

## Distribution, seasonality and habitat of Ash-coloured Cuckoo *Micrococcyx cinereus* in the state of São Paulo, Brazil

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O papa-lagarta-cinzento *Micrococcyx cinereus* (Cuculidae) tem ampla distribuição na América do Sul, incluindo o Brasil. É considerado um migrante austral, pois se reproduz no sul de sua distribuição durante o verão e aparece no norte durante o inverno. O baixo número de registros publicados prejudica uma melhor avaliação do seu status de ocorrência, possíveis movimentações sazonais e ações de conservação. Com base neste cenário, realizamos uma revisão dos registros históricos e atuais disponíveis para o Estado de São Paulo, sudeste do Brasil. Foram consultados dados de literatura e plataformas ornitológicas online, além de registros inéditos de campo. Foram obtidos 23 registros produzidos ao longo dos últimos 64 anos, que mostram pela primeira vez, uma ampla ocorrência no Estado de São Paulo, incluindo a região litorânea e o entorno de grandes centros urbanos, com indícios de reprodução. Sua presença é mais representativa durante a primavera-verão, mas o aumento de ocorrências na região leste, principalmente no outono-inverno podem indicar movimentações sazonais longitudinais e o uso de novos ambientes, questões que precisam ser melhor investigadas por estudos mais amplos, que contemplem toda a área de ocorrência dessa espécie na América do Sul.

New World cuckoos in the genera *Coccyzus*, *Coccyua* and *Micrococcyx* number 13 species<sup>15,33</sup>. Ash-coloured Cuckoo *Micrococcyx cinereus* has uniform grey plumage, with a red orbital region and eyes. It inhabits scrub (*capoeira*) and forest edges in more open regions, such as *cerrado* and *caatinga*, but has been recorded also in anthropogenic environments<sup>13,29,30</sup>. The species is widely distributed in South America, in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Brazil<sup>27</sup>. The fact that it breeds during the austral spring and summer in the south of its distribution, and occurs in the north during winter, has led several authors<sup>29,30,32,34</sup> to consider the species to be a possible austral migrant, a hypothesis yet to be confirmed<sup>27</sup>.

In Brazil, *M. cinereus* occurs from Rio Grande do Sul, where it breeds in the summer<sup>1</sup>, north to southern Amazonia, where the species appears to occur solely during the austral winter<sup>29,34</sup>, with irregular occurrences year-round in other parts of the country<sup>20,30,32</sup>. There were only four published records in São Paulo between 1957 and 2003, in the west and centre-north of the state, where the species is considered a summer visitor<sup>37</sup>. There are just two more recent records (2003–10), one in the centre-east in late summer and the other in the west (date not reported)<sup>3,13</sup>. The small number of records in São Paulo has prevented an analysis of the species' status in the state, where it is classified as Data Deficient<sup>6</sup>. Ash-coloured Cuckoo is in need of further study throughout its entire distribution<sup>27</sup>. Based on this, we reviewed available historical and recent records of the species in São Paulo, and present a new record for the coast of south-east Brazil.

### Methods

**Study area.**—The study area is the state of São Paulo, south-east Brazil (Fig. 1), which is largely deforested, with only 22.9% of native vegetation remaining; 19.3% Atlantic Forest and 1% Cerrado<sup>9,28</sup>. Atlantic Forest is represented by humid forests in the east of the state (dense ombrophilous forest) and drier forests (seasonal semi-deciduous forests) in the centre and west. The Cerrado occupies a small area in the centre-north, whilst the coast has large areas of *restinga* (herbaceous, shrubby and arboreal vegetation on sandy soil) and some mangrove<sup>28</sup>.

**Data compilation.**—Occurrence data were obtained via searches of the literature (scientific, books, and 'grey') and ornithological collections in natural history museums (via the GBIF online platform; <https://www.gbif.org>) and a request to the Peabody Museum, Yale University (YPM). Online ornithological platforms, WikiAves (<https://www.wikiaves.com.br>), eBird (<https://ebird.org>), xeno-canto (<https://www.xeno-canto.org>) and TÁxeus (<https://www.taxeus.com.br>) were also consulted (up to 5 May 2021). Records without specific locality were assigned to the central point of their respective municipality, and those published on online platforms and subsequently in the literature were cited for both sources, but only counted in the first category. Records were classified as historical (1957–2003) or contemporary (post-2003), with the first period covering both museum data and field observations. Taxonomy follows the Comitê Brasileiro de Registros Ornitológicos<sup>25</sup>.

We visited two localities in the municipality of Peruíbe, on the central-south coast of São