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the third observations were made on hilltops (c. 200–300 m above sea level), whereas the others were of birds hunting over the village and its adjacent farmland. Identification of the species was based on size (considerably larger than the other swifts they were with, see below), the characteristic call (typical trilling call, well known to the authors from experience in central Europe), plumage characteristics (overall brown with a white throat patch and a large white patch on the belly; the two white patches separated by a smaller brown band) and flight (relatively slow wing beats compared to the smaller swifts). The larger flocks on 16 and 20 Nov also contained 1–5 Little Swifts *Apus affinis* and 1–5 Common or African Black Swifts *A. apus* or *A. barbatus*. As it has recently been suggested that the Alpine Swift may not actually breed in W Africa (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 2005), we assume that the observed birds were Palearctic visitors from NW Africa or Europe. We do not know whether this species occurs in this region throughout the winter.

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### African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* new to Togo

Between 21h00 and 22h00 on 25 July 1989 I heard a series of calls noted as “drrrr-drrrr repeated many times” at Djodji (7°40'N, 0°35'E), Togo. The calls, often repeated during the hour I listened, were coming from the interior of thick secondary forest beside a track leading to the River Gban-Houa, also known as the River Wawa, where it acts as the border between Togo and Ghana. The forested area was populated with trees such as *Antiaris africana* and *Chlorophora excelsa*, but was patchy with some areas being logged. At the time I was unable to identify the memorable calls, which I

had not heard before nor since, and did not have access to C. Chappuis's recordings on vinyl records that had been available since 1978. However, after F. Dowsett-Lemaire and R.J. Dowsett (*in litt.* and Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2007) informed me that they had discovered that the African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* was common and widespread in Ghana I realised that the calls which I had heard were identical to the second part of the vocalisation (“a series of quavering notes”) of the African Barred Owlet *G. c. ethecopari* on CD7 of Chappuis (2000). This is the first record for Togo and the most eastern record for the W African population. Given the time that has elapsed since this record, confirmation of the species' occurrence in the country is desirable.

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### A new record of the White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga* for Nigeria

The White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga* is a true desert bird, occupying habitat with minimal vegetation in pebbly and rocky areas, wadis, cliffs, lava fields, human dwellings, ruins and cemeteries, over N Africa, most of the Sahara, Arabia and the Middle East (Cramp 1988, Keith *et al.* 1992). Some individuals or populations make short-distance movements in winter and birds from NW Africa are believed to migrate south in winter (Keith *et al.* 1992).

Around 10h30 on 8 Oct 2007, we sighted a robust, mainly black wheatear in dense savanna in Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State, Nigeria (c. 9°45'N, 10°30'E). When first seen, it was perched in the lower branches of a tall shrub, almost facing us, such that we could not see its back or the underside of its tail. It showed a completely white cap, from forehead to nape, and the rest of the visible part of the body was black. The bird quickly flew away, when we glimpsed a flash of white in the lower body or tail.

We first thought the bird to be a White-fronted Black Chat *Myrmecocichla albifrons*, but it showed a more robust bill and body and less vertical posture, more typical of *Oenanthe*, besides the wholly white cap. Adult White-crowned Black Wheatear is the