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## Recent bird observations from Ivory Coast

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### Summary

During our observation period of 1997–2000, mainly in the forest zone, we recorded two species new for Ivory Coast: Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* and House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. A number of additional species new to the country, which were recorded by other workers (some unpublished), are also included. Additions to the avifauna of Marahoué National Park and other protected areas are presented, as are other records of rarely reported species, significant range extensions and breeding. Many savanna species are now found in the south of the country in what previously were forested areas.

### Résumé

**Des observations récentes d'oiseaux du Côte d'Ivoire.** Durant notre période d'observation de 1997 à 2000, surtout en région forestière, nous avons trouvé deux espèces nouvelles pour la Côte-d'Ivoire: le Coliou strié *Colius striatus* et le Moineau domestique *Passer domesticus*. Un certain nombre d'espèces nouvelles pour le pays, que d'autres avaient déjà observées (dont plusieurs inédites) y sont incluses. Sont donnés des ajouts à l'avifaune du Parc National de Marahoué et d'autres aires protégées, d'autres observations d'espèces rarement signalées, ainsi que des extensions considérables de distribution et des données sur la reproduction. On peut trouver dorénavant de nombreuses espèces de savane au sud du pays là où régnait autrefois la forêt.

### Introduction and study areas

Thiollay's (1985) paper is the standard reference for the birds of Ivory Coast. It was updated by Demey & Fishpool (1991) who documented 28 species that had since been added to the country's avifauna. Over the last decade there have been many further

additions and it was felt that a further update would clarify our knowledge of the birds of the country. The observations we present are those for which there are very few previous records or which represent large range extensions or which appear to have different population status from that given by Thiollay (1985) or Demey & Fishpool (1991). Our observations were made while we were resident in the country (HR 1998–2000, OL 1997–2000). HR's work in the cocoa industry has resulted in many records in cocoa plantations. Gatter (1997) also mentioned some observations in Ivory Coast, many of which are of some importance and which we have included in this paper. We also include some observations by Philippe Lachenaud during the periods 1978–88 and September 1997 to 2000, and recent unpublished records by other correspondents listed in the acknowledgments.

In the south of Ivory Coast there is a long rainy season from April to mid-July, followed by a short dry season from July to September. A short rainy season from mid-September to November is followed by the long dry season from December to March. This bimodal system blends into a unimodal system in the north, which has a single June–September rainy season. Thiollay (1985) gives further details. Salewski *et al.* (2001) discuss the variation in rainfall over the forest zone since the 1930s.

Many of our observations were from the following sites. Abokouamékro Reserve contains natural guinea savanna and an artificial lake, with some introduced mammals (*e.g.* White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* and Roan *Hippotragus equus*). Anguédéou Forêt Classée lies adjacent to Banco National Park and comprises mainly degraded forest and timber plantations with some better quality forest. The Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA) station at Divo includes 3600 ha of forest and plantations. Mont Péko National Park consists of primary and secondary semi-deciduous forest including mountains and inselbergs. This park is one of few remaining protected areas in Ivory Coast with continuous forest cover from lowland to submontane altitudes (250–1000 m). Marahoué National Park lies at the northern edge of the forest zone and is made up of 80% forest, with savanna over most of the rest. Abokouamékro lies in the savanna zone and is on the boundary of our definition of northern and southern sites. The other three of these sites lie further south, in the forest zone. The records presented include additions to the species lists of these and other protected areas.

Scientific nomenclature follows *Birds of Africa* (Brown *et al.* 1982, Fry *et al.* 1988, 2000, Keith *et al.* 1992, Urban *et al.* 1986, 1997) and, for the species not yet covered in these volumes, Dowsett (1993). Abundance definitions follow Morel & Tye (1995). A gazetteer is presented in Appendix 1.

## Results

Our own observations include two new species for Ivory Coast and a number of range extensions. The observations included here are presented with reference to previous

work in Ivory Coast and in the Upper Guinea region. In the list below, Thiollay (1985) is denoted by TH and Demey & Fishpool (1991) by DF. NP is used an abbreviation for National Park and FC for Forêt Classée.

### **Anhingidae**

*Anhinga rufa* Darter. About 10 birds at Sassandra, including immatures, Jan 1999; six at the same site, Nov 1999. Gatter (1997) thought that there may be a breeding colony west of Sassandra although he did not give specific observations from Ivory Coast. Considerably decreased from former times (as noted by TH).

### **Ciconiidae**

*Mycteria ibis* Yellow-billed Stork. One immature at Buyo lake, May 1999; one previously recorded there (DF). Gatter (1997) records an immature being killed at Taï on the Cavalla (Cavally) River, Feb 1991. Ours is the third sighting south of Comoé NP, where it breeds (DF).

*Anastomus lamelligerus* Openbill Stork. A record number of 252 along the coast road at Boubo River, c. 20 km west of Grand Lahou, early Jan 2000 (M. Tia *per* R. Demey pers. comm.).

### **Pandionidae**

*Pandion haliaetus* Osprey. A bird ringed as a nestling at Korpo, Finland, 11 Sep 1996, found dead near Sassandra, 17 Mar 1997 (R. Haas pers. comm.). Frequent in the dry season (northern winter).

### **Accipitridae**

*Milvus migrans* Black Kite. Roost of 247 on dead trees in Buyo lake, 7 Nov 1998 (end of wet season). Abundant in the forest zone in the dry season.

*Haliaeetus vocifer* River Eagle. Seen at several places on the coast, May 1998: Port-Gauthier FC near Fresco, Dassiéko FC, Dagbégo. Immatures more numerous than adults. Two adults, Bandama river near Grand-Lahou, Oct 1998. An adult roosting at Buyo lake, Nov 1998. An immature in Marahoué NP, Nov–Dec 1998. One in Aboukouamékro reserve, Apr 2000. The first inland records for some time. TH regarded it as almost extinct south of Comoé NP.

*Necrosyrtes monachus* Hooded Vulture. Frequent near Aboisso. One near Grand Lahou, Dec 1998. Second and third coastal sites (DF).

*Gyps africanus* White-backed Vulture. One immature in Marahoué NP, Feb 1999 (first record for the park). Frequent in northern savannas; only occasionally reported south to Lamto (TH).

*Melierax metabates* Dark Chanting Goshawk. One near Soubré, Nov 1998. One between Man and Duékoué, Feb 2000. First records in the forest zone; previous most southerly record was Marahoué NP, apart from an old coastal record (TH).

*Accipiter badius* Shikra. Common in Abidjan and Bingerville, all year. Also seen near Divo and Sassandra. On 17 Oct 1998 a pair was constructing a nest 5 m up in an introduced pine in HR's garden east of Bingerville. Heavy rain may have prevented further activity until 16 Nov when further construction seen on this day only. Two

eggs, 10 Jan 1999. The two chicks (Table 1) had fledged by 17 Feb. TH does not give records south of Lamto; DF mention one at Adiopodoumé.

**Table 1. Biometrics of two Shikra chicks from a nest near Bingerville. The chicks were not individually marked and it is presumed that the larger chick (figures on right) was the same individual throughout.**

Date	Wing (mm)	Weight (g)	Tail (mm)	Tarsus (mm)	Bill (mm)
21 Jan	-	18, 19	-	12.5, 14.2	7.6, 8.2
27 Jan	37, 39	60, 61	-	26.2, 26.4	11.2, 12.0
9 Feb	124, 126	127.5, 123.5	76, 76	44.4, 44.5	14.4, 15.2

*A. erythropus* Western Little Sparrowhawk. A male, Marahoué NP, Feb 2000 (new record for the park). We obtained only three records; seems to have decreased greatly, since TH believed it common.

*A. melanoleucus* Black Goshawk. One near Bandama river on the road from Niakaramandougou to Korhogo, Apr 1999. The river had a narrow border of gallery forest. The most northerly locality for this rare forest raptor, apart from Comoé NP (TH). Also recorded from Banco NP, possibly the first record for the park.

*Hieraetus ayresii* Ayres's Hawk Eagle. One seen north of Sassandra, Dec 1998. Most southerly locality, second coastal site after Dabou (TH).

*Stephanoaetus coronatus* Crowned Eagle. Seen at Monogaga FC, Jan 1999 (new locality); an immature in Banco NP, Feb 1999; frequent at CNRA, Divo. Threatened in Ivory Coast by habitat loss and human hunting of both its prey and the eagle itself.

#### **Falconidae**

*Falco vespertinus* Western Red-footed Falcon. A male at Vavoua, 18 Jan 1999. Six previous records (TH); rarely recorded Ghana and Liberia (Grimes 1987, Gatter 1997).

*F. cuvierii* African Hobby. Frequent in the Abidjan area. One near Divo, Oct 1998. Seen regularly at Abidjan golf course 1981–3 (R. Demey pers. comm.). TH mentions no recent records from the south.

*F. biarmicus* Lanner. One at Abidjan golf course, 15 Feb 1985; an immature at Dabou ricefields, 26 Mar 1988 (R. Demey pers. comm.); one near Abidjan, Apr 1998. These are the first coastal records. Also seen in Marahoué NP, Feb 1999 (new to the park).

#### **Rallidae**

*Porphyrio alleni* Allen's Gallinule. Two adults and an immature at San Pedro, Apr 1999; three adults there, Jun 1999; one south of Yapo FC, May 1999; adult and immature at Tiassalé, Oct 1999. TH gave no records south of Bouaké in the wet season, DF added breeding records at Dabou but no other localities.

#### **Glareolidae**

*Glareola pratincola* Common Pratincole. Ten at Grand-Béréby, May 1999, represent first in W Ivory Coast (TH, Balchin 1988, DF).

**Charadriidae**

*Vanellus senegalus* Wattled Plover. Two at Tiassalé, Oct 1999; a pair displaying at Divo, Oct 1999. First records in the forest zone. Common at Marahoué NP and Abokouamékro reserve, (breeding Mar).

**Sternidae**

*Chlidonias leucopterus* White-winged Black Tern. Several birds in breeding plumage with other terns at Sassandra, 2 May 1998. TH records it only Nov–Mar.

**Columbidae**

*Aplopelia larvata* Lemon Dove. Gatter (1997) records it in the Monts des Dans near Man. Known from the Liberian and Guinean sides of Mt Nimba in low altitude forest (Brosset 1984, Colston & Curry-Lindahl 1986).

*Columba livia* Feral Pigeon. Observed at almost all settlements in the forest zone, even sometimes at villages consisting of just a few houses. Not listed by earlier authors. Too widespread and common to represent entirely domesticated birds but no feral breeding has been observed, presumably because few observers have paid attention to this species.

**Psittacidae**

*Agapornis swindernianus* Black-collared Lovebird. A few records at CNRA, Divo up to 1988 (P. Lachenaud pers. comm.). Fourth locality (TH, DF), and rarely observed in neighbouring Ghana and Liberia (Grimes 1987, Dutson & Branscombe 1990, W. Gatter per J. Suter pers. comm.)

**Musophagidae**

*Musophaga violacea* Violet Turaco. Several records from CNRA, Divo (P. Lachenaud pers. comm.). First records in the forest zone and the most southerly apart from old coastal records (TH).

**Cuculidae**

*Pachycoccyx audeberti* Thick-billed Cuckoo. Only one, in savanna at forest edge in Marahoué NP, 4 Mar 2000. New for the park. “Not uncommon” in southern guinea savanna according to TH, so possibly decreased.

*Chrysococcyx klaas* Klaas’s Cuckoo. Abundant from Duékoué and the edge of Taï forest, east throughout the forest zone to Abengourou and Aboisso, Jul–Sep. Few previous inland forest records during this period (e.g. DF), the wet season.

*C. caprius* Didric Cuckoo. Abundant in the forest zone from Buyo lake and San Pedro east to Abengourou, Divo and Bingerville, Jun–Sep (wet season). Few previous inland forest records during this season (cf. *C. klaasi*).

**Strigidae**

*Bubo africanus* Spotted Eagle Owl. One near Bingerville, 4 May 1999. Second coastal record of this savanna species (TH).

**Caprimulgidae**

*Caprimulgus tristigma* Freckled Nightjar. A pair on the inselberg at Issia, 23 Oct 1998; a pair in Mont Péko NP, 2 Dec 1999. A recent record from Taï town (V. Salewski pers. comm.). Other records are from much further north, e.g. Boundiali and Korhogo (TH).

**Apodidae**

*Neafrapus cassini* Cassin's Spinetail. Small group south of Vavoua, 29 Aug 1998. In Marahoué NP (first sightings in the park): two, 24 Apr 1999; three, 16 Feb 1999 and two, 31 Dec 2000 (N. Borrow pers. comm.). These are the most northerly records in the country (cf. TH), although recorded from further north in Liberia (Gatter 1997). A pair at Sassandra River on the coast and two records in Banco NP (new localities).

*Apus caffer* White-rumped Swift. Two in Marahoué NP, 24 Apr 1999 (first sighting in the park).

*T. melba* Alpine Swift. Gatter (1997) noted hundreds in the Monts des Dans, Feb–Apr 1990–4, and a few in Jan 1997. TH had few records and did not observe them Jan–Feb.

**Meropidae**

*Merops breweri* Black-headed Bee-eater. Recorded by Christy & Schulenberg (1999) on the edge of an illegal cocoa plantation in the forest of Marahoué NP, Feb 1998, although no identification details were given. First record for Ivory Coast and the only known extant site for this species west of Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994). A single observation in Ghana, in an area that is now covered by Lake Volta (Grimes 1987).

**Coliidae**

*Colius striatus* Speckled Mousebird. A group of at least five seen near a cocoa plantation south of Vavoua, 4 Jul 1998. They were seen from a distance of about 50 metres with 10x42 binoculars. The view of the birds was brief but clear. They had grey-brown plumage, short dark bills and long tails. The plumage was more brown and less grey than that of nearby Common Bulbuls *Pycnonotus barbatus*. There did not appear to be any blue on the heads. First record from Ivory Coast. Recorded from Mole Game Reserve in Ghana (Grimes 1987) and HR recorded it in a garden in central Accra, Oct 1999.

**Phoeniculidae**

*Phoeniculus purpureus* Red-billed Wood-Hoopoe. Found at CNRA, Divo. First record in the forest zone although known from Dabou on the coast in the 1960s (TH).

**Bucerotidae**

*Ceratogymna elata* Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill. An immature in the gardens of a hotel in Daloa, 23 Feb 1998. The presence in a city of this near-threatened species (Stattersfield & Capper 2000) is surprising, as it is a popular hunting quarry.

**Indicatoridae**

*Melignomon eisentrauti* Yellow-footed Honeyguide. Recently reported from Marahoué and Mont Péko NPs (Rainey & Borrow 2002). First confirmed records for the country (unconfirmed records in TH and Gartshore *et al.* 1995).

*Prodosicticus insignis* Cassin's Honeybird. One in Marahoué NP, 5 Feb 1999 (new for the park). One at Banco NP, 24 Feb 1999 (most southerly locality in Ivory Coast).

**Alaudidae**

*Mirafra africana* Rufous-naped Lark. Recorded from Monts des Dans and Séguéla (Gatter 1997). Previously known only from Mt Nimba (TH).

**Hirundinidae**

*Riparia paludicola* Brown-throated Sand Martin. One at Buyo Lake, 1 Aug 1998, with Little Swifts *Apus affinis*. Second and most southerly site; previous sightings in Comoé NP (Salewski 1998).

*Pseudhirundo griseopyga* Grey-rumped Swallow. Two near Grand-Béréby, 24 May 1999. Gatter (1997) notes a coastal population reaching east from Liberia into Ivory Coast as far as Tabou and San Pedro. Previously known from two northern sites, Comoé NP and Leraba Gare (TH, Walsh 1986).

*Hirundo abyssinica* Lesser Striped Swallow. Said by TH to be abundant only in the north, it is now frequent to common in the south. Recorded from Monogaga FC, new record for the forest.

*H. lucida* Red-chested Swallow. Common along the coast from Grand Béréby to Aboisso and in much of the forest zone. Nests on Abidjan golf course, Mar 1999. Gatter (1997) records breeding in San Pedro and Tabou. TH and DF record it only as far south as Lamto and Sikensi respectively. Possibly gradually extending range to the south.

*Delichon urbica* House Martin. A flock of c. 150 at CNRA, Divo, 13 Apr 1998. The most southerly record (DF).

**Motacillidae**

*Motacilla clara* Mountain Wagtail. A pair at Mont Tonkoui waterfalls (c. 400 m altitude), Nov 1998, Feb 2000 and Jun 2000. Fifth Ivorian site, previous records from major rivers (TH). One rejected highland record for Ghana (Grimes 1987) but Colston & Curry-Lindahl (1986) found it breeding at 200–800 m in Liberia. These observations suggest that it is both a lowland and highland species in W Africa; perhaps the Ghanaian record should be re-assessed.

**Campephagidae**

*Campephaga phoenicea* Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike. A female in Marahoué NP, 5 Feb 1999. First record for the park.

**Pycnonotidae**

*Andropadus ansorgei* Ansorge's Greenbul. One on the peak of Mont Tonkoui (1189 m), Nov 1998. Most northerly site and highest altitude in Ivory Coast.

*Calyptocichla serina* Golden Greenbul. An immature begging from two adults in Yapo FC, 20 Mar 1999; an immature at Yapo, 2 May 1999. First breeding records for Ivory Coast. Gatter (1997) found a fledgling on the Liberian side of Mt Nimba, Mar.

*Bleda eximia* Green-tailed Bristlebill. Frequent in Banco NP (new locality). Vulnerable (Stattersfield & Capper 2000).

**Turdidae**

*Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris* Mocking Cliff Chat. A pair, feeding at night around lights, at the Hotel des Cascades in Man, Nov 1998; several in Marahoué NP, 16 Feb 1998. Third and fourth localities and the most southerly (TH). Not recorded from Liberia (Gatter 1997) but found close to Accra (Grimes 1987).



*Turdus pelios* African Thrush. Frequent in wooded savanna in Marahoué NP; also recorded there in 1986 and 1993 (R. Demey pers. comm.). First records for the park.

#### **Sylviidae**

*Schoenicola platyura* Broad-tailed Warbler. Recorded in the grass savannas of the Ivorian side of Mt Nimba, Dec–Apr (Gatter 1997). First record in Ivory Coast.

*Apalis sharpei* Sharpe's Apalis. Found in all protected areas visited, although never in great numbers. We have very few records of it outside protected areas. Many cocoa plantations have a quite dense forest canopy but despite more than 700 h observation in plantations it was not recorded from this habitat. May be more vulnerable to habitat degradation than previously thought.

*Hyliota violacea* Violet-backed Hyliota. A female in a cocoa plantation near Divo, 11 Mar 1999; a female west of Marahoué NP, 25 Oct 1999; common in semi-deciduous forest in Marahoué NP. Regarded as rare and restricted to the canopy of primary forest (TH, Walsh 1986, DF, Gartshore *et al.* 1995, Christy & Schulenberg 1999).

#### **Muscicapidae**

*M. tessmanni* Tessmann's Flycatcher. One bird seen in Mont Péko NP, 3 Dec 1999. Seen from 5 m in heavily disturbed forest, calling very softly. It had the flanks washed with grey (rather resembling Dusky Blue Flycatcher *M. comitata*), unlike in the plate of Urban *et al.* (1997), which shows the underparts as creamy white except for the light-grey breast and slightly streaked throat. However, the bird lacked the conspicuous white loreal line and throat of *M. comitata*, which further has the centre of belly creamy white and is less slatey-grey. Sixth site (TH, Gartshore *et al.* 1995). Poorly known outside Ivory Coast and Insufficiently Known (Urban *et al.* 1997, Stattersfield & Capper 2000).

*Elminia nigromitrata* Dusky Crested Flycatcher. Common in Mont Péko NP, Dec 1999. Third locality (Demey & Fishpool 1994, Gartshore *et al.* 1995). Seen in wet areas in mainly secondary forest. This preference (cf. Urban *et al.* 1997, Gatter 1997) could explain its abundance in Mont Péko where much lowland forest is of this type.

#### **Timaliidae**

*Picathartes gymnocephalus* White-necked Picathartes. Five new colonies found in Mont Péko NP, Nov–Dec 1999 and Jul 2000; contained a total of 23 recently used nests and 23 older nests. Many other suitable areas remain unvisited in Mont Péko NP and it is likely that it supports the largest population of this species outside Sierra Leone (Fishpool & Evans 2001, Stattersfield & Capper 2000, H. Thompson pers. comm.). P. Lachenaud (pers. comm.) saw two near the Nawa falls on the Sassandra River near Soubré in 1984 or 1985. Gatter (1997) gives four localities in western Ivory Coast. Previously known from Mt Nimba, Taï, Mont Péko and Lamto (TH, Balchin 1988, L.D.C. Fishpool pers. comm.). Although in the mid-1980s much forest remained in Soubré Département, it is now the top cocoa-producing region in Ivory Coast, with very little forest remaining. Although *P. gymnocephalus* can survive in areas where there has been forest clearance and planting for agriculture (Collar & Stuart 1985, Salewski *et al.* 2000) we consider it unlikely that it is still found near

Soubré because of the forest clearance and high human population density. Vulnerable (Stattersfield & Capper 2000).

#### **Nectariniidae**

*Chalcomitra adelberti* Buff-throated Sunbird. Common along the coast from Grand-Béréby to Akouédo. A pair with a juvenile, Abidjan, 1 Feb 1984 (R. Demey pers. comm.). TH records only one coastal site, Grand Bassam.

*Cinnyris batesi* Bates's Sunbird. Seen in dry semi-deciduous forest feeding in a low tree, Marahoué NP, 17 Apr 2000. Fifth and most northerly Ivorian locality (TH, DF).

#### **Zosteropidae**

*Zosterops senegalensis* Yellow White-eye. Marahoué NP: a small group, 2 Dec 1998; two seen by N. Borrow (pers. comm.), 31 Dec 2000 (first records in the park). A small flock at Sassandra, 17 Jan 1999 (new south-western locality). Frequent in Abidjan. Not mentioned for the south of the country by Fry *et al.* (2000) although noted by several previous authors.

#### **Corvidae**

*Corvus albus* Pied Crow. Two in Yapo FC, 30 May 1999. Not noted for Yapo by Demey & Fishpool (1994) or Gartshore *et al.* (1995), its presence may be an indication of human encroachment.

#### **Sturnidae**

*Lamprotonis cupreocauda*. Copper-tailed Glossy Starling. Seen in Banco NP, near Divo, and at Dassiéko FC. New sites. Near-threatened (Stattersfield & Capper 2000).

*L. splendidus* Splendid Glossy Starling. Seen in *Borassus* palm savanna of Lamto, 7 Feb 1999. Also recorded at Sinfra and Issia. Formerly known only along the coast (DF), but inland in Ghana (Grimes 1987) and Guinea (Morel & Morel 1988).

#### **Ploceidae**

*Passer domesticus* House Sparrow. A pair of race *indicus* seen near the port in Abidjan. The male's dark grey cap, white cheeks and chestnut mantle were clearly seen and it gave a typical call. First record for Ivory Coast. Introduced in Senegal in 1970s, where now common in towns and whence spread to Mauritania and Gambia. Also, Liberia, 1989–90 (Borrow & Demey 2002). Probably a ship-assisted introduction, although might have escaped from captivity.

*Ploceus aurantius* Orange Weaver. A few pairs nesting at an artificial lake near Yapo FC, 30 May 1999. Apart from coastal waters, known only from some large rivers (TH).

*P. albinucha* Maxwell's Black Weaver. One seen near the peak of Mt Tonkoui, 23 Feb 2000. Highest and most northerly Ivorian record (TH).

*Euplectes franciscanus* Northern Red Bishop. A male in breeding plumage on Abidjan golf course, 30 Oct 1998. First southern record since 1984 (also from the golf course) (DF).

*E. ardens* Long-tailed Black Whydah. A male below Mt Tonkoui, Nov 1998; a male north of Man, 25 Feb 2000. Most southerly localities after Marahoué NP (TH, DF).

#### **Estrildidae**

*Lagonosticta rubricata* Blue-billed Firefinch. Singles in Marahoué NP, Feb 1999 and Apr 1999. First confirmed records for the park and the most southerly (TH).

*Estrilda caerulescens* Lavender Waxbill. Two records near Bingerville, Jan and Aug 1999. Well known north of 9°N and DF suspected that sightings near Abidjan may have been escaped cage birds. However, Colston & Curry-Lindahl (1986) recorded it near Mt Nimba in Liberia. Our sightings were at least 6 km east of Bingerville, well away from any hypothetical release or escape points.

*Lonchura fringilloides* Magpie Mannikin. Two near Assinie, with Red-backed Mannikins *L. bicolor*, 27 Jun 1999. Second coastal locality (DF). Normally seen at the forest-savanna boundary (TH).

### Discussion

Nineteen new species (Table 2) have been recorded from the country since Demey & Fishpool (1991), who themselves added 28 new species: 25 listed in their appendix plus three others that were mentioned only in the text (Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*, Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei* and Dusky Crested Flycatcher *Elminia nigromitratus* (R. Demey pers. comm.). Brown Nightjar *Caprimulgus binotatus* was listed by Thiollay (1985) based on several observations of dark nightjars on forest tracks. There is some dispute over whether this species sits on the forest floor (Brosset & Erard 1986, Fry *et al.* 1988, Cleere & Nurney 1998), so it is best to regard the first confirmed record as that of Gartshore *et al.* (1995). Dorst's Cisticola *Cisticola dorsti*, which has recently been discovered in Comoé NP (Rheindt *et al.* 2002), was probably mistaken in the past for Red-pate Cisticola *Cisticola ruficeps*. Confirmation of the presence of this latter species is thus now required for Ivory Coast. Further additions stem from taxonomic changes (Table 2).

**Table 2. New species noted for Ivory Coast since Demey & Fishpool (1991).**

Species	Reference
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i> Manx Shearwater	Cheke (1993)
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> British Storm Petrel	Cheke & Fishpool (1992)
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> Black Stork	Walsh (1991)
<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i> Three-banded Plover	Cable (1994)
<i>Columba livia</i> Feral Pigeon	Known but not previously listed
<i>Aplopelia larvata</i> Lemon Dove	Gatter (1997)
<i>Asio capensis</i> Marsh Owl	Waltert <i>et al.</i> (1999)
<i>Caprimulgus binotatus</i> Brown Nightjar	Gartshore <i>et al.</i> (1995)
<i>Apus barbatus</i> African Black Swift	Gatter (1993)
<i>Colius striatus</i> Speckled Mousebird	This paper
<i>Merops breweri</i> Black-headed Bee-eater	Christy & Schulenberg (1999)
<i>Melignomon eisentrauti</i> Yellow-footed Honeyguide	Rainey & Borrow (in press)
<i>Campethera abingoni</i> Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Falk & Salewski (1999)

<i>Riparia paludicola</i> Plain Martin	Salewski (1998)
<i>Schoenicola platyura</i> Broad-tailed Warbler	Gatter (1997)
<i>Cisticola dorsti</i> Dorst's Cisticola	Rheindt <i>et al.</i> (2002)
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> Chiffchaff	Williams (1997)
<i>Dicrurus modestus</i> Velvet-mantled Drongo	Pearson (2000) Taxonomic change
<i>Passer domesticus</i> House Sparrow	This paper
<i>Nigrita luteifrons</i> Pale-fronted Negrofinch	Gartshore <i>et al.</i> (1995)

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Dowsett (1993) omitted four species included by Demey & Fishpool (1991): Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Grey Pratincole *Glareola cinerea*, Ermin's Shrike *Lanius gubernator* and Splendid Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*. Nicole *et al.* (1994) reported Black Duck *Anas sparsa* and Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* as "commonly" found in the coastal wetlands of Ivory Coast. As both would be new species for the country they are unlikely to be common. *A. sparsa* is known from highland streams in Guinea (Walsh 1987), and coastal lagoons would be an unusual habitat for this species. *A. nyroca*, as a rare Palearctic migrant to sub-Saharan Africa, might be found in the country, but as both can be easily mistaken for other species it is best to consider them as misidentified.

Fewer new savanna species (seven this study, 10 Demey & Fishpool 1991), marine or water bird species (five this study, 15 Demey & Fishpool 1991) have been recorded recently. Demey and Fishpool (1991) were based near an important wetland, which may explain the latter discrepancy. Demey & Fishpool (1991) recorded five new forest or highland species, while we list seven. Overall, there does not yet appear to be a marked reduction in the rate of new species being discovered in the country.

Many species seem to have extended their ranges in Ivory Coast in recent times (Thiollay 1985, Demey and Fishpool 1991, Salewski 1998, Salewski & Göken 1999, Salewski *et al.* 2001, this study) as in Ghana and Liberia (Gatter 1997, Gore 1994, Grimes 1987, pers. obs.). The devastation of the Upper Guinea forests must account for some of this change. Few of the savanna species were observed in forest within the forest zone, indicating that they have not changed their habitat requirements. Climate change might also have affected the distribution of some species (see Salewski *et al.* 2001).

The following species reported by Thiollay (1985), either still need confirmation or were only recorded from the Liberian or Guinean sides of Mt Nimba. Vermiculated Fishing Owl *Scotopelia bouvieri* is an unconfirmed species (Thiollay believed that there was some doubt about the identity). Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*, Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* and Ortolan *Emberiza hortulana* are only recorded from Mt Nimba on the Liberian or Guinean side. Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* and Purple-headed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpureiceps* have not been reported since Thiollay (1985). The evidence for Square-tailed Nightjar in the region is still equivocal (Thiollay 1985, Grimes 1987) and further records are needed to confirm its presence in West Africa.

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**Appendix: Gazetteer**

All W African localities mentioned in the text are presented, except well-known sites in Ghana (Accra, Cape Coast, Mole Game Reserve and Lake Volta).

Abengourou	6°24'N, 3°27'W	Issia	6°27'N, 6°36'W
Abidjan	5°19'N, 4°1'W	Korhogo	9°22'N, 5°31'W
Aboisso	5°26'N, 3°13'W	Lamto	6°13'N, 5°2'W
Abokouamékro Reserve	6°50'N, 5°2'W	Leraba Gare	10°8'N, 3°4'W
Adiopodoumé	5°19'N, 4°1'W	Man	7°13'N, 7°37'W
Assinie	5°55'N, 3°28'W	Marahoué NP	6°55'–7°13'N, 5°55'–6°14'W
Banco NP	5°19'N, 4°1'W	Monogaga FC	4°53'N, 6°18'W
Bingerville	5°19'N, 4°1'W	Monts des Dans	7°32'N, 7°48'W
Bouaké	7°41'N, 5°02'W	Mont Nimba	7°35'N, 8°25'W
Boubou River	5°18'N, 5°13'W	Mont Péko NP	7°0'N, 7°16'W
Boundiali	9°32'N, 6°29'W	Mont Tonkoui	7°27'N, 7°39'W
Buyo Lake (causeway)	6°45'N, 6°59'W	Niakaramandougou	8°4'N, 5°17'W
Cavally River	4°22'–7°33'N, 7°31'–8°14'W	Port-Gauthier FC	5°3'N, 5°35'W
CNRA station, Divo	5°48'N, 5°18'W	San Pedro	4°45'N, 6°37'W
Comoé NP	8°31'–9°37'N, 3°5'–4°27'W	Sassandra	4°57'N, 6°8'W
Dabou	5°20'N, 4°23'W	Sassandra River	4°57'–8°26'N, 6°5'–7°9'W
Dagbégo	5°0'N, 5°58'W	Séguéla	7°58'N, 6°44'W
Daloa	6°56'N, 6°28'W	Sikensi	5°40'N, 4°34'W
Dassiéko FC	5°2'N, 5°57'W	Sinfra	6°37'N, 5°53'W
Divo	5°46'N, 5°22'W	Soubré	5°50'N, 6°35'W
Duékoué	6°50'N, 7°22'W	Tabou	4°25'N, 7°22'W
Fresco	5°35'N, 5°06'W	Taï (town)	5°52'N, 7°27'W
Grand Bassam	5°05'N, 3°44'W	Tiassalé	5°53'N, 4°50'W
Grand-Béréby	4°39'N, 6°55'W	Vavoua	7°21'N, 6°28'W
Grand Lahou	5°9'N, 5°1'W	Yapo FC	5°42'N, 4°6'W