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THE BIRDS OF ILARO

J.A. Button

## II Forest and Savannah Residents (Passerines )

Part A : Eurylaemidae to HirundinidaeSmithornis rufolateralis : Rufous-Sided Broadbill (For. Res.O.)

Very occasionally noted at E.C.I. (Egbado College, Ilaro) in dense well-matured secondary growth; attention drawn by its curious stridulation : "Skerr" , produced by the bird in circular flights at heights of between 10 to 20 feet .  
Sightings : July 1st and 4 th. 1965; two birds "stridulating " February 2 nd. 1966; single bird May 5 th. and 6 th. ; also October 1 st. 1967 (10:00 a.m.) With exception of last record all noted at dusk .

Mirafra buckleyi: Buckley's Bush-Lark (Sav.Res.C.)

May 28 th. and July 7 th. 1963; noted "drumming " Ado-Odo grasslands , eastern fringes of "Dahomey Gap" .

Motacilla aguimp: African Pied Wagtail (For. Res.C.)

Common: a bird of extensive forest clearings showing little fear of man . Often noted attacking its reflection in car hub-caps . Seems to breed mainly in dry season . E.C.I. breeding : August 5 th. 1965 : pair investigating "gable" end of dormitory roof. November 12 th. 1965 : bird seen carrying nesting material to roof corner . December 20 th. 1966: building in same place . May 1967 : four juveniles : egg dates assessed approx. mid-March ; brood successfully raised by pair nesting in "gable" end of classroom building .

Anthus leucophrys : Plain-Backed Pipit ( Sav. Res.C.)

Very common resident , especially at E.C.I. on playing fields and parkland . Noted less frequently on Derived Savannah patches in the area . Nests all the year round though less breeding activity in the rains . Following egg dates noted at E.C.I. ; designation (Y) indicates assessment of egg date from state of young :  
May 28 th. 1961 (Y); January 5 th. 1963 (Y); December 10 th. 1963; September 15 th. 1965; December 2nd . 1965.  
Strong social urge at all times of year . On September 13 th. 1963 ( 6:00 p.m.), I counted 50/60 birds on College athletics field roughly within area of 440 yards track ; much calling and chasing .

Macronyx croceus : Yellow-Throated Long-Claw (Sav. Res. C.)

Frequent ; regularly observed at E.C.I. on playing fields : goal posts a favourite perch . Display noted August 26 th. 1961: male advancing towards female with quivering upraised wings .

Hypergerus atriceps: Oriole Babbler (Wdsp.Res. F.L.)

Noted at S. Peter's College, Abeokuta, 10 miles outside area under study (i.e. 25 mile radius of Ilaro). Abundant on Topo Island.

Illadopsis rufipennis : White-Breasted Akalat (For. Res. F.)

Netted by C.H. Fry, February 17 th. 1962 near small stream in thick forest Ipake. Seen in dense secondary growth at E.C.I. February 18 th. and December 1st. 1963. Its skulking habits make assessment of status difficult.

Illadopsis moloneyanus : Moloney's Akalat (For. Res. O.)

Netted Ipake in dense forest May 29 th. 1965. Observed Ipake September 18 th. 1966. Status as for I. rufipennis.

Macrosphenus kempii: Kemp's Bush-Creeper (For. Res. O.)

Common resident in dense new secondary vegetation around Ilaro town; less so in taller stands of timber at Ipake. Invariably netted or seen within 4 feet of ground: a skulker. Netted January 5th. and 27 th. 1963 at E.C.I. Distinctive little song delivered from dense cover: it has what may be described as a tired, perfunctory character.

Macrosphenus concolor : Olive Bush-Creeper (For. Res. C.)

Very common in thick forests around Ilaro town. Not a skulker, it is often observed in groups of 3 to 12 individuals. Usual song a reedy-sounding "Atweedloo-atweedleto" etc. repeated over and over. April 11 th. 1966 at Ipake heard making a prolonged warbler-like twittering. It favours levels generally too high for mist-netting.

Pycnonotus barbatus : Common Garden Bulbul (Wdsp.Res. A.)

All kinds of environment except thicker parts of the forest. Strong tendency to gather in groups of from 20 to 200 individuals on certain evenings after rain, when it indulges in frenzied chases and vociferous clamour. Breeding takes place all the year round though reaching a peak between July and September.

Trichophorus barbatus : Bearded Bulbul (For. Res. F.)

Noted occasionally Ipake and netted there in dense forest on September 21 st. 1963. Has a loud musical song not unlike that of Tchagra senegala: Black-Crowned Tchagra. Generally seen in groups of 3 to 8, or as member of an ejak. Bird noted in dense swampy growth near ruined bridge on main Ipake-Ifo track calling "Weep-weep-weep" etc. Group of 8 calling similarly in dense thickets of bush on Ado-Odo grasslands.

Trichophorus calurus : White-Bearded Bulbul (For. Res. C.)

Noted Ipake Forest. Parties of 2 - 10 seen occasionally near bridge mentioned in above note. Call: "Chick-chick" etc. July 31 st. 1967: two birds in ejak in dense secondary forest near Ijado village, 4 miles N. of Ilaro: one singing: "Chick-chick; tu-leek; tu-leek".

Bleda syndactyla: Common Bristle-Bill (For. Res.F.)

January 17 th, 1967:sighted in thick secondary forest at E.C.I.; three birds in ejak consisting mainly of Bulbuls and Flycatchers  
Call: "Kwick-kwick-kwick" followed by "Kiu,kiu,kiu" in descending pitch .

Bleda canicapilla:Grey-Headed Bristle-Bill (For.Res.F.)

Common in thick secondary growth of various stages of maturity in forests of the area . Small groups 3-6 birds frequently observed at dusk indulging in wild chases through lower levels of forest : i.e. from ground level to 6 feet . Excited calls of "Chityu, chityu,chityu" etc., then a rapidly descending sequence "Wirra,wirra,wirra"etc . Frequently netted .  
V. Button (Bull. Niger.Orn.Soc. I (2) : 8-9 )

Thesolocichia leucopleura:Swamp Bulbul (For.Res.F.L.)

Very common in low lying parts of the forest. At E.C.I. I have noted it along the Ogbe stream in high secondary growth ; presence of Rapphia Palms a common feature of the habitat preferred by the species : an extensive area of Rapphia Palm swamp just outside the study area near Ado-Odo on the Badagry road is a favourite haunt. Song : a hoarse "conversational" chatter with phrases sounding like "Watchyer Christopher!"  
Frequently netted on Topo Island , where the thick vegetation along the lagoon side is generally (W. of the RestHouse) no higher than 20 feet , but never in the forests of the area .  
V.Button (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. I (2) : 8-9)

Pyrrhurus flavicollis: Yellow-Throated Leaf-Love (Sav. Res. C.)

A Savannah species ; not noted between Abeokuta and Ilaro , but observed once in dense thickets on Ado-Odo grasslands , the eastern fringes of the "Dahomey Gap". Common Topo Island and Ibadan . Voice : a harsh chatter .

Pyrrhurus simplex : Simple Leaf-Love (For. Res. C.)

Common resident especially at E.C.I. with its varied environment . Prefers newer secondary growth , though it may be located in Derived Savannah and fairly thick forest . Egg dates E.C.I. : June 18 th.; July 7 th.;August 25 th.; August 28 th.; 1963; January 4 th, 1964. Nest : a firm well made structure of grasses and fibres 3 to 5 feet off the ground in a bush or shrub . Most nests found on disused farmland and easily accessible . Song : a low "conversational" chatter .  
Case of albinism E.C.I. August 24 th. 1963 : female brooding in low bush in parkland . Head, mantle and breast cream , white spot near tip of bill ; rump and middle rectrices brown with white outer rectrices . Middle part of body mottled brown and white . Breeding not successful.

V. Button (Bull.Niger. Orn.Soc. I (2): 8-9)

Beopogon indicator : White-Tailed Greenbul (For.Res.F.)

Common in forest and parkland especially at E.C.I. , generally keeping to canopy of trees . Distinctive call: "Piddle-chew".  
V.Button (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. I (2) : 8 - 9 )

Phyllastrephus baumanni: Baumann's Greenbul (For. Res. 0.)

Resident and common around Ilaro : often noted in groups of 3-5 individuals at tops of trees in College parkland and secondary forest, but frequency of netting records indicates that it spends much time at lower levels also . Call: a descending whistle "Siew" or "seer" often with guttural syllables interposed : "Seer, karua; seer , karua" etc.; or "Seer, kuwick ; seer, kuwick" etc.; or "Seer, wo-weh; seer, wo-weh" etc.; easily overlooked .

V. Button (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. I (2) : 8-9 )

Phyllastrephus albigularis : White-Throated Greenbul (For. Res.)

Resident and obviously common from netting records at E.C.I. and Ipake, but it is seldom seen in the field on account of its skulking habits . Its song is easily overlooked : it was not until a few weeks ago that I succeeded in identifying the voice . October 1 st. 1967: E.C.I. , 4/5 individuals in bird army (ejak) consisting mainly of Bulbuls , Flycatchers and Sunbirds . Voice : a "fruity" "Wick, wick, wick " followed by "cawl, cawl, cawl" in continuously rising tone .

Andropadus curvirostris: Sombre Bulbul (For. Res. 0.)

Very common in thick secondary growth of the area and especial Ilaro vicinity . Easily observable in the field , though identification rather difficult as it is very similar in plumage to other Andropadi , particularly A. virens , Little Green Bulbul. A somewhat sluggish bird preferring to perch and move in barer branches of lower levels (up to 15 feet high) in the forest . For identification in the hand V. Button (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. I (1) : 8 ) Voice : several calls noted : (a) a rather "tired" sounding phrase best described as a mild "wolf whistle " succeeded by two short notes at a slightly lower pitch. (b) A prolonged "Twrrrrr" - commonest . (c) "Twit - twit - twit " etc.

Andropadus gracilis : Little Grey Bulbul (For. Res. C.)

Rare and only noted at E.C.I. Similar to A. curvirostris except for distinctive white eye-lid feathers , clearly noticeable in the field . Netted April 20 th. 1963 in new secondary growth at edge of College compound . April 24 th. 1963 : heard singing "Shut-the-gate; weet-a-bik " , delivered from a conspicuous position in rather open new bush at 25 feet ; behaviour in contrast to that of other Andropadi , which are skulkers . Another call : "Twit , twit" A bird of this species heard singing regularly in same locality until August 22 nd. 1963. January 26 th. 1964 : two individuals singing E.C.I. ; no more records since then. V. Button (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. I (1) : 8 )

Andropadus latirostris : Yellow-Whiskered Bulbul (For. Res. C.)

Abundant in the forests of the area , and the commonest bird to be netted in densest growth . I have not noted it , however , in the thickets and woodland belts on the Ado-Odo grasslands . Between July 4 th. and 15 th. 1965 , a 40 feet 4 shelf mist net set permanently in forest at E.C.I. accounted for 15 birds of this species , of which 10 were juveniles ; the only other species represented was Neocossyphus poensis two juveniles , White-Tailed Ant-Thrush . This Bulbul is rarely seen in the field , and sings from the depths of dense

foliage 30-50 feet high. Song : a sequence of loud chirping, chattering notes . Silent periods noted during the dry season c/f A. virens.

V. Button (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. I (I) : 8 )

Andropadus virens : Little Green Bulbul (For. Res. C.)

Abundant in new secondary growth throughout the area. Present in matured forest , but not as common there as A. latirostris. From September 1962 to June 1963 at E.C.I. I netted 26 A. virens; 14 A. curvirostris ; 14 A. latirostris ; 1 A. gracilis.

On most occasions the net was set in territory more favoured by A. virens than A. latirostris . Silent periods noted towards the end of the rains and in the dry season : much vocal activity involving many birds in one area , while a complete cessation of singing noted in another : e.g. september 20 - 23 rd. 1963: birds silent at Ipake , but singing at E.C.I. Difficult to observe in the field on account of its skulking habits . Where the environment is exclusively forested , as at Ipake , preference shown for neighbourhood of streams in choice of territory . A. virens regularly heard singing near the ruined bridge on the Ipake -Ifo forest track over the Oro River , and near the two streams that cross the Rest House path in the Ipake forest .

V. Button (Niger. Orn. Soc. I (I) : 8)

Bradornis pallidus : Pallid Flycatcher (Sav. Res. C.)

July 23 rd. 1967 : pair noted on farm in Derived Savannah near Idogó 4 miles W. of Ilaro. Circular flights returning to perch in Oil Palm . Quiet rasping calls .

Stizorhina finschii : Finsch's Rusty Flycatcher (For. Res. F.)

Resident and frequent at Ipake keeping to lower middle levels of matured secondary growth (20 -30 feet ). The E.C.I. forest does not appear dense enough for the species . Has the habit of "flirting" the tail , revealing the white terminal edges of the rectrices to advantage . Circular fly - catching flights noted , though the bird does not usually return to the original vantage point . Voice : (i) an incessant "Zree". (ii) a succession of "languid" sounding notes rising in pitch , somewhat resembling the call of Cuculus clamosus , the Black Cuckoo.

V. Fry (Bull Niger. Orn. Soc. I (2) : 10- 12 )

Megabyas flammulatus : Shrike Flycatcher (For. Res. F.)

Occasionally noted at Ipake in dense forest . One record at E.C.I. at edge of forest . Characteristic side to side movement of tail.

Bias musicus : Black and White Flycatcher (For. Res. F.)

Status occasional at E.C.I. ; not recorded at Ipake or any other part of the area . Seems to prefer parkland and farmland rather than a dense forest habitat . Voice : (i) an insistent , percussive "Pitchew" . (ii) Call (i) followed by "Pitchew - witchew - witchew - pitchew" . (iii) Once noted : "Here quick ; tut-tut-tut" .

Platysteira cyanea : Scarlet-Spectacled Flycatcher (Sav. Res. C )

Not recorded in the Ilaro area ; present at Abeokuta and Topo .

Dyaphorophya castanea : Chestnut Wattle-Eye (For. Res. F.)

Frequent at Ipake ; much less so at E.C.I. Generally noted in groups of 4/5 individuals . March 27 th. 1965, Ipake : "choral" behaviour by 4 birds recorded in dense secondary forest growth . Variety of calls : "Plonk, plonk , plonk " etc; "Wheezing " notes ; sounds resembling the tooting of a toy trumpet . Birds inquisitive and active , with much vibrating of wings . May 9 th. 1965 : Ipake - two males duetting with "plonk" calls and a call rather like "wup - crack" , with much jerking up and down of heads . Another call best described as a prolonged Tinkerbird-like succession of "plonks" .

Dyaphorophya blissetti : Blissett's Wattle - Eye (For. Res. O.)

Frequently recorded E.C.I. in small groups of 4-6 birds in thick new secondary vegetation . A favourite locality is the area of new bush between the Ilaro General Hospital and the Ilaro - Abeokuta Road . Netted at E.C.I. Voice : a quadri - syllabic "Peep - peep - peep - peep " : timbre similar to that of Hylia prasina , Green Hylia . Scolding cry frequently recorded ; the vibration of the wings make a buzzing sound and the bird is much given to bill snapping . An inquisitive species which will allow close approach .

Erythrocerus mcallii : Chestnut -Capped Flycatcher (For. Res. C )

Noted occasionally at E.C.I. in well matured secondary forest in groups of 5 - 10 individuals . Recorded on every visit to the thicker forest around Ipake in more numerous groups - up to 20 birds . A characteristic up-and-down flight movement noticed with groups investigating trees .

Trochocercus nitens : Crested Flycatcher (For. Res. O.)

Resident and frequently observed at E.C.I. though never at Ipake. Netted and recorded in new secondary growth as well as in more matured vegetation, generally in pairs or threes. Often seen in ejaks. Bill snapping and wing vibrating noted, as with D. blissetti; also wing clapping. June 23rd. 1965: male displaying at E.C.I. with quivering wings and tail feathers spread., Call: rather similar to that of Tchitrea smithii fagani. Fagan's Paradise Flycatcher.

Trochocercus nigromitratus: Black-Crowned Flycatcher (For.Res.O)

October 31st. 1964: noted as member of bird army at Ohunbe Forest Reserve near the Dahomeyan border. Also netted by Fry 1961 at Ipake.

Tchitrea smithii: Fagan's Paradise Flycatcher. (For.Res. C.L.)

Very common in the area: all types of environment except grassland. Netted frequently.

Turdus libonyanus: Kurrichane Thrush. (Sav. Res. C).

Common resident at E.C.I. especially in parkland and staff gardens. Seldom located in the forest either at E.C.I. or at Ipake; not noted on the Ado-Odo grasslands. Breeding seems restricted to the rainy season. The following dates noted for commencement of singing in the season at Ilaro: April 4th. 1961; March 28th. 1962; February 8th. 1964; March 31st. 1965; February 10th. 1967.

Breeding records at E.C.I: May 10th, 1963 nest of mud and grass in shrub 10' off the ground; 4 eggs similar in size and coloration to those of Blackbird.

Breeding not successful. July 2nd 1963: nest built on horizontal limb of tree 15' off ground, position typical of site favoured by Mistle Thrush, Turdus viscivorus, April 7th, 1964: noted fetching mud presumably for nest construction.

Neocoscyphus poensis: White-Tailed Ant-Thrush. (For. Res. 0)

Frequent resident in well matured secondary forest at E.C.I., common in denser growth at Ipake. Netted by Fry at Ipake February 8th, 1962. Two juveniles netted E.C.I. July 14th, 1965 at E.C.I. had loose skin at the gape. Calls: "Weet, weet, weet"; occasionally "weeu"; Turdine ticking noted. V. Fry (Bull. Orn. Soc. I (2); 10-12). A bird of the forest floor and lower levels of vegetation.

Cossypha cyanocamptor: Blue-Shouldered Robin Chat (For. Res. 0)

Resident and frequent at E.C.I. preferring newer secondary growth; less frequent at Ipake in more mature forest. An invertebrate skulker with a wierd song; identification of this bird eluded me from May 10th, 1961, when I first noted its song, until March 29th, 1964, when I had the good fortune to see two separate individuals in the field actually singing at Ilaro. Netted E.C.I. January 1st, 1963. The species is much given to mimicry: I have noted it imitating the calls of Cuculus solitarius: Solitary Cuckoo and Nigrita canicapilla: Grey-Crowned Negro-Finch. Ilaro would appear to offer an ideal environment for the species: I have recorded it only once at Ipake and once at Ondo.

Cossypha niveicapilla: Snowy Crowned Robin-Chat (Sav. Res. C.L)

Occasional. Netted in thick new secondary growth Ilaro Govt. Reservation Area April 8th, 1964. I have not yet noted its song at Ilaro though I am familiar with it at Ibadan and on Topo Island.

Stiphronis erythrothorax: Forest Robin. (For. Res. F.L)

Netted by Fry at Ipake February 17th, 1962.

Apalis rufogularis: Slate-Breasted Forest-Warbler (For. Res. F)

Very common at Ipake, but not noted at E.C.I. Call, a persistent "t-wick", a softer version of the call of Camaroptera brevicaudata, delivered from the canopy in high forest. November 8th, 1965: pair noted at Ipake bathing in water collected in hollow in tree approx. 60ft. high.

Sylvietta flaviventris: White-Bellied Crombec (For. Res. C)

Very common forests of the area in new as well as matured secondary growth. Frequently netted and not shy. Voice: noisy Wren-like song noted all the year round. March 27th, 1965 - party of 4/5 at Ipake calling: "Swee, swee, cherrit-cherrit" etc. at low pitch.

Eremomela badiceps: Rufous-Crowned Eremomela. (For. Res. 0)

Identified at Ipake October 25th, 1964 with an ejak consisting mainly of Flycatchers and Sunbirds at 60ft. approx. in the forest canopy.



Voice: two short notes (sometimes two pairs, latter at slightly lower pitch than former) followed by a descending note. Heard at E.C.I. mainly in the rainy season. Favours a forest and parkland environment. Status resident and frequent.

Camaroptera chloronota: Green-Backed Camaroptera (For.Res. 0)

Frequent in the forests of the area and often netted in secondary of varying degrees of maturity. An inveterate skulker. Between September 1962 and July 1964 I netted the following: C. chloronota 9; C. brevicaudata: Grey-Backed Camaroptera 11; C. superciliaris: Yellow-Browed Camaroptera 6. These figures may be deceptive as C. chloronota prefers lower levels of bush and seems thus more "nettable" than C. brevicaudata, which is active in a more open environment and at varying heights. Voice: variety of notes recorded: (1) a soft mewling or whining bleat; (2) an insect-like stridulation "zad - zad - zad" etc., followed by a gradually descending series of pealing notes (similar to call of Chaunonotus sabini: Sabine's Puff-Backed Shrike, though less penetrating in tone). It may be prolonged for two or three minutes in duration. May 6th. 1967: Display observed: song as above, with vibrating wings and snapping tail moving from branch to branch at 3' 6" level in forest with curious "butterfly" flight.

Camaroptera brevicaudata: Grey-Backed Camaroptera (Wdsp.Res.A)

Very common resident preferring a variety of environments: farm, parkland, gardens, new and fairly well matured secondary growth. Frequently observed in thick forest with bird armies. Various notes recorded: (1) commonest call, a loud "Twick, twick" etc. (2) Various "bleating" calls. (3) Once heard making a curious clicking noise. (4) "Wee - trr: wee-trr" etc. V. note on C. chloronota for comparative netting records of Camaroptera species at Ilaro.

Camaroptera superciliaris: Yellow-Browed Camaroptera (For.Res. 0)

Common resident in new secondary bush around Ilaro: not noted so frequently in forest at Ipake. Very distinctive call: a harsh "bleat": "Kiar - kiar - kiar" easily audible over a distance of 200 yards. Frequently netted, V. note on C. chloronota.

Cisticola lateralis: Whistling Grass Warbler: (Sav.Res. C.L).

Common on Derived Savannah patches around Ilaro especially towards Dahomey border. Netted twice in long grass on worked-out farmland at E.C.I. Song delivered from tree or shrub at height of 20-40ft. Loud ringing quality: "Chee-witchew-witchew"; sometimes preceded by "Tawk, tawk, tawk".

Cisticola anonyma: Chattering Grass Warbler: (For Aq.Res. F.L)

Noted one locality only - expanse of marshy ground around Yewa River at Ebuta Igboro 5 miles W. of Ilaro. Several (3/4) birds singing in bushes slightly above level of surrounding vegetation: "Chit - chit - chit: churrr" etc., Rufous colouration of hind neck noted especially.

Cisticola ervthrois: Red-Faced Grass Warbler (Sav. Res. C)

Not yet recorded within area of study - i.e. within 25 miles radius of Ilaro - though I should not be surprised to encounter it in long grass between Abeokuta and Imaai 17 miles N. of Ilaro. Very common at Ibadan.

Cisticola brachyptera: Shortwinged Grass Warbler (Sav. Res. C)

Frequent in Derived Savannah around Ilaro; common on Ado-Odo grasslands and Dahomey border bush roads. Perches conspicuously in trees and telegraph wires where it delivers its song: incessant bisyllabic wheezing call. August 5th, 1967: with C. Wood-Robinson I observed a bird of this species indulging in violent aerial evolutions; after several minutes bobbing flight it dived suddenly into the grass from a height of 100ft. approx.

Melocichla mentalis: Moustached Scrub Warbler (Sav. Res. C)

Resident and frequent on grassy patches of Derived Savannah around Ilaro: E.C.I., the Idogo Road, the Ado grasslands and Ishaga near Abeokuta. Netted E.C.I. August 28th, 1963. Juvenile with pale loose skin at gape recorded Idogo Road 4 miles W. of Ilaro August 8th, 1967. Song: loud musical phrase: "Tweet, tweet, tweet; tweet-tweet, toodle-oo".

Prinia superciliosa: West Africa Prinia. (Sav. Res. C)

Fairly common around Ilaro on grassland and farm clearings. Nest building observed with C. Wood-Robinson August 5th, 1967 at mile 4 on Idogo Road. Thin strips of green feathery grass laid in cup-shaped hollow of growing leaves in low shrub 1ft. off the ground and threaded through holes in leaves made by insects. Abandoned before completion. October 2nd, 1967: nest noted in process of construction - strips of green grass built within leaves of water plants 18" above surface of River Yewa pool at Ebuta Igboro. Inaccessible.

Hirundo aethiopica: Ethiopian Swallow (Sav. Res. A.L).

Very common in towns and villages in the area, even in forested parts. Present on College compound frequenting school buildings during vacations, but no evidence of breeding.

Hirundo leucosoma: Pied Winged Swallow. (Sav. Res. F).

Occasional. Flock of 20/30 perching on and wheeling over road near Aiyetoro, August 20th, 1963, environment of Derived Savannah.

Hirundo semirufa: Gordon's Rufous Chested Swallow (Sav. Res. C.L).

Resident and frequent throughout the area, favouring proximity of human settlement and breeding regularly in staff quarters at E.C.I. It makes an oval nest of laterite or earth pellets obtained from muddy puddles in the rains, which is invariably pitched beneath the flat surface of a garage or perch ceiling with an entrance "spout" projecting outwards horizontally or slightly downwards; noted occasionally building under bridges. Breeding records at E.C.I. and Ilaro: June 3rd. (approx.) 1963: nest building commenced corner of garage. (unsuccessful). April 13th, 1964: noted collecting mud at puddle. April 18th, 1965: building on Ilaro Government Reservation. May 7th, 1965: building in my present quarters at E.C.I. nest destroyed by E.C.N. employee! March 27th, 1966: building same place - nest not completed. May 19th, 1967: building same spot, nest lined with a few feathers. Three young successfully raised; Flying July 24th. (paler rufous parts and shorter tail). August 15th, 1967: adults noted carrying feathers to same nest; successful second brood.

Song: a short phrase of rather "metallic" sounds forming the background to several musical notes. Short snatches heard from family resting in nest at night for 6 weeks after the young fully fledged. Also a Starling-like whistle "phew" (C.F. Hirundo senegalensis).

(Hirundo senegalensis: Mosque Swallow (Sav. Res. F.L.).

Common at Ibadan but not recorded farther South and West.

Hirundo abyssinica: Striped Swallow (Sav. Res. C)

Noted 10 miles S. of Ibadan on Abeokuta road. I have not recorded the species at Abeokuta, though I should not be surprised to encounter it there).

Author's Note : The status designations which follow the English names of species treated in the article are taken from Elgood's Check List of the Birds of Nigeria (1964) and of course refer to Nigeria as a whole, and not the Ilaro area. E.g. Striped Swallow (Sav. Res. C.)

References : Elgood, J.H. (1964) A Check List of the Birds of Nigeria (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (1) :13-25)

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