

in adult plumage, with moderate body moult and moulting primaries; all 4 stomachs contained insect parts (see back).

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Notes on some birds of northeastern Brazil (4)

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This report follows Teixeira *et al.* 1986–88, and 1988, and records some of the results obtained by the Ornithological Section of Museu Nacional during the expeditions to northeastern Brazil of the last few years. Specimens in the Museu Nacional ornithological collection are referred to by the initials MN plus the respective catalogue number. English names and

sequence of the species follow Meyer de Schauensee (1970). For all references on colours we used Villalobos & Villalobos (1947) with citation of the respective code.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

Winter visitor, frequently recorded in the southern Brazilian waters (Rio Grande do Sul north to Espírito Santo); vagrants have even been observed in the North Atlantic (Blake 1977). Not previously recorded in northeastern Brazil, but the MN obtained an adult ♀ (MN 36008, gonads 10 mm, 1.25 kg, 750 mm total length) off Pontal do Peba, southern Alagoas (c. 10°21'S, 36°17'W) on 21 May 1988.

LITTLE WOOD-RAIL *Aramides mangle*

Only known from some few localities in Brazil (Pinto 1964, Sick 1985), this rail has never been reported in the extreme northeast. However, it is a very common species in the mangroves of Alagoas and southern Pernambuco. On 7 February 1988, we obtained 2 ♀♀ (MN 35650, gonads 8 mm, 164 g, 323 mm total length; MN 35651, gonads 12 mm, 202 mm, 327 mm total length) from Tatuamunha, northern Alagoas (c. 9°14'S, 35°21'W).

GREY-BREASTED CRAKE *Laterallus exilis*

RUSTY-FLANKED CRAKE *Laterallus levraudi*

Ripley & Beehler (1985) attributed to *L. levraudi*, an endemic species of Venezuela (Ripley 1977), a young crane collected at Cabedelo, Paraíba (c. 6°58'S, 34°50'W) by J. Albuquerque on 18 June 1980. This specimen, now in the MN ornithological collection (MN 35236, male, gonads 3 mm, 26.5 g, 182 mm total length) had a peculiar dark plumage, fuscous brown (OOS 3 2°) in the upperparts and medium grey (CCU 12 1°) in the underparts, with the throat and the centre of the abdomen whitish. A detailed examination, however, revealed the presence of chestnut feathers interspersed in the nape and hindneck and also some undertail coverts barred with black and white. Recently, we had the opportunity to visit the Phelps and Rancho Grande collections, Venezuela, and to compare this specimen with adults and young of *L. levraudi*. As a result, we consider that this bird is a subadult example of *Laterallus exilis*, a rather common species in Amazonian Brazil; the contrasting chestnut hindneck and black and white undertail coverts are characters never observed in *L. levraudi* at any age. Additionally, on 17 November 1988, we obtained a second specimen, a presumed older subadult of *L. exilis* (MN 36161, ♀, gonads 7 mm, 34.5 g, 171 mm total length) from Lagoa de Itaipu, Rio de Janeiro (c. 22°58'S, 43°02'W), which showed a plumage intermediate between the bird from Paraíba and the typical adult pattern of *L. exilis*. Even though we consider that the subadult plumage of *L. exilis* seems to be undescribed until now, it is difficult to explain a misidentification involving *L. levraudi* as, so far as we know, in several South American species of the genus *Laterallus* (*L. viridis*, *L. melanophaius* and *L. fasciatus*) the subadults are rather similar to the adults regarding the major features of the plumage, and remarkable age-related differences in this sense are not observed. It is also interesting to mention that there are only very few records of *L. exilis* out of Amazonia (Teixeira et al. 1986, Willis & Oniki 1985).

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Recently recorded in Brazil in Rio de Janeiro (Teixeira *et al.* 1988). Another individual, in transition plumage, was observed off Itamaraca Island, coastal Pernambuco (c. 7°45'S, 34°51'W) on 30 November 1988.

BLUE-CROWNED PARAKEET *Aratinga acuticaudata*

Widely distributed in Brazil, but not hitherto recorded from the extreme northeast (Forshaw 1978, Pinto 1978). However, it is a common species in Alagoas, and we observed many flocks in the pasturelands of Quebrangulo (c. 9°15'S, 36°24'W) and also in the corn plantations of Tatuamunha in 1987 and 1988.

LONG-TAILED HERMIT *Phaethornis superciliosus*

As mentioned by Teixeira *et al.* (1987), this is a common species in the forest remnants of northeastern Brazil. On 15 November 1983, we obtained an adult ♀ (MN 33349, gonads 4 mm, 6 g, 175 mm total length) from Valença Bahia (c. 13°22'S, 39°05'W). This record extends considerably the known distribution of the species south to São Francisco river.

RINGED WOODPECKER *Celeus torquatus*

The little known *Celeus torquatus tinnunculus* of the Atlantic forest was previously recorded only from very few localities in southern Bahia (Pinto 1978, Short 1982). In the last few years, however, it has been possible to observe individuals in the forest remnants of Valença, Bahia, and A. Ruschi collected a ♀ also from Agua Limpa, municipality of São Mateus, Espírito Santo (c. 18°44'S, 39°51'W) on 23 October 1972 (see also Gonzaga *et al.* 1988). As previously recognized (e.g. Sick & Teixeira 1979), *C. torquatus tinnunculus* seems to be uncommon and may be considered endangered.

SNETHLAGE'S WOODCREEPER *Xiphocolaptes franciscanus*

Only known from Brejo Januaria, extreme northern Minas Gerais (c. 15°29'S, 44°22'W). However, the MN houses an unsexed specimen (MN 13822) collected by Pfrimmer (no date) in 'Posse', southern Goiás (possibly c. 14°S, 46°W). Contrary to some authors (see Mayer de Schauensee 1970), it seems appropriate here to stress that, regarding plumage, this species is more similar to the Moustached Woodcreeper *X. falcistrostris* than to any other representative of the genus. We have material of both these Dendrocolaptidae presently under study, and the preliminary data suggest that these woodcreepers may be more closely related than we have believed in the past.

GREAT XENOPS *Megaxenops parnaguae*

Described at the beginning of this century, *M. parnaguae* is known from very few specimens and localities of northeastern Brazil (southern Piauí, northern Bahia and Ceará—*apud* Vaurie 1980). In July 1988, we had the opportunity to study the species in the sub-caducifolious highland forests of Chapada do Araripe, southern Ceará (c. 7°13'S, 39°24'W). We found that the Great Xenops joins mixed flocks of the Black-capped Antwren *Herpsilochmus pileatus*, the Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis* and the Golden-crowned Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*. As recorded by Kaempfer (*in* Vaurie 1980), *M. parnaguae* does not have

scansorial habits, and the motion and foraging attitudes of the birds observed remind one of other arboreal Furnariidae like *Automolus* or *Philydor*. Similarly, we never saw *M. parnaguae* pecking at wood like a *Xenops*, and so far as we know, the species scans the surface of leaves, branches and also under bark, looking for prey. The stomach contents of an adult ♂ collected on 8 July 1988 (MN 36053, gonads 2 mm, 25 g, 174 mm total length) revealed the presence of some insects (Formicidae, Scarabaeidae and an unidentified caterpillar) and many spiders (*Ctenus* sp., *Micrathena* sp., *Phoneutria* sp.) but no typical endophytic arthropods. The known vocalizations of *M. parnaguae* are inconspicuous, and we recorded above all a low and deep sequence, quite different from the *Xenops* pattern.

RUFOUS-BREASTED LEAFSCRAPER *Sclerurus scansor*

In northeastern Brazil this species is represented by *Sclerurus scansor cearensis*, which is only known from northern Ceara (Baturite and Ibiapaba ranges), and northern Bahia (Bonfim—*apud* Pinto 1978). It also occurs in the sub-caducifolious highland forest of Chapada do Araripe, southern Ceara, whence the MN obtained one ♂ (MN 36056, gonads 3 mm, 34 g, 186 mm total length), and two ♀♀ (MN 36054, gonads 4 mm, 36 g, 185 mm total length; MN 36055, gonads 3 mm, 32 g, 193 mm total length) in July 1988. According to our observations, in contrast to Vaurie (1980), this Furnariidae has a very local distribution in northeastern Brazil.

FERRUGINOUS ANT BIRD *Drymophila ferruginea*

Only known previously from Argentina, Paraguay and southeastern Brazil (from Rio Grande do Sul north to Espírito Santo—*apud* Pinto 1978), this species in fact also occurs in the northeast. On 16 October 1983 we obtained an adult ♂ (MN 34362, gonads 4 mm, 12 g, 147 mm total length) from the lowland forests of Valença, Bahia. According to our observations, this species is not rare in this area, occurring side by side with the Scaled Antbird *Drymophila squamata*.

STREAKED-CAPPED ANT WREN *Terenura maculata*

Known from eastern to southern Brazil (Espírito Santo and eastern Minas Gerais south to Santa Catarina—*apud* Pinto 1978), Paraguay and Argentina, it also occurs in Valença, Bahia, whence we collected an adult ♂ (MN 34376, gonads 2 mm, 6.5 g, 110 mm total length) on 18 October 1983.

FRINGE-BACKED FIRE-EYE *Pyriglena atra*

Only known from coastal Bahia, around the Todos os Santos Bay (the so-called 'reconcavo' region), this species seems to be very local. Nowadays, its range seems to be restricted to the forest remnants of extreme northern Bahia south to around 13°S. According to our latest observations in Bahia, *P. atra* is replaced by the common White-shouldered Fire-eye *P. leucoptera*, at the environs of Valença. It was possible to locate *P. atra* only in the northern places of the 'reconcavo', whence the MN obtained an adult ♂ (MN 31879, gonads 10 mm, 32 g, 180 mm total

length) from Santo Amaro (c. 12°32'S, 38°43'W) on 14 October 1977. Considering the level of deforestation in the region, this bird should likely be considered now as very endangered (see also Willis & Oniki 1982).

WHITE-NAPED XENOPSARIS *Xenopsaris albinucha*

In Brazil, *X. albinucha* is known from very few localities of the northeast (Piauí, Ceará and western Bahia—*apud* Pinto 1944, Sick 1985). It also occurs in the 'caatinga' of Delmiro Gouveia, extreme southwestern Alagoas (c. 9°23'S, 37°59'W) whence we obtained an adult ♀ (MN 36064, gonads 4 mm, 9.8 g, 135 mm total length) and 2 of their young (MN 36065, male, gonads 1 mm, 9.3 g, 129 mm total length; MN 36066, male, gonads 1 mm, 9.6 g, 130 mm total length) between 30 and 31 May 1988. According to our observations, both parents care for the young, which show a peculiar plumage, similar to the adult female but with the crown, back, rump and upper wing coverts scalloped with ochraceous (OOY 156°), and with the inner secondaries and outer rectrices strongly margined with whitish on the outer web. It is interesting to stress that this plumage, briefly mentioned by Berlepsch & Hartert (1902), is quite different from the pattern recorded for the young in the genus *Pachyramphus*, and thus seems to reinforce the position of *X. albinucha* as an 'incertae sedis' (Traylor 1979).

VELVETY BLACK-TYRANT *Knipolegus nigerrimus*

Only known from southeastern Brazil, from Paraná north to Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais (Traylor 1979), this species also occurs in the dry 'caatinga' of southwestern Alagoas and northeastern Bahia (Cocorobo, c. 9°55'S, 39°07'W), whence we obtained 2 adult ♂♂, one on 11 January 1979 (MN 32067, gonads 10 mm, 21 g, 190 mm total length), and one on 31 July 1979 (MN 32157, gonads 2 mm, 20 g, 185 mm total length).

OCHRE-FACED TODY-FLYCATCHER *Todirostrum plumbeiceps*

In Brazil, this species has been recorded from Rio Grande do Sul north to Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo (Traylor 1979). However, it occurs also in northeastern Brazil, and we obtained 3 adults (MN 35769, ♂, gonads 2 mm, 5.5 g, 107 mm total length; MN 35770, unsexed, 5.3 g, 102 mm total length; MN 35771, ♀, gonads 2 mm, 5.3 g, 105 mm total length) from Quebrangulo, Alagoas, between 27 and 28 January 1988. Compared with a series housed in the MN, these specimens were identical with *T. p. cinereipectus* from Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo.

WHITE-LORED TYRANULET *Ornithion inerme*

The occurrence of *O. inerme* in Bahia was considered doubtful (Hellmeyer 1927, Zimmer 1941) until the discovery of a specimen from Itajuípe (c. 14°41'S, 39°22'W—*apud* Novaes 1978). However, it is in fact a rather common bird in the lowland forests of Valença, where it was possible to observe several individuals in December 1987.

GREEN-HEADED TANAGER *Tangara seledon*

As mentioned by Pinto (1944), the occurrence of this species in Bahia is doubtful. However, the MN obtained an adult ♂ (MN 33277, 16 g, 110 mm total length) from Mata de São João (c. 12°31'S, 38°17'W) on 28 June 1983. This seems to be the first confirmed locality for the species in northeastern Brazil.

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