

Cusseque - Diversity of Birds

The core site of Cusseque shows a very rich avifauna. Within 10 days of observations at the start of the rainy season 2012, 150 bird species were identified. In the following month, observations focused on the Miombo forests and woodlands of the core site, in the course of a survey using birds as

indicators to assess the habitat quality of different forest types in this landscape (Richter 2013). As a result, a total of 189 species from 48 families were recorded for the area of Cusseque. Figure 1 and 2 show the observed families with the number of species observed within each.

The diversity of birds at the core site is assumed to be considerably higher; the study focused on woody habitats and many other habitat types within the core site were not assessed. New species were observed daily until the end of the survey.

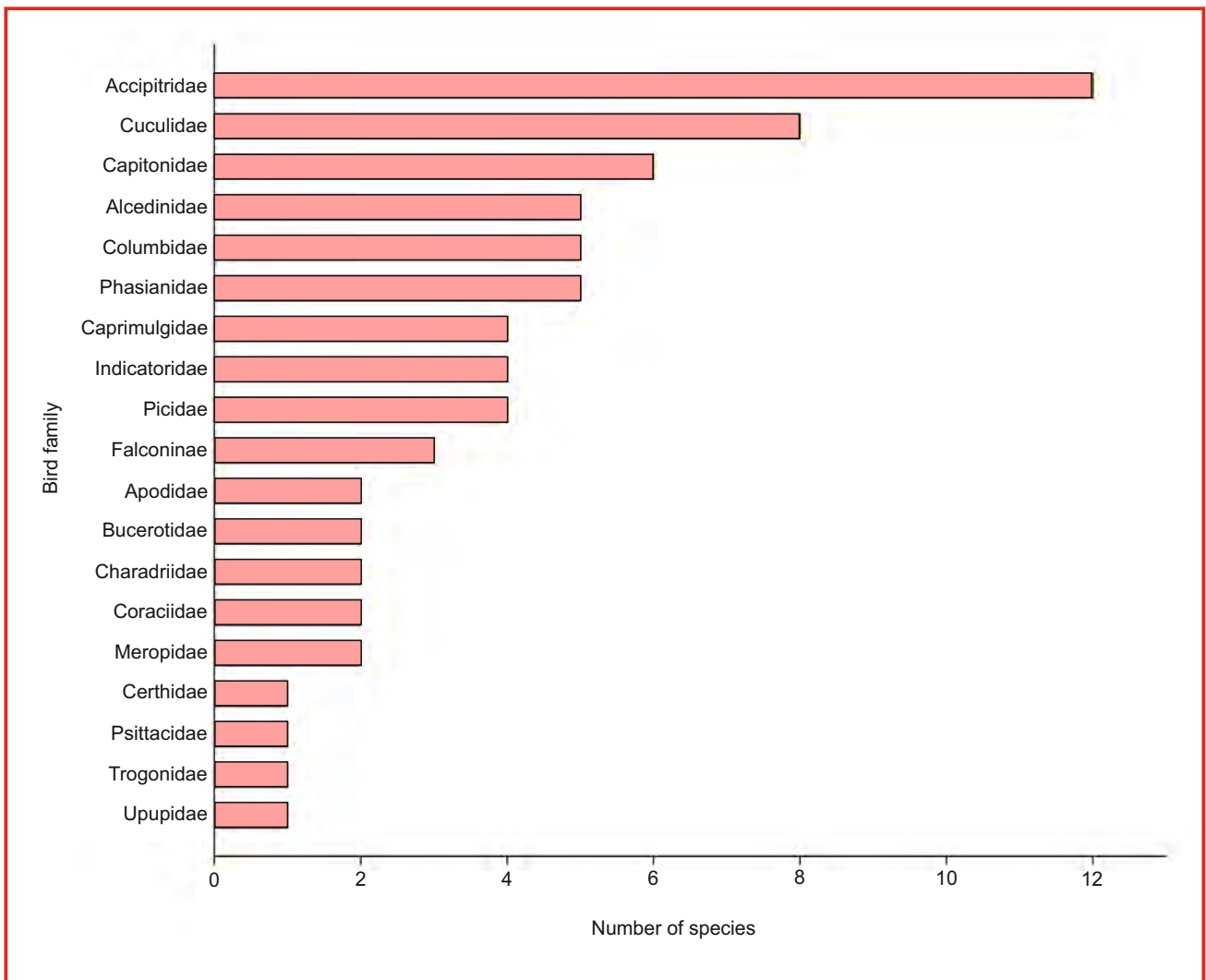


Fig. 1: The number of Non-Passeriformes species observed in Cusseque according to the bird families.

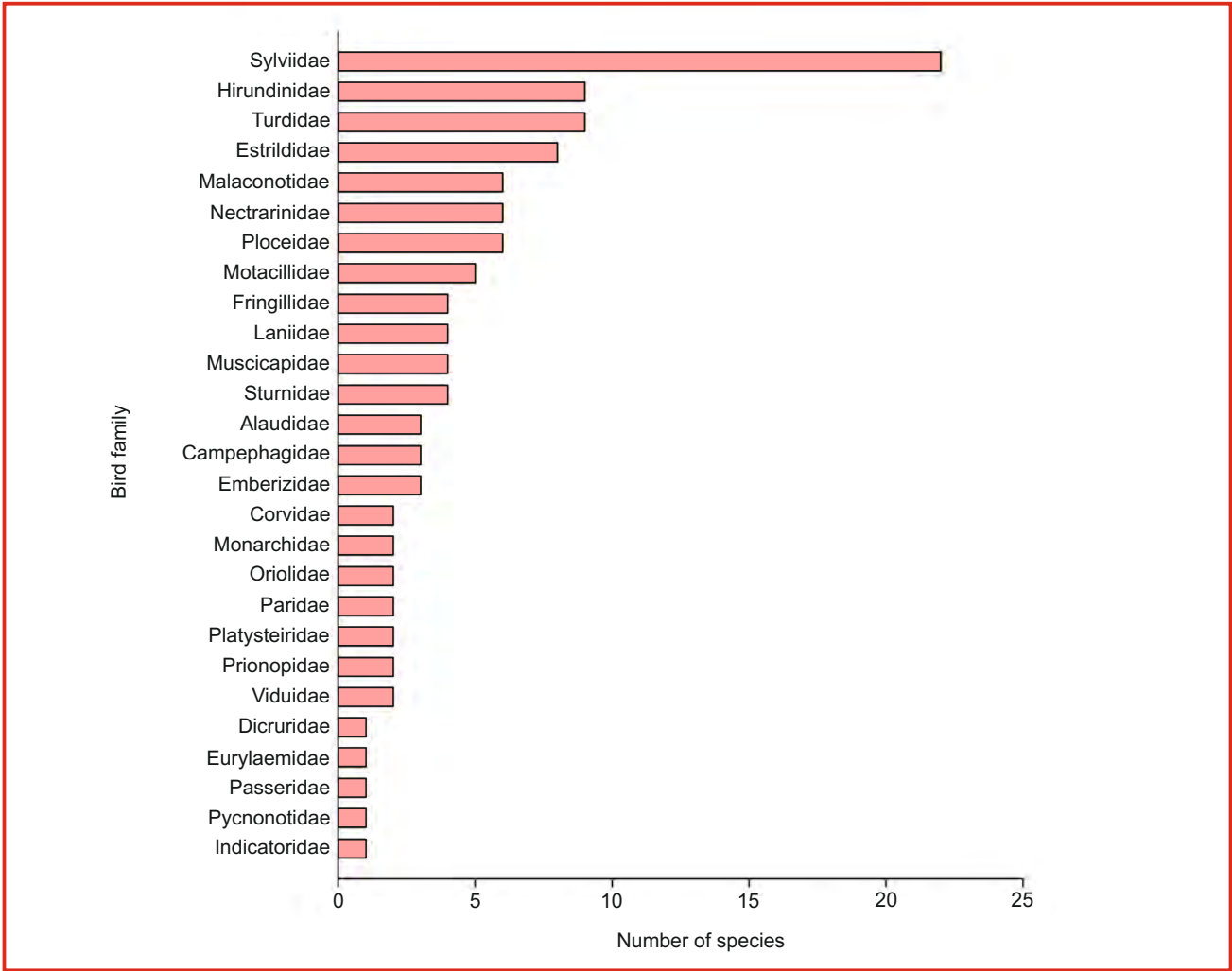


Fig. 2: The number of Passeriformes species observed in Cusseque according to bird families.



Fig. 3: Lilac-breasted Roller, *Coracias caudatus* (photo: M. Schiffler).

Table 1: The 30 most abundant forest and woodland species at the core site of Cusseque.

Common Name	Species name	Family	Number of sightings
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	Cuculidae	67
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>	Oriolidae	65
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	Capitonidae	64
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Dicruridae	60
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	Cuculidae	55
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	Pycnonotidae	52
Black Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>	Nectarinidae	51
Blue-spotted Wood-dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	Columbidae	50
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	Cuculidae	38
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	Monarchidae	35
White-browed Scrub-Robin	<i>Erythropygia leucophrys</i>	Turdidae	32
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>	Indicatoridae	30
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Muscicapidae	30
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	Coraciidae	29
Neddicky Cisticola	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>	Sylviidae	28
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	Columbidae	26
Anchietas Barbet	<i>Stactolaema anchietae</i>	Capitonidae	23
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	Sturnidae	22
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	Alcedinidae	22
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>	Muscicapidae	22
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	Oriolidae	20
Miombo Tit	<i>Parus griseiventris</i>	Paridae	20
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristopectera</i>	Hirundinidae	20
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudohirundo griseopyga</i>	Hirundinidae	19
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>	Capitonidae	19
African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	Zosteropidae	19



Fig. 4: Greater Blue-eared Starling, *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* (photo: M. Finckh.).

Acknowledgements

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Reference

Richter, F. (2013): Bird diversity and composition in a slash and burn agricultural matrix in miombo woodlands of south-central Angola. – Master thesis, University of Hamburg.

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