

First record of Mottled Owl *Strix virgata* for Goiás, central Brazil

On 3 April 2015, a Mottled Owl was captured in a mist-net at the 'Rio Quente Resorts', municipality of Rio Quente, Goiás (17°44'47"S 48°44'58"W; 660 m), the first record for the state (Fig. 1). The bird was caught in a gallery forest near the Serra de Caldas Novas State Park. The nearest record of the species is in Brasília, Distrito Federal, c.350 km distant².

In Brazil, *S. virgata* is distributed in the Atlantic Forest and Amazonia⁴, in primary and secondary humid forests, drier woodland, thorn forests, gallery forests and plantations, often near habitation⁵. Probably, our record may be explained by the occurrence of Atlantic Forest species in southern Goiás¹. It is probable that the subspecies involved was *S. v. borelliana*³. This record significantly expands the species' known range in central Brazil and demonstrates the continued probability of making

novel ornithological discoveries in the Cerrado biome.

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Figure 1. Mottled Owl *Strix virgata*, municipality of Rio Quente, Goiás, Brazil, April 2015 (Crizanto Brito De-Carvalho)