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En réalité, le gros de la population hiverne bien plus au sud, au-delà de la Gambie et de la Casamance. En effet, Hopkinson (*in Bannerman, 1931*) l'avait déjà observée remonter vers le nord à travers le territoire gambien en février; de même que Taufflieb (*in Morel & Roux, 1973*) à la frontière gambienne. Dans la région de Kédougou, G. J. Morel l'a encore observée du 10 au 20 mars. Enfin, M. Gore, 1978 (*G.O.S. Newsletter No. 17*), l'a aussi observée par millions (!) en mars en Gambie.

Cette espèce ne figure pas dans le catalogue des oiseaux de Guinée portugaise (*Frade & Bacelar, 1955*) ni dans la liste de Côte d'Ivoire (*Brunel & Thiollay, 1969*).

Le départ de migration pré-nuptiale est très étalé, puisque fin mars Morel & Roux ont capturé des sujets prêts à migrer (mue achevée, embonpoint maximal) tandis qu'un mois plus tard ils prenaient encore des tourterelles en mue et aux réserves lipidiques incomplètes.

Nous perdons donc toute trace de cette tourterelle au sud de la Gambie, fait surprenant pour un oiseau de cette taille et de cette abondance. Il est vrai que les régions situées au sud du Sénégal sont encore insuffisamment explorées.

Toutes les observations ou remarques concernant les quartiers d'hivernage de cette espèce au sud du Sénégal seront donc les bienvenues.

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BARN OWL MOVEMENT - This observation will be published in French ringing reports, but is felt to be worth repeating here. A Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, ringed in December 1975 in the Senegal delta 16°10'N, 16°18'W, was in March 1978 removed from a school roof (where it had taken up residence and was disturbing the children) at Njala, Sierra Leone 8°06'N, 12°04'W. The bird was released, the ring being removed and sent to me. This movement represents a straight line distance of some 640 miles (1,000 km) and, more important, a change of vegetation from the borders of the desert to the forest zone

(nowadays mainly farm bush and forest regrowth). I can find no suggestions that African Barn Owls are migratory, although clearly such a cosmopolitan species, which has successfully colonised so many remote islands, must have a tendency to wander. But Sierra Leone has its own Barn Owl populations; why should a Senegal bird move so far and to so different a vegetational and climatic environment?

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HYPOCHERA LORENZI IN GHANA - On 16 February 1973 I observed a whydah in a garden near Accra, Ghana; it was associating with a flock of 15 Bar-breasted Fire-finches *Lagonosticta rufopicta* and I managed to net it. It was identified as *Hypochera lorenzi* Nicolai, a first year female moulting the breast feathers, and the following measurements were taken: weight 12 g, wing 65 mm, tail 37 mm, tarsus 17 mm, bill length 9 mm, bill breadth 45 mm, bill depth 6 mm.

H. lorenzi was discovered in Nigeria by Nicolai (1972) only recently, and was found to parasitize the Bar-breasted Fire-finch. As its host is distributed from Gambia to Uganda, it is possible that *H. lorenzi* is distributed likewise; but mine is only the second locality record of this species.

No ectoparasites nor blood parasites could be demonstrated from this specimen (Wink 1976), which is deposited in the collection of the Zoological Research Institute and Museum A. Koenig, Bonn.

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DOWITCHER IN THE GAMBIA - On 23 December 1978 during a weekly count of waders on a small mangrove-fringed tidal inlet 4 km north of Fajara on the coast of The Gambia, a long-billed wader was seen standing amongst five Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* which were probing into the wet mud at the edge of the lagoon. The wader was about half the body size of the godwits and short legged, although its bill was long and snipe-like. It was not observed to feed, but when it walked the bird appeared almost ridiculously short-legged compared to the godwits. It had a glossy chestnut head and neck, and especially breast and belly, clearly distinguishing it from Snipe