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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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(Stevenson 1992) demonstrates that they sometimes undertake wider extra-limital movements. This new record being of breeding birds suggests that it is a genuine range extension rather than a case of vagrancy. The site has been popular with birdwatchers since the 1970s, has been visited at least annually by birdwatchers since then, and since 2001 has received much more attention by staff and students of the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute. Consequently it seems unlikely that the species remained undetected for very long at this site. However, African Quailfinch *O. atricollis* and Zebra Waxbill *Amandava subflava* are common there, so Locust Finch may have been overlooked. All three are highly terrestrial species and therefore difficult to see except in flight. We initially spotted a male on the ground in the open with fledglings. Further survey, including by calls, is recommended. The site is now managed by ECWA (Evangelical Church of W Africa) Rural Development, so it is ~~likely~~ hoped that the wet grassland habitat of the Locust Finches will be maintained.

Our work was funded by the Leventis Conservation Foundation, to whom we are very grateful. We would also like to thank the staff of ECWA Rural Development for access to the site. Ulf Ottoson and Paavo Sallinen helped in the field. This is publication no. 6 of the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute.

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Received 19 February 2003

Revised 21 May 2003

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A high altitude sighting of the São Tomé Short-tail *Amaurocichla bocagei*

São Tomé in the Gulf of Guinea is well known for its endemic, restricted range, bird fauna (Peet & Atkinson 1994), and it has been recognised by Fishpool & Evans (2001) as an Important Bird Area. Eleven species of breeding land birds are listed by

IUCN as in some degree threatened (IUCN 2002), all of which are endemic and occur in the remaining primary rainforest of the island.

One of the most elusive of these species is the São Tomé Short-tail *Amaurocichla bocagei*, a species listed as Vulnerable (BirdLife International 2000, IUCN 2002) because of its presumed small population size, based on estimates of the amount of habitat considered suitable for the species that remains in São Tomé. Previous sightings of *A. bocagei* have been in primary rainforest below 600m, in the south-west of the island, especially near watercourses (Peet & Atkinson 1994, Christy & Clarke 1998, Borrow & Demeý 2001). During a systematic survey of the primary rainforest of the island, we sighted *A. bocagei* in high altitude rainforest in central São Tomé.

On 27 Dec 2001, a single adult *A. bocagei* was seen at Estação Sousa (0°16'N, 6°33'E) at an altitude of 1100 m in the central mountainous massif east of Pico de São Tomé. The bird was not especially close to a watercourse, but numerous small streams have their headwaters in the vicinity. It was seen about 1 m above ground level walking along a near-horizontal fallen tree branch. It had long legs, a long, thin bill and was an overall dark brown. It made several characteristic calls and was observed for more than 5 min. It appeared darker than other *A. bocagei* observed subsequently in the lowlands. The occurrence of *A. bocagei* at high altitudes in the central mountainous massif was confirmed by a local guide, who reported regular but uncommon sightings in the region (Pedro Leitão pers. comm.).

This sighting significantly extends the area of forest that may be considered occupied by *A. bocagei*. However, the species still has a restricted range as it occurs only in primary rainforest. The potential population size for the species could be much larger than previously thought, although *A. bocagei* is probably uncommon at high altitudes. We saw only a single individual during a six-day survey, whereas in the heart of its lowland forest distribution, we observed several individuals and pairs daily. We therefore do not recommend that its conservation status be changed unless significant populations are discovered at high altitude.

We thank Pedro Leitão, the staff of ECOFAC São Tomé and Príncipe, Angus Gascoigne and Peter Jones. The work was funded by the Davis Expedition Fund, the British Ecological Society and the John Ray Trust. Additional support was provided by Garmin (Europe) Ltd and Berghaus Ltd.

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Received 6 March 2003

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New records of Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri* and Lesser Striped Swallow *Hirundo abyssinica* from Mauritania

During an expedition of the Swiss Ornithological Institute to Mauritania in September 2001, two bird species were observed, neither of which is mentioned in literature for the country (Lamarche 1988, Keith *et al.* 1992, Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 1993, Borrow & Demey 2001) although they have been recorded in Mauritania (B. Lamarche *in litt.*).

***Phoenicurus moussieri* Moussier's Redstart.** At our camp at 18°33'N, 10°22'W between Tidjikja and Tichit on 12 September, VS and FL saw a bird fly into a bush, emerge after a short time to stay a few seconds on the ground, then fly off not to be seen again. Although the observation, from *c.* 15 m, was brief, the red tail indicated that it was a Redstart *Phoenicurus* sp. The deep red underparts excluded Black Redstart *P. ochruros* and female Common Redstart *P. phoenicurus*. The bird differed from male Common Redstart by the more intense colour of the underparts and the red rather than black throat. It had a distinctive whitish supercilium, extending from the forehead backwards and curving around the ear coverts. The supercilium was slightly mottled with black, and the crown was dark with brown feather fringes, indicating a male Moussier's Redstart in eclipse plumage (Svensson *et al.* 1999).

According to Keith *et al.* (1992) Moussier's Redstart is endemic to NW Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya) with vagrants recorded in Malta, Italy and Britain. It might be a short distance migrant but its movements are not well known (Keith *et al.* 1992). Our observation is apparently the first south of the Sahara to be published, although the species has been observed in the country by B. Lamarche (*in litt.*).

***Hirundo abyssinica* Lesser Striped Swallow.** On the afternoon of 22 September in the Guelta Metraugha, a narrow valley fringed by cliffs, at about 16°37'42"N, 11°24'12"W between Kiffa and Ayoun, we (VS, RA, FL, DP) observed a flock of *c.* 20 Lesser Striped Swallows together with some Barn Swallows *H. rustica* and African Rock Martins *H. fuligula*. The Lesser Striped Swallows were distinguished from Barn Swallows by the red head and rump. Some of them flew less than 10 m overhead in