

good light, revealing their distinctly striped underparts and white undertail coverts, which distinguish them from Red-rumped Swallow *H. daurica*.

Lesser Striped Swallows are migratory visitors north of 10°N, where they breed in the rains (Keith *et al.* 1992). The present record, together with B. Lamarche's (*in litt.*) unpublished observations, is the northernmost sighting of this species. The number seen suggests that it may not be merely a vagrant.

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#### First breeding record of Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis* in West Africa

Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis* is a scarce though fairly widespread endemic to woodlands in sub-Saharan Africa (Brown *et al.* 1982). Its movements and breeding patterns are poorly known, and the only breeding records come from southern Africa, where it regularly breeds from September to November (Maclean 1993), and Kenya, where there are single records from May and September (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001). It is thought not to breed north of 1°N, and only regularly breeds south of 6°S (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001), although juveniles have been recorded in Senegal (Brown *et al.* 1982).

In southern Africa, where it appears to be most common, it is generally resident, although Harrison *et al.* (1996) found it less common in Zimbabwe during the austral winter. In W Africa it occurs throughout the savanna zone as an uncommon to rare intra-African migrant during the wet season (Jun–Oct), from Senegal to Central African Republic (Borrow & Demey 2001), but may be resident in Togo and Ghana Barlow *et al.* 1997). There is only one published record from Cameroon, of a specimen collected in 1936 (Louette 1981), although there are two doubtful records from Kalamaloué NP in the Far North province from Apr–May 1992 (Scholte *et al.* 1999) and a recent sight record from central Cameroon in Apr 2002 (N. Borrow pers. comm.).

On 21 March 2003, we located two accipiters busy building a nest, in well-developed Sudan-Guinea savanna woodland of the Bénoué National Park, Cameroon (8°20'N, 13°50'E, see Fotso *et al.* 2001). The following diagnosed them as Ovambo Sparrowhawks: dark red iris, orange-yellow cere and legs, three narrow white bands on the tail, white tip to the tail, and underparts barred all the way up to the chin. We watched for about 30 min. as the birds ferried branches back to their nest, a large pile of dry sticks. RH obtained photographs of one of the birds sitting on the nest (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1. The Ovambo Sparrowhawk in Bénoué N.P., Cameroon. The original colour photos clearly show the red iris and orange-yellow cere (Ed.).**

This observation constitutes the first confirmed breeding record of Ovambo Sparrowhawk for W and central Africa. The question now is whether this was an isolated breeding attempt, or whether Ovambo Sparrowhawk regularly breeds in this region.

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### Comments on Kizungu *et al.* (2002): the birds of Idjwi, Democratic Republic of Congo

There are several errors in the paper by Kizungu *et al.* (2002). Of the 26 species claimed by the authors as new for Idjwi, one is certainly misidentified and another probably so: *Platysteira albifrons* is an Angola scarp endemic (listed here without this astonishing claim being mentioned) and is probably in error for *P. peltata*, and *Elminia longicauda* is almost certainly in error for the parapatric *E. albicauda* (already known from Idjwi). The total number of acceptable species on the list of Kizungu *et al.* (2002) probably stands, therefore, at 84. Three species claimed as new were in fact already recorded by Prigogine (1967, 1973): *Chrysococcyx cupreus*, *Campephaga sulphurata* (under the name of *C. (phoenicea) flava*) and *Nectarinia erythrocerca* (as *N. erythroceria*). Six other species are not indicated as new, but do appear to be so: *Ardea melanocephala*, *Lophæetus occipitalis*, *Chrysococcyx caprius*, *Apus apus* (if correctly identified), *Dendropicos xantholophus* (surprisingly the only