



## Composition and abundance of rice field birds in the District of Yamoussoukro (central Côte d'Ivoire)

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### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** A bird study was conducted from January to December 2017 on the rice fields of Nanan, Petit Bouaké and Zatta in Yamoussoukro District. The aim of this study was to identify birds of rice fields in the pre-forest areas of Côte d'Ivoire.

**Methodology and results:** During twice-monthly visits, all birds seen or heard, posed or flying in the rice fields, were recorded. A total of 95 bird species were recorded. They belong to 37 families divided into 15 orders with an abundance of 57172 birds. The most represented family is that Ardeidae with 11 species and the Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* (Müller, 1776) is the most abundant species with a relative frequency of 57.84%. Open-space birds (59%) dominate rice fields and resident species account for 56% of the bird population. The composition and abundance of the species in the rice fields change according to the development of the rice rather than the seasons.

**Conclusions and application of the results:** This study shows the species of birds that depend on rice fields during an annual cycle. The results obtained will allow us to know and monitor these species in this particular agro ecosystem. This will also help to train and sensitize rice farmers to better manage these birds, which they very often consider to be harmful to their rice fields.

**Key words:** Birds - Diversity - Irrigated rice - Rice fields – Yamoussoukro.