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RECORDS OF BIRDS SEEN IN THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO DURING
1984-1986

by Robert A. Cheke, J. Frank Walsh and Samuel A. Sowah

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In previous articles the senior authors have summarised their observations on birds seen in Togo between 1972 and 1983 (Cheke & Walsh 1980, 1984, Cheke 1982). Most of the records referred to northern areas and thus complemented the coastal data provided by Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980). These recent papers have extended and amplified on the data in the lists of Dekeyser (1951), De Roo *et al.* (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972) and Louette (1975), the only authors to describe substantial collections made in Togo this century. During 1984 J. F. W. (May-Aug) and R. A. C. (Aug-Oct) were again living in Lama-Kara, in the north of Togo. In March and Sept-Nov 1985 R. A. C. was based in Lome, on the coast, and also worked in forested areas in S. W. Togo. In early 1986 J. F. W. returned to Togo and added to the coastal data with observations at Lome in Feb. These visits, together with S. A. S.'s residence in Lama-Kara have provided opportunities to improve our knowledge of the Togolese avifauna and, in particular, to provide more information on forest birds and dry season visitors. During 1985 (Mar and Sept-Nov), R. A. C. made a weekly census at Lome of a 2 km stretch of beach and flooded wasteland between the Sara-Kawa Hotel and the harbour, where J. F. W. also watched on 1 & 2 Feb 1986. The area is visited by many waders and used as a roost by migrant terns.

Most of the forest birds were seen in the Badou area, adjoining the Ghanaian border in S. W. Togo, but many were also seen further north by J. F. W. and S. A. S. who concentrated on the Aledjo forest.

Nomenclature and sequence for Afrotropical species in the list below follow Hall & Moreau (1970) and Snow (1978). Species additional to our previous lists are marked with asterisks and for these birds references are given for other Togolese records, if any are known. We have also included records of interest such as observations on Palearctic or intra-African migrants, rare species, breeding, large flocks or unusual behaviour. The coordinates of named localities are provided as an Appendix.

AREIDAE

Egretta garzetta Little Egret On 19 June 1984 10 in the Anie area. 2 at Anecho on 8 Mar 1985 and one at Lome on 31 Mar 1985 and 1-2 Feb 1986.

*E. gularis Reef Heron One at Lome on 1 & 2 Feb 1986.
Recorded by Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).

*E. intermedia Yellow-billed Egret One near Tsevie on 8 Mar 1985 and 2 at Lama-Kara on 17 Mar 1985.

*Ardea goliath Goliath Heron One at Anecho on 8 Mar 1985.
Recorded by Millet-Horsin (1923).

SCOPIDAE

Scopus umbretta Hammerkop An active nest at 08° 25'N beside the Anie river on 19 June 1984. Pairs seen copulating at Naboulgou on 30 Aug 1984 and mobbing an Allied Hornbill Tockus fasciatus at 09° 09'N, 01° 24'E on 13 Sept 1984.

CICONIIDAE

Ehippiorhynchus senegalensis Saddlebill Stork One on the Oti flood plains, south of Sansanne-Mango on 21 Aug 1984.

Anastomus lamelligerus Openbill One 47 km north of Naboulgou on 13 May 1984.

ACCIPITRIDAE

*Circus aeruginosus Marsh Harrier Single males beside the Oti river near Sansanne-Mango on 14 Oct 1984 and near Adeta on 14 Mar 1985. Recorded by Douaud (1957) and Browne (1980).

Circaetus cinereus Brown Snake Eagle One a few km south of Dapaon on 27 Aug 1984.

C. cinerascens Smaller Banded Snake Eagle One at Mo on 27 & 28 June 1984.

*Accipiter ovampensis Ovampo Sparrowhawk one at Avetonou on 10 Oct 1985.

*A. tachiro macroselides African Goshawk One at Djodji on 26 Mar 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1972).

*A. minullus erythroptus Western Little Sparrowhawk One seen in forest beside the waterfall at Kpime-Tomegbe on 3 Oct 1985. After taking off and flying, below canopy level, to another perch the hawk attracted the attention of party of 8 Tockus fasciatus which followed it, calling loudly. A single A. minullus was also seen at Djodji on 16 & 23 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1971) and Browne (1980).

*Urotriorchis macrourus Long-tailed Hawk One at Djodji on 16 Oct 1985. The bird was first seen at mid-day when it glided silently past at two-thirds the height of the forest

trees. At 1630 hrs. the bird returned, being mobbed by some Pycnonotus barbatus and glided for at least 50 m without flapping its wings. The long tail may help the species to fly in this manner in search of its main prey of squirrels (Brown et al. 1982) which were abundant in the area.

Lophaetus occipitalis Long-crested Hawk Eagle One at Naboulgou on 30 Aug 1984 and at Djodji on 21 & 26 Mar & 16 Oct 1985.

*Stephanoaetus coronatus Crowned Eagle A pair soaring over the Mt Tamania area, west of Atakpame on 9 Oct 1985. Recorded by Reichenhow (1897) and Millet-Horsin (1923).

*Hieratus pennatus Booted Eagle A pale phase bird in gallery forest at 08°39'N, 00°42'E beside the Kpaza river, in the Fazao mountains, on 13 Sept 1984.

FALCONIDAE

Falco peregrinus Peregrine Falcon One near Hiheatro on 30 Mar 1985 and one on the beach at Lome, trying to catch waders and terns, on 27 Oct & 17 Nov 1985.

F. alopex Fox Kestrel One swooping down over the corpse of its mate, killed on the road at the Faille d'Aledjo on 28 May 1984. One bird at the same place on 17 June 1984, but not seen after this date.

*F. tinnunculus rufescens West African Kestrel A pair observed at Badou from 22 to 29 Mar 1985. They rested next to a large nest of sticks in a tall tree; but they were never seen to enter the nest, the ownership of which remained unknown. One seen catching a lizard. The birds were absent from the site in Oct 1985.

GRUIDAE

Balearica pavonina Crowned Crane Two on flood plains beside the Oti river near Sansanne-Mango on 14 Oct 1984.

HAEMATOPODIDAE

*Haematopus ostralegus Oystercatcher One on the beach at Lome on 17 Nov 1985.

CHARADRIIDAE

Vanellus spinosus Spur-winged Plover A pair beside the Oti river near Sansanne-Mango on 21 & 27 Aug 1984.

*Charadrius dubius Little Ringed Plover One at Lome on 11

Mar 1985. Recorded by Browne (1980) and a bird ringed as a pullus in Nottinghamshire was recovered near Lome on 28 Jan 1984 (Mean & Hudson 1985).

*C. hiaticula Ringed Plover Twenty or more present at Lome in Mar and Sept to Nov 1985. Maxima 50 on 24 Mar and 56 on 17 Nov, but 200 on 2 Feb 1986. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1972), Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).

*C. alexandrinus Kentish Plover Singletons at Lome on 11 & 31 Mar and 10 Nov 1985.

*C. marginatus White-fronted Sand Plover Present on the beach at Lome in Mar and Sept-Nov 1985. Maxima 18 on 1 Nov and 20 pairs on 2 Feb 1986. Probably a breeding resident as most birds paired off and some behaved as if defending nesting areas. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969) and Browne (1980).

*C. pecuarius Kittlitz's Sandplover One at Lome on 9 Mar 1985.

*Pluvialis dominica Lesser Golden Plover One at Loma on 19 Oct 1985. See Elgood (1982) for comments on West African records of this species.

*P. squatarola Grey Plover Present at Lome in Mar and Sept-Nov 1985. Maxima 52 on 1 Nov when one bird was still in summer plumage and 54 on 2 Feb 1986. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1972) and Browne (1980).

*Arenaria interpres Turnstone Present at Lome in Mar and Sept-Nov 1985 and Feb 1986. Maximum count 30 on 29 Sept when one still in summer plumage. On 13 Oct one was seen being snared by local trappers. Recorded by Browne (1980).

*Phalaropus fulicarius Grey Phalarope On 9 Mar 1985 three were observed at Lome swimming and feeding in the sea just beyond where the waves began to break. One found dead on the beach at Lome on 24 Mar 1985.

SCOLOPACIDAE

*Limosa limosa Black-tailed Godwit One at Lome on 29 Sept 1985.

*L. lapponica Bar-tailed Godwit A pair at Lome on 19 Oct, 1 & 10 Nov 1985. On 17 Nov 1985 8 were there, of which one was found badly injured with a head wound, probably inflicted by a catapult. The youth who made off with the bird said he was going to eat it. Recorded by Browne (1980).

*Numenius arquata Curlew Two at Lome on 13 Oct and one on 19 Oct 1985 and 2 Feb 1986. Recorded by Millet-Horsin (1923) and Browne (1980).

*N. phaeopus Whimbrel Present at Lome in small numbers in Mar and Sept-Nov 1985 and Feb 1986. Maximum 8 on 19 Oct 1985. Recorded by Browne (1980).

*Calidris alba Sanderling At least 100 present on the beach at Lome in Mar and Sept-Nov 1985. The spring maximum in 1985 was 250 on 24 Mar and the autumn peak was 400 on 17 Nov. Sixteen there in 1 Feb 1986 followed by an influx of 500 the next day. Birds bearing rings which were longer than those used by European ringing schemes, and possibly of South African origin (C. J. Mead in litt.) were seen on 9 Mar, 29 Sept, 19 Oct (3 ringed birds) and 17 Nov (2 ringed birds). The species is probably often snared by local trappers, as one was seen with a foot-less broken leg, and so the origin of the ringed birds may eventually be demonstrated. Sanderlings were also recorded at Lome by De Roo et al. (1969, 1972) and by Browne (1980) but one, in full breeding plumage, at Lama-Kara on 16 May 1984 is the first inland record for the country. Inland records are also known from Ghana (Moorhouse 1968) and Nigeria (Dowsett & Walsh 1968).

*C. alpina Dunlin One at Lome on 19 Oct 1985.

*C. canutus Knot One at Lome on 17 Nov 1985 and 16 there on 1 Feb 1986. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1972).

*C. ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper One at Anecho on 8 Mar 1985. One at Lome on 19 Oct, 4 on 27 Oct and 19 on 17 Nov 1985.

*C. minuta Little Stint Three at Lome on 24 & 31 Mar 1985. One there on 13 Oct, 7 from 19 Oct to 17 Nov 1985 and 100 on 2 Feb 1986. Recorded by Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).

Tringa ochropus Green Sandpiper Seven at Lome on 1 Mar and singles on 29 Sept and 13 Oct 1985.

T. glareola Wood Sandpiper Maximum count at Lome was 12 on 13 Oct 1985.

*T. stagnatilis Marsh Sandpiper One at Anecho on 8 Mar 1985 and another at Lome two days later. Recorded by Robinson (1972).

T. totanus Redshank One at Lome from 29 Sept to 17 Nov 1985 and on 1 Feb 1986.

*T. erythrops Spotted Redshank Four at Lama-Kara on 17 Mar 1985.

T. nebularia Greenshank Maximum at Lome was 41 on 1 Feb 1986.

*Philomachus pugnax Ruff One at Lome on 13 Oct, 2 there on 19 & 27 Oct and 1 on 10 Nov 1985. Recorded by Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt Six at Anecho on 8 Mar 1985.

*Recurvirostra avosetta Avocet At 1625 hrs on 27 Oct 1985 a flock of 10 flew leisurely with occasional glides, in a V formation over Lome beach and out to sea. When it was about 500 m out the flock veered west and disappeared over Ghanaian waters. Five at Lome on 2 Feb 1986.

ROSTRATULIDAE

*Rostratula benghalensis Painted Snipe One at Lama-Kara on 17 Mar 1985. Recorded by Browne (1980).

GLAREOLIDAE

Pluvianus aegyptius Egypt Plover One at Lama-Kara on 16 May 1984.

G. nuchalis Rock Pratincole Two pairs at the colony near Landa-Pozanda (Cheke 1980) between 14 May & 8 Sept 1984. None there on 16 Sept.

STERCORARIIDAE

*Stercorarius pomarinus Pomarine Skua One flying west off Lome on 11 Mar 1985

*S. parasiticus Arctic Skua Three off Lome, harassing terns, on 17 Nov 1985. A bird ringed as a pullus in Shetland in 1979 was recovered at Lome the next year (Spencer & Hudson 1981).

LARIDAE

*Larus fuscus Lesser Black-backed Gull An immature bird off Lome on 29 Sept 1985, 6 adults there on 1 Nov and singles on 10 & 17 Nov 1985. Recorded by Browne (1980).

*L. sabini Sabine's Gull A first winter bird at Lome on 2 Feb 1986.

*Gelochelidon nilotica Gull-billed Tern Singles at Lome on 9 Mar, 1 & 10 Nov and 5 there on 27 Oct 1985.

*Hydroprogne tschegrava Caspian Tern Two at Anecho on 8 Mar 1985.

Sterna maxima Royal Tern Up to 8 present at Lome in Mar and Sept-Nov 1985 and as many as 80 in Feb 1986.

*S. sandvicensis Sandwich Tern Twelve at Anecho on 8 Mar 1985. Up to 7 at Lome in Mar 1985. Thirty there on 29 Sept 1985 but none in Oct, followed by a substantial influx in Nov. Twenty noted on 8 Nov, preceding more than 750 on the 10th. The latter included a raft of 150 resting in the sea and one bird with a BTO-type ring. At least 8 British-ringed birds have been recovered in Togo (Spencer & Hudson 1982). On 26 Nov only 26 were counted and a similar number were present on 2 Feb 1986. Recorded by Browne (1980).

*S. hirundo Common Tern Singles at Lome on 24 Mar and 27 Oct 1985. 100 there on 8 Nov and more than 500 in an influx with S. sandvicensis on 10 Nov but these had vanished by 12 Nov with only 25 remaining on 17 Nov. One of the latter was bearing a BTO-type ring. Robinson (1972) mentioned recoveries in Togo of birds ringed in Finland and Northumberland. Spencer & Hudson (1982) cite 4 British-ringed birds found in Togo. Recorded by Browne (1980) and by De Roo et al. (1969).

*S. dougallii Roseate Tern Singles at Lome on 11 Mar and 29 Sept 1985 and 2 there on 17 Nov 1985. Twelve British-ringed birds have been recovered in Togo (Spencer & Hudson 1982).

*S. albifrons Little Tern Three at Lome on 10 Nov and 7 on 17 Nov 1985. Recorded by Browne (1980).

*S. balaenarum Damara Tern Six at Lome on 29 Sept 1985, of which three were in breeding plumage. One of the latter present on 13 & 19 Oct 1985 and 2 on 27 Oct and 10 Nov 1985. When approached the birds walked away while watching the observer, seeming reluctant to fly. Recorded by Browne (1980) whose birds were all in non-breeding plumage.

*Chilodonias niger Black Tern Fifty at Lome on 9 Mar 1985, one of which was trailing a 2 m length of twine from a leg and was presumably an escapee from a snare. About 40 still present on the beach on 11 Mar, 10 on 20 Mar but none there on 24 Mar, although 4 were seen at a lagoon in Lome on 31 Mar 1985. Sixty at Lome on 29 Sept 1985, 80 feeding appeared on 27 Oct and 115 arrived with the influx of Sterna spp. on 10 Nov 1985. One C. niger on the latter date was badly oiled. Forty still present on 17 Nov 1985 and 2 Feb 1986. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969) and Browne (1980).

*S. leucoptera White-winged Black Tern Singles at Lome on 29 Sept and 27 Oct 1985 and 2 there on 1 Nov 1985.

COLUMBIDAE

*Columba iriditorques Bronze-naped Pigeon One in forest beside the waterfall at Kpime-Tomegbe on 12 Mar 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970).

*Turtur tympanistria Tambourine Dove One at Djodji on 21 Mar 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).

* T. brehmeri Blue-headed Dove Singles at Djodji on 29 Mar and 25 Oct 1985.

Oena capensis Masked Dove One at Lama-Kara on 17 Mar 1985. Regularly seen in this area in the dry season.

MUSOPHAGIDAE

Corythaeola cristata Great Blue Turaco A pair 10 km south of Landa-Mono on 19 June 1984.

Tauraco persa Guinea Turaco A pair near Aledjo on 22 July 1984. Calls were heard in the Aledjo forest from May to August. A pair in gallery forest at 08°39'N, 00°42'E, near the source of the Kpaza river, in the Fazao mountains on 13 Sept 1984.

CUCULIDAE

Clamator levaillantii Striped Cuckoo Pairs seen 5 km east of Bafilo on 27 May and at Sara-Kawa on 5 Aug 1984. One at Atakpame on 21 Oct 1985.

Chrysococcyx caprius Didric Cuckoo One calling near Mo on 16 June 1984, two near Landa-Pozanda the next day and one calling at Lama-Kara on 30 Aug 1984 and at Badou in Mar & Oct 1985.

*Centropus leucoqaster Black-throated Coucal Singles at Djodji on 26 Mar 1985 and at Badou and Kouniohou on 30 Mar 1985.

*C. grillii Black Coucal Two widely separated birds were seen in rank grass beside a dam at Lama-Kara on 24 July 1984. None were seen at the same site on 28 July nor 26 Aug. One near Tabligbo on 14 Nov 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1971) and Browne (1980).

Cauchmochares aereus Yellowbill Singles near Mo on 15 June and 3 July 1984 and Kouniohou on 30 Mar 1985.

OTIDAE

*Tyto alba Barn Owl One at Mo on 27 June 1984. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970).

Otus leucotis White-faced Scops Owl One seen taking a beetle in Lama-Kara on 2 July 1984.

Bubo africanus Spotted Eagle Owl One near Evou Apegame on 14 Oct 1985.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

*Captimulgus climacutus Long-tailed Nighthjar A male found dead on the road 14 km north of Naboulgou on 13 May 1984 is our only confirmed record. Additional sight records, probably of this species, were from Landa-Pozanda in June & July during both 1983 & 1984 and Badou on 21 Oct 1985. There are many other records from Togo (millet-Horsin 1923, De Roo et al. 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, Browne 1980, Herremans & Stevens 1983).

APODIDAE

Telacanthura ussheri Mottled Spinetail A pair near Bafilo on 27 May 1984.

Apus apus European Swift Two near Bafilo on 27 May and one there on 26 Aug 1984. More than 100 in the port area of Lome on 10 Mar 1985. Four near Dzobegan on 13 Mar 1985, 2 at Lama-Kara on 17 Mar 1985. Twenty-five at Djodji on 21 Mar, 6 on 26 Mar and 2 on 29 Mar 1985.

A. caffer African White-rumped Swift Two pairs at Aledjo on 17 June 1984, one there on 28 July 1984, a single bird near Mo on 29 June 1984 and 3 near Naboulgou on 27 Aug 1984.

A. melba Alpine Swift One near Dzobegan on 13 Mar 1985 in the company of 4 A. apus and hundreds of H. rustica. Twenty-six near Tchebebe on 18 Mar 1985 flying above a teak plantation together with numerous D. urbica and A. affinis. Fifteen feeding just above tree height over forest at Djodji on 21 Mar 1985 and 4 there 5 days later. None seen during Sep-Nov 1985.

ALCEDINIDAE

Ceryle maxima Giant Kingfisher Several beside the Anie river near Blitta on 19 June 1984. A female at Djodji on 15 Oct 1985.

Alcedo quadribrachys Shining-blue Kingfisher One at Djodji on 21 & 27 Mar 1985.

Alcedo cristata Malachite Kingfisher One near Mo on 30 June 1984.

Ispidina picta Pygmy Kingfisher One killed by a car near Mo on 27 June 1984.

*Halcyon chelicuti Striped Kingfisher One near Mo on 29 June 1984. One 20 km north of Lome on 20 Mar 1985 and another found dead on Lome beach on 10 Nov 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971).

H. leucocephala Grey-headed Kingfisher Two at Badou on 15 Mar 1985 and singles at Kouniohou and Atakpame on 23 Mar 1985.

H. senegalensis Woodland Kingfisher Singles at Sansanne-Mango and Naboulgou on 21 Aug and at Tchamba on 13 Sept 1984. Noted at Tsevie, Kpalime, Amlame and Djodji in Mar 1985, and at the latter side in Oct 1985.

H. malimbica Blue-breasted Kingfisher Three near Mo on 29 June 1984, 1 at Atakpame on 3 & 4 July 1984 and 1 near Aledjo on 25 Aug 1984. One at Djodji on 15 Oct 1985.

MEROPIDAE

Merops pusillus Little Bee-eater One chivvying an immature Indicator indicator at Lama-Kara on 16 May 1984 and a pair near Aledjo on 17 June 1984.

M. hirundineus Swallow-tailed Bee-eater One at Landa-Mono on 4 July 1984.

M. albicollis White-throated Bee-eater Twenty near Mo on 25 May 1984, 12 at Landa-Mono on 28 May 1984 and a pair at Aledjo on 17 June 1984. More than 30 near Evou Apegame on 15 Mar 1985, up to 5 at Djodji 21-29 Mar 1985 and 3 near Avegode on 14 Nov 1985.

M. nubicus Carmine Bee-eater Two between Sansanne-Mango and Naboulgou on 30 Aug 1984.

CORACIIDAE

Coracias abyssinica Abyssinian Roller One at Sansanne-Mango on 21 & 30 Aug and 14 Oct 1984. None present in the Lama-Kara area from June to mid Oct 1984.

C. cyanocaster Blue-bellied Roller Singles at Tigbada on 19 June and at Landa-Mono on 4 July and a pair at Landa-Pozanda on 16 Sept 1984. In Mar 1985 seen 30 km north of Lome, as Sassanou, Amou-Oblo, Amlame & Kpalime. One at Amou-Oblo on 4 Oct 1985.

*Eurystomus alularis Blue-throated Roller One near Dzobegan on 13 Mar 1985, 2 near Badou on 15 Mar and 1 at Idifiou on 24 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1972).

BUCEROTIDAE

Tropicranus albocristatus White-crested Hornbill One at the waterfall at Kpime-Tomegbe on 3 Oct 1985.

T. erythrorhynchus Red-billed Hornbill One 42 km north of Sansanne-Mango on 21 Aug 1984 and another 50 km further south on 30 Aug 1984.

CAPITONIDAE

Lybius vieilloti Vieillot's Barbet Singles near Landa-Mono on 26 July 1984 and 5 km east of Bafilo on 26 Aug 1984.

*L. hirsutus Hairy-breasted Barbet One at Djodji on 21 Mar 1985. A pair excavating holes in dead branches there 16-25 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).

Gymnobucco calvus Naked-faced Barbet Common in the Misahohe forest in Mar 1985 and at Djodji in Mar & Oct 1985.

*Pogoniulus scolopaceus Speckled Tinker Bird One at Djodji on 29 Mar 1985. Recorded by Dekeyser (1951), Douaud (1956) and De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).

*P. leucolaima Lemon-rumped Tinker Bird Regular at Aledjo between 17 June & 25 Aug 1984. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1971, 1972).

*Trachyphonus purpuratus goffini Yellow-billed Barbet At least three birds were seen entering, leaving and waiting at the entrance of a nest hole 10 m up a dead tree at Djodji in Mar 1985. They were also heard calling in the area at the time but none were present in Oct 1985, perhaps because their breeding tree had been felled. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1970).

INDICATORIDAE

Indicator indicator Greater Honeyguide An immature at Lama-Kara 16 May 1984.

*I. minor Lesser Honeyguide One 5 km east of Bafilo on 27 May 1984. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1971, 1972).

PICIDAE

*Campethera nivosus Buff-spotted Woodpecker A female at Djodji on 29 Mar 1985. Recorded from Misahohe by Reichenhow (1897).

*Dendropicos gabonensis Gaboon Woodpecker A female at Djodji, feeding alone high up a tree, on 22 Oct 1985.

*D. pyrrhogaster Fire-bellied Woodpecker A female in the Misahohe forest on 13 Mar 1985 and a male there the next day. Recorded from the same site by Reichenhow (1897).

ALAUDIDAE

Mirafraga rufocinnamomea Flappet Lark Birds displaying at

Lama-Kara and Mo on 2 June 1984 and another seen at Lama-Kara on 17 Mar 1985.

HIRUNDINIDAE

*Riparia riparia European Sand Martin Fifteen, in company with 100 Hirundo rustica, feeding low over the Gban-Houa river at Djodji on 26 Mar 1985. Two with a party of 50 H. rustica at the Lama-Kara dam on 6 Oct 1985 when all the birds were seen splashing into the water. On 16 Oct 1985 5 seen at Djodji together with 50 H. rustica and 2 Delichon urbica. R. riparia was recorded from Togo by Douaud (1957).

Hirundo rustica European Swallow A few in the Lome area 6-8 Mar 1985. More than 1000 present on the Plateau de Danyi, with a flock of 500 at Dzobegan on 13 Mar 1985. These were presumably migrants. A hundred at Djodji on 26 Mar 1985. At 1715 hrs on 6 Oct 1985 a flock of 50 swallows and 2 R. riparia suddenly appeared over the lake at the Lama-Kara dam. The birds swooped down low over the water and struck its surface with their chests, making substantial and audible splashes. The flock made two such passes over the lake during a two or three minute spell before flying off southward. Oct 6 was the first day that the Harmattan wind had been felt at Lama-Kara that season, an earlier date than is usual, and this wind may well aid migratory movements but its associated dryness and heat make for difficult conditions. Perhaps the birds were dampening their chest and belly feathers to aid cooling, as well as taking the opportunity for a drink.

*H. leucosoma Pied-winged Swallow On 26 Aug 1984 a pair were seen 5 km east of Bafilo. The birds were hawking with a rapid flight, flying low over well-wooded savanna interspersed with cultivated ground and a few huts. The speed of their flight made them difficult to observe but they repeatedly flew over the same ground and darted with remarkable agility around the trees and other obstacles. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969).

H. abyssinica Lesser Striped Swallow Pairs seen at Atakpame on 15 Mar 1985 and Badou on 2 Mar 1985. Many records from May to July in the Lama-Kara area in 1984 and in previous years when nesting noted (Cheke & Walsh 1980, 1984). Two near Naboulgou on 21 Aug 1984 but none seen Sept-Nov 1985 nor Sept-Dec 1981. The species is apparently a migrant, leaving sooner than other wet season visitors, with a pattern similar to that in Nigeria (Elgood et al. 1973).

H. fuligula Rock Martin A pair at the Faille d'Aledjo on 25 Aug were associated with one of two nests on a rock face. The birds appeared to be building and on 9 Sept they were still present at the nest, which had been enlarged.

H. preussi Preuss' Cliff Swallow Many at Naboulgou and one 57 km further north on 13 May 1984. Numerous near Mo on 29

June 1984.

Delichon urbica House Martin On 18 Mar 1985 160 were counted near Tchebébe and five more flocks were seen between there and Blitta. The birds were feeding, together with Apus affinis and A. melba, above roadside teak plantations adjoining southern Guinea savanna woodland. Six at Djodji on 29 Mar 1985 and 2 there on 16 Oct 1985. The species' occurrence in Togo was discussed by Douaud (1956a).

MOTACILLIDAE

Anthus leucophrys Plain-Backed Pipit Two at Lomé on 31 Mar 1985.

Macronyx croceus Yellow-throated Longclaw Two near Landa-Pozanda on 2 June 1984 and singles at Aledjo on 17 June 1984 and at Mo on 30 June 1984.

*Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail Up to 5 at Lomé in Mar 1985. One at Lama-Kara on 17 Mar 1985. Present at Lomé Oct-Nov 1985, with a peak of 22 on 1 Nov. Recorded by Douaud (1957), De Roo et al. (1972), Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Campephaga phoenicea Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike A male at Landa-Pozanda on 26 May 1984, two males 5 km east of Bafilo the next day and another male at Aledjo on 28 May 1984. A pair near Landa-Pozanda on 17 June and a male there on 8 Sept 1984.

PYCNONOTIDAE

*Andropadus virens Little Greenbul One in the Misahohe forest on 2 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972), Douaud (1956b) and Millet-Horsin (1923).

*Thescelocichla leucopleura White-tailed Greenbul Up to 4 at Djodji in Mar & Oct 1985.

*Chlorocichla simplex Simple Leaflove One at Djodji on 23 Mar 1985. Recorded by Millet-Horsin (1923) and De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).

*Phyllastrephus scandens Leaflove Common in the Aledjo forest 1 July-25 Aug 1984. Also seen near Mo and at Atakpame on 3 July 1984 and in the Misahohe forest on 14 Mar 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1972).

*Nicator chloris Nicator One at Djodji on 26 Mar 1985. Recorded by Douaud (1956b) and by De Roo et al. (1969, 1971, 1972).

*Baeopogon indicator togoensis Honeyguide Greenbul One in the Misahohe forest on 2 Oct 1985. Recorded by Douaud (1956b) and by De Roo et al. (1971, 1972).

LANIIDAE

*Prionops caniceps Chestnut-bellied Helmet-shrike Six near Sodo on 10 Oct 1985 and 2 at Djodji on 15 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).

Tchagra senegala Black-crowned Tchagra One was seen carrying a full bill-load of food 5 km east of Bafilo on 27 May 1984.

Laniarius aethiopicus Tropical Boubou Common in the Mo valley June-July 1984.

*Lanius collaris Fiscal Shrike Noted at Anfoin, Atakpame, Badou, Lome and Sassanou in Mar 1985 and at Lome in Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969), Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).

*L. senator Woodchat Shrike One at Tabligbo on 8 Mar 1985. Recorded by Douaud (1957), Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).

TURDIDAE

*Myrmecocichla albifrons White-fronted Black Chat One near Mo on 27 June 1984 and another near Naboulgou on 27 Aug 1984. Recorded by Douaud (1956b) and De Roo et al. (1969).

SYLVIIDAE

*Cisticola juncidis Fan-tailed Warbler A single bird in degraded savanna and farmland near Aledjo on 29 July 1984. Present at Lome in Mar and Sept-Nov 1985 and Feb 1986. Recorded by Browne (1980).

*C. lateralis Whistling Cisticola In 1984 a pair was established in abandoned farmland within the Aledjo forest. The birds were seen between 8 July and 25 Aug. On 26 Aug 1984 2 were singing in reply to each other 5 km east of Bafilo. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971).

C. brachyptera Siffling Cisticola One was flushed, presumably from near a nest, carrying a faecal pellet at Kpayando on 5 Aug 1984.

*Apalis flava Yellow-breasted Apalis One at the Faille d'Aledjo on 17 June 1984. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969).

*Hypergerus atriceps Moho One in forest beside the Amoutchou river, near Idifiou on 9 Oct 1985. Recorded by Millet-Horsin (1923) and Browne (1980).

*Eremomela badiceps Brown-crowned Eremomela One at Djodji on 2 Oct 1985. An active bird, leaf-gleaning near the top of a forest tree.

*Sylvietta virens Green Crombec One made repeated visits to the same part of a creeper, suggesting possible nesting, at Aledjo on 17 June 1984. A pair were still present at the same site on 7 July. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1970, 1972).

*Phylloscopus trochilus Willow Warbler One in the Misahohe forest on 13 Mar 1985. Recorded by Douaud (1957), De Roo et al. (1970, 1972) and Louette (1975).

*P. sibilatrix Wood Warbler One in the Misahohe forest on 14 Mar 1985. Recorded by Douaud (1957) and De Roo et al. (1972).

MUSCICAPIDAE

*Ficedula hypoleuca Pied Flycatcher One hawking from a teak plantation beside a road near Tchebebe on 18 Mar 1985. Recorded by Douaud (1957) and De Roo et al. (1970, 1972).

*Melaenornis edolioides Black Flycatcher A pair 5 km east of Bafilo on 27 May 1984.

*Bradornis pallidus Pale Flycatcher Singles near Bafilo on 27 May & 26 Aug 1984, at 09° 06'N, 01° 01'E on 30 June 1984 and at Tomegbe on 22 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1971, 1972).

*Megabyas flammulatus Shrike-flycatcher A female in the Misahohe forest on 13 Mar 1985, perched upright occasionally moving its tail from side to side. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1972).

*Terpsiphone rufiventer Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher Three at Djodji on 21 Mar 1985 and one at Badou two days later. A female at Akloa on 17 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1971, 1972).

*Myioparus plumbeus Grey Tit-flycatcher Singles near Pewa on 5 Aug 1984 and at Akloa on 17 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969).

PARIDAE

*Parus leucomelas White-shouldered Black Tit Four seen in a fig tree near Aledjo on 17 June 1984 and noted near Mo on 26 & 27 June 1984. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1972).

NECTARINIIDAE

Nectarinia coccinigaster Splendid Sunbird Many attracted to flowers of Berlinia grandiflora at Mo May-June 1984.

N. cuprea Copper Sunbird Not seen at Lama-Kara in May 1984, but two pairs were disputing there on 16 June. The species was also feeding from B. grandiflora at Mo in May-June 1984.

*N. olivacea Olive Sunbird One at Tomegbe on 22 Oct 1985. Recorded by Dekeyser (1951) and De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).

*N. verticalis Green-headed Sunbird Regularly seen in the Aledjo forest and Mo areas from 25 May to 26 Aug 1984, often feeding at flowers of B. grandiflora. Also recorded from the Bafilo area on 5 & 26 Aug 1984. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971) and Browne (1980).

*N. cyanolaema Blue-throated Brown Sunbird A pair at Djodji on 16 Oct 1985 feeding on the flowers of an African Tulip Tree (Spathodea campanulata).

N. adelberti Buff-throated Sunbird A pair at Djodji on 15 Oct 1985, feeding on flowers of S. campanulata. Male seen there again on 16 & 25 Oct 1985.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

*Zosterops senegalensis White-eye Singles near Mo on 26 & 29 June 1984. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972) and Louette (1975).

EMBERIZIDAE

Emberiza tahapisi Cinnamon-breasted Rock-bunting One at Defale on 14 Oct 1984.

E. cabanisi Cabani's Bunting A pair near Aledjo on 27 July 1984.

FRINGILLIDAE

*Serinus gularis Streaky-headed Seed-eater At 0830 hrs on 28 June 1984 a flock of 30 were seen feeding on early millet near Mo and at 0550 hrs on 30 June 1984 94 were counted in the same field. One at Badou on 29 Mar 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1972) and Louette (1975).

PLOCEIDAE

*Ploceus nigerimus castaneofuscus Chestnut and Black Weaver A male near Tsevie on 8 Mar 1985 and at least 50 breeding in a mixed colony with P. cucullatus 5 km south of Amoussokoko

on 10 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970).

*P. tricolour Yellow-mantled Weaver Two pairs in the Misahohe forest on 13 Mar 1985. A pair building in a colony of 10 nests at Kouniohou on 23 Mar 1985 and other pairs near Idifiou on 9 & 24 Oct 1985. Recorded by Dekeyser (1951) and De Roo et al. (1969, 1971, 1972).

Malimbus rubricollis Red-headed Forest Weaver Seen at Kpalime and Djodji in Mar 1985 and at Amoussokoko and Djodji in Oct 1985.

M. rubriceps Red-headed Weaver A female at Aleheride on 25 May 1984.

Quelea erythrops Red-headed Dioch A flock of up to 30 birds near Landa-Pozanda on 17 June 1984.

*Nigrita canicapilla Grey-crowned Negro-Finch A pair at the Faille d'Aledjo on 26 June 1984 and another in gallery forest at 09° 06' N, 01° 01' E on 28 June 1984. A pair at Djodji in Mar & Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1970, 1971) and Browne (1980).

*Pytilia phoenicoptera Red-winged Pytilia One at Ayagba on 23 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1972).

ESTRILDIDAE

*Spermophaga haematina Blue-billed Weaver One at Djodji on 29 Mar 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1971).

Lagonosticta rubricata Blue-billed Firefinch A pair at Mo on 16 June and a male there on 26 June 1984. Two pairs near Landa-Pozanda on 17 June 1984.

L. larvata Black-faced Firefinch A pair at Mo on 26 June 1984 and a male at 09° 23' N, 01° 10' E on 5 Aug 1984.

Lonchura bicolor Blue-billed Mannikin A pair at Djodji on 16 Oct 1985.

*L. fringilloides Magpie Mannikin A flock of 5 seen preening in a dead tree at Djodji on 25 Oct 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1972) and Browne (1980).

STURNIDAE

*Lamprolornis splendidus Splendid Starling Four in the Misahohe forest on 13 Mar 1985, 3 at Djodji two days later and 1 at Kounichou on 23 Mar 1985. Up to 3 at Djodji on 15, 16 & 25 Oct 1985. These noisy and conspicuous birds were identified by their loud calls (noted as variable but including "squaark, squaark" and "eey-aw ei ei uh") often

issued from near the top of trees, their slimmer and sleeker shape than L. purpureus, their longish rounded tails with dark subterminal bands, dark blue cheeks and bellies contrasting with the remainder of their paler green-blue glossy plumage. Eyes white. No previous published records between Sierra Leone and Benin but L. splendidus has been seen independently by both L. Grimes (pers. comm.) and J. F. W.

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster Amethyst Starling A male 5 km east of Bafilo on 27 May 1984 and two pairs at both Aledjo and Landa-Pozanda on 17 June 1984. Eleven at Mo on 26 June 1984 and a male near Tsevie on 8 Mar 1985.

DICURIDAE

*Dicrurus ludwigii Square-tailed Drongo A pair at the Faille d'Aledjo on 8 July 1984 and several more nearby on the same day. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1972).

ORIOLIDAE

*Oriolus brachyrhynchus Black-headed Oriole One in gallery forest near Tsevie on 8 Mar 1985. Recorded by De Roo et al. (1969, 1972).

*O. nigripennis Black-winged Oriole One in the Misahohe forest on 13 Mar 1985. Recorded from the same site by Reichenhow (1897).

DISCUSSION

In this paper we have given details of 107 species which we had not seen during previous visits to Togo between 1972 and 1983. This surprisingly high number of new species is a consequence of a concentration of effort in forests and along the coastline. Also, few of the earlier visits had been made during the dry season when many Palaearctic migrants were present. Eighty of the 107 species had been collected or seen in Togo by previous authors and in some cases are unremarkable records of common species. Nevertheless the rapid degradation of African habitats makes up to date information important for planning the ever more urgent conservation measures needed, especially for forest birds and shorebirds.

The Damara Tern S. balaenarum is a threatened species listed as rare by Collar & Stuart (1985). These authors also included Togo as part of the former range of the threatened White-necked Picathartes Picathartes gymnocephalus. However, it is unlikely that this species has ever been recorded in what is now the Republic of Togo (Cheke 1986): many early records from 'Togo' refer to collections made in

that part of 'Togoland' which is now part of Ghana. We have found, however, four species within the Togolese borders which Collar & Stuart list (in their Appendix G) as candidate species for treatment as threatened in Africa. These four are: Saddlebill Stork E. senegalensis, Long-tailed Hawk U. macrourus, Crowned Crane B. pavonina and Bronze-naped Pigeon C. iriditorques. In addition Togo is a wintering area for the Peregrine F. peregrinus and Roseate Tern S. dougallii which are included in the list of threatened species in other Red Data books.

Preservation of the beach-front at Lome and the enforced banning of bird-snaring there and elsewhere would aid the protection of the two rare terns, as well as many other wintering shorebirds. The forested parts of the upland Plateaux regions, near Kpalime (e.g. the Misahohe forest) and Badou (e.g. the Asuakawkow valley), provide shelter for many Afro-tropical species (including Damara Tern and White-necked Picathartes) and are also important for Palaearctic migrants such as A. apus, A. melba, D. urbica and H. rustica.

SUMMARY

Records of birds of interest seen in Togo during 1984-early 1986 are given. By concentrating on coastal and forest habitats in the dry season, 107 species additional to those in the authors' previous published lists for the country were observed. Twenty-seven of the species were new to Togo. Attention is drawn to rare species and conservation needs

RESUME

Renseignements sont donnés sur des oiseaux intéressants vus au Togo entre 1984 et la début de 1986. Cent-sept espèces, dont la plupart étaient des oiseaux de la cote ou du forêt, étaient observées, en plus de celles déjà indiqués par les auteurs. Vingt-sept espèces sont nouvelles pour le Togo. On fait remarquer les espèces rares et des mesures pour la protection des oiseaux.

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APPENDIX

GAZETTEER OF TOGO

ADETA	07° 08' N, 00° 44' E	IDIFIOU	07° 38' N, 00° 58' E
AKLOA	07° 31' N, 00° 37' E	KOUNIOHOU	07° 40' N, 00° 47' E
ALEDJO	09° 15' N, 01° 12' E	KPALIME	06° 54' N, 00° 37' E
ALEHERIDE	09° 13' N, 01° 12' E	KPAYANDO	09° 22' N, 01° 09' E
AMLAME	07° 28' N, 00° 54' E	KPIME-TONEGBE	07° 01' N, 00° 39' E
AMOU OBLO	07° 24' N, 00° 53' E	KUMASI (GHANA)	06° 45' N, 01° 40' W
AMOUSSOKOPE	06° 40' N, 00° 51' E	LAMA-KARA	09° 33' N, 01° 11' E
ANECHO	06° 14' N, 01° 36' E	LANDA-MONO	08° 36' N, 01° 16' E
ANFOIN	06° 19' N, 01° 37' E	LANDA-POZANDA	09° 31' N, 01° 17' E
ANIE	07° 45' N, 01° 12' E	LOME	06° 08' N, 01° 14' E
ATAKPAME	07° 32' N, 01° 08' E	MO	09° 05' N, 01° 03' E
AVEGODE	06° 48' N, 01° 36' E	MISAHOHE	06° 57' N, 00° 35' E
AVETONOU	06° 48' N, 00° 48' E	NABOULGOU	10° 11' N, 00° 48' E
AYAGBA	07° 46' N, 00° 47' E	PEWA	09° 16' N, 01° 14' E
BADOU	07° 35' N, 00° 36' E	SANSANNE-MANGO	10° 22' N, 00° 28' E
BAFILO	09° 21' N, 01° 14' E	SASSANOU	07° 16' N, 00° 40' E
BLITTA	08° 18' N, 00° 59' E	SODO	07° 19' N, 00° 49' E
DAPAON	10° 51' N, 00° 12' E	TABLIGBO	06° 35' N, 01° 30' E
DEFALE	09° 53' N, 01° 05' E	TCHAMBA	09° 02' N, 01° 25' E
DJODJI	07° 40' N, 00° 35' E	TCHEBEBE	08° 26' N, 00° 59' E
DZOBEGAN	07° 41' N, 00° 41' E	TIGBADA	08° 30' N, 00° 59' E
EVOU APEGAME	07° 32' N, 00° 02' E	TONEGBE	07° 31' N, 00° 36' E
HIHEATRO	07° 32' N, 01° 06' E	TSEVIE	06° 25' N, 01° 13' E