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When the adult bird was flushed off the nest it ran away in a quail-like manner (Bates in Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1973). This kind of movement was never observed when the birds searched for food on the ground. Foraging, which was frequently observed between November and March in dense undergrowth of the gallery forest, occurred exclusively on the ground and often in small flocks of three to six birds. The birds hopped and searched for food among dry leaves usually by jumping towards a leaf, turning it with the bill and jumping backwards to investigate what was under it.

Owing to their secretive nature, the behaviour of the members of the genus *Illadopsis* in W Africa is not well known. For most of the species occurring in the area, the nests are undescribed (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1973). However, where they are known (e.g. Rufous-winged and Black-cap Akalats *I. fulvescens* and *I. cleaveri*) they seem to be similar to the one described here, and the usual number of eggs seems to be two (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1973).

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Red-crested Bustard *Eupodotis ruficrista* and Adamawa Turtle Dove *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*, new to The Gambia, and sightings of Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

During recent visits to The Gambia, two species were seen that do not figure in recent checklists, while a third was previously known from only one record (Gore 1990, Morel & Morel 1990, Dowsett 1993).

***Eupodotis ruficrista* Red-crested Bustard.** One male, seen at close range on the main road from Banjul, 5 km west of the junction with the road to Teindaba Camp, 23 Oct 1994. Its small size and brown upper wing-coverts paling to white against the dark brown flight feathers identified it as this species. Black extended from the belly onto the breast and merged into the grey of the foreneck, which contrasted with the buffish hindneck. The species has a patchy distribution in sparsely wooded savanna from SW Mauritania and Senegal (where it is common) east to central Sudan (Urban *et al.* 1986, Morel & Morel 1990). I am familiar with it in other parts of Africa.

***Streptopelia hypopyrrha* Adamawa Turtle Dove.** Up to 30 birds identified, among many hundreds, probably even thousands, of European Turtle Doves *S. turtur* and Mourning Doves *S. decipiens*, which were perched on river-side vegetation or seen when flying away, on the south bank of the River Gambia, 1 km west of MacCarthy Island, about 17h30–18h00 on 21 Feb 1994. Compared with the European Turtle Doves, they birds were slightly larger, bulkier and, in flight, appeared more overall grey-brown above, with white tips to the tail, and dark below. Details noted which distinguish this species from congeners include: head to breast grey, with a large black patch on either side of the neck; belly dark pink; mantle, back and scapulars dark brown, fringed buff. In November 1995, I was informed by Lawrence Bangura, who was with me in 1994, that he had seen a few birds of this species again, a few days previously. On 30 Nov, we relocated two individuals in exactly the same area as the year before. These constitute the first documented records for The Gambia and the westernmost sightings to date. The species' main range lies in Nigeria, Cameroon and SW Chad (Urban *et al.* 1986) but it has also been found in the highlands of Togo (Cheke & Walsh 1989) and, recently, 2200 km from its main range in the Niokola-Koba National Park in Senegal (Baillon 1992). The present observations were made some 200 km west of the Niokola-Koba site.

***Gallinago media* Great Snipe.** Profu Swamp: 21 Jan 1994; five, 23 Feb 1994. The birds were flushed at close quarters, and flew low and straight, rarely far, sometimes uttering a quiet, low, guttural "quacking" noise. Their general appearance was of a large, heavy snipe, falter and shorter-billed than Common Snipe *G. gallinago*, and with obvious barring on the underparts. Most noticeable, however, were the white tips to the wing-coverts, forming obvious bars. I am familiar with this species in Europe. There is one previous record in The Gambia, in the same locality, Jan 1974 (Gore 1990); also rarely recorded in Senegal, with three observations in the north and one in Basse-Casamance (Morel & Morel 1990).

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L'Aigrette intermédiaire *Egretta intermedia* au Cameroun

Suite à la note de Martínez *et al.* (1996), je souhaiterais signaler deux observations personnelles de l'Aigrette intermédiaire *Egretta intermedia* au Cameroun. Les 27 et 28 mai 1989, un individu était présent à Bonabéri/Douala. Cet oiseau a pu être comparé au Héron cendré *Ardea cinerea* et à l'Aigrette garzette *E. garzetta*, tous deux présents à ses côtés: la taille était intermédiaire et son bec m'a paru plus court que celui de la Grande Aigrette *E. alba* (non présente). Le 2 juin 1989, un individu a été observé sur la rivière Sanaga en aval de Dizangé, à une cinquantaine de km de la côte (c. 3°46'N, 10°3'E).

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