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First record of Little Gull *Larus minutus* in Cameroon

On 16 November 1994, in the course of a boat trip to the estuary of the Rio del Rey in South-West Province, Cameroon, we observed three small gulls perched on pilings in the water a few yards from the shore. There were large numbers of Black Terns *Chlidonias niger* in the area, some of which were also perched on the pilings and so it was easy to see that the gulls were only slightly bigger than the terns. Other noticeable features were a dark spot behind the eye and a dark patch in the "shoulder" area. The primaries and tail appeared mainly dark. The beak was dark and the legs flesh coloured. We did not get good sightings of the birds flying but the combination of the dark ear-spot, the dark patch on the shoulder and above all the small size led us to identify them as immature Little Gulls *Larus minutus*. Other possibilities such as Franklin's Gull *L. pipixcan* or Sabine's Gull *L. sabini* are appreciably larger and do not show the dark ear-spot.

Little Gull was not recorded by Louette (1981) nor have we found any reference to it in subsequent literature. It has, however, been recorded as vagrant in both Nigeria and Gabon (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 1993).

References

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Red-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus* in Central African Republic

On a visit to the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in the Sangha Prefecture of the Central African Republic, in January 1995, I was sitting quietly by a small stream with wooded banks when I observed a bird sitting on a branch about 0.5 m up from the ground. It was only about 12 m away and the light was quite good so I was able to see clearly that it had the stance and shape of a thrush, with quite a bright rufous underside, a greyish head, and brown back and wings. The upperside of the tail appeared wholly rufous but, after sitting quietly for a few minutes, the bird hopped into the stream and bathed and, as it flew back onto a higher branch to preen, I observed that the central feathers in the upperside of the tail were darker. As it was preening I was also able to see that the whole of the underside of the tail was orange. Neither during its short flight nor during preening did I

observe any wing-bar or underwing pattern. The area of the park where these observations were made was about 34 km east of Bayanga (approximately 2°45'N, 16°20'E).

From these observations I concluded that the bird was a Red-tailed Ant-thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*. The thrush-like stance and build, and lack of wing markings, eliminate Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush *N. fraseri*. The Red-tailed Ant-thrush was originally included in a list of birds of the Central African Republic, allegedly for the Lobaye Prefecture (Carroll 1988) but the record was subsequently rejected by Germain (1992) as founded on a mistaken reading of unpublished data. It is not included by Green & Carroll (1991) for Dzanga-Ndoki National Park and Dzanga-Sangha Rainforest Reserve.

References

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Recent records of White-naped Pigeon *Columba albinucha* from Cameroon

The White-naped Pigeon *Columba albinucha* is a little-known species of lowland and transitional montane forest, classified as "Near threatened" by Collar & Stuart (1985). Its main centre of distribution is in the Ruwenzori mountains of Zaire with fewer records from adjacent Uganda. Records outside this region have been restricted to three birds collected by Eisentraut at 1100 m in the Rumpi Hills of south-west Cameroon in 1967 (Louette 1981). Despite a considerable amount of ornithological work in south-west Cameroon since then, most notably by the I.C.B.P. Cameroon Montane Forest Expedition of 1984 (Stuart 1986), this species has remained unrecorded there until very recently. The following recent sightings, however, suggest that this species may be of more regular occurrence in south-west Cameroon than earlier thought.

On 21 September 1992 a probable sighting was made of two birds at 1550 m in the canopy of montane forest on Mt Kupe by Steve Keen (pers. comm.).

At 8.30 h on 30 March 1993 I saw three White-naped Pigeons in bare trees bordering a small coffee farm at 1000 m on Mt Kupe. The habitat was primarily