

ESTE TRABAJO FUE REVISADO POR PARES Y POR UN COMITÉ CIENTÍFICO, Y HA SIDO ACEPTADO PARA SU PUBLICACIÓN EN LA REVISTA NUESTRAS AVES. SIN EMBARGO, AÚN NO HA SIDO MODIFICADO PARA SU PUBLICACIÓN FINAL, POR LO QUE ESTA VERSIÓN Y LA FINAL PODRÍAN NO SER IGUALES.

# FIRST RECORD OF THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*) IN THE URUGUAYAN SAVANNA ECOREGION, RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL

PRIMER REGISTRO DE AGUILUCHO ALAS ANCHAS (*Buteo platypterus*) PARA LA ECORREGIÓN DE LA SABANA URUGUAYA, RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRASIL

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**ABSTRACT:** The extreme south of the South American continent has few records of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), a migrant from North America that winters mainly in Central America and northwestern South America. Here, we report the first record of this species in the Uruguayan Savanna ecoregion, which represents the southernmost occurrence in Brazilian territory to date. The population growth of the Broad-winged Hawk and its association with the migration of Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) could potentially be linked to the species' occurrence in this region.

**KEYWORDS:** *geographic distribution, migration, Pampa biome, raptors, wintering*

**RESUMEN:** El extremo sur del continente americano posee pocos registros del Aguilucho Alas Anchas (*Buteo platypterus*), un migrante originario de América del Norte que inverna principalmente en América Central y en el noroeste de América del Sur. Reportamos el primer registro de la especie para la ecorregión de la Sabana Uruguaya, el más austral en territorio brasileño hasta el momento. El crecimiento poblacional del Aguilucho Alas Anchas y su migración junto con el Aguilucho Langostero (*Buteo swainsoni*) podrían estar potencialmente vinculados a la ocurrencia de la especie en esta región.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** *bioma Pampa, distribución geográfica, invernada, migración, rapaces*

The Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) or Aguilucho Alas Anchas in Spanish, is a fully migratory raptor that breeds in North America and winters primarily in Central America and northwestern South America (Bildstein 2004; Goodrich & Smith 2008). In Brazil, records are frequent only in the Amazon region, which forms part of its known wintering range (Meller & Bencke 2012; eBird 2025; WikiAves 2025). Outside this region, the species has widely scattered but scarce records across all regions of Brazil, except

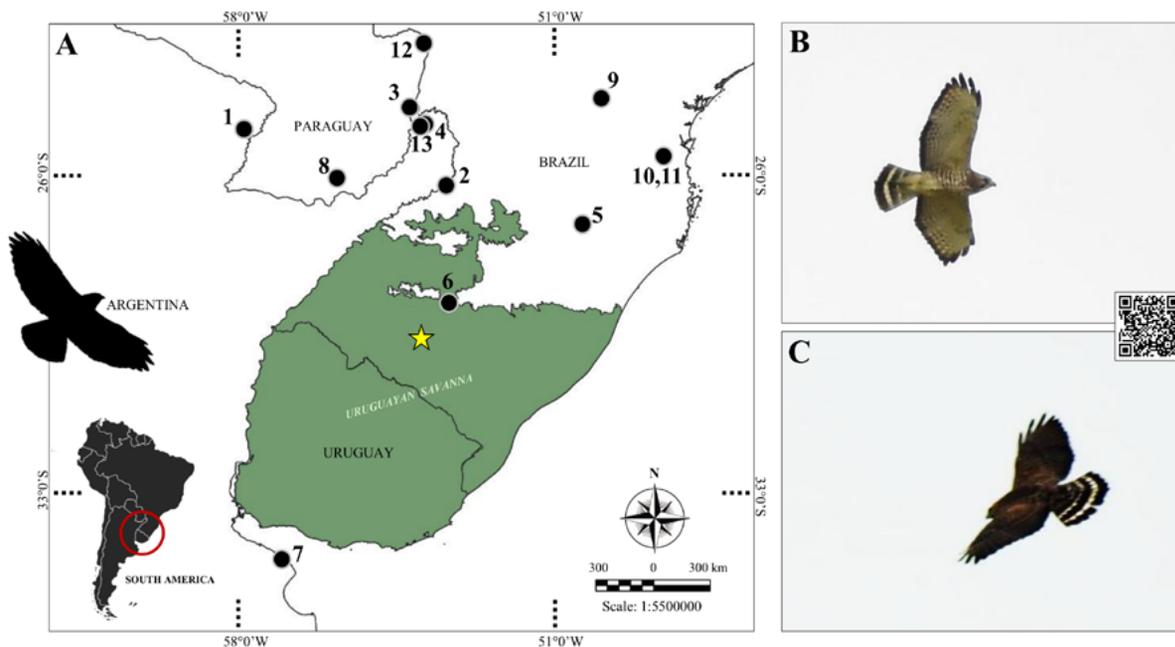
for most of the Northeast (Meller & Bencke 2012; Kilpp et al. 2018; Willrich & Joenck 2019; eBird 2025; WikiAves 2025). In southern Brazil, records have been restricted to Atlantic Forest areas (Meller & Bencke 2012; Willrich & Joenck 2019), whereas in Argentina the species has also been recorded in other biomes, such as the Chaco and, more recently, the Pampas (Klavins et al. 2012; Monllor & Chiurla 2020).

The Broad-winged Hawk is a small, stocky raptor with brown upperparts. The head shows subtle brown

and white streaking, while the underparts are creamy white and densely streaked with brown. In ventral view, the dark wing edges contrast with the pale coverts. The tail is black with two white bands, the distal one being broader. Juveniles resemble adults but show pale spots on the back, a pale supercilium, a lighter tail with more bands, a pale belly with brown spots, and less contrasting wing edges (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). Here, we report the first record of the Broad-winged Hawk in the Uruguayan Savanna ecoregion, which covers the entirety of Uruguay and most of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, with predominantly grassland and shrubland vegetation, and forest mainly along rivers or in fragments (Olson et al. 2001). We also provide a compilation of the nearest known records to date (Table 1) based on records published in scientific papers, as well as on those available on citizen science platforms. As for the latter, we retrieved data from eBird (2025), WikiAves (2025), iNaturalist (2025), and EcoRegistros (2025), and considered only those records that were accompanied by photographs that could be used to confirm

that the species identification was correct. The area considered in this compilation encompasses the southern regions of Brazil and Paraguay, as well as northeastern and east-central Argentina. Even though Uruguay is included in the map (Fig. 1), no records of the Broad-winged Hawk have been reported to date for that country.

An adult individual (Fig. 1) was observed on January 3rd, 2024, at 08:29h in the district of Vacacaí, a rural area of the municipality of São Gabriel, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (30°25'S, 54°22'W). The bird took flight from a well-developed forest stand composed of *Eucalyptus* sp. plantations interspersed with smaller patches of native forest. After briefly gliding over the forest edge, it flew across a rice paddy toward a landscape consisting of an extensive stretch (>1 km) of riparian forest along the Vacacaí River, soybean and rice fields, and smaller patches of native grassland. This constitutes the southernmost record of the Broad-winged Hawk in Brazilian territory and one of the few documented for the Pampa biome,



**Figure 1.** A - Location of Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) records, based on the data in Table 1. The yellow star marks the record reported in this study (N°14 in Table 1), located within the Uruguayan Savanna ecoregion (shown in green). B - Adult Broad-winged Hawk observed in the municipality of São Gabriel, southern Brazil, on 3 January 2024. Photograph: Dias JP. C - Same individual as in panel B, showing the dorsal plumage pattern. Photograph: Marques LL. The QR code links to the Instagram page of the “Rapinantes do Pampa” research project.

**Figura 1.** A - Localización de los registros de Aguilucho Alas Anchas (*Buteo platypterus*), basada en los datos de la Tabla 1. La estrella amarilla indica el registro reportado en este estudio (N°14 en Tabla 1), ubicado dentro de la ecorregión de la Sabana Uruguaya (mostrada en verde). B - Aguilucho Alas Anchas adulto observado en el municipio de São Gabriel, sur de Brasil, el 3 de enero de 2024. Fotografía: Dias JP. C - Mismo individuo que en el panel B, mostrando el patrón del plumaje dorsal. Fotografía: Marques LL. El código QR enlaza a la página de Instagram del proyecto de investigación “Rapinantes do Pampa”.

being the first for the Uruguayan Savanna ecoregion. Although the individual may be considered a vagrant, an alternative hypothesis is that the presence of the Broad-winged Hawk at the site is related to its migratory movements. The occurrence of Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) at the same location, a species that has been reported to occasionally migrate jointly with the Broad-winged Hawks, could support this hypothesis (Andrle 1968; Bildstein & Saborio 2000; Nijman 2018; Castro-Vargas et al. 2020; Dias 2024). Although the Uruguayan Savanna is markedly different from the extensive forest habitats where Broad-winged Hawks typically winter, it does contain smaller forested habitats, which the species also occasionally uses in North America (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). Furthermore, the species' increasing population trend (BirdLife International 2024) may be contributing to an expansion of its wintering range, allowing it to reach new areas in South America.

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**Table 1.** Published records of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) from southern regions of Brazil and Paraguay, and northeastern and east-central Argentina.

**Tabla 1.** Registros publicados del Aguilucho Alas Anchas (*Buteo platypterus*) em regiones del sur de Brasil y Paraguay, y del noreste y centro-este de Argentina.

Nº	Reference	Country	Municipality	Locality	Ecosystem	Biome	Coordinates	Year
1	Klavins et al. (2012)	Argentina	Formosa	La Estancia Guay-colec	Humid Chaco	Great Chaco	25°59'S 58°11'W	2010
2	Meller & Bencke (2012)	Brazil	Derrubadas	Turvo State Park	Seasonal Deciduous Forest	Atlantic Forest	27°11'S 53°50'W	2010
3	WikiAves: Pegoraro (2013)	Brazil	Foz do Iguaçu	Iguaçu National Park	Seasonal Deciduous Forest	Atlantic Forest	25°36'S 54°25'W	2013
4	Killp et al (2018)	Argentina	Puerto Iguazú	Iguazú National Park	Seasonal Deciduous Forest	Atlantic Forest	25°52'S 54°13'W	2014
5	Willrich & Joenck (2019)	Brazil	Campo Belo do Sul	Private Natural Heritage Reserve EEF	Araucaria Moist Forest	Atlantic Forest	28°00'S 50°53'W	2012
6	Willrich & Joenck (2019)	Brazil	Santa Maria	near Itaara	Seasonal Deciduous Forest	Atlantic Forest	29°40'S 53°46'W	2019
7	eBird: Eroles (2019)	Argentina	Magdalena	El Destino Natural Reserve	Talares	Pampas	35°07'S 57°23'W	2019
8	Paredes et al. (2020)	Paraguay	General Artigas	Chopi Sa'yju Nature Reserve	Grasslands	Mesopotamian grasslands	27°03'S 56°10'W	2020
9	WikiAves: Geros (2021)	Brazil	Teixeira Soares	Araucarias Biological Reserve	Araucaria Moist Forest	Atlantic Forest	25°15'S 50°29'W	2021
10, 11	WikiAves: Roberti (2022, 2023)	Brazil	Jaraguá do Sul	Malwee Park	Ombrophilous Dense Forest	Atlantic Forest	26°30'S 49°07'W	2022; 2023
12	eBird: Rios et al. (2023)	Paraguay	Salto del Guairá	Mbaracayú Binational Biological Refuge	Seasonal Deciduous Forest	Atlantic Forest	24°03'S 54°17'W	2023
13	eBird: Llorens & Hoare (2024)	Argentina	Puerto Iguazú	Iguazú National Park	Seasonal Deciduous Forest	Atlantic Forest	25°42'S 54°26'W	2024
14	This study	Brazil	São Gabriel	Vacacai district	Uruguayan Savanna	Pampas	30°26'S 54°22'W	2024

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