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l'unique observation de *J. Trotignon* ainsi que ses commentaires sur l'absence de données pour la Mauritanie.

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### First observations on the territorial song and display of the Kupe Bush Shrike *Malaconotus kupeensis*

The Kupe Bush Shrike *Malaconotus kupeensis* was discovered on Mt Kupe in western Cameroon in 1949 (Serle 1951) and, given the exiguity of its range, is considered Critically Endangered (Collar *et al.* 1994). Its presence was, however, recently confirmed from the nearby Bakossi Mts, where the area of suitable forest is about eight times that on Kupe (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 1998). Despite the increase in ornithological activity on Kupe in the 1990s associated with the Mt Kupe Forest Project, only 20–30 ornithologists have seen the bird and almost nothing is known of its biology and behaviour. Two types of vocalization have been described: a series of three whistles (noted by the collector, Serle 1951) and a quiet, “continuous insect-like grating” (Bowden & Andrews 1994). The whistles are clearly detached and ascend in pitch, they also sound somewhat out of tune (I. Faucher pers. comm.). This type of call seems to be given very rarely: S.M. Andrews and P. Hayman, who studied the bird for several months on Kupe in 1990, heard it only a couple of times (S.M. Andrews pers. comm.). I. Faucher heard one individual whistle persistently for two days near Edib (Bakossi) in late Mar 1998, but the bird had shut up by the time I visited the area about 12 days later.

On 9 Apr 1998 I saw a Kupe Bush Shrike in a mixed bird party in primary forest in the Bakossi Mts, along the path from Edib to Messaka (4°57'N, 9°39'E) at 1150–1200 m. The bird was followed on and off from 10h30 to 13h00, when heavy rain interrupted the observation. The party consisted of noisy groups of White-throated Mountain Babbler *Kupeornis gilberti* and Grey-headed Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*, with also Elliot's Woodpecker *Mesopicos elliotii*, Xavier's Greenbul *P. xavieri*, Black-capped Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus herberti*, Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*, Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*, Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya concreta*, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*, Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis* and Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*. The Kupe Bush Shrike (apparently a male, with thin black line between throat and breast, and bright yellow vent, as described by S.M. Andrews pers. comm. and unpubl.) joined the party shortly after it started to get going, flying into the middle of it in the mid-stratum and starting to call immediately, a loud, babbler-like short introductory chatter (*thec-thec, kh-kh-kh*) followed by 3–4 *tchrraa-tchrraa-tchrraa*, repeated at the rate of two *tchrraa* per s. Several of these spontaneous songs were tape-recorded and one then played back: the bird responded by flying over the observer noisily snapping its wings like a big puffback *Dryoscopus* sp.. It then sang again several times, at first starting to sing just before landing and later more leisurely, when feeding in the mid-stratum. In reaction to playback, the introductory chatter was faster and the series of *tchrraa* longer and louder, up to 21 in a row. After 10 min. of silence, a brief tape playback was answered in the same manner, then the bird sang intermittently while moving up the escarpment with the party. Tape playback was tried again at 11h20 with similar results, after which the party started to dissolve away from the path. The bush shrike was lost, but after 40 min. of silence, tape playback again brought the bird overhead, wing-beating and calling. When R.J. Dowsett joined me at 13h00, the procedure was repeated once more, bringing the bird back from some distance away on the hill in less than 10 s. It flew noisily overhead and sang a faster series of 25 *tchrraa* (three per s) and another of 29 notes. At all times the bird was difficult to see as it moved in dense foliage in the mid-stratum (usually above 10 m). A territorial meaning of this type of song is suggested from the reactions to playback, as already suspected when R.J. Dowsett and I heard two birds call repeatedly to each other (this same vocalization) on Kupe (950 m, 31 Mar 1997) for more than 10 min. Those two were hidden in thick vegetation just above 10 m high and were about 20 m apart. Eventually one bird (which was never seen) stopped and the other emerged from the thicket, called a few more times (it was also apparently a male) before starting to look for food. More recently, in Mar 1999, N. Borrow (pers. comm.) was able to call up a Kupe Bush Shrike at Kupe by playing a copy of my tape: it responded with similar vocalizations.

It is odd that such loud vocalizations had not been reported previously for this species, whereas the quiet, insect-like gratings mentioned by Bowden & Andrews (1994) were never heard by me in some 3 h of direct observation. Another noteworthy

aspect of Kupe Bush Shrike behaviour is the wing-beats of angry birds (produced in series of 4–6), as it is possible this has never been recorded previously in a *Malaconotus* shrike, whereas it is frequently seen in *Dryoscopus* species of the same family. I have never managed to provoke a wing-beat display during prolonged playback experiments with Green-breasted Bush Shrike *M. gladiator*, Fiery-breasted Bush Shrike *M. cruentus* nor Many-coloured Bush Shrike *M. multicolor*. Harris & Arnott (1988), report a “wing-fripping” display in Grey-headed Bush Shrike *M. blanchoti*: but this is a different type of wing-noise (more fluttery; T. Harris pers. comm.) given apparently as a courtship display.

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### New tape recordings of three West African birds

Based on observations in Comoé National Park, Ivory Coast, we describe here some calls of three common bird species, which are apparently unknown or have never been recorded before, and comment on their possible function. We present sonograms and oscillograms of these calls and measurements of the most important acoustic features.

***Ardea goliath* Goliath Heron.** A “song” of a Goliath Heron was recorded on 3 Apr 1996. It contained one deep *krooo* call followed by 5–7 deep grunts (total duration  $3.2 \pm 0.3$  s,  $n=2$ , Fig. 1). The *krooo* calls had an average ( $n=2$ ) of  $219 \pm 18$  ms and a