

First documented record of Grey Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis* (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae) in Brazil

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ABSTRACT: Two individuals of *T. dominicensis*, a migrant from the region between the Southern United States and the Caribbean, were observed and photographed in an area of mangroves and pastures at Praia do Goiabal, Calçoene, Amapá, confirming the presence of the species in Brazil.

KEY-WORDS: Amapá, Brazil, Grey Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis*.

The Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* is a migratory flycatcher breeding from the extreme southeastern USA, through Central America and the Caribbean, south to Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and Guiana. Northern populations are migratory and winter along the east coast of Central America and northern South America, with inland records as far south as the llanos of Colombia in Meta (Restall *et al.* 2007, McMullan *et al.* 2010).

On 22 November 2012, we visited Praia do Goiabal (02°36'06"N; 50°50'44"W) near the town of Calçoene, state of Amapá, northern Brazil. The area is a broad mud-sand beach strongly influenced by the discharge of the Amazonas river, backed by a narrow dune belt, and inland by extensive mangroves and tidal marshes. Goiabal is a known hotspot for migratory shorebirds on the Amazonian coast (Rodrigues 2007) and at the time of our visit we recorded flocks of tens to hundreds of *Calidris pusilla*, *C. minutilla*, *C. alba*, *Tringa flavipes*, *T. melanoleuca* and *Charadrius semipalmatus* together with smaller numbers of *Calidris canutus*, *Arenaria interpres* and *Pluvialis squatarola*.

While driving the access road to the beach, in an area just behind the dune belt where the road cuts through mangrove trees and marsh used as pasture, we recorded a pair of Grey Kingbirds foraging near to each other and a few Tropical Kingbirds *T. melancholicus*. They were immediately told apart from Tropical Kingbirds by their whitish-grey throat, chest and belly (showing no yellow), mouse-grey crown and back, and robust beak (Figures 1 and 2). The birds were observed for several minutes as

they sallied for insects from fence poles, and low power wires bordering the road, with no obvious interaction between them and the Tropical Kingbirds.

Prior to our record there exists a single report of *Tyrannus dominicensis* for Brazil, based on a sight-only record on the island of Maracá, Roraima state (Moskovits *et al.* 1985). Naka *et al.* (2006), in their review of the avifauna of Roraima, were not able to confirm this record and until now the species had remained hypothetical on the standard Brazilian bird list (CBRO 2011).

Grey Kingbirds were never recorded in several bird inventories carried in Amapá (Novaes 1974, Novaes 1978, Silva *et al.* 1997, Schunk *et al.* 2008, Aguiar & Naiff 2010), but only a few have focused in coastal areas (Souza *et al.* 2008, Aguiar *et al.* 2010). The species is a fairly common visitor to coastal French Guiana from late-September to early April (Restall *et al.* 2007) so its regular presence in similar habitats in neighbouring Amapá at the same time is to be expected. The absence of previous records is more likely a result of limited coverage of the area by ornithologists than actual rarity.

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FIGURE 1. Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* photographed on 22 November 2012 at Praia do Goiabal, Calçoene, Amapá. Photo by FO.



FIGURE 2. Grey Kingbird *Tyrannus dominicensis* photographed on 22 November 2012 at Praia do Goiabal, Calçoene, Amapá. Photo by FO.

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