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Comments on Kizungu *et al.* (2002): the birds of Idjwi, Democratic Republic of Congo

There are several errors in the paper by Kizungu *et al.* (2002). Of the 26 species claimed by the authors as new for Idjwi, one is certainly misidentified and another probably so: *Platysteira albifrons* is an Angola scarp endemic (listed here without this astonishing claim being mentioned) and is probably in error for *P. peltata*, and *Elminia longicauda* is almost certainly in error for the parapatric *E. albicauda* (already known from Idjwi). The total number of acceptable species on the list of Kizungu *et al.* (2002) probably stands, therefore, at 84. Three species claimed as new were in fact already recorded by Prigogine (1967, 1973): *Chrysococcyx cupreus*, *Campephaga sulphurata* (under the name of *C. (phoenicea) flava*) and *Nectarinia erythrocerca* (as *N. erythroceria*). Six other species are not indicated as new, but do appear to be so: *Ardea melanocephala*, *Lophæetus occipitalis*, *Chrysococcyx caprius*, *Apus apus* (if correctly identified), *Dendropicos xantholophus* (surprisingly the only

woodpecker on their list) and *Apalis binotata*. Thus of the 26 species claimed as new, five had already been recorded by Prigogine or have to be deleted, whereas six others were new but are not indicated as such; the number of species new to the Idjwi list therefore is 27. As Prigogine listed 118 species (not 115, as stated by Kizungu *et al.*), the total number of species for Idjwi stands at 145.

No fewer than 61 species recorded by Prigogine (1967, 1973) were not found by Kizungu *et al.* (2002), although some of these were common. These authors claim that extensive deforestation has resulted in the disappearance of many species, but not all those on Prigogine's list that they missed were forest birds, and in our experience many of those that do mainly inhabit forest in this region can be found in secondary situations. We must therefore question the thoroughness of their survey. In any case, the supposed disappearance of such species as *Apalis rufogularis eidos*, *Oriolus percivali*, *Coracina caesia* and *Nectarinia purpureiventris* (for example) requires a more detailed and convincing argument than is put forward here. The avifauna of Idjwi island remains in need of a thorough survey.

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Ectoparasite gleaning of *Sitatunga Tragelaphus spekeii* by Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata* and a bulbul

Most of the documented bird-mammal associations in Africa have been observed in savannas (reviewed in Dean & MacDonald 1981, Vernon & Dean 1988) and include a wide diversity of both bird and mammal species, with most interactions noted being birds taking prey flushed by mammals. However, very few such interactions have been documented within African forests (Vernon & Dean 1988), where visibility is poor and mammals tend to flee when humans approach. This note describes one of the