



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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Ussher's Flycatcher : A New Bird for Nigeria. On 13th February, 1964, 1964, 3 or 4 dark flycatchers were seen 'hawking' in typical flycatcher fashion from the dead branches of tall mangroves about 10 miles north-west of the mouth of the Benin river and 1 mile inland - approximately on the border of Ondo and Delta Provinces. They were about the size of swallows, and the entire upperparts were unglorified dark brown or black. The underparts were uniformly dark, slightly lighter than the back. Bill and eye were dark, and the tail was slightly forked. The call was a quiet squeak. The birds were observed at about 25 yards, through 10 x 50 binoculars, and good views obtained.

The description closely fits Ussher's Flycatcher Artomyias ussheri, hitherto unrecorded from Nigeria. Bannerman (1953) gives the distribution of the species as Sierra Leona to Ghana, in forest. The Dusky Flycatcher A. fuliginosa, which has some pale markings below and does not have a forked tail, has a Lower Guinea distribution from Cameroun eastwards.

P.A.Smith

(Note - H.H.Gray has reported seeing five flycatchers thought to be A. ussheri at Utange, 28 miles east of Obudu town, on the edge of the Cameroun montane at an elevation of 1,500 ft., on 5th August, 1965. This locality could fall within the range of A. fuliginosa, and it seems advisable to await further confirmation. -Editor).

Preliminary Notice of the Bambara Cliff-Chat in Nigeria. H.H.Gray has sent notice of the very interesting observation of two males and a female Bambara Cliff-Chat Thamnodea cinnamomeiventris, found at 3 000 ft on the approach road to the Obudu Plateau on 4th June, 1966. He has already recorded the presence of White-crowned Cliff-Chats T. coronata at Obudu (1965, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 (7) : 83), and in fact saw the latter species again on the present occasion, at 4 200 ft. T. cinnamomeiventris, which has been regarded as a race of T. coronata, is known only in two races from two localities near 'the bend of the Niger' in French Sudan, and it is of particular interest that T. cinnamomeiventris and coronata have been found together in this new locality. An attempt will be made to collect specimens in the anticipated Cameroons expedition (see below). Editor.

N O T I C E S

Members will be pleased to learn that Mr and Mrs V.W.Smith have successfully completed their arduous crossing of the Sahara noticed in the last Bulletin (p. 16). They stayed at and netted migrant birds at Tamarasset, and later met up with with French and British