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NOTES

ON THE DIETS OF WARBLERS, WEAVERS AND OTHER GHANAIAN BIRDS - In a study of blood parasites, about 300 Ghanaian birds, mostly passerines, were collected during the dry seasons of 1972 and 1973 (Wink & Bennett, 1976, *J. Wildl. Disease* 12: 587-590). Since data on the diets of African species are often limited, their stomach contents were studied and are summarized here. Birds were caught with mist nets near Accra, Bunso and Yeji in February-April. Gizzard contents were analyzed usually within one to four hours after killing them. Since food was digested to some extent it was generally possible to identify items only to ordinal level.

About 220 birds of 31 species, which included two kingfishers, five bulbuls and thrushes, 12 warblers and seven weaver birds, were analyzed for their gizzard contents; the findings are summarized in Table 1. The diet of the two kingfisher species consisted of insects. Pied Crows *Corvus albus* had been feeding on waste near human settlements. Whereas the various bulbuls and thrushes had eaten insects as well as fruits, all of the warblers had consumed only insects. Among the weavers seeds predominated but the percentage of insects was quite substantial in some species (but diets might well differ at other seasons).

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Table 1 Stomach content of some Ghanaian birds

Species	Numbers of specimens*	Food (number of birds in parenthesis)	Locality
Chrysococcyx caprius	1	insects	Accra
Centropus senegalensis	1	60 mm locust	Accra
Ceyx picta	3	termites(1);moth(1);locust(1)	Accra
Halcyon senegalensis	3	locust(3);beetle(1)	Bunso
Pogoniulus scolopaceus	1	locust	Bunso
Corvus albus	10	fish(6);oil palm kernel(2);egg-shell(1);maize(1);mouse bones(1);silver paper(1)	Accra
Pycnonotus barbatus	5	beetles(1);gekko(1);bees(1)	Accra
Andropadus virens	12	ants(1);fruit kernels(3);flies(1)	Bunso
A. latirostris	2	fruit kernels(1)	Bunso
Turdus olivaceus	10	berries(2);acacia flowers(3);locusts(2)	Accra
Stizorhina fraseri	1	ants	Bunso
Camaroptera brachyura	18	locusts(3);butterflies(1);beetles(1);ants(4);caterpillar(1);fly(1)	Accra
C. chloronota	1	ants;snail eggs	Bunso
C. superciliaris	1	termites	Bunso
Cisticola lateralis	1	beetle	Bunso
C. cantans	3	ants(1);flies(2)	Accra
C. erythrops	1	beetle	Accra
Prinia subflava	1	beetle	Yeji
Hippolais pallida	2	beetles(1);ants(1);flies(2)	Yeji
H. polyglotta	2	flies(2)	Accra
Terpsiphone viridis	1	beetle;fly	Yeji
Nectarinia olivacea	1	small flies	Bunso
Zosterops senegalensis	4	small flies(2)	Accra
Passer griseus	40	acacia flowers(19);seeds(19);ants(5);caterpillar(1);beetles(5);sand grains(40)	Accra
Lagonosticta rufopicta	17	acacia seeds(6);grass seeds(7);ants(2)	Accra
Lonchura cucullata	4	sorghum seeds(1);acacia seeds(1);seeds(2)	Accra
Ploceus nigricollis	6	ants(4);acacia seeds(6)	Accra
P. nigerrimus	7	cockroach(1);locust(1);beetles(1);ants(1);*Papaya fruit*(1)	Bunso
P. heuglini	36	termites(1);ants(7);beetles (9);acacia seeds(15)	Accra
P. cucullatus	24	locust(1);acacia seeds(18);ants(4);beetles(5);termites(3);grass seeds(1)	Accra

* Empty gizzards discounted.