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***Cinnyris chloropygia* Olive-bellied Sunbird.** This could have been a mis-identification of a male (lacking tail streamers) Beautiful Sunbird *C. pulchella*, which was common in the area, and should therefore be omitted.

***Vidua wilsoni* Wilson's Indigobird.** One male in full breeding plumage was observed closely and at length on the ground outside the hut where I lived. It resembled a Village Indigobird *V. chalybeata* except that its legs appeared light grey, and it was in the company of three Bar-breasted Firefinches *Lagonosticta rufopicta*, the specific host of Wilson's Indigobird (Barlow *et al.* 1999). It was unlike Baka Indigobird *V. larvaticola* and Quailfinch Indigobird *V. nigeriae* in lacking any greenish tinge to the plumage, and these parasitise Black-faced Firefinch *L. larvata* and Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis* respectively (Borrow & Demey 2001), species that were not recorded in the area. However, no attention was given to the presence of a pale wing panel or purplish sheen to the plumage consistent with *V. wilsoni*, which remains unconfirmed in The Gambia. Cameroon Indigobird *V. camerunensis*, which parasitises various species and might occur in The Gambia (Borrow & Demey 2001), could not be eliminated, so this record remains tentative. Further field work in the area is recommended, to establish vocal mimicry of *L. rufopicta* by indigobirds at the site.

From the above corrections, three species are omitted from the list in Ballantyne (2006), making the total number of species observed in Nyassang 110 and therefore the predicted bird diversity figure for the park now stands at *c.* 285 species.

I thank Clive Barlow for drawing these records to my attention as unusual for the region, and him and Tim Wacher for help in compiling this note.

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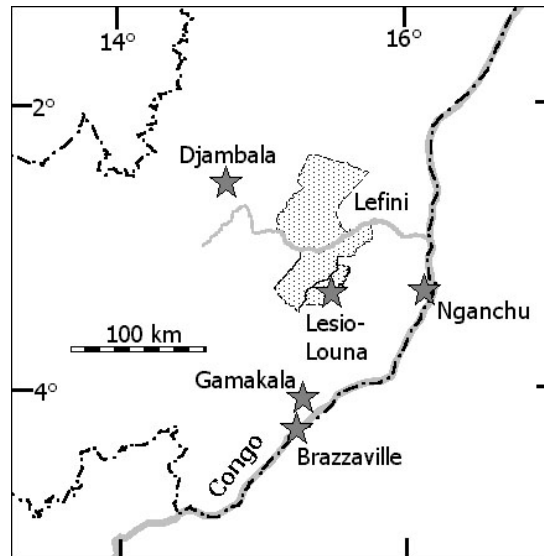
Received 15 November 2006; revised 12 December 2006

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#### Brazza's Martin *Phedina brazzae* in the Lesio-Louna Reserve, Congo Republic

Brazza's Martin *Phedina brazzae* is a rarely-recorded species, endemic to the Congo basin. It has been recorded on the banks of the Congo River, in the general region of

Brazzaville and Kinshasa, and adjacent savanna woodlands in the Congo Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo, south to Angola (Fry *et al.* 1992, Turner 2004). There is also one probable sighting in SE Gabon (Lekoni: F. Dowsett-Lemaire *in litt.*, Borrow & Demey 2001). In Congo Republic it is known only from four old records (Fig. 1; Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 1989, Dowsett 1991): the type locality, Nganchu near Kwamouth on the Congo River (Oustalet 1886 *in* Chapin 1953, Malbrant & Maclatchy 1949), Jul 1884; not rare along the Congo River at Brazzaville, 1955–7 (Salvan 1972); one female collected and four pairs noted around a rocky escarpment on the side of a valley at Djambala, 1 Nov 1959 (Rand *et al.* 1959); one netted at a small pond at Gamakala, 30 km north of Brazzaville, 30 Sep 1962 (Salvan 1972). Here I report the first observation of *P. brazzae* in the Lesio-Louna Reserve, Congo (Fig 1; see also Dowsett-Lemaire 1997, King *et al.* 2004).



**Figure 1.** Locations of published observations of Brazza's Martin *Phedina brazzae* in Congo (stars), and other localities mentioned in the text.

I observed a single *P. brazzae* during the late afternoon on 20 Jun 2005, from a rocky outcrop near the village of Mâh, on a sandy, lightly wooded savanna ridge overlooking Lac Bleu (3°20'S, 15°28'E). The brown upperparts and streaky underparts characteristic of *P. brazzae* were clearly seen on several occasions, with good light from the evening sun and from a distance of 15–30 m. It appeared to be hawking for insects along the ridge, along with small numbers of Lesser Striped

Swallows *Hirundo abyssinica* and Rock Martins *H. fuligula*. A single Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* was also recorded.

Little is known of the biology of *P. brazzae*. Chapin (1953) gave observations made by missionaries in DRC from 1922 to 1951, including that the species is usually seen near rivers, that it feeds like a small *Riparia*, that it nests during the dry season (c. Jun–Oct) in tunnels like those of *Riparia*, along sandy banks of rivers and a drainage ditch, that flocks have been observed in November, and when non-breeding it commonly forages with *H. abyssinica*. Salvan (1972) noted it flying often in a manner similar to *Riparia riparia*.

The Lesio-Louna observation was not made especially close to a river. Although Lac Bleu is 1.5 km from the site of the observation, and the small forested Lesio River 4.5 km, the species has not yet been reported from either of these relatively well-frequented sites. Neither have I observed it during 37 trips along the larger and sandier forested Louna River, in the final 25 km above its confluence with the Lefini River, or during 15 trips along the much larger Lefini River between its confluence with the Louna and the village of Mbouambé-Lefini, or during 21 generally shorter trips along the Lefini River upstream of its confluence with the Louna (all trips made between Jan 2003 and Feb 2006). This lack of records suggests that the observation reported here was of a non-breeding wanderer. This is supported by its association with other hirundines, in particular *H. abyssinica*, as Chapin (1953) noted for non-breeding birds in DRC. There are still no breeding records for Congo Republic. Dowsett-Lemaire (1997) recommended searching for the species in suitable habitats between the Congo River and Djambala. This would be particularly useful during the Jun–Sep dry season (King *et al.* 2004), to try to establish whether or not it breeds in Congo. Further observations along the Congo River, including at Brazzaville where the species was apparently “not rare” 1955–7 (Salvan 1972), would also help establish any seasonality in presence in Congo.

I thank the Ministère de l’Economie Forestière et de l’Environnement of the Congo Republic, and the John Aspinall Foundation (U.K.), for their long-term support of the joint management project for the Lesio-Louna Reserve. Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire provided constructive comments on the text, and Robert Prys-Jones and the staff of the British Museum (Natural History) at Tring were very helpful during the literature review.

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Received 27 June 2006

Revised 23 November 2006

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