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aspect of Kupe Bush Shrike behaviour is the wing-beats of angry birds (produced in series of 4–6), as it is possible this has never been recorded previously in a *Malaconotus* shrike, whereas it is frequently seen in *Dryoscopus* species of the same family. I have never managed to provoke a wing-beat display during prolonged playback experiments with Green-breasted Bush Shrike *M. gladiator*, Fiery-breasted Bush Shrike *M. cruentus* nor Many-coloured Bush Shrike *M. multicolor*. Harris & Arnott (1988), report a “wing-fripping” display in Grey-headed Bush Shrike *M. blanchoti*: but this is a different type of wing-noise (more fluttery; T. Harris pers. comm.) given apparently as a courtship display.

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New tape recordings of three West African birds

Based on observations in Comoé National Park, Ivory Coast, we describe here some calls of three common bird species, which are apparently unknown or have never been recorded before, and comment on their possible function. We present sonograms and oscillograms of these calls and measurements of the most important acoustic features.

***Ardea goliath* Goliath Heron.** A “song” of a Goliath Heron was recorded on 3 Apr 1996. It contained one deep *krooo* call followed by 5–7 deep grunts (total duration 3.2 ± 0.3 s, $n=2$, Fig. 1). The *krooo* calls had an average ($n=2$) of 219 ± 18 ms and a

dominant frequency of 517 ± 0 Hz, whereas grunts ($n=12$) had an average duration of 110 ± 14 ms and a dominant frequency of 380 ± 25 Hz. Intervals between grunts averaged 185 ± 39 ms ($n=10$). The call was a courtship display, a heron in upright position stretched itself slowly upwards; at the maximum stretched position, with the tip of the bill pointing upwards, it gave the *krooo* call, then slowly crouched. After about 1.5 seconds, when the bird had moved its head to about body level with the neck kinked, it gave a repeated series of grunts. This song was only heard at the beginning of the rainy season in March and April. It was audible mainly in the early morning hours, sometimes at night. Although described by Urban *et al.* (1982) it seems that the song of this species has never been tape recorded.

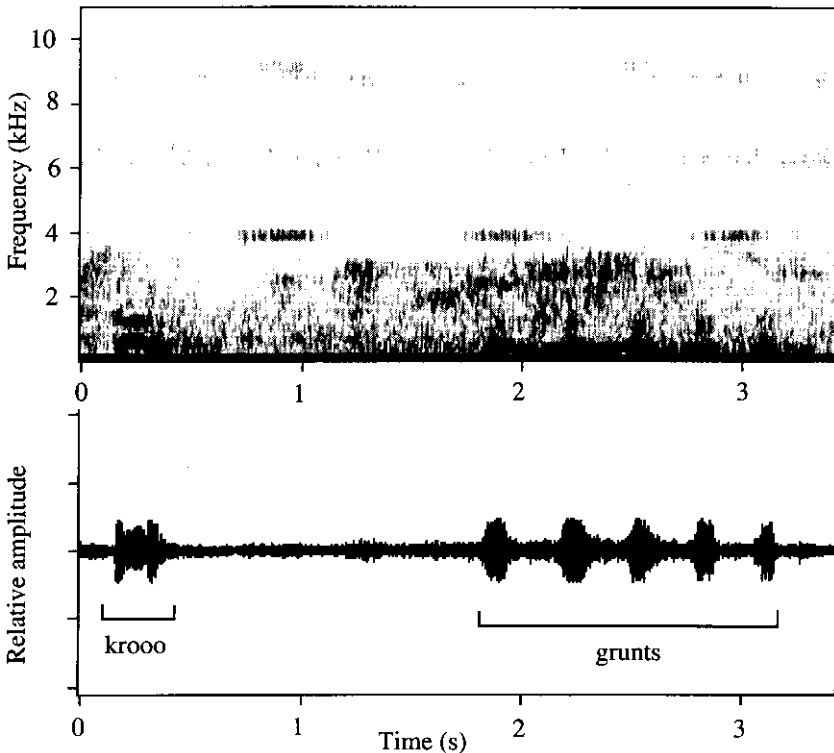


Figure 1. "Song" of Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*.

Cuculus solitarius Red-chested Cuckoo. Calls of an immature Red-chested Cuckoo were recorded on 10 Oct 1995. The bird was seen calling at a height of 2.5–3 m on the lower branches of a tree in a densely vegetated area of the riparian forest near the Comoé River. While calling it remained motionless. It was identified by its size and

dark appearance, with dark upperparts and throat, and black and white barring on breast and belly. The call is an insect-like buzz, repeated monotonously for several minutes (Fig. 2). The calls ($n=5$) had an average duration of 306 ± 26 ms and a dominant frequency of 6.34 ± 0.21 KHz; they were slightly downward frequency modulated by on average 412 ± 169 Hz. No calls of immature birds have previously been recorded (Irwin 1988, C. Chappuis, pers. comm., A. Priori pers. comm.; K.-H. Frommolt pers comm., P. Duck pers. comm.).

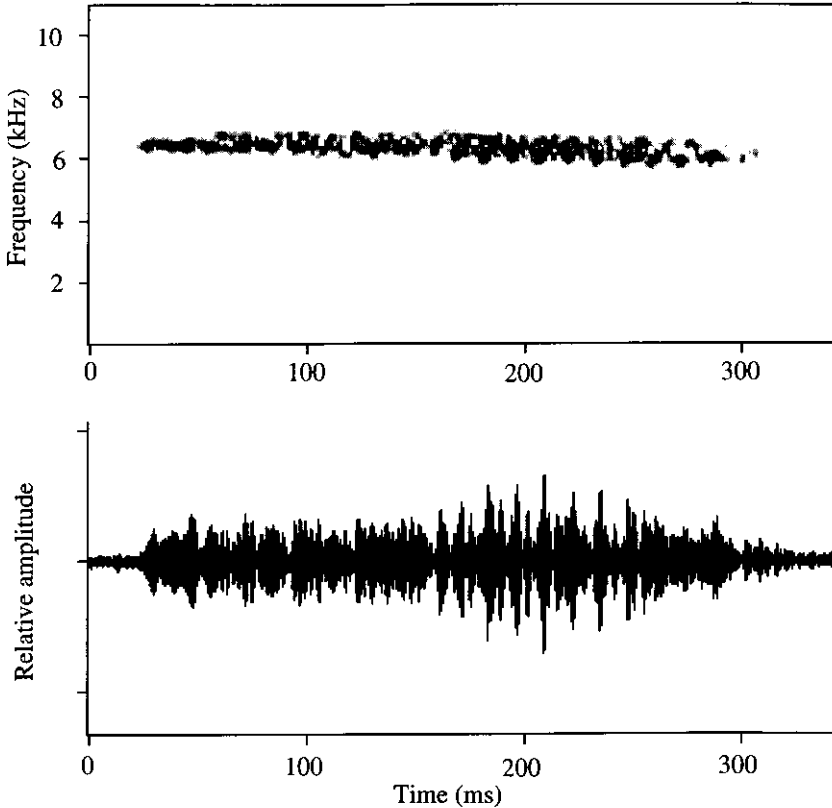


Figure 2. Calls of an immature Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*.

Cossypha niveicapilla **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat.** The alarm call of a Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat was recorded on 18 Nov 1995. The call (Fig. 3) is a repeated *churr*. It is pulsative, with an average ($n=5$) of 27 ± 5 pulses/call, an average duration of 616 ± 146 ms and an average dominant frequency of 1.89 ± 0.11 KHz. A description of what appears to be this call is given by Oatley *et al.* (1992): "Alarm note a guttural,

ratchet-like churr, ... heard especially at dusk". We heard this call almost exclusively at dusk, for a relatively short time; often several birds called at the same time. One bird gave this call when it was taken out of a mist net.

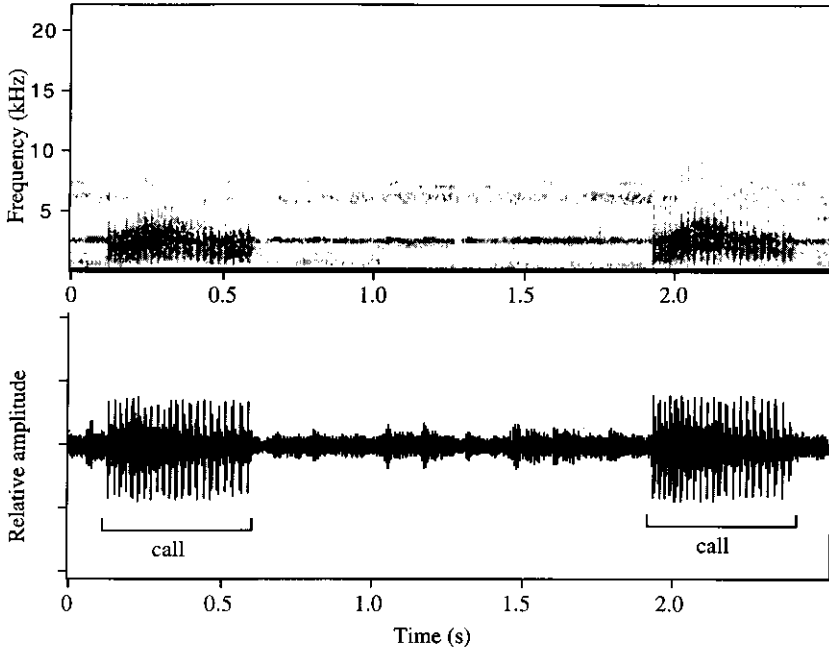


Figure 3. Alarm call of Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*.

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A southern record of Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* in Lamto, Ivory Coast

The Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* ranges in West Africa from Senegal to Nigeria and the Central African Republic. It has a strong affinity to rocky ground but is also found in any kind of open habitat, especially on dry patches where it feeds mainly on seeds (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1973). In Ivory Coast it was reported by Thiollay (1985) from Korhogo (9°22'N) and Niangbo (8°49'N); additionally Demey & Fishpool (1991) observed it in Comoé National Parc (between 8°30'N and 9°30'N).

During a stay in Lamto (6°13'N) one Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting was observed on 2 Dec 1998. It was identified by its black and white striped head, and reddish-brown body with dark streaks on the back. When the bird was discovered by VS it was foraging on the road; after a while it flew into a tree where it was lost. When returning together with FG after about 15 min., the bird was observed again at almost exactly the same place on the road and we watched it for some minutes again before it took off.

This is probably the first observation of the species in Lamto; no record has been published so far (Thiollay 1970, 1971) and it was not observed there by L.D.C. Fishpool (pers. comm.). It is also the southernmost record for the Ivory Coast, which means a range extension of more than 2° latitude. In other West African Countries like Guinea (Walsh 1987), Ghana (Grimes 1987) and Togo (Cheke & Walsh 1996), all localities where the species is recorded lie well north of the latitude of Lamto. In Liberia it is recorded as rare by Gatter (1988, 1998), who gives no locality. The only country where it is recorded in comparable latitudes is Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994), with records at 7°50' (Kabba), 7°30' (Mambilla), 6°38' (Obudu) and 6°20' (Enugu). Records from coastal cities that lie further south than Lamto include Lagos, Burutu and Port Harcourt; however, it is speculated that these might be escapes because the species is a popular cage bird there (Elgood *et al.* 1994). As this is not the case in Ivory Coast, the observed bird in Lamto could be the southernmost record of the species in West Africa.