First documented record of Veery Catharus fuscescens in southern Brazil

Parts of Amazonia, the eastern Andes and sometimes even Central America have been considered within the winter range of Veery Catharus fuscescens. However, Remsen3 demonstrated that most winter records are from north and centre-west Brazil. Further south, it has been recorded in São Paulo, by Pereira et al.2, who collected a male in 1985 and a female in 1986, in Salesópolis and Iguape municipalities, respectively, whilst Willis & Oniki7 and E. O. Willis in Remsen3 observed 13 individuals, on 12 dates, at altitudes of 250–1,000 m, between late November–early March. In Rio de Janeiro, there is a record by D. F. Stotz in January 1992, at Praia Seca, and another by T. Sigrist, in November, at Tinguá6. The southernmost record is from Serranía San Luis National Park, in Paraguay5.

On 11 February 2009, during an ornithological inventory of Fazenda Santa Alice, Rio Negrinho municipality, Santa Catarina (26°29'22.7"S 49°29'40.3"W) a C. fuscescens was mist-netted at c.09h00. It was a first-year, sex unknown, and was ringed, measured and photographed (Fig. 1). Its measurements were as follows: bill (exposed culmen) 14.0 mm; tarsus 24.8 mm; wing (max.) 90.0 mm; tail 68.3 mm; total length 175.0 mm; mass 30 g. The bird was not moulting any feathers.

Fazenda Santa Alice lies at 800–1,100 m. The area where the Veery was trapped is a capoeira of Baccharis dracunculifolia, with many pioneer species such as Myrsine coriacea, Schinus terebintifolius, Zanthoxylum rhoifolium, Rhamnus sphaeosperrma, Matayba elaegnoides, Drymis brasiliensis and some Melastomataceae. The general environment is a matrix of primary forest and much old secondary forest, but dominated by a vast monoculture of Pinus taeda.

This record brings not only an expansion of the area of wintering (sensu Remsen)3, but also a new vegetation typology with maximum and minimum temperatures very different from Amazonia and the Cerrado3, and even from the Atlantic Forest7. However, only with further observations, and preferably continued use of mist-nets, will it be possible to determine if C. fuscescens is regular in this region of Brazil.

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References


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