

Notes on Angolan birds: new country records, range extensions and taxonomic questions

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Details of 12 species and 16 species from species splits that are new to the list of birds for Angola are presented. Range extensions and new distribution records for a further 50 species, including 16 species previously considered to have very restricted ranges, are listed and discussed. Mis-identified species, or species for which Angolan records are doubtful, are listed together with reasons why each of the species is unlikely to occur in the country. Several taxonomic issues around some of the Angolan near-endemic bird species are highlighted, together with some discussion on potential species splits.

A comprehensive summary of the avifauna of Angola, listing distribution and abundance, collection localities, breeding information and specimen details for 916 species, has been provided by Dean (2000). A further 59 species are listed as likely but occurrence has not as yet been confirmed. Almost all sources for this summary, both bird collections and publications, are pre-1975, because of the collapse of research during the war period, which ended in 2002. Subsequent to Dean (2000), additional distributional records have been published or submitted for publication (Lambert 2001, 2006, Dean *et al.* 2002, Ryan *et al.* 2004, Sinclair and Ryan 2003b, Sekercioğlu and Riley 2005).

However, bird communities are still poorly known, even in the most intensively-surveyed areas, largely due to small, incomplete collections. These issues are magnified by acute taxonomic uncertainties, with many taxa known from few specimens, and current difficulties associated with obtaining formal permission to collect bird specimens. The literature, too, is littered with erroneous records. The objectives of this paper are to build on Dean (2000). We first report on species new to the Angolan list. Secondly, we summarise new distributional records. Thirdly, we comment on the status of certain species in Angola. Fourthly, we highlight taxonomic changes or potential species splits that may change the Angolan bird list.

Our data are largely drawn from a three-month visit to Angola by MSLM, who spent August–October 2005 surveying birds, mainly along the western escarpment and the western highlands of Angola. At all sites, lists of species were made, together with notes on abundance and habitat (where appropriate). Areas visited include the highlands of Huambo Province and eight sites along the escarpment, from 30km north to 110km south of Gabela (Figure 1). The area to the south of Gabela, particularly around Gungo, had not been previously surveyed (Dean 2000) and has yielded many range extensions of forest species. In addition, we have included some unpublished sight records (G Mulholland, Schagen, South Africa *in litt.*; A Riley, Riley

Rock jumper Birding Tours, South Africa, N Borrow Bird quest, UK, *in litt.*) in this paper. Further new information was gathered by MSLM from a visit to the bird skin collection in Lubango, assembled by the Instituto de Investigação Científica de Angola (IICA) and currently housed by the Instituto de Ciências da Educação. We also queried identifications of some species in museum collections, and these confirmed and revised identifications are presented here.

We present 12 additions to the Angolan bird list, 16 additional species from splits (i.e. listed in Dean (2000), but with other taxa) and seven species that are best treated as unconfirmed but were accepted as confirmed (Dean 2000). This brings the Angolan bird list to a conservative total of 928 species, with another 16 species if species are split according to suggestions in the literature. Nomenclature, in the main, follows Dickinson (2003), and common names follow Sinclair and Ryan (2003a).

Results and discussion

New country records

Since the publication of Dean (2000), a further 12 species have been added to the Angolan bird list. Seven of these — all marine species (Table 1) — were recorded by Lambert (2001). The presence of the Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* (Dean *et al.* 2003), the Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* and the Swift Tern *Sterna bergii* (Dean *et al.* 2002) has also been verified. Two further species, both previously suspected to occur (Dean 2000), are now confirmed for the first time. Firstly, the Lemon Dove *Aplopelia (Columba) larvata* was heard and sound-recorded in September 2005 at Kumbira Forest (Mills and Dowd *in press*). Previously, a putative call of this species was identified at N'Dalatando in Cuanza Norte Province (Dean 2000). This species probably occurs in low densities throughout the escarpment forests. Secondly, Pink-billed Larks *Spizocorys conirostris* were seen near Xangongo (16°44'S, 15°08'E) in Cunene Province on 8 August 2005 (Mills 2006).

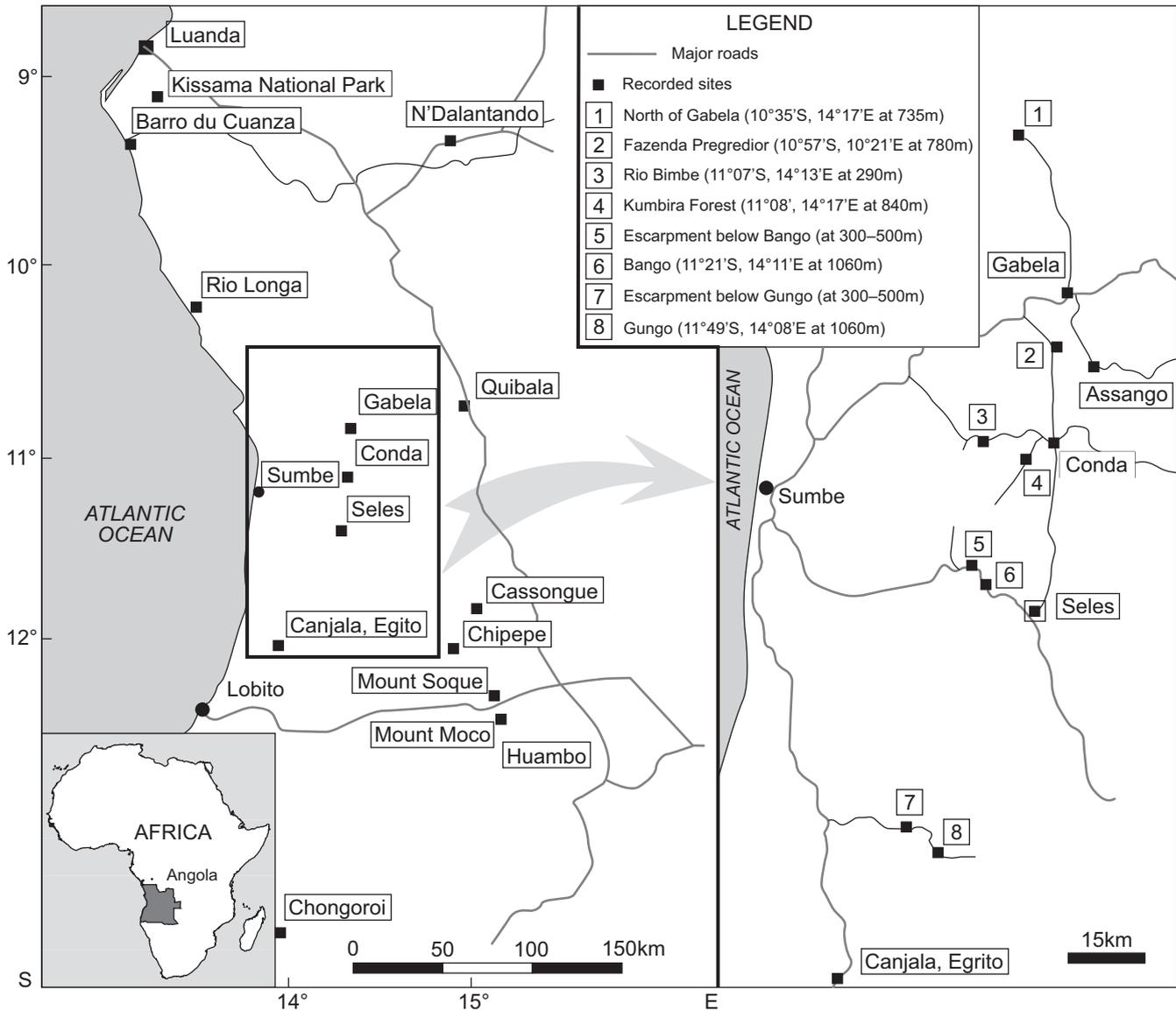


Figure 1: A map of the study area showing localities mentioned in the text (boxed names) for the entire region (left) and the boxed area enlarged (right) to show sites along the escarpment

Table 1: Species recorded by Lambert (2001) that are new to the Angolan bird list

Species name	Date	Locality
Northern Royal Albatross <i>Diomedea [epomorpha] sanfordi</i>	2 November 1985	One adult, off Namibe (15°14'S, 11°40'E)
Spectacled Petrel <i>Procellaria [aequinoctialis] conspicillata</i>	11 October 1985	One off Namibe (15°09'S, 11°37'E)
Red-billed Tropicbird <i>Phaëton aethereus</i>	29 May 1968	One adult off Namibe (15°49'S, 10°41'E)
White-tailed Tropicbird <i>Phaëton lepturus</i>	28 April 1986	One adult off Cuanza Sul (10°57'S, 11°22'E)
Red Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	21 October 1974	79 adults seen at 15°26'S, 11°30'E
	17 October 1986	One adult seen at 15°26'S, 11°30'E
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	15 October 1986	One adult in partial breeding plumage at Luanda
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	October 1988	One adult in breeding plumage at Luanda

Three more putative species records are of interest, although they have not been formally accepted. The first, the Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*, was recorded in large flocks in

April 1968 and 1986 near to the border, perhaps inside, of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Angola (Lambert 2001). Secondly, there is a report of the Bob-tailed Weaver

Table 2: Range extensions of birds from along the Angolan escarpment. Dates are for the period August–October 2005, unless otherwise stated. Site numbers correspond to those on Figure 1b

Species name	Sites								Notes
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Grey-striped Francolin <i>Francolinus griseostriatus</i> VU			x			x		x	Not recorded from between Gabela and Chongoroi
Buff-spotted Flufftail <i>Sarothrura elegans</i>	x					x			No records south of Cuanza Norte
Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo <i>Cercococcyx mechowi</i>				x					No records south of Cuanza Norte
Gabon Coucal <i>Centropus anelli</i>						x		x	No records south of Kumbira
African Barred Owlet <i>Glaucidium capense</i>			x					x	No records along the coastal plain north of Chongoroi in Benguela
Blue-breasted Kingfisher <i>Halcyon malimbica</i>			x						No records south of Barro du Cuanza (09°19'S, 13°10'E at 10m)
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird <i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>	x	x	x					x	First records for Angola outside of Cabinda
Yellow-billed Barbet <i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>								x	No records south of Kumbira Forest (Ryan <i>et al.</i> 2004)
Least Honeyguide <i>Indicator exilis</i>		x		x					First for Cuanza Sul; also recorded by Sekercioğlu and Riley (2005)
Brown-eared Woodpecker <i>Campethera carol</i>								x	Known from as far south as Gabela
Angola Pitta <i>Pitta angolensis</i>					x		x		First records for the province of Cuanza Sul
Petit's Cuckooshrike <i>Campephaga petiti</i>								x	No records south of Bango
Rufous Flycatcher-thrush <i>Neocossyphus fraseri</i>						x		x	No records south of Kumbira Forest
Masked Apalis <i>Apalis binotata</i> (Ryan)								x	Known from Cuanza Norte, Bango and Kumbira <i>et al.</i> 2004)
Black-throated Apalis <i>Apalis jacksoni</i>								x	No records South of Bango
Buff-throated Apalis <i>Apalis rufogularis</i>								x	No records South of Kumbira Forest
Pulitzer's Longbill <i>Macrosphenus pulitzeri</i> EN								x	Presumably continuous from Kumbira in north to Chongoroi in south
Green Crombec <i>Sylvietta virens</i>								x	As far South as Bango
Southern Hylia <i>Hylia australis</i>			x			x	x	x	As far South as Bango
African Blue Flycatcher <i>Elminia longicauda</i>								x	As far South as Kumbira Forest
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher <i>Trochocercus nitens</i>								x	As far South as Kumbira Forest
Brown Illadopsis <i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>								x	As far South as Kumbira Forest
Dusky Tit <i>Parus funereus</i>								x	In dry forest with Baobabs <i>Adonsonia digitata</i> at 300m
Little Green Sunbird <i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>		x	x		x			x	As far south as N'Dalatando in Cuanza Norte; 300km
Olive-bellied Sunbird <i>Cinnyris cholorphygia</i>							x	x	As far south as Kumbira Forest
Mackinnon's Fiscal <i>Lanius mackinnoni</i>							x		As far south as Kumbira Forest
Pink-footed Puffback <i>Dryoscopus angolensis</i>								x	As far south as Bango
Monteiro's Bush-shrike <i>Malaconotus monteiri</i> DD		x	x			x		x	Also at Assango (10°59'S, 14°25'E, 1 040m), to the East of Gabela
Monteiro's Bush-shrike <i>Malaconotus monteiri</i> DD									Specimen in Lubango Museum from Canjala, Egito, Benguela
Gabela Bush-shrike <i>Laniarius [luehderi] amboimensis</i> EN	x							x	From the vicinity of Gabela
Gabela Bush-shrike <i>Laniarius [luehderi] amboimensis</i> EN									Specimen in Lubango Museum from Egito, Benguela
Gabela Helmetshrike <i>Prionops gabela</i> EN				x	x				Only from Gabela area and Kissama NP near Chio (Dean 1974)
Yellow-throated Nicator <i>Nicator vireo</i>								x	As far south as Bango
Brown-capped Weaver <i>Ploceus insignis</i>							x		As far south as Kumbira Forest
Grey-headed Negrolark <i>Nigrita canicapilla</i>			x						As far south as Kumbira Forest
Red-faced Crimsonwing <i>Cryptospiza reichenovii</i>			x		x				Known only from the vicinity of Gabela/Kumbira Forest

Brachycope anomala from the north of the country in February 2004 (Sinclair, Pinelands, South Africa, unpublished data). Thirdly, some feathers (now lost) that appeared too rufous for the Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus* and possibly vouch for the Cape Eagle Owl *Bubo capensis* were found on 'a high, windswept, rocky ridge' on the slopes of Mount Moco (A Riley pers. comm.). The closest record of this species is from the Okakora Mountains in northern Namibia (Swanepoel 2005). The birds in the Okakora Mountains responded to calls recorded in eastern South Africa (Swanepoel 2005), suggesting that they were of nominate *Bubo capensis* rather than of *B. c. mackinderi*, which occurs in western Zimbabwe.

Distributions

We present new information on the distribution ranges of 50 species (Table 2 and Table 3; also see Figure 1 for location of sites mentioned). Most records are not unexpected and are of range extensions of forest species that were found to occur further south along the escarpment than previously known (see Table 2). Most significantly, the endemics the Gabela Bush-Shrike *Laniarius [luehderi] amboimensis*, Monteiro's Bush-Shrike *Malaconotus monteiri* (also known from Cameroon, Dickinson 2003) and the Gabela Helmet-Shrike *Prionops gabela* were found to be more widespread than previously thought. Furthermore, the distributions of

Table 3: Range extensions and rare records. Unless otherwise stated, dates are for the period August–October 2005 and records by MSLM

Species	Recorded from	Details
Verreaux's Eagle <i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	Mount Soque (12°18'S, 17°07'E)	16 August; first record for province; seen hunting along a rocky ridge
African Crowned Eagle <i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	Mount Moco (12°21'S, 15°10'E)	18 January 2004; A Riley (pers. comm.)
Booted Eagle <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Mount Soque	14 August; third record for Angola
Ayres's Hawk Eagle <i>Hieraaetus dubius</i>	Gabela town	30 August; first record for Cuanza Sul
Orange River Francolin <i>Scleroptila levaillantoides</i>	Kissama National Park	2005; P vaz Pinto, Centro de Estudos e Investigação UCAN Luanda, pers.comm.)
Blue-headed Coucal <i>Centropus monachus</i>	Near Kumbira and Longa River	26 September and 3 October
Fernando Po Swift <i>Apus [barbatus] sladeniae</i> DD	Mount Soque and Njelo Mountain	16 August and 10 October; breeding in rock crevasses above Kumbira forest
Scarce Swift <i>Schoutedenapus myioptilus</i>	Gungo	23 October
Brazza's Martin <i>Phedina brazzae</i>	Huambo highlands	18 August and 31 August; 800km south of previously known localities in Lunda Norte
Mountain Wheat-ear <i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	Mount Njelo above Kumbira	9 October; from as far north as Mombolo in Cuanza Sul, 100km to the south-east
African Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	Cuanza River floodplain	11 September; recorded from Cunene, Namibe and Benguela, all much further south
Laura's Woodland Warbler <i>Phylloscopus laurae</i>	Chipepe, Cassongue area	1964; only Mount Moco; specimens in the Lubango Museum
Margaret's Batis <i>Batis margaritae</i>	Acongo, Sando du Monge	1964; only Mount Moco; specimen in Lubango Museum
Cape Penduline Tit <i>Anthoscopus minutes</i>	Dry bush below Gungo (11°44'S)	21 October; as far north as Benguela town, 110km to the south
Orange Weaver <i>Ploceus aurantius</i>	Barro du Cuanza (P. vaz Pinto)	Previous records from as far south of Luanda, 55km to the north
Thick-billed Seed-eater <i>Serinus burtoni</i>	Fazenda Pregredior	18 September; first Angolan record away from the highlands of Huambo province; feeding in a pigeonwood tree <i>Trema orientalis</i>

Pulitzer's Longbill *Macrosphenus pulitzeri* and the Grey-striped Francolin *Pternistis (Francolinus) griseostriatus* appear to be continuous along the escarpment. It is worth noting that the Gabela Akalat *Sheppardia gabela* was the only endemic for which no new localities were found, despite new knowledge of its call.

New distribution information is provided for a further 16 species (Table 3). The longest range extension is for Brazza's Martin *Phedina brazzae*, found at three localities in the Huambo Highlands, c. 750km south of the only other localities for this species in Angola, in the Lunda Norte Province (Mills and Cohen 2007). Also of special note is that the Fernando Po Swift *Apus (barbatus) sladeniae* was recorded at two new localities: Mount Soque, c. 15km from Mount Moco, the only known Angolan locality for this taxon (Brooke 1970, Dean 2000), and Njelo Mountain. At both sites these swifts were observed at and below eye level; their almost black appearance and lack of discernable greyish-white on the chin differentiated them from the closely-related African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*, which is unknown from the highlands of Angola (Dean 2000). In early October, the Fernando Po Swift was found to be breeding in rock crevasses on Njelo Mountain above Kumbira Forest, a new breeding record for Angola. This probably constitutes the first breeding record for the species. At Kumbira, at least one bird repeatedly flew in and out of a slit in the rocks on a c. 10m high precipice, during the latter part of the morning, and was presumed to have been feeding young. The bird was heard to utter calls unlike those of the African Black Swift, and with some similarity to the Little Swift *Apus affinis* (MSLM pers. obs.).

Status

Two species listed as confirmed by Dean (2000) have already been downlisted to 'unconfirmed' (Appendix 1; see www.birdsangola.org/downloads/ostrich06-1appendix1.doc). These are the Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea* and the Gabon Woodpecker *Dendropicos gabonesis* (Dean *et al.* 2002). A further four seabird species listed in Dean (2000) should be treated as unconfirmed. Although members of the Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* super-species have been recorded from Angolan waters (Dean 2000, Lambert 2001, 2006), the forms are unidentified. The most likely form to occur off the Angolan coast is the Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbanena* (treated as *D. e. exulans* by Dickinson 2003). Hence, if the forms are split (Jouanin and Mouglin 1979), the Wandering Albatross must be treated as unconfirmed for Angola. The Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* is listed by Dean (2000) with the Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*, but *M. halli* is not yet confirmed for Angola. The regular, or even occasional, occurrence of the Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* in Angolan waters is debatable. A specimen was collected in November 1904 off Tombua by Newton (de Seabra 1907). This historical record, if not incorrectly labelled, is almost certainly of a vagrant, given that the species is uncommon north of 40°S (Cooper 1979, Hockey *et al.* 2005). There have been no subsequent records of the species in Angolan waters (Lambert 2001). Lastly, the Ascension Frigatebird *Fregata aquila* is known from a sight record of two birds in the estuary of the Congo River (Chapin 1954) and a small group of frigatebirds seen in September 1958 south of Luanda have been tentatively identified as Ascension Frigatebirds (Pinto 1983). Although *F. aquila* is the

most likely species to occur off the Angolan coast, none of the frigatebirds were identified with certainty (see also Dowsett and Simpson 1991).

We recommend that three other species be downlisted to 'unconfirmed', until further evidence of their occurrence is provided. These are the Madagascar Squacco Heron *Ardeola idae* (one specimen from Angola in the Museu do Dundo, collected well west of its normal range; Brown *et al.* 1982), the Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* (a single specimen collected in the 1800s) and the Western Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus* (known from a single specimen from Quibula, Huambo Province, collected by Anchieta — Bocage 1892). The sparrowhawk specimen no longer exists, and there are several uncertainties surrounding the record (Louette 2002). We agree with Louette (2002) that it is highly unlikely that the specimen was *A. erythropus* or that the species ever occurred in that part of Angola. The lightly-wooded grassland at Quibala, at 1 100m asl, would constitute highly unusual habitat for *A. erythropus*, a species of lowland rainforest. The nearest records are c. 450km to the north (Brown *et al.* 1982).

The distribution of six other species in Angola should be critically examined. The Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris* was reported from Kumbira Forest as a range extension (Ryan *et al.* 2004), but extensive searching there failed to produce any further records. It is likely that the Kumbira Forest records of *A. gracilirostris* are of the Yellow-necked Greenbul *Chlorocichla falkensteini* seen in the canopy, as initially MSLM made this error. Specimens of the African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* from Lunda Norte Province in the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, were found to be misidentified specimens of the Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*. African Hill Babblers are confined to montane areas of the Malanje/Cuanza Norte provinces (*P. a. abyssinica*) and the Huila/Huambo provinces (*P. a. ansorgei*). All records of Bannermann's Sunbird *Cyanomitra bannermani* from the Cuanza Sul escarpment (Ryan *et al.* 2004, Sekercioğlu and Riley 2005, N Borrow *in litt.*) should be treated as unconfirmed: until substantiated by collected specimens; all recorders have been contacted and admit potential error; one bird netted and photographed was misidentified. Specimens of the White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyrus talatala* from Mount Moco and Mount Soque listed by Dean (2000) in the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Chicago, were found to be miscatalogued Oustalet's Sunbirds *Cinnyrus oustaleti* (D Willard, (FMNH) *in litt.*). The Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* has been reported recently from the Angolan escarpment in atypical habitat (Ryan *et al.* 2004, Sinclair *et al.* 2004). These records should be substantiated before being accepted. The Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigritum* was reported from the Gabela area (G Mulholland *in litt.*) but the record should be treated as unconfirmed, since no additional information to substantiate the record could be produced (G Mulholland pers. comm.). The species is rare in Angola, and known only from three specimens, including the Type, from the highlands of the Huambo and Cuanza Sul provinces.

We can confirm the status and distribution of four poorly-known species. Swierstra's Spurfowl *Francolinus swierstrai*, last recorded in 1971 (specimen in the Lubango Museum),

was seen and sound-recorded for the first time at Mounts Moco and Soque, a total of c. 10 individuals altogether (MSLM and WRJD unpublished data). The Mountain Nightjar *Caprimulgus poliocephalus (ruwenzorii)*, rare in Angola, was known only from Bailundo and Mount Moco (Dean 2000) until found recently at Catunda, where an individual was singing in October 2003 (MSLM pers. obs.). Lastly, 10 groups of the Gabela Helmetshrike *Prionops gabela*, previously thought to occur on the escarpment, were found in gallery forest and thicket sand-forest at around 300m asl, away from the foot of the escarpment. There are no records of this species from the actual escarpment, although Hall (1960) gives a description of a bird collected from drier, open forest near Assango, over the escarpment, close to the type locality.

Taxonomic issues

The status of many Angolan bird taxa is currently unresolved. All of these questions are best answered using molecular-phylogenetic revisions, in tandem with thorough reappraisals of museum material. The following are of particular interest:

- Unidentified large brown swifts were first noted breeding in colonies of c. 30–40 birds in buildings in Luanda. They also occur further southwards along the coast, at least as far as the Longa River, where small groups of four to six birds have been seen in August drinking while flying (MSLM pers. obs.). Sinclair and Ryan (2003b) and Sinclair *et al.* (2004) suggested that they are Fernando Po Swifts *Apus sladeniae*. However, these birds are too large and brown, and are not the same as the birds seen at Mount Soque and Mount Njelo. If they are not Bradfield's Swifts *Apus bradfieldi*, to which their vocalisations appear most similar, they are probably an undescribed species. They are not dissimilar from the Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*, but appear slightly smaller, and their vocalisations differ markedly
- Fernando Po Swift *Apus sladeniae* is considered to be a full species by Peters (1940), but treated as a subspecies of *Apus barbatus* by Brooke (1970), Fry *et al.* (1988) and Dickinson (2003)
- White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis mackenziei*, which may be a subspecies of Barrow's Bustard *E. [senegalensis] barrowi*, since it shares the diagnostic tawny hind-neck with this taxon
- The endemic subspecies of Mountain Nightjar *Caprimulgus poliocephalus koesteri*, now generally included in Ruwenzori Nightjar *C. ruwenzorii* (Cleere 1995, Dickinson 2003)
- The endemic *bailunduensis* subspecies of the Lazy Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans*, which may better be placed with the Rock-loving Cisticola *C. [abberans] emini*, as done by Lynes (1930)
- The endemic *lepe* subspecies of the Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythropus* has also been suggested to be specifically distinct (Dowsett and Prigogine 1974, Mayr *et al.* 1986, Tye 1997)
- Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris ludovicensis* in Angola, separated from the population in Malawi by more than 27° of longitude, may prove specifically distinct from the distinctive *C.i whytei* subspecies in

Table 4: Taxonomic notes: species for which names would change if split; all other taxa within the species complex are extralimital, so that there would be no additions to the list

Name in Dean (2000)	Changes to	As distinct from
Wandering Albatross <i>Diomedea exulans</i>		Other taxa in the <i>D. exulans</i> complex
Shy Albatross <i>Diomedea cauta</i>		Other taxa within the <i>D. cauta</i> complex
Yellow-nosed Albatross <i>Diomedea chlororhynchos</i>	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross <i>T. carteri</i>
Dove Prion <i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Antarctic Prion	Other taxa in the <i>P. desolata</i> complex
Black-chested Snake Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	<i>C. pectoralis</i>	Short-toed Eagle
Augur Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	<i>B. augur</i>	Jackal Buzzard
Crested Bustard <i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>	Red-crested Bustard	Other taxa in the <i>E. ruficrista</i> complex
Great Skua <i>Catharacta antarctica</i>	Southern Skua	<i>C. skua</i>
Kelp Gull <i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Cape Gull <i>L. vetula</i>	
Brown-necked Parrot <i>Poicephalus robustus</i>	<i>P. suahelicus</i>	Cape Parrot
Common Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	African Scops Owl <i>O. senegalensis</i>	
White-faced Scops Owl <i>Otus leucotis</i>	Southern White-faced Owl <i>O. granti</i>	
Carmine Bee-eater <i>Merops nubicus</i>	Southern Carmine Bee-eater <i>M. nubicoides</i>	
Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	African Hoopoe <i>Upupa africana</i>	
Red-billed Hornbill <i>Tockus erythrostris</i>	Southern Red-billed Hornbill <i>T. rufirostris</i>	Other taxa in the <i>T. erythrostris</i> complex
Brown-cheeked Hornbill <i>Ceratogymna cylindricus</i>	White-thighed Hornbill <i>C. albotibialis</i>	
Hairy-breasted Barbet <i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>	Streak-throated Barbet <i>T. flavipunctata</i>	
Long-billed Lark <i>Certhilauda curvirostris</i>	Benguela Long-billed Lark <i>C. benguelensis</i>	Other taxa in the <i>C. curvirostris</i> complex
Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	African Pipit <i>A. cinnamomeus</i>	
Black-eyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Dark-capped Bulbul <i>P. bicolor</i>	Other taxa in the <i>P. barbatus</i> complex
Green-tailed Bristlebill <i>Bleda eximia</i>	Lesser Bristlebill <i>B. notata</i>	
Stout Cisticola <i>Cisticola robustus</i>	Angola Cisticola <i>C. angolensis</i>	
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye <i>Dyaphorophya blissetti</i>	Black-necked Wattle-eye <i>D. chalybea</i>	
Greater Double-collared Sunbird <i>Cinnyris afra</i>	Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird <i>C. ludovicensis</i>	
Gorgeous Bush-shrike <i>Telophorus viridis</i>	Perrin's Bush-shrike	<i>T. quadricolor</i>
Red-backed Mannikin <i>Spermestes bicolor</i>	Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>S. nigriceps</i>
Cape Canary <i>Serinus canicollis</i>	Yellow-crowned Canary <i>S. flavicollis</i>	

Malawi, with its broader red chest band (see Fry 2000)

- The endemic subspecies of the Swee Waxbill *Cocco-pygia melanotis bocagei* is sometimes placed under the Yellow-bellied Waxbill *C. quartinia* (Sinclair and Ryan 2003a), but is unique with its barred wings and black face in the male (Fry and Keith 2004)
- Two subspecies of the Black-backed Barbet *Lybius minor*, both occurring in Angola, have been suggested to represent different species — the Black-backed Barbet and Maccloun's Barbet *L. macclounii* (see Fry *et al.* 1988) — although there is a wide zone of intergradation in northwest Angola and south-western DRC. This suggests that they may be conspecific, but the situation is complex and requires further study.

Several distinctive endemic subspecies also require closer investigation; these include 'Hartert's' Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicauda harterti* (the only form with a green tail), the grey races of the Pale Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes undosa*, *C. u. cinereus* and *C. u. huilae*, and the Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens ansorgei*, which is white below with bright rufous flanks, a short straight bill and a call different from the Long-billed Crombec in Namibia and South Africa, with certain notes more similar to the extralimital Red-faced Crombec *S. whytii* (MSLM pers. obs.). The two subspecies of the endemic Angola Slaty Flycatcher *Dioptromis brunneus brunneus* (erroneously listed by Dickinson 2003 as occurring in lowlands) and *D. b. bailunduensis* are very similar (Urban *et al.* 1997) and their validity needs to be verified. Also of interest is the isolated population of the Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis* along the escarpment; the calls sound quite

distinctive from those of the Southern Hyliota in the Miombo belt that presumably occur in the east of the country (Urban *et al.* 1997, Dean 2000).

The restricted range subspecies of Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis lathburyi* (not recognised by Dickinson 2003) known only from Mount Moco has dark green upperparts and greyish underparts (see www.birdsangola.org/downloads/ostrich06-1fig2), inhabits *Brachystegia* woodland at Mount Soque (MSLM pers. obs.), and is in fact a subspecies of the Green-backed Honeybird *P. zambesiae*. Its incorrect placement under Cassin's Honeybird originates from when *zambesiae* was treated as a subspecies of *P. insignis* (D Willard unpublished data). Some concern had been expressed by (Michael P Stuart Irwin, Harare, Zimbabwe, unpublished data) that the subspecies of Angola Lark *Miraf-ra angolensis niethammeri* (not recognised by Dickinson 2003) from the south-east of the country (Cuando-Cubango; Pinto 1968), isolated from the nearest other Angolan Lark populations by about 400km, may be of the Eastern Clapper Lark *M. [apaita] fasciolatus*. However, specimens examined in the Lubango Museum confirm that it is indeed *M. angolensis* (see www.birdsangola.org/downloads/ostrich06-1fig3).

Twenty-seven taxa listed by Dean (2000) have elsewhere been suggested to constitute separate species, with all other taxa in the species-complex being extralimital (Table 3a). These include two range-restricted species: the Black-necked Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya chalybea*, considered to be a full species by Dickinson (2003) but treated as a subspecies of the Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya*

Table 5: Taxonomic notes: species for which the name would change if split; more than one taxon within the species complex occurs in Angola

Name in Dean (2000)	Species 1	Species 2
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite <i>M. migrans</i>	Yellow-billed Kite <i>M. parasitus</i>
Tawny Eagle <i>Aquila rapax</i>	Tawny Eagle <i>A. rapax</i>	Steppe Eagle <i>A. nipalensis</i>
Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Rock Kestrel <i>F. rupicolus</i>	*Common Kestrel <i>F. tinnunculus</i>
Green Turaco <i>Tauraco persa</i>	Green Turaco <i>T. persa</i>	Schalow's Turaco <i>T. schalowi</i>
African Black Swift <i>Apus barbatus</i>	African Black Swift <i>A. barbatus</i>	Fernando Po Swift <i>A. sladeniae</i>
Horus Swift <i>Apus hours</i>	Horus Swift <i>A. hours</i>	Loanda Swift <i>A. toulsoni</i>
Red-billed Hornbill <i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	Southern Red-billed Hornbill <i>T. rufirostris</i>	**Damara Hornbill <i>T. damarensis</i>
Rufous-naped Lark <i>Mirafra africana</i>	Rufous-naped Lark <i>M. africana</i>	Malbrandt's Lark <i>M. malbrandti</i>
Black Sawwing <i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>	Black Sawwing <i>P. pristoptera</i>	Petit's Sawwing <i>P. petiti</i>
Long-billed Pipit <i>Anthus similis</i>	Long-billed Pipit <i>A. similis</i>	Wood Pipit <i>A. nyassae</i>
Black-eyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Dark-capped Bulbul <i>P. tricolor</i>	**Common Bulbul <i>P. barbatus</i>
Black-backed Cisticola <i>Cisticola galactotes</i>	Winding Cisticola <i>C. marginatus</i>	Luapula Cisticola <i>C. luapula</i>
Miombo Wren Warbler <i>Calamonastes undosa</i>	Pale Wren-Warbler <i>C. undosa</i>	Stierling's Wren-Warbler <i>C. sterlingi</i>
Southern Black Tit <i>Parus niger</i>	Southern Black Tit <i>P. niger</i>	Carp's Tit <i>P. carpi</i>
Luehder's Bush-Shrike <i>Laniarius luehderi</i>	Luehder's Bush-Shrike <i>L. luehderi</i>	Gabela Bush Shrike <i>L. amboimensis</i>
Luehder's Bush-Shrike <i>Laniarius luehderi</i>	Luehder's Bush-Shrike <i>L. luehderi</i>	Braun's Bush Shrike <i>L. brauni</i>
Many-coloured Bush-Shrike <i>Telophorus multicolour</i>	Many-coloured Bush-Shrike <i>T. multicolour</i>	Black-fronted Bush Shrike <i>T. nigrifrons</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Fork-tailed Drongo <i>D. adsimilis</i>	Velvet-mantled Drongo <i>D. coracinus</i>

* All Angolan specimens are of *Falco rupicolus*; and *Falco tinnunculus rufescens* (van Zyl and Dean, in prep.); there are only sight records of nominate *tinnunculus*. Since *tinnunculus* does not normally occur south of the equator we regard these records as unconfirmed

** Dean (2000) lists only *rufirostris* for Angola, but *damarensis* also occurs (N. Borrow in litt.)

*** Only tricolor is listed for Angola (Dean 2000), although *barbatus* may also occur in Cabinda or far northern Angola

blissetti, and Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird, treated as a subspecies of the Greater Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afra*. The three Angolan specimens of the Black-necked Wattle-eye, collected near Gabela, were re-examined in the Field Museum of Natural History and their identification verified (see www.birdsangola.org/downloads/ostrich06-1fig4); this is an isolated population, separated by about 1 000km from those in Gabon. Erard's (1987) suggestion that these are *X. chalybea*–*X. concreta* hybrids does not appear to be supported by morphology.

A further 18 taxa, not listed in Dean (2000) as such, may constitute full species, and are represented in Angola by more than one taxon in the species complex (Table 5). Two of these species, the Gabela Bush-shrike *Laniarius (luehderi) amboimensis* and Braun's Bush-shrike *Laniarius (luehderi) brauni*, considered full species by Collar *et al.* (1994), and sometimes lumped with Luehder's Bush-Shrike *Laniarius luehderi* (Dowsett and Dowsett-Lemaire 1993, Dickinson 2003), are classified as Endangered endemics, and hence their specific recognition is of great conservation importance.

Finally, more information is required on the very similar species pair of Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* and the Pale-billed Firefinch *L. landanae*. The latter is often lumped with the African Firefinch *L. rubricata*, and recent genetic studies support its position within the African Firefinch (M Sorenson pers. comm.). However, songs are quite dissimilar to nominate *rubricata* (MSLM pers. obs.), to which *L. landanae* is thought to be a sister taxon. The Pale-billed Firefinch calls sound more like the calls of Jameson's Firefinch. The Angolan near-endemic *Lagonosticta rhodopareia ansorgei* is very dark and almost indistinguishable from the Pale-billed Firefinch (www.birdsangola.org/downloads/ostrich06-1fig5), except by bill colour. It is shown to be sister to all other Jameson's Firefinch subspecies (M Sorenson pers. comm.) and may warrant specific status.

Acknowledgements — Logistical and financial support for MSLM's field visit was provided by Conservation International's Species Fund (thanks to Michael Hoffman and Olivier Langrand) and Gus, Margie and Sybil Mills. Thanks to Callan Cohen for assisting with logistical arrangements. Dr Kurt Lambert kindly made available his records of Angolan seabirds. Kristof Zyskowski examined some specimens for us in the Peabody Museum, and we thank: John Bates, David Willard and Mary Hennen, who examined material and sent photographs to us from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Dr Luiza Sousa of the Porto Museu de História Natural — Zoologia in Portugal, for information on a Newton-collected specimen; and Göran Nilson at Göteborg Natural History Museum. Thanks to Vladimir Russo of the UNDP in Angola and the staff responsible for maintaining the bird collection in Lubango for their assistance and for allowing MSLM access to the collection and to take photographs. Michel Louette kindly commented on the manuscript before it was submitted. Lincoln Fishpool, Pedro vaz Pinto, Peter Ryan, Nik Borrow, Adam Riley and Cagan Hakki Sekercioğlu and Giles Mulholland provided comments on bird records.

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Appendix 1: Species that may occur in Angola, but are as yet unconfirmed. For species not mentioned in Dean (2000; see details therein), reasons for listing are given in this paper

Wandering Albatross <i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
Northern Giant Petrel <i>Macronectes halli</i>	Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Southern Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Solitary Sandpiper <i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Ascension Frigatebird <i>Fregata aquila</i>	Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>
Crowned Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	Hartlaub's Gull <i>Larus hartlaubii</i>
Madagascar Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola idae</i>	Sooty Tern <i>Sterna fuscata</i>
Slaty Egret <i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>	Cape Eagle Owl <i>Bubo capensis</i>
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	White-backed Mousebird <i>Colius colius</i>
Western Little Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter erythropus</i>	Gabon Woodpecker <i>Dendropicos gabonensis</i>
Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Eastern Clapper Lark <i>Mirafraga fasciolata</i>
Red-necked Falcon <i>Falco chicquera</i>	African River Martin <i>Pseudochelidon eurystoma</i>
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	Congo Sand Martin <i>Riparia congica</i>
Striped Crake <i>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</i>	South African Cliff Swallow <i>Hirundo spilodera</i>
Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Blue Cuckooshrike <i>Coracina azurea</i>
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius axeladrinus</i>	Xavier's Greenbul <i>Phyllastrephus xavieri</i>
Mongolian Plover <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	White-bearded Greenbul <i>Criniger ndussumensis</i>
Greater Sand Plover <i>Charadrius leschenaulti</i>	Thrush Nightingale <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>
Lesser Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Collared Palm-thrush <i>Cichladusa arquata</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Eastern Bearded Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
Brown-chested Lapwing <i>Vanellus superciliosus</i>	Northern Wheat-ear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Isabelline Wheat-ear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
Long-toed Stint <i>Calidris subminuta</i>	Bamboo Warbler <i>Bradypterus alfredi</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>
Baird's Sandpiper <i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Eurasian Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Shelley's Sunbird <i>Cinnyris shelleyi</i>
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	Splendid Sunbird <i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>
Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Bob-tailed Weaver <i>Brachycope anomala</i>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	Lake Lufira Weaver <i>Ploceus reichardi</i>
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	Stripe-breasted Seed-eater <i>Serinus reichardi</i>
