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## BIRDS OF YANKARI GAME RESERVE, NIGERIA

by Chris Geerling

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About the same time as Dyer & Gartshore (1975) published their annotated list of the birds of Yankari Game Reserve I published a comprehensive list elsewhere (Geerling 1976). In addition to the periods spent in Yankari, as mentioned in that paper, I visited the Reserve again with the students and staff of the Garoua College of Wildlife Management from 17 to 26 January 1976 and from 13 to 21 April 1977. During those visits I and my colleagues Bart van Lavieren, Georges Macon and Emile Ottong compiled a list of the species we recorded, of which the following are additional to those of Dyer & Gartshore (1975 and 1976).

- Ixobrychus minutus Two observations in Cyperus swamps (Aug, Nov).  
Ixobrychus stumii A number of observations in open situations along the Gaji during the dry season.  
Egretta ardesiaca Two observations in the Gaji valley (Jan, Apr).  
Circaetus cinereus Frequent observations both along the Gaji and away from it.  
Circaetus cinerascens One among tall trees along the Gaji in Jan.  
Accipiter erythropus One observation when on foot along the Gaji in Feb.  
Accipiter ovampensis One observation in undergrowth along the Gaji (Nov).  
Accipiter melanoleucus During the 1971 dry season a pair were around Wikki Camp; also seen elsewhere, mainly away from the Gaji.  
Elanus caeruleus Two seen in the Gaji valley (Nov, Dec).  
Falco cuvieri One among tall trees near the Gaji in Mar.  
Falco vespertinus One observation in the Gaji valley in Jan.  
Porphyrio alleni Record by Dr Janet Noel.  
Vanellus lugubris One observation in Jan.  
Gallinago gallinago A bird flushed near the Gaji in Feb.  
Rostratula benghalensis In some numbers early Mar, apparently migrating.  
Cursorius chalcopterus A few birds in freshly burned ground in Nov.  
Streptopelia turtur One observation in the Gaji valley in Feb.  
Streptopelia decipiens Some along the Gaji in Jan.  
Turacus persa One seen along the Gaji in Jan.  
Chrysococcyx klaas One in the Wikki Spring forest in Mar.  
Chrysococcyx caprius One observation in the Wikki Spring forest in Mar.

- Otis leucotis Observations in Jan; probably fairly common along the Gaji.
- Bubo africanus Found dead on the main road, common in the Reserve.
- Chaetura sabini One bird over the Gaji in Nov.
- Merops albicollis Only seen in Nov, but then in some numbers, apparently moving through.
- Indicator minor Record by Dr Janet Noel.
- Mirafraga nigricans Several observations in savanna in Feb and Mar.
- Hirundo senegalensis Record by Dr Janet Noel.
- Motacilla alba One bird in Wikki Camp in Nov.
- Tehagra minuta In Nov along the Gaji.
- Laniarius ferrugineus Recorded by Dr J. Lang as common.
- Cercomela familiaris Record by Dr J. Lang in Mar.
- Cossypha niveicapilla Not uncommon along the Gaji.
- Mymecocichla cinnamomeiventris Recorded by Dr J. Lang.
- Phoenicurus phoenicurus One observation in Jan.
- Acrocephalus rufescens Caught in *Cyperus* swamps; probably not uncommon.
- Hylia flavigaster Several observation in woodland along the Gaji.
- Bradornis pallidus Observations in Mar and Apr, mostly in the Wikki Spring forest.
- Trochocercus nitens In dense swamp forest at Tunga Maliki in Mar.
- Nectarinia venusta Recorded by Dr J. Lang in Feb and Mar.
- Serinus leucopygius Recorded by Dr J. Noel in Jul.
- Euplectes afer Several males in the flooded parts of the Gaji valley in Jul and Aug.
- Nesocharis capistrata Recorded by Dr J. Lang in Mar.
- Lonchura malabarica First observed in Apr 1977: a sure sign, together with the increase in numbers of Passer griseus, of the urbanisation of Wikki Camp.

# References

- Dyer, M. & Gartshore, M. E. (1975) Birds of Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria. Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc. 11: 77-84
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