**The first record of the Uniform-Finch (*Haplospiza unicolor* Cabanis, 1851) in the Cerrado and Center-West of Brazil**

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The Uniform Finch (*Haplospiza unicolor*) is an endemic bird of the Atlantic Forest, found in almost every state of southeastern and northeastern Brazil (da Cunha, 2012). This bird is commonly seen in areas with bamboo, particularly in forests where the *Chusquea sp.* genus, a species abundant in the Neotropics, grows in the understory (Young, 1991; Fisher et al., 2014).

On July 1st, 2024, we spotted the Uniform-Finch (*Haplospiza unicolor* Cabanis, 1851) for the first time in the Brazilian savanna, also known as Cerrado, in the Center-West of the country. The bird was sighted at a private waterfall called “Cachoeira da Fazenda Loquinhas” (latitude: -14.1440633, longitude: -47.48816). This area covers a 2.2 km loop and consists mainly of gallery forests and rupestrian woody fields, with elevations ranging from 1200 meters to 1300 meters.

The register happened at approximately 7:30 am. The Uniform Finch individuals were initially identified by their call. We estimated that there were around four to five individuals vocalizing in a gallery forest situated in a valley with a narrow stream. The area is characterized by tall trees and a few bamboos on the slope (latitude: -14.144166, longitude: -47.483497). After identifying the call, we used playback recordings from eBird and Wikiaves (a Brazilian bird database) to lure the birds, which replied and approached after a few minutes. This species has been recorded only on the coast of the tropical and ombrophile Atlantic Forest, far away from the dry and open forest of Cerrado. The bird was observed using binoculars, audio recordings, and telephoto cameras (all the images and additional details are available on the GitHub repository:). The bird was identified with the assistance of the bird guide João Salvador (CRBIO: 113624/01-D). Photos were taken for further identification and are displayed in Figure 1. We also recorded the bird's call and made it available on eBird along with the pictures (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S184727948>).

The occurrence and records data displayed in Figure 2 comprise the data available on *iNaturalist*, *Integrated Digitized Biocollections* (iDigBio), *VertNet*, and *Global Biodiversity Information Facility* (gbif – which also includes data from eBird prior to our upload to its database). We downloaded the available occurrence data using the package “*spocc*” in R software (Owens et al., 2024; R Core Team, 2024). Within the acquired occurrences, three were outside the natural occurrence range, which were manually checked and happened to be stored in museum collections located in the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso and Manaus, and one specimen was located in Bolivia. Although the distribution points seem to be sparse, this species' occurrence was originally restricted to the coast of the Atlantic Forest, and many specimens were placed in museums along the southern and southern regions of Brazil as well as in museum collections located in Paraguay and Argentina countries.

Given that this live record is isolated from the others we acquired, we calculated the distance of this record in regard to the current bird distribution available on databases. Using the function *Near* available on ArcGIS Pro (REF) we calculated the mean distance among all recorded points and the closest distance of the new record. On average, each available record (9,964 points) is 0.814km apart from each other, while the new record is 679,43km on average apart from the other points (calculated by including data from all sources).

A collage of a bird on a branch

Description automatically generated

**Figure 1.** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A map of brazil with a map of the country

Description automatically generated

**Figure 2. XXXXXXXXXXXXX**

It could be a case of an isolated population of Uniform-Finch, as the Atlantic Forest biome's original range used to cover part of the Center-West of Brazil (Vancine et al., 2024). This may comprise an ecotone or transition between the Atlantic Forest and Cerrado (REF). The Atlantic Forest has lost XX% of its original cover, and the remnants are mostly composed of isolated and small patches of forest.

**References**

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