

First records of *Casiornis rufus* (Vieillot, 1816) (Aves, Tyrannidae) for the state of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil

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Abstract: The Rufous Casiornis, *Casiornis rufus* (Vieillot, 1916), is widespread in central South America, reaching its southernmost distribution in northern Argentina and Uruguay. Here we present the first nine records of the species for Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brazil. The records were documented with photographs and consisted mostly of lone individuals observed in riparian forests inserted in a matrix of grasslands and rice fields. The Rufous Casiornis apparently occurs in very low densities in the region. More observations are needed to elucidate its status of occurrence in Rio Grande do Sul.

Key words: Rufous Casiornis, burly castaño, maria-ferrugem, geographical range

The Rufous Casiornis, *Casiornis rufus* (Vieillot, 1916), is widespread in central South America, occurring from northern Peru and Bolivia to central and northern Brazil, and south to the Uruguayan departments of Artigas and Rivera (Rocha 2008; Azpiroz 2012), and the Argentine provinces of Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Santa Fé and Buenos Aires (Ridgely and Tudor 1994; Scholes 2004). Northernmost records, from Peru across central Brazil to northern Amazonia, probably correspond to austral migrants (Scholes 2004). The species inhabits deciduous and gallery woodland, scrub, and riparian woodlands and thickets (Scholes 2004). In Brazil, the species is locally abundant throughout its range, which spans from Pará to northern Paraná (Sick 1997). There are no records from the southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul (Bencke et al. 2013). In this contribution, we report the first observations of the Rufous Casiornis in this state.

We present nine records based on our observations carried out in three sites in the municipality of Uruguaiana, in the western sector of Rio Grande do Sul.

The Rufous Casiornis was initially observed in the riparian forest of the Arroio Touro Passo (29°43'08" S, 056°40'33" W), on 9 January 2013, when a single individual was observed and photographed (Oliveira 2013a). In this same site, the species was also recorded on four other occasions: 2 February 2013, 23 June 2013, 12 November 2014 (Oliveira 2014b) and 14 November 2014 (Oliveira 2014a). Another record, presumably corresponding to a distinct individual, was obtained on 22 July 2013 in the riparian forest of the Rio Uruguay (Oliveira 2013b; 29°30'04" S, 056°49'44" W). On 30 September 2013, an individual was heard calling in the riparian forest of the Arroio Pindaí (29°43'54" S, 056°42'13" W). This bird was attracted with playback and photographed (Ritter 2013) (Figure 1). Previous records in this site were also obtained on 16 January 2013 and 2 July 2013. All nine records correspond to solitary individuals, except in 12 November 2014, when four were observed. In all these three locations, the individuals were in riparian forests with surrounding vegetation consisting of grasslands used for extensive livestock ranching or irrigated rice cultivation.

These are the first records of the Rufous Casiornis for Rio Grande do Sul. In neighboring Uruguay and Argentina, the species is considered rare or occasional, with a record from the austral winter (Darrieu and Camperi 1992), and the rest concentrated in the austral spring and summer (Vasco 1953; Narosky and Di Giacomo 1993; Claramunt and González 1999; Montaldo and Roitman 1999; Rocha 2008; Azpiroz 2012; Alvarez and Peralta 2013). Based on its seasonal distribution in

Uruguay and in Argentine provinces along the lower reaches of the Paraná and Uruguay rivers, the species is considered a summer visitor in this region (Rocha 2008; Olmos 2009; Azpiroz 2012). Our records suggest that the Rufous *Casiornis* occurs at very low densities in riparian forests of western Rio Grande do Sul. More observations are needed to elucidate if the July record corresponds to an overwintering individual or if the species is a resident in the state.



Figure 1. Rufous *Casiornis*, *Casiornis rufus* (Vieillot, 1916), photographed on 30 September 2013 in the riparian forest of the Arroio Pindai, municipality of Uruguaiana, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil. Photograph by F. P. Jacobs.

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