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

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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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