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had not heard before nor since, and did not have access to C. Chappuis's recordings on vinyl records that had been available since 1978. However, after F. Dowsett-Lemaire and R.J. Dowsett (*in litt.* and Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2007) informed me that they had discovered that the African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* was common and widespread in Ghana I realised that the calls which I had heard were identical to the second part of the vocalisation (“a series of quavering notes”) of the African Barred Owlet *G. c. ethecopari* on CD7 of Chappuis (2000). This is the first record for Togo and the most eastern record for the W African population. Given the time that has elapsed since this record, confirmation of the species' occurrence in the country is desirable.

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A new record of the White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga* for Nigeria

The White-crowned Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga* is a true desert bird, occupying habitat with minimal vegetation in pebbly and rocky areas, wadis, cliffs, lava fields, human dwellings, ruins and cemeteries, over N Africa, most of the Sahara, Arabia and the Middle East (Cramp 1988, Keith *et al.* 1992). Some individuals or populations make short-distance movements in winter and birds from NW Africa are believed to migrate south in winter (Keith *et al.* 1992).

Around 10h30 on 8 Oct 2007, we sighted a robust, mainly black wheatear in dense savanna in Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State, Nigeria (c. 9°45'N, 10°30'E). When first seen, it was perched in the lower branches of a tall shrub, almost facing us, such that we could not see its back or the underside of its tail. It showed a completely white cap, from forehead to nape, and the rest of the visible part of the body was black. The bird quickly flew away, when we glimpsed a flash of white in the lower body or tail.

We first thought the bird to be a White-fronted Black Chat *Myrmecocichla albifrons*, but it showed a more robust bill and body and less vertical posture, more typical of *Oenanthe*, besides the wholly white cap. Adult White-crowned Black Wheatear is the

only Palearctic *Oenanthe* with white cap, vent, lower back, under tail-coverts and underside of the tail, which may account for the white we saw when it flew away. Hooded Wheatear *O. monacha* has more extensive white on the underside, from breast to under tail-coverts. All characteristics we observed identify the bird as White-crowned Black Wheatear, with two previous records in N Nigeria, one from Malamfatori (13°37'N, 13°23'E) in Aug 1963, and another near Maiduguri (11°49'N, 13°9'E) undated (Elgood *et al.* 1994). Our record was c. 550 km from the first and 400 km from the latter. The habitat at Yankari is atypical for the species and our record likely represents a straggler.

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Concentration de Nauciers d'Afrique *Chelictinia riocourii* près de Niono, Mali

En janvier 2006, une mission d'éco-volontariat pour l'ONG Planète Urgence avait pour objectif de réaliser des comptages de l'avifaune dans la région de Niono, Mali, au bénéfice d'une association malienne, Groupe Nature.

Le 12 janvier 2006, JIG et C. Diop observent une concentration d'environ 200 Nauciers d'Afrique *Chelictinia riocourii* posés sur un *Acacia albida* près du pont de Molodo, village proche de Niono. Ils arrivaient en groupes dispersés. Le lendemain à 8h45, 191 individus étaient posés ou en vol dans le même secteur. Le 16 janvier, entre 17h30 et 18h12, près de Niono, 560 Nauciers partaient vraisemblablement vers un dortoir, en direction du nord-nord-ouest. Le 17, à partir de 17h00, un dortoir rassemblant 2480 oiseaux est découvert sur quelques grands *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* à l'extérieur des jardins de Niono (14°15'26''N, 5°59'96''W). Les eucalyptus, acacias et rôniers *Borassus* sp. sont brûlés par les fientes. L'odeur est forte.