

First records of Chestnut-headed Tanager *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps* from Goiás, central Brazil

Chestnut-headed Tanager *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps* is a distinctively plumaged Thraupidae generally considered to be endemic to the Atlantic Forest in north-east Argentina (Misiones), south-east Paraguay and south-east Brazil (from Espírito Santo south to Rio Grande do Sul). N. Moura and I encountered a pair of *P. ruficeps* on 23 January 2012 at the Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural (RPPN) Fazenda Pousada dos Anões, Alto Paraíso de Goiás, in the Chapada dos Veadeiros, Goiás. The pair was observed at 14h15 as they crossed a narrow vehicle track in gallery forest within a vast matrix of well-preserved *cerrado* physiognomies at 14°19'S 47°29'W (1,130 m). The pair fed on coarse grasses and remained largely within cover. I obtained a good-quality recording of their contact calls—an unobtrusive high-pitched *tip*.... *tip* archived on www.xeno-canto.org (XC93479) but they were unresponsive to playback of their own vocalisations and we lacked any pre-recorded songs. I obtained poor-quality photographs of the male, of which two are archived on WikiAves (WA556855 and 556853). These images are sufficient to resolve the male's silver bill, dark lores, chestnut head and grey wings, body and tail, which in combination are diagnostic of this tanager. We maintained aural and occasional visual contact for 20 minutes until the pair moved away.

Other birds observed in the same forest fragment included Ochre-cheeked Spinetail *Synallaxis*

scutata, Russet-mantled Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla dimidiata*, Rufous Gnateater *Conopophaga lineata*, Grey Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps*, Black-tailed Flycatcher *Myiobius atricaudus*, Sepia-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*, Greenish Schiffornis *Schiffornis virescens*, Helmeted Manakin *Antilophia galeata*, Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin *Neopelma pallescens* and White-bellied Warbler *Basileuterus hypoleucus*. Recent records of Greenish Schiffornis (e.g., WA556549) from the Pousada dos Anões also represent a minor range extension from the previous northern limit, Nova Veneza in central Goiás^{4,5}. Although Chestnut-headed Tanager is considered to be associated with bamboo⁶, we did not observe the large-stemmed *Guadua paniculata* anywhere around Alto Paraíso de Goiás, which is perhaps above this bamboo's altitudinal tolerance (it was abundant to the west, lower down, close to the town of Colinas do Sul). Subsequently, D. Kverno photographed (WA682653, 682636) a pair of *P. ruficeps* at Tabapuã dos Pireneus (15°46'S 48°48'W) in the municipality of Cocalzinho de Goiás (30 km north of Pirenópolis) on 8 July and 25 August 2012. This pair associated with a mixed flock including Saffron-billed Sparrow *Arremon flavirostris*, Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricolis* and Ochre-cheeked Spinetail *Synallaxis scutata*, foraging in grasses in the understorey of gallery forest (D. Kverno *in litt.* 2012). The previous northernmost documented record is from the Casca D'Anta waterfall, Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais (>660 km from the Chapada dos Veadeiros), where a pair was observed and tape-recorded on 13 August 2005⁷. However, the species has previously been reported (documentation unclear) from the Distrito Federal, at Fazenda Agua Limpa, just 150 km south-west of Fazenda Pousada dos Anões². Antunes & Willis¹ suggested that Chestnut-headed Tanagers breed in the Serra do Mar and Serra do Mantiqueira, and migrate to the interior during the austral winter.

These new records—during both the austral summer and winter—appear out of synch with what would be expected of long-distance migrants or vagrants. Further observations are required to ascertain whether the Chapada dos Veadeiros might host a resident population of *P. ruficeps* (which is apparently naturally rare anywhere in the north of its range) or just occasional visitors. Recent years have witnessed a suite of discoveries in Goiás of Atlantic Forest ‘endemic’ birds whose ranges were considered not to reach interior Brazil and the Cerrado biome. These include Shrike-like Cotinga *Laniisoma elegans*³ and Pin-tailed Manakin *Ilicura militaris*⁴, thus increasing ornithological field work in the fragments of humid montane forest in Goiás may yet reveal more surprises.

Acknowledgements

I thank Nargila Moura for company in the field; Derek Kverno for information on his records of *P. ruficeps*; Paulo Hungria Machado and Gustavo Malacco for supplying references; and Bradley Davis for recommending I visit the Fazenda dos Anões.

References

1. Antunes, A. Z. & Willis, E. O. (2003) Novos registros de aves para a Fazenda Barreiro Rico, Anhembi-São Paulo. *Ararajuba* 11: 101–102.
2. Bagno, M. A. & Marinho-Filho, J. (2001) A avifauna do Distrito Federal: uso de ambientes abertos e florestais e ameaças. In: Ribeiro, J. F., Fonseca, C. E. L. & Sousa-Silva, J. C. (eds.) *Cerrado: caracterização e recuperação de matas de galeria*. Planaltina: EMBRAPA.
3. Ferreira, A. A., Figueiredo-Neto, A., Paula, J. P., Machado, N., Azevedo, P. L. & Laranjeiras, T. O. (2010) Ocorrência de *Laniisoma elegans* (Aves: Tityridae) no Estado de Goiás. *Atualidades Orn.* 156: 9.
4. Kirwan, G. M. (2008) The range of the Pin-tailed Manakin *Ilicura militaris* extends to central Brazil. *Rev. Bras. Orn.* 16: 260–261.
5. Snow, D. W. (2004) Family Pipridae (manakins). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Christie, D. A. (eds.) *Handbook of the birds of the world*, 9. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.
6. Stotz, D. F., Fitzpatrick, J. W., Parker, T. A. & Moskovits, D. K. (1996) *Neotropical birds: ecology and conservation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
7. Vasconcelos, M. F., D’Angelo Neto, S., Kirwan, G. M., Bornschein, M. R., Diniz, M. G. & Silva, J. F. (2006) Important ornithological records from Minas Gerais state, Brazil. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 126: 212–238.

Alexander C. Lees

Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, CP 399, Av. Perimetral 1901, Terra Firme, 66077-530 Belém, Pará, Brazil. E-mail: alexanderlees@btopenworld.com.

Received 27 January 2012, final revision accepted 4 September 2012