

First record of Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* for São Tomé and Príncipe

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Première mention de l'Hirondelle de rivage *Riparia riparia* pour São Tomé et Príncipe. Une Hirondelle de rivage *Riparia riparia* a été observée le 28 septembre 2006 le long du Rio Papagaio, aux abords de Santo António, Príncipe. Ceci constitue la première donnée pour le pays de ce migrateur paléarctique.

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* is a scarce Palearctic migrant in west-central Africa, with only a handful of records from southern Cameroon, Gabon, western Congo-Kinshasa and Angola (Keith *et al.* 1992). A recent revision of the avifauna of São Tomé and Príncipe lists only four Hirundinidae: Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* (not recorded in the last 100 years), Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* (unconfirmed), Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (reported to be regular) and Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* (known from two records, both on Príncipe) (Jones & Tye 2006).

On 28 September 2006 we observed a single Common Sand Martin patrolling the Rio Papagaio on the outskirts of Santo António, Príncipe. It was distinguished from Brown-throated Martin *R. paludicola* by having a white throat bordered ventrally by a distinct brown bar across the upper breast, and from Banded Martin by its small size, more flitting flight and lack of a white eyebrow (Borrow & Demey 2001). Given Príncipe's relatively close proximity to the African mainland (*c.*220 km) this record, the first for the country, is perhaps not entirely unexpected.

References

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