

First records of Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) in Brazil

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RESUMO. Primeiros registros de *Limosa fedoa* para o Brasil. *Limosa fedoa* reproduz-se nos Estados Unidos, Canadá e Alasca, com áreas de invernagem conhecidas na costa pacífica e costa atlântica, até o México. Essa espécie é considerada um visitante incomum na costa da Venezuela, Colômbia, Equador e Chile. *Limosa fedoa* foi observada em pequenos grupos de até 10 indivíduos em várias ocasiões (janeiro e fevereiro de 2001, fevereiro de 2002 e agosto, setembro e novembro de 2003) na Ilha Canelas, litoral nordeste do Estado do Pará, Brasil. Esses são os primeiros registros da espécie para o Brasil.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Limosa fedoa*, distribuição geográfica, área de invernagem, Brasil.

KEY WORDS: *Limosa fedoa*, geographical distribution, winter range, Brazil.

The Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* is a relatively large migratory shorebird. It breeds in the northern grasslands of the U.S. and southern Canada (Steward 1975, Godfrey 1986, Janssen 1987, Semenchuk 1992, Peterson 1995, Smith 1996, Sauer *et al.* 1997). Only two small and isolated breeding populations exist along the coast of James Bay, Ontario and Quebec, and on the Alaska Peninsula (Letourneau and Morrier 1996, Andres and Browne 1998). Marbled Godwits exhibit relatively short to long-distance migrations and winter regularly on the Pacific Coast between British Columbia (Campbell *et al.* 1990) and Costa Rica/Panama (Stiles and Skutch 1989), and on the Atlantic Coast between Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993) and through Mexico to the northern coast of the Yucatán Peninsula (Howell and Webb 1995). Uncommon winter residents are also found along the coasts of Venezuela (Mercier *et al.* 1987), Colombia (Easterla and George 1970), Ecuador (Ridgely *et al.* 1998) and Chile (Araya and Chester 1993), but so far no records exist from Brazil.

Marbled Godwits were observed at high and low tides, at the intertidal of the Ilha de Canelas on the northern coast of Brazil (00°47'S, 46°43'W; Figure 1). On several occasions (Table 1), up to 10 individuals were observed with help of binoculars (10×40 and 8×32) and telescopes (20–60×80). Birds usually stayed in the open intertidal area for several hours. They were undisturbed by the approach (up to 30 m), so field marks of their winter plumage could be easily identified. Because of their frequent occurrence, the impression was received that Marbled Godwits might use the site as a regular stopover or wintering area.

Marbled Godwits preferred the sandy tidal flats and did not occur at study sites close to or within the mangrove forest

(Kober 2004). During high tide they were observed to roost on an isolated beach. On tidal flats, they spent most of their time with foraging, often associated with Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus* and other large shorebirds, preferring water covered areas for their deep probes (up to 15 cm depth). As far as prey could be identified by sight, the Godwits' diet consisted mainly of polychaetes (Kober 2004).

There is no report of this species elsewhere on the northern coast of Brazil (Rodrigues 2000). The present evidence represents an expansion of the known winter range down the Atlantic Coast of South America to the northern coast of Brazil.

Table 1. Total numbers of *Limosa fedoa* observed at high and low tide at the Ilha de Canelas, Pará, Brazil.

Date	High tide	Low tide
26 January 2001	–	2
27 January 2001	–	5
21 February 2001	–	1
22 February 2001	–	3
23 February 2001	–	1
10 February 2002	–	1
17 August 2003	5	–
14 September 2003	10	–
8 November 2003	7	–

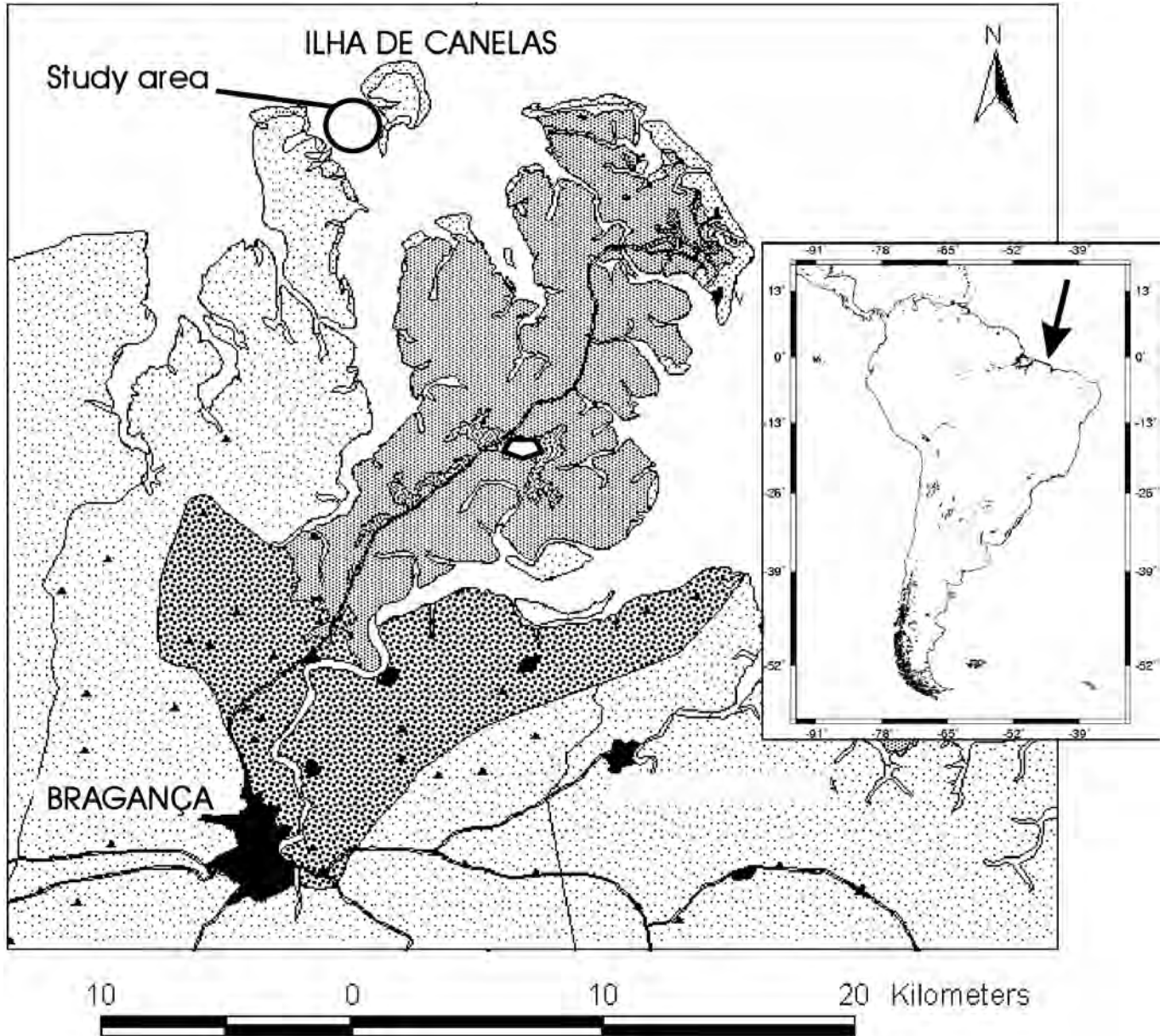


Figure 1. Intertidal of the Ilha de Canelas, Pará, Brazil (modified after Krause *et al.* 2001 and Krause *et al.* 2004)

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