

First record of the Rusty-backed Monjita, *Xolmis rubetra* (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae) for Brazil

Danielle Bellagamba-Oliveira¹, Gina Bellagamba¹ and Alfredo Rocchi²

¹ Rua Domingos de Almeida, 1580, Bairro Centro, CEP: 97501-600, Uruguaiana - RS, Brasil. Corresponding author: E-mail: danybdeo@hotmail.com

² Luis A. de Herrera 1831, CP 11600, Montevideo, Uruguai.

Received on 20 October 2012. Accepted on 4 June 2013.

ABSTRACT: First record of Rusty-backed Monjita *Xolmis rubetra* (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae) for Brazil. Three individuals of the Rusty-backed Monjita (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae), a migratory species so far considered endemic to Argentina, were located in open grasslands in the municipality of Uruguaiana on the western edge of Rio Grande do Sul, in August 2012. This is the first record for the Brazilian territory.

KEY-WORDS: Rio Grande do Sul; Rusty-backed Monjita; Uruguaiana, winter migrant.

Three individuals of *Xolmis rubetra* (Figure 1) were sighted on August 15, 2012 in a typical rural property (29°58'47.7"S; 56°28'45.9"W) in the municipality of Uruguaiana, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The birds were feeding on the ground when felt the human presence and gave brief flights, staying around for a few minutes until they flew away. Several field trips were made to the same site and nearby areas but the birds were not sighted again. This is the first record of the species for the country (CBRO 2011).

Photographs documenting this record have been published at the WikiAves website (Oliveira 2012). The species was identified based on the following morphological characteristics: face and chest striated with clear belly; back and sides of belly brown; wings black, appearing predominantly white when the bird flies (tertiary and upper coverts); dark tail rimmed with white thread; and broad white eyebrow (Figure 2). Similar looking *Xolmis salinarum*, considered a subspecies of *X. rubetra* by some, is not migratory and has no streaks on the face, neither brown on the side of the chest (De La Peña & Rumboll 1998).

Uruguaiana is located in extreme western of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) on the border with Argentina, in the geomorphological unit of the Paraná Basin Plateau (Herrmann & Rosa 1990). Climate is humid temperate with winter and summer well defined. The relief has the presence of flat and undulating grassy hills characterized by herbaceous grassland vegetation.

X. rubetra was considered, until now, an endemic species from Argentina (Narosky & Yzurieta 2010). Records were obtained in the provinces of Córdoba, Buenos Aires, Santa Fe (Marelli 1933, Tognelli 2001, Mollo *et al.* 2010). Barattini (1945) cited *X. rubetra* for the Paisandú department, Uruguay, situated on the banks of the Uruguay River and about 200 kilometers to the south of Uruguaiana. However, due to the lack of physical evidence and reliable information, the species was not included in subsequent lists of birds of Uruguay (Azpiroz 2003, Claramunt & Cuello 2004).

X. rubetra presents migratory behavior, nesting in southern Argentina (Narosky & Yzurieta 2003) and migrating in winter to the northern provinces of the country (De La Peña & Rumboll 1998, Narosky & Yzurieta 2010).

The time of record coincides with the winter migratory behavior of the species, as observed with other species with occasional occurrence in the western part of Rio Grande do Sul, and may be regular during the winter with a small number of individuals. His occasional occurrence may have gone unnoticed until now because of the shortage of ornithologists and birdwatchers in the region.

The species is called Monjita Castaña in Spanish and Rusty-backed Monjita in English. Considering that in Brazil almost all species of the genus are called Noivinha ("little bride"), we suggest the Portuguese name noivinha-castanha for *X. rubetra* (Figure 1).



FIGURE 1: *Xolmis rubetra* photographed in field on August 15, 2012 in the city of Uruguaiana, RS, Brazil.



FIGURE 2: *Xolmis rubetra* photographed in field on August 15, 2012 in the city of Uruguaiana, RS, Brazil.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Adrián Azpiroz for the assistance with bibliographic sources and species identification.

REFERENCES

- Azpiroz, A. B. 2003.** *Aves del Uruguay. Lista e introducción a su biología y conservación.* Montevideo: Aves Uruguay-GUPECA.
- Barattini, L. P. 1945.** Las aves de Paysandú. *Anales del Liceo Departamental de Paysandú*, 1:1-53.
- CBRO – Comitê Brasileiro de Registros Ornitológicos. 2011.** Listas das aves do Brasil. 10ª ed. www.cbro.org.br (acesso on 10 September 2012).
- Claramunt, S. & Cuello, J. P. 2004.** Diversidad de la biota uruguaya: Aves. *Anales Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropología*, 10 (6): 1-76.
- De la Peña, M. R. & Rumboll, M. 1998.** *Collins Illustrated Checklist Birds of Southern South America and Antártica.* London: Harper Collins Publishers.
- Herrmann, M. L. P & Rosa, R. 1990.** Relevo, p.59-83. In: Fundação Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística. Geografia do Brasil: Região Sul. Rio de Janeiro: IBGE.
- Marelli, C. A. 1933.** Aves observadas en el sur de la provincia de Buenos Aires. *Hornero*, 5 (2): 193-199.
- Mollo N., Luna H. & Manassero M. 2010.** Importancia ornitológica del sector santafesino de la cuenca de la laguna La Píscara. *Museo Prov. CS. Nat. Florentino Ameghino Informe Técnico*, 12: 65-68.
- Narosky, T. & Yzurieta, D. 2003.** *Guía para la identificación de las aves de Argentina y Uruguay*, 15ª ed. Buenos Aires: Vazquez Mazzini.
- Narosky, T. & Yzurieta, D. 2010.** *Aves de Argentina y Uruguay: Guía de identificación / Birds of Argentina and Uruguay: a field guide.* Buenos Aires: Vazquez Mazzini Ediciones.
- Oliveira, G. B. 2012.** [WA710229, NÃO-IDENTIFICADA] www.wikiaves.com.br/710229&p=1&t=i&u=3351 (access on 10 September de 2012).
- Tognelli, M.; Claver, S.; Videla, F. & Gonnet, J. 2001.** Los vertebrados de la Reserva de Ñacuñán, p. 85-110. In: Claver, S. & Roig-Juñent, S. (eds). *El desierto del Monte: La Reserva de Biosfera de Ñacuñán.* Córdoba: Trunfar.