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ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF NIGERIA, WITH NOTES ON  
DISTRIBUTIONAL CHANGES AND BREEDING

by J.S. Ash

Based on three short visits to Nigeria in 1985 and 1987, this paper includes records for ten species either doubtfully or not previously recorded in Nigeria, and comments on rare or poorly known species, significant extensions of range and new breeding records.

From 24 Oct to 1 Dec 1985 I was accompanied throughout by R.E. Sharland (RES), and for shorter periods we were joined by P. Hall (PH), A. Green (AG) and P.A. Anadu (PAA). During the visit from 21 Jan to 8 Mar 1987 I was accompanied throughout by W. Benthem (WB) and joined for shorter periods by PH, AG and Clement Ebin (CE). During the final visit, from 18 Sep - 9 Nov 1987 I was accompanied for short periods by A.P. Leventis (APL), Carolyn Knight (CK), PH and CE. Records associated with any of the above are indicated by the addition of their initials.

The surveys consisted of a rapid appraisal of many areas but more time was spent in the wetlands of the north-east, in the south-east lowland rainforests and in the Ibadan area. The rainforests are clearly of great importance and have been ornithologically under-studied. Unfortunately, the catastrophic destruction of primary forest in Nigeria continues.

The following five species have not been recorded in Nigeria before: Agelastes niger, Aplopelia larvata, Eremopterix nigriceps, Dryoscopus angolensis, Picathartes oreas. A further four additions have previous unconfirmed records: Hieraaetus dubius, Apus horus, Hyliota violacea, Ploceus ocularis. Another species, Larus cirrhocephalus, was inadvertently omitted from Elgood (1982). The above comprise ten additions to Elgood's list. Two other species that require confirmation, and can only be considered possible additions are: Aquila pomarina and Columba unicincta.

First breeding records in Nigeria are given for: Cisticola hunteri, Muscicapa olivascens, M. seth-smithi, Artomyias ussheri, Trochocercus nigromitratus, Nectarinia olivacea, N. preussi, Serinus burtoni, and Ploceus bannermani. New records are given for 21 species that have been recorded before: (a) with one previous record/locality Podiceps nigricollis, Porzana parva, Vanellus leucurus, Chaetura melanopygia, Laniarius leucorhynchus, Muscicapa olivascens, Hypargos nitidulus and possibly Bostrychia olivacea; (b) two previous records/localities: Hieraaetus pennatus, Chrysococcyx flavigularis, Cuculus canorus canorus, Apus batesi, Campethera caroli, Hirundo fuliginosa, Bleda eximia; (c) three previous records/localities Porzana porzana, Ceyx lecontei, Platysteira tonsa, Parmoptila woodhousei, Malimbus racheliae, Ploceus bannermani. Information on the following Red Data Book species (Collar & Stuart 1985) is provided: Picathartes oreas, Estrilda poliopareia, Ploceus bannermani, Malimbus ibadanensis. Notable range extensions are indicated for 12 species, additional records for 23 rare and uncommon species and further data on another 15 species.

Nomenclature, species numbering and sequence follow Elgood (1982). Additions to Elgood's list are included in taxonomic sequence and have been allocated the bracketed number of the preceding species with a suffix '\*' added. Species not formerly recorded from Nigeria but which require confirmation are given no number. Confirmatory notes of other identifications have been deposited with the Editor. The abbreviations F.R. (Forest Reserve) and C.R. (Cattle Ranch) are used. After most species a brief excerpt from the statement in Elgood (1982) is added in parenthesis. A gazetteer with coordinates of all sites forms an Appendix.

## SPECIES LIST

- 1a. Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis. Two in breeding plumage, with 10 P. ruficollis, on the lake in Neorsoya oasis, Bulatura wetlands, on 5 Nov 1985. Seen with AG, PH and RES. (One previous record.)
13. Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus. Two adult male Palaearctic I. m. minutus at Nguru on 4 Mar 1987 (one netted and photographed). With WB. (One previous record of this race.)
15. Tiger Bittern Tigriornis leucolopha. Single birds in 1987 on 11 and 12 Feb along the Emi River in the Okwangwo F.R.; an adult on 29 Sep near Oban. (Rare to uncommon.)
23. Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides. At least 1000 and probably several thousands at Matara Uku in the Nguru wetlands, 6 Nov 1985. With AG, PH, and RES. (Most of Palaearctic origin.)
41. Olive Ibis Bostrychia olivacea. At two sites in the Okwangwo F.R. in 1987. On 5 Feb one called at late dusk above the camp in the forest close to the Anyibia River (c.6°13'N 9°13'E; elevation 250 m). At first light next morning, parties of two and three flew over calling. Again at late dusk (18.50-18.56) each evening on 10-12 Feb, at least two birds, and possibly four or more, flew over the camp on the banks of the Emi River. One record in Elgood (1982); more recently one on 4 Apr 1983 in the Oban Hills below the Ayip-Eku estate (R. Wilkinson & R. Beecroft pers. comm.). Owing to the difficulty of separating this species from B. rara, which is the commoner in adjoining Cameroon, identification of the present records needs to be confirmed.
45. Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia. Eighteen at Kuzu Daguana, Hadejia wetlands on 2 Mar 1987 in a mixed flock with P. alba, and a further three on the same day at Garfaya faduma. With WB. (Vagrant, confined to extreme north-east.)
50. Pygmy Goose Nettapus auritus. Ibadan: an adult with four half-grown young on 29 Oct 1987.
69. Osprey Pandion haliaetus. Twenty-two on dead trees scattered through SW Lake Kainji on 27 Oct 1985. With RES.

71. Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis. Ekang: one incubating or brooding on 28 Jan 1987. Eashu: one building with sticks from an old nest on 9 Oct 1987, when a pair also at another nest.

79. Brown Harrier-Eagle Circaetus cinereus. One feeding on a 1.7 m snake, possibly a Black Mamba, on Obudu C.R. on 15 Nov 1985. With RES. (South of its known range.)

84. Serpent Eagle Dryotriorchis spectabilis. A juvenile photographed at Bashu on 10 Oct 1987. With CE, PH and APL. (Rare resident with at least six previous records.)

88. Chestnut-flanked Goshawk Accipiter castanilius. One in dense forest in Nindam F.R. on 31 Oct 1985. The absence of white upper tail coverts ruled out A. erythropus, and the small size combined with red flanks eliminated A. tachiro macroscelides (= A. toussenellii macroscelides of Elgood 1982). It was pursuing a medium sized fruit bat at about half the height of the trees. The bat took evasive action, but twice the hawk locked with it and on one occasion managed to carry it for a short distance. However, the bat was apparently too much for this small predator. With RES. (Rare resident known from only four rainforest sites.)

95. Long-tailed Hawk Urotriorchis macrourus. An adult on the edge of Boshi F.R. on 20 Nov 1985; an adult near Kanyang on 3 Feb 1987; a sub-adult continuously calling a long drawn out whistle along the Emi River on 12 Feb 1987; an adult at Okomu F.R. on 25 Oct 1987 (with PH and APL). (Uncommon resident in high forest.)

Lesser Spotted Eagle Aquila pomarina. A bird tentatively identified as this species circled over bush at Molai, 6 km south of Maiduguri on 8 Nov 1985. With RES. Its identification was based on its being an almost 'characterless' uniform brown bird with a typical 'flat-wing' appearance in flight. Not previously recorded in Nigeria but it has recently been found in W Africa on the plains of Chad and in N Cameroon (Cramp et al. 1980), so that its occurrence in NE Nigeria is not unexpected.

(103\*). Ayres' Hawk Eagle Hieraetus dubius. An adult watched for 10 minutes at close range on 24 Nov 1985 at the Oban Hills F.R. The heavy spots on the underparts, together with the dark underwing with a pale band between the underwing coverts and the bases of the flight feathers, were diagnostic features. With RES. (Two unconfirmed sightings; the species is known from Cameroon and Benin.)

104. Booted Eagle Hieraetus pennatus. Eight seen in 1987: one 27 Jan, Oban Hill F.R.; one 21 Feb, Karama Lake; one 21 Feb, Baturiya; two 22 Feb, Madachi; three 7 Mar, Jekara Dam. All were adult, pale-phase birds. In E Africa these are greatly outnumbered by dark birds. (Rare winter visitor, probably regular, known from only two localities.)

134. Forest Francolin Francolinus lathamii. An adult freshly killed by hunters on 22 Oct 1987 in Okomu F.R., near Benin City. Said to be common in many parts of the forest. (Uncommon resident; probably numbers now greatly reduced through forest clearance.)

- (138\*). Black Guinea-Fowl Agelastes niger. A hunter at Ashishie provided a convincing description of this species on the forested slopes of Mt Kanyang, where he had seen and killed birds 'like black chickens with red heads' on several occasions. Not reported previously from Nigeria but fairly common just across the border in Korup National Park, Cameroon (Stuart 1986). Subsequently, J. Reid sent me a picture taken by A. Owens of a live bird captured near Ekonganaku (5°04N 8°40E) c. 18 km west of the Cameroon border in Cross River State, SE Nigeria, in June 1989.
- (153\*). Little Crake Porzana parva. Two males and one female, Adiyani fadama, 20 Feb 1987; one male and one female, Adiyani fadama, 28 Feb 1987; female, Adiyani fadama, 1 Mar 1987; female, Madachi, 22 Feb 1987; female, Badam site 2, 1 Mar 1987; two females, Badam site 1, 4 Mar 1987; one male two females, Badam site 2, 4 Mar 1987; one male one female, Badam site 2, 5 Mar 1987. With WB. One previous record (Wilkinson et al. 1982). The discovery of P. parva in two areas of NE Nigeria about halfway between the two nearest reported wintering areas in Senegal and Sudan, raises the question of their origin. Possibly there is a breeding area in NW Africa or even within Nigeria.
154. Spotted Crake Porzana porzana. Two Badam site 2, 1 Mar 1987; at least four, Badam site 2, 5 Mar 1987 (three netted: weights 96-117 g). With WB. (Known from only three localities.)
195. White-tailed Lapwing Vanellus leucurus. Three at Maguwa (Daba) near Kirikasamma on 19 Feb 1987. With WB and AG; photographed. (One previous record.)
205. Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus. A flock of 220 at Dumbari, 18 Feb 1987. With WG and AG. (Maximum numbers 30.)
214. Turnstone Arenaria interpres. One inland at Kuzu Daguana on 9 Jan 1987. With WB. (Once inland.)
- (230\*). Grey-headed Gull Larus cirrhocephalus. Inadvertently omitted by Elgood (1982), there have been many records before and since. Localities in 1985 and 1987 included Lake Kainji, Jekara Dam and Lake Chad, where they were common.
247. Black Tern Sterna nigra. The Lagos area is well-known for its large numbers of Black Terns (often over 3500) present throughout the year Elgood (1982), so that my total lack of records both here (in all months September-March), and elsewhere in Nigeria in 1985 and 1987, is noteworthy.
- (254\*). Lemon Dove Columba larvata. One netted in secondary woodland on Obudu C.R., 17 Nov 1985 (weight 164 g); probably C. l. inornata. With RES. First Nigerian record, but Elgood (1976) considered its occurrence very likely, and it occurs on most of the forested mountains in W Cameroon (Stuart (1986).

Afep Pigeon. Columba unicincta. Large, pale grey pigeons quite definitely not C. sjostedti were seen on several occasions over forests in 1987: 100+ in a loose flock, 26 Sep, Neghe, near Oban; five and two on 5 Oct and three on 9 Oct at Bashu. This seems to be the only possible species. It occurs on the Rumpi Hills, Cameroon only 60 km away (Stuart 1986) but has not been reported from Nigeria.

266. Green Pigeon Treron australis. Oban Hills: one building on 1 Oct 1987.

278. Grey Plantain-eater Crinifer piscator. Ibadan: building, 29 Oct 1987.

283. Mechow's Long-tailed Cuckoo Cercococcyx mechowi. Known range extended by observations at Okwangwo F.R. where fairly common on 4-7 Feb 1987 and two in Oban Hills F.R. on 29 Sep 1987. (Uncommon resident in high forest.)

287. Yellow-throated Green Cuckoo Chrysococcyx flavigularis. One seen feeding on a swarm of black caterpillars on young umbrella trees Musanga cecropioides in Okomu F.R. on 26 Nov 1985. With PAA and RES. (Two sightings from one site.)

292. European Cuckoo Cuculus canorus. One in Okomu F.R. on 23 Oct 1987, had grey upperparts and lacked yellow at the base of the lower mandible. (Only two certain records.)

324. Cassin's Spinetail Chaetura cassini. Apparently commoner than previously thought in the south-east, where seen frequently Sep-Jan at Ekan and in the following F.R.s: Boshi, Okwangwo, Oban Hills, Omo and Okomu. Up to 20 or more together.

325. Ituri Mottle-throated Spinetail Chaetura melanopygia. Two over the Okomu F.R. near Nikrowa on 26 November 1985. (Only previously known in Nigeria from this site.)

326. Sabine's Spinetail Chaetura sabini. Fairly common above forests, and sometimes with C. cassini around large dead forest trees, Sep-Jan in Oban Hills, Okwangwo and Okomu F.R. Up to 10 or more together. (Uncommon resident.)

332. Black Swift Apus batesi. Birds identified as this species were small dark swifts about the size of Hirundo rustica or smaller, without any white about the head or tail regions; tail forked but generally closed in flight. About 10 with swallows feeding above a forest river, 20 Mar 1985, Boshi F.R. (With RES); c. 10 over forest, 26 Nov 1985, Okomu F.R.; two over forest, 28 Jan 1987, Ekan; two parties of c. 10 with a mixed flock of C. cassini and sabini over forest, 12 Oct 1987 at Bashu. (Sightings from two localities.)

- (333\*). Horus Swift Apus horus. About 30 at 1250 m at Corner Drum, near Tunga Amadu, on the escarpment between Mambilla Plateau and Serti and a further 30, 10, 2 and 1 at four nearby sites on 12 Nov 1985; c. 20 at c. 1400 m on the escarpment below Obudu C.R. on 14 Nov 1985; two groups of c. 10 at same site at c. 1300 m, 18 Nov 1985. With RES. They were stockier than A. caffer, had large white rump patches extending onto the side of the body as in A. affinis, tails which were only forked for c. 20% of their length when folded and almost square when fanned, white chins and pale foreheads. The birds were landing on the steep road banks and several entered holes. At least one was excavating or cleaning out a hole c. 30 cm long. Breeding holes are normally those excavated by Merops spp. and Riparia paludicola (pers. obs.). In 1987 at the Obudu C.R. (with WB) there were 13, almost certainly this species on 1 Feb with c. 100 House Martins Delichon urbica, and there were five or more on 10 Feb clearly identified as this species with many House Martins. (Two unaccepted records.)
346. Dwarf Kingfisher Ceyx lecontei. Single birds at Oban on 30 Sep and in the Botanic Garden at the University of Ibadan on 30 Oct 1987. (Three localities.)
360. Blue-headed Bee-eater Merops muelleri. Seven records indicate that this species is more widespread and commoner than previously believed, viz: one near Butatong, Okwangwo F.R., 19 Nov 1985; one Oyi River, Okwangwo F.R., 6 Feb 1987; two single birds at two sites, Oban Hills F.R., 29 Sep 1987; two single birds at two further sites, Oban Hills F.R., 1 Oct 1987; two Okomu F.R., 23 Oct 1987. (Rare resident from four localities.)
389. Yellow-spotted Barbet Buccanodon duchailui. Common in Oban Hills F.R. (Unrecorded in extreme SE.)
392. Double-toothed Barbet Lybius bidentatus. One on 11 Nov 1985 at Danko F.R. (with RES) close to one of two sites in the south-east from where the species has been recorded (Elgood 1982).
416. Brown-eared Woodpecker Campethera caroli. One in the Okomu F.R. near Benin City on 26 Nov 1985. (Two records also in high forest near Benin.)
- (434\*). White-fronted Sparrow-Lark Eremopterix nigriceps. Fifteen within 3 km round Gasamu, 27 Feb and 30 there on 3 Mar 1987; 10 within 1-2 km round Dalah, Nguru wetlands, 2 Mar 1987; three at Jajimaji on 2 Mar 1987 (with WB). Fairly common in the Nguru-Gashua-Gogorem area, where E. leucotis is also common. RES states that 10 years ago it was necessary to travel for 160 km north into Niger before this species could be seen. This population shift could be the result of increasing desertification and it will be interesting to see whether the species breeds in this new area or whether it is merely a non-breeding migrant. No previous record.
441. House Martin Delichon urbica. Elgood (1982) suggested that this species may overwinter in Nigeria on the Obudu Plateau. I found 100 there on 1 Feb 1987, 50 the next day and many on the 10th, supporting this view.

444. Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica. A pair at their nest at the Obudu C.R. on 14 Nov 1985 was far outside the known breeding range given in Elgood (1982).
- (444\*). Dusky Cliff Swallow Hirundo fuliginosa. Two small parties on 27 and 29 Sep 1987 at Oban Hills F.R. Separated from Psalidoprocne nitens, common in the area, by their slightly forked tails. P. fuliginosa is also similar, but is a forest-edge montane species with a more strongly forked tail. P. nitens is most often in cleared forest where dead tree trunks abound; H. fuliginosa prefers forest clearings and degraded forest with scattered trees. Unconfirmed in Elgood (1982).
464. Long-billed Pipit Anthus similis. At Obudu C.R., four on 14-18 Nov 1985 (with RES) and two on 10 Feb 1987. (Reported rarely.)
469. Mountain Wagtail Motacilla clara. Two above Serti on 10 Nov 1985 appear to be an extension of range on to the Mambilla Plateau. Another seen and netted along the Emi River in Okwangwo F.R. on 11 Feb 1987. (Not uncommon resident.)
480. Mountain Little Greenbul Andropadus montanus. Three netted on the Obudu C.R., viz: weight 29.9 g, 15 Nov 1985; 33.3 g, 16 Nov 1985; 36.3 g, 9 Feb 1987. (Uncommon resident at this only known Nigerian locality.)
485. Green-tailed Bristle-bill Bleda eximia. Three netted on 23 Nov 1985 (with RES), and one on 30 Jan 1987 at Oban Hills F.R., from where the only two previous Nigerian records have occurred (Elgood 1982); one netted in Okwangwo F.R. on 11 Feb 1987. Weights: 36.0-42.8 g (n=5).
493. Spotted Greenbul Ixonotos guttatus. Widespread in the south-east; many records at Oban Hills F.R., Bashu, Bashu Okpambe, Kanyang, Beebuo, Okwangwo F.R. and Emi River. (Very local resident).
494. Nicator Nicator chloris. Oban Hills: one feeding young on 1 Oct 1987.
- (504\*). Pink-footed Puff-back Dryoscopus angolensis. A female netted and photographed (weight 38.1 g) in degraded forest on the Obudu C.R. on 15 Nov 1985. With RES. Not included in Elgood (1982). Of earlier records listed by Stuart (1986) two are inconclusive and the third was attributed to Gartshore for Obudu Plateau, presumably as reported in Gartshore (1984).
505. Puff-backed Shrike Dryoscopus gambensis. Bashu: female building on 8 Oct 1987.
512. Mountain Sooty Boubou Laniarius fulleborni. Not uncommon at Danko F.R. and at Mai Samari, Mambilla Plateau, on 11 and 12 Nov 1985. (Only known previously from Obudu C.R., where common resident.)



513. Sooty Boubou Laniarius leucorhynchus. About five skulked in thick secondary growth at 150 m elevation between Bashu Okpambe and Bashu Boken on 4 and 5 Feb 1987. (One record.)
534. Fire-crested Alethe Alethe diademata. Six netted in the Oban Hills F.R. on 23-24 Nov 1985 (with RES) and 29-30 Jan 1987 (with WB) and one netted in Okwangwo F.R. on 11 Feb 1987. Weights 29.0-32.8 g (n=7). (Probably not uncommon resident.)
535. Brown-chested Alethe Alaethe poliocephala. Fairly common in degraded forest on the Obudu C.R., where five netted 14-17 Nov 1985 (with RES) and three more 2-8 Feb 1987; one at Oban Hills F.R. on 30 Jan 1987. Weights 34.7-41.9 g (n=8). (Uncommon resident.)
545. Grey-winged Robin-Chat Cossypha polioptera. Three netted in the Nindam F.R. on 30 Oct 1985. With RES. (Rare resident.)
567. Crossley's Ground Thrush Turdus gurneyi. Single birds at Obudu C.R. on 15 and 16 Nov 1985, the latter snared by a boy. Weights 70.2-72.0 g. With RES. (The only known locality.)
- (577\*). Grey-necked Picathartes Picathartes oreas. A total of 94 breeding sites, involving an estimated 500-1000 birds, were found in Feb and Sep-Oct 1987 in SE Nigeria. Full details are given in Ash (1987). Not known to Elgood (1982) but reported in the south-east by Hall (1981).
606. Brown-backed Cisticola Cisticola hunteri. Common at Obudu C.R. where feeding two fledglings on 17 Nov 1985. Not previously reported breeding anywhere in West Africa, but see Bates (1930), Serle (1950) and Stuart (1986).
649. Sooty Flycatcher Artomyias fuliginosa. Bashu: pair with a dependent juvenile on 11 Oct 1987.
650. Ussher's Dusky Flycatcher Artomyias ussheri. A pair feeding a fledgling near Butatong on 19 Nov 1985 is the first breeding record from Nigeria.
655. Forest Flycatcher Fraseria ocreata. Okomu F.R.: pair building on 24 Oct 1987.
663. Olivaceous Flycatcher Muscicapa olivascens. A pair feeding a fledgling near a stream in dense forest at Oban Hills F.R. on 1 Oct 1987. A nondescript brownish unstreaked flycatcher, paler below, especially in the centre. The immature bird had reddish edges to the wing feathers. (Rare resident; only one certain locality.)
664. Yellow-footed Flycatcher Muscicapa seth-smithi. A pair watched feeding a fledgling in secondary forest between Beebuo and the Boshi F.R. on 20 Nov 1985. Two previous records from the Obudu Plateau (Elgood 1982); Gartshore (1984) gives several more records from there. WB (pers. comm.) described birds which appeared to be this species as common in gallery forest along streams in the same area on 8-9 Feb 1987.

668. Grey-headed Puff-back Flycatcher Batis minima. A pair building a nest at c. 6 m above ground level in a tree in degraded forest at Bashu on 11 Oct 1987. This record helps to fill the gap between populations in SW Nigeria and Cameroon.

674. Chestnut Wattle-eye Platysteira castanea. A male feeding a fledgling in the Oban Hills F.R. on 30 Jan 1987. (One record of eggs in May.)

677. White-spotted Wattle-eye Platysteira tonsa. A male in Oban Hills F.R. on 30 Jan 1987 was in the same group of Musanga trees as the P. castanea above. (A rare or very local resident from three localities) This close association of two very similar species has been reported by Bannerman (1953). Recently reported from Korup National Park in Cameroon on the Nigerian border (Stuart 1986).

(679\*). Violet-backed Flycatcher Hyliota violacea. One in tree tops of degraded forest at Bashu Okpambe on 4 Feb 1987. (One previous uncertain record.)

684. Dusky Crested Flycatcher Trochocercus nigromitratus. A pair, of which one was caught (weight 11.3 g) was feeding a fledgling (also caught) on 11 Feb 1987 in Okwangwo F.R. The first Nigerian breeding record.)

706. Olive Sunbird Nectarinia olivacea. A nest with two eggs on 30 Jan 1987 in Oban Hills F.R. (No previous nest record.)

708. Preuss's Double-collared Sunbird Nectarinia preussi. A pair feeding two half-grown young in a nest c. 2 m above ground on the Obudu C.R. on 16 Nov 1985. (No previous nest record; oviducal egg in May.)

711. Little Green Sunbird Nectarinia seimundi. One on 29 Jan 1987 in the Oban Hills F.R. (Probably uncommon rather than rare.)

722. Oriole-Finch Linurgus olivaceus. Common on the Obudu C.R. on 14-18 Nov 1985, the only known Nigerian locality. The following are sites not listed by Elgood (1982), but Mambilla Plateau is listed for this species by Stuart (1986): two near Nguroje, Mambilla Plateau on 11 Nov 1985; five Danko F.R on 11 Nov 1985. With RES.

723. Thick-billed Seed-eater Serinus burtoni. Quite common on Obudu Plateau, where on 17 Nov 1985 a pair was nest-building in a clump of epiphytes on a horizontal branch c. 8 m above ground on the edge of a forest remnant, and on 9 Feb 1987, two adults were feeding a fledgling at the same place. (No breeding records.)

738. Anambra Waxbill Estrilda poliopareia. Two clearly identified in a party of five birds, probably all this species, 0.5 km north of the bridge on the west side of the river at Anaba, opposite Onitsha, on 24 Jan 1987. In general appearance very similar to E. paludicola, and quite distinct from E. melpoda the only other waxbill likely to be seen in the area. Possibly threatened according to Collar & Stuart (1985).

740. Green-backed Twin-spot Hypargos nitidulus. Two juveniles were netted and photographed at Oban Hills F.R. on 30 Jan 1987 (wing 53, 54 mm; weight 9.2, 9.3 g). With WB. (One previous old record.) The mean weight of 83 H. n. chubbi in Ethiopia was 9.3 g and wing-lengths 51-56 mm (pers. obs.).
749. Fernando-Po Olive-back Nesocharis ansorgei. One or two at three sites on the Obudu C.R. on 15-18 Nov 1985. With RES. Weight 7.2 g (n=2). (Five previous records, all on the Obudu Plateau.)
752. Grey-headed Negro-Finch Nigrita canicapilla. Oban Hills: one building on 1 Oct 1987.
753. White-breasted Negro-Finch Nigrita fusconota. One feeding on the ground, Okwangwo F.R. on 19 Nov (with RES), and single birds feeding among oil palm fruit near Beebuo on 20 Nov and Butatong on 21 Nov 1985; two high in canopy at Oban Hills F.R. on 1 Oct 1987 and one in canopy at Bashu on 9 Oct 1987. (Uncommon resident usually in canopy.)
756. Flower-pecker Weaver-Finch Parmoptila woodhousei. One in rain-forest at Bashu on 8 Oct 1987. (Rare resident from only three localities, including one at Ikom not far from Bashu.)
778. Ibadan Malimbe Malimbus ibadanensis. At least three, including a dependent juvenile, at the IITA research farm, Ibadan on 2 Nov 1987 is the first record since 1980. With PH and CK. See Ash (1987) for further details.
781. Rachel's Malimbe Malimbus racheliae. In Oban Hills F.R. at three sites, a pair on 24 Nov 1985 (with RES), and a male and female singly on 29 Sep 1987. (Rare resident with three previous records within 20 km of Calabar.)
787. Baglafaecht Weaver Ploceus baglafaecht. Common at Mai Samari and Mambilla Plateau, where there were at least 10 scattered birds on 12 Nov 1985. With RES. (Three previous records all from the Mambilla Plateau.)
788. Bannerman's Weaver Ploceus bannermani. A pair in Danko F.R., Mambilla Plateau with a nest (two eggs) 1.5 m up in a shrub in a narrow strip of kurimi woodland on 11 Nov 1985; male netted (with RES); one next day at Mai Samari on the same plateau. Only recorded Obudu Plateau by Elgood (1982) but listed from Mambilla without details in Stuart (1986).
797. Vieillot's Black Weaver Ploceus nigerrimus. Fairly common over a large area of the south-east including Butatong, Oban Hills F.R. (large colonies; nest building Nov 1985 and Sep 1987), Bashu and Okwangwo F.R. (Uncommon and apparently a very local resident.)

(798\*). Uganda Spectacled Weaver Ploceus ocularis. At Oban Hills F.R. a female on 30 Jan 1987 and a pair at exactly the same site on 29 Sep 1987. The head pattern of the male is very similar to that of the W African race of the Black-necked Weaver P. nigricollis brachypterus, even down to the pale eye, but it has a finer bill. The female brachypterus is more distinctive with a darker crown and a conspicuous yellow supercilium. P. n. brachypterus is very common in the area. (One probable record, Obudu Plateau.)

819. Narrow-tailed Starling Poeoptera lugubris. The following records close the gap in distribution between southern Nigeria west of the Niger and Cameroon: two near Butatong on 19 Nov 1985 in degraded forest; six Oban Hills F.R. on 27 Jan 1987 in forest, and six Emi River, Okwangwo F.R. on 11 Feb 1987 in forest.

825. Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus. Adult male at Bashu on 11 Oct and a party of three orioles of which at least one was a female O. oriolus at Ibadan on 2 Nov 1987. (Uncommon to rare or vagrant.)

826. Glossy-backed Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis. Ibadan: incubating on 30 Oct 1987.

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#### SUMMARY

Details are given for ten additions and two possible additions to the Nigerian checklist, as well as first breeding records for nine species. Also listed are a further eight species for which there is only one previous record or locality, seven species for which there are only two and six species for which there are only three. There is also information on four Red Data Book species, range extensions for 12 species, additional records for 23 uncommon species and other data on another 15 species.

## RÉSUMÉ

Commentaires sur l'addition de dix espèces nouvelles sûres et de deux probables à la liste du Nigeria ainsi que sur les dates de reproduction de neuf espèces nouvelles. Y figurent aussi huit espèces pour lesquelles on n'avait encore qu'une observation, sept espèces signalées seulement deux fois et six observées trois fois. Il y a des données sur quatre espèces du Red Data Book. La répartition de 12 espèces est étendue; y sont fournies aussi de nouvelles observations sur 23 espèces peu communes et des données complémentaires sur 15 autres espèces.

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## APPENDIX

## Gazetteer

	N	E		N	E
Adiyani faduma	12°49	10°25	Kanyang Mt	6°15	9°01
Anaba	6°08	6°45	Karama Lake	12°35	10°33
Anyibia River			Kirikasamma	12°40	10°18
(alt. 250 m)	c.6°13	9°13	Korup N.P., Cameroon	5°00	8°42
Ashishie	6°24	9°05	Kuzu Daguana	c.12°45	10°28
Badam	12°51	10°26	Lagos	6°20	3°25
Bashu	6°12	9°03	Madachi	12°48	10°15
Bashu Bokem	Near Bashu		Maguwa	12°39	10°22
Bashu Okpambe	6°06	9°08	Maiduguri	11°49	13°09
Batryiya	12°28	10°22	Mai Samari	7°09	11°05
Beebuo (Beebo)	6°25	9°09	Mambilla Plateau	6°50	11°16
Benin	6°20	5°35	Matara Uku	12°48	10°22
Boshi F.R.	6°33	9°16	Molai	13°09	11°46
Bulatura	13°24	11°00	Neghe	5°17	8°37
Butatong	6°21	9°07	Neorsoya oasis	c.13°23	11°10
Calabar	4°58	8°21	Nguroje	6°58	11°07
Chad, Lake	13°00	14°00	Nguru	12°53	10°30
Corner Drum	7°15	11°06	Nikrowa	6°15	5°06
Dalah	12°52	10°41	Nindam F.R.	9°32	8°30
Danko F.R.	7°04	11°04	Oban	5°18	8°35
Dumbari	12°37	10°46	Oban Hills F.R.	5°26	8°34
Ekang	5°41	8°10	Obudu F.R. and C.R.		
Emi R.	6°21	9°08	(alt. 1200-1650 m)	6°40	9°20
Garfaya faduma	12°44	10°42	Okomu F.R.	6°17	5°07
Gasamu	12°43	10°58	Okwangwo F.R.	6°14	9°08
Gashua	12°53	11°03	Omo F.R.	6°30	4°15
Gogorem	12°39	10°42	Onitsha	6°10	6°47
Hadeija	12°27	10°03	Oyi River	6°17	9°13
Ibadan	7°22	3°54	Rumpi Hills, Cameroon	4°40	9°10
Jajimaji	12°55	10°48	Serti	7°33	11°20
Jekara Dam	12°40	8°10	Tunga Amadu	7°15	11°05
Kainji Lake	10°00	4°33			