

First record of Redwing *Turdus iliacus* in South America

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Redwing *Turdus iliacus* breeds from Iceland to eastern Russia and winters mainly in Europe, east to the Caspian (Collar 2005), with some birds migrating up to 7,000 km (Clement & Hathway 2000, Milwright 2003). It is a winter visitor to Greenland (Clement & Hathway 2000) and a vagrant to both coasts of the USA and Canada (ABA 2002).

Vagrants reach North America via two routes. Those on the north-east Atlantic coast have apparently crossed the North Atlantic to reach Greenland, Newfoundland and the USA. Other than a doubtful record at Jamaica Bay, New York, in February 1959 (Young 1959), the first documented record in North America was at St. Anthony, Newfoundland, on 26 June–11 July 1980 (Vickery 1980, Hall 1981, Montevecchi *et al.* 1981). Subsequent records are from Newfoundland, Quebec and Pennsylvania, all of singles in February (Clement & Hathway 2000, Denault 2000, Kasir 2005). On the Pacific coast there are fewer records, and these birds presumably arrive via the Bering Sea (Clement & Hathway 2000, Gibson *et al.* 2012), in Olympia, Washington, in December 2004–March 2005 (Mlodinow & Aanerud 2008) and Seward, Alaska, in November 2011 (Gibson *et al.* 2012). In East Asia, *T. iliacus* has wandered south to Japan, in January (Oozeki *et al.* 2004).

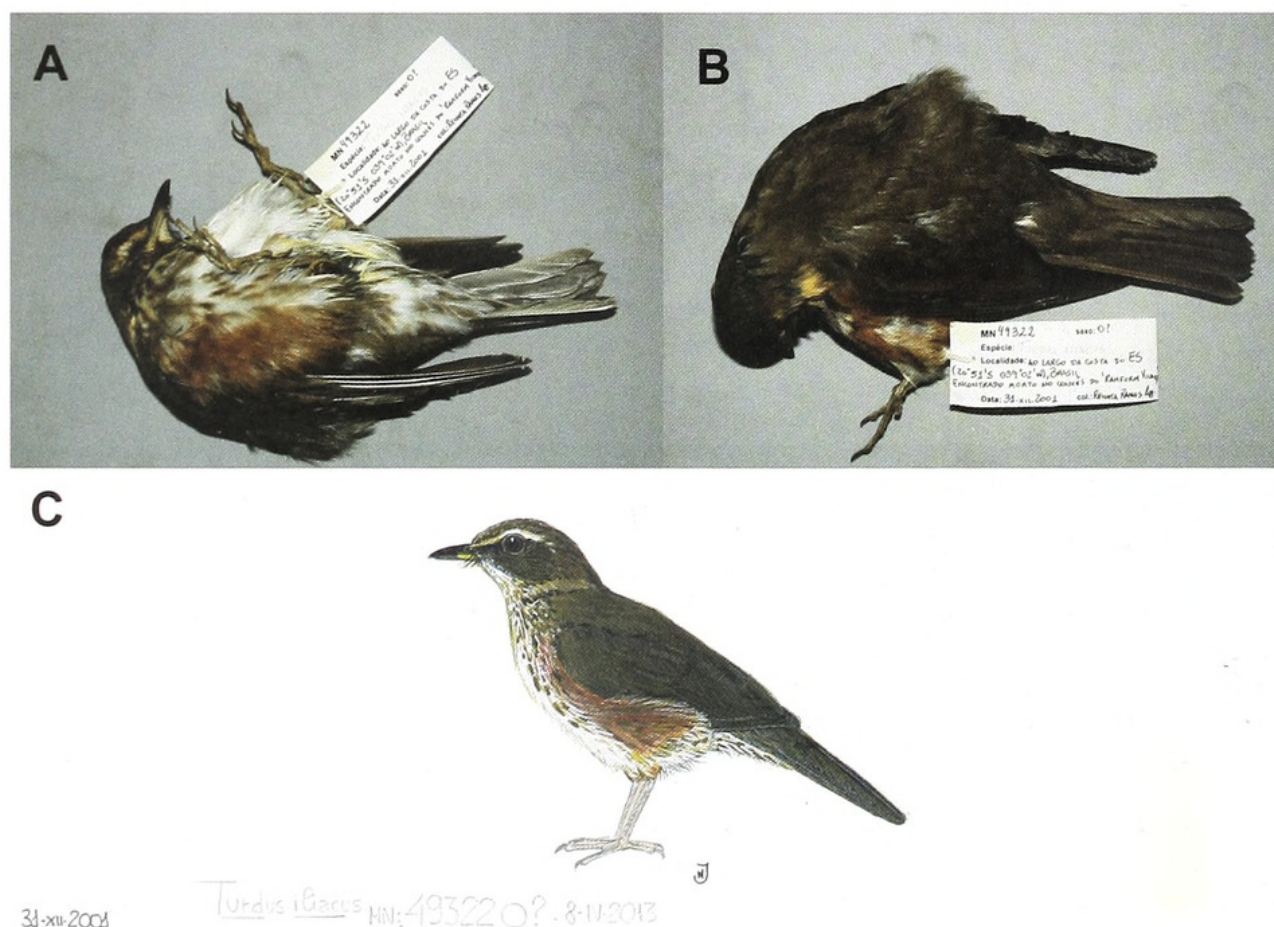


Figure 1. Redwing *Turdus iliacus* specimen (MN49322) collected on the *Ramform Victory*, off Espírito Santo, Brazil, 31 December 2001. Note the specimen's mummified condition. A: ventral view (Guilherme R. R. Brito); B: dorsal view (Guilherme R. R. Brito); C: plate depicting the precise plumage of the specimen, but iris and tarsus colours are based on the literature (Jorge B. Nacinovic)

On 31 December 2001 a *T. iliacus* (Museu Nacional 49322; Fig. 1), sex unknown, was found dead on the *Ramform Victory*, a seismic research vessel operating 150 km off the coast of Espírito Santo state, south-east Brazil (20°51'S, 39°02'W). The bird was delivered to us mummified (formalin 4%), preventing taxidermy. This is the first record in the Southern Hemisphere and South America. The possibility of its being a cagebird belonging to a crew member has been considered, but the bird's finders attested that it was present on deck and was fed leftovers for two days (29–30 December 2001) before perishing (S. Siciliano pers. comm.).

Ship-assisted Atlantic Ocean crossings might explain the presence of some vagrant birds in Brazilian waters or the mainland, for example that of several Pied Crows *Corvus albus* from Africa in Santos and Cubatão harbours, south-east Brazil (Lima & Kamada 2009). However this species, unlike Redwing, is sedentary and other corvids, especially House Crow *C. splendens*, are well known for their dispersive capabilities using ships (e.g. Ryall 1974). The *Ramform Victory* is used in oil field detection on continental platforms, so from the moment it arrives on station it does not make long-distance movements. Efforts to contact the ship's owners were made, in order to more fully establish its movements, but to date we have received no reply. However, the bird's corpse was retrieved by researchers towards the end of a 20-day cetacean survey during which period the vessel made only short-distance movements. In addition to the Redwing, two exhausted Tropical Kingbirds *Tyrannus melancholicus* that arrived on the ship were photographed and identified by GRRB (R. Ramos pers. comm.).

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