



Figure 1. Adult male Tawny-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila hypoxantha*, Monumento Natural Árvores Fossilizadas do Tocantins, Tocantins, Brazil, 5 July 2005 (Fábio Olmos)

(Rio Grande do Sul), Uruguay (río Uruguay basin and the south-east wetlands) and possibly south-east Paraguay<sup>1,3</sup> and its wintering grounds in Brazil and, perhaps, north-east Paraguay<sup>2,3</sup>. In Brazil it has been recorded mostly in the *cerrados* of Minas Gerais, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, São Paulo and Paraná<sup>2,3,6-8</sup>. Its presence in Tocantins and Santa Catarina has to date been considered probable<sup>2</sup>.

On 5 July 2005, during a four-day bird survey in the Monumento Natural Árvores Fossilizadas do Tocantins<sup>4</sup>, municipality of Filadélfia, Tocantins, we found a flock of *Sporophila* seedeaters foraging for seeds on a pasture (07°29'16"S 47°46'30"W; 255 m) mostly of *Andropogon gayanus*, an introduced African grass. Another species of *Andropogon* used by seedeaters (*A. bicornis*) is a common invasive in disturbed areas such as roadsides throughout Tocantins.

Using binoculars the flock was found to comprise several tens of undetermined females or juveniles, five adult male Capped Seedeaters *S. bouvreil*, 15 male Tawny-bellied Seedeaters *S. hypoxantha*, several male Plumbeous Seedeaters *S. plumbea* and an adult male Marsh Seedeater. The latter was observed for several minutes and identified by its unmistakable white face, breast and upper belly contrasting

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**Marsh Seedeater *Sporophila palustris* and Tawny-bellied Seedeater *S. hypoxantha* recorded in Tocantins state, Brazil**

Marsh Seedeater *Sporophila palustris* is a globally threatened species that migrates between its nesting areas in Argentina (Corrientes, Entre Ríos and possibly Buenos Aires), Brazil

with the grey cap, wings and mantle, and rufous belly.

This record seems to be the first for Tocantins and extends the wintering range a minimum of 1,000 km from the previous northernmost localities of Poconé, Mato Grosso (c.16°S 57°W), Emas National Park, Goiás (18°08'S 52°53'W) and Pirapora, Minas Gerais (17°23'S 44°56'W)<sup>3,5</sup>.

The presence of several Tawny-bellied Seedeaters (Fig. 1) in the same flock is noteworthy as this species is also a migrant from the same general region as Marsh Seedeater<sup>8,9</sup> and there was only one previous record from Tocantins, a specimen collected at Tocantinia in the 1960s<sup>5</sup>. This observation suggests that Marsh and Tawny-bellied Seedeaters may use the remaining savannas and pastures of the northern Cerrado as wintering grounds. It would be worthwhile to check for the presence of migrant seedeaters in other habitats, such as the seasonal grasslands in the floodplains of the Tocantins and Araguaia rivers.

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