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(nowadays mainly farm bush and forest regrowth). I can find no suggestions that African Barn Owls are migratory, although clearly such a cosmopolitan species, which has successfully colonised so many remote islands, must have a tendency to wander. But Sierra Leone has its own Barn Owl populations; why should a Senegal bird move so far and to so different a vegetational and climatic environment?

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HYPOCHERA LORENZI IN GHANA - On 16 February 1973 I observed a whydah in a garden near Accra, Ghana; it was associating with a flock of 15 Bar-breasted Fire-finches *Lagonosticta rufopicta* and I managed to net it. It was identified as *Hypochera lorenzi* Nicolai, a first year female moulting the breast feathers, and the following measurements were taken: weight 12 g, wing 65 mm, tail 37 mm, tarsus 17 mm, bill length 9 mm, bill breadth 45 mm, bill depth 6 mm.

*H. lorenzi* was discovered in Nigeria by Nicolai (1972) only recently, and was found to parasitize the Bar-breasted Fire-finch. As its host is distributed from Gambia to Uganda, it is possible that *H. lorenzi* is distributed likewise; but mine is only the second locality record of this species.

No ectoparasites nor blood parasites could be demonstrated from this specimen (Wink 1976), which is deposited in the collection of the Zoological Research Institute and Museum A. Koenig, Bonn.

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr H.E. Wolters (Bonn) and Dr J. Nicolai (Wilhelmshaven) for confirming the identification of this species.

#### References

- NICOLAI, J. (1972) Zwei neue *Hypochera*-Arten aus West-Afrika (Ploceidae, Viduinae). *J. Orn.* 113: 229-240
- WINK, M. & BENNETT, G.F. (1976) Blood parasites of some birds from Ghana, West Africa. *J. Wildlife Dis.* 12: 587-590

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DOWITCHER IN THE GAMBIA - On 23 December 1978 during a weekly count of waders on a small mangrove-fringed tidal inlet 4 km north of Fajara on the coast of The Gambia, a long-billed wader was seen standing amongst five Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* which were probing into the wet mud at the edge of the lagoon. The wader was about half the body size of the godwits and short legged, although its bill was long and snipe-like. It was not observed to feed, but when it walked the bird appeared almost ridiculously short-legged compared to the godwits. It had a glossy chestnut head and neck, and especially breast and belly, clearly distinguishing it from Snipe

*Capella gallinago*. There was a pale whitish supercilium, and the back appeared darker brown mottled with black. After two or three minutes' observation the godwits flew away and the bird ran to the cover of the mangroves 10 m away. Neither the tail nor the rump was clearly seen, and the bird uttered no audible call.

I identified it as a dowitcher *Limnodromus* sp. in summer plumage but could not be sure to which species *L. griseus* or *L. scolopaceus* it belonged. This is the second record of a dowitcher in West Africa, the first being a Short-billed Dowitcher *L. griseus* seen in Ghana in October 1976 (Macdonald, *Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc.* 13(1977): 148).

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A PROPOS DE ANAS ANGUSTIROSTRIS ET GALLINULA C. CHLOROPUS - Dans le *Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc.* 14 : 86-87, R. E. Sharland cite la Sarcelle marbrée et la Poule d'eau (race nominale) comme espèces nouvelles pour l'Ouest africain. Cependant, Morel & Roux, 1966, Les migrateurs paléarctiques au Sénégal, *Terre & Vie* 20 : 19-72 ; M & R, 1973, Les migrateurs paléarctiques au Sénégal, *Terre & Vie* 27 : 523-550 signalent ces deux espèces. Même chose dans Serle, Morel & Hartwig. Un point mériterait d'être éclairci : est-ce que *Gallinula c. chloropus* et *G. c. meridionalis* cohabitent? Où est la limite d'hivernage au sud de la race *chloropus*?

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