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February / février 2010

A PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST OF BIRDS IN THE KILIMI AREA OF NORTHWEST SIERRA LEONE

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Received 12 July 1982

In 1980, the government of Sierra Leone decided to create a national park in parts of Tambakha Chief dom, Bombali District, in the northwest corner of the country on the Guinea border. The proposed park, the nation's first, would unite two nearby but not contiguous game reserves: Outamba, 750 km^2 in size, and Kilimi, 250 km^2. These areas were selected because they contained some of the last sizeable populations of threatened or endangered animals in Sierra Leone, including among others chimpanzees, at least seven other primate species, and forest elephants. In addition, the Outamba-Kilimi area sits astride the catchment area of two of the country's largest rivers, the Great Scarcies (Kolenten) and the Little Scarcies (Kaba). It was hoped that by putting an end to swidden (slash and burn) farming and preserving the forests still left in the area, accelerated run-off during the rainy season could be avoided so that the 6,000 km^2 of prime agricultural land downstream from the proposed park would continue to get enough water during the dry season. As an additional benefit, siltation of the large rivers would be retarded and the freshwater fisheries, on which many Sierra Leoneans depend for protein, would be preserved.

Since that time, implementation of the decision to create a national park has proceeded at a measured pace, but at this writing, final government approval has yet to be granted. While the government as a whole favors the park and the conservation ideals which it represents, certain political realities have had to be confronted, chief among these being the resettlement and compensation of the several hundred farmers still living within the boundaries of the proposed park. Nevertheless, progress continues to be made, and it is hoped that Outamba-Kilimi will be formally designated a national park by the end of 1982 or early 1983.

To assist in planning for the proposed park, the authors were invited to undertake a survey of the large mammals in the Kilimi section, and spent from November 1981 to May 1982 in that task. While our previous field experience had involved mammals, and particularly primates, we have long maintained an enthusiastic interest in birds. Work done during the past twelve years in Kenya had already exposed us to many African birds, and we decided that during the Kilimi mammal survey we would try to identify as many of the birds we saw in the course of our work as possible.

Thus, while the checklist appendiced here is the result of serious fieldwork, it is by no means an exhaustive list of all the birds in the Kilimi section of the proposed park. Those familiar with the West African avifauna will note immediately that the list is long on large, conspicuous species and short on the smaller, cryptic ones. It will also be apparent that the area contains forest, savannah, and water birds. This is so because, although the Kilimi section is largely tall-grass savannah, small deciduous forests remain along stream valleys and hilltops, so that both forest and savannah species of the same genus can be found there (e.g.,

Centropus leucogaster and *C. senegalensis*). Finally, since the Great Scarcies (Kolenten) river forms the western boundary of the Kilimi area, water birds are numerous.

We do not doubt that a complete survey of the Kilimi section of the park would greatly extend the list we present here, and indeed, we hope that such a survey will take place during the next year, for the area is far richer ornithologically than our limited resources allowed us to document. Nevertheless, since this part of Sierra Leone is an unexplored area as far as birds are concerned, we hope this list will be of interest to ornithologists and of value to any eventual survey of the region.

For convenience and consistency, we have used the classification of Serle & Morel (1977).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Alan and Hilary Tye of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, for their help and encouragement. Nigel Wakeham of Freetown was most helpful with field identifications, and Dr Peter White and the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Njala University College provided greatly appreciated support. We are also grateful to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, especially to the Forestry Division and the headquarters and field staffs of the Wildlife Conservation Branch, who provided invaluable help during our stay in Sierra Leone. Finally, financial support from the Charles A. Lindbergh Fund, the National Geographic Society, and the World Wildlife Fund - US is gratefully acknowledged.

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APPENDIX 1. Annotated list of birds observed in the Kilimi section of the proposed Outamba-Kilimi National Park, Sierra Leone, November 1981-May 1982.

Species — Sequence and nomenclature follow Serle, Morel & Hartwig (1977).
Abundance — A, one or two sightings; B, frequent; C, common.
Nesting — * = nest recorded.
Month — Numerals indicate months when species observed.
Habitat — A, riparian; B, boliland (seasonally flooded grassland); C, swamp; D, deciduous forest; E, savanna; F, human habitation. X = habitat(s) in which observed.

SPECIES	ABUNDANCE NESTING	MONTH	HABITAT A B C D E F
Phalacrocorax africanus	C	12-5	X
Anhinga rufa	B	12-5	X
Ardeola ralloides	B	3-5	X X
A. ibis	B	12-5	X X
Butorides striatus	B	1-5	X
Egretta alba	B	1-5	X X
E. gularis	C	12-5	X

SPECIES	ABUNDANCE	NESTING	MONTH	HABITAT A	B	C	D	E	F
Ardea cinerea	B		12-5		X				
A. melanocephala	A		12-5		X				
A. purpurea	A		12		X				
Scopus umbretta	C	*	12-5	X	X		X		
Ciconia episcopus	B	*	1-5		X		X		
Bostrychia hagedash	C		1-5	X	X				
Plectropterus gambensis	B		12-5		X				
Pteronetta hartlaubii	A		1	X					
Gyps bengalensis	A		12	X					
Neophron monachus	B		1-5	X					
Gypohierax angolensis	C		12-5	X	X				
Circus macrourus	A		12		X				
C. aeruginosus	A		12		X				
Polyboroides radiatus	A		12					X	
Circaetus gallicus			12	X					
Kaupifalco monogrammicus	B		4-5					X	
Butastur rufipennis	B		3-5					X	
Buteo auguralis	B		12-5					X	
Lophaetus occipitalis	A		11		X				
Haliaetus vocifer	B	*	12-5	X					
Milvus migrans	B		12-5	X					X
Francolinus bicalcaratus	B		12-5					X	
Numida meleagris	B		1-5		X			X	
Podica senegalensis	B		12-5	X					
Neotis denhami	A		12-5					X	
Actophilornis africana	B		12-5	X					
Burhinus senegalensis	C		12-5	X					
Vanellus lugubris	B				X			X	
V. senegallus	B		4-5		X			X	
Charadrius dubius	A		12	X					
C. forbesi	B		4-5	X				X	
Tringa glareola	B		3-4	X					
T. hypoleucos	C		12-4	X					
T. totanus	A		1-2					X	
Pluvianus aegyptius	B		12-5	X					
Glareola nuchalis	B		4-5	X					
Streptopelia semitorquata	C		12-5				X	X	
S. vinacea	C		12-5	X				X	
Turtur tympanistria	B		3-5				X		
T. afer	B		3-5					X	
Treron australis	A		12-1					X	
Tauraco persa	C		12-5	X	X		X		
Corythaeola cristata	B		12-5	X					
Centropus leucogaster	A		5				X		
C. senegalensis	B		12-5					X	
Macrodipteryx longipennis	B		2-5				X		
Cypsiurus parvus	A		3					X	
Ceryle maxima	A		12-3	X					
C. rudis	B	*	12-5	X					
Alcedo quadribrachys	C		12-5	X					
A. cristata	A		12-5	X					

SPECIES	ABUNDANCE	NESTING	MONTH	HABITAT A	B	C	D	E	F
Halcyon malimbica	C		12-5	X					
H. chelicuti	B						X		
H. leucocephala	B		12-5				X		
Merops albicollis	A		4				X		
M. pusillus	A		5				X		
Coracias abyssinica	B		1-5				X		
C. cyanogaster	B		12-5				X		
Eurystomus glaucurus	B		3-5				X		
Phoeniculus purpureus	A		1				X		
Tockus nasutus	B		12-5	X	X		X		
T. fasciatus	B		12-5		X		X		
Lybius bidentatus	A		3-5						X
Dendrocopos obsoletus	B	*	2-5				X		
Mesopicos goertae	A		1-5			X			
Hirundo rustica	B		2-5				X		
H. nigrita	B		12-5	X					
H. smithii	A		1			X			
Motacilla flava	A		12	X					
M. aguimp	B		12-5	X					
Macronyx croceus	B		2-5				X		
Prionops plumata	C		12-5			X			
Dryoscopus gambensis	A		3-5				X		
Tchagra minuta	A		5				X		
T. senegala	B		12-5				X		
Laniarius turatii	B		1-5			X	X		
Malaconotus sulfureopectus	A		3-5				X		
Oriolus auratus	B		1-5			X	X		
Dicrurus adsimilis	B		12-5			X	X		
Onychognathus fulgidus	A		3			X			
Cinnyricinclus leucogaster	B		3-5				X	X	
Corvus albus	B		12-5				X		
Coracina pectoralis	A		3				X		
Pycnonotus barbatus	C		12-5			X	X	X	
Baeopogon indicator	A		5			X			
Nicator chloris	A		1			X			
Saxicola rubetra	B		3-5				X		
Stiphrornis erythrothorax	A		2			X			
Cossypha niveicapilla	B		2-5			X			
Malococincla cleaveri	B		1-5	X					
Phyllanthus atripennis	B		1-5			X			
Sphenoeacus mentalis	A	*	5				X		
Hippolais polyglotta	A		5				X		
Prinia subflava	B		5				X		
Camaroptera brachyura	C		12-5			X	X		
Eremomela pusilla	B		2-5				X		
Muscicapa cassini	B		5	X					
Fraseria cinerascens	A		2-3	X					
Melaenornis edolioides	B		12-5				X		
Bias musicus	A		3				X		
Batis senegalensis	B		3-5				X		
Platysteira cyanea	B		3-5			X			
Tersiphone rufiventer	B		1-5			X			
Tersiphone viridis	B		3-5			X			

SPECIES	ABUNDANCE NESTING	MONTH	HABITAT A	B	C	D	E	F
Salpornis spilonota	B	3-5					X	
Anthreptes gabonicus	B	3-5	X					
Nectarinia coccinigaster	B	5						X
Ploceus cucullatus	C	1-5					X	X
P. nigerrimus castaneofuscus	B	2-5					X	X
P. melanocephalus capitalis	B	4-5			X			
P. nigricollis brachypterus	B	5						X
Euplectes macrourus	B	4-5		X			X	
E. orix	A	11					X	
Vidua macroura	B	2					X	
V. funerea nigeriae	A	12					X	
V. orientalis	A	12					X	
Clytospiza dybowskii	B	3-5			X			
Lagonosticta senegala	C	12-5					X	X
L. rubricata	B	2-5				X	X	
Amandava subflava	B	4		X				
Lonchura cucullata	C	3-5					X	