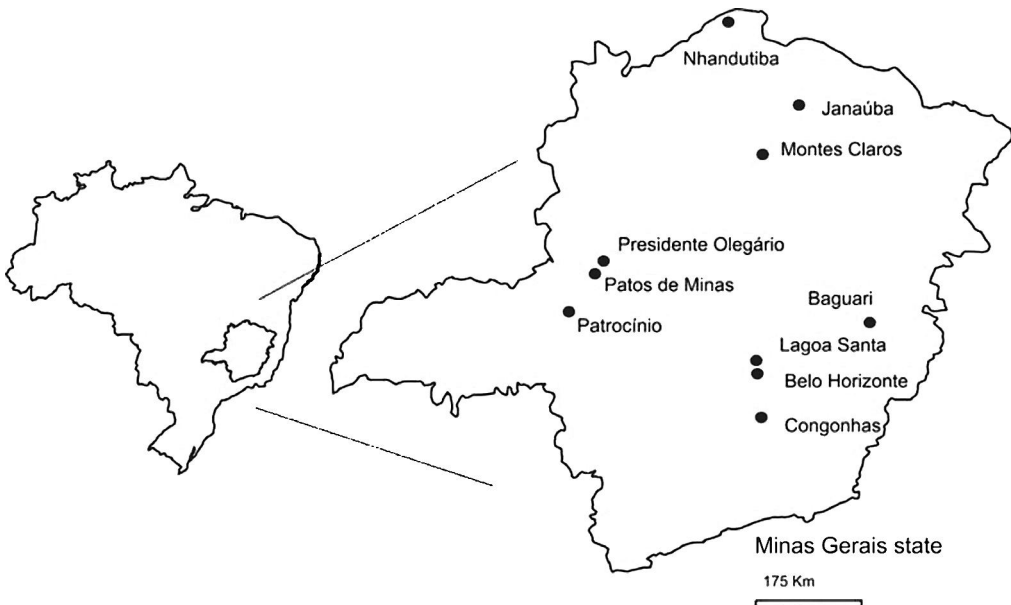


Figure 1. Localities of new records of Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* in Minas Gerais, Brazil.

the falcons. All geographic coordinates were obtained using a GPS receiver or extracted via satellite images.

## Results and Discussion

Sixteen new records of *F. peregrinus* in Minas Gerais were obtained, from the following localities (Fig. 1).

Baguari (19°04'S 42°07'W): one on 4 February 2010 perched in a partially submerged tree, in the lower part of the rio Doce, and another on 22 November 2009 in the same place predated a Ruddy Ground Dove *Columbina talpacoti*.

Belo Horizonte: a male on 7 March 2008 near Pampulha airport (19°51'S 43°57'W) observed gliding with Black Vultures *Coragyps atratus*; an adult on 21 December 2008 over Pampulha airport was moulting the ninth primary; one on 15 November 2007 near Serra do Curral (19°57'S 43°55'W); and one on 8 February 2006 in the centre of the city (19°56'S 43°55'W).

Congonhas (20°29'S 43°53'W): on 5 December 2002 one was perched in a tree at the edge of a dam near Congonhas.

Janaúba (15°44'S 43°24'W): on 8 February 2007 one was perched on an electricity tower. Vegetation in this area is a mixture of *cerrado*, *caatinga* and pastures.

Lagoa Santa (19°39'S 43°56'W): on 5 February 2005 one was perched on a roadside phone tower, and on 12 February 2005 one bird was on the same tower.

Montes Claros (16°43'S 43°51'W): an adult was found on 3 February 2009 on a street in the town and was taken to the wild animal screening centre of the local IBAMA. This is the first record for this region<sup>16</sup>.

Nhandutiba (19°39'S 44°23'W): two on 22 March 2006 were seen over the rio Calindó.

Patos de Minas (18°35'S 46°31'W): on 26 January 2010 one was seen unsuccessfully attempting to predate an Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*, in a municipal urban park (Mocambo).

Patrocínio (19°00'S 46°46'W): an adult on 6 February 2009 flew over a marsh surrounded by *cerrado*, pastures and coffee plantations, before perching in the *cerrado*.

Presidente Olegário (18°09'S 46°30'W): on 20 January 2007 one was observed hunting unsuccessfully at Vereda Grande Ecological Station.

These records augment the known range of *F. peregrinus* in Minas Gerais and add nine new localities for the species in the state. These records were expected, since Sick<sup>11</sup> already suggested that records of *F. peregrinus* are increasing in Brazil. However, because relatively few records of Peregrine Falcon have been published from the

country<sup>9,11-13</sup> additional observations are needed to improve our understanding of the species' occurrence in the country.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Giancarlo Zorzin and Gustav V. A. Specht for reviewing the manuscript and Marcus Canuto for creating the map. Franck Brites Rocha assisted our field work at Baguari, MG.

## References

1. Albuquerque, J. L. B. (1978) Contribuição ao conhecimento de *Falco peregrinus* Tunstall, 1771 na América do Sul (Falconidae, Aves). *Rev. Bras. Biol.* 38: 727–737.
2. Albuquerque, J. L. B. (1982) Observations on the use of rangle by the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus tundrius*, wintering in southern Brazil. *J. Raptor Res.* 16: 91–92.
3. Ambrose, R. E. & Riddle, K. E. (1988) Population dispersal, turnover, and migration of Alaska peregrines. In: Cade, T. J., Enderson, J. H., Thelander, C. G. & White, C. M. (eds.) *Peregrine Falcon populations: their management and recovery*. Boise, ID: The Peregrine Fund, Inc.
4. Ferguson-Lees, J. & Christie, D. A. (2001) *Raptors of the world*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.
5. Kirwan, G. M., Mazar Barnett, J. & Minns, J. (2001) Significant ornithological observations from the Rio São Francisco Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil, with notes on conservation and biogeography. *Ararajuba* 9: 145–161.
6. McNutt, J. W., Ellis, D. H., Garat, C. P., Roundy, T. B., Vasina, W. G. & White, C. M. (1988) Distribution and status of the Peregrine Falcon in South America. In: Cade, T. J., Enderson, J. H., Thelander, C. G. & White, C. M. (eds.) *Peregrine Falcon populations: their management and recovery*. Boise, ID: The Peregrine Fund, Inc.
7. Mestre, L. A. M. (2007) Recuperações no Brasil de falcões-peregrinos (*Falco peregrinus*) anilhados na América do Norte entre 1967 e 2001. *Ornithologia* 2: 72–80.
8. Pereira, G. A., Coelho, G., Dantas, S. M., Roda, S. A., Farias, G. B., Periquito, M. C., Brito, M. T. & Pacheco, G. L. (2006) Ocorrências e hábitos alimentares do falcão-peregrino *Falco peregrinus* no Estado de Pernambuco, Brasil. *Rev. Bras. Orn.* 14: 135–139.
9. Risebrough, R. W., Springer, A. M., Temple, S. A., White, C. M., Albuquerque, J. L. B., Bloom, P. H., Fyfe, R. W., Kirven, M. N., Luscombe, B. A., Roseneau, D. G., Sander, M., Schmitt, N. J., Thelander, C. G., Vasina W. G. & Walker, W. (1990) Observaciones del Halcon Peregrino, *Falco peregrinus* subspp. en America del Sur. *Rev. Bras. Biol.* 50: 563–574.
10. Sick, H. (1989) Der kanadische wanderfalke, *Falco peregrinus tundrius* in Brasilien. *Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin* 65 Suppl.: Ann. Orn. 13: 27–36.
11. Sick, H. (1997) *Ornitologia brasileira*. Rio de Janeiro: Ed. Nova Fronteira.

12. Silva e Silva, R. (1996) Records and geographical distribution of the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Tunstall, 1771 (Aves, Falconidae) in Brazil. *Pap. Avul. Zool., São Paulo* 39: 249–270.
13. Silva e Silva, R. (1997) Ecology and behavior of wintering *Falco peregrinus* (Falconiformes: Falconidae) in southern Brazil. *Ararajuba* 5: 203–208.
14. Vasconcelos, M. F. (2001) Adições à avifauna da Serra do Caraça, Minas Gerais. *Atualidades Orn.* 104: 3–4.
15. White, C. M. (1968) Diagnosis and relationships of North American tundra-inhabiting Peregrine Falcons. *Auk* 85: 179–191.
16. White, C. M. (1989). A reassessment of the first nesting record of the Peregrine Falcon in Ecuador. *Condor* 91: 995–997.
17. White, C. M. & Boyce, D. A. (1988) An overview of Peregrine Falcon subspecies. In: Cade, T. J., Enderson, J. H., Thelander, C. G. & White, C. M. (eds.) *Peregrine Falcon populations: their management and recovery*. Boise, ID: The Peregrine Fund, Inc.

**Eduardo Pio M. de Carvalho Filho, Gustavo Diniz M. de Carvalho, Frederico Inecco Garcia, Carlos Eduardo Alencar Carvalho**  
 SOS FALCONIFORMES, Centro de Pesquisa para a Conservação de Aves de Rapina Neotropicais, Rua Odilon Braga 1370, Mangabeiras, CEP 30.310–390, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Jorge Sales Lisboa**

Associação Brasileira de Falcoaria e Preservação de Aves de Rapina, Estrada Francisco da Cruz Nunes 10868, Itaipú, 24.340–000, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Filipe Cristovão Ribeiro da Cunha**

Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto, Instituto de Ciência Exatas e Biológicas, Mestrando em Ecologia de Biomas Tropicais, Campus Morro do Cruzeiro, Bauxita 35400-000, Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil. E-mail: filipecristovao@yahoo.com.br.

**Mauro Guimarães Diniz**

Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais, Escritório Regional de Belo Horizonte, Av. do Contorno 8121, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Marcelo Ferreira de Vasconcelos**

Pós-graduação em Zoologia de Vertebrados, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, Av. Dom José Gaspar 500, Prédio 41, Coração Eucarístico, 30535-610, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. E-mail: mfovasconcelos@gmail.com.

**Luciene Alves**

Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais, Renováveis Escritório Regional de Montes Claros, Rua Antônio Francisco 89, Montes Claros, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Robson Silva e Silva**

Rua Antonio Ferreira Gandra 182, Jardim 3 Estrelas, 11.390-250, São Vicente, São Paulo, Brazil.

**Renato Soares Moreira**

Empresa Eco Lógica Soluções Ambientais, Rua Rio Querino Fonseca 633, Bairro Cerrado, Patos de Minas, Minas Gerais, Brazil.