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observe any wing-bar or underwing pattern. The area of the park where these observations were made was about 34 km east of Bayanga (approximately 2°45'N, 16°20'E).

From these observations I concluded that the bird was a Red-tailed Ant-thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*. The thrush-like stance and build, and lack of wing markings, eliminate Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush *N. fraseri*. The Red-tailed Ant-thrush was originally included in a list of birds of the Central African Republic, allegedly for the Lobaye Prefecture (Carroll 1988) but the record was subsequently rejected by Germain (1992) as founded on a mistaken reading of unpublished data. It is not included by Green & Carroll (1991) for Dzanga-Ndoki National Park and Dzanga-Sangha Rainforest Reserve.

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Recent records of White-naped Pigeon *Columba albinucha* from Cameroon

The White-naped Pigeon *Columba albinucha* is a little-known species of lowland and transitional montane forest, classified as "Near threatened" by Collar & Stuart (1985). Its main centre of distribution is in the Ruwenzori mountains of Zaire with fewer records from adjacent Uganda. Records outside this region have been restricted to three birds collected by Eisentraut at 1100 m in the Rumpi Hills of south-west Cameroon in 1967 (Louette 1981). Despite a considerable amount of ornithological work in south-west Cameroon since then, most notably by the I.C.B.P. Cameroon Montane Forest Expedition of 1984 (Stuart 1986), this species has remained unrecorded there until very recently. The following recent sightings, however, suggest that this species may be of more regular occurrence in south-west Cameroon than earlier thought.

On 21 September 1992 a probable sighting was made of two birds at 1550 m in the canopy of montane forest on Mt Kupe by Steve Keen (pers. comm.).

At 8.30 h on 30 March 1993 I saw three White-naped Pigeons in bare trees bordering a small coffee farm at 1000 m on Mt Kupe. The habitat was primarily

farmbush but primary transitional forest bordered it nearby. All the bird's distinctive features were visible. Overall the birds appeared a dark purple-bronze, with white speckling confined to the lower chest and belly. The bill and legs appeared bright red, much brighter than depicted in Urban *et al.* (1986). The nape patch appeared a very pale grey, nearly white, on all the birds seen. Their tails were distinctly bicoloured, bronze with very broad light grey terminal bands, similar to the tail of the Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *C. iriditorques*, which has not yet been recorded on Mt Kupe. As I watched the birds, they continually flew out of view towards the ground, possibly to an unseen food source, before flying back into the trees and spending long periods motionless. They were not wary, allowing an approach to within 15 m.

At 9.00 h on 9 July 1993 I saw two White-naped Pigeons at exactly the same site and behaving in the same way. On 13 April, together with C.G.R. Bowden, I saw two birds there again, also at around 9.00 h.

Following this, there were no further records from this site for nearly a year, despite regular observer coverage.

At 8.40 h on 19 March 1994 I saw three White-naped Pigeons in flight near the isolated village of Edib, at 1100 m in the Bakossi Mountains of south-west Cameroon. The habitat was farmbush with coffee plantations, again with primary transitional forest nearby.

At about 9.00 h the next day I saw four birds of this species in a bare tree at the "regular" site at 1000 m on Mt Kupe.

There appears to be a pattern to these sightings. With the exception of Keen's September record in primary montane forest, all have been at small coffee farms in farmbush with primary transitional forest nearby between 19 March and 9 April and between 8.00 and 9.00 h. I should add that my visits were regular and that the birds were present on practically every visit made to the site between 8.00 and 9.00 h, but none was seen on visits made later in the day.

Clearly more fieldwork needs to be done as regards this species in the Cameroon region, especially in the little-known Bakossi Mountains, an area with ten times more forest than Mt Kupe, and where I suspect the bulk of the Cameroon population to be. This species may also be present in other ecologically similar areas such as Mts Cameroon and Nlonako in Cameroon and the Obudu Plateau in Nigeria.

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An historical breeding record in Mali and description of the young of the Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

According to Brown *et al.* (1982) the downy young of the Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis* is undescribed. However, Millet-Horsin (1921) obtained two living nestlings which had been taken from a nest near Kati (12°44'N, 8°4'W), Mali, on 22 June 1920. The birds lived in captivity until the following August, when they died; they were presented at a Meeting of the *Société Ornithologique de France* on 7 October 1921. Millet-Horsin described the birds as being completely white when secured. Their heads had become a bright reddish (equivalent to the bright rufous for immatures as described by Brown *et al.* 1982) at death, in contrast to the chocolate colour of the adult head.

In a subsequent account, Millet-Horsin (1922) referred to the young being buff-grey ("*gris-blond*") but it is unclear whether he was contradicting himself or referring to the birds when a little older. It is possible that the specimens decayed and were discarded in the meantime (they are not listed in the Museum of Natural History, Paris: J.-F. Voisin *in litt.*) and, if so, Millet-Horsin may have been relying on memory for the second account.

The record is apparently the first and only confirmed breeding record for the species in Mali, although Lamarche (1980) records nest-building by *B. rufipennis* south of San (13°18'N, 4°54'W) in March. Elsewhere in West Africa, there are nesting records from Nigeria in March (Elgood *et al.* 1994) and the species has twice nested in the Keran Park in northern Togo between April and June (J.F. Walsh & R.A. Cheke, unpubl.). Courtship has been seen in The Gambia, suggestive of possible breeding there also (Gore 1990).

I am grateful to Dr J.-F. Voisin for seeing if the specimens survived in Paris and to him and Dr G.J. Morel for their comments on a draft.

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