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Short Notes — Notes Courtes

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia chloropygia* host to Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*

On 3 November 1999, at Nguti, Korup Project Area, SW Cameroon (5°20'17.6"N, 9°25'8.3"E), we heard a short, thin, persistently uttered "seep" in a garden at a river's edge. After having tried to locate the source of the sound for some 10 min., we saw a small bird with conspicuous white outer tail feathers flying across an open area. It perched at a height of 3 m in a young tree (*Trema* sp.) at the edge of the riverine vegetation. We watched it from a distance of c. 10 m for 12 min., when its yellowish-green upperparts, olive-grey underparts, blackish tail with white outer feathers, and thin, black bill with pale edges to the gape allowed us to identify it as a juvenile Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*, a species with which both of us were familiar. It called constantly and fluttered its wings, begging for food. While we watched, a male Olive-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia chloropygia* came and fed it five times. A female Olive-bellied Sunbird appeared twice in the same tree, but did not feed the honeybird.

Cassin's Honeybird is known from Nguti (Rodewald *et al.* 1994), while Wahlberg's Honeybird *P. regulus camerunensis*, with which it could be confused in Cameroon, is only known from montane areas (Louette 1981, Fry *et al.* 1988). Juveniles of the latter also show entirely white outer tail feathers, but are brown, not yellowish-olive above and appear slightly larger (Fry *et al.* 1988).

This is apparently the first definite record of a sunbird being host to Cassin's Honeybird. Only flycatchers, warblers and white-eyes were hitherto recorded as hosts of the species, but sunbirds are known to be parasitized by its congeners Wahlberg's Honeybird and Eastern Green-backed Honeybird *P. zambesiae* (Fry *et al.* 1988).

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