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Short Notes — Notes Courtes

Birds of Waza new to Cameroon: corrigenda and addenda

In their annotated list of birds of the Waza area, northern Cameroon, Scholte *et al.* (1999) claimed 11 species for which there were no previous published records from Cameroon “mainly based on Louette (1981)”. In fact, their list included 14 such species, but there are previous published records for most, some missed by Louette (1981), some of which had been listed by Dowsett (1993). We here clarify these records and give additional notes on two other species of the area.

Corrigenda

Ciconia nigra Black Stork (Dowsett 1993, based on Robertson 1992). Waza. Not claimed as new by Scholte *et al.* (1999), but the previous record mentioned by them is unpublished (Vanpraet 1977).

Platalea leucorodia European Spoonbill (new).

Phoenicopterus ruber Greater Flamingo (new). Not claimed as new by Scholte *et al.* (1999), but the previous record mentioned by them is unidentifiable as to species (Louette 1981). Contrary to those authors, Brown *et al.* (1982) did not report this species from Cameroon, but Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*.

Anas clypeata Shoveler (Dowsett 1993, based on Robertson 1992). Several records from the Waza and Garoua areas (see also Girard & Thal 1996), once as far south as Bamendjing (RJD & F. Dowsett-Lemaire pers. obs.).

Coturnix coturnix Common Quail. Manenguba (Serle 1950, p. 353).

Turnix sylvatica African Buttonquail. Reported from Dja (Christy 1994). Apparently it has also been seen elsewhere, but these other records remain unpublished.

Porphyrio porphyrio Purple Swampphen (Dowsett 1993, based on Sala 1991). Yaounde and Limbe (see also Manners *et al.* 1993).

Neotis nuba Nubian Bustard (new).

Eupodotis ruficrista (*savilei*) Crested (Savile's) Bustard (new).

Vanellus lugubris Senegal Plover (new). Not claimed as new by Scholte *et al.* (1999), but the previous record mentioned by them is unpublished (Vanpraet 1977).

Chlidonias hybridus Whiskered Tern. Garoua (Sørensen *et al.* 1996). There is also a recent report from Rio del Rey (R. Demey & M. Languy *in litt.*).

Apus pallidus Pallid Swift. Mt Oku (Stuart 1986, p. 127).

Anthus campestris Tawny Pipit (Dowsett 1993, based on Robertson 1992). Waza area (see also Elzen 1975).

Oenanthe isabellina Isabelline Wheatear. Waza (Sørensen *et al.* 1996).

Addenda

Egretta garzetta Little Egret. A ring was given to PS by villagers of Dawaya (close to Tikele) on 19 Jan 1996, of a bird probably trapped in a fishing net in the Logomatya water course. It had been ringed as a nestling in the lagoon of Valle Bertuzzi (44.48

N, 12.13 E) in the Po River Delta (NE Italy) on 3 June 1994 (S. Volponi *in litt.*). Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported one recovery in N Nigeria and two in S Nigeria from Little Egrets ringed in "Russia". Brown *et al.* (1982) mentioned recoveries of Yugoslav birds in Nigeria and Russian birds in Nigeria and Cameroon and concluded that Palaearctic migrants from western Europe tend to winter in western W Africa and those from eastern Europe in eastern W Africa. The Italian bird in Waza-Logone suggests a more diverse migration pattern.

Anas hottentota Hottentot Teal. One ringed at the rice scheme near L. Maza, Jan 1999 (Tiwaoun & Beladane 1999, R. Azombo pers. comm.). Mentioned by Scholte *et al.* 1999 as observed only prior to 1980; can now be moved from List 2 to List 1.

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Received 1 September 1999

Revised 9 September 1999

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Comment on species rejected from and added to the avifauna of Bioko Island (Equatorial Guinea)

Two of the species dealt with by Perez del Val *et al.* (1997) perhaps need further comment.

***Gyps africanus* White-backed Vulture.** Pérez del Val *et al.* (1997) rejected this species, suggesting that the only record, an adult female reported by Alexander (1903), was a misidentified Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*. The considerable differences of shape of head and bill and of size (Brown *et al.* 1982), which would be obvious in the hand, make it hard to believe that the two could be confused. Part 3 of Alexander (1903) comprises a list of birds previously recorded on Bioko, which he did not find during his visit, and which includes Palm-nut Vulture. As Alexander was an ornithologist with wide experience of W Africa by that time, it seems unlikely that he would have mistaken the two species. Unfortunately, neither is included in the list, in the accessions register, of birds collected by Alexander and presented to the British Museum (Natural History), although the entries include other birds collected at Sipopo on the same date.

Pérez del Val *et al.* remark on the distance between Bioko and the main area of distribution of White-backed Vulture. However, there is a record of White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*, which is of similar range in W Africa, coming as close to Bioko as Mt Cameroon, 60 km to the NNE (Bannerman 1953) and the possibility of a vagrant White-backed Vulture in the same area should not be discounted.

Pérez del Val *et al.* write that Palm-nut Vulture was collected by the "majority of other naturalists (Allen & Thomson 1848)", but there is no reference to Palm-nut