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Turdus torquatus ON EL HIERRO (CANARY ISLANDS) - The Ring Ouzel (Turdus torquatus) is widely distributed in the Palearctic Region wintering mainly in the Mediterranean region and North Africa (Morrocco, Algeria & Tunisia) (Voous, K.H. (1960). Atlas of European Birds. Nelson, London; Heinzel, H., Fitter, H. & Parslow, J. (1975). Manual de las aves de España y Europa, Norte de Africa y próximo Oriente. Omega, Barcelona. No published records of the species exist for the Macaronesian Region although R.J. Johns (pers. comm.) observed a female on 23 August 1975 in Las Cañadas on Tenerife at 2200 m a.s.l. During the second week of February 1987, a 2nd year female was picked up dead in the neighbourhood of Cruz de Los Reyes (Coord. U.T.M. 28RBR0170) on the island of El Hierro and was deposited in the collection of the Natural History Museum of Santa Cruz de Tenerife (TFMC Ornithologia N° 334).

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LAPWING Vanellus vanellus, NEW TO THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS - On 23 and 24 December 1987, at the Salinas de Pedra de Luma on the island of Sal, Cape Verde Islands, I observed two Lapwings Vanellus vanellus in winter plumage. The birds stayed together and were seen foraging and resting as well as flying. They kept to the small vegetated edges of the salinas, which are situated in an old crater c. 1 km in diameter. A description of this habitat can be found in De Naurois and Bonnaffoux (1969). The Salinas de Pedra de Luma represent the only location in the Cape Verde Islands where larger concentrations of wintering Palearctic waders can be found. For instance, at the above dates the species present included Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula (5), Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola (2), Sanderling Calidris alba (150+), Little Stint C. minuta (2), Curlew Sandpiper C. ferruginea (100+), Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus (1), Redshank Tringa totanus (4), Greenshank T. nebularia (6), Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos (1), and Turnstone Arenaria interpres (75). Furthermore, Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus (75) and Kentish Plover C. alexandrinus (50), both local breeding species, were observed. Part of these may have been Palearctic visitors as well (cf De Naurois 1986). This appears to be the first record of Lapwing for the Cape Verde Islands. Neither Bannerman and Bannerman (1968) nor Cramp and Simmons (1983) mention the species for the archipelago. On the African mainland it occurs irregularly south to the Senegal delta (Urban et al. 1986).

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BROWN NIGHTJAR - Through no fault of the Editor, the note on the Brown Nightjar Caprimulgus binotatus by Carroll & Fry in Malimbus 9(1987): 125-127 failed to make one or two important points. If the bird portrayed sitting on a Raphia frond is indeed incubating eggs or brooding small young, as I believe, it is not only the first breeding record of the species, but also the first instance of any nighjar nesting other than on a firm substance (the ground, a flat roof).

In addition to the novel small white spot on the side of the neck, the conspicuous and pale scapular-line is previously unreported, or at least unremarked. Bannerman mentioned it but did not portray it, and subsequent works have neither mentioned nor portrayed it, (e.g. Chapin, Good, Mackworth-Praed and Grant), doubtless because no skins in the American or British Museums of Natural History happen to show the feature. (In my description of C. binotatus in The Birds of Africa, Vol III (1988, p. 159) I have noted the scapular stripe in the photograph, but at the time of writing the account I had not seen the skins in the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale which confirm the character.)

Last, the photos as they appear in Malimbus 9: 127, do not do justice to the remarks that the eyes are huge and the ridged eyebrown make the bird look remarkably toad-like. Readers are referred to the aforementioned account in The Birds of Africa, where drawings enlarged from the photos make the resemblance clear.

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BRONZE-NAPED PIGEONS - Dr J.F. Walsh, in his interesting and useful paper on the birds of north-eastern Guinea, expressed his surprise that we had listed the Bronze-naped Pigeon in Appendix G of the Red Data Book, as a candidate species for treatment as threatened in Africa (see Malimbus 9: 120). However, the species of Bronze-naped Pigeon that we listed (see Collar, N.J. & Stuart, S.N. (1985) Threatened Birds of Africa and Related Islands, the ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book, Part 1, p.741) was not