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Extensions of documented distributions for three bird species in Burkina Faso

During the course of a visit to Burkina Faso (26 Sep to 4 Oct 2008) I observed a number of bird species in areas that appear to represent slight to significant extensions to documented distributions.

***Tockus fasciatus* African Pied Hornbill.** A single bird was seen well on 2 Oct in a narrow strip of riparian forest immediately below the Karfiguéla Falls (10°43'N, 4°49'W), near Banfora in the southwest of Burkina Faso. The dominant vegetation type on the escarpment above the falls is well-wooded savanna; the land below the falls, and away from the immediate vicinity of the river, is mostly under cultivation. *T. fasciatus* is reported to occur in dense deciduous woodland as well as to enter savanna along bands of riparian forest (Fry *et al.* 1988, Kemp 1995). It also ranges widely when not breeding, which in West Africa appears to occur predominantly between January and April (Fry *et al.* 1988, Kemp 1995). Holyoak & Seddon (1989) did not record this species in southwest Burkina Faso, and mapped distributions lie to the south of the border with Ivory Coast (Fry *et al.* 1988, Kemp 1995) or just reach it (Borrow & Demey 2008). This observation therefore represents a northward range extension for this species of c. 100 km. Further east in Burkina Faso, *T. fasciatus* is listed as occurring rarely at Nazinga Ranch (11°10'–11°18'N, 1°16'–1°43'W) (Portier 2002); this is also well north of mapped distributions for this species.

***Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris* Cliff Chat.** A pair of these birds was observed near the steps used to gain access to the top of the rocky escarpment at Karfiguéla Falls, on 2 Oct. The broken, rocky and heavily fissured habitat along and immediately above the escarpment is similar to that in which I have often seen this species in southern Africa. The female bird was seen well; adequate but more fleeting views

were obtained of the male. The nearest mapped occurrence of this species is in northern Ivory Coast, around 120 km to the south-west of Karfiguéla Falls (Keith *et al.* 1992, Borrow & Demey 2008). However, Portier *et al.* (2002) describe it as common along the Banfora Cliffs that run for over 100 km northeast from the Karfiguéla Falls to near Bobo-Dioulasso. In addition it has been reported from the Pics de Sindou, sandstone rock formations near the town of Sindou (10°40'N, 5°10'W), 45 km west of Banfora (Goblet 2007). This suggests that *M. cinnamomeiventris* is probably widely distributed in southwest Burkina Faso wherever there is suitable habitat.

***Muscicapa aquatica* Swamp Flycatcher.** A single bird of this species was present on 27 Sep on a small pond close to the main ford across the river that flows through the Parc Urbain de Bangré Weogo (12°22'N, 1°30'W), sometimes referred to as the Bois de Boulogne (Mauvais 1998), on the northern outskirts of Ouagadougou. In size it appeared intermediate between African Dusky Flycatcher *M. adusta* and Spotted Flycatcher *M. striata*, both of which I know well. Its plumage was similar to that in the illustration in Borrow & Demey (2008) with which I was able to compare it at the time. The bird's behaviour was such as to make it relatively inconspicuous; it stayed close to the pond edge, moving only infrequently between several perches *c.* 1 m or less above the pond surface. It was not seen on other visits to this pond. Neither Thonnérieux *et al.* (1989) nor Mauvais (1998) recorded this species around Ouagadougou. It has a discontinuous distribution across the savanna region from Senegal to the Central African Republic, including only the southeast of Burkina Faso, and occurring only near water (Urban *et al.* 1997, Borrow & Demey 2008). However, even though this is not shown on their map, the latter authors state that this species is probably widespread in southern Burkina Faso. Recent observations support this: the species is described as common at Nazinga Ranch (Portier 2002) and was observed there by R. Demey (pers. comm.) in November 2000, and also along the Bougouriba River, in the Réserve partielle de Nabéré, near Diébougou, *c.* 100 km east-southeast of Bobo-Dioulasso.

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