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Annotated bird list of Macenta Prefecture, Guinea

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Summary

An annotated list of 319 birds is presented for a prefecture of Guinea not visited by ornithologists since 1960. Included are 50 new species for Guinea. The list highlights a great avifaunal diversity, similar to that of the nearby forests of Gola (Sierra Leone) and Nimba (Guinea, Liberia, Ivory Coast). It includes five Red Data Book species, two records of Red-winged Grey Warbler *Drymocichla incana* 1600 km west of its known range and the first description of a Shrike Flycatcher *Megabyas flammulata* nest.

Résumé

L'auteur présente une liste annotée de 319 espèces d'oiseaux observées dans la préfecture de Guinée Forestière de Macenta non prospectée par les ornithologues depuis 1960. Cette liste apporte un total de 50 nouvelles espèces à la liste des oiseaux du pays et met en lumière la grande richesse avienne du massif forestier de Ziama, similaire à celle des forêts voisines de Gola (Sierra Leone) et de Nimba (Guinée, Libéria, Côte d'Ivoire). Cette liste contient cinq espèces du Red Data Book, deux observations de la Fauvette grise à ailes rousses *Drymocichla incana*, 1600 km à l'ouest de son domaine de répartition jusqu'ici reconnu, et la première description du nid du Gobe-mouches écorcheur *Megabyas flammulata*.

Introduction

This list is mainly the result of a three-year stay in the region of Macenta. Macenta Prefecture (8°31'N, 9°32'W) is located within the Guinée Forestière Province in southeastern Guinea, and lies between Gola Forest in Sierra Leone (150 km) and Mt Nimba forests on Guinea's border with Liberia and Ivory Coast (80 km). This area has recently been made accessible by the rehabilitation of the Guéckédou-Sérédou road in 1989. The boundary between savanna and evergreen forest crosses the Prefecture. The local avifauna thus comprises species of these two biomes, with some

Palaearctic migrants. Very few previous data are available from this region, with just two reports from Berlioz (1958) and Berlioz & Roche (1960), concerning the birds of Zياما forest near Sérédou.

Geographical context

Relief is uneven and average altitude outside of the Zياما Massif is about 450-550m. This massif rises to 1200 m, and runs north-south through the middle of the prefecture.

The average annual rainfall is 2300 mm, with a single dry season occurring from December to March. The wettest months are July to September. In 1991, the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 30°C and 20°C.

This region lies towards the northwestern limits of the Upper Guinea forest block. Native evergreen tropical moist forest remains at higher altitudes, mostly on the Zياما Massif and on some of its surrounding hills. Although the forest extends to the massif summit, most of it lies below about 900 m. An extensive mature forest also occurs on the massif's western and southeastern slopes, towards the Liberian border, with an average altitude of 500-600 m. The lower-lying northern areas support semi-deciduous forest, where a marked dry season and Saharan Harmattan winds cause heavy leaf fall and seasonal opening of the canopy. A large area of permanent savanna woodland including patches of *Hypparhenia*-dominated grassland and gallery forests occurs down the northeastern slopes of the Zياما Massif in Kouankan Sub-prefecture.

During the last 20 years, the forests have been severely encroached by uncontrolled clearing for upland rice cultivation, along the edges and in the interior. This is increasing, largely because of immigrating farmers from drier, northern regions of Guinea. It has also been accelerated by road rehabilitation, which has greatly improved access. The previous dense, native forest has been transformed into a mosaic of secondary regeneration areas first dominated by *Albizia*, *Harungana*, *Musanga* and *Trema*, together with coffee grown under tree cover, and humid *Pennisetum* grassland. *Imperata* grasslands are now spreading through the remaining forest-grassland mosaic in the northwest of the Zياما Massif, as soils degrade.

Methods

The species list is not exhaustive, being based principally on approximately 90 one-day visits devoted to ornithology in the Macenta region during 1988-1991. My work in agricultural development also took me into the field almost daily. Specific sites visited include forest relicts to the northwest of Pasima, the main road from Macenta to Nzébéla ferry, the Sérédou region, and a dirt road between Sérédou and the

Quinquina Station's "Poste 5". The last was the most regularly visited. Attention was focussed on forest species, especially those of the Zياما Massif. Observations of nocturnal Strigidae and Caprimulgidae are very incomplete.

Where additional data have been obtained from other observers, the source is acknowledged. All data given without references are personal observations. An asterisk indicates a new record for Guinea (cf. Walsh 1987, Morel & Morel 1988). Square brackets enclose uncertain records, which are not included in the total count number.

Results

The list which follows includes 319 confirmed species, of which 50 are new for Guinea (cf. Walsh 1987, Morel & Morel 1988). The number of new bird species for Guinea seems high, but the country has long been closed to foreign scientists and there have been no resident ornithologists.

The high avian diversity indicates that the Macenta region is as rich as the nearby and better-studied Gola Forest in Sierra Leone and Nimba Forests in Liberia (Colston & Curry-Lindahl 1986, Allport *et al.* 1989). However, the 1200 m high Zياما Massif is not sufficiently high or isolated from the surrounding habitats for local endemism to have evolved.

Several threatened or near-threatened species occur in Macenta, including *Criniger olivaceus*, *Campophaga lobata*, *Bathmocercus cerviniventris*, *Picathartes gymnocephalus*, *Melaenornis annamarulae* and possible records of *Malimbus ballmanni* and *Agelastes meleagrides*. *Phyllastrephus leucolepis* has not been recorded, but might be expected to occur in lowland forests southeast of Zياما near the Liberian border. The Macenta forests also support some mammals that are otherwise rare in West Africa. Guinea's last remaining Forest Elephants *Loxodonta africana cyclotis*, still occur on the southeastern slopes of Zياما, together with some Forest Buffaloes *Syncerus caffer nanus*. A small population of Dwarf Hippopotamus *Choeropsis liberiensis* also exists. Leopards *Panthera pardus* and Golden Cats *Felis aurata* are present.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Sérédou pond, Jun.

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*. Sérédou pond, Jun.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*. Uncommon, open wetlands, Jul, Aug.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Frequent, open streams near Macenta.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. Abundant, open areas, dry season. The most common species of Ardeidae.

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus*. Uncommon, open wetlands and streams near Macenta and Sérédou.

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*. Uncommon; single birds with Green-backed Herons.

Little Egret *E. garzetta*. Common; small flocks (3-7) in open wetlands.

Great White Egret *E. alba*. Frequent, widespread, open wetlands.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. Frequent, open wetlands.

Grey Heron *A. cinerea*. Uncommon; widespread except on the Ziama Massif, single birds.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*. One record of 4-6 individuals on open wetlands near Macenta, Feb 1989.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*. One record of a single sub-adult, Macenta town, Mar 1991.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*. Two observations of single birds, southeast of Ziama Massif.

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubi*. Frequent, small streams in forest mosaic area around Macenta. Pairs or small groups. Nuptial displays observed Apr.

*Cuckoo-Falcon *Aviceda cuculoides*. Uncommon, lowland forest around Ziama Massif.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. Uncommon, Palaearctic winter until April, forests and grassland-forest mosaic.

Bat Hawk *Machaeramphus alcinus*. One record of two birds, Ziama Massif, Feb 1990. May be overlooked.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*. Common, open areas. Nests Mar.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*. Common, open areas. 150 migrating northwest over Sérédou Pass in half an hour, 18 Feb 1990.

Palmnut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*. Common, all types of habitat with trees.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*. Two records of single birds soaring over Macenta town. Common further north in Guinea.

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*. Rare, grassland-forest mosaic on Ziama Massif and around Macenta, Jun. Single birds.

*Congo Serpent Eagle *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*. Single record near Irié in lower storey of mature secondary forest, Mar.

Harrier Hawk *Polyboroides typus*. Common. The most often seen medium-sized raptor in the area. Forest and forested mosaic. Nest observed Jan.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. Frequent wintering in savanna areas near Macenta.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*. Rare, open grasslands north of Macenta, Jan.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*. Uncommon, various forested habitats up to 900 m on the Ziama Massif. Probably overlooked.

Shikra *A. badius*. Uncommon, gardens and wooded grasslands.

*Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *A. erythropus*. Uncommon to frequent, primary and secondary forest and Macenta gardens.

*Black Sparrowhawk *A. melanoleucus*. Frequent, primary and secondary forest, and forest-grassland mosaic.

***Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchus macrourus*. Uncommon, Ziama forest and forest-grassland mosaic. Observed flying at middle levels below canopy.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*. Common in semi-open areas, roadsides, grassland-forest mosaic. Nest Feb.

Red-tailed Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*. Frequent, grassland-forest mosaic and secondary forest.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*. One bird in 1990 in north of prefecture in grassland-forest mosaic.

Cassin's Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*. One pair and an immature over Macenta town, Jul 1991.

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*. Uncommon, Ziama Massif forests above Sérédou, where it is well known by hunters. Threatened because its huge size makes it a valuable target.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Recorded in Sérédou, Apr (Wilson 1990).

Grey Kestrel *F. ardosiaceus*. Uncommon, savanna areas northeast of Macenta.

***Lanner F.** *biarmicus*. Locally common, open lands.

[**White-breasted Guineafowl** *Agelastes meleagrides*. Reported by hunters on Ziama Massif but requires confirmation.]

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*. Not observed, but well known by hunters. According to them, it is becoming increasingly rare.

Latham's Forest Francolin *Francolinus luthami*. Common in forest undergrowth (Wilson 1990).

Ahanta Francolin *F. ahantensis*. Frequent, dense undergrowth of secondary forest.

Double-spurred Francolin *Francolinus bicalcaratus*. Abundant, savanna areas. Nesting Dec-Jan.

Little Button-Quail *Turnix sylvatica*. Common, open savanna areas near Macenta.

White-spotted Crake *Sarothrura pulchra*. Common, old farmlands and clearings.

***Buff-spotted Crake** *S. elegans*. Report of a singing bird in dense undergrowth within secondary forest near Sérédou Forest Research Centre (Wilson 1990).

***African Crake** *Crex egregia*. Frequent, moist grasslands east of Macenta, Apr.

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostris*. Common, open pools or slow streams with aquatic vegetation.

***Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni*. Sérédou pond, Jun.

***Lesser Moorhen** *Gallinula angulata*. Rare, observed only in one small pond on the Liberian border track, west of Macenta near the tea plantation.

Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*. Common, forested streams on Ziama Massif up to 800 m.

Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami*. Single record of a bird flying low over Macenta, Feb 1989.

Black-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis melanogaster*. One bird regularly seen in an open savanna near RC² Coffee Centre, east of Macenta.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africana*. Common, single birds or pairs on open ponds. Juveniles c. 15 days old, Jun, Sérédou pond.

- Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*. Open wetlands near Sérédou (Wilson 1990).
- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*. Single record in Mar 1991 of six birds flying over Macenta.
- Forbes's Plover** *Charadrius forbesi*. Single record from grassland near Macenta RC² Coffee Centre, Feb 1990.
- Senegal Wattled Plover** *Vanellus senegallus*. Uncommon, in newly-cleared, large rice-fields.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. Frequent, sandy stream banks, Palaearctic winter.
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*. Frequent. Single birds or pairs along streams during Palaearctic winter. Departs end Apr.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calva*. Frequent, all habitats from wooded savannas to primary forest. Small groups of 3-6.
- Blue-headed Wood-Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*. Common, paths in primary and secondary forests. Commonly heard Ziama Massif, up to 1000 m.
- Tambourine Dove** *T. tympanistris*. Frequent, shy than preceding species and may be overlooked. Denser vegetation of secondary forests.
- Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** *T. afer*. Abundant, grassland-forest mosaic areas around farmlands and on tracks.
- Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*. Common, Ziama and its surroundings. Easily observed in fruiting *Trema guineensis* or on harvested rice fields.
- African Wood Pigeon** *C. unicolor*. Uncommon, Ziama Massif forests, mostly during the wet season. Single calling birds May-Jun; small groups feeding in fruiting trees Aug.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*. Abundant, open lands and farmlands.
- Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithracus*. Single record of two birds near Sérédou, 1989. Abundant in Yomou prefecture, to the south of Macenta.
- Green Turaco** *Tauraco persa*. Abundant, all wooded habitats. On Ziama Massif up to 1200 m.
- Crested Turaco** *T. macrorhynchus*. Frequent, primary and secondary forest. Singly or in pairs, Ziama Massif and its surroundings.
- Grey Plantain-eater** *Crinifer piscator*. Abundant, savanna woodlands northwest of Ziama Massif. Singly or in groups of 4-6.
- Blue Plantain-eater** *Corythaëola cristata*. Common, primary and secondary forest and wooded edges of old clearings, up to 900 m. Hunted for meat and for feathers, which are used in Loma bird-man dancing dress.
- Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*. Single record of a pair in a Macenta garden, Feb 1990.
- Levaillant's Cuckoo** *C. levaillantii*. Frequent in and around Ziama. Single birds in old farmlands, forests and woodlands, Apr-Jul.
- Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*. Single record, Ziama Massif in primary forest near Sérédou.

Black Cuckoo *C. clamosus*. Frequent, wooded habitats from savanna woodland to primary forest, Apr-Jun.

***African Cuckoo** *C. gularis*. Single record in savanna woodland east of Macenta, Mar 1989.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*. Collected at Sérédou in 1959 (Berlioz & Roche 1960).

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *C. olivinus*. Rare. Heard Ziama Massif, Apr.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*. Frequent, wide range of wooded habitats. Recorded once in a mixed species flock on Ziama Massif at 1000 m.

Didric Cuckoo *C. caprius*. Common, gardens and semi-open lands. Heard mostly during the wet season.

Emerald Cuckoo *C. cupreus*. Uncommon, primary and secondary forests.

Yellowbill *Ceuthmochares aereus*. Common, primary and secondary forest. Often around mixed species flocks up to 1000 m where it often hides in dense lianas.

[**Black-throated Coucal** *Centropus leucogaster*. No confirmed record, but well known to Ziama hunters.]

Senegal Coucal *C. senegalensis*. Abundant, open or semi-open areas. Nest Feb.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*. Frequent, Macenta town.

White-faced Owl *Otus leucotis*. Wooded savanna northeast of Macenta in 1990.

Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus*. Common, forests and all open habitats including road sides.

African Wood Owl *Ciccaba woodfordi*. Secondary forest and forest-grassland mosaic.

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*. One record, Macenta, Mar 1991.

Standard-wing Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis*. Common. Observed in display flight every year in Jan at RC² Coffee Centre, Macenta.

Common Swift *Apus apus*. Very abundant Palearctic wintering species, all habitats. Last birds observed during the first week of May after termite display flights.

***White-rumped Swift** *A. caffer*. Uncommon. Single birds or pairs chasing flying termites in a large mixed flock of swifts, Mar.

Little Swift *A. affinis*. Frequent, single birds or small groups. No colonies recorded.

Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*. Abundant and widespread. Pairs or small groups in open or partly-open habitats with oil palms.

***Sabine's Spinetail** *Chaetura sabini*. Common, small flocks (2-6) on and near Ziama Massif.

***Mottle-throated Spinetail** *C. ussheri*. Uncommon. Single birds over slopes of Ziama Massif, Jun-Jul 1991.

Giant Kingfisher *Ceryle maxima*. Common, wooded streams in partly-open areas. Singly or in pairs.

Pied Kingfisher *C. rudis*. Frequent, Sérédou pond.

Shining Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*. Frequent, partly-open streams.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristata*. Common, small open ponds. Nest Jul.

White-bellied Kingfisher *C. leucogaster*. One record in a forest stream southwest of Ziama Massif (Wilson 1990).

Pygmy Kingfisher *Ceyx picta*. Common, partly-open habitats in forest-grassland mosaic and farmlands.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*. Widespread and common in many semi-open habitats. Nest-digging, Apr.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *H. malimbica*. Uncommon, semi-forested habitats. Recorded up to 1000 m on Ziama Massif.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *H. badia*. Collected near Sérédou (Berlioz & Roche 1960).

Grey-headed Kingfisher *H. leucocephala*. Common, open habitats and the more open areas of grassland-forest mosaic. Nests recorded Macenta, Mar, Apr.

Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*. One record west of Macenta, Feb 1990 (J.M. Garreau pers. comm.); probably a vagrant from northern wintering areas near Kankan prefecture where it is seasonally common (pers. obs.).

White-throated Bee-eater *M. albicollis*. Abundant and widespread in dry season, all open and semi-open habitats. Small groups of 5-20.

Little Bee-eater *M. pusillus*. Common to abundant, open habitats and large clearings. Nests recorded Macenta, Apr.

Black Bee-eater *M. gularis*. Locally common, gaps and edges of secondary forests. Nest excavation on Ziama Massif, Mar.

Blue-headed Bee-eater *M. muelleri*. Frequent, Ziama Massif. May be overlooked as it perches low in dense vegetation. Same habitats as Black Bee-eater but appears to prefer dense secondary growths with *Albizia sassa* and *A. zygia* surrounded by forest. Fledglings Jul.

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinica*. Seasonally frequent, farmlands when fields are burned (Feb-Mar). Numbers vary between years: abundant 1989, rare 1990, no record 1991.

Rufous-crowned Roller *C. naevia*. Uncommon, dry season. Single birds.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*. Common to abundant, forest-grassland mosaic rather than pure forest, thus differing from the following species.

Blue-throated Roller *E. gularis*. Frequent, forest edges and clearings, up to 700 m. Nests recorded Apr.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. Single record in northern part of prefecture, Feb 1990.

***Buff-headed Wood-Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei*. Frequent, small groups of 4-6 on dead trees in clearings and secondary forest.

***Forest Wood-Hoopoe** *P. castaneiceps*. Uncommon, secondary forest and old plantations within grassland-forest mosaic.

Black Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus hartlaubi*. Uncommon, Ziama mature secondary forest. Two observations of juveniles, Mar-Apr.

Pied Hornbill *T. fasciatus*. Abundant to very abundant in all wooded habitats except primary forest.

White-crested Hornbill *Tropicranus albocristatus*. Common, primary and secondary forest, often recorded near driver ant columns.

Yellow-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*. Common, primary and secondary forests in Ziama. Calls Apr-Jun.

***Black-casqued Hornbill *C. atrata*.** Uncommon, secondary forest and forest-grassland mosaic. Single record west of Ziama in 1989, more common on the east side of Ziama and in the prefecture of Nzérékoré to the east.

Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator*. Frequent, clearings and grassland-forest mosaic. Small noisy groups of 5-10.

Brown-cheeked Hornbill *B. cylindricus*. Uncommon. Single bird or pair on the western slopes of Ziama Massif. Calls over primary forest Feb-Mar.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*. Frequent, in pairs in woodland savannas. Nest excavated Jan.

Vieillot's Barbet *L. vieillotii*. Uncommon, open woodland savannas. Single birds.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *L. hirsutus*. Uncommon, primary and mature secondary forest in Ziama.

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus*. Abundant, all types of wooded habitats. Small groups of 7-10.

***Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchailloi*.** Uncommon, primary and secondary forest and old clearings. Small groups or pairs, from high canopy to undergrowth.

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*. Abundant, farmbrush, forest-grassland mosaic and secondary forests. Single birds in mixed species flocks. Nest Jun.

Lemon-rumped Tinkerbird *P. bilineatus*. Very few certain records in forest and forest edges.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *P. subsulphureus*. Common to abundant, secondary forest and forest roads and old clearings, especially in fruiting *Trema guineensis*.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *P. atroflavus*. Uncommon. Single birds or pairs along the edges of primary and secondary forest up to 1000 m.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*. Single sighting at an abandoned coffee plantation north of Macenta. May have been overlooked.

Spotted Honeyguide *Indicator maculatus*. Two records from Sérédou and lower southeastern slopes of Ziama Massif (Wilson 1990).

***Thick-billed Honeyguide *I. conirostris*.** Uncommon, forest edges and coffee plantations. Inconspicuous and may have been overlooked.

***Lyre-tailed Honeyguide *Melichneutes robustus*.** Ziama Massif from 900 m upward, Mar-Jun. Display songs regularly heard in Ziama along Macenta-Sérédou road.

Cassin's Honeyguide *Prodotiscus insignis*. Uncommon, lowland forests in the Ziama region. Inconspicuous and may have been overlooked.

Golden-backed Woodpecker *Campethera maculosa*. Uncommon, mature secondary and primary forest in Ziama in mixed species flocks, Apr-May 1991.

- *Brown-eared Woodpecker** *C. caroli*. Uncommon, primary and mature secondary forest on Ziama Massif.
- Buff-spotted Woodpecker** *C. nivosa*. Frequent, mature secondary forests.
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*. One record from Sérédou, Jul 1991.
- Gabon Woodpecker** *D. gabonensis*. Common, all wooded habitats.
- Grey Woodpecker** *Mesopicos goertae*. Frequent, gardens and wooded savannas.
- Fire-bellied Woodpecker** *M. pyrrhogaster*. Frequent, primary and, particularly, secondary forest.
- Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*. Rare, grasslands. Single birds among swallow flocks during Palaearctic winter. Mostly observed during the northerly migrations in Mar.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. Abundant winter visitor. Leaves beginning of Apr after the first termite flights, a major source of premigration food.
- Red-chested Swallow** *H. lucida*. Abundant, open areas.
- *White-throated Blue Swallow** *H. nigrita*. One pair regularly recorded on the Diani river near Nzébéla in 1989 and 1990.
- Mosque Swallow** *H. senegalensis*. Common, open areas. Nest-building May.
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *H. abyssinica*. Abundant, open areas. Nest-building May.
- *Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudohirundo griseopyga*. Abundant, grasslands near Macenta, May-Sep.
- House Martin** *Delichon urbica*. Rare, in mixed swallow flocks during northerly migration, Mar.
- Square-tailed Roughwing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*. Abundant, forests along roads and paths. Nest Ziama Jul.
- Fantee Roughwing** *P. obscura*. Common, open areas.
- Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*. Abundant, moist grasslands during the Palaearctic winter. Very abundant during the northerly migrations, leaves in Mar. At this time, some of the birds show good breeding plumage, most are *M. f. flava* and around 5% *M. f. thunbergi*.
- *Mountain Wagtail** *M. clara*. Locally common, mountain streams. Displays Mar.
- African Pied Wagtail** *M. aguimp*. One record Dec 1989 by a small pond west of Ziama Massif.
- Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*. One record of a pair with young in short grass within the RC² Coffee Centre in Macenta, May 1991. Probably overlooked.
- *Long-billed Pipit** *A. similis*. Common, rocky areas around Macenta (Jean Lefebvre quarry) and the lower slopes of Ziama Massif and its surroundings.
- Tree Pipit** *A. trivialis*. Three records of single birds in the foothills of Ziama Massif, Apr 1989 and 1990, on northerly migration.
- Red-throated Pipit** *A. cervinus*. Occasional, open grassland on northerly migration, Apr.
- Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*. Abundant, open grasslands. Two nests, Apr, May.

Grey-headed Helmet Shrike *Prionops caniceps*. Uncommon. Groups of 5-8 at mid to high levels in primary forests and an old coffee plantation, 500-700 m.

Gambian Puffback Shrike *Dryoscopus gambensis*. Single record in a lowland secondary forest north of Macenta. May have been overlooked.

***Sabine's Puffback Shrike** *D. sabini*. Single record in primary forest canopy (Wilson 1990).

***Lesser Tchagra** *Tchagra minuta*. Common in humid grasslands dominated by *Pennisetum*, Apr-May. Small groups of 3-5, appearing for one or two weeks.

Brown-headed Tchagra *T. australis*. Frequent, bushes in clearings on and near Zياما Massif up to 1000 m. Single birds or pairs.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus*. Common, often heard in semi-open habitats.

Sooty Boubou *L. leucorhynchus*. Uncommon, forests around Zياما Massif. Nest-building in bushes within a montane forest clearing on Zياما Massif at 900 m, May.

***Many-coloured Bush-Shrike** *Malaconotus multicolor*. Frequent, dense lianas in primary forest on Zياما Massif.

Fiery-breasted Bush-Shrike *M. cruentus*. Uncommon, middle strata of primary and secondary forests on Zياما Massif.

Fiscal Shrike *Lanius collaris*. Abundant, open habitats. Nests recorded Mar, Apr, May.

Woodchat Shrike *L. senator*. One bird recorded each Dec-Jan during three years in savanna woodland near Macenta RC² Coffee Centre.

Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*. Common, all forest types; observed on Zياما Massif up to 900 m.

Black-winged Oriole *O. nigripennis*. Uncommon, Zياما Massif forests where it is sympatric with the preceding species.

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*. Frequent, primary and secondary forest. Lone birds, pairs or family groups.

Shining Drongo *D. atripennis*. Common, many wooded habitats; on Zياما Massif up to 800 m.

Glossy-backed Drongo *D. adsimilis*. Common, all wooded and semi-wooded habitats.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*. Common, primary and secondary forests on Zياما Massif. Groups of 5-10.

Amethyst Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*. One group of seven birds (mostly females and young) in forest southeast of Sérédou, Jun 1990.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*. Common, all semi-open habitats. Nest Mar.

White-necked Rockfowl *Picathartes gymnocephalus*. Common in all suitable areas including large overhanging rocks inside mature forest. Common and widespread 20 years ago according to local hunters. Recorded outside Zياما 10 km north of Macenta. Rarely recorded except at nests, during Jul-Jan breeding season (Fig. 1). Recorded once at ant column. Nine nest sites were recorded in Zياما at 1.5-4 m high,

they were used by a single pair, even if two or three nests were present. Locally named "Kouma Oni", it is well known to Ziama hunters, who are used to sheltering and trapping rodents and hyraxes along rocks on which rockfowl nest. Rodent traps are said not to catch rockfowl. Hunters sometimes catch it at night on the nest, but the species is here mainly threatened by destruction of its habitat.

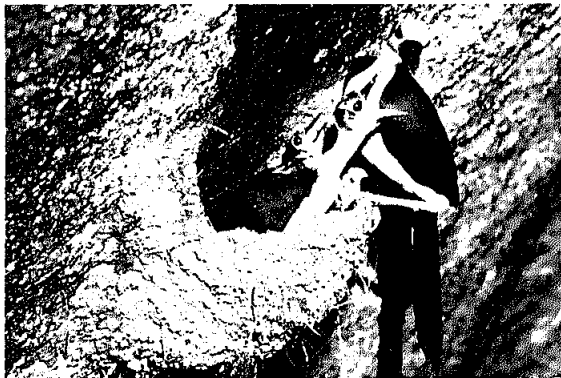


Figure 1. White-necked Rockfowl *Picathartes gymnocephalus* at nest.

- *Blue Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina azurea*. Frequent, Ziama primary or secondary forest. Single birds or pairs; one family group Jul.
- Purple-throated Cuckoo-Shrike *C. quiscalina*. Frequent, Ziama forests and surrounding forest-grassland mosaic. Canopy to low undergrowth.
- Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike *C. phoenicea*. One record of a male on Ziama Massif at 900 m, primary forest canopy.
- *Western Wattled Cuckoo-Shrike *C. lobata*. Uncommon. Five records in Ziama primary and secondary forest, above 800 m. More or less associated with high-strata mixed species flocks. Inconspicuous. Call is a very soft high-pitched "tsit tsit".
- Garden Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*. Abundant, all habitats from true forest to gardens.
- Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*. One report in forest above Sérédou (Wilson 1990).
- Little Grey Greenbul *A. gracilis*. Common, primary and secondary forest. Solitary or with mixed bird parties.
- *Ansonge's Greenbul *A. ansorgei*. Common to abundant, Ziama Massif forest edges.
- Slender-billed Greenbul *A. gracilirostris*. Common, primary and secondary forests. Single birds or pairs. Often seen in fruiting *Trema guineensis* along forest paths.
- Little Greenbul *A. virens*. Common, forest undergrowth and forest edges.
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *A. latirostris*. Abundant, primary and secondary forests. Groups of 3-5.
- Golden Bulbul *Calyptocichla serina*. Rare, forest canopy from 900 m on Ziama Massif.
- Honeyguide Bulbul *Baeopogon indicator*. Common, wooded areas, especially secondary forest. Single birds or pairs.
- Yellow-throated Leaf-love *Chlorocichla flavicollis*. Frequent, wooded savannas near Macenta.
- Simple Leaf-love *C. simplex*. Common, bushes and forest edges.
- Swamp Palm Bulbul *Theselocichla leucopleura*. Abundant, moist areas of secondary forest and forest-grassland mosaic. Groups of three.
- Leaf-love *Phyllastrephus scandens*. Common, wooded areas. Usually in highly vocal groups of 4-6.
- *Icterine Bulbul *P. icterinus*. Abundant, lower strata of primary forest up to 800 m on Ziama Massif. Small groups in mixed species flocks.
- *Bristle-bill *Bleda syndactyla*. Single bird recorded at ant column at 1000 m, Jul 1989. Also recorded by Wilson (1990).
- Grey-headed Bristle-bill *B. canicapilla*. Frequent, Ziama and surrounding forested areas.
- Bearded Bulbul *Criniger barbatus*. Abundant, undergrowth of all wooded areas of Ziama and surrounding regions. Noisy groups of 5-8.
- White-bearded Bulbul *C. calurus*. Abundant, forest undergrowth and old clearings. Noisy groups of 2-3, often associated with mixed flocks.

Yellow-bearded Bulbul *C. olivaceus*. Frequent, forest on Zياما Massif up to 900 m. Not recorded in the surrounding lowland forests. Silent. Usually single birds or pairs, but five apparent adults once recorded together.

Nicator *Nicator chloris*. Common, all wooded habitats from lowlands up to 1000 m. Usually single birds.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. Abundant, open habitats during winter. Departs Mar.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*. Frequent, secondary forests on Zياما Massif up to 900 m, in the vicinity of ant columns.

***Brown-chested Alethe** *A. poliocephala*. Common, secondary forests, often by ant columns.

Whiskered Redbreast *Sheppardia cyornithopsis*. Frequent, mature secondary forests around 900 m.

Forest Robin *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*. Frequent, forests on Zياما Massif at 600-900 m.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*. Recorded at Sérédou (Berlioz & Roche 1960).

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *C. niveicapilla*. Uncommon, bushes near coffee plantations surrounded by secondary forest. Probably overlooked.

White-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*. Frequent, rocky areas within primary forest on Zياما Massif.

***Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush** *Stizorhina finschi*. Frequent, mature secondary forest and abandoned clearings on and around Zياما Massif up to 800 m.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*. Common during Palaearctic winter, wooded savannas and gardens near Macenta. Song often heard.

Olive Thrush *Turdus pelios*. Common, gardens and open areas with isolated trees.

Brown Akalat *Malacocincla fulvescens*. Common on and around Zياما Massif in primary and secondary forest and old coffee plantations.

White-breasted Akalat *M. rufipennis*. Present in dense undergrowth within undisturbed forest (Wilson 1990).

***Blackcap Akalat** *M. cleaveri*. Common in forest undergrowth (Wilson 1990).

Capuchin Babbler *Phyllanthus atripennis*. One record of five birds in the tea plantation west of Macenta.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Rare, bushes along open small streams in Mar, during northerly migration.

Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus*. Frequent, Dec-Feb in open bush savannas near Macenta.

Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus*. Twice heard in humid area with *Pennisetum* tussocks west of Zياما Massif, Feb and Mar.

Moustached Warbler *Sphenoeacus mentalis*. Abundant, all humid grasslands with *Pennisetum* tussocks.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*. Common, Dec to mid-Mar in savanna woodland and gardens.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. Rare during Palaearctic winter in bushes at forest edges, farmlands and gardens.

Blackcap *S. atricapilla*. Rare, primary and secondary forests on Zياما Massif up to 900 m, Mar 1990.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Recorded at Sérédou (Berlioz 1958).

Wood Warbler *P. sibilatrix*. Uncommon, Palaearctic winter in primary and secondary forest canopy.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythropus*. Common, marshy open habitats.

Whistling Cisticola *C. lateralis*. Common, moist semi-open areas and gardens.

Shortwing Cisticola *C. brachyptera*. Common, short grasslands.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*. Common, forest edges and forest-grassland mosaic up to 900 m in Zياما.

***Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*. Common, primary forest on Zياما Massif above 700 m. Six to eight individuals usually joining mixed-species flocks foraging within the canopy, preferring higher strata.

Sharpe's Apalis *A. sharpei*. Common, primary and secondary forest on Zياما Massif. Immatures Jun. Two or three birds usually associated with mixed-species flocks, middle to low strata.

***Red-winged Grey Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*. Three surprising records of a single bird corresponding to the description of this central African species on 4 Jun, 16 and 18 Jul 1989. All three records were in the same grass tussocks in a flooded marshy area near the Macenta tea plantation. Observations were made in good afternoon light, first with 10 x 40 Zeiss binoculars, then with a 20 x 77 Kowa telescope on tripod at a distance of 25 m. The bird was strikingly light grey on the upperparts, with the underparts almost whitish, becoming pale buff on the belly and under-tail coverts. The primaries on the closed wings made a small chestnut-brown patch. The bill was long and black, eyes white-grey, and legs pale, perhaps pinkish. The tail was grey, lightly scaled, long and was sometimes flicked. The bird was alone, constantly moving, and was most of the time hidden in the grass and bushes 30 cm above the pond's surface. It sometimes flew low and straight to a nearby grass island like a Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. It was completely silent. The uniform grey, long tail, light grey back and whitish eye rule out confusion with Red-winged Warbler *Prinia erythroptera*.

Black-capped Stream Warbler *Bathmocercus cerviniventris*. Locally common in humid, open sites near old clearings within mature forest on Zياما Massif.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*. Frequent, Zياما Massif and surrounding areas. More silent and thus less noticeable than other camaropteras. Single birds in undergrowth or lianas within primary and secondary forest.

Green-backed Camaroptera *C. chloronota*. Abundant, all wooded habitats including coffee plantations. Single birds in dense low and middle strata.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *C. chloronota*. Common, forest edges and abandoned clearings.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*. Common. Small groups in mixed species flocks foraging in the canopy, or monospecific groups.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*. A few certain records within undergrowth in wooded habitats.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *S. denti*. Common in undergrowth of forest edges and often associated with mixed flocks in lower and middle canopy strata. Distinction between the two crombec species was difficult because of the great similarity between the local subspecies.

Olive Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*. Common, primary and secondary forest. In mixed species flocks, favouring dense lianas. Frequently heard in Ziama. Nest 2.5 m high in a liana, Mar.

***Kemp's Longbill** *M. kempii*. One record of a single individual in a mixed species flock in mature secondary forest at 800 m near Sérédou.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*. Abundant, all wooded habitats. Single birds or pairs, sometimes eating arboreal ants *Oecophylla*.

Tit-Hylia *Pholidornis rufishiae*. Frequent. Groups of 4-5 in light undergrowth of secondary forest and plantations. Up to 1000 m on Ziama Massif.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. One record in RC³ Coffee Centre in Macenta among isolated trees in open grassland.

Little Blue Flycatcher *M. epulata*. Small groups recorded twice in mixed-species flocks in the Ziama forest canopy.

***Olivaceous Flycatcher** *M. olivascens*. One record in secondary forest on the southeastern slopes of the Ziama Massif (Wilson 1990).

Ashy Flycatcher *M. caerulecens*. Regularly recorded at wooded river edges and humid areas of secondary forest.

Dusky Blue Flycatcher *M. comitata*. One record in secondary forest (Wilson 1990).

Ussher's Dusky Flycatcher *Artomyias ussheri*. Abundant, forested areas. Groups of 3-7.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Common during the Palearctic winter, on and around Ziama Massif among bushes along forest edges.

***Anna's Forest Flycatcher** *Melaenornis annamarulae*. Three records at 800 m near the SEQUINA tree nursery, Mar-Apr 1991. First recorded in Guinea on eastern slopes of Ziama Massif, Apr 1990 (Wilson 1990).

Violet-backed Flycatcher *Hyliota violacea*. Frequent, Ziama Massif and surrounding secondary forests up to 800 m. In mixed-species canopy flocks.

Shrike Flycatcher *Megabyas flammulata*. Frequent in and near old clearings, favouring the canopy of *Albizia* and *Piptadeniastrum* species. A nest recorded in Ziama in Mar 1991 is the first to be described. It was 15 m high in the fork of an *Albizia sassa* at 850 m above Sérédou, in secondary growth. Both male and female incubated. The nest was hemispherical, about 4 cm diameter. It was light grey, looked smooth and seemed to consist of mosses and vegetable fibres. It was tightly bound to the bark, probably by spider webs. It was very inconspicuous, looking like a bump on the fork.

***Black and White Flycatcher** *Bias musicus*. Frequent and widespread in patchy forest and its edges, and in coffee plantations. Display flights May.

Scarlet-spectacled Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*. Common, gardens and grassland-forest mosaic edge.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *P. castanea*. Abundant, primary and secondary forests on Ziama Massif up to 900 m. Common member of mixed-species flocks in low and middle strata.

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *P. blissetti*. Uncommon, low dense undergrowth of lowland secondary forest edges around Ziama Massif. May have been overlooked.

***Golden-bellied Wattle-eye** *P. concreta*. Common, primary and secondary forest around mixed-species flocks in the lower strata.

Chestnut-cap Flycatcher *Erythrocercus maccalli*. Common to abundant, forests above 700 m on Ziama Massif. In mixed-species flocks in high and medium strata. Small groups of 6-9 noisy individuals.

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens*. Three records from Ziama Massif in forest undergrowth up to 900 m.

Dusky Crested Flycatcher *T. nigromitratus*. Frequent, primary and secondary forest, 600-900 m. In mixed-species flocks in low forest undergrowth. Typical two-note call.

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*. Abundant, forest undergrowth. Single birds or pairs, sometimes associated with mixed species flocks. Nest Jul.

Paradise Flycatcher *T. viridis*. One record from Ziama Massif near the Sérédou pass at 700 m.

***Dusky Tit** *Parus funereus*. Uncommon. Small noisy groups of 8-12, sometimes associated with mixed-species flocks above 800 m on Ziama Massif.

Scarlet-tufted Sunbird *Anthreptes fraseri*. Frequent, often in lower and middle forest strata. In small numbers in most mixed-species flocks.

Yellow-chinned Sunbird *A. rectirostris*. Recorded in primary and secondary forest canopy on Ziama (Wilson 1990).

Collared Sunbird *A. collaris*. Abundant, forest and forest edges. Groups of 3-6.

Olive Sunbird *Nectarinia olivacea*. Common, forest and plantation undergrowth. Single birds or pairs within the lower strata.

Olive-backed Sunbird *N. verticalis*. Uncommon in wooded patches in open lands and gardens.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *N. cyanolaema*. Common visitors to April-flowering *Pentadesma butyracea* in lowland secondary forest.

Buff-throated Sunbird *N. adelberti*. Frequent, flowering trees and low bushes at edges of lowland forest and in forest canopy.

Variable Sunbird *N. venusta*. Occasional records at forest edge on Ziama Massif.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *N. chloropygia*. Frequent, clearings and edges of secondary forest.

Copper Sunbird *N. cuprea*. Abundant, open, bushy savannas.

Splendid Sunbird *N. coccinigaster*. Frequent, gardens and small woodlots in semi-open areas on and around Ziama Massif.

Johanna's Sunbird *N. johannae*. One record from Quinandou on Ziama massif, Feb 1989 (Ledru 1989).

Superb Sunbird *N. superba*. Uncommon, clearings and forest edge on Ziama Massif.

Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*. Common, gardens, old clearings and forest edges up to 1000 m.

***Grosbeak Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*. Frequent, gardens and grassland-forest mosaic. Small groups feeding on fruiting *Trema guineensis*.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*. Very abundant. Colonies in most villages, where it is considered a good omen.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *P. nigerrimus*. Very abundant. Breeds in colonies (6-30 nests) in relict trees over stagnant ponds, Mar-Aug.

Compact Weaver *P. superciliosus*. Uncommon, moist grassland.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *P. tricolor*. Frequent, secondary forest and old plantations around Macenta. Feeding young at nest, Apr.

***Maxwell's Black Weaver** *P. albinucha*. One record in a mixed species flock on Ziama Massif. Common in the southern Nzérékoré prefecture.

Black-necked Weaver *P. nigricollis*. Common, most wooded habitats and gardens, ascending Ziama Massif along clearings and forest edges. Prefers semi-open habitats.

Western Golden-backed Weaver *P. preussi*. Five records of single birds or pairs on and around Ziama Massif.

[Gola Malimbe *Malimbus ballmanni*. One brief sighting of a bird resembling this species in a moist forested area near the Quinquina Station's "Poste 5" above Sérédou at 1000 m.]

Red-vented Malimbe *M. scutatus*. Common, humid areas within primary and secondary forest. Groups of 5-6 noisy birds. Nest-building Feb.

Blue-billed Malimbe *M. nitens*. Common, forest undergrowth on Ziama Massif. Single birds or pairs.

Red-headed Malimbe *M. rubricollis*. Common, primary and secondary forest.

Crested Malimbe *M. malimbicus*. Common. Pairs or small family groups in secondary forest and plantations. Nest Apr.

***Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*. Common. Groups of 2-10 birds in flocks of seed-eaters in rice fields before the harvest in Jul and Aug.

[**Red-billed Quelea** *Q. quelea*. Noted as common in fields around Sérédou but without supporting data (Wilson 1990).]

Red-collared Whydah *Euplectes ardens*. Common, rice fields and humid grasslands.

Fire-crowned Bishop *E. hordeaceus*. Common, open humid *Pennisetum* grassland.

Yellow-mantled Whydah *E. macrourus*. Very abundant, open and semi-open grasslands.

Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*. Common, small towns.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*. Frequent, open grassland, mostly moist areas.

Green-backed Twinspot *Hypargos nitidulus*. Rare, humid parts of mature secondary forest along clearings. One bird favoured the middle strata. May have been overlooked.

Crimson Seedcracker *Pirenestes ostrinus*. Frequent, grassy edges of swamps or inundated rice fields.

Grey-headed Negro Finch *Nigrita canicapilla*. Common, forest patches, old clearings and secondary forest. Nest-building Apr.

Chestnut-breasted Negro Finch *N. bicolor*. Frequent, abandoned clearings and secondary forest edges up to 800 m. Nest-building Jun.

White-breasted Negro Finch *N. fusconata*. Uncommon in mixed-species flocks along forest edges.

***Red-fronted Flower-pecker Weaver-Finch** *Parmoptila rubrifrons*. A single and a pair in low bushes near a moist area in Ziama Massif forest, one with a mixed species flock. Both records were made in Black-capped Stream Warbler sites.

Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*. Common in dense bushes in moist parts of forest, and along forest paths.

***Grey-headed Olive-back** *Nesocharis capistrata*. Two records in 1991, one of them in a fruiting *Ficus* in grassland-forest mosaic, Mar and Aug.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*. Abundant, tall grass habitats and small bushes. On Ziama Massif up to 1000 m. Flocks of 6-15.

Common Waxbill *E. astrild*. Abundant, grassland around Macenta, where several hundred slept in *Pennisetum* tussocks during Feb and Mar.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*. Common, open grasslands with *Pennisetum*. Usually in pairs.

Red-billed Firefinch *L. senegala*. Abundant, all open habitats near villages.

Black-bellied Firefinch *L. rara*. Frequent, grasslands. Often in groups of 3-4.

***Orange-breasted Waxbill** *Amandava subflava*. One record of six birds in newly-cut, humid grassland near Macenta, Aug 1990.

Maggie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides*. Frequent, newly cleared lands with relict trees. Nest-building Jul-Aug.

Black and White Mannikin *L. bicolor*. Common, grass clearings or forest edges up to 1000 m. Nests recorded Mar, Jun.

Bronze Mannikin *L. cucullata*. Abundant, all open habitats and gardens.

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