



West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain



**Join the WAOS and support
the future availability of free
pdfs on this website.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.
If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

**Devenez membre de la
SOOA et soutenez la
disponibilité future des pdfs
gratuits sur ce site.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.
Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante
(2) pour économiser du papier.

- PITMAN, C.R.S. (1965) The nesting and some other habits of Alopochen, Nettapus, Plectropterus and Sarkidiornis. Ann. Rep. Wildfowl Trust 16: 115-120.
- ROUX, F.G., JARRY, G., MAHEO, R. & TAMISIER, A. (1977) Importance, structure et origine des populations d'Anatidés hivernant dans le delta du Sénégal. Oiseau Rev. fr. Orn. 47: 1-24.
- WILSON, R.T. & WILSON, M.P. (1980) Notes sur la nidification du Canard casqué (Sarkidiornis melanotos) en zone soudano-sahélienne. Oiseau Rev. fr. Orn. 50: 117-124.

Bernard Tréca, Centre ORSTOM, BP 1386 Dakar, Sénégal;
Charles Rouchouse, Antenne ORSTOM, BP 50 M'Bour, Sénégal

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS OF THE IVORY COAST

During visits to the Ivory Coast from September to November 1988 several birds were seen of species apparently not previously reported there, or described as rare in the recent review by Thiollay (1985).

Olive Ibis Bostrychia olivacea. Three seen at dusk on 4 Oct in a tall tree in forest c.2 km north of the Research Station in the Parc National de Taï (5°50N, 7°21W).

Crested Bustard Eupodotis ruficrista savilei. Two heard calling repeatedly on 17 Nov west of the A3 road at 1 km north of Sépéniedokaha (9°52N, 5°10W), in rather open savanna woodland heavily grazed by cattle. The calls were similar to those heard previously in Burkina Faso and southern Niger, where we tape-recorded them and were able several times to confirm their identity by seeing the calling bird (Holyoak & Seddon 1989). There is apparently no previous record from the Ivory Coast (Thiollay 1985) although the species is known in W Africa from scattered localities between N Senegal and NE Nigeria (Snow 1978; Collar et al. 1986). Chappuis et al. (1979) describe and discuss vocalisations of the W African E.r. savilei, which they suggest may best be regarded as a distinct species from E.r. ruficrista.

Red-fronted Parrot Poicephalus gullelmi. About 35 were seen during the hour before dusk on 9 Oct, by the A7 road c.7 km east of Gonate (by SW corner of Parc National de la Maraoué) (6°53N, 6°11W). They flew south at intervals in pairs and small groups, presumably travelling to roost; a few paused to perch on tall dead trees. Thiollay (1985) described this species as rare and local in primary forest in the Ivory Coast, giving records only from Taï, Tiassale NS and Oumé.

White-rumped Swift Apus caffer. Two seen on 11 Sept by the A3 road 20 km south of Ouangolodougou (9°39N, 5°09W) in an area with patches of woodland and grassland; six seen on 11-12 Sep by the A3 c.23 km south of Ferkessédougou (9°24N, 5°14W) in woodland with patches of grassland. Thiollay (1985) gave only a 'few scattered records (Bouaké, Korhogo, Feb-Jun)' but noted that it may be overlooked among other swifts.

Little Weaver Ploceus luteolus. A pair seen on 11 Sep by the A3 20 km south of Ouangolodougou; another pair seen later the same day by the A3 c.8 km south of Ferkessédougou (9°32N, 5°13W); a male seen 12 Sep by the A3 c.23 km south of Ferkessédougou; a male seen later the same day east of the A3 at 7 km south-east of Niakaramandougou (8°38N, 5°15W). These are apparently the first records of the species from the Ivory Coast.

White-breasted Negro-Finch Nigrita fusconota. A single bird was seen feeding in a fruiting tree in the forest at Parc National de Taï (5°50N, 7°21W) on 4 and 6 Oct, close to where one was seen in late Sep by R. Demey and L.D.C. Fishpool (pers. comm.). Both Grey-crowned N. canicapilla and Chestnut-breasted Negro-Finches N. bicolor were regularly seen to feed on fruit in the same tree, along with various bulbuls. Thiollay (1985) cites only one Ivory Coast locality for N. fusconota.

Bar-breasted Firefinch Lagonosticta rufopicta. One in patchy woodland and grassland by the A3 c.33 km south of Ferkessédougou (9°19N, 5°12W) on 12 Sep; another single bird later the same day in a grassy woodland clearing east of the A3 at 7 km south of Niakaramandougou (8°37N, 5°16W). Thiollay (1985) knew of only four records from the Ivory Coast, but Payne (1982) shows six and Walsh (1986) gives further records, all in the north of the country.

Green-winged Pytilia Pytilia melba. One in grassy woodland by a small lake near the A3 27 km south of Niakaramandougou (8°27N, 5°12W) on 13 Sep. This is apparently the first report from the Ivory Coast, although the species has been recorded in savanna woodland of W Africa from Nigeria to W Senegal (Hall and Moreau 1970).

During visits to the Taï Research Station (16-21 Sep and 3-8 Oct) we observed other uncommon forest birds that have previously been reported in this region (Thiollay 1985), notably: Congo Serpent Eagle Dryotriorchis spectabilis, White-breasted Guineafowl Agelastes meleagrides, Black-collared Lovebird Agapornis swinderniana, Bates's Swift Apus batesi, African Dwarf Kingfisher Ceyx lecontei, Blue-headed Bee-Eater Merops muelleri, Wattled Cuckoo-Shrike Campephaga lobata and Golden-backed Weaver Ploceus preussi.

Grateful thanks are due to Ron Demey and Dr L.D.C. Fishpool for providing much helpful information on Ivory Coast birds as well as logistic assistance. Thanks also to Dr Fishpool for comments on our manuscript and to the staff of the Sub-department of Ornithology at the British Museum (Natural History) for helpful access to specimens in their care.

References

- CHAPPUIS, C., ERARD, C. & MOREL, G.J. (1979) Données comparatives sur la morphologie et les vocalisations des diverses formes d'Eupodotis ruficrista (Smith). Malimbus 1: 74-89.
- COLLAR, N.J., GORIUP, P.D. & OSBORNE, P.E. (1986) Otididae, Bustards. In E.K. Urban, C.H. Fry & S. Keith (eds) The Birds of Africa, vol. 2. Academic Press, London.

- HALL, B.P. & MOREAU, R.E. (1970) An Atlas of Speciation in African Passerine Birds. British Museum (Natural History), London.
- HOLYOAK, D.T. & SEDDON, M.B. (1989) Distributional notes on the birds of Burkina Faso. Bull. Brit. Orn. Club 109: 205-216.
- PAYNE, R.B. (1982) Species limits in the indigobirds (Ploceidae, Vidua) of West Africa: mouth mimicry, song mimicry and description of new species. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan 162: 1-96.
- SNOW, D.W. (ed) (1978) An Atlas of Speciation in African Non-passerine Birds. British Museum (Natural History), London.
- WALSH, J.F. (1986) Notes on the birds of the Ivory Coast. Malimbus 8: 89-93.

Dr D.T. Holyoak & Dr M.B. Seddon,
School of Geography and Geology, College of St Paul and St Mary,
The Park, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 2RH, England.

A BROWN NIGHTJAR (CAPRIMULGUS BINOTATUS) NESTLING FROM LIBERIA

On 29 Feb 1980, near the camp of the Liberian Timber Company, at c.6°16N, 8°40W, a half-grown nestling Brown Nightjar was brought in by locals. This species was only recently discovered in Liberia: Colston & Curry-Lindahl (1986) mention two specimens from Mt Nimba, both collected in 1971.

The present locality is situated 135 km to the south of Nimba, in what was then primary forest, opened for timber felling only a number of months previously. According to Fry & Harwin (1988) the nest and eggs of this forest nightjar are unknown, and no description appears to exist for the nestling. This can be given here, but the nest and eggs remain unknown.

The bird weighed 26 g, its wing chord was 91 mm and its tail measured 45 mm (all feathers in sheath) whereas one adult's weight was 63 g (Fry & Harwin 1988) and mean wing and tail lengths respectively 154 and 103 mm. The present bird is referable to C. binotatus, because of the characteristic colour pattern and implantation of the tail; the ten rectrices are very dark brown, barred with rufous, without the buff vermiculations present in other species or any trace of white. The left and right halves of the tail form a pronounced V, resulting in a 'tented' shape and the tail already has a tendency to downward curvature. The head has a triangular 'toadlike' shape, as mentioned by Fry & Harwin (1988). The nostrils are small and covered in part with feathers as in the adult (shown well in Fry & Harwin 1988). Dorsal down is buffish with brown at the tips and there are dark brown emergent feathers. On the crown, brown feathers have just begun to appear above the eye. The wings are brown, each remex marked with rufous spots at regular intervals.