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THE BIRDS OF ILARO

J. A. Button

Introduction

- I Forest and Savannah Residents (Non-Passerines)
- II Forest and Savannah Residents (Passerines)
- III African and Palaearctic Migrants

Introduction: Ilaro is a rural township situated 40 miles south of Abeokuta in the south-east corner of the Western Region. For the purpose of this article, I have limited my observations to the area delineated by a 25, miles radius from the centre of the town. This includes Ado-Odo to the south on the Badagry Road, Aiyetoro due north, Ishaga on the Abeokuta Road, and Ifo to the south-east on the Abeokuta-Lagos Road. Ilaro itself lies near the boundary of forest and Derived Savannah : a drive northwards from Ilaro to Abeokuta reveals every gradation from stands of high timber to Orchard Savannah and patchy grassland ; south-westwards there is little forest to be found after Ado-Odo. Grassland with thickets and narrow belts of dense woodland following the courses of streams indicate the eastern fringes of the "DahomeyGap" in the West African forest zone. Towards Lagos and the south-east are situated large areas of swampy forest ; with the exception of the Ilaro Forest Reserve , most of the higher more easily drained land is under cultivation.

During my stay at Egbado College, Ilaro, from September 1960, my observations have tended to be concentrated in two areas : the grounds of the College itself (referred to subsequently as E.C.I.) which offer a variety of habitats from parkland around the staff quarters and farmland, to secondary forest of varying degrees of maturity. Less intensive observations have been made in the Ilaro Forest Reserve (referred to as Ipake) about 8 miles south of Ilaro, which has wide stands of dense secondary forest. Over six years the check-list for E.C.I. numbers 158 species, and the Ipake check-list numbers 118 species. Although the area is well supplied with forest streams, the nearest river of any size is the Ogun, which flows through Abeokuta and is outside the area of study.

The designation "Forest and Savannah Residents" is taken from Elgood's Provisional Check List of the Birds of Nigeria : Bull. Nig.Orn.Soc. I : 14-25 ; some of the birds which come under this heading, such as Necrosyrtes monachus the Common Vulture, could be more suitably designated as vagrants rather than as Savannah Residents in any assessment of the status of Ilaro birds; however, Francolinus bicalcaratus the Double-Spurred Francolin is so obviously a resident as well as a bird of the grasslands that any term other than Elgood's is out of the question. I have included Elgood's abbreviations on status and distribution for each species for purposes of comparison; these refer of course to Nigeria as a whole. As far as my own notes are concerned terms used for abundance are as follows :

Rare	--	5 or fewer records.
Occasional	--	Between rare and frequent.
Frequent	--	from one record per 2 hours to two records per hour on transect through habitat.
Common	--	3 or more records per hour on transect through habitat.
Abundant	--	10 or more records per hour on transect through habitat.

I should like to thank Dr. C.H. Fry for allowing me to include his original observations at Ipake, and Prof. J. ... for help in the identification of certain forest species.

I. Forest and Savannah Residents (Non-Passerines)

Butorides striatus African Green backed Heron (Aq. Res. C.)

Observed on many occasions during the rains from May-September at ponds and on marshy ground between Ibeshe (4 miles north of Ilaro) and the Igbogila - Ilaro Road junction (10 miles north of Ilaro). Fry noted the bird at Ipake in 1961 though I have not seen it there myself. It is present at Ifo pond and clearly observable from the main Abeokuta-Lagos Road causeway during the rainy season when the water is at least five feet deep, and breeds there in the low trees growing on the bed of the pond. On 24th June 1961 I investigated a nest built in a tree about 25 yds from the road edge of the pond about 6' above the surface of the water. The nest was a flimsy, almost pigeon-type construction of dead twigs. Three eggs, sky blue. dimensions: 38mm x 29 mm. The birds are absent in the dry season when the pond dries out completely and its bed is cultivated. Distribution in the area dependent on seasonal availability of aquatic habitat.

Necrosyrtes monachus Common Vulture (Sav. Res. A.)

Three sightings since 1960: a rare vagrant.

24th October 1965: a pair circling high over E.C.I. moving southwards.

8th January 1967: a pair ... near Ilaro level crossing.

15th February 1967: A single bird just east of the ruined bridge on the main Ipake Forest Reserve - Ifo track circling at tree top height; it made off eastwards. D. Happold present. Vulture distribution in the Western Region poses problems. With the exception of an "enclave" around Ijebu-Ode, the southern half of the Region is generally avoided by Vultures. Conditions would seem to be suitable for them at Abeokuta or Ibadan, towns which afford plenty of refuse with a Derived Savannah environment as does Ijebu-Ode, yet few birds are seen south of the Fiditi-Iseyin line. I should be most grateful for any data on Vulture distribution from the area comprising the Western and Mid-Western Regions and the southern halves of Dahomey, Togo and Ghana.

Falco biarmicus Abyssinian Lanner (Sav. Res. F.)

23rd December 1965: two seen wheeling and pursuing each other over E.C.I. playing fields, making continuous chattering noise.

One bird, presumably female, noticeably larger than the other.

Falco ouvieri African Hobby (Widespread Res. O.)

Single bird flying over E.C.I. playing fields, evening 26th March 1964.

Avioeda ououloides Cuckoo Falcon (For. Res. F.)

Resident; rare. 17th July 1965, 21st January 1966 and 29th May, 1966 seen singly or in a pair at Ipake.

Elanus caeruleus Black-Shouldered Kite (Sav. Res. C.)

Occasional but seen all months of the year over open grassland patches; observed hovering over E.C.I. playing fields. During second weeks of December 1966 it was a regular visitor to a certain corner of the athletics field appearing each evening at about 6:00 p.m.

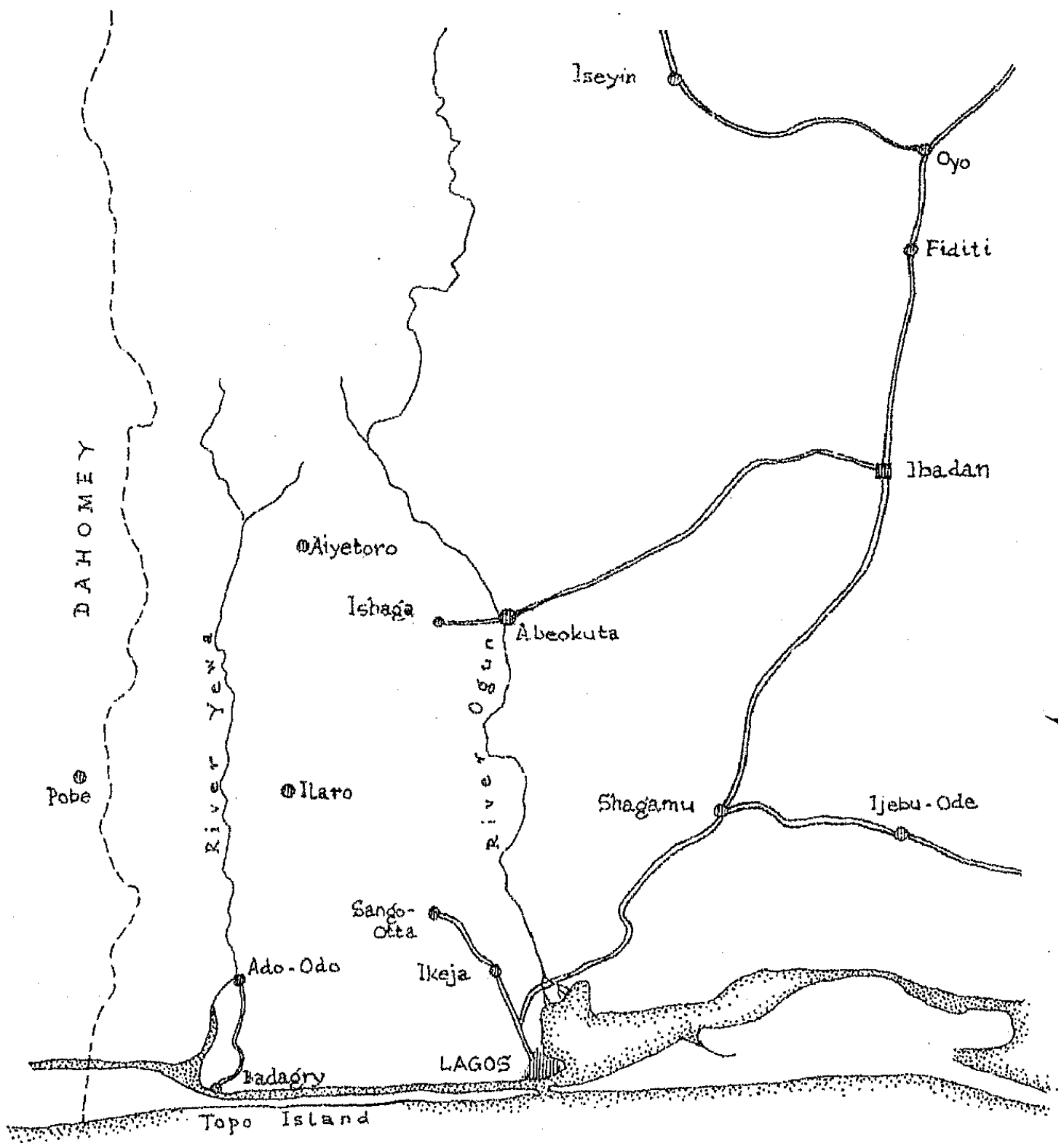


Fig. 1 The South-West corner of Nigeria

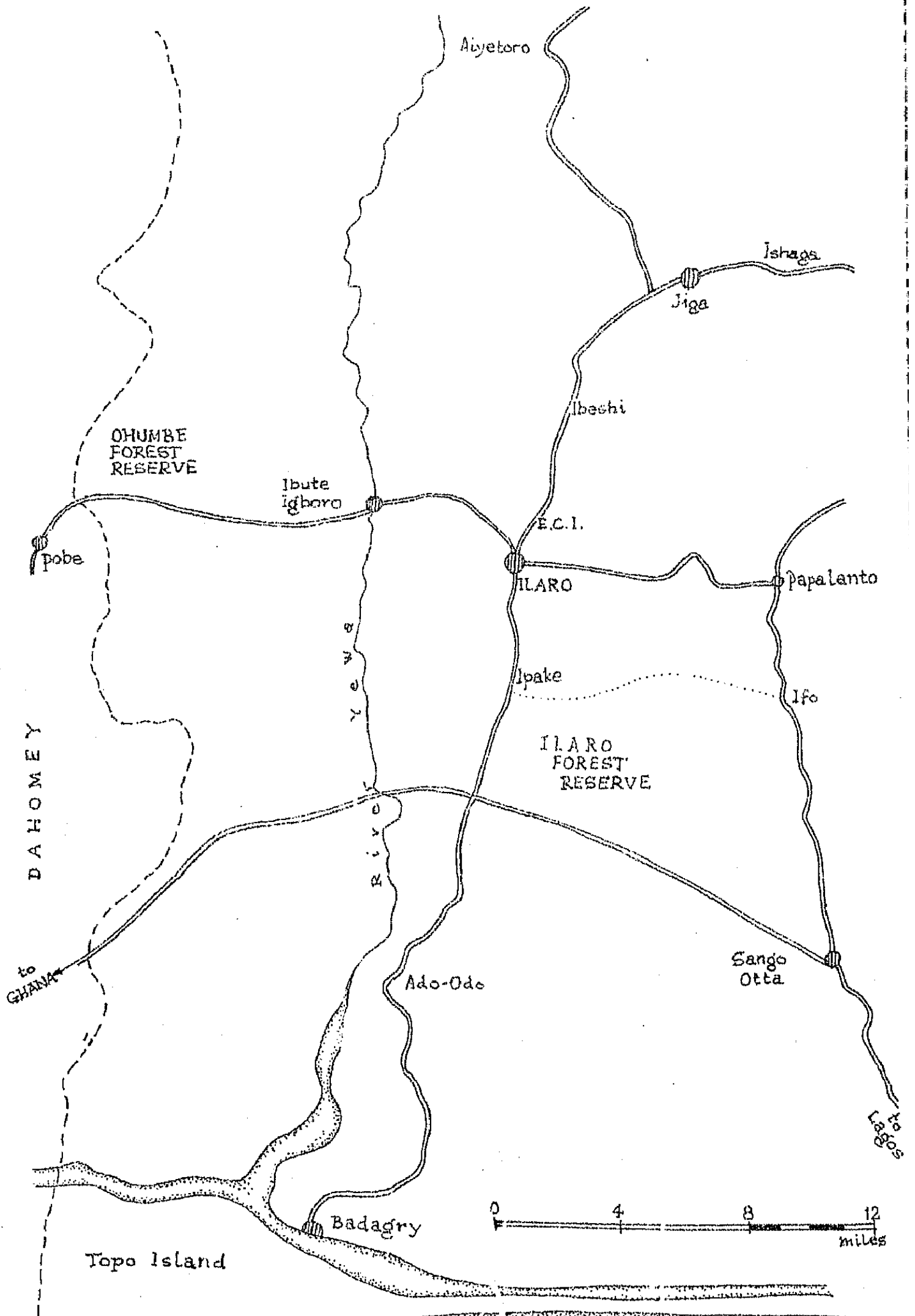


Fig. 2 Ilaro and environs

Machaerhamphus alcinus Bat Hawk (Wdsprd. Res. O.)

Occasional 6th December 1964 : at dusk over E.C.I. sports ground pursuing bats.
23rd January - 30th January 1965 : observed nightly over Ilaro Government
Reservation Area hawking for bats. No rainy season sightings at Ilaro, though
28th May 1966 singly bird at dusk around V.I.R. Rest House Abeokuta.

Lophoetus occipitalis Long-crested Hawk-Eagle (Wdspr. Res. For.)

One sighting : 18th June 1967 perching in a dead tree on cultivated land near
the Ilaro level crossing.

Kaupifalco monogrammicus Lizard Buzzard (For. Res. C.)

Common around Ilaro, usually frequenting edges of forest clearings at E.C.I.
and Ipake. Resident.

Gypohierax angolensis Palm-Nut Vulture (For. Res. C.)

Rare. 17th October 1965 : at Ipake near ruined bridge on main forest track adult
and juvenile. 22nd December 1965 : Observed soaring over Ilaro with two
Black Kites.

Accipiter macroscelides West African Goshawk (For. Res. C.)

Status probably frequent Ilaro and Ipake; frequentg fairly dense forest growth.
12th August 1965 : netted just inside the edge of thick secondary growth
E.C.I. Call - an insistent "plik", noted late February and March.

Urotriorchus macrourus Long-Tailed Hawk (For. Res. O.)

One sighting by Fry at Ipake on 28th April 1962 .

Gymnogenys typicus West African Harrier Hawk (For. Res. C.)

Resident; frequent, Often seen soaring in wide circles high over forest in twos
or threes. Display flights: 18th January 1965 : E.C.I. one bird soaring while the
other indulging in steeply undulatory movements. 11th April 1966 and 9th May
1966 Ipake, single bird performing as latter.

Francolinus bicalcaratus Double-Spurred Francolin (Sav. Res. A.)

Common on Ibeshe grasslands 4-8 miles N. of Ilaro; frequents old and new
farmland around Ilaro where it seems more in evidence during the rain (April
- September). 3rd January 1964 : broken shells of 6 eggs discovered in scrape
near the edge of patchy secondary growth. One addled egg : dull buff with
deeply pitted shell texture; dimensions : 42mm x 37mm. Impossible to assess
laying date.

Actophilornis africanus Lily-Trotter (Sav. Res. CL.)

Several pairs present and breeding from evidence of juveniles at Ifo pond during
the wet season. (Vide African Green-Backed Heron.) Common on the Yewa River
marshes at Ebute-Igboro 8 miles W. of Ilaro.

Afroxyechus forbesi Forbes' Banded Plover (Sav. Res. CL.)

Regular end of dry season visitor to E.C.I. sports field in small groups of 3-6 .
Present from 4th January 1965 - 18th March 1965;
16th February 1966 - 16th March 1966;
10th January 1967 - 28th March 1967.

Turturoena iriditorques Bronze-Naped Pigeon (For. Res. O.)

Frequent; Resident at E.C.I. and Ipake in denser parts of the forest. It is
difficult to observe but its call once learnt is unmistakable. Delivered from
the canopy of the forest, and more commonly heard in the rainy season, it may be
described as a mournful : "Coo coo : boo -boo-boo -boo bo." The first two
syllables are pitched lower than the rest, which often have a curious broken
quality in tone. Bannerman says that it seems to keep silent during the rains,
but this has not been my experience of the bird. 24th January 1967 at Ipake :
flight note "Quit - quit" recorded.

19th & 27th December 1966 : 2 & 3 individuals heard calling in narrow band of
forest along the banks of a stream running through the Ado-Odo grasslands 25 miles
S. of Ilaro on the Badagry Road. This is just within the "Dahomey Gap" where the
Savannah reaches the coast.

Streptopelia semitorquata Red-Eyed Turtle-Dove (For. Res. C.)

Common around Ilaro, preferring open country such as parkland (E.C.I.) and forest clearings; where there is denser growth, as at Ipake it is much less frequently recorded. Probably breeds all months of the year. 12th October 1962 : approximate egg date of juvenile presented 12th December, 1st January 1964 : bird seen carrying nesting material, Reservation Ilaro. 24th & 26th July 1964 : E.C.I. pair observed in display flight : long planing glides by both birds with wings held in V attitude.

(Stigmatopelia senegalensis Laughing Dove (Wdsprd. Res. A.)

Not at Ilaro : noted at Abeokuta, Badagry and Ikeja and environs but absent from area within these limits.)

Tympanistra tympanistra Tambourine Dove : (For. Res. C.)

Haunts farms and clearings in secondary forest where it is often caught by small boys with catapults. Status probably frequent. I have netted it several times at E.C.I. and kept birds in captivity successfully; they are generally much more diffident than Turtur afer the Red-billed Wood Dove. The call is initially similar to that of T. afer, but at the point where the call of T. afer ends, T. tympanistra produces a prolonged drumming trill. Call noted all months of the year, but at E.C.I. noticed most particularly from Mid-November to late December when it may be heard near the staff quarters.

Turtur afer Red-Billed Wood Dove (For. Res. C.)

Abundant and frequently netted at E.C.I. and Ipake. Breeding records at E.C.I. : 12th July 1963 : flimsy platform of small twigs 5' high in thorn bush on old farm land, two eggs. 1st August 1965 : platform of rootlets in fork of orange bush in school orchard, 3' off ground, two eggs.

Calopelia puella Blue-Faced Dove (For. Res. F.)

4th April 1966 : two perching in vegetation low over stagnant pools near ruined bridge on main Ipake Forest track. A third observed a few minutes previously flying up the path 200 yds. nearer the Rest House. An extremely shy dove which may be commoner in the forests of the south than appearances indicate. I once saw three in the aviary of a Mr. Wilson, a timber manager, who has quarters in the forest between Okitipupa and the Benin-Ijebu-Ode Road. Recorded by Fry at Ipake on 12th September and 2nd December 1961.

Vinago australis Green Fruit Pigeon (For. Res. C.)

Common resident species preferring more open habitat in the forest zone. Like Streptopelia semitorquata it is much commoner at Ilaro than at Ipake. Egg date of juvenile presented by hunter estimated at 15th March 1961. Marked tendency to flocking : groups of from 20 to 80 birds recorded during June, July and August.

Psittacus erythaeus Grey Parrot (For. Res. FL.)

Probably resident Ipake Forest but not at E.C.I. where the secondary growth is neither sufficiently dense nor extensive. 30th May 1965 : party of 20 calling in flight at dawn sighted from Ipake Rest House. 4th June 1966, single bird observed flying over main Lagos Abeokuta Road, 2 miles S. of Ifo where it cuts through thick swamp forest.

Tyto alba African Barn Owl : (Wdsprd. Res. F.)

Resident at Ilaro, its "screech" heard frequently at night. A live specimen presented 12th July 1963 and kept in captivity for several days reacted to danger by displaying with wings partially raised and rocking from side to side.

Ptilopsis leucotis White-Faced Owl : (Wdsprd. Res. C.)

Commoner than Tyto alba around Ilaro. Often seen stading at the side of the road in the light of the car head-lights, presumably waiting for prey to come out into the open. Egg date of juvenile presented by boys : 1st September 1962 approx. Like Tyto alba its defence reaction was a side to side rocking, but with a fluffing out of all the feathers.

Otus senegalensis African Scops Owl (Sav. Res. F.) and Glaucidium perlatum Pearl Spotted Owl (Sav. Res. F.) noted at Abeokuta 37 miles N., but not at Ilaro with its more forested environment.

Turacus persa Gold-Cast Turaco (For. Res. C.)

Much in evidence in the forests around Ilaro frequenting both thick and fairly open secondary bush. Its cries are striking and varied: (i) Frog-like booming choruses in which from two to a dozen birds may join - the commonest vocal activity noted; (ii) a guttural churring "Kudloo - kudloo - kudloo" etc. (iii) a loud Magpie-like rattle. (iv) At Ipake I once heard it making a snoring sound together with (iii).

Corythaeola cristata Giant Plantain Eater (For. Res. FL.)

This magnificent bird requires the dense well-matured forest which is available at Ipake. In the Forest Reserve it seems to be commoner than Turacus persa. but I have never heard it at E.C.I. Cry: a deep "Pruk" with a laughing "Cow-cow cow-cow-....." etc. This is easily the loudest cry of any forest animal, and it may carry well over half of a mile in the right conditions. It has another call similar to the "Magpie rattle" of Turacus persa, but deeper in tone and more percussive in quality. The bird is most difficult to approach.

Crinifer piscator Grey Plantain-Eater (Sav. Res. C.)

Present at Ilaro and often observed E.C.I. on worn out farmland; very common on Derived Savannah lands between Ilaro and Abeokuta. Much given to excited group chases in which from three to six individuals pursue each other.

Cuculus gularis Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (Sav. Res. F.)

24th January - 10th February 1967: single bird noted most days usually perching on telegraph wires near my house on the College compound. On a number of occasions I disturbed it while it was on the ground.

Cuculus solitarius Red-Chested Cuckoo (For Res. F.)

Present at E.C.I. and Ipake all the year round; much more vocal in rainy season than at other times: i.e. April - September. For calls noted: (i) a trisyllabic call somewhat similar to that of Cuculus clamosus Black Cuckoo, but is more emphatic, higher pitched, and lacks the hesitant lisping quality of the latter bird's voice; I have often heard this call at night. (ii) An "ecstatic:" Hwoot - hwoot - hwoot etc. from 12 to 20 notes rising in pitch and intensity to a crescendo and declining gradually followed by the sequence: "hwitchew, hwitchew, hwitchew." (iii) 5th May 1967: loud single note: "Kweer". (iv) Same evening and locality, a deep mellow trilling. Frequents clearings in forest.

Cuculus clamosus Black Cuckoo (For. Res. CL.)

Occasional resident at Ilaro and Ipake, noted in fairly dense forest as well as parkland and farms. Call: a hesitant repetition of three or four rising notes (cf. C. solitarius). Often the first bird in the area to commence calling at dawn. Heard more frequently during the rains than at other times. 4th August 1966: juvenile examined, shot by a hunter in thick forest at E.C.I.

Cercococcyx olininus Olive-backed Long-tailed Cuckoo (For. Res? R.)

Resident at Ilaro and Ipake and probably as common as the two preceding species. Prefers well matured growth. Two distinctive calls heard mainly in the rains, occasionally during the dry season - (i) a prolonged wavering whistle oscillating back and forth through a semitone, steadily climbing in pitch and increasing in intensity; lasting up to a minute, it ends abruptly; the call has a "hysterical" quality; (ii) a crisp call of three descending notes - rather like that of C. solitarius in reverse. A frequent night caller.

(I have not yet seen Cercococcyx mechowi von Mechow's Cuckoo (For. Res? R.) though I strongly suspect its presence in the same area of thick bush as C. olininus. A call fitting Bannerman's description of that of C. mechowi was heard frequently during the wet season of 1965 - and at the present time - i.e. a descending sequence of silvery notes delivered hurriedly and with irregular tempo lasting 3-4 seconds.

Clamator levaillanti Levaillant's Cuckoo : (Sav. Res. F.)

Seen occasionally Ilaro and Ipake; resident, frequenting thick forest as well as park and farmland. Call unknown.

Chrysococcyx cupreus Emerald Cuckoo (For. Res. CL.)

Commonly heard Ipake and E.C.I.; much in evidence from April to August when heard to call from parkland trees near staff quarters E.C.I.; present at other times, but only heard in well matured forest.

Lampromorpha caprius Didric Cuckoo (Wdsprd. Res. 6.)

The commonest cuckoo at Ilaro : common resident; calls persistently in the rainy season. Prefers the more open habitat at E.C.I. : park and farmland, to the thicker forest at Ipake.

Lampromorpha klaasi Klaas' Cuckoo (Wdsprd. Res. C.)

Infrequent resident at Ilaro; heard calling all months of year. Open habitat preferred.

Centropus leucogaster Great Coucal (For. Res. F.)

Common at Ilaro and Ipake in thickest parts of the forest; the call is similar to that of C. senegalensis Senegal Coucal, but deeper in tone. The Egbado Yorubas value this bird highly for its "medicine". On 11th August 1965 I found a dead bird trapped in a wire noose snare set on the ground in a gap in a fence of short stakes enclosing a forest clearing. The farmer later smoked dried the head and legs to be kept and used as charms. Later a "coronet" was made by inserting the rufous and black primaries and rectrices into a small hoop of palm fronds, which was placed at the entrance of the farm to deter trespassers. I have frequently seen traces of this practice in other parts of Egbado Division.

Centropus senegalensis Senegal Coucal (Sav. Res. C.)

Very common around Ilaro on old farmland and new scrub bush, it is rarely seen at Ipake Forest. 4th June 1961 : I found a large domed nest loosely made of grass, 4'6" in an orange tree in the school orchard. There were four eggs. The Rufous-Bellied morph "C. epidomis" is frequently seen in the area.

Ceuthmochares aereus Yellow-bill : (For. Res. F.)

Common resident in thick secondary growth and on the edges of forest clearings. Netted several times E.C.I. Breeding evidence 10th June 1963 : nest with two dull white eggs 4' high in orange bush in school orchard 20 yds. from the edge of thick bush : a platform of small sticks and dried leaves; the bird was observed brooding with the long tail held vertically. Cry, a sequence of high pitched percussive notes rising to a crescendo and dying away abruptly. On 25th and 26th January 1964, two or three birds on three separate occasions observed in pursuit flights, calling "Tut-tut-tut-tut- etc." interspersed with grating notes. 26th March 1965 : two in pursuit, call a guttural "Chiizzik-chizzik".

Colletoptera affinis Little African Swift (Wdsprd. Res. A.)

Extremely common Ilaro Town, but does not breed on College compound. Large numbers (30 - 50) are regularly seen over E.C.I. playing fields at the end of the dry season and the beginning of the rains (latter half of March and April), often in company with European Swifts Micropus grus on eve of migration, and a few Palm Swifts Cypsiurus parvus, Ethiopian Swallows Hirundo aethiopica and occasionally European Swallows Hirundo rustica (Vide Button, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 3 : 1-2). Small groups of from 3 to 6 individuals noted regularly over E.C.I. compound at other times of the year. A number of nests examined in the town under the eaves of two-storey houses on 20th September 1962, contained three young birds or eggs.

Cypsiurus parva Palm Swift : (Wdsprd. Res. C.)

Occasionally seen in 3's and 4's over E.C.I. compound, but the species is much more common on the Derived Savannah north and east of Ilaro towards Abeokuta. 7th July 1962 : I investigated a nest at Aiyetoro 30 miles N. of Ilaro. One addled egg was stuck to the inside of a flimsy grass nest attached to the frond of an oil-palm about 30' off the ground.

Eurystomus gularis Blue-Throated Roller (For. Res. F.)

Resident and common at Ipake Forest where it would seem to prefer a somewhat denser habitat than E. afer the Boad-Billed Roller, here a bird of forest clearings. Occasionally noted at E.C.I. 7th February 1966 : bird observed feeding young in hole near top of tree stump 25' off the ground.

Phoeniculus bollei Buff-Headed Wood Hoopoe (For. Res. F.)

Regularly seen in thick forest at E.C.I. and Ipake in groups of from three to eight individuals.

Scoptelus castaneiceps Chestnut-Headed Wood Hoopoe (For. Res. Fl.)

Present at Ipako, where one was seen by Fry on 9th September 1961.

Corythornis leucogaster White-Bellied Kingfisher (Aq. Res. O.)

Noted 9th November 1963 Ipako Forest Reserve on the edge of an overgrown clearing in this forest. The site was at least $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the nearest water, a small stream. Fry netted a specimen at Ipako on 27th April 1962. This is my only record of the bird; it must be a most unobtrusive species.

Ispidina picta Pigmy Kingfisher (Wdsprd. Res. C.)

Commonly seen at E.C.I. and netted; it avoids the thicker bush growth preferring parkland, edges of roads, where it may often be noticed perching on telegraph wires. It does not require an aquatic habitat though I have observed it diving into large puddles for food. It is often found and caught by the children in classrooms and dormitories.

Halcyon senegalensis Senegal Kingfisher (For. Res. F.)

Common at E.C.I. : much less so at Ipake. 6th June 1966 apparently breeding in hole in telegraph pile excavated by Mesopicus pyrrhogaster.

Halcyon malimbicus Blue-Breasted Kingfisher (For. Res. F.)

Resident at E.C.I. though not as common as H. senegalensis. At Ipako with the denser forest growth the position is reversed. Two calls identified : (i) a harsh "Shack" ; (ii) a rapid sequence of gradually falling notes. The latter is heard mainly between January and May at E.C.I.

Melittophagus gularis Black Bee-eater (For. Res. F.)

Two sightings only at E.C.I.; both on old farmland clearings. 6th January 1964 and 12th September, 1964.

Bycanistes sharpi Laughing Hornbill (For. Res. C.)

Observed occasionally in thick forest at Ipake and E.C.I. Noted also in the orchard-like Derived Savannah of certain areas between Ilaro and Abeokuta. Call : "Hlo; hlo, hlo" etc.

Lophoceros nasutus Grey Hornbill (Sav. Res. A.)

Common on the Ado-Odo grasslands which begins 25 miles S.W. of Ilaro towards Badagry. I have no records of this bird between Ilaro and Abeokuta.

Lophoceros semifasciatus Allied Hornbill (For. Res. A.)

Extremely common at E.C.I. with its patchy environment of parkland, farm and forest. Not so abundant at Ipako. 17th March 1965 : birds breeding in hollow in trunk of tree 50' high, Ipake. 15th November 1964 : large number (75-100) birds watched gathering in several Silk-cotton trees in forest near Owodo, 12 miles S.W. of Ilaro at dusk.

Lophoceros hartlaubi Black-Billed Dwarf Hornbill (For. Res. F.)

Occasionally seen at Ipake only.

Lophoceros camurus Red-Billed Dwarf Hornbill (For. Res. F.)

Common at Ipake and E.C.I. Cry a laughing "Hlew -hlew-hlew-hlew etc delivered rapidly and descending in pitch.

Tropiocranus albocristatus Crested Hornbill (For. Res. C.)

Present at E.C.I. occasional; common at Ipake, where it is usually more in evidence than L. semifasciatus. I have frequently seen it on the ground, behaviour never noted with the other species of Hornbill treated. Netted Ipake 8th November 1966. Its cry is a curious "strangled" sound something like "U - ah-ah."

Ceratogymna atrata : Black-Casqued Hornbill (For. Res. O.)

I have not noted this magnificent bird in Fgbado Division: its nearest sighting being at Gambari Forest 15 miles S.E. of Ilaro. I did however discover six dried heads of the species offered for sale as "medicine" on a juju stall in the market of Pobe, which is just within the border of Dahomey about 25 miles W. of Ilaro.

Apaloderma narina Narina trogon (For./Sav. Res. R.)

One sighting : 30th August 1965 : E.C.I. in the densest part of the matured secondary forest growth on the school grounds; a single bird perching 30' high and calling. Tail held vertically downwards and moved slightly forwards with each syllable of the call "wu; wu; wu; wu - wow; wu - wow;" etc. Quality of song dove-like. 8th May 1967 : heard same area; also 23rd May 1967. Apparently present this rainy season.

Prionornis bidentatus Toothbilled Barbet (For. Res. O.)

One sighting, date not recorded, in old overgrown farmland 10 miles S. of Ilaro.

Tricholaema flavipunctata Hairybreasted Toothbill (For. Res. F.)

Common in the forest at E.C.I. and Ipake. Call somewhat similar to that of Trachylaemus purpuratus, Yellow-Billed Barbet; a succession of notes renderable as "Cu - cu - cu..." etc. delivered with little variation in pitch.

T. flavipunctata calls about two or three times a second; T. purpuratus no more than once every two or three seconds.

Gymnobucco calvus Bare-Headed Barbet (For. Res. A.)

Abundant at Ipake and E.C.I. Breeding noted: young being fed at nest in hole in dead tree 40' high on farm clearing: 28th October 1966 : 17th January and 24th March 1967.

Gymnobucco peli Bristle-Nosed Barbet (For. Res. CL.)

Present at Ipake though not as common as G. calvus with whom it associates; one sighting at E.C.I.

Pogoniulus leucolaima Lemon-Rumped Tinker Bird (For. Res. C.)

First identified at Ishaga-Sangote on the Abeokuta Road, 25 miles North of Ilaro 17th January 1964: a pair calling in thicket on patchy rangeland. Song: a quadrisyllabic "Tonk-tonk-tonk-tonk," with an interval of a second or two before the next sequence. Only occasionally heard at E.C.I. and Ipake. I have noted this species with much more regularity on visits to Topo Island and the Ibadan Grammar School grounds where the environment is much less forested than at Ilaro.

Pogoniulus subsulphureus Yellow-Throated Tinker-Bird (For. Res. C.)

Resident and common at Ilaro in forest of varying degrees of maturity. Generally located at heights of between 15' and 40'. Song: a steady succession of "tonking" notes, the pitch of which varies slightly. Delivery more rapid than in the case of P. chrysoconus the Yellow Fronted Tinker Bird and much more sustained than P. leucolaima. Noted once only at E. C.I.

Pogoniulus scolopaceus Speckled Tinker Bird (For. Res. C.)

Very common around Ilaro; habitat similar to that of P. subsulphureus though much lower levels of vegetation are preferred; consequently it is one of the commonest species to be netted at E.C.I. Seems partial to various types of berries. 20th November 1962 : eight individuals netted one afternoon near a shrub with green berries (unidentified), in open parkland at E.C.I. Calls : (i) a characteristic tinker-bird sequence of "tonk - tonk" notes becoming more rapid in delivery until a crescendo is reached followed by an abrupt dying away; (ii) a harsh "krrr, krrr; krrr etc". (iii) a prolonged "prrrrrrrrrrt".

Trachylaemus purpuratus Yellow-Billed Barbet (Res. For. C.)

Common E.C.I. and Ipake; sighted and heard generally at edges of farm clearings in thick secondary bush. Call "Cu; cu; cu;" etc. uttered persistently for two or three minutes; tone often "querulous", (o/f call of T. flavipunctatus). 29th May 1966 : usual call heard from pair at E.C.I. best described as deep toned clucking.

(I should not be surprised to find Buccanodon duchaillui : Duchaillu's Yellow Spotted Barbet (For. Res. O.) present at E.C.I. 11th August 1965 three individuals heard calling from concealment deep in a thicket: "hurrrw : hurrrw etc." Sound exactly as described for B. duchaillui in Bannerman P. 727. Same call heard in thick growth near clearing 30th August 1965).

Indicator minor Lesser Honey Guide (For. Res. F.)

Very occasionally seen at Ipake, 6th December 1964 : in a bird army working through thick bush ; 31st January 1966 : single bird indulging in repeated circular flights at edge of clearing for young teak. 7th September 1965 : E.C.I. : bird driven off by Malimbus ibadanensis from vicinity of latter's nest in farm clearing.

Indicator exilis Least Honey Guide (For. Res. F.)

Female netted E.C.I. 20th November 1962 near shrub bearing green berries in open parkland (8 Pogoniulus scolopaceus netted here the same afternoon). While in captivity overnight the bird dropped a pink soft shelled egg.

Campethera nivoea Buff-Spotted Woodpecker (For. Res. O.)

Occasionally noted in fairly well matured forest around Ilaro, including E.C.I. ; on all occasions seen at levels of between 5' to 20'. Seen to perch across a horizontal branch as well as to use the characteristic woodpecker stance against a vertical stem. Only once at Ipake. Call a loud "Wirrew; wirrew".

Mesopicos pyrrhogaster Fire-Bellied Woodpecker (For. Res. C.)

Common resident at E.C.I. and Ipake preferring fairly high trees in well developed secondary bush. Seldom seen below 30'. Often heard to "drum" presumably in the manner of the Greater Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopus major. 10th August 1966 : noted frequenting holes excavated by the species (Pers. comm.) high in telegraph poles on the College ground well clear of thick forest. 8th September 1965 : breeding in hole drilled 25' high in dead tree on farm clearing; young noted looking out of hole.

(To be concluded)