

*bulwerii*, on the other hand, is unrecorded, this species preferring to stay within sight and sound of the sea, sometimes barely above high water mark. A concerted effort should be made to locate the breeding grounds of *B. fallax*, the species being worthy of much further study and conservation.

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## Notes on some birds of northeastern Brazil (3)

by Dante Martins Teixeira, Jorge B. Nacinovic &  
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In the last few years, the Ornithological Section of the Museu Nacional has made several expeditions to the residual Atlantic forests of Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte and Ceará, extreme north-eastern Brazil. This report follows Teixeira *et al.* (1986, 1987), and is based on the field work performed December 1986 to May 1987. 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).

### MAGELLANIC PENGUIN *Spheniscus magellanicus*

According to Fernando J. M. Pinto an immature specimen was captured alive in Maceió, Alagoas (c. 9°40'S, 35°45'W), in the 1950s. This



bird is a common winter visitor in southern Brazilian waters (Rio Grande do Sul north to Rio de Janeiro), and vagrants have even been recorded from Salvador, Bahia (c. 13°0'S, 38°30'W), but this appears to be the most northern record known in the Atlantic.

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD EAGLE *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*

Widely distributed in South America, this species has enlarged its distribution in Brazil considerably (Sick 1979, 1985). On 19 February 1987, we recorded 2 flying over the pasturelands of Quebrangulo, Alagoas (c. 9°15'S, 36°24'W). Recently, it was also observed in Rio de Janeiro State at Teresópolis (c. 22°25'S, 43°0'W) and Tres Rios (c. 22°05'S, 43°10'W), southeastern Brazil.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus*

Widely distributed along the Brazilian coast, but not hitherto recorded from the northeast. On 26 April 1987, we observed an isolated specimen on a beach at Lagoa do Mundaú, Maceió, Alagoas.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

A northern migrant, recorded from a great part of both coastal and interior South America. On 6 February 1987, we observed 4 on a beach near Maceió, Alagoas, side by side with *Charadrius semipalmatus*, *Pluvialis squatarola*, *Calidris alba* and *C. pusilla*. Apparently this is the first record for northeastern Brazil.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*

A northern migrant and regular visitor to South America, its range in Brazilian waters seems to be little known (Teixeira *et al.* 1986). The MN houses an adult male (MN 32920: 520 mm total length) collected by M. Dulce (26 July 1979) at Recife, Pernambuco (c. 36°0'S, 34°55'W), which was banded in USA (No. 9043-11473). We also observed at least 3 others at Maceió, Alagoas, between February and April 1987.

CAYENNE TERN *Sterna eurygnatha*

The movements of the Cayenne Tern along the Brazilian coast are poorly known (Harrison 1983) and misidentifications involving the very similar Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* seem to be common, as both species occur side by side at least in northeastern Brazil (see also Sick 1979). Between February and April 1987 we observed flocks of this species in winter plumage at Maceió and Pontal do Peba, municipality of Piaçabuçu, Alagoas (c. 10°20'S, 36°15'W). On 12 February 1987, the MN obtained from the latter locality 3 females (MN 34899: gonads 6 mm, 223 g, 414 mm total length; MN 34900: gonads 4 mm, 215 g, 396 mm total length; MN 34901: gonads 5 mm, 208 g, 394 mm total length) and 3 males (MN 34902: gonads 4 mm, 205 g, 393 mm total length; MN 34903: gonads 4 mm, 206 g, 392 mm total length; MN 34904: gonads 2 mm, 214 g, 417 mm total length).



MARRON-FACED PARAKEET *Pyrrhura leucotis*

In the South American ornithological literature (Forshaw 1978, Pinto 1978, Sick 1985, etc), the northeastern Brazilian populations of *Pyrrhura leucotis griseipectus* are stated to be endemic to the highland forests of Ceará. In recent years, however, it has been possible to observe the species, in very low numbers, in some residual forests near Murici, Alagoas (c. 9°47'S, 36°50'W). According to Yamashita & Coelho (1985), this species was also reported from Serra Negra, Pernambuco (c. 38°0'S, 8°40'W) together with the Blue-winged Macaw *Ara maracana*, which had never previously been recorded for extreme northeastern Brazil.

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT *Panyptila cayennensis*

Locally distributed in Brazil. Specimens are known from the Amazonas drainage and also from Bahia, Espírito Santo and São Paulo. On 19 February 1987 we obtained an adult female (MN 34914: gonads 8 mm, 23.5 g, 150 mm total length) from Quebrangulo, Alagoas, where it seems to be a rather common bird. The female collected was captured inside its pensile nest (see Sick 1947) attached to a rock, incubating 3 white eggs which measured 22.2 × 13.6, 20.5 × 13.4, 20.9 × 13.0 mm and weighed 2, 1.7 and 1.7 g respectively.

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD *Monasa nigrifrons*

Widely distributed in South America, but not hitherto recorded from extreme northeastern Brazil. The MN obtained an adult male (MN 34915: gonads 4 mm, 82 g, 297 mm total length) from Fazenda Santa Justina, municipality of Passo de Camaragibe, Alagoas (c. 9°13'S, 35°33'W) on 17 March 1987.

SPIX'S WOODCREEPER *Xiphorhynchus spixii*

Only known previously from the Amazonian drainage, we collected a subadult male (MN 34522: gonads 2 mm, 38 g, 220 mm total length) in Serra do Baturité, Ceará (c. 4°20'S, 38°56'W) on 8 February 1986.

GREY-HEADED SPINETAIL *Cranioleuca semicinerea*

Only known previously from Ceará, Bahia, Minas Gerais and southern Goiás, this Furnariid also occurs in the semi-deciduous forests of Quebrangulo, Alagoas. Between February and March 1987 the MN obtained 2 females (MN 34828: gonads 6 mm, 14.5 g, 151 mm total length; MN 34829: gonads 5 mm, 16 g, 158 mm total length) and 1 male (MN 34830: gonads 4 and 5 mm, 14.5 g, 164 mm total length) from this locality.

ORANGE-BELLIED ANTWREN *Terenura sicki*

Described only in 1983, *T. sicki* is based on a single female from Murici, Alagoas. In recent years, however, we have obtained additional specimens of this Formicariid, among them the first known adult males. Rather surprisingly, the adult male of *T. sicki* has a black-and-white streaked pattern which resembles the plumage of some *Myrmotherula*, especially the Stripe-headed Antwren *Myrmotherula longicauda*, from Amazonia. By comparison with these recently collected birds, it was also



possible to recognize the holotype of *T. sicki* as an immature female, since adult females are similar to immatures but show a quite distinct pattern, similar to the adult male's, on head and wings (Teixeira 1987). New records have also enlarged significantly the original range of *T. sicki*; the MN obtained 1 subadult male (MN 34916: gonads 1 mm, 7 g, 117 mm total length) and 1 adult female (MN 34917: gonads 4 mm, 6.4 g, 108 mm total length) from Quebrangulo, Alagoas, between 22 and 24 February 1987, and the species was also observed in the forests of Novo Lino, Alagoas (c. 9°47'S, 35°40'W), where it is a rather common bird.

#### SHORT-TAILED ANTTHRUSH *Chamaeza campanisona*

Discontinuously distributed. In northeastern Brazil, it has been recorded only from Serra do Baturité, Ceará. It also occurs in the highland forests of Quebrangulo, Alagoas, where it is very common.

#### LONG-TAILED TYRANNULET *Phylloscartes ceciliae*

Described only in 1987, *P. ceciliae* was previously known only from Murici, Alagoas. However, between February and March 1987, 3 males (MN 34918: gonads 2 mm, 6.1 g, 115 mm total length; MN 34919: gonads 4 mm, 9 g, 128 mm total length; MN 34920: gonads 3 mm, 8.5 g, 128 mm total length) and 1 female (MN 34921: gonads 3 mm, 6.8 g, 116 mm total length) were obtained from the highland forests of Quebrangulo, Alagoas. This recently collected material shows no differences from the original series of *P. ceciliae* from the type locality.

#### GREY ELAENIA *Myiopagis caniceps*

Not previously recorded in northeastern Brazil. The MN obtained a male (MN 34616: gonads 4 mm, 12.3 g, 129 mm total length) from Serra do Baturité, Ceará, on 11 February 1986, and 2 males (MN 34922: gonads 2 mm, 11 g, 130 mm total length; MN 34923: gonads 2 mm, 11 g, 132 mm total length) and 2 females (MN 34924: gonads 5 mm, 9.5 g, 121 mm total length; MN 34925: gonads 5 mm, 9.5 g, 128 mm total length) from the highland forests of Quebrangulo, Alagoas, where it is a common bird in mixed flocks.

#### COCOA THRUSH *Turdus fumigatus*

Its occurrence previously in northeastern Brazil was based on doubtful records in Forbes (1881). However, we obtained an adult female (MN 34926: gonads 8 mm, 84 g, 256 mm total length) and 3 of her young (MN 34927: male, gonads 1 mm, 58 g, 163 mm total length; MN 34928: female, gonads 2 mm, 35 g, 162 mm total length; MN 34929: female, gonads 2 mm, 36 g, 152 mm total length) from Fazenda Santa Justina, municipality of Passo de Camaragibe, Alagoas, on 16 March 1987. So far as we know, it is an uncommon bird in the lowland coastal forests of northeastern Brazil, but we have been able to record it from only a few localities in extreme northeastern Alagoas.

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## Morphology and egg measurements of seabirds breeding on Great Salvage Island, North Atlantic

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Five species of Procellariiformes breed on Great Salvage Island in the North Atlantic Ocean: Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea borealis*, Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, Madeiran Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma castro* and White-faced Storm Petrel *Pelagodroma marina hypoleuca*. Between 17 June and 11 July 1983, while studying the vocal behaviour of these birds (James & Robertson 1985a, 1985b, 1985c) we made observations on their body measurements, egg measurements and incubation spells.

The breeding biology and population status of **Cory's Shearwater** on Great Salvage Island have been studied by Jouanin & Roux (1966), Zino (1971), Jouanin *et al.* (1977), Jouanin *et al.* (1980), and Mougin & Stahl (1982). The present population is about 12–15,000 breeding birds plus 15–20,000 non-breeders (Mougin & Stahl 1982). Nesting is in small caves and crevices in rock walls around the slopes of the island, and in man-made rock shelters and walls on the plateau. During our visit, egg-laying had just finished and no eggs had hatched.



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