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These basic differences in host choice between these two cuckoos were stressed by Payne & Payne (1967). The claims for certain insectivorous passerines being hosts of Didric Cuckoo, mentioned by Fry *et al.* (1988), have come mainly from South Africa (Rowan 1983). Some have been documented convincingly, but in others there is the possibility that the birds tempted to feed a juvenile cuckoo were not the actual hosts, which may be the case with some unsatisfactory sunbird *Nectarinia* spp. records from Zambia (cf. Colebrook-Robjent 1984).

The rarity of warblers being hosts to Didric Cuckoo means that close attention must be paid to the claims from Nigeria. In the absence of diagnostic identification characters, I consider that the possibility that these records involved Klaas's Cuckoos rather than Didric has not been eliminated.

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La Cigogne noire *Ciconia nigra* au Mali

Le 18 janvier 2000, lors de comptages aériens réalisés dans le delta intérieur du Niger, au Mali, une bande de huit Cigognes noires *Ciconia nigra* a été observée en vol. Elle se situait à 14°16'N, 4°47'W, au sud de Ténenkou, soit environ 80 km à l'ouest de Mopti. L'identification de l'espèce est certaine, l'absence de croupion blanc notamment excluant la Cigogne d'Abdim *C. abdimii*.

L'espèce n'est pas signalée au Mali par Malzy (1962), Duhart & Descamps (1963) ou Wymenga *et al.* (2002). Une seule observation, au Lac Korientze dans le

delta intérieur du Niger à la fin des années 1970, est mentionnée par Lamarche (1980). De Bie & Morgan (1989) la signalent comme “rare en hiver” dans la réserve de biosphère de la Boucle du Baoulé, dans l’ouest du pays, sans donner de précision. Dans les ouvrages plus généraux (Brown *et al.* 1982, Hancock *et al.* 1992, Borrow & Demeý 2002) les cartes de répartition, quasiment identiques, laissent supposer qu’elle fréquente ce pays, sans précision. Notre donnée s’inscrit dans un contexte de multiplication des observations ouest-africaines (Nikolaus 2000, Salewski *et al.* 2000, Walsh 2002, Dodman & Diagana 2003, Ottosson *et al.* 2003), consécutive à l’accroissement des populations nicheuses en Europe (Snow & Perrins 1998). Elle est nettement plus au nord que les rares autres observations ouest-africaines, hors delta du Sénégal, qui se rapportent à 1–4 oiseaux (Walsh 1991, Salewski *et al.* 2000, Ottosson *et al.* 2003), et il s’agit donc du groupe le plus important pour l’Afrique de l’ouest.

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A new record of Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas* in Cameroon

The family *Picathartidae* has only two species, both endemic to the rainforests of tropical west and central Africa. White-necked Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus* is confined to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Ghana. Grey-necked Picathartes *P. oreas* is found in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea including Bioko island, S and W Cameroon and SE Nigeria (Fry *et al.* 2000). The birds construct their mud nests in caves or on overhanging rocks within closed-canopy primary forest (Thompson & Fotso 1995) and therefore often have a patchy local distribution. Grey-necked Picathartes is classified as Vulnerable (Birdlife International 2004). In spite of its large range, the population is highly fragmented, considered small (less than 10,000 mature individuals), and possibly in overall decline (Birdlife International 2004).

In Cameroon, some of the largest breeding colonies of Grey-necked Picathartes are in the Dja Faunal Reserve, with at least 50 nests known, and much potential habitat not yet surveyed (BirdLife International 2004). Other populations are known from the following Important Bird Areas: Bakossi Mountains, Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, Boumba-Bek IBA, Campo Ma'an National Park (old records from localities outside the park), Korup National Park, Mbam Minkom-Kala, Mt Manengouba, Mt Nlonako, Mt Rata and Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve, Yabassi, Mt Kupe (Bowden & Andrews 1994, Fishpool & Evans 2004). Recently, the species has been discovered near Boumba river in SE Cameroon (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 1998), in Nsong (Anon. 2000) and in Mesa and Kala forests in Youndé region (Thompson & Fotso 2000). However, many of these populations are small or survive only in poor quality habitat (Thompson & Fotso 1995).

From 11 to 15 January 2004, we visited Bakingili village (4°3'N, 9°3'E), in the SW foothills of Mt Cameroon. During two short trips to the lowland rainforest interior (13 and 14 January 2004), we found a new locality for Grey-necked Picathartes, c. 1 km north-west of the village, at an altitude of c. 100 m. The nearest known population, discovered in 1983 near Bonenza (4°5'N, 9°6'E), was at an altitude of 700 m (Tye 1987).