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Two unreported specimens of Ochre-breasted Pipit *Anthus nattereri* from a new Brazilian locality

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Ochre-breasted Pipit *Anthus nattereri* is a rare species of grassland and open, low *cerrado* in southern Brazil, eastern Paraguay and north-east Argentina (Collar *et al.* 1992, Ridgely & Tudor 1989). BirdLife International (2000) classified the species as Vulnerable because of range reduction associated with habitat destruction and changes in fire and grazing regimes (see Parker & Willis 1997). Collar *et al.* (1992) listed just 18 historical localities in Brazil for this pipit, although recent research has yielded a few additional sites (e.g. Silveira 1998).

We describe here two unreported male specimens from the bird collection of the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Chicago, USA, collected by Emmet R.

Blake in November 1937 and previously mislabeled as Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri*.

We found the diagnostic characters mentioned by Hellmayr (1921, 1935) in both specimens (FMNH 110977 and FMNH 110979). The feet have a long posterior toe and a long, relatively flat posterior claw. The toe and claw combined measure 26 mm and 28 mm in the two males. The bills lack the dark tip of *hellmayri* and the tail shapes are different. Both specimens have a yellowish-ochre coloration to the head and breast, typical of *nattereri*, but this is a less obvious character.

The collection locality is Fazenda Morungaba, Paraná state, Brazil, at an elevation of 600 m. According to Paynter & Traylor (1991) the coordinates of this fazenda are 24°10'N, 49°20'W. Blake also collected five specimens of Hellmayr's Pipit *Anthus hellmayri* at Fazenda Morungaba in the same period. These specimens are referable to the subspecies *brasilianus* (see Voelker 1999 for the probable specific status of this form). *A. nattereri* and *A. hellmayri brasilianus* occur sympatrically at other sites in Brazil and Argentina (Silveira 1998, Fraga 2001).

According to F. C. Straube (pers. comm.), there are no specimens of *A. nattereri* in the main ornithological collection of Paraná state (Museu de Historia Natural Capão da Imbuia). Collar *et al.* (1992) listed only two previous localities for *A. nattereri* from Paraná, based on specimens taken in 1907 and 1922 at Fazenda Monte Alegre and Invernadinha. These two localities (plus our own) cover a linear distance of c.255 km across the eastern highlands of the state, with an elevational range of 600–1,065 m, where a mosaic of grasslands and forest is a conspicuous landscape feature. The highlands of eastern Paraná still possess extensive areas of native grassland (*campos gerais*) that could support this pipit, and visiting ornithologists are advised to search for the species. The months of all the Paraná specimens (May, August and November) suggest its residency there, as reported elsewhere for this pipit (e.g. Fraga 2001). The specimens reported here augment our scant information on the former distribution and history of the species.

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A new genus for the Mongolian Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus* (Swinhoe, 1870)

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The so-called ‘desert finches’ represent a generally recognised, if only broadly aligned, grouping of four species found in the Western Palearctic and Western and Central Asia. They are: Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys sanguineus* (Gould, 1838) of north-west Africa (*R. s. alienus* Whitaker, 1897) and Turkey and the Levant east to Central Asia (*R. s. sanguineus*); Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta* (Lichtenstein, 1823) in the Levant east to Inner Mongolia (monotypic); and the two species of ‘trumpeter’ finches, Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* (Lichtenstein, 1823), which comprises four subspecies found discontinuously from the Canaries to Central Asia and north-west India, and Mongolian (Trumpeter) Finch *B. mongolicus* (Swinhoe, 1870) of Turkey east to western China (monotypic). The genera *Rhodopechys* Cabanis, 1851, and *Rhodospiza* Sharpe, 1888, are rarely challenged in the most-modern literature (the use of all three genera was first widely promulgated by Hartert & Steinbacher 1938), although Desert Finch, the sole representative of the latter genus is sometimes regarded as a constituent of *Rhodopechys* (see below). Of particular debate is the generic assignment of the other two species, which is further discussed here. It has recently been suggested that *Rhodopechys sanguineus alienus* might represent a phylogenetic species, distinct from nominate *sanguineus* (Fry & Keith 2004). As is partially visible in the accompanying photos, the two are rather distinct in adult male plumage and GMK, at least, favours the theory that the two are probably allospecies (Kirwan &