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Roine Strandberg[1] & Patrik Olofsson[2]
[1]Department of Animal Ecology, Lund University, SE-22362 Lund, Sweden.
<roine.strandberg@zooekol.lu.se>
[2]Furubodavägen 73, SE-29692 Yngsjö, Sweden.

No confirmed record of Black-backed Cisticola *Cisticola eximius* from Benin

During a visit to the Pendjari National Park, Benin, small cisticolas with heavily streaked black heads and backs contrasting strongly with the bright orange-rufous necks and rumps were observed (Salewski & Korb 2007). These birds were identified in the field, with the aid of Borrow & Demey (2004), as being Black-backed Cisticolas *Cisticola eximius*. Three species of cisticola were mistnetted at the site or in its vicinity. Besides Croaking Cisticola *C. natalensis* and Short-winged Cisticola *C. brachyptera*, a small cisticola was captured *c*. 200 m from the location where the presumed Black-backed Cisticolas were seen. A photograph of this bird was published as Fig. 1 in Salewski & Korb (2007) to prove the first record of Black-backed Cisticola in Benin. On later consideration I concluded, however, that the bird on the photograph was Zitting Cisticola *C. juncidis*. Unlike Black-backed Cisticola the bird on the photograph is not very rufous, but rather brownish on the back and head (Borrow & Demey 2001). It also has a faint blackish subterminal band on the brownish tail (Borrow & Demey 2004). The latter character was more obvious on another photograph of the same bird where the tail was visible from below. As the bird figured in Salewski & Korb (2007) is definitely not Black-backed Cisticola the occurrence of this species in Benin is not yet confirmed and must be deleted from the country's list. However, with respect to the above-mentioned observation of birds tentatively identified in the field as Black-backed Cisticola, a more thorough investigation may reveal the occurrence of this species in the Park.

I stress that the inclusion of Fig.1 in Salewski & Korb (2007) is entirely due to my own inattention and not caused by errors of Judith Korb, my co-author.

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Volker Salewski
Prinz-Rupprecht-Str. 34, 93053 Regensburg, Germany. <salewski.volker@web.de>

Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas* use man-made structures to breed

The Gey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas* is well known for its specific nesting requirement: a tall, slightly overhanging rock face, which does not allow rain to fall into the nest (Thompson & Fotso 1995). For example, all nests recorded on Mt Cameroon were on overhanging rock faces (Tye 1987). Nests are constructed either on an isolated rock usually not far from a forest stream, or inside a cave. In addition the rock face has to be high enough to allow the birds to construct the nest at least 2 m from the ground (Fry *et al*. 2000). The only published exceptions are a nest found on the trunk of a tree in Cameroon (Waltert & Mühlenberg 2000) and one in a hollow, cave-like log (Fry *et al*. 2000).

Here we describe two *P. oreas* nest sites under concrete bridges in Lopé National Park, Gabon. The bridges at both sites provide exactly what is required by this species for nesting: smooth vertical walls and the underside of the bridge provide an excellent false cave or rock face.

Both sites were found by accident, Site 1 in 2002 by T. Ukizintambara, who informed PC in 2003, and Site 2 (year unknown) by G. Mabeka, who told FM in 2002. The nest at Site 1 (Fig. 1) was *c.* 75 cm long and 30 cm wide; that at Site 2 (Fig. 2) was shorter (about 40 cm long) and more typical of the species (about as long as it is wide: the exterior is usually 40 cm long and 29 wide (Ash 1991). Exact measurements were not taken as both nests were high up on the faces of the bridges (see hand and head for scale in Figs 1 and 2). The road over the first bridge is a main road used by trucks and other vehicles; the second road is almost never used: perhaps once every year. The vibrations caused by traffic over the first bridge may explain the long, very robust construction of the associated nest. Both bridges are over running