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Species rejected from and added to the avifauna of Bioko island (Equatorial Guinea)

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Summary

Changes to the checklist of Bioko birds were made as result of field work and a bibliographic review. The status of 15 species is reviewed and clarified, 11 species new to Bioko are presented and 11 rejected.

Resumen

Se realizaron cambios en la lista de las aves de Bioko como resultado de un estudio de campo y una revisión bibliográfica. Se presentan los registros de 11 nuevas especies para Bioko, se argumenta la exclusión de otras 11 especies y el estatus de otras 15 es revisado y clarificado.

Introduction

Bioko island (formerly Fernando Po) belongs to a chain of four volcanic islands in the Gulf of Guinea: from north to south they are Bioko, Príncipe, São Tomé and Annobón. Bioko, with 2017 km² surface area and maximum elevation 3011 m, is the biggest and highest of the four. Biogeographically, Bioko is closely related to the Cameroon mountains, which it faces at only 32 km offshore. Together, Bioko and the Cameroon mountains are considered the third most important focus of biodiversity in Africa and the 27th in the world (Bibby *et al.* 1992) due to high numbers of endemic and restricted range species.

In spite of its importance, there have been only four field trips to study the birds of Bioko (Antor-Castellarnau & Camacho-Fumanal 1989, Butynski & Koster 1989, Pérez del Val *et al.* 1994, J. Pérez del Val & J. Barreiro unpubl.) since that of Wells

(1968) in 1967, which was the last ornithological expedition to be undertaken before the country gained its independence from Spain.

The validity of Bioko's endemic taxa has been often revised. Since the comprehensive works of Basilio (1963) and Eisentraut (1973), the checklist of Bioko has undergone some changes (Dowsett 1993, Pérez del Val *et al.* 1994). Further, the two endemic species and 43 endemic subspecies summarized in Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994) become one endemic species and 46 endemic subspecies if we follow Dowsett & Forbes-Watson (1993) and Dickerman (1994). However, the status of many species differs in Dowsett (1993) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994), and clarification is required. Besides, in the checklist of Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994) the new records and rejected species were not fully discussed and require further justification. In this paper, we present further data on these records, include two previously overlooked migrant records from the bird collection of Madrid, and present new results obtained during a brief visit to Bioko in 1994 concerning another new migrant species.

Methods

Field work was carried out by JPV from January 1989 to June 1992 and from 20 November to 18 December 1994. A bibliographic review, and the examination of unpublished bird collections from the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales of Madrid (Spain), Estación Biológica de Doñana of Sevilla (Spain) and Natural History Museum of Tring (U.K.), were also undertaken. Nomenclature follows Dowsett & Forbes-Watson (1993). Localities of observations are shown on Fig. 1.

Results

Reassessments of status with respect to Dowsett (1993) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994)

The checklist of Dowsett (1993) was based on a bibliographical review. Correctly, Dowsett (1993) rejected more than 100 bird species listed by Fa (1989), who apparently confuses many species references between Bioko and Río Muni (both parts of Equatorial Guinea); therefore Fa's list will not be discussed here.

With respect to non-breeding species, differences between the Dowsett (1993) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994) checklists are many. Discussion of them would be very extensive and we restrict ourselves here to noting our disagreement with many of Dowsett's assessments. Differences regarding breeding species are discussed below in detail. A complete treatment of non-breeding species will be published shortly (Pérez del Val 1996).'

Finally, some species, described as residents by Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994) are better described as non-residents.

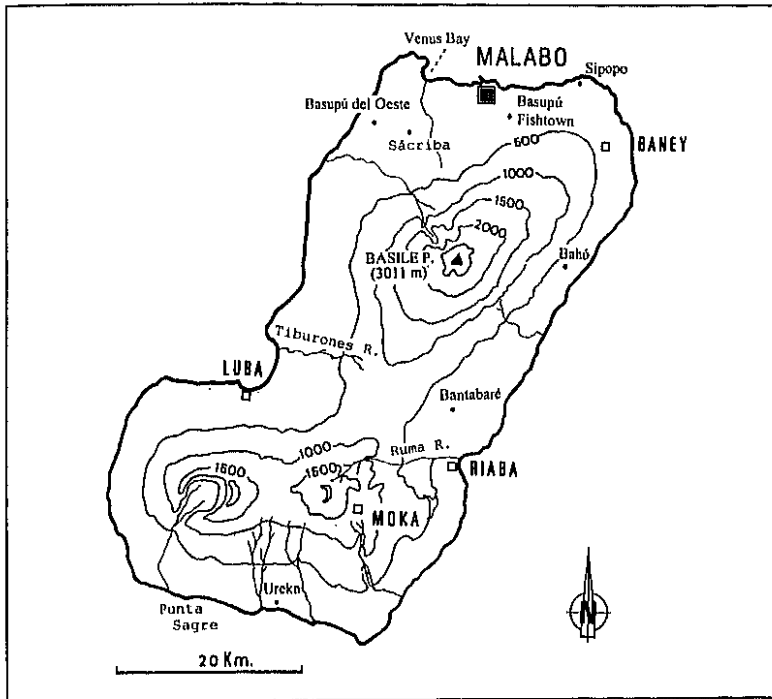


Figure 1. Map of Bioko showing localities mentioned in the text.

Sula leucogaster Masked Booby. Dispersive species, noted as resident by Dowsett (1993), but only one 1894–5 observation exists (Bocage 1895), with no proof of breeding. Considered non-resident by Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994).

Phalacrocorax africanus Reed Cormorant. Dispersive species noted as resident by Dowsett (1993) but only three specimens, collected by P. Curats in 1941 and 1944, are known (Pérez del Val & Barreiro in prep.). Considered non-resident by Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994).

Anhinga rufa Darter. Dispersive species noted as resident by Dowsett (1993) but only one example has been collected, in 1960 (Basilio 1963). Considered non-resident by Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994).

Bubulcus ibis Cattle Egret. Dispersive species noted as resident by Dowsett (1993) but no definitive proof of breeding in Bioko exists, in spite of its increasing abundance. Only observed Nov–Apr, and Bioko's people call it the "Christmas bird".

Milvus migrans Yellow-billed Kite. Observed by Bocage (1895), Alexander (1903) and Eisentraut (1973) in the dry season. Basilio (1963), living in Bioko since 1944,

did not see it until 1960 and noted it as rare. We also saw it only in the dry season but we had thought this kite was a breeding bird in Bioko (Pérez del Val *et al.* 1994) because we saw one in 1988 leaving what we thought (in hindsight probably mistakenly) was a nest, and in 1992 we saw a group of three individuals (family group?) flying together. However, the first of these observations was made by JPV when newly arrived on the island and no particular notice was paid nor verification was undertaken. In the 1994 visit no definite proof of breeding was found and local people stated that the kite is only observed in the dry season. In 1996, individuals observed around Malabo were still pre-sent in April. We think now that it might be better to consider it as intra-African migrant.

Apus stadeniae Fernando Po Swift. Ten records only from Bioko, Cameroon, Nigeria and Angola (Collar & Stuart 1985, Fry *et al.* 1988). In Bioko it was considered a resident species (Amadon 1953, Eisentraut 1973, Dowsett 1993, Pérez del Val *et al.* 1994) from six specimens collected in Basupú Fishtown by Scimund (Ogilvie-Grant 1904) in Dec 1903 and early Jan 1904 (Bannerman 1933). No later records exist, even though we made particular effort to track down this swift in our 1994 visit, including visiting the original locality of capture. It is now better considered as vagrant. This swift is something of a mystery: it may be a full species (Collar & Stuart 1985, Dowsett 1993) or a subspecies (Fry *et al.* 1988) and its status in Cameroon, Nigeria and Angola is unclear (Fry *et al.* 1988, Dowsett 1993).

Neafrapus cassini Cassin's Spinetail. This scarce species was quoted as a resident by Amadon (1953), from a specimen collected by Correia (Chapin 1939, Amadon 1953) on 30 Jul 1929 in Basupú del Oeste. Fry *et al.* (1988) noted in Bioko "gonads enlarged" in Jul, probably from that specimen. The only subsequent observation were by Wells (1968), in the cocoa plantations on Dec or Jan 1966-7, and R.A. Cheke (pers. comm.) in Apr or May 1996. Dowsett (1993) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994) termed it resident and Eisentraut (1973) non-resident, but these scarce records suggest it may be a resident.

Agapornis pullaria Red-headed Lovebird. Noted as resident by Dowsett (1993), non-resident by Eisentraut (1973) and status unknown by Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994). A specimen collected in the last century (Jardine 1851), doubtfully from Bioko, is not preserved. Two skins in the Museum of Madrid were stuffed in Bioko by P. Curats in 1943 but labelled as coming from São Tomé, probably because they were cage birds (Pérez del Val & Barreiro in prep.). Amadon & Basilio (1957) and Basilio (1963) stated that it was commonly brought as a cage bird to Bioko from São Tomé. Basilio (1963) refers to it as feral since the 1950s, from single second-hand observations in Riaba and Sácriba, and he found it common in the surroundings of Malabo. Since then, no further records exist and it is probably extinct in Bioko.

Cuculus solitarius Red-chested Cuckoo. Noted as migrant to Bioko by Dowsett (1993) but resident by Amadon (1953), Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994). Captures or observations in Bioko were made on Feb 1944 (Pérez del Val & Barreiro in prep.), Feb 1990 and 1992 (Pérez del Val 1996), Apr 1956 (Basilio 1963),

May 1929 (J. Correia unpubl.), Jul 1929, 21 Aug 1929, Oct 1929 (Amadon 1953), Oct 1962 (Eisentraut 1973), Dec–Jan 1966–7 (Wells 1968). We heard its song in Feb and Jun, Fry (1961) in Aug–Sep and Eisentraut (1973) in Sep–Oct. Basilio (1963) reported that one of his pupils saw a fledgling being fed by a Rufous Ant Thrush *Stizorhina fraseri* and two birds in breeding condition were examined in Aug (Amadon 1953) and Oct (Eisentraut 1973). These data suggest that this cuckoo is resident in Bioko. The presence in Cameroon of individuals with characteristics of the race *magnirostris*, endemic to Bioko, suggests that part of the Bioko population could migrate to the mainland (Fry *et al.* 1988). However, *magnirostris* is rather poorly differentiated (Eisentraut 1973, Fry *et al.* 1988) and no definitive conclusions can be derived from these findings.

Chrysococcyx caprius Didric Cuckoo. Noted as a migrant by Dowsett (1993) but resident by Amadon (1953), Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994). Courtship was observed (Eisentraut 1973) and breeding proved as a parasite of Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* (Basilio 1963) and Olive-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia chloropygia* (Fry 1961). Most of the records are in the Sep–Mar dry season (Alexander 1903, Wolff-Metternich & Stresemann 1956, Fry 1961, Basilio 1963, Wells 1968, Eisentraut 1973), when most naturalists have visited the island or when resident naturalists tend to watch birds more often. However specimens collected by Curats in 1941 and 1942 (Pérez del Val & Barreiro in prep.) include Jun, Jul and Aug.

C. klaas Klaas's Cuckoo. Noted as a migrant by Dowsett (1993) but resident by Amadon (1953), Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994). Most records are from 24 Oct to Mar, when Eisentraut (1973) found it in breeding condition and when most naturalists visited the island: Seimund collected it Jan–Feb, Drinkwater Nov 1929 (the same date and place where Correia collected it; specimens at Tring), Wells (1968) saw it Dec–Jan and we in Nov–Dec. The dates of Correia's captures are unknown (Amadon 1953). However, Basilio (1963) collected one in Jun 1956 and Fry *et al.* (1988) point out that it is resident in the west-equatorial African rainforest zone. In the light of this information it seems better considered as a resident.

Halcyon senegalensis Senegal Kingfisher. Noted as a migrant by Dowsett (1993) but resident by Amadon (1953), Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994). No proof of breeding exists. Four dated records (Bocage 1895, Basilio 1963, Eisentraut 1973), two collected by Curats in 1941, one by Seimund in 1903, and eight mist-net captures (pers. obs.) all fell between 19 Nov and 5 Feb, the dry season in Bioko. Fry *et al.* (1988) noted the Bioko race *fuscopile* as "mainly or entirely resident", and that the species is sedentary at low latitudes and a visitor to higher latitudes to breed in the wet season. In light of this and bearing in mind the shortage of Bioko records, it is better considered as an intra-African migrant for the time being.

Megaceryle maxima Giant Kingfisher. Noted as resident by Dowsett (1993) but non-resident by Eisentraut (1973) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994). Four were said to have been collected (Basilio 1963) but only a pair of stuffed birds is preserved in the

Universidad Autónoma of Madrid. They were collected between 1940 and 1944 by Curats, probably in the Henríquez islets, off Malabo (P. Curats pers. comm.). Koster & Butynski (1989) also saw it along a southern river. These are the only references in Bioko, and therefore it is better considered as vagrant; it is well known to be a dispersive species (Fry *et al.* 1988).

***Corvus albus* Pied Crow.** Included as resident in all recent lists, but omitted in error by Pérez del Val (1994).

***Poeyptera lugubris* Narrow-tailed Starling.** Only known from a specimen collected by Seimund on 16 Mar 1904 in Bantabará, but included as resident in all the lists of Bioko (Amadon 1953, Eisentraut 1973, Dowsett 1993, Pérez del Val *et al.* 1994). It is better considered as vagrant.

Species added

Here we discuss the new records for Bioko included in Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994) plus the first records of the Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* recorded subsequently. Striped Cuckoo *Clamator leuclitae* is also added, based on an overlooked specimen in the bird collection of Madrid.

***Calonectris diomedea* Cory's Shearwater.** A male was caught on a baited hook near Malabo on 9 Apr 1991, by a fisherman who stated that he had not previously seen this species during several years fishing in that area. The specimen was photographed and measured (mm): bill 54, wing 330, tarsus 59, tail 122. This is a dispersive species in the entire Atlantic, and has been reported well offshore in the Gulf of Guinea between Sierra Leone and Gabon (cf. Brown *et al.* 1982). This is the first record for Bioko and it may be the first near the coast in the Gulf of Guinea.

***Puffinus griseus* Sooty Shearwater.** One specimen (still at the Natural History Museum in Tring) was collected by Alexander (8 Jan 1909) in Malabo. The date suggests that it was collected in a brief stop when Alexander visited São Tomé and Príncipe. Although it was quoted for Bioko by Bannerman (1930) it was omitted from later lists (Amadon 1953, Basilio 1963, Wells 1968, Eisentraut 1973) except that of Dowsett (1993).

***Hydrobates pelagicus* British Storm Petrel.** Reichenow (1900–1905) cited this species in Bioko, São Tomé and Elobi (Elobey) Islands, although it was omitted from Bioko by subsequent authors. Louette (1981) doubted Reichenow's record but later reports around São Tomé and Príncipe (P.J. Jones & A. Tye in prep.) suggest it may be reliable.

***Ardea cinerea* Grey Heron.** We examined an immature specimen on 10 Feb 1990 captured by local people on the north coast (Venus Bay) and we observed three more individuals in the same place on 7 Dec 1994. Other observations were made on the west and south coasts: an individual in the mouth of the River Tiburones (29 Nov 1994) and two more between Ureka village and Punta Sagre (23 Jan 1992 and 30 Nov 1994). These are the first records for Bioko.

***Glareola nuchalis* Collared Pratincole.** On 14 Nov 1988 we mist-netted the only specimen known from Bioko, 2 km from the mouth of the Mopobil River. It was a female with a chestnut collar on the hindneck, characteristic of the subspecies *liberiae*.

***Charadrius marginatus* White-fronted Plover.** A specimen, sexed as a female and conserved in the Madrid Museum (no. 2307), had been identified by Basilio (1963) as a Little Ringed Plover *C. dubius*. It was collected by P. Curats on the Rio Timbabe on 28 Dec 1943. However, the plumage (especially lack of white hind-collar, separate rufous patches on sides of breast) and measurements (wing 99 mm, tail 47.5, tarsus 24.5) correspond with those of White-fronted Plover and eliminate Kentish Plover *C. alexandrinus* and non-breeding or juvenile Ringed Plover *C. hiaticula* or Little Ringed Plover (Urban *et al.* 1986). This is the first record of White-fronted Plover in Bioko.

***Sterna paradisaea* Arctic Tern.** Two juveniles, on 29 Oct and 3 Nov 1991, were examined in Malabo. One was caught by a boy and the second crashed into a house during a storm. These are the first specimens from Bioko. Confusion with Common Tern *S. hirundo* might be possible but the specimens had the rump white, and the tarsus (16 mm in both birds) and bill (29 and 30 mm) measurements belong to Arctic Tern. Their incomplete caps, upperpart patterns and tail length (107 and 117 mm) fit immature birds.

***S. maxima* Royal Tern.** Up to 50 individuals were seen from 20 Nov to 18 Dec 1994, resting on two buoys off Malabo. This is the first record for Bioko.

***Clamator leuallanti* Striped Cuckoo.** A specimen from Bioko exists in the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid. It was overlooked previously by Basilio (1963) and Pérez del Val *et al.* (1994). It was collected on 12 Dec 1943, 2 km from Malabo ("Finca Santa María"), during the P. Curats expedition (Pérez del Val & Barreiro in prep.). It is an immature moulting to adult plumage. This is the only record for Bioko.

***Hirundo abyssinica* Lesser Striped Swallow.** On 29 Mar 1989 we netted five individuals on the lower Ruma River, 1 km from its mouth. We thought that it was a non-breeding intra-African migrant (Pérez del Val *et al.* 1994). However, during our 1994 visit, several occupied nests were found in Bahó and Malabo. Besides, it was locally common in Malabo, in small groups, where it had been absent in previous years. M. Boco (*in litt.*) informs us that in 1996 this swallow, which is often seen in Malabo during the dry season, was not observed from May onward. These are the first records for Bioko, which has probably been recently colonized by this species. Migratory movements are poorly known (Elgood 1981, Turner & Rose 1989) and it is unknown if it would be resident or a dry season breeding visitor, but Boco's observations suggest the latter. Two skins from Bioko were compared with specimens in the Natural History Museum in Tring. The absence of streaks on the under tail-coverts and broader stripes on the underparts identify the specimens as of race *maxima* (cf. Turner & Rose 1989, Keith *et al.* 1992).

Serinus sp. A reference to the Thick-billed Seed-eater *S. burtoni* in Bioko was quoted firstly by Hall and Moreau (1970). Louette (1981), based on that reference, included Bioko in the range of the typical subspecies. We have not found any basis for this reference and Dowsett (1993) agrees that it is an error. Amazingly, on 3 Mar 1992, we observed a couple of *Serinus* on *Hypericum lanceolatum* at 2800 m on Basilé Peak. One was observed for some minutes. The tail was forked, the upperparts sooty brown with a darker crown and a darker, weakly-marked eye stripe; the underparts were paler, streaked on the flanks, with the throat and breast buff and a black chin; the thick bill was yellow-orange and the legs brownish pink. The size was as that of a Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*.

Species wrongly attributed to Bioko

In a number of publications on the birds of Bioko, several species were wrongly included. The errors were more frequent last century, when many species were being described and comparison between specimens was quite difficult. Other errors result from mistakes in localities, principally among the islands of the Gulf of Guinea. Most of these errors were noted but not corrected by Salvadori (1903).

Amadon (1953) made the first attempt to update the checklist of Bioko, discarding five species, White-crowned Plover *Vanellus albiceps*, Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*, White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*, Orange-breasted Bush Shrike *Malaconotus sulfureopectus* and Purple Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*; we discuss the first two of these further below. Other erroneous attributions include Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* (unsuccessfully introduced in the last century) São Tomé Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrochalybeia*, Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*, Red-crested Turaco *Tauraco erythrophus* and Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*, which have been simply omitted from modern checklists (Basilio 1963, Wells 1968, Eisentraut 1973). However, a few errors remain uncorrected and a few more have been added recently. Finally, two species not known from Bioko (Forest Scrub Robin *Erythropyygia leucosticta* and Black-capped Speirops *Speirops lugubris*) were listed by Antor-Castellarnau & Camacho-Fumal (1989) as *not* observed there, as these authors had (erroneously) assumed that these species had previously been reported from Bioko.

Gyps africanus White-backed Vulture. Only reported by Alexander (1903), as locally distributed along the coast of Bioko and appreciated as food by the Bubi people. Basilio (1963) reinforced this error by wrongly stating that Alexander collected a specimen in Sipopo: no specimen of this species from Bioko is to be found at Tring, where Alexander's collections were lodged (P. Colston *in litt.*). The Bioko reference remains in more recent works (cf. Brown *et al.* 1982, Dowsett & Forbes-Watson 1993) where it is conspicuous by its distance from the main sahelian area of distribution. We think that this is a mistaken identification of the Palm Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*, for three reasons: Alexander's remarks on its local abundance and its esteem as food seem to refer to a common resident species (this was Amadon's

(1953) interpretation when he included White-backed Vulture as resident); his notes completely agree with what is known of the Palm Vulture (it is locally common along the coast and appreciated as bushmeat by the Bubi); Alexander does not list the Palm Vulture in Bioko, whereas it was found by the majority of other naturalists (Allen & Thomson 1848, Amadon 1953, Wolff-Metternich & Stresemann 1956, Basilio 1963, Wells 1968, Eisentraut 1973; it was also collected by Seimund and Curats).

Vanellus albiceps White-crowned Plover. Previously rejected, without giving reasons, by Amadon (1953). Later authors omitted it (Basilio 1963, Wells 1968, Eisentraut 1973) but Urban *et al.* (1986) still quoted both Bioko and the Niger river as within its range and Dowsett (1993) noted it as "existence requires proof". Gould (1834) described this plover without assigning a locality, from material collected by R.N. Allen in the Quorra (Niger) River and Bioko. Allen himself summarized all species collected in their expedition and quoted the Quorra River as the site of capture (Allen & Thomson 1848, vol. 2) which we assume to be the right one. Moreover, it is a breeding and seasonally common bird in Nigeria (Elgood 1981) and no later records exist in Bioko.

Turtur afer Blue-spotted Wood Dove. Wells (1968) included this as a personal observation in his Bioko list and stated that it was previously quoted for Bioko by other authors. Only Dowsett (1993) accepted this record, assuming that it is resident. However, we have found no reference prior to Wells's record and, like Eisentraut (1973), we doubt it. Wells (1968) gave no detail and confusion with immatures of Cinnamon Dove *Aplopelia larvata* could be possible.

Tauraco persa Guinea Turaco. The first reference in Bioko was by Hartlaub (1850), without any apparent basis in capture or observation. F. Newton saw feathers used by the Bubi for adorning their hats, which Bocage (1895) thought were of this species. Bannerman (1933) noted it, with doubt, as reported from Bioko. However, Amadon (1953) included it as a resident although his collector did not find it. Wells (1968) and Dowsett (1993) noted it as requiring proof; Eisentraut (1973) omitted it. There is no proof of its presence in Bioko.

Caprimulgus nigriscapularis Black-shouldered Nightjar. Wolff-Metternich collected a nightjar on 31 Jan 1940 at 1900 m on Basilé Peak, of which only some feathers could be preserved, and which was reported only as *Caprimulgus* sp. (Wolff-Metternich & Stresemann 1956). Basilio (1963) recounted that the Europeans living in Moka (1300 m) stated that they had seen a bird like a nightjar. In accordance with Eisentraut's (1956) records of *C. nigriscapularis* on Mount Cameroon at a similar height, Basilio supposed that the bird referred to was this species. On this scanty information, Fry *et al.* (1988) included Bioko within its range. However, the bird captured by Wolff-Metternich and the reports of Basilio could equally refer to Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*, the only nightjar certainly reported in Bioko. Moreover, four species of nightjar are found in the montane district of Cameroon, any one of which might occur on Bioko, as might European Nightjar *C. europaeus*, a Palaearctic migrant to all types of habitat in Africa (Moreau 1966).

Halcyon malimbica **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**. Said to occur by Fry *et al.* (1988) although Amadon (1953) and later authors had previously rejected it. As Basilio (1963) pointed out, the only reference to this species in Bioko is two 19th century specimens (Sharpe 1892) still preserved in the Natural History Museum of Tring, one collected by Thomson during the Niger expedition (no. 42.11.4.6) and the other (81.5.1.2988), from the Gould collection, presumed by Fraser (*in* Sharpe 1892) to have originated from Fernando Po, although the original label and accessions register entry give no locality. The specimens match the subspecies *dryas* (Sharpe 1892, Banermann 1933), which is endemic to Príncipe. It is likely that both specimens were wrongly attributed to locality as were many other specimens collected by the Niger expedition.

Eurystomus glaucurus **Broad-billed Roller**. First included for Bioko by Fry *et al.* (1988) but rejected by Dowsett (1993). Probably a mistake for Blue-throated Roller *E. gularis*, which is resident on Bioko but was not included by Fry *et al.* (1988).

Motacilla aguimp **African Pied Wagtail**. First included for Bioko by Keith *et al.* (1992) but rejected by Dowsett (1993). Probably a mistake for Mountain Wagtail *M. clara* which is resident on Bioko but was not included by Keith *et al.* (1992).

Criniger chloronotus **Eastern Bearded Greenbul**. Wells (1968) included it among the birds he observed. Eisentraut (1973) omitted it, without giving reasons for rejection, while Dowsett (1993) noted that its "occurrence requires proof". Wells (1968) did not quote it as a "new record" and stated wrongly that previous records existed. Wells omitted the Red-tailed Greenbul *C. calurus*, which does occur on Bioko (Alexander 1903, Amadon 1953, Basilio 1963, Eisentraut 1973, Pérez del Val 1996, collected by E. Seimund and P. Curats), therefore we think that it may have been a nomenclatorial mistake.

Pyrrhurus scandens **Leaflove**. Wells (1968) quoted this species as new for the island from two groups observed in the moss forest between 800 and 1900 m. No description was given. Dowsett (1993) quoted it as "occurrence requires proof" and Eisentraut (1973) omitted it without giving reasons. Wells was acquainted with the Leaflove in Nigeria where he worked and we think that it is probably a mistake for the Cameroon Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poensis*, a similar species which inhabits the same forest and altitude on Bioko.

Cossypha isabellae **Mountain Robin**. Quoted for Bioko by Antor-Castellarnau & Camacho-Fumanal (1989) as observed between 1700 and 2100 m. No description was given and the species was not claimed as new. Probably in error for the White-bellied Robin-chat *Cossyphicula roberti*.

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