

New record and geographic expansion of *Vanellus chilensis* in the State of Amazonas, Brazil

David Pedroza Guimarães¹, Ana Caroline Gomes de Lima² & Diego Pedroza^{3*}

The Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis* (Molina, 1782) (Aves: Charadriidae), is one of the most cherished birds in farms throughout South America.

The species originally inhabited field areas with muddy land or the banks of rivers and lakes^{1,2}. *Vanellus chilensis* has expanded slowly in the last four decades, following the deforestation and consequent conversion of forest areas in Brazil to open fields. Currently, *V. chilensis* occurs in great abundance in all biomes in the country and has become an indicator of environmental degradation. Nonetheless, the Southern Lapwing plays an important role in the biological control of insects, their main food source, and is thus very advantageous in pastures and other open areas³.

The species can be found from Central America to Tierra del Fuego in South America¹. It is widespread in Brazil^{1,4,5,6,7}, with exception of the state of Amazonas, for which there are only sporadic observations in the municipalities of Careiro da Várzea, Humaitá, Manacapuru, Manaquiri, Manaus, Manicoré, Parintins and Silves (Figure 2)^{6,7,8}. Although the species has been registered inhabiting different locations in the lower Amazon River region⁹, there are no records of the species for the mid and upper Amazon River region.

On July 27, 2015, during an ornithological inventory in the rural area of the municipality of Tefé, Amazonas state, we spotted a group of five individuals at kilometer 3 along the Emade road (3°25'54.84"S,



Figure 1: *Vanellus chilensis*, recorded at kilometer 3 of the Emade road, municipality of Tefé, Amazonas State, upper-mid Amazon River region in Brazil on July 27, 2015 (Credits: David Pedroza Guimarães).

64°42'41.4"W; Figure 1). The area was a cattle grazing ground where the birds foraged on the ground. The five individuals were observed for 15 minutes before they flew approximately 30 meters.

The most up-to-date distribution maps of the species (Sigrist 2008, Sigrist 2014, Birdlife International 2015, IUCN 2015)^{4,5,6,7}, do not include the upper-mid Amazon River region (Figure 2). Here we register a new record for *V. chilensis* in the upper-mid Amazon River region in Brazil, representing an expansion of the species distribution for the state of Amazonas. It is possible that the species is following the main river courses in search of favorable environmental conditions for its establishment. As such, we suggest a revision of the distribution of *Vanellus chilensis* in the mid and upper Amazon River region.

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¹ Amazonas State University, Higher Education Center in Tefé, UEA/CEST.

²Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development, Technology Training Center, IDSM/CVT.

³Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development, Land Vertebrate Ecology Group, IDSM/ECOVERT.

*Corresponding author: diego.guima1@hotmail.com.

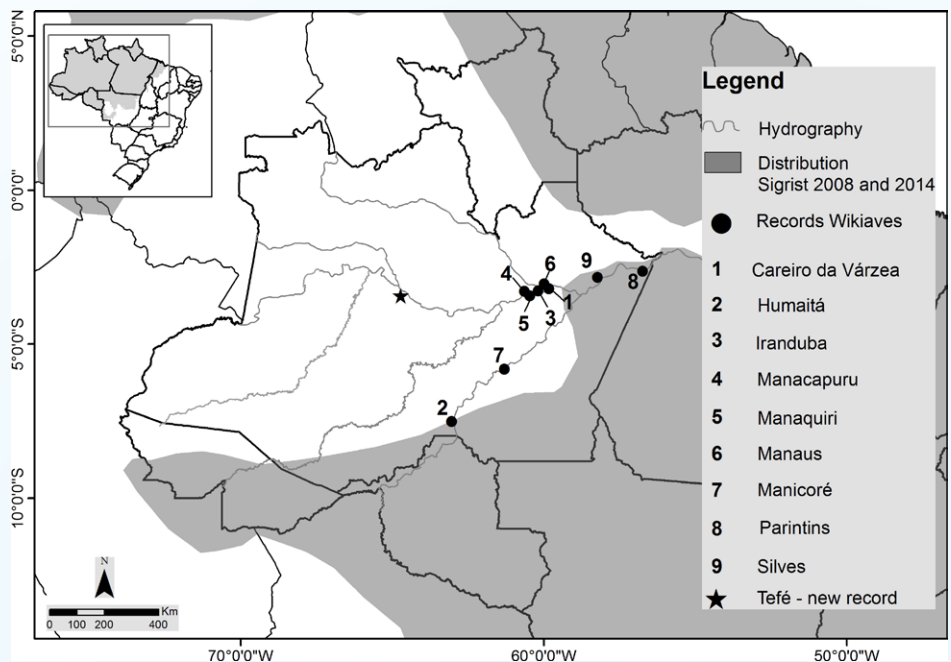


Figure 2: Distribution of *Vanellus chilensis* according to Sigrist 2008 and 2014, with the new WikiAves observations as of 2015. The star indicates the new observation for the species described herein at the municipality of Tefé, upper-mid Amazon River region (Credits: Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development).