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First report of *Xenus cinereus* (Charadriiformes: Scolopacidae) for Brazil

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RESUMO. Primeiro registro de *Xenus cinereus* (Charadriiformes: Scolopacidae) para o Brasil. Em 16 de março de 1997, o autor observou um indivíduo do maçarico *Xenus cinereus* em plumagem invernal, na foz do rio Buranhém em Porto Seguro, (16°27' S, 39°07' W) Bahia. Este registro representa o primeiro da espécie para o Brasil, e é o terceiro para América do Sul.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Brasil, *Xenus cinereus*.

KEY WORDS: Brazil, *Xenus cinereus*.

During a trip to eastern Brazil, I visited the town of Porto Seguro and the Veracruz Ecological Station in the state of Bahia, Brazil, on 15-16 March 1997. Early in the morning of 16 March 1997, I was looking for birds in the mangrove swamp and mudflat shores at the mouth of the rio Buranhém (16°27' S, 39°07' W), and at c. 6:30, I found a single individual that I readily identified as a Terek Sandpiper, *Xenus cinereus*. This bird was found together with a few *Charadrius semipalmatus* and *Actitis macularia* on a small mudflat by the side of a drainage canal on the outskirts of the town of Porto Seguro.

The bird foraged actively, probing constantly on the mud surface, and walked with fast steps, holding a more or less horizontal posture. It also bobbed the rear third of its body, though less regularly. It was observed for about 20 min, and always less than 10 m from the observer. All the distinctive characters of this species were noted. It had bright orange-yellow legs with short tarsi, a long, upcurved bill c. 1.5 times the length of the head, with yellowish base of mandible and lower base of maxilla. The area above the eye was pale whitish, forming a slight eyebrow, and the upperparts were with very slight darker flammulations on back. It had a pale grey band on breast interrupted in the center, and rest of the underparts whitish. Hence the bird appeared to be in its basic, or nonbreeding plumage (Hayman *et al.* 1986).

I found the bird again at 07:15, but unfortunately the tide was rising rapidly, and the bird had moved to an island across a channel of the river some 100 m from the original place, and it could not be photographed at close range. The bird, which looked healthy, remained for

some time roosting and bathing. I did nevertheless photograph the bird from that distance. At 13:30, with a fairly low tide, the bird was not found, but I saw it again at 17:40 at ebb tide. The bird was found by the side of the same drainage canal as before, but some 70 m from the edge of the mudflat. It stayed in the same area until dusk, and it probably roosted there. Other species found in the area sharing the habitat with the single *Xenus cinereus* were *Butorides striatus*, *Egretta caerulea*, *Nyctanassa violacea*, *Charadrius collaris*, and *Arenaria interpres*.

This record represents the first for Brazil, as the bird was not mentioned by Sick (1997), and apparently the third for South America. In South America, *Xenus cinereus* had previously been found only in Argentina. Pugnali *et al.* (1988) reported a bird in Punta Rasa, Buenos Aires province, which stayed from December 1987 to January 1988. Narosky and Di Giacomo (1993) mentioned an observation by B. López Lanús in Saladillo, Buenos Aires, in December 1990. The species is normally distributed from Finland and the Ukraine east through Siberia to Anadryland, wintering to tropical coasts and estuaries from southwestern Africa through the Middle East, southern Asia, and northern Australia (Hayman *et al.*, 1986, Sibley and Monroe 1990). The former authors mention vagrant records in Tasmania and Alaska.

This bird was probably a passage migrant, which had joined other waders that were moving northward. *Xenus cinereus* is obviously an occasional vagrant to South America, but it may prove to occur more regularly than thought.

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