

**NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *JACAMARALCYON TRIDACTYLA* (VIEILLOT) (AVES, PICIFORMES, GALBULIDAE) IN AN ATLANTIC FOREST FRAGMENT, MUNICIPALITY OF ANTÔNIO DIAS (MINAS GERAIS)**

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ABSTRACT. A new occurrence for *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* (Vieillot, 1817) for the state of Minas Gerais is registered here. Some remarks about the species behavior are also included and compared with the sympatric species *Galbula ruficauda* Curvier, 1816.

KEY WORDS. Aves, *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla*, *Galbula ruficauda*, behavior, distribution. Atlantic rain forest, Brazil

*Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* (Vieillot, 1817) is one of the Brazilian bird species considered to be threatened with extinction (BERNARDES *et al.* 1990), and there is an urgent need for studies on its current status (COLLAR *et al.* 1992). It is endemic to the Atlantic forest, occurring in the states of Bahia (the existing records are not precise), Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo, south to the state of Paraná (MEYER DE SCHAUENSEE 1970; SICK 1985; COLLAR *et al.* 1992). The species was located in the state of Minas Gerais during ornithological inventories in the municipality of Antônio Dias, in the region of the Rio Doce, 19°40'S and 42°55'W. The area where it was recorded (Fig. 1) belongs to the Companhia Siderúrgica Belgo-Mineira (CSBM) and is eucalyptus monoculture along with small patches of secondary Atlantic forest remnants.

## RESULTS

The first record of *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* was in August 1991, when just one individual was seen. During a second trip in November, however, eight individuals were recorded in two groups (four per group), about four kilometers

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apart. These two groups were found in the natural vegetation between eucalyptus plantations. In both locations, the individuals were observed hunting in pairs, and there was a clear alternation of these possible couples during the hunting period. When the individuals succeeded in capturing an insect, they would then fly to the hollows located in a slope, and perch on a nearby branch. This short stop, which enabled the identification of the prey, was apparently made so that they could break the insect's chitinous body.

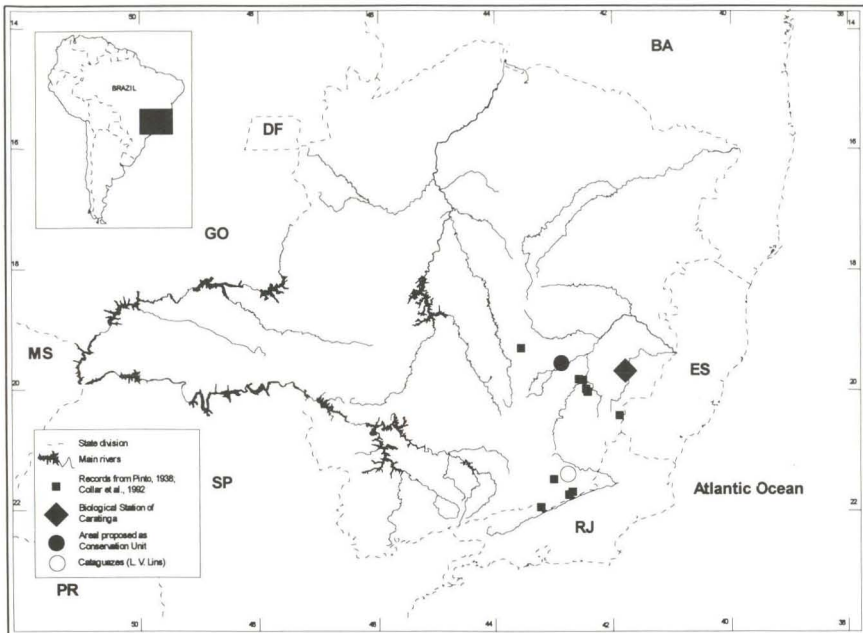


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* (Vieillot, 1817) in Minas Gerais. Squares are following PINTO (1938) and COLLAR *et al.* (1992). Circles are new occurrences. The lozenge is the Biological Station of Caratinga.

While one individual was hunting, a second would remain near the perch, or inside the hollow or otherwise nearby. The other two individuals were always separated from the first pair, but hunting in a similar fashion. Despite the existence of groups of four individuals, the pairs were always separate. The prey items which could be identified included two species of Lepidoptera, one species of Hymenoptera, one species of Odonata, and two species of Orthoptera. As the prey were frequently carried to the hollows, it was suspected the presence of nestlings. Their behavior change when there was any movement near the slope. In this situation, the individuals stayed near the hollows, in an alert position, until there were nobody nearby. It was decided not to disturb the nests, limiting the activities only to the observation of the adults. According to SICK (1985), the presence of numerous hollows in the slope, may be a way of misguiding the predators.

*Galbula ruficauda* Cuvier, 1816, was also registered in the area. This second member of the Galbulidae was found hunting nearby, in the same manner as *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla*; that is from a perch. This species, however, hunted below *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* up to near four meters.

## DISCUSSION

As it has been recorded *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* at only two sites, it is possible that the existing eucalyptus plantation represents a barrier for the local dispersion of this species. *Galbula ruficauda*, on the other hand, was recorded in many patches of eucalyptus, always alongside access roads. There is a recent record for the municipality of Cataguazes (Fig. 1) (L.V. Lins, personal communication) and for the Caratinga Biological Station (EBC), municipality of Caratinga. In this latter, *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* was also recorded, in a site similar to the one found in Antônio Dias, in 1983 by N.E. Carnevalli, (personal communication). However, despite successive visits by R.B. Machado and L.M.S. Aguiar since 1986, it has not been recorded. *Galbula ruficauda* is easily observable in this area. As the EBC is the only place where the species could be found under some kind of protection (COLLAR *et al.* 1992), it has been proposed that the CSBM create a Private Natural Heritage Reserve (Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural - RPPN) a protected area category of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment (Ibama) in an area of about 400 ha on the banks of the Rio Piracicaba. Besides this, measures for the recuperation of the vegetation patches existing between the two points where *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* was observed are recommended. By registering this new occurrence, it is hoped for calling attention to the lack of basic research on the geographical distributions, not only of bird species, but other animals, which is so important in the face of the constant and drastic environmental changes suffered by the entire Atlantic forest ecosystem.

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