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New bird records from Korup National Park and environs, Cameroon

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Summary

Twenty-one new species are reported from Korup National Park and one new bird for the neighbouring region outside the park. New information is given for 43 other species. Four hundred and seven bird species are now known from the park and its environs in the rainforest of southwestern Cameroon.

Résumé

Les auteurs citent 21 espèces nouvelles pour le Parc National de Korup, et une pour la région avoisinante. Ils fournissent aussi des données sur 43 espèces déjà connues. Jusqu'ici, 407 espèces d'oiseaux sont connues dans le parc et ses environs, situés en forêt dense humide au sud-ouest du Cameroun.

Introduction

Korup National Park (KNP) occupies 1259 km² of varied terrain in the rainforest of southwestern Cameroon (Fig. 1). The park was gazetted in 1986, and since 1988 has been the focus of a large conservation and development project directed by WWF-U.K. (World Wide Fund for Nature) with assistance from GTZ (German aid), ODA (British aid), and WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society). A park adviser and a research coordinator provide assistance to the park, but most project effort is directed toward the people living in the Korup Project Area (KPA) outside the park. The KPA covers roughly 5,000 km² and includes the park, three forest reserves, and the region of farmlands and secondary forests lying between.

KNP is covered by Atlantic Coastal Rainforest interrupted by six village/farm

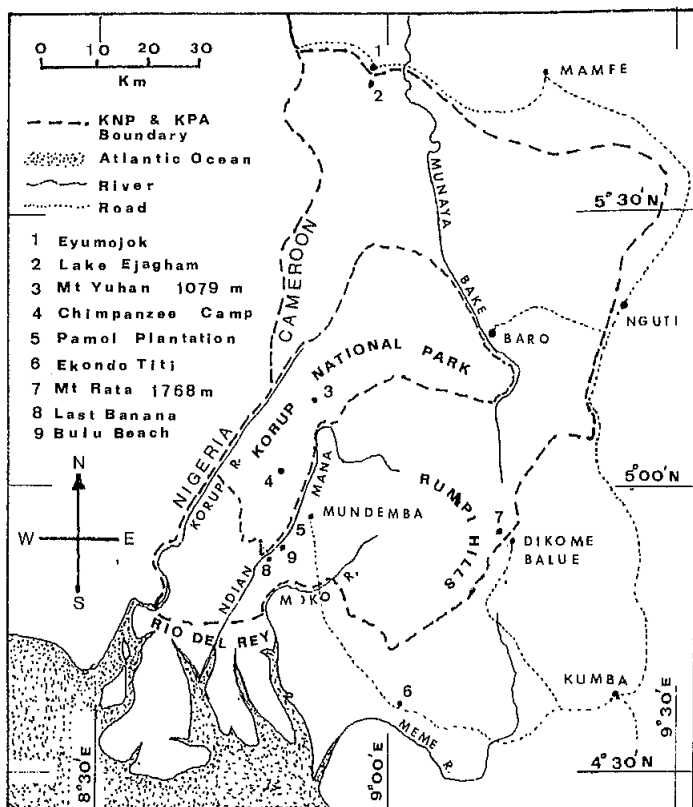


Figure 1. Map of Korup National Park and the Korup Project Area in SW Cameroon, showing localities mentioned in the text.

enclaves, which are destined for eventual relocation. Rainfall averages 5500 mm in the south, decreasing northward. Elevation ranges from sea level along the Ndiang River to 1079 m on Mount Yuhan in the centre. One third of the park is hilly and above 360 m. KNP is drained by the Korup/Akwayafe and the Mana/Ndiang rivers in the south and by the Munaya River and its tributaries in the north.

KPA has few natural boundaries, thus is not a choice entity for biological

studies. However, since the mid-1980s, many reports have been written about the flora, fauna and people of this particular area, and more are expected. Thomas (1991) reported on KNP birds, while Rodewald *et al.* (1994) described the avifauna of KNP/KPA, so it is reasonable to update the information for this area. Rodewald *et al.* (1994) described KNP and KPA in more detail.

Some bird observations were made at Lake Ejagham in the far north of Ejagham Forest Reserve (north of the park), near the administrative town of Eyumojok. The lake is the largest open body of water in KPA. It lies in a circular depression about 1 km in diameter and is surrounded by forest. Ejagham Reserve is forested hilly terrain interrupted by village/farm enclaves. No new observations were made in KPA in Nta'ali Forest Reserve, Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve, or on the settled plateau north of the Rumpi Hills. A number of observations were made near the small village of Baro at the northeast KNP entrance. The area outside the park here was selectively logged in the late 1980s. A few observations were made at Nguti, the park sub-headquarters town 35 km east of Baro (eastern edge of KPA).

Many overlooked records are presented in this paper along with new information from southern KNP, the vicinity of Mundemba, the Baro and Nguti areas, and Lake Ejagham. Mundemba is a divisional headquarters town 5 km from the park boundary. The 5000 ha Pamol oil palm plantation lies between the town and the park. The rocky Mana River separates park from plantation. The Mana becomes tidal 10 km southwest of Mundemba at Bulu Beach. The river changes name to become the Ndian and changes character, becoming deep and flat with sandbars at low tide. The Ndian leaves the KPA 20 km south of Bulu Beach, entering the mangrove area of the Rio del Rey estuary (see Green 1996). Southern KNP is low and flat with much swamp forest. To the north the terrain becomes rugged with peaks reaching 552 m near Chimpanzee Camp. This is a region of huge gneiss boulders and steep cliffs, where Bare-headed Rock-fowl *Picathartes oreas* nests in the wet season (Green 1995).

Methods

In Rodewald *et al.* (1994) the KNP bird species list included observations from a 5 km wide band outside the park boundary, an arbitrary decision, made because some species fly back and forth across the park boundary. This band includes oil palm plantation, farmland, and forest, so there are open country birds included in the park list as well as true forest species. Many (but not all) of these open country species also occur in the six village/farm enclaves inside the park. Because the KPA includes the park, any birds reported for KNP automatically occur in the KPA.

A number of tape recordings of bird vocalizations made by PGR in 1991-92 (northern KNP, Baro, Nguti) were analysed by Claude Chappius (pers. comm.), and helped to confirm sight records. Competent contributors to this list besides the

authors were: J. Culverwell (JC) and E. Nolte (EN) of the Korup Project; C. Bowden (CB) who visited frequently over the years; S. Keen (SK) Nov-Dec 1992; E. Williams (EW) Mar-Apr 1993; U.G. Sorensen, J. Bech & E. Krabbe (SBK) Nov-Dec 1993; S. Jones (SJ) Nov 1994; and R. Webb (RW) Jan 1995.

Nomenclature and sequence of species follow *The Birds of Africa* for the published volumes (Brown *et al.* 1982, Urban *et al.* 1986, Fry *et al.* 1988, Keith *et al.* 1992) and the planned taxonomy and sequence for later volumes as published by Elgood *et al.* (1994). Abbreviations used are: PM (Palearctic migrant), AM (intra-African migrant), LM (local migrant), RS (resident). Scale of abundance: rare (few records over many years), uncommon (few records per year), frequent (not recorded every day), common (1-10 seen/heard daily), abundant (more than ten per day).

Arrival and departure dates are given for 1991-94 for several migratory species. Arrival dates are probably more accurate than departures as one is actively watching for returning migrants, whereas birds may be gone for several days before they are missed.

Results

There are 21 new bird species from KNP (five of which were already known from KPA) in the list below and one new bird from KPA not yet on the park list. These 22 are indicated by an asterisk. There are now 407 species known from KPA (including the park) and 347 from KNP alone. Most non-park species earlier reported (Rodewald *et al.* 1994) are montane forest species from the Rumpi Hills.

Species which make local movements often seem to have irregular presence/absence patterns, not yet understood. The tidal mudflats in the Rio del Rey estuary may serve as a reservoir for some waders and herons which appear irregularly in Pamol Plantation or along the Mana/Ndian River (Green 1996). In the list below, new information is given first; previous knowledge is summarized in brackets at the end of each species account when appropriate, unreferenced comments being from Rodewald *et al.* (1994).

Podicipedidae

Tachybaptus ruficollis Little Grebe. Frequent on Lake Ejagham. Up to a dozen seen at a time Jan 1994 (EN); two present, 22-25 May 1994 (AAG). [RS, uncommon elsewhere in KPA, where appropriate habitat generally lacking.]

Phalacrocoracidae

Phalacrocorax africanus Long-tailed Cormorant. Frequent on Lake Ejagham (EN, AAG). [RS, frequent southern KNP, previously unrecorded in the north.]

Ardeidae

Ardea purpurea Purple Heron. Uncommon southern KNP near Mana River (AAG). [PM, rare elsewhere in KPA.]

**A. goliath* Goliath Heron. LM, rare KNP, one on a sandbar in the Ndian River near Last Banana, 1 Mar 1993 (AAG). [Frequent in Rio del Rey estuary (AAG).]

Threskiornithidae

**Plegadis falcinellus* Glossy Ibis. PM, rare KNP, one captured 30 Mar 1994 near Mana River in Pamol Plantation (AAG).

Accipitridae

Milvus migrans Black Kite. First arrivals Mundemba: 21 Sep 1991, 21 Sep 1992, 29 Sep 1993. Last birds seen Mundemba: 20 Jun 1991, and late May 1992, 1993, 1994 (AAG). [AM, abundant; PM not proven.]

Circus aeruginosus Marsh Harrier. Sightings of single males in Pamol Plantation 20 & 30 Dec 1993, 15-16 Feb 1994, 20 Mar 1994 were perhaps of one overwintering bird (AAG). One there again Feb 1995 (JC). [PM, rare southern KNP.]

Accipiter castanilius Chestnut-flanked Goshawk. One sighting near Nguti 28 Nov 1993 (SBK). [RS, rare, once netted in southern KNP.]

Spizaetus africanus Cassin's Hawk-Eagle. One along Baro-Nguti road, 3 Apr 1993 (EW); two at park boundary near Baro, 2 Dec 1993 (SBK): first records for the north. Two, southern KNP, 4 Dec 1993 (SBK); one near Chimpanzee Camp, 5 Jan 1994 (AAG). [RS, uncommon southern KNP.]

Phasianidae

Francolinus lathamii Latham's Forest Francolin. A hen with small chicks near Chimpanzee Camp 8 Mar 1994 (AAG). [RS, frequent.]

Rallidae

Canirallus oculeus Grey-throated Rail. One, southern KNP, 9 Jan 1995, seen in good light for 30 seconds at 20 m (RW). [One previous record by Serle (1959), nest with eggs at Ndian Town near Bulu Beach. Mainly coastal in Cameroon (Urban *et al.* 1986).]

**Sarothrura elegans* Buff-spotted Flufftail. A female observed for several minutes (plain brown, with many obvious buff spots) foraging at a fallen tree in an overgrown clearing near KNP entrance at Baro, 27 Nov 1992 (SK).

Amaurornis flavirostris Black Crane. Single birds at a stream in Pamol Plantation near KNP entrance, 25 Oct 1993, 12 May 1994 (AAG). [RS, rare, only in Pamol Plantation. Widespread in southern Cameroon (Urban *et al.* 1986).]

**Gallinula angulata* Lesser Moorhen. AM, rare. One along the Ndian River downstream from Bulu Beach, 27 Dec 1994 (JC). [According to Louette (1981), numerous in forest zone of Cameroon, but this does not apply to Southwest Province. Present southern Nigeria Mar-Sep, but with several dry season records (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Glareolidae

Glareola nuchalis Rock Pratincole. Nineteen birds on the Bake River near Baro Nov 1993 (SBK). A small juvenile with two adults on Mana River near KNP entrance, 9 Jan 1995 (RW). [LM, frequent Mana and Korup rivers but rarely recorded in the north.]

Scolopacidae

**Tringa ochropus* Green Sandpiper. PM, rare. Two in Pamol Plantation, 4 Dec 1993 (SBK).

Columbidae

Columba laryata Lemon Dove. Two in secondary forest near KNP entrance at Baro (240 m), 21 Nov 1992 (SK). [RS, rare in Rumpi Hills and on Mt Yuhan. Considered montane in Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994), but other records down to sea level in West and Central Africa (Urban *et al.* 1986).]

Cuculidae

**Oxylophus jacobinus* Jacobin Cuckoo. AM, rare. One in Pamol Plantation, 26 Jan 1994 (AAG). [Present in forest zone Feb-Jul (Louette 1981).]

O. levaillantii Levaillant's Cuckoo. Singles, Pamol Plantation, 2 Dec 1993 (AAG), 28 Dec 1994 (JC): first records for southern KNP. [AM, rare, a few previous sightings in north at Baro and Nguti. According to Louette (1981), dry season visitor to southern Cameroon.]

**Cuculus canorus/gularis* Eurasian/African Cuckoo. PM/LM, rare. One seen well (including bill), believed to be *C. canorus*, in farmland near KNP entrance at Baro, 12 Mar 1993 (CB, EW).

Tytonidae

**Tyto alba* Barn Owl. RS, rare, breeding. A noisy family nested in the attic of Makeke Hilltop House in Pamol Plantation, Dec 1994-Apr 1995; the pair there again, making a lot of noise, mid-Aug 1995 (JC), leading up to dry season breeding. One captured Feb 1994 at Ekondo Titi outside KPA (AAG). [RS, uncommon, recorded only at Dikome Balue in Rumpi Hills on eastern edge of KPA.]

Strigidae

Bubo leucostictus Akun Eagle-owl. A pair in a Mundemba garden, early morning 7 Oct 1994 (JC). [Rare, one previous record from southern KNP.]

Caprimulgidae

Caprimulgus climacurus Long-tailed Nightjar. Eighteen counted on road before dawn during 50 km drive south from Mundemba, 22 Nov 1991 (AAG). Probable passage migrants in Pamol Plantation, 26 Dec (five), 28 Dec 1993 (three), 1 Jan 1994 (three) (AAG), four, 9 Jan 1995 (RW). [AM, frequent, more often Nov-Dec than Jan-Feb.]

Macrodipteryx longipennis Standard-winged Nightjar. Single males flushed near Mundemba, 1 and 5 Feb 1994 (AAG); one seen in Pamol Plantation, 9 Jan 1995 (RW). [AM, recorded only once, southern KNP 1991.]

Apodidae

Telacanthura melanopygia Black Spinetail. Along Baro-Nguti road: two on 23 Nov, four on 24 Nov 1992 (SK), two on 12 Mar 1993, four on 13 Mar 1993 (CB, EW). [RS, uncommon.]

Coliidae

**Colius striatus* Speckled Mousebird. RS, frequent in farmland at Baro (KNP) 21-28 Nov 1992 (SK).

Meropidae

**Merops pusillus* Little Bee-eater. Rare, a few birds hawking for insects in open area below Park Headquarters, Mundemba, Jan 1995 (JC).

M. albicollis White-throated Bee-eater. First arrivals Mundemba: 27 Oct 1991, 19 Oct 1992, 20 Oct 1993. Last birds seen Mundemba: 14 Apr 1991, mid-Apr 1992, 21 Apr 1993, regular sightings to 25 Apr, then nothing until flock of 12 near Park Headquarters, 29 May 1994. [AM, frequent.]

M. apiaster Eurasian Bee-eater. Flock of 40 soaring over Mana River, 24 Mar 1993 (EW). [PM, rare southern KNP and Rumpi Hills.]

Coraciidae

Eurystomus glaucurus Broad-billed Roller. KNP boundary on Ndian River below Last Banana, 30 Jan 1994 (AAG). Frequent Oct 1994–Apr 1995 on Ndian River between Bulu Beach and Last Banana (JC). [AM, one record, below Last Banana, Nov 1993. Perhaps overlooked through confusion with Blue-throated Roller *E. gularis*, which is RS in forest.]

Phoeniculidae

**Phoeniculus castaneiceps* Forest Wood-Hoopoe. One in mixed party at ant column in KNP near Baro, 23 Nov 1992 (SK). Uniformly blue-black, reminiscent of Black Wood-Hoopoe *P. aterrimus* of savanna, but without white wing patches. [Elgood *et al.* (1994) and Fry *et al.* (1988) both state that there is a gap in distribution for *P. castaneiceps* between the Niger and Sanaga rivers.]

Bucerotidae

Ceratogymna subcylindricus Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill. Two in secondary forest near the KNP entrance at Baro, 22 Nov 1992 (SK); first record for the north. Black central and white outer tail feathers separate this species in flight from Brown-cheeked Hornbill *C. cylindricus*. [Rare southern KNP, two records from 1980s. Rare SE Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Capitonidae

**Gymnobucco bonapartei* Grey-throated Barbet. One in secondary forest near Baro, 24 Nov 1992 (SK), first KNP record. [Ten excavating nest holes at Nguti, Sep 1992. Serle (1950, 1954) collected one at Massaka on the eastern side of KPA and 16 at Kumba, just outside KPA. Not recorded in Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Indicatoridae

**Indicator willcocksi* Willcocks's Honeyguide. Rare KNP. One in farmland along trail to KNP entrance at Baro, 21 Nov 1992 (SK); recorded again along Baro–Nguti road, 13 Mar 1993 (CB, EW). Least Honeyguide *I. exilis* (RS, rare KNP) is greyer below (lacks greenish breast wash) and flank streaks are darker and more conspicuous. Distinguished from Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* by stubby, not pointed, bill; from Yellow-footed Honeyguide *Melignomon eisentrauti* (RS, Rumpi Hills and Nta'ali) by bill shape and colour and leg colour. [Generally in forest edge or gallery forest in savanna (Elgood *et al.* 1994) but known from Limbe near Mount Cameroon and other places in lowland forest zone (Fry *et al.* 1986).]

Picidae

**Campethera cailliautii* Green-backed Woodpecker. One or two near Baro (KNP) on each of four days during 21-28 Nov 1992 (SK); two more sightings there, 1 Dec (female) and 2 Dec 1993 (male) (SBK). Small, green-backed woodpeckers with coarse horizontally black-barred undersides (not pale spotted as in Buff-spotted Woodpecker *C. nivosus* or vertically streaked as in Gabon Woodpecker *Dendropicos gabonensis*). C. Chappius (pers. comm.) identified the call of *C. cailliautii* on tape recordings made at Baro in July 1992 (PGR). [RS in Rumpi Hills near Dikome Balue at 1150 m.]

C. caroli Brown-eared Woodpecker. First record in southern KNP: one, 9 Jan 1995 (RW). New sighting in northern KNP, 29 Nov 1993 (SBK). [RS, rare northern KNP and Rumpi Hills.]

**Dendropicos pyrrhogaster* Fire-bellied Woodpecker. At the park guardhouse at Baro: a male, 28 Nov; a male and a second bird, 2 Dec; a single male, 3 Dec 1993 (SBK); first KNP records. The male's a bright red rump and centre of underside, separated it from Yellow-crested Woodpecker *D. xantholophus*, which was also present at Baro. [Common resident in forest zone of Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994), and one of us (AAG) saw it in Nigeria's Cross River National Park in 1987, across the border from KNP.]

Hirundinidae

Hirundo semirufa Red-breasted Swallow. Local movements unclear, perhaps related to rainfall in southern KPA, where dry season is Jan-Feb, and wettest part of the year Aug-Sep. Abundant Feb-Aug, usually disappearing mid-Aug, returning mid-Feb (sometimes a few Nov to early Dec). There was much less rain than usual Aug-Sep 1993 and flocks remained until mid-Sep. There were frequent rains the last two weeks of Jan 1994, and flocks returned mid-January, a month earlier than usual (AAG). [LM, frequent N KPA; around Mundemba abundant Mar-Jul, uncommon or absent Aug-Oct, irregular Nov-Feb.]

H. smithii Wire-tailed Swallow. Small flock present at Mundemba, Jan-Jun 1994 (AAG). [LM, frequent southern KNP near Mundemba, but absent Feb-May. Also occurs at Nguti.]

**H. aethiopica* Ethiopian Swallow. Pair at Mundemba, Dec 1994-Feb 1995 (JC), first KNP record. [RS, common at Nguti, unrecorded elsewhere in KPA.]

H. rustica Barn Swallow. Arrival dates Mundemba: 25 Sep 1991, 21 Sep 1992, 4 Oct 1993. Last seen Mundemba: 20 Apr 1991, 30 Apr 1992, 20 Apr 1993, 1 May 1994 (AAG). [PM, flocks of 50-100 gather in KPA in Mar prior to migration, and most leave by mid-Apr.]

Motacillidae

Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail. Arrival Pamol Plantation: 17 Oct 1991, 13 Oct 1992, 7 Oct 1993. Last seen Pamol Plantation: 24 Apr 1991, 30 Apr 1992, 24 Apr 1993, 30 Apr 1994 (AAG). [PM, abundant.]

M. aguius African Pied Wagtail. Correcting earlier information, frequent only

Jul-Aug along the Mana River in southern KNP, uncommon November and March, generally absent other months (AAG).

**Anthus trivialis* Tree Pipit. Recorded several times around Baro during 21-28 Nov 1992 (SK), first KNP record. PM, uncommon to frequent at Nguti and in Rumpi Hills near Dikome Baluc. [Not uncommon PM in Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994).] [*A. pallidiventris* Long-legged Pipit. Reported by several observers near Baro and south of Mundemba. Otherwise unknown in Southwest Province. Range Equatorial Guinea to S Congo; one record at Avele in S Cameroon (Fry *et al.* 1988), and fairly common around Yaounde (M. Louette, pers.comm.). Confirmation of the presence of this species in the Korup area is required.]

Campephagidae

**Campephaga phoenicea* Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike. LM, rare. A male (red-shoulder blazes on black plumage) by the Old Baro Road, 24 Nov 1992; a female (barred black on white below) near KNP entrance near Baro, 25 Nov 1992 (SK). Both in secondary forest near farmland. [Generally considered a savanna species (Louette 1981). In Nigeria, known to move south to coast in dry season (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Pycnonotidae

Phyllastrephus albigularis White-throated Greenbul. Two in KNP near Baro, 22 Nov 1992 (SK); first record northern KNP. [RS, rare southern KNP. Considered rare in Cameroon (Louette 1981).]

Turdidae

Cossypha cyanocampter Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat. Male singing in KNP near Baro, 27 Nov 1992 (SK); one in secondary forest near Baro, mid-Mar 1993 (CB). [Considered common in Cameroon by Louette (1981), but rare RS in northern KNP (only two previous records). Serle (1954, 1965) collected three at Kumba.]

Oenanthe oenanthe Northern Wheatear. One in replanted area of Pamol Plantation, 27 Feb 1994 (AAG). [PM, one other record, 28 Nov 1993, in same area.]

Sylviidae

Macrosphenus kemp Kemp's Longbill. An adult with a juvenile in KNP near Baro, 25 Nov 1992 (SK). More sightings near Baro, 12 Mar 1993 (CB), 4 Apr 1993 (EW). [RS, rare northern KNP (Rodewald & Bowden 1995)]

Muscicapidae

Myioparus griseigularis Grey-throated Tit-flycatcher. C. Chappius (pers. comm.) identified the call of this species from tape recordings made by PGR in northern KNP in Sep 1991. [RS, rare, only two earlier records in southern KNP and at Nguti. Known only from a few localities in Cameroon forests (Louette 1981).]

M. plumbeus Grey Tit-flycatcher. Three in farmland near Baro, 28 Nov 1992 (SK); more sightings there, 2 Dec 1993 (SBK). [RS, rare KNP and at Ekondo Titi. Serle (1950) collected one at Kumba.]

Terpsiphone viridis Paradise Flycatcher. Two sightings at Baro, 2 Dec 1993 (SBK); one in southern KNP in dense forest, 14 Jan 1993 (AAG). All records to date have

been of white-tailed birds. [RS, uncommon in open areas in southern KPA and rare in the north.]

Picathartidae

Picathartes oreas Red-headed Rockfowl. New nest building noted on Cave Hill near Chimpanzee Camp, 8 Jun 1994 (AAG & JC). [RS, frequent, nesting Aug-Nov in appropriate habitat in KNP.]

Zosteropidae

Zosterops senegalensis Yellow White-eye. Common in farmland at Baro, Nov 1992 (SK). [RS, common Rumpi Hills, uncommon Mundemba, rare elsewhere in KPA.]

Nectariniidae

Nectarinia verticalis Green-headed Sunbird. Sightings in farmland at Baro in Nov 1992 (SK): first record for northern KNP. [RS, frequent at Mundemba, Nguti and in Rumpi Hills.]

N. rubescens Green-throated Sunbird. One in farmland at Baro, 23 Nov 1992: first record for northern KNP. [RS, rare in KPA, only at Mundemba. Serle (1965) and AAG found it abundant at Kumba and Limbe. Not recorded in Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Laniidae

**Lanius senator* Woodchat Shrike. PM. One in replanted area of Pamol Plantation, 28 Dec 1994 (JC).

**Laniarius leucorhynchus* Sooty Boubou. Rare, two in thicket in farmland near KNP entrance at Baro, 4 Apr 1993 (EW). [Few records for Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994), but recently recorded in Cross River National Park, across the border from KNP (Ash 1990).]

**Nicator vireo* Yellow-throated Nicator. Rare, one in primary forest of KNP near Baro, Nov 1994 (SJ). C. Chappius (pers. comm.) heard the call twice on a recording made by PGR in northern KNP, 17 Feb 1991. [Widespread in Cameroon (Louette 1981), unrecorded Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Oriolidae

Oriolus nigripennis Black-winged Oriole. Sightings at Baro, 29 Nov & 2 Dec 1993 (SBK), first records for north. [RS, rare in lowlands of southern KPA, common above 1000 m in Rumpi Hills.]

Ploceidae

Ploceus albimucha White-naped Weaver. Small flock in KNP near Baro, 23 Nov 1992 (SK). [RS, rare KNP, probably overlooked as tends to remain in forest canopy. Uncommon at Ikom, Nigeria, across the border from KNP (Elgood *et al.* 1994). Our race has no nuchal patch and resembles Vieillot's Black Weaver *P. nigerrimus*, which is RS common in KPA at villages and farms, not in dense forest.]

**Euplectes afer* Yellow-crowned Bishop. Rare KPA (absent KNP). Males in breeding plumage in tall marsh grass at Moko River Bridge 18 km south of Mundemba, 7 and 22 May 1994 (AAG). [Frequent outside KPA near Ekondo Titi and Kumba (AAG).]

Estrildidae

Mandingoa nitidula Green-backed Twinspot. Small flocks common in farmland at Baro, Nov 1992 (SK). [RS, rare KNP in village enclaves. More common in Rumpi Hills and at Nguti and Baro.]

Estrilda melpoda Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Flocks common in farmland at Baro, Nov 1992 (SK). [RS, abundant in KPA but previously unrecorded from Baro, and absent from small villages surrounded by forest.]

E. nomula Black-crowned Waxbill. Flocks common in farmland at Baro, Nov 1992 (SK). [RS, same comments as for *E. melpoda*.]

Recommendations for further studies

Areas near Mundemba and Baro have received considerable attention by ornithologists and bird watchers, but there are other interesting little studied areas. Lake Ejagham, the largest body of water in the KPA, may attract species rare or absent elsewhere. Further bird studies in the Rumpi Hills are recommended due to the conservation importance of this area to several montane forest bird species endemic to the highlands of southwest Cameroon, southeastern Nigeria, and Bioko (Rodewald *et al.* 1994). The western escarpment of the Rumpi Hills range plunges steeply for several hundred metres. Travelling west from the peaks, one can leave montane forest at over 1700 m and within 10 km reach lowland forest below 400 m elevation. This area is ideal for study of bird species composition with changing elevation and vegetative cover.

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