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## Letters — Lettres

### Bird ringing recoveries from Guinea-Bissau

Hazevoet (1996) has usefully drawn attention to the fact that Frade & Bacelar (1959) published a list of the passerines known from Guinea-Bissau, in addition to that on non-passerines (Frade & Bacelar 1955). I had not encountered the former publication, and hence the list I presented for the country (Dowsett 1993) needs amendment. But Hazevoet also writes, concerning my list of the birds of Guinea-Bissau: "his unreferenced data on ringing recoveries are not included, as they appear to contain many inaccuracies". This is a strange comment, as Hazevoet at no time asked to see the ringing recovery data that I have available for that country (a fact he has confirmed *in litt.* 1996). Moreover, it is quite wrong, for there are definite ringing recoveries for all the species concerned, a good many of them published. For example, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* was not included by me "on the basis of unpublished ringing recoveries": there are no fewer than 19 recoveries from the British Isles alone (Mead & Clark 1993). Details for other species included by Dowsett (1993) from Guinea-Bissau on the basis of ringing recoveries alone have been re-examined, and all are correct. The limited nature of Hazevoet's own list of birds observed in Guinea-Bissau shows how important all sources of data are for such a country.

Information from the Tauraco database is freely available on request.

### References

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### Response to Dowsett

The main reason I did not include ringing recoveries listed by Dowsett (1993) was that they did not concern "new" species, except for Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*, which I included in Appendix 2, with a reference to Dowsett *et al.* (1988). I felt that it was not important to include the others because they were already covered by publications other than Dowsett (1993).

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