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ZIMMERMAN, D.A., TURNER, D.A. & PEARSON, D.J. (1999) *Birds of Kenya & Northern Tanzania*. Christopher Helm, London.

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On the plumages of Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* and a putative observation of Black-throated Coucal *C. leucogaster* in Niger

Debout *et al.* (2000) reported what would be the first observation of Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster* in Niger, near Niamey in July 1998. While the description given clearly matches *C. leucogaster*, the site and habitat mentioned (gardens and old cultivation) would be very unusual for this forest species, which has not otherwise been reported far from any forested area. The only records at similar latitudes are from Mali (Lamarche 1980–1) possibly erroneously (R.J. Dowsett pers. comm.), Dandum in Guinea-Bissau (Rodwell 1996) and southern Senegal (Morel & Morel 1990), where other typical forest species have been found. This led Demey *et al.* (2001) to question the record and discuss the possibility of an undescribed form of Senegal Coucal *C. senegalensis*.

Two plumage morphs of Senegal Coucal *C. senegalensis* are presently known: the typical bird, with creamy white underparts and black restricted to the top of head, and a melanistic form “*epomidis*” with black head and breast and rufous belly. Demey *et al.* (2001) suggest that *epomidis* does not occur more than 200 km from the coast. However, in Ivory Coast, this morph is known from several localities far inland (Schouteden & De Roo 1967, Yaokokore-Beibro 1997 and pers. obs.) at least as far north as Korhogo, 500 km from coast (Brunel & Thiollay 1969).

In the Abidjan area where both morphs are common, I observed an atypical Senegal Coucal in September 1999. It had the head and upper breast black, and the rest of the underparts creamy white, thus showing the same pattern of coloration as in Black-throated Coucal. However, it was accompanying a typical *C. senegalensis* and was similar to it in size and structure; Black-throated Coucal is much larger and has a very strong bill. Furthermore, the habitat where it was seen — scrub interspersed with cultivated land in the city’s suburbs — seems quite unlikely for *C. leucogaster*.

It thus seems that an undescribed, black-throated morph of *C. senegalensis* occurs in West Africa, and the Niamey bird is perhaps more likely for to have been this morph rather than *C. leucogaster*.

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First nests of Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus* found in Ivory Coast

We can find no previous description of the nest of the Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus* in the literature so we present here our observations of two nests that we discovered in Ivory Coast.

On 10–11 April 1994, 6 km south of the main research station in Taï Forest National Park, IS found a large untidy nest of sticks 20–25 m up in the mid-upper canopy. The nest was flat, shallow and roughly 50–70 cm in diameter. It was in the fork of an unidentified tree and very visible from below. It nest was initially located by piping and screeching calls given by the large, white downy young. On play-back of the young bird's taped call, two adults alighted on the tree and began a high pitched and far carrying screeching call. One visited the nest momentarily. There may have been more than one young in the nest but it was not possible to confirm this from the ground. The forest in this location was disturbed and quite close to the park boundary.

On 15 March 2001, on the east side of Mont Péko in Mont Péko National Park at approximately 400 m altitude, HR saw an adult Long-tailed Hawk repeatedly carrying