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FURTHER OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS FROM THE IVORY COAST

This paper reports observations of a second visit to the Ivory Coast from 17 Dec 1988 to 9 Jan 1989. The results of the first visit were reported in Balchin (1988). Localities are identified in a gazetteer at the end of this paper.

Yellow-billed Stork Ibis (Mycteria) ibis. One and two birds were seen along the Comoé river in Comoé National Park on successive days.

White-breasted Guineafowl Agelastes meleagrides. A total of three separate flocks was located in Tai Forest, Gartshore's (1989) observations suggest that this species is still in good numbers there.

African Grey Parrot Psittacus erithacus. Previously (Balchin 1988), I reported a lack of red in the tail of this species, but further observations have proved this to be incorrect. In flight the closed tail appears dark but when fanned (e.g. when landing) the red tail was clearly seen.

Emin's Shrike Lanius gubernator. This species was noted at three different sites in Comoé National Park, suggesting that it may be a regular winter visitor or perhaps even a resident. The birds were always seen in lightly wooded savanna which is the dominant habitat in the park.

Yellow-headed Rockfowl Picathartes gymnocephalus. The lone bird (Thiollay 1985; Balchin 1988), was still present at Lamto.

Western Wattled Cuckoo-shrike Campephaga lobata. A single male was seen in a treetop feeding party at Tai. The status of this species is better described as uncommon rather than rare in Tai. This species is easily separated from 'black-headed' orioles Oriolus spp., by the facial wattles, which are prominent even when the bird is directly above the observer.

Rock-thrush Monticola saxatilis. A single adult was seen close to the Comoé River in Comoé National Park.

Nimba Flycatcher Melaenornis annamarulae. A party of up to three birds was regularly seen around the weather station clearing at Tai. It is a large, drab, dark flycatcher bearing only a passing resemblance to a Drongo (Dicurus sp.), and should be easily identified. The birds tended to favour high open perches (30-50 m) in tall dead emergent trees. They sat upright, often motionless for long periods. The only time the birds were noted feeding was after a short run along a branch; this odd behaviour was seen on four different occasions. After two of these runs the bird held something in its bill, presumed to be a food item picked up during the run. Each run was over a distance of about 0.5 m, during which the bird kept its head held close to the branch. Flight over any distance was direct, with a slight undulation and with the tail held tightly closed.

Wilson's Indigobird Vidua wilsoni. The indigobirds in Balchin (1988) have been identified as this species by R.B. Payne (in litt.).

Red-fronted Ant-pecker Parnoptila rubrifrons. A party of three males and one female was seen working its way through the forest edge at Yapo. The party kept low and in cover. A number of times a male was seen to give a weak 'pee-you' call, during which it opened its bill surprisingly wide. Thiollay (1985) mentioned P. woodhousei (jamesoni) as occurring, but the birds which I saw resembled P. rubrifrons as illustrated in Mackworth Praed & Grant (1973).

Red-winged Pytilia Pytilia phoenicoptera. A pair was seen well at the edge of a small pool in Comoé National Park.

Black-faced Firefinch Lagonosticta larvata. Three birds of the dull West African race togoensis were seen in Comoé National Park.

Gazetteer:

Abidjan	5°19N, 4°01W	Tai (Forest station)	5°50N, 7°25W
Comoé (National Park)	9°25N, 3°50W	Yapo Forest	5°60N, 5°04W
Lamto	6°13N, 5°02W		

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CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRDS OF BAMINGUI-BANGORAN NATIONAL PARK, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Two hundred and seventy eight bird species were identified in the Central African Republic's Bamingui-Bangoran National Park (Green 1983, 1984). I returned to work in western CAR during 1988-90 and began to suspect that certain species might have been misidentified. Bamingui lay outside their known ranges, and I was seeing different, closely related species in western CAR. During a visit to Bamingui in December 1988, I saw and confirmed that three species should be changed.

Violet Turaco, Musophaga violacea, Eastern Grey Plantain-eater Crinifer zonurus and Blue-naped Mousebird Colius macrourus should be replaced by Ross's Turaco M. rossae, Grey Plantain-eater C. piscator and Speckled Mousebird C. striatus.