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Notable bird observations from Nigeria, including the first records of Spot-breasted Ibis *Bostrychia rara* and Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*

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Summary

Based on field work carried out in SE Nigeria in 1988 and especially in 1997, we document two species new to Nigeria (Spot-breasted Ibis *Bostrychia rara* and Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*) and 68 species that are rarely, if at all, reported from the area mentioned.

Résumé

Nouvelles données sur l'avifaune du Nigeria, avec les premières mentions de l'Ibis vermiculé *Bostrychia rara* et de la Nasique jaune *Macrosphenus flavicans*. Des données sont présentées sur deux espèces nouvelles pour le Nigeria (l'Ibis vermiculé *Bostrychia rara* et la Nasique jaune *Macrosphenus flavicans*) et 68 autres qui ont été rarement ou pas du tout, signalées de la zone mentionnée. Ces données résultent principalement d'observations effectuées dans le sud-est du pays en 1988 et en particulier en 1997.

Introduction

This note presents observations of two bird species that are new to Nigeria and 72 species that are either rarely recorded in the country or for which there are few, if any, records from the area where we recorded them, according to the most recent Nigerian checklist (Elgood *et al.* 1994). They were mainly made during field surveys conducted in 1997 for the Important Bird Areas in Nigeria Project (RD). Records from the Nigerian Conservation Foundation expedition to eastern Nigeria in 1988 (RJD & FDL) are also included if they were not mentioned by Ash *et al.* (1989) or were not adequately taken into account by Elgood *et al.* (1994). Some additional records, subsequently received from M. Hopkins, are also included. Records that are

not our own are followed by the observer's name in parentheses. Formerly known status is summarised in square brackets.

Abbreviations used are: FR = Forest Reserve; IITA = International Institute of Tropical Agriculture; NP = National Park. Taxonomic sequence and species names follow Borrow & Demey (2001). Most localities mentioned are included in the gazetteers in one or more of Ash & Dowsett-Lemaire (1989), Elgood *et al.* (1994) and Zealor (2001); coordinates for others are given herein.

Results

Ardeidae

Tigriornis leucolophus White-crested Tiger Heron. One near a forest stream, Afi River FR, 9 Dec 1997; one on Ebe river, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 10 Apr 1988. [Uncommon to rare (Elgood *et al.* (1994).]

Threskiornithidae

Bostrychia rara Spot-breasted Ibis [*B. olivacea* Olive Ibis]. A calling ibis flew overhead by a stream in dense forest at 19h00, in Cross River NP, Oban Division, 14 Apr 1988. When tapes of both species later became available, it was clear that what was heard was *B. rara*. This is much the commoner species in neighbouring Cameroon, and in view of the difficulty of getting the good views needed to separate the two visually and the fact that no tape-recordings of *B. rara* were available until recently, we believe records of *B. olivacea* from SE Nigeria are in need of confirmation and that only *B. rara* should be accepted on the Nigerian list (cf. Elgood *et al.* 1994).

Accipitridae

Macheiramphus alcinus Bat Hawk. One, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 12 Dec 1997. [Few Nigerian records.]

Dryotriorchis spectabilis Congo Serpent Eagle. One at forest edge, Upper Orashi FR, Niger Delta, 17 Feb 1997. [Rare (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Accipiter castanilius Chestnut-flanked Sparrowhawk. One seen well on the Ikpan river near Ekonganaku, Ikpan, 8 Apr 1988. [Four records (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Urotriorchis macrourus Long-tailed Hawk. Two, IITA, Ibadan, 17 Dec 1997; two, Afi River FR, 5 Dec 1997; one, Cross River NP, Oban Division, beyond Ekonganaku, 11 Apr 1988, one. [Few recent records.]

Hieraetus ayresii Ayres's Hawk Eagle. One flying over, Atteh, c. 10 km northwest of Buru (7°1'N, 10°53'E), Taraba State, 8 Jan 1999 (M. Hopkins). The sightings from the Mambilla Plateau, mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994), included a single at Leinde Fadali, 25 Mar 1988, and a displaying pair, 26 Mar 1988 (Ash *et al.* 1989). [Few Nigerian records.]

Spizaetus africanus Cassin's Hawk Eagle. One, Obiafu, Niger Delta (5°25'N, 6°35'E), 15 Feb 1997; a pair, Afi River FR, 7 Dec 1997. [Few Nigerian records (see Elgood *et al.* 1994); common in neighbouring Cameroon.]

Rallidae

Himantornis haematopus Nkulengu Rail. Two pairs duetting near a forest stream just before dawn, Afi River FR, 6–9 Dec 1997. Although Elgood *et al.* (1994) mention only two records, there are two other published records (Ash *et al.* 1989).

Canirallus oculus Grey-throated Rail. One seen well at a small stream crossing a forest track, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 13 Dec 1997. [Only two old undated records and a possible sighting in Omo Forest, 1987 (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Jacanidae

Microparra capensis Lesser Jacana. Up to 100, with > 60 at a single site, Hadejia-Nguru wetlands, 19 Mar 1997. [A relatively high concentration of this uncommon resident.]

Charadriidae

Vanellus superciliosus Brown-chested Wattled Plover. A nest containing one egg was found on a bare, burnt field next to the Sanga river, and two pairs observed, Sanga River FR, 15 Mar 1997. This is the same area from which Wilkinson *et al.* (1988, 1989) reported a nest with four eggs on 20 February 1987 and recorded a bird on a second site. [Few nests of this species have ever been found, all in Nigeria, although parents with young were seen in Cameroon at Ngaoundaba, 25 Mar 1997, and at Mayo Darlé, 6 Apr 1999 (Demey 1997, 1999), and two pairs behaved as if nesting at Bamendjing reservoir, 1 Mar 1998 (RJD & FDL).]

Scolopacidae

Calidris temminckii Temminck's Stint. One, IITA, Ibadan, 13 Nov 1997. [Few records from S Nigeria.]

Laridae

Larus ridibundus Black-headed Gull. First-winter bird, IITA, Ibadan, 16–18 Dec 1997. Two reported to have been present during previous days. [No records south of Kainji (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Columbidae

Columba iriditorques Western Bronze-naped Pigeon. Two heard singing and one female seen, Afi River FR, 7 Dec 1997. [Not previously recorded from E Nigeria but “easily overlooked unless voice is known” and “may well occur right across the country” (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Cuculidae

Cercococcyx mechowi Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo. Two singing, Afi River FR, 9 Dec 1997. [Few recent records.]

Cercococcyx olivinus Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo. Up to three heard singing daily and one seen, Afi River FR, 4–9 Dec 1997. Easternmost records for Nigeria. [Uncommon from Ipake to Owerri (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Strigidae

Bubo poensis Fraser's Eagle Owl. One singing, Afi River FR, 6 Dec 1997. [Rarely recorded in Nigeria.]

Caprimulgidae

Caprimulgus nigriscapularis Black-shouldered Nightjar. One singing in savanna

woodland, Serti area, 9 Mar 1988; one singing, Obudu Plateau, 2 Apr 1988. ["Secondary growth in the forest zone" (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Apodidae

Telacanthura melanopygia Black Spinetail. Three foraging over forest with a few European Swifts *Apus apus* and Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica*, Afi River FR, 7 Dec 1997. [Rare vagrant and no records in the east (Elgood *et al.* (1994).)]

Apus batesi Bates's Swift. At least two flying over farmland at forest edges, with a few Square-tailed Saw-wings *Psalidoprocne nitens*, Afi River FR, 6 Dec 1997; ten in Ikpan Block, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 8 Apr 1988 (Ash *et al.* 1989). [Recent records from the SE suggest it may have been overlooked previously (Elgood *et al.* 1994). Their records from Kagoro probably require proof, as they are a long distance from Guineo-Congolian forest.]

Apus horus Horus Swift. One with a mixed flock of Apodidae and Hirundinidae (including 50 Little Swifts *Apus affinis*), Dumbi, 20 km south of Zaria, 11 Mar 1997. [Elgood *et al.* (1994) only accept recent records from the Mambilla and Obudu areas, 1985, while stating that it may have been overlooked.]

Trogonidae

Apaloderma aequatoriale Bare-cheeked Trogon. A singing bird seen and tape-recorded, in formerly-logged forest, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 14 Dec 1997. [The few records for Nigeria, Nov 1971 and Apr 1988, are from this area (Ash *et al.* 1989), reportedly in primary forest (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Bucerotidae

Ceratogymna atrata Black-casqued Hornbill. Common in Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997. [Rare, except in Okomu FR (Elgood *et al.* (1994).)]

Ceratogymna elata Yellow-casqued Hornbill. Frequent, Afi River FR, Dec 1997, and Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997, as in neighbouring Cameroon. [Mainly rare (Elgood *et al.* 1994). Near-threatened (BirdLife International 2000).]

Capitonidae

Gymnobucco peli Bristle-nosed Barbet. At least 20 at different sites, Afi River FR, 6–9 Dec 1997; at least six, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 15 Dec 1997. [Overlooked (Elgood *et al.* 1994) due to resemblance with Naked-faced Barbet *G. calvus*.]

Indicatoridae

Melichneutes robustus Lyre-tailed Honeyguide. One or two heard displaying, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 15 Dec 1997. First record for the park. [Rarely recorded, nearest locality Calabar (Elgood *et al.* 1994). Two of the four localities mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994), Owerri (Bannerman 1951) and Umuagwu (Marchant 1953), refer in fact to the same record, from Umuagwu (Marchant 1953).]

Indicator maculatus Spotted Honeyguide. One, Afi River FR, 8 Dec 1997; one, Cross River NP, Okwango Division, 3 Dec 1997. Both in mixed-species flocks. [Five records (Elgood *et al.* (1994).)]

Picidae

Jynx torquilla Eurasian Wryneck. One in savanna near the Obudu Ranch Hotel, Obudu Plateau, 10 Dec 1997. [Uncommon north of the Niger and Benue rivers, rare further south (Elgood *et al.* 1994, Künzel & Künzel 1999).]

Campethera cailliautii Green-backed Woodpecker. One, Afi River FR, 9 Dec 1997. [No records from extreme SE (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Hirundinidae

[*Psalidoprocne fuliginosa* Mountain Saw-wing]. At least four hirundines matching the description of this species were seen at Ngel Nyaki, Mambilla Plateau, 3 Mar 1997, above the montane forest in the company of a dozen Black Saw-wings *P. pristoptera petiti*. They were dull blackish-brown with a slightly forked tail, which appeared square or even rounded when spread; underwing-coverts were paler and greyer brown; distinctly browner and less slender than *P. p. petiti*. *P. fuliginosa* was accepted on the Nigerian list by Elgood *et al.* (1994) and subsequently listed by Ezealor (2001), on the basis of sightings on the Obudu Plateau, although Elgood *et al.* remark that “confusion with *P. p. petiti* cannot be ruled out”; in fact confusion is only likely with the juvenile of the latter. No breeding dates of *P. p. petiti* have been reported from Nigeria, but in Cameroon nests have been found in Apr, Jun and Oct (Serle 1950); juveniles may therefore be expected at almost any time of year. In view of the identification problems presented by this species, the sightings from Ngel Nyaki are best considered as requiring proof, as is the species’ occurrence in Nigeria.

Motacillidae

Anthus similis Long-billed Pipit. Not uncommon on Obudu Plateau (Ash 1990), although Elgood *et al.* (1994) mention only a single specimen, attributed to race *bannermani*, for that site. In Apr 1988 its song was found to be identical to that of other populations, confirming that this population is not specifically distinct (Sibley & Monroe 1990) from *A. similis* (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 1993).

Pycnonotidae

Andropadus curvirostris Cameroon Sombre Greenbul. One singing, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 15 Dec 1997. [No records east of Owerri (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Calyptocichla serina Golden Greenbul. One, Cross River NP, Okwango Division, 3 Dec 1997. [Only four localities, the nearest being Calabar (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Baeopogon clamans Sjöstedt’s Honeyguide Greenbul. Frequent, Afi River FR, Dec 1997 (new locality); observed in Cross River NP, Oban Division, Dec 1997. [The only previous sightings were from Oban Hills (Ash *et al.* 1989).]

Bleda canicapilla Grey-headed Bristlebill. One in remnant forest, Ayu Hills, Kaduna State (9°19’N 8°34’E), 25 Sep 1999 (M. Hopkins). [Only previous site in N Nigeria is Kagoro, c. 30 km to the northwest (Dyer *et al.* 1986).]

Criniger chloronotus Eastern Bearded Greenbul. Frequent, Afi River FR and Cross River NP, Oban Division, Dec 1997. [Known only from two specimens collected in Oban forest, 1981 (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Criniger ndussumensis White-bearded Greenbul. Frequent in mixed-species flocks with Red-tailed Greenbul *C. calurus*, Afi River FR, Dec 1997, and Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997, where calling birds were observed and tape-recorded. [Listed by Ezealor (2001) for other localities, west to Ibadan, but the difficulty of separating it from *C. calurus* means these records need confirmation. The only certain reports at present are those where the species is distinguished by voice.]

Turdidae

Stiphrorornis erythrothorax Forest Robin. Common, Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997. [Elgood *et al.* (1994) report it from Lagos to Owerri, but recorded further east, to Calabar (Mackenzie 1979).]

Stizorhina fraseri Rufous Flycatcher Thrush. Several, Afi River FR, Dec 1997, and Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997. Birds in Oban appear to be hybrids, the tempo of song phrases being intermediate between those of *fraseri* and *finschi* (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 1993). [Elgood *et al.* (1994) mention only two records from Oban Hills, although previously reported from the Calabar area by Mackenzie (1979). Ezealor (2001) treats *fraseri* and *finschi* as one species. Records from Biseni would probably be of *finschi*.]

Oenanthe heuglini Red-breasted Wheatear. Frequent in grassy highlands near Selbe (7°17'N, 11°8'E), Gashaka-Gumti NP, 28 Feb to 1 Mar 1997. Recorded from Mambilla, Chappal Waddi, Gangirwal and Yelwa, Mar 1988, and the Obudu Plateau, Apr 1988. [Seasonally not uncommon north of the Niger and Benue rivers (Elgood *et al.* 1994); the single southern record (Obudu town, Nov), requires substantiation.]

Sylviidae

Prinia leucopogon White-chinned Prinia. A pair Gashaka-Gumti NP, 28 Feb 1997. [Fourth record for Nigeria (cf. Elgood *et al.* 1994, Robertson 1995).]

Apalis rufogularis Buff-throated Apalis. Female in remnant forest, Ayu Hills, Kaduna State, 25 Sep 1999 (M. Hopkins). [Second site in northern Nigeria (Dyer *et al.* 1986).]

Apalis nigriceps Black-capped Apalis. One, Afi River FR, 8 Dec 1997; a pair, Cross River NP, Okwango Division, 3 Dec 1997. [Only two confirmed localities (Sapoba and Okomu) (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Camaroptera chloronota Olive-green Camaroptera. Singing birds recorded at following localities in 1997: Ibadan (IITA, Nov–Dec), the Niger Delta (Obiafu and Upper Orashi area, Feb), Afi River FR (Dec) and Cross River NP, Oban Division (Dec). [Eight localities (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Macrosphenus flavicans Yellow Longbill. Seen and heard at Ikpan Block and Oban West, Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988; at least three, 13–14 Dec 1997. The tape-recorded song of one individual, whose bright olive-yellow underparts were observed, consists of a series of 7–10 clear, detached whistles, descending in scale and slightly accelerating at the end, reminiscent of the song of *Alethe poliocephala*, but softer. Elgood *et al.* (1994) stated that the species was probably not uncommon in forest east of the lower Niger, with two collected in the Owerri area (Umuagwu and Ohoba (4°58'S, 6°51'E): Marchant 1953). However, Marchant attributed these to *M.*

kempi flammeus and there appears to be no valid specimen of *M. flavicans* from Nigeria. The error may have arisen through confusion between *M. f. flavicans*, the race occurring in Nigeria, and *M. k. flammeus*, as Elgood *et al.* (1994) list "*M. flavicans flammeus*". Urban *et al.* (1997) were therefore correct in not mapping *M. flavicans* in Nigeria. Our records are therefore the first for Nigeria.

Macrosphenus kempi Kemp's Longbill. One seen and tape-recorded, Afi River FR, 9 Dec 1997. [No records from the east in Elgood *et al.* (1994), but race *flammeus* stated to occur in SE Nigeria (Urban *et al.* 1997), as discussed above.]

Sylvietta denti Lemon-bellied Crombec. One at forest edge, Afi River FR, 6 Dec 1997. Not "indistinguishable in the field from *S. virens* (especially *S. v. flaviventris*)" and does not occur in undergrowth, as stated by Elgood *et al.* (1994). *S. denti* lacks the distinct pale supercilium of Green Crombec *S. v. flaviventris* and occurs in canopy or mid-stratum, whereas *S. virens* is mainly in undergrowth in secondary situations, and at forest edge. The two species also have very dissimilar vocalisations. [Only three records and may be overlooked (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Muscicapidae

Muscicapa striata Spotted Flycatcher. Four, Gashaka, 24 Feb 1997; one at forest edge, Oban, 12 Dec 1997. Apparently may over-winter. Also recorded from Mambilla, Chappal Waddi, Leinde Fadali and Obudu, Mar–Apr 1988. [Known from Serti (Hall 1977) and Calabar (Mackenzie 1979); few records from the SE and only on passage Elgood *et al.* (1994).]

Muscicapa adusta Dusky Flycatcher. One at 1200 m, Obudu Plateau, 4 Apr 1988. Mambilla Plateau: at least eight, Chappal Waddi, 20–24 Mar 1988; six, Leinde Fadali, 25–27 Mar 1988; two, Ngel Nyaki, 29 Mar 1988 (Ash *et al.* 1989); two, Selbe, 1 Mar 1997; all at the edge of forest patches at 1400–1900 m. [Few records, all from eastern highlands (Ash *et al.* 1989, Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Myioparus griseigularis Grey-throated Flycatcher. One seen and tape-recorded in dense undergrowth at forest edge, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 15 Dec 1997. [Only three records (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Myioparus plumbeus Lead-coloured Flycatcher. One singing at lowland forest edge, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 12 Dec 1997. [Uncommon but widespread in savanna woodland, not uncommon in gallery forest (Elgood *et al.* (1994).]

Monarchidae

Erythrocercus mccallii Chestnut-capped Flycatcher. Recorded from the Niger Delta, 1997: four in mixed-species flock, Upper Orashi, 16 Feb; three, Afi River FR, 8 Dec; up to six daily, Cross River NP, Okwango and Oban Divisions, Dec. [One record in the SE, from Umuagwu (Serle 1957, Elgood *et al.* 1994, single dot on map in Urban *et al.* 1997) but Mackenzie's (1979) records from the Calabar area were apparently overlooked; a sighting north of Oban (Künzel & Künzel 1999).]

Trochocercus nitens Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher. Frequent, Afi River FR and Cross River NP, Oban Division, Dec 1997. [One record in the SE, from Umuagwu (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Platysteiridae

Megabyas flammulatus Shrike Flycatcher. Two pairs in wooded savanna at Kwano, Gashaka-Gumti NP, 27 Feb to 2 Mar 1997. New locality. [Range on map in Urban *et al.* (1997) much further south, but also recorded even further north, at Kagoro (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Dyaphorophya tonsa White-spotted Wattle-eye. A pair, Afi River FR, 9 Dec 1997; two pairs, Cross River NP, Oban Division, 13–14 Dec 1997. [Rare or very local, fairly common in Iktan Block (Ash *et al.* 1989, Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Timaliidae

Illadopsis rufipennis Pale-breasted Illadopsis. Frequent, Cross River NP, Oban Division (Ikpan block and Oban West), Apr 1988; a party of four on and just above the forest floor at Kwano, Gashaka-Gumti NP, 28 Feb 1997. New localities.

Nectariniidae

Anthroptes rectirostris Green Sunbird. Common, Afi River FR, Dec 1997, and Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997. [Recorded only from Ipake to Owerri (Elgood *et al.* 1994), but our observations show that it ranges right across the country.

Chalcomitra adelberti Buff-throated Sunbird. Male, Assop, western edge of Jos Plateau, 8 May 1999 (M. Hopkins). First record from Plateau State.

Cinnyris johannae Johanna's Sunbird. A male foraging in large flowering trees with other sunbirds, Afi River FR, 7 Dec 1997. New locality. [Two previous records (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Malaconotidae

Malaconotus multicolor Many-coloured Bush-shrike. One seen and tape-recorded, IITA, Ibadan, 13 Nov 1997. Irregularly observed year-round at this site (C. Williams pers. comm.). [One record mentioned from this site, implying rarity there (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Buphagidae

Buphagus africanus Yellow-billed Oxpecker. Four in grassland near the Obudu Ranch Hotel, Obudu Plateau, 10 Dec 1997; several localities on Mambilla Plateau, Apr 1988 and Mar 1997. [Few records south of the great rivers (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Ploceidae

Ploceus bannermani Bannerman's Weaver. Two males in small forest patches in the highlands near Selbe, Gashaka-Gumti NP, 1 Mar 1997. [Locally common there, as well as on the Obudu Plateau (Ash *et al.* 1989).]

Ploceus baglafecht Baglafecht Weaver. About ten on slopes at the edge of gallery forest at 1250 m Obudu Plateau, 4 Apr 1988 (Ash *et al.* 1989); one in the Obudu Ranch Hotel garden, 10 Dec 1997. [Only on Mambilla Plateau (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Ploceus ocularis Spectacled Weaver. Two pairs, Gashaka-Gumti NP, 26 Feb 1997; one pair seen and tape-recorded near Gashaka village, 1 Mar 1997. [Recorded in Gashaka-Gumti by Ash *et al.* (1989). Few records, all from the extreme east (Ash *et al.* 1989, Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Ploceus tricolor Yellow-mantled Weaver. Recorded in 1997 at Ibadan (IITA), the Niger Delta (Upper Orashi, 17 Feb, nest-building) and Afi River FR (7 Dec, at nest); Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988. [Quite common at Owerri and Omuagwu (Marchant 1953). Few known localities east of Akure, all well to the east, including Calabar (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Anaplectes rubriceps Red-headed Weaver. A female in savanna woodland, Old Oyo NP, 19 Nov 1997, apparently a rather southerly record. Kagoro, 13 Mar 1997, a female nest-building.

Estrildidae

Parmoptila woodhousei Red-headed Antpecker. A pair, Afi River FR, 8 Dec 1997; one, 15 Apr 1988 (Ash *et al.* 1989) and three together, 14 Dec 1997, Cross River NP, Oban Division. [Only recorded at five localities, the nearest being Calabar, Ikom and Bashu (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Nigrita fusconota White-breasted Negrofinch. Common: Afi River FR, Dec 1997; Cross River NP, Okwango Division (Ezealor 2001); Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997. [Only four localities in the SE (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Euschistospiza dybowskii Dybowski's Twinspot. A female, Kagoro, 15 Mar 1997; in Gashaka-Gumti NP, at least one male on the slopes of the plateau, 27 Feb 1997 and a party of four near Selbe, 28 Feb 1997. [Not uncommon in Gashaka-Gumti, but very local in Nigeria (Ash *et al.* 1989; Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

Lonchura bicolor Black-and-White Mannikin. Observed in Cross River NP, Oban Division, Apr 1988 and Dec 1997. [Away from the coast in the SE, reported only from the Mambilla and Obudu plateaux (Elgood *et al.* 1994).]

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