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Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, new to Ivory Coast

Mead and Clark (1993) have published details of a Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, ringed as a bird of the year (EURING age code 3) on Bardsey Island, off Aberdaron, Gwynedd, Wales (52°46'N, 4°48'W), on 8 September 1989, which was recovered dead at Grand Lahou, Ivory Coast (5°9'N, 50°1'W), in or before August 1991. This appears to be the first record for Ivory Coast: the species is not listed by Thiollay (1986), nor in the update by Demey & Fishpool (1991). The only record for neighbouring Ghana is also from a recovery of a British-ringed bird (Grimes 1987); there are more records from Liberia, where the Manx Shearwater is considered uncommon but not rare (Gatter 1988).

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An unusual record of Fulvous Tree-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* breeding in the Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands, northeastern Nigeria

During a routine bird survey on 27 January 1990, a female Fulvous Tree-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* with a downy duckling was encountered in a partially vegetated portion of Nguru lake (12°50'N, 10°26'E). Instead of flying away from the boat, which was within 8 m of the birds, the hen engaged in vigorous distraction displays while the duckling escaped into a nearby reed bed. The hen swam in very tight circles, flapped its wings, swam to within 5 m of the boat and then veered away in an apparent attempt to lure the observers away. Its continued display even after its young was safe in the reed bed made the team curious, and we scrutinised the surroundings more closely. It was then that another duckling which had been caught in a nearby fishing net was sighted. As the team removed the duckling from the net, the duck stopped displaying and flew

into the reed bed. The trapped duckling was in good condition, was completely downy and its age was estimated to be about seven days.

The month of this observation falls outside the reported breeding period of this species in Nigeria, which is July-September (Serle cited by Elgood 1981, Brown *et al.* 1982, Madge & Burn 1989). This observation of downy ducklings in late January, which implies laying in December (assuming an incubation period of about three weeks), is apparently unusual for Nigeria. However, in Senegal, which lies in the same sahelian ecological zone as northeastern Nigeria, breeding activities of birds in breeding condition have been reported for the months of January-June, as well as in September and November (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1970, Morel & Morel 1990), prompting a suggestion that breeding in this species may be aseasonal and opportunistic in Senegambia (Morel & Morel 1990, G.J. Morel *in litt.*). Although this record might suggest that aseasonal breeding occurs in a wider geographical area, including Nigeria, it might otherwise result from a very late reneesting after unsuccessful previous attempts.

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Albinism in Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

On 28 January 1990 in the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands in northeastern Nigeria, I observed a complete albino Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* among a flock of about 120 normal conspecifics in a *sadama* (flood-retreat marshland) near Dunbari. The head, neck and breast were dirty white in colour probably due to foraging in muddy water, but