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A southern record of Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* in Lamto, Ivory Coast

The Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* ranges in West Africa from Senegal to Nigeria and the Central African Republic. It has a strong affinity to rocky ground but is also found in any kind of open habitat, especially on dry patches where it feeds mainly on seeds (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1973). In Ivory Coast it was reported by Thiollay (1985) from Korhogo (9°22'N) and Niangbo (8°49'N); additionally Demey & Fishpool (1991) observed it in Comoé National Parc (between 8°30'N and 9°30'N).

During a stay in Lamto (6°13'N) one Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting was observed on 2 Dec 1998. It was identified by its black and white striped head, and reddish-brown body with dark streaks on the back. When the bird was discovered by VS it was foraging on the road; after a while it flew into a tree where it was lost. When returning together with FG after about 15 min., the bird was observed again at almost exactly the same place on the road and we watched it for some minutes again before it took off.

This is probably the first observation of the species in Lamto; no record has been published so far (Thiollay 1970, 1971) and it was not observed there by L.D.C. Fishpool (pers. comm.). It is also the southernmost record for the Ivory Coast, which means a range extension of more than 2° latitude. In other West African Countries like Guinea (Walsh 1987), Ghana (Grimes 1987) and Togo (Cheke & Walsh 1996), all localities where the species is recorded lie well north of the latitude of Lamto. In Liberia it is recorded as rare by Gatter (1988, 1998), who gives no locality. The only country where it is recorded in comparable latitudes is Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994), with records at 7°50' (Kabba), 7°30' (Mambilla), 6°38' (Obudu) and 6°20' (Enugu). Records from coastal cities that lie further south than Lamto include Lagos, Burutu and Port Harcourt; however, it is speculated that these might be escapes because the species is a popular cage bird there (Elgood *et al.* 1994). As this is not the case in Ivory Coast, the observed bird in Lamto could be the southernmost record of the species in West Africa.

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