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\* Yellow-Mantled Weaver Melanoploceus tricolor Very common.

Crested Weaver Malimbus malimbicus Several seen; not uncommon.

Red-Headed Weaver Malimbus rubricollis The common malimbe; abundant.

Blue-Billed Weaver Malimbus nitens. Only one noted.

Red-Vented Weaver Malimbus scutatus Few seen, but more suspected.

#### IV : SOME BIRDS AT TARKWA (WESTERN REGION)

I visited Tarkwa in the forest belt, just before I left Ghana, from 18th to 21st July. The River Bonsa is 10 miles from Tarkwa.

+ Great Blue Plantain-Eater Corythaecola cristata. 2 watched on the edge of a wooded clearing, a mile from the River Bonsa. I was told they were still quite common in the area despite the heavy timber-felling.

Shining-Blue Kingfisher Alcedo quadrybrachys Quite common on the River Bonsa.

Duchailu's Yellow-Spotted Barbet Buccanodon duchailui. One seen briefly passing through the forest canopy above my head.

+ Cassin's Grey Flycatcher Alseonax cassini Very aquatic: it perched on snags in midstream, catching insects and an occasional white butterfly on or near the surface of the water. It flew low and direct over the water, rather like a kingfisher. The male uttered a weak warbling song to the female while they were both sitting on a snag.

Black-and-White Flycatcher Bias musicus Only one, a female, identified.

Yellow-Browed Camaroptera Camaroptera superciliaris. 1 seen low down in a tree.

White-Throated Swallow Hirundo nigrita A common and tame bird of the river, both where the water rushed through the rocks and on the more placid stretches.

Square-Tailed Rough-Wing Swallow Psalidoprocne nitens I found at least 7 of these birds in a forest clearing, uttering rather shrill but weak notes. They frequently perched in trees, and I saw 2 sheltering from the rain under a palm-frond. Two other birds appeared to be building a round nest of fibres, 10ft off the ground, in the outermost branches of a low tree. They showed every sign of owning the nest, short of going inside it; they would fly in circles around it, and would then sit by the side of it. Of course, if it could be proved that this species really does build such a nest it would be unique, since roughwings generally nest in cliff-tunnels, as Bannerman (1958) records also for the present species in Cameroun.

Chestnut-Breasted Negro Finch Nigrita bicolor Single birds in different localities.

(CONCLUDED)

#### NOTES

Three Phases of the Many-Coloured Bush-Shrike at Ilaro. Chlorophoneus multicolor is an uncommon bird around Ilaro, South-West Nigeria. I have usually encountered it as a member of bird armies working through the denser parts of the forest, always singly as a species, and have nine sightings during the last five years in the locality. On 22nd November 1961 a bird was brought to me which had been caught in a friend's kitchen by his steward, on the Ilaro Reservation. One specimen was netted on 18th February 1964 in new secondary growth also near the Reservation.

Chlorophoneus multicolor is one of the more extreme examples of polymorphism throughout its wide African range; there are five varieties (phases or morphs) altogether (Huxley, 1964) of which three occur in West Africa. The colour variations are limited to the underparts from the chin to the lower breast, and the extremities of the retrices; the belly and under-tail coverts are yellowish-orange and the rest of the tail dark green in each case. The three Upper Guinea phases are:

(i) Chin to lower breast scarlet; tips of retrices reddish-orange. The specimen caught in the house was of this phase.

(ii) Chin to lower breast orange; tips of retrices yellowish-orange. The example netted belonged to this phase.

(iii) Chin to lower breast black, continuous with black eye-mask; tips of retrices yellowish-orange; mantle and crown blueish-grey, forehead whitish; green wings with yellow-spotted remiges, green rump, and yellowish-orange belly and under-tail coverts - a strikingly handsome variety.

Of the nine sightings at Ilaro five have been of the scarlet phase, three of the orange and one of the black, observed on 7th September 1965 in a bird army consisting mainly of bulbuls and malimbes. The scarlet phase is restricted to West Africa and is evidently the commonest one there; the orange phase is the most widespread in the Continent and is quite common in West Africa, but the black phase has a discontinuous and restricted distribution (Huxley, op. cit.) and is rare. Chapin (1947) cites only five records of the black phase from West Africa, but Serle (1950) collected four more at Kumba, 60 miles North of Victoria in the Cameroons, where he also collected 7 scarlet and 4 orange phase birds. Bannerman (1953) gives this Kumba instance as the only record to date of the three phases turning up at one locality, and the present Ilaro instance is a second.

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References Bannerman, D.A. (1953) *The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa* 2. Edinburgh

Chapin, J.P. (1947) Color variations in shrikes of the genus Chlorophoneus. *Auk* 55: 53-64.

Huxley, J.S. (1964) Article 'Polymorphism' in Thomson, A.L. (ed.) *New Dict. Birds*. London & New York

Serle, W. (1950) A contribution to the Ornithology of the British Cameroons. *Ibis* 92: 343-376, 602-638.

Birds of Tivland. The following observations of Birds in Benue Province are supplementary to those made by Gray (1) though I appreciate that he did not intend to make his list comprehensive.

Pygmy Goose Nettapus auritus. A pair on the flooded Katsina Ala River on 15th August 1959.

White Throated Francolin Francoolinus albogularis. Two shot on the edge of farmland near Yandev 14th August 1958. I noticed that in this area this Francolin could often be heard and flushed from rank grass beside cultivated areas. In the South of Kano Province I have only seen this bird on ironstone outcrops in fringing forest. See Fry (2) also in Zaria Province.