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ont une longueur d'aile moyenne de 82.1 (80.5-83); ils sont étiquetés femelle mais l'identification du sexe peut être douteuse.

Les Cochevis modestes des régions du Sahel méridional, du nord Cameroun, du Mali moyen et du Sénégal oriental paraissent bien appartenir à une même sous-espèce, à dessus foncé mais non noirâtre. Il ne nous fait pas de doute qu'il ne s'agit pas de la sous-espèce *nigrita* mais de *modesta* (incluant *giffardi*) que l'on trouve ailleurs en Afrique de l'Ouest au Nigéria, au Ghana et au Burkina Faso (spécimens au British Museum, P.R. Colston *in litt.*).

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First record of Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* in Ivory Coast

On 14 August 1993, I observed a Three-banded Plover in a flooded rice field 5 km east of Bouaké, Ivory Coast. The bird was feeding and resting in and around shallow pools of water and on exposed mudflats.

Upon realising the significance of the sighting, I returned to the site with reference materials, including Urban *et al.* (1986). The bird was relocated and the identification confirmed. The white forehead, light grey face and pink legs served to separate it from the only similar species – Forbes's Plover *C. forbesi*. The bird called on numerous occasions, particularly when it was flushed; the calls fitted those described in Urban *et al.* (1986) for Three-banded Plover. Other more circumstantial evidence supporting this identification is that Forbes's Plover is known to be present

in Ivory Coast only during the period November to April and is typically found in drier habitats than Three-banded Plover (Urban *et al.* 1986).

This bird was seen regularly by myself and by students at the nearby International Christian Academy for a period of over two weeks, until 30 August.

This species is not included in Thiollay's (1985) list of the birds of Ivory Coast. Subsequent published notes on birds in Ivory Coast (e.g. Walsh 1986, Balchin 1988, Holyoak & Seddon 1990, Demey & Fishpool 1991) do not mention it. Urban *et al.* (1986) give northern Nigeria as its nearest location of regular occurrence and consider it a vagrant elsewhere in West Africa. Their map shows two vagrants in countries neighbouring Ivory Coast – one in southern Mali, near the Ivory Coast border, and one in southern Ghana. This sighting seems therefore to constitute the first record of Three-banded Plover in Ivory Coast.

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