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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

- LOUETTE, M. (1981) The Birds of Cameroon, an annotated checklist. *Verhandel. Kon. Acad. Wetensch. Lett. Schone Kunst. Belg.* 43: 1-163.
DOWSETT, R.J. & Dowsett-Lemaire, F. (eds) (1993) *A Contribution to the Distribution and Taxonomy of Afrotropical and Malagasy Birds*. Tauraco Res. Rep. 5, Tauraco Press, Belgium.

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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