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### **Buff-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia adelberti* and Fire-bellied Woodpecker *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster* in Cameroon**

These observations were made during a brief cross-border trip from Nigeria to a corner of Cameroon which appears to have been neglected ornithologically, due to its remoteness and poor road access from the rest of the country.

On 3 Jan 1996 I found Buff-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia adelberti* to be common in Ekok (5°47'N, 8°52'E), a village on the border with Nigeria. I had seen it previously in Nigeria, including in the immediately preceding days; the contrast between the creamy throat and the dark brown of the rest of the plumage of the males was highly distinctive. I did not observe the similar Green-throated Sunbird *N. rubescens* there. Dowsett (1993) considered that the occurrence of *N. adelberti* in Cameroon required proof. The eastern limit of its range and the western limit of *N. rubescens* both run close to the southern section of the Nigeria-Cameroon border; this observation of mine, plus the fact that there are no records of *N. rubescens* in neighbouring parts of Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994), suggests that at this latitude, the range limits of the two species run just to the east of the border.

Also on 3 Jan 1996, I had good views of an adult male Fire-bellied Woodpecker *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*, in large forest trees left standing in a farm on the outskirts of Ekok. The red rump and crown, and dramatic black and white face pattern, were together diagnostic. Dowsett accepts this species for the Cameroon list, although Fry *et al.* (1988) expressed doubt concerning the two records known to them. Green & Rodewald (1996), found it at Baro, on the east of Korup National Park, in 1993, and it also occurs at Okwangwo, in Cross River N.P., Nigeria (A.A. Green *in litt.*). My observation falls midway between these two areas.

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### **A wet season record of Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* from Togo**

In their recently published annotated checklist Cheke & Walsh (1996) mention only one record of Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* from Togo. This record, from Kpani (10°16'N, 0°22'E), Feb, led the authors to assume that the species is a dry season visitor to the north of the country. This would be consistent with the few published records, all from the dry season, from neighbouring Benin (one record of a few birds along the Pendjari, Apr; Thonnerieux 1985) and Ghana (four records: Tumu (10°55'N, 1°59'W), Bolgatanga (10°48'N, 0°53'W) and two non-specified localities in 'the far north', Jan-Feb; Grimes 1987), where the status of the species is equally uncertain. In Nigeria, the most southerly records, from Zaria (11°3'N, 7°42'E) and Kainji National Park (10°0'N, 4°0'E), are also from the dry season only, indicating short distance migration (Elgood *et al.* 1994). Other southern records from the sub-region are from northern Ivory Coast (one record, Ouangolodougou (9°56'N, 5°11'W), dry season; Thiollay 1985) and Cameroon (seven collected at Yagoua (10°20'N, 15°14'E), Nov; Louette 1981). There is only a single record from the rainy season, albeit from the end of it, from Léré, Chad (9°39'N, 14°13'E), 13 Oct 1972 (Chappuis pers. comm.), where the rains are expected to end in November (Salvan 1967). It thus appears that in West Africa the species reaches its southernmost limits around 10°N and that it normally only does so during the dry season.

It may therefore be of interest that on 9 July 1979 I observed an adult male Cut-throat in the Parc National de la Kéran, northern Togo (10°13'N, 0°43'E), a locality close to the one cited by Cheke & Walsh (1996). The bird was seen on the ground and on low vegetation in an area of bare soil near the main road running through the park. This sighting apparently constitutes the most southerly record from West Africa made during the height of the rainy season.

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