

First breeding record of Minas Gerais Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes roquettei* Snethlage, 1928 in Bahia, Brazil

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RESUMO: Primeiro registro de reprodução do cara-dourada *Phylloscartes roquettei* Snethlage, 1928 na Bahia, Brasil. São apresentados os primeiros registros da reprodução do cara-dourada *Phylloscartes roquettei* no estado da Bahia. Dois ninhos ativos foram encontrados e documentados através de fotografias.

KEY-WORDS: *Phylloscartes roquettei*, Minas Gerais Tyrannulet, nesting, breeding, Bahia, Brazil.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Phylloscartes roquettei*, nidificação, reprodução, Bahia, Brasil.

Only recently recorded in the state of Bahia – see details on this volume of RBO (Santos *et al.* 2009) – Minas Gerais Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes roquettei*) remains a species rarely seen by ornithologists and birders. While guiding bird photographers in Bahia on 27/07/2009 we decided to visit one of the recently discovered sites now published in Santos *et al.* 2009; Brejinho das Ametistas – 14°18'25"S, 42°32'26"W), where a pair had been seen.

The area is a dry forest in a gully with trees up to 25 m surrounded by typical Caatinga with dense vegetation and small trees. The birds were easily found on the first minute after playing the vocalization. Apart from the typical Caatinga birds, there is also Cerrado vegetation nearby with plenty of Cerrado endemics.

This drew my attention to the region as an important place for Birdwatching (*see* Albano, *submm.*, for further details).

On 11/10/2009 I went back to the region and found a pair of Minas Gerais Tyrannulet, a canopy species, collecting some material close to the ground. After some time observing their behavior I noticed they were building a nest (Figure 1) and several times they returned close to the ground to collect spider's web (Figure 2) used to bind the nest materials. This was actively collected by the pair, usually in the same tree as the nest. It was located c.8 m above ground in a "jatoba" (*Hymenaea* sp.) and was similar in format to the one described by Kirwan *et al.* 2003. However, the material used was mainly lichen which provided great camouflage for the nest as the tree's branches are covered by these lichens (Figure 3).



FIGURE 1: Pair of Minas Gerais Tyrannulet building the nest. The second birds is inside the nest; note the tip of the tail.



FIGURE 2: Minas Gerais Tyrannulet collecting spider's web close to the ground.



FIGURE 3: Overview of the nest on the branches. The material used is mainly lichens; which provide a camouflage to the nest.

In a further visit to the area on 26/11/2009 the nest was totally destroyed but, to my surprise, I found another active nest (Figure 4) approximately 100 m away from where I found the first one (probably from the same birds as I just found one pair in the area in all the visits to the site). It was higher (c. 12 m above the ground) and the birds seemed to be incubating as they were not collecting materials and one of them was spending a long time inside it. As I was guiding I could not stay longer but on 23/12/2009 I returned and found a fledgling following and being fed several times by an adult. Again I could not stay longer and I saw just one adult feeding just one young.

Exploring similar habitats in the region I found birds in two further areas: one was a gallery forest (14°17'22"S, 42°31'51"W) just 2.5 km away to the north; and the other was in a deep gully (14°18'43"S 42°31'10"W), 2.8 km southwest from the first place. Together with the data published by Santos *et al.* (2009) this suggests that the species is not so uncommon in the region.



FIGURE 4: The second nest found on 26/11/2009.

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