

SECOND RECORD OF *Lasiurus ega* (GERVAIS)
(MAMMALIA, CHIROPTERA, VESPERTILIONIDAE)
OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

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(With 1 figure)

Lasiurus ega (Gervais, 1856) occurs from the southwestern United States to northern Argentina and Uruguay, with the most austral record being Buenos Aires province, Argentina, at 40° S (Baker *et al.*, 1971; Barquez *et al.*, 1993; Eisenberg, 1989; Redford & Eisenberg, 1992). This species was recorded over the open south Atlantic Ocean on March 15, 1960, 335 Km from the coast of Argentina (Van Deusen, 1961). *Lasiurus ega* most often roosts in trees, generally hanging by its feet from the midrib of a leaf and occasionally by its thumbs as well (Nowak, 1994). This species commonly roosts among dead fronds of palm trees and the use of ornamental palms in the southwestern United States may have helped the bat to extend its range northward (Spencer *et al.*, 1988).

On April 9, 2002, an adult male with a forearm length of 47.05 mm and weighing 11.2 g landed at night on the seismic vessel Ramform Explorer, which was on the open seas 145 Km from Brazil's southeastern coast (Fig. 1).

Both *Lasiurus borealis* (Muller, 1776) and *L. cinereus* (Beauvois, 1796) are migratory, moving southward during the fall, and eventually

landing on ships or oceanic islands (Baker, 1956; Findley *et al.*, 1975; Griffin, 1940; Nowak, 1994). Populations of *Lasiurus seminolus* (Rhoads, 1895) can move south or enter torpor in colder months (Barbour & Davis, 1969). In the northern hemisphere, males of *L. ega* become scarce between April and June, while females are present year-round, suggesting a migratory strategy (see Kurta & Lehr, 1995). *Lasiurus ega* shows a tendency to migrate toward the Equator, as described for other species of the genus (Kurta & Lehr, 1995).

Bats that migrate along coastlines take shortcuts over water. Many North American migrant bats can be found at a distance of several kilometers from their normal destination during fall and spring migrations, probably having been blown there by wind (Constantine, 2003). Both records of *L. ega* in the Southern Hemisphere indicate movements at the end of summer and beginning of fall, supporting the theory that at least some animals migrate to avoid cold temperatures. With this second sighting, the probability that both records of this species over the South Atlantic were the result of wind has become less likely.

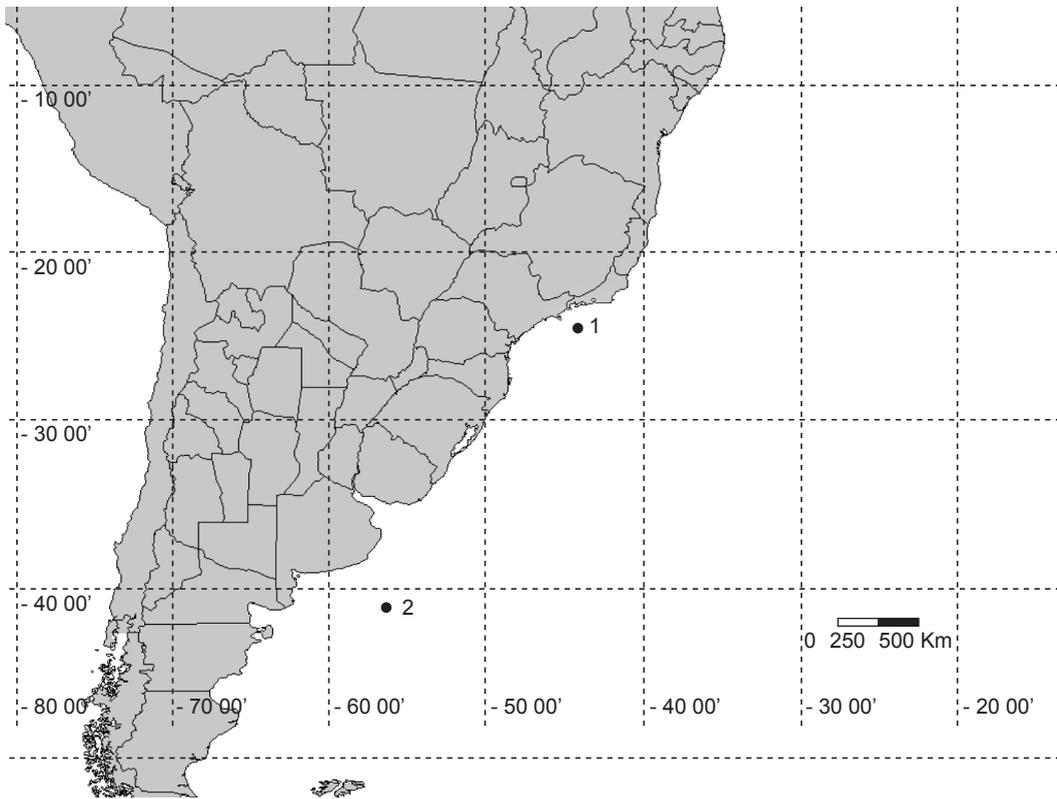


Fig. 1 — Two oceanic records of *Lasiurus ega* in South America: 1) Present work; and 2) Van Deusen (1961).

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