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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

small sticks into a Cotton Tree *Ceiba pentandra*, where it was found to be constructing a nest. The nest was at a height of 35 m on a branch where it forked from the trunk, just below the crown. It was a typical, messy raptor nest consisting of loose twigs piled onto the fork. Its diameter was *c.* 40 cm and the average size of the twigs used was *c.* 1 cm thick by 20–30 cm long. During 30 min. observation from less than 20 m from the tree, the bird returned at least five times. At one point, another individual joined it, so perhaps more than one bird brought sticks. An adult was observed the next day, again bringing sticks to the nest. The forest in this area on the steep slopes of Mont Péko had quite open undergrowth but just 50 m away became very dense with many tree falls. The canopy was quite broken for the same reason.

This species is found from Sierra Leone east to Uganda (Brown *et al.* 1982, Dowsett & Forbes-Watson 1993) and is generally described as uncommon to rare although many believe it more common than observations indicate (Brown *et al.* 1982, Cheke & Walsh 1996, Elgood *et al.* 1994, Kemp & Kemp 1998). Gatter (1997) and Grimes (1987) found it common in Liberia and Ghana respectively. It is widespread in Ivory Coast, where it has been recorded from every surveyed protected area in the country except Comoé National Park (Christy & Schulenberg 1999, Demey & Fishpool 1994, Gartshore *et al.* 1995, Salewski 2000, Thiollay 1985, Waltert *et al.* 1999, R. Demey pers. comm., HR pers. obs.). In Mont Péko it is frequently encountered (HR pers. obs.) (definition from Morel & Tye 1995) as in Bossematié and Yapo (Demey & Fishpool 1994, Waltert *et al.* 1999) whilst it is apparently less common in Taï (Gartshore *et al.* 1995, HR pers. obs.). The forest in Mont Péko has a much more open canopy than in Taï, which may facilitate observation in the canopy, although the species appears to hunt in dense foliage (Brown *et al.* 1982, Kemp & Kemp 1998).

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### House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* colonises Guinea-Bissau

In early May 2001, we noticed some House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* in the old Bissau harbour known as Pidjiguiti. On 23 May, we found a small population nesting in harbour structures (two nests seen) and feeding within the harbour limits. We estimated *c.* 10–20 House Sparrows living in the port, over an area of *c.* 6 ha. We found no sparrows in Bissau city centre, which is right beside the harbour. Unfortunately, we could not determine the subspecies of these birds.

To our knowledge, House Sparrow has never been recorded in Guinea-Bissau (*e.g.* Frade & Bacelar 1955, Hazevoet 1996). It is likely that they have arrived very recently, since we have been in the harbour and city centre many times in the last few years without noticing any. House Sparrows have been present in Senegal and The Gambia (north of Guinea-Bissau) from the 1970s and 1980s, respectively (Gore 1990, Morel & Morel 1990, Barlow *et al.* 1997). The source of the new immigrants is unknown, but the site suggests that they might have arrived by ship. In fact, according to our observations, House Sparrows are still absent from coastal towns north (and south) of Bissau (*e.g.* Cacheu, São Domingos) that should perhaps have been reached first if the colonisers had come overland from Senegal.