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A NEW SPECIES OF MALIMBUS FROM SIERRA LEONE?

Sir,

I read with great interest G.D. Field's paper "A new species of *Malimbus* sighted in Sierra Leone and a review of the genus" (*Malimbus* 1, 1979: 2-13). But I regret that, in the absence of a type specimen, a new name *Ploceus (Malimbus) golensis* was published, accompanied by a description, that makes it valid. It is particularly unfortunate that the description of *Malimbus ballmanni* by Wolters (*Bonn. Zool. Beitr.* 25, 1974: 290-291; holotype in the collection of the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, collected by Dr P. Ballmann in south western Ivory Coast, 05°52'N, 07°28'W) was overlooked.

In spite of the absence of a photograph or a drawing of *Malimbus ballmanni*, the great similitude between the description of Ballmann's Malimbe and that given for the adult male of *Malimbus golensis* is evident: "Nape and hind-neck golden yellow with an orange wash, chest brilliant yellow with an orange wash, under tail-coverts vivid yellow" (free translation of Wolters). The Gola forest is situated in eastern Sierra Leone not very far (about 500 km) from the place where the type of *Malimbus ballmanni* was collected. Thus it appears that *golensis* should be relegated to the synonymy of *ballmanni*.

24 November 1980

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APPEAL FOR INFORMATION : PREDATION ON SCORPIONS

I would be most grateful to receive any information which readers may have on scorpion predation by raptors. Please send reports to:

John E. Newby, Consultant, World Wildlife Fund, Direction des Eaux et Forêts, B.P. 578, Niamey, Niger.

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Available gratis by application to C.H. Fry, Zoology Department, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB9 2TN, Scotland, U.K.

CORRECTION : RÜPPELL'S GRIFFON AT KOTORKOSHI

With reference to *Malimbus* 2 (1980) p. 102, last sentence of para. 2, the authors now consider that the chick was seven weeks old, not five; the laying date would thus have been about 29 November.