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Short Notes — Notes Courtes

First record of Scaly-fronted Warbler *Spiloptila clamans* in Cameroon

On 21 December 1996, in an area of dry, open scrub c. 65 km north of Maroua, northern Cameroon (14°9'0"N, 11°2'24"E), Jürgen Lehnert drew attention to a party of six small passerines that were flitting from bush to bush. They were identified as Scaly-fronted Warblers *Spiloptila clamans* by their small size, buffy-brown backs, black and white foreheads and wing coverts, and very mobile tails with white tips and black subterminal bands. Nik Borrow, a member of the party, was familiar with this species in Senegal. This record, which has already been briefly mentioned but not fully documented by Robertson (1996) and Urban *et al.* (1997), is the first for the species in Cameroon.

I thank Nik Borrow for his valuable comments and companionship.

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Received 12 October 1998

Revised 6 May 1999

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Perrin's Bush-Shrike *Telophorus viridis*, new to Gabon

Perrin's Bush-Shrike *Telophorus viridis* is found in dense habitats, from coastal thickets and overgrown clearings to montane forests, from extreme southern coastal Congo-Brazzaville at Pointe Noire south through SW and south-central Congo-Kinshasa, NW Zambia to central Angola (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1963, Dowsett & Forbes-Watson 1993, Dowsett-Lemaire *et al.* 1993). We saw a male of this species in April 1995 on the Bateke Plateau east of Leconi in SE Gabon. This is the first known sighting of this species for Gabon.

The bird was heard singing naturally from a dense thicket at the edge of an isolated forest patch in the grassland that covers the Plateau. We made tape recordings of its natural song, as well as calls given in response to playback of its own song. These recordings are archived at the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

The bird continued to sing as it was approached. In response to playback of its own song, it continued giving the same song, but it did not move and stayed low in the dense thicket. After continuing to call for 20 min., it moved to another location, still staying low in the densest part of the thicket. At this time, in response to playback, it moved to a height of 5 m in a small tree in the thicket and continued to sing from that perch for 10 min., looking around aggressively before flying back down into the dense bushes.

The individual, which was seen very well, had the top of the head to the upper tail-coverts green, with wing-coverts and edges of the flight feathers also green. The tail was black. The throat was scarlet, with a wide black breast-band and, below that, a narrower scarlet band. The belly was a paler green and the under tail-coverts bright maroon.

Many thanks to Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire, Stuart Keith, Mary LeCroy, R. Ranft, and D.A. Turner for their comments.

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Received 31 December 1998

Revised 16 January 1999

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First Nigerian record of Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis*, and other notable records from SE Nigeria

During widespread field expeditions in the mangrove areas of Cross River estuary and the lowland rain forests of Oban Hills, from 1984–90, we collected information about the region's avifauna. Some of these observations refer to species that hitherto have not been recorded in SE Nigeria, and one, the Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis*, is new for the country. In the following accounts, the status of these species as given by Elgood et al. (1994) is cited in brackets at the end of each account.