



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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<i>Phyllastrephus baumanni</i>	Baumann's Greenbul	f	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>	Velvet-mantled Drongo	a
<i>Andropadus curvirostris</i>	Sombre Bulbul	f	<i>Signodus caniceps</i>	Red-billed Shrike	f
<i>A. gracilis</i>	Little Grey Bulbul	o	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Woodchat	od
<i>A. latirostris</i>	Yellow-whiskered Bulbul	f	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	Bell-Shrike	o
<i>A. virens</i>	Little Green Bulbul	a	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	Gambian Puff-backed Shrike	a
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	r	<i>Chaunonotus sabinii</i>	Sabino's Puff-backed Shrike	r
<i>Bias musicus</i>	Black and White Flycatcher	o	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>	Senegal Tchagra	r
<i>Dyaphorophya castanea</i>	Chestnut Wattle-eye	o	<i>Malaconotus cruentus</i>	Fiery-breasted Bush-Shrike	o
<i>D. blissetti</i>	Blissett's Wattle-eye	f	<i>Chlorophoneus multicolor</i>	Many-coloured Bush-Shrike	o
<i>Erythrocerus meallii</i>	Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	f	<i>Nicator chloris</i>	West African Nicator	f
<i>Trochocercus nitens</i>	Crested Flycatcher	f	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>	African Golden Oriole	f
<i>Tchitrea viridis</i>	Paradise Flycatcher	r	<i>O. nigripennis</i>	Black-winged Oriole	f
<i>T. smithii</i>	Fagan's Paradise Flycatcher	a	<i>O. brachyrhynchus</i>	Black-headed Oriole	t
<i>Turdus libonyanus</i>	Kurrichano Thrush	f	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	Amethyst Starling	od
<i>Noocossyphus poensis</i>	White-tailed Ant-Thrush	f	<i>Lamprocolius splendidus</i>	Splendid Glossy Starling	fd (?)
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	od	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>	Chestnut-winged Starling	od (?)
<i>Cossypha cyanocamptor</i>	Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	f	<i>Pooecoptera lugubris</i>	Narrow-tailed Starling	od (?)
<i>C. niveicapilla</i>	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	o (?)	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>	Olive-bellied Sunbird	f
<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Nightingale	fd	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>	Buff-throated Sunbird	o
<i>Stiphrornis erythrothorax</i>	Forest Robin	f (?)	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	Olive Sunbird	f
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler	od	<i>Anthreptes collaris</i>	Collared Sunbird	a
<i>Sylvietta flaviventris</i>	White-bellied Grombec	f	<i>Hylia prasina</i>	Green Hylia	f
<i>Cameroptera chloronota</i>	Green-backed Cameroptera	f	<i>Passer griseus</i>	Grey-headed Sparrow	f
<i>C. brevicaudata</i>	Grey-backed Cameroptera	a	<i>Melanopteryx albinucha</i>	White-naped Black Weaver	o
<i>C. superciliaris</i>	Yellow-browed Cameroptera	f	<i>Cinnamopteryx castaneofuscus</i>	Chestnut-and-Black Weaver	a
<i>Molocichia mentalis</i>	Moustached Scrub-Warbler	f (rains)	<i>Melanoploceus tricolor</i>	Yellow-mantled Weaver	f
<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>	Whistling Grass-Warbler	f	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	Village Weaver	a
<i>Prinia subflava</i>	West African Prinia	f	<i>Pachyphantus pachyrhynchus</i>	Compact Weaver	o
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	European Swallow	f (eve of rains)	<i>Hyphantornis brachypterus</i>	Swainson's Spectacled Weaver	a
<i>H. aethiopia</i>	Ethiopian Swallow	f	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>	Crested Weaver	f
<i>H. leucosoma</i>	Pied-winged Swallow	o	<i>M. rubricollis</i>	Rod-headed Weaver	a
<i>H. centrifera</i>	Gordon's Rufous-chested Swallow	f	<i>M. ibadanensis</i>	Ibadan Weaver	o
<i>Campophaga phoenicea</i>	Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike	o	<i>M. nitens</i>	Gray's Blue-billed Weaver	f
<i>Cyanograucalus azureus</i>	Blue Cuckoo-Shrike	f	<i>M. scutatus</i>	Red-vented Weaver	a
			<i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>	Bronze Mannikin	a
			<i>S. poensis</i>	Blue-billed Mannikin	f
			<i>Migritia canicapilla</i>	Grey-crowned Negro-Finch	a
			<i>M. luteifrons</i>	Red-fronted Negro-Finch	o
			<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>	Blue-billed Weaver	f
			<i>Lagonosticta rufopicta</i>	Bar-breasted Fire-Finch	r
			<i>Vidua macroura</i>	Pin-tailed Whydah	fd

SHY OR RARE FOREST BIRDS AT ILARO : THE VALUE OF MIST-NETTING

C.H. Fry

It is notoriously difficult to discover much about the birds inhabiting dense secondary forest, owing to the impenetrability of such forest and the shyness of the birds. In 1960-1962 I was resident in Abeokuta, and paid several weekend visits to Ipake Forest Reserve, Ilaro; it was only after several visits compounded of frustrating glimpses and unidentified calls that I started using mist-nets in the Reserve, and immediately caught a number of birds whose presence was hitherto unsuspected. These included forms such as the Green Hylia Hylia prasina and the Olive Sunbird Cyanomitra olivacea which, although common enough, had been overlooked previously being somewhat nondescript; very shy birds like the Forest Robin Stiphrornis erythrothorax and the White-tailed Ant-Thrush Noocossyphus poensis; and birds which are probably rare rather than shy, e.g. the White-bellied King-

fisher Corythornis leucogaster and the Black-crowned Flycatcher Trochocercus nigromitratus. I describe the latter birds as 'rare' with some hesitation, since netting rapidly modifies one's views on the rarity of forest species, and it is quite likely that a more systematic and prolonged program of netting than I employed would have shown that these birds as well were common enough.

Ipake Forest, like most other forest reserves round Ibadan and Abeokuta etc. is not mature from a botanical viewpoint; although there is an almost continuous high canopy, there are dense understoreys particularly impenetrable (and very difficult even to see into) at the periphery of the forest or where illumination is good as a result of clearing e.g. for a path. For the most part observation of birds is restricted to the less dense middle storeys and the canopy, where of course mist-netting cannot be employed; but a carefully-sited 30' x 9' net on the forest floor seldom produced less than 8 birds in as many hours (and often as many species!).

Nets longer than 30' have limited use because of the difficulty of finding a sufficiently large clear space in which to erect them. My most successful site with a 30' net was along a narrow dark path where it crossed a small stream. It appears that most of the lower-storey-frequenting birds even avoid the open space of a path more than about 15' wide, as nets sited along such paths were not particularly successful. On the other hand there seems to be something to be said for placing a net within the vegetation at right-angles to a path (if a space can be found or made): it may be that a bird randomly moving towards a path would be deflected by the path along its edge, so that the traffic parallel and immediately adjacent to a path would be slightly greater than random traffic elsewhere.

By far the most commonly-taken birds at Ipake were the Yellow-whiskered Bulbul Andropadus latirostris and the Little Green Bulbul A. virens, then Cyanomitra olivacea. The great majority of species were caught only once or twice. The following birds noted at Ipake are additional to Button's Ilaro list (above); the identity of species marked * was confirmed in the hand for netted specimens.

<u>Butorides striatus</u>	African Green-backed Heron	* <u>Illadopsis rufipennis</u>	White-breasted Akalat
<u>Urotrorhynchus macrourus</u>	Long-tailed Hawk	* <u>Stizorhina finschi</u>	Finsch's Rusty Flycatcher
<u>Calopelia puella</u>	Blue-headed Dove	<u>Megabyas flammulatus</u>	Shrike Flycatcher
<u>Psittacus erithacus</u>	Grey Parrot	* <u>Trochocercus nigromitratus</u>	Black-crowned Flycatcher
<u>Scopelus castaneiceps</u>	Chestnut-headed Hood-Hoopoe	* <u>Tchitrea (nigriceps)</u>	(Black-headed) Paradise Flycatcher
* <u>Illadopsis cleaveri marchanti</u>	Blackcap Akalat	<u>Halcyon malimbicus</u>	Blue-breasted Kingfisher