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## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE ILE-IFE AREA, NIGERIA

by Richard Farmer

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The following list is based on casual observations from September 1968 through February 1979 in the environs of Ile-Ife, Oyo State, Nigeria (07 29' N, 04 33' E). Mist nets were used throughout the period in many areas, but not on any regular basis. The area is basically secondary forest, with thick undergrowth but also much open space resulting from intensive farming and uncontrolled logging. On the University of Ife campus where most of the observations were made, large tracts of the forest have been completely cleared for building and for the University farm. There are three lakes, formed by damming small streams. The largest of 71 ha, was formed in October 1978 and is still attracting new species to the area, like Ospreys. There are three hills with savanna-like grassy slopes and small pockets of forest; the highest rises 175 m above the mean campus level of 275 m. The dry season lasts from late November until early April; the rainy season occupying the remainder of the year.

This is the first published list of birds of this immediate area. One of the more interesting finds is Böhm's Crake *Sarothrura bohmi*, the first report of the species from Nigeria. Another is the first indication of the breeding season of the Tit-Hylia *Hylia prasina*. I have extended the range of the Ibadan Malimbe *Malimbus ibadanensis* and have added to its known breeding data. The list also mentions two rare migrants this far south, the Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinica* and the White-Eyed Pochard *Aythya fuligula*. An unusual record is the observation of Lesser Moorhens *Gallinula angulata* copulating in February.

Resident means that the species is present all year. P indicates that I have photographed the bird, generally on colour transparency film. Identification of difficult species was made largely with the help of Bannerman (1930-1951). Scientific nomenclature follows White (1960-1965) and English names follow Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1970-1973).

*Podiceps ruficollis* Resident and common. Breeding: two chicks observed leaving the nest on 6 Oct 1978; four other juveniles on 15 Nov and another on 1 Dec. P

*Phalacrocorax africanus* One present as the new lake was filling on the University campus, Mar 1978. P

*Anhinga rufa* One bird on one of the smaller University lakes at the height of the Sahel drought, Nov 1972 to Jan 1973 and for the same period the following year.

- Tigriornis leucolophus* One on a small University lake in Feb 1974.
- Nycticorax nycticorax* Single birds observed regularly during Feb and Mar.
- Ardeola ralloides* Resident and common. P
- Ardeola ibis* Dry season migrant. First sightings: 29 Oct 1972, 10 Nov 1974, 7 Nov 1975, 25 Oct 1976, 24 Oct 1978. Last sightings: 19 May 1972, 26 May 1973, 22 May 1974, 16 May 1976, 23 May 1977, 17 May 1978. P
- Butorides striatus* Resident and common. P
- Egretta alba* Single bird present at a small University lake throughout 1968/69 and 1970. A pair was seen for a few days in Apr 1971. Several are currently present at the new University lake. P
- Egretta intermedia* First observed throughout the dry season 1972/73 and regularly since then. P
- Egretta garzetta* Single bird seen in 1975 in the dry season and small flocks of four or five have been regular dry season visitors since then. P
- Ardea cinerea* Only one or two present every dry season up to 1978, but the new University lake now has at least seven (Feb 1979). P
- Ardea melanocephala* Singles observed from Dec through May. P
- Ardea purpurea* Small numbers from Nov to Mar.
- Scopus umbretta* One at the new University lake on 21 Sep 1978.
- Ciconia episcopus* Single birds in Mar 1971 and Jan 1973. P
- Anastomus lamelligerus* One in Nov 1971.
- Ibis ibis* One immature at the new University lake 20 and 21 Jan 1979. P
- Plectropterus gambensis* One at a small lake in Mar 1974.
- Anas querquedula* Another Sahel drought visitor: on 21 Mar 1973 there was a flock of eight at a small pond, one remaining until 24 Apr. I saw one there in Jan 1975, and a flock of 30 from Nov 1975 to Mar 1976. Another single visitor was present throughout the dry season of 1976/77. P
- Aythya fuligula* One on the smallest lake 20-23 Dec 1978.
- Gypohierax angolensis* Resident. Immatures seen most often during the dry season. P
- Circus macrourus* One on 21 Feb 1971 and on 25 Jan 1972.
- Polyboroides radiatus* Resident but very local. I have seen it regularly soaring over the forest in one small locality on the campus.
- Dryotriorchis spectabilis* One was seen on 13 May 1978 in the lower branches of the trees at the edge of a forest. When it flew I saw that the under side of the wing was like the flanks, white with black spots.
- Accipiter melanoleucus* A pair was seen regularly until 1974 when their forest home was felled to make farms.
- Accipiter toussenelii* Resident and rather common. Netted once. Usually seen in open forest among the lower branches. P
- Accipiter badius* Resident and common. P
- Accipiter erythropus* Single birds seen irregularly.
- Urotriorchis macrourus* Singles in the same open forest, Feb 1971 and Mar 1972.
- Kaupifalco monogrammicus* Resident. Common. P
- Buteo auguralis* Resident. Prefers park land with scattered trees. P

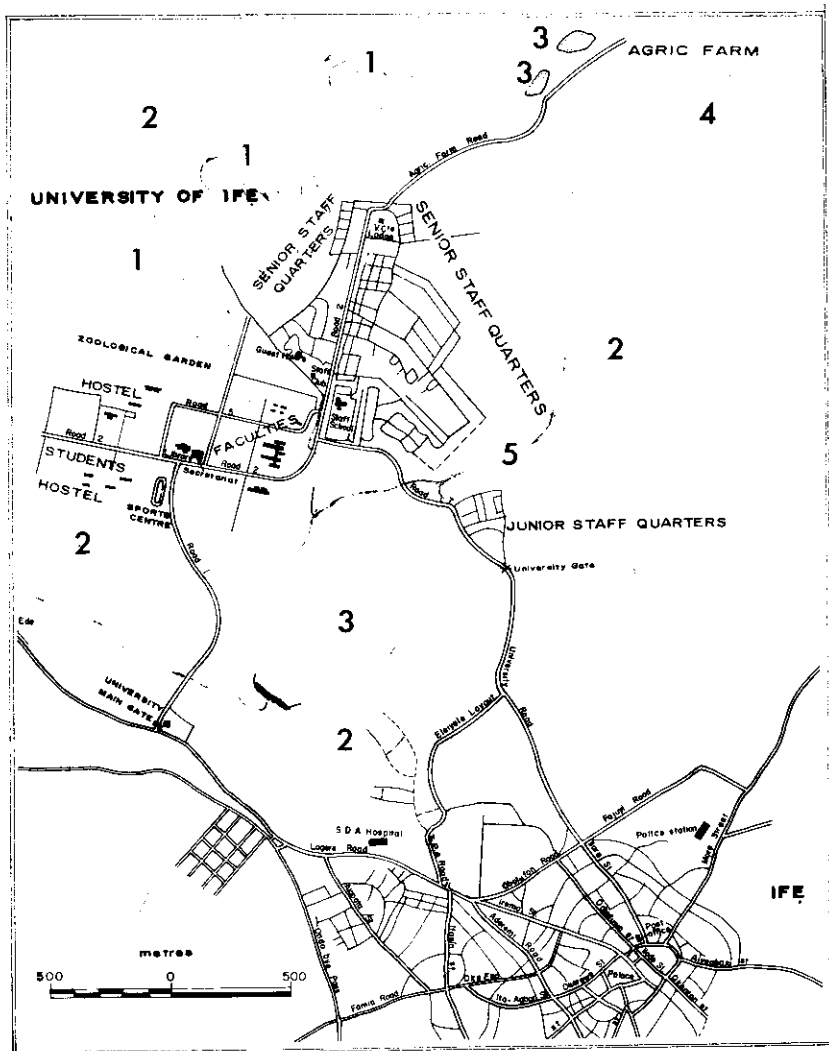


Figure 1. Town plan of Ife and University campus. 1 = hills with some rock cliffs, grassy slopes and small pockets of forest; 2 = secondary forest with large clearings due to logging and farming, generally dense undergrowth; 3 = lakes (the largest 71 ha in extent); 4 = Agriculture Dept. Farm, mostly cleared land with fingers of forest remaining; 5 = Opa river.

- Lophaetus occipitalis* Single birds in Jan 1976, Jan 1977 and Sep 1978. A pair was present at the new University lake from Jan to Mar 1978. P
- Hieraaetus dubius* Once; in a small open woodland in Nov 1972.
- Milvus migrans* Breeds here. Nestlings seen on 29 Jan 1977 fledged between 20 and 28 Mar 1978. A fully grown immature was seen in a nest on 24 Apr 1973. They leave here in Jul and return between 11 Sep and 2 Oct. P
- Aviceda cuculoides* Resident. A pair was seen raiding a drongo's nest on 19 Mar 1972. P
- Elanus caeruleus* A common resident. P
- Pandion haliaetus* One at the new University lake on 4 Feb 1979. P
- Falco peregrinus* One Dec 1971.
- Falco cuvieri* Seen annually in Dec and Jan.
- Falco ardosiaceus* Resident. Common. P
- Falco naumanni* Single birds in Mar 1972 and Feb 1979, both times in very open areas. The second time, it was being mobbed by two kestrels.
- Falco tinnunculus* Resident. In Mar 1977 one pair was seen nesting in a tree hole while another pair was seen feeding nestlings in an open nest high in a tree. Common.
- Francolinus bicalcaratus* Resident. Commonly seen and heard.
- Crex egregia* One in hand Nov 1970.
- Limnecorax flavirostra* One seen in Jan 1973.
- Sarothrura bohmi* A male in hand after being stunned by flying into the side of a house in Mar 1968. A 'boo' call repeated at about two second intervals is commonly heard from swampy areas of the campus.
- Gallinula angulata* A pair on the smallest University lake in Jan and Feb 1976 was seen mating in Feb. (The lake was drained soon afterwards.)
- Gallinula chloropus* Resident, quite common. Four adults and 5 immatures were seen from Dec 1978 through Jan 1979. They are usually seen in ones and twos. P
- Podica senegalensis* One observed from Jan to Mar 1973.
- Actophilornis africana* Resident and common. P
- Vanellus spinosus* One with an injured leg seen in the first week of Mar 1972.
- Vanellus albiceps* A single bird present most of Feb 1974.
- Charadrius forbesi* A regular visitor from Dec to Feb. P
- Numenius phaeopus* I saw one on 17 Dec 1970.
- Numenius arquata* Another single, at the University Sewerage ponds in Feb 1973.
- Tringa nebularia* Regular dry season visitor. P
- Tringa stagnatilis* Seen only once, 13 Dec 1974.
- Tringa glareola* Common visitor during the dry season. P
- Tringa ochropus* The commonest Sandpiper present during the northern winter. P
- Tringa hypoleucos* Resident. The small number present all year is augmented during the dry season by migrants. P
- Tringa erythropus* One in Jan 1974.
- Gallinago gallinago* Small numbers present during the dry season. P
- Gallinago minima* One or two present during the dry season.
- Rostratula benghalensis* Breeds here. An adult with 4 immatures seen in May 1977.

- Columba malherbii* Resident. Commonly heard.
- Streptopelia semitorquata* Our commonest resident dove. Seen nest building in Jun and Jul and feeding young in Jan and Mar. P
- Turtur tympanistria* Rare resident. P
- Turtur afer* Resident and common. P
- Turtur brehmeri* Singles in Oct 1971 and Jan 1978 and a pair in Jun 1973.
- Treron australis* Resident and common. Seen feeding young on 12 Jan 1977. P
- Psittacus erithacus* Three on 1 Jan 1979. P
- Tauraco persa* Probably resident, but seen only in Jan, Feb, May, Oct and Dec in flocks of up to eight.
- Crinifer piscator* Resident. Common. P
- Clamator glandarius* One immature on 11 Feb 1979.
- Cuculus levallantii* Resident in small numbers.
- Cuculus solitarius* Common in the early '70's but rarely heard now.
- Cuculus clamosus gabonensis* Resident. Commonly heard. P
- Cuculus canorus gularis* Small numbers seen every Jan (and only in Jan).
- Chrysococcyx klaas* Single bird seen 14 Dec 1970 and 10 Oct 1976.
- Chrysococcyx caprius* Resident, quite common. Adults once seen feeding young 2 May 1976. P
- Chrysococcyx cupreus* Resident and common.
- Ceuthmochares aereus* Resident. Rarely seen. P
- Centropus leucogaster* Resident but very rare. P
- Centropus monachus* Resident, common. Many times I have seen them attacking and eating small birds in the lower shelves of mist nets. P
- Centropus senegalensis* Resident. Common. Both colour phases have been observed. P
- Tyto alba* A frequently heard resident. P
- Otus scopus senegalensis* Breeds here. Feeding young in nest hole Feb 1973, and in the same hole in Feb 1976.
- Otus leucotis* Resident. Nestling found Jan 1979. P
- Ciccaba woodfordi* Resident. Immature netted Dec 1972. P
- Caprimulgus inornatus* Single bird netted in Apr 1973. P
- Caprimulgus climacurus* Large numbers present Dec to Feb. P
- Macrodipteryx longipennis* Resident. Male seen in breeding plumage in Feb. Rather common. P
- Apus apus* Small numbers pass through in Aug and Sep, and in Mar and Apr.
- Apus affinis* Resident, common. P
- Cypsiurus parvus* A common resident.
- Ceryle rudis* Single birds seen regularly from Jan to May. P
- Alcedo cristata* Resident, common. P
- Alcedo leucogaster* Resident, common. Immature netted Oct 1972. P
- Ceyx picta* One netted Oct 1974.
- Halcyon senegalensis* Resident, very common. Seen in nesting hole 20 Apr 1978, and feeding young in a hole 13 Oct 1974. P
- Halcyon malimbica* Resident. Heard frequently.
- Halcyon leucocephala* Dry season visitor. P
- Merops albicollis* Dry season visitor. First sightings: 31 Oct 1971, 30 Oct 1972, 16 Oct 1973, 3 Nov 1974, 4 Nov 1975, 6 Nov 1976, 15 Oct 1978. Last sightings: 17 May 1974, 11 May 1975, 16 May 1976, 23 Apr 1977, 17 May 1978. Common. P

- Merops gularis* One near the west boundary of the University, May 1970.
- Coracias garrulus* Singles in Apr 1977 and Mar 1978.
- Coracias abyssinica* One adult, Feb 1976.
- Coracias naevia* Single birds on 23 Feb 1978 and 3 Sep 1978. P
- Eurystomus glaucurus* Breeds here. Seen mating in Mar and feeding young in Feb and in May. I have no sight records for Jun through Sep. P
- Eurystomus gularis* Resident. Common. P
- Phoeniculus purpureus* Resident. Commonly seen and heard. P
- Phoeniculus bollei* Common resident. A pair was seen mating on 3 Oct 1976.
- Phoeniculus castaneiceps* Small flock seen once, in Sep 1975.
- Tockus nasutus* Present in small flocks Nov through May. Increasing in the past few years. P
- Tockus camurus* One, Jan 1974.
- Tockus hartlaubi* Resident. Rare. Observed flying into a small grove in Apr 1978; caterpillars and mantises could be seen in its bill. Also seen entering and leaving a hole in a tree in Dec. P
- Tockus fasciatus semifasciatus* Resident and common. P
- Tropicus albocristatus* Resident in open woodland but very rare.
- Bycanistes fistulator* One, Mar 1971.
- Lybius hirsutus* Resident. Frequently seen. Observed in its nesting hole in Dec 1970 and Jan 1971. P
- Gymnobucco calvus* Resident. Common. Seen feeding young in Dec, Mar and Apr. P
- Gymnobucco peli* Resident but very local. Known from one flock only.
- Pogoniulus scolopaceus* Common resident. Seen feeding young in Feb. P
- Pogoniulus bilineatus* Resident. Commonly heard.
- Pogoniulus subsulphureus* A commonly heard resident.
- Trachyphonus purpuratus* Common resident. Seen in nesting holes in Apr and May. P
- Indicator minor* Resident and common.
- Junx torquilla* Two in Dec 1971 and one netted in Mar 1973.
- Campethera nivosa* One 11 May 1971. P
- Dendropicos gabonensis* One in May 1978. P
- Mesopicos pyrrhogaster* Resident and frequently seen. Observed feeding young in Jan and Feb and nestlings in Oct.
- Hirundo rustica* Flocks of 20-30 birds pass through in Oct and in Mar/Apr.
- Hirundo aethiopica* A commonly seen resident. P
- Hirundo semirufa* Common resident. Nesting in Apr and Sep. P
- Hirundo fuligula* Resident. A pair was seen using the same nest for three consecutive years. A colony now nests on University buildings. P
- Delichon urbica* A few seen in Jan, Mar and Apr.
- Psalidoprocne obscura* One in May 1970.
- Motacilla flava* (*flava* and *thunbergi*) Large flocks present during the dry season. First sightings: 3 Oct 1970, 6 Oct 1972, 4 Oct 1973, 5 Oct 1974, 29 Sep 1976, 15 Oct 1978. Last sightings: 1 May 1971, 21 Apr 1972, 5 May 1974, 3 May 1976, 26 Apr 1977. P
- Motacilla alba* Resident. Common. P

- Anthus leucophrys* Noted from Oct through Apr. Rare.
- Anthus trivialis* I have seen singles only from Jan to Mar.
- Macronyx croceus* Single birds in Nov 1971, May 1972 and Dec 1978.
- Prionops caniceps* Resident. Always in little flocks. Feeding young in Jan and Mar. P
- Dryoscopus gambensis*, *Dryoscopus sabinii* Rarely seen, but I have netted each occasionally.
- Malaconotus multicolor* Heard more often than seen; all those seen had scarlet/vermillion undersides.
- Malaconotus cruentus* Resident in thick bush. Netted Jan 1972. P
- Lanius senator* Dry season visitor. Earliest sighting Nov 15; latest Apr 14. P
- Oriolus oriolus* I saw a male in Nov 1971 and a pair on 29 Mar 1978.
- Oriolus auratus* A female was seen in Dec 1976.
- Oriolus brachyrhynchus* Resident. Seen often but only in one bit of forest.
- Oriolus nigripennis* Common resident. Copulating in Dec and incubating in Mar. P
- Dicrurus ludwigii* Seen frequently in the early '70's, now less so.
- Dicrurus adsimilis* Resident and increasing. Incubating in Nov, Feb and Mar. The male and female incubate alternately. P
- Poeoptera lugubris* Resident in flocks of up to 20 birds.
- Onychognathus fulgidus* Resident. Frequently seen. Carrying nesting material into a tree hole on 17 Mar 1971 and feeding young on 27 Feb 1977.
- Lamprotorornis splendidus* Resident. Seen at nesting holes in Feb and Mar. Common. P
- Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* In large flocks, only from Nov to Feb. P
- Corvus albus* Rare visitor. First seen in May 1976; again on 20 Feb 1977.
- Campephaga phoenicea* Single birds in two localities in Jan.
- Pycnonotus barbatus* A very common resident. Feeding nestlings in Jan and young in May. P
- Andropadus gracilis* Netted infrequently.
- Andropadus gracilirostris* Netted once in Jan 1972.
- Andropadus virens* Resident. Frequently netted. P
- Andropadus latirostris* Resident, frequent. Immature netted in Nov. P
- Baeopogon indicator* Resident. Seen often, netted once. P
- Chlorocichla simplex* Resident. Seen and heard in all bush areas. P
- Thescelocichla leucopleurus* Resident in flocks in all swampy areas.
- Phyllastrephus scandens* Seen infrequently.
- Phyllastrephus albigularis* Seldom seen. A pair was netted in Oct. P
- Bleda canicapilla* Common resident, netted all year. P
- Criniger calurus* All the specimens netted have had rufous tails. P
- Nicator nicator* Resident. Commonly seen and heard. P
- Saxicola rubetra* Considerable numbers present during the dry season. First sightings: 21 Oct 1971, 20 Oct 1972, 27 Oct 1973, 2 Nov 1974, 6 Nov 1976, 22 Oct 1978. Last sightings: 14 May 1971, 17 Apr 1972, 23 Apr 1973, 30 Apr 1974, 28 Mar 1975, 11 Apr 1976, 17 Apr 1977. P



- Alethe diademata* Very rare; netted only once. P
- Cossypha niveicapilla* Resident. Seen and netted frequently in a little forest at the foot of a University hill, but nowhere else. P
- Stizorhina fraseri* Resident. Seen and netted frequently. P
- Luscinia megarhynchos* A regular dry season visitor. P
- Turdus pelios* Resident and in increasing numbers. P
- Trichastoma puvelli* Netted only once, 2 Feb 1974. P
- Hippolais polyglotta* Present from Nov to Apr. P
- Sylvia borin* Netted from Dec to late Apr. P
- Sylvia atricapilla* A pair in Jan 1971, the female netted in Feb.
- Sylvia communis* Very rare visitor in the dry season. Netted once, 1 Apr 1973.
- Phylloscopus trochilus* Dry season visitor, netted from Dec through Feb. P
- Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Visitor from late Oct to early Apr. P
- Cisticola erythrops* Resident at least in one locality (near the new lake). First netted in Mar 1978. P
- Cisticola lateralis* Netted in Mar 1973 but not since then.
- Cisticola anonyma* Resident on the grassy slopes of the University hills.
- Cisticola brachyptera* Grassy areas; resident.
- Prinia erythroptera* Resident, in all grassy areas. P
- Prinia subflava* Very rarely seen.
- Apalis rufogularis* Another species of limited range. I have seen them only in one small forest.
- Camaroptera superciliaris* Single birds seen Jun 1970 and May 1972.
- Camaroptera chloronota* Resident but not as common as *C. brachyura*.
- Camaroptera brachyura* Seen and heard all year. P
- Eremomela badiceps* First seen in Oct 1976.
- Sylvietta virens* Resident. Frequently seen. P
- Macrosphenus flavicans* Seen infrequently. Netted once, Jan 1972.
- Hylia prasina* Netted once, May 1973. P
- Pholidornis rufiae* Resident and frequently seen. Adults observed feeding young on 2 Dec 1976.
- Muscicapa striata* Migrant through the area. My earliest sighting is 29 Sep 1972 and last 17 Apr 1977.
- Muscicapa cassini* Resident but rare.
- Myioparus plumbeus* Single birds seen in Apr 1976 and Jan 1979.
- Ficedula hypoleuca* Present during the dry season. Immatures netted in Nov 1972 had white outer tail feathers, but an adult in breeding plumage netted on 2 Apr 1973 did not. P
- Bradornis pallidus* Netted in Jan, Feb and Apr only.
- Platysteira castanea* Resident and commonly seen. P
- Platysteira blissetti* One netted in Dec 1971.
- Erythrocerus mcalli* Resident. Commonly seen.
- Trochocercus nitens* Netted only once, May 1973. P
- Terpsiphone rufiventer* Resident. Seen frequently. P
- Terpsiphone viridis* Single bird seen on 16 Nov 1974.
- Anthreptes rectirostris* Rarely seen.
- Anthreptes collaris* Our commonest sunbird. Seen nest building in Mar. P
- Nectarinia olivacea* Resident. Rarely seen but frequently netted.

- Nectarinia verticalis* One, May 1973.
- Nectarinia cyanolaema* A pair seen in Mar 1971 and singles in Oct 1971 and Nov 1972.
- Nectarinia senegalensis* A male on three consecutive days in Jul 1977.
- Nectarinia adelberti* Present from Oct through Jun in considerable numbers. Adults with young were seen in early Jun.
- Nectarinia venusta* First seen on 6 Oct 1974; now present in increasing numbers.
- Nectarinia chloropygia* Resident. Frequently seen. P
- Nectarinia cuprea* One seen on 12 Apr 1974.
- Nectarinia coccinigaster* Small numbers present year round.
- Nectarinia superba* Resident and common. There seem to be greater numbers in May and Jun. P
- Amblyospiza albifrons* One netted in May 1972.
- Ploceus cucullatus* Very common resident. P
- Ploceus nigerrimus* Resident in large numbers. All have chestnut backs and abdomens. P
- Ploceus tricolor* Resident in small numbers. Seen mating in Feb, nest building in Mar and Apr and feeding young in May. P
- Malimbus ibadanensis* Resident in very small numbers. Seen nest building in Dec and Feb and feeding young on 20 May 1975.
- Malimbus scutatus* Resident and frequently observed; nest building in Jan and Feb, mating in Feb and feeding young in Jan. P
- Malimbus nitens* Resident at all the lakes; nest building in Mar and flying into the nest with food in Oct. P
- Malimbus rubricollis* Commonest resident malimbe. Mating in Dec, nest building in Apr and feeding young from May to Jul. P
- Malimbus malimbicus* Rarely observed; nest building in Feb. P
- Quelea erythrops* First seen and netted in 1972; large flocks are present now. P
- Passer griseus* My first record, of two birds, was on 10 Dec 1978.
- Vidua macroura* Resident in large flocks. P
- Nigrita canicapilla* Commonest resident negro-finch. Nest building in Mar and Apr and feeding young in Apr. P
- Nigrita luteifrons* Resident in small numbers.
- Nigrita bicolor* One bird netted in May 1976.
- Nigrita fusconota* Rarely seen. Observed nest building on 18 Apr 1972.
- Spermophaga haematina* Resident. Netted frequently. P
- Estrilda melpoda* Resident in small flocks.
- Lagonosticta rufopicta* A single flock seen at the edge of town.
- Lonchura bicolor* Resident. Less common than *L. cucullata*. P
- Lonchura cucullata* Resident and commonly seen. P