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Short Notes — Notes Courtes

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* and Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterinus*, new to Guinea-Bissau

On 21 February 1997, while birdwatching in an open woodland with patches of dense undergrowth, near Quinhámel (Região de Biombo, c. 40 km west of Bissau), we saw an Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. It was identified by its bright yellow underparts, well-marked yellow wing panel, and grey to bluish legs. It had a long primary projection and was behaving differently from Melodious Warbler *H. polyglotta*, as it perched upright in exposed situations (e.g. tops of bushes). We had seen several Melodious Warblers that same day, and they all showed worn plumage, as they usually do at that time of year (Cramp 1992). By contrast, the Icterine Warbler displayed clean, freshly moulted plumage, fitting well with its known moulting schedule (Cramp 1992). Both of us have considerable experience with Melodious Warbler, from field observations and ringing, and PC has also previously seen Icterine Warbler. In West Africa, Icterine Warblers have been recorded in Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and possibly Senegal (Grimes 1987, Morel & Morel 1990, Cramp 1992).

On 12 March 1997, we saw a Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* in the ricefields around Bissau. It was still in winter plumage, with heavily-marked breast and flanks, and streaked upperparts. It was first located and identified when it called, as it flew overhead. No other pipits were observed in the area, or during our stay (four weeks) in the country. Both of us have extensive experience with Tree, Meadow and Tawny Pipits (*A. trivialis*, *A. pratensis*, *A. campestris*), as well as some previous experience of Red-throated Pipit, including its unmistakable call.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no previous published records of these two species in Guinea-Bissau (see Frade & Bacelar 1959, Dowsett 1993, Hazevoet 1996, Rodwell 1996).

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Buff-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia adelberti* and Fire-bellied Woodpecker *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster* in Cameroon

These observations were made during a brief cross-border trip from Nigeria to a corner of Cameroon which appears to have been neglected ornithologically, due to its remoteness and poor road access from the rest of the country.

On 3 Jan 1996 I found Buff-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia adelberti* to be common in Ekok (5°47'N, 8°52'E), a village on the border with Nigeria. I had seen it previously in Nigeria, including in the immediately preceding days; the contrast between the creamy throat and the dark brown of the rest of the plumage of the males was highly distinctive. I did not observe the similar Green-throated Sunbird *N. rubescens* there. Dowsett (1993) considered that the occurrence of *N. adelberti* in Cameroon required proof. The eastern limit of its range and the western limit of *N. rubescens* both run close to the southern section of the Nigeria-Cameroon border; this observation of mine, plus the fact that there are no records of *N. rubescens* in neighbouring parts of Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994), suggests that at this latitude, the range limits of the two species run just to the east of the border.

Also on 3 Jan 1996, I had good views of an adult male Fire-bellied Woodpecker *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*, in large forest trees left standing in a farm on the outskirts of Ekok. The red rump and crown, and dramatic black and white face pattern, were together diagnostic. Dowsett accepts this species for the Cameroon list, although Fry *et al.* (1988) expressed doubt concerning the two records known to them. Green & Rodewald (1996), found it at Baro, on the east of Korup National Park, in 1993, and it also occurs at Okwangwo, in Cross River N.P., Nigeria (A.A. Green *in litt.*). My observation falls midway between these two areas.

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