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Short Notes — Notes Courtes

Vocalisations of the Mouse-brown Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus*

The only description of calls or songs of the Mouse-brown Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus* is by Barlow *et al.* (1997): a thin, very high pitched “sqee” and a conversational “wit.wit.sqee.witter.witter”. In August and September 1986, I regularly saw a pair feeding on insects in trees alongside the St Paul River at Haindi (6°54'N, 10°23'W) near Bong Town, Liberia. On 5 Sept one uttered a soft “tsurp-tseeep-tseeep” whilst in flight. On 8 Sept, what I assumed to be the male sang from a dead bough at the top of a tall tree by the river’s bank. The song consisted of “tser-tser-tsew-tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-tseuuur”. The latter part of the song was similar to the twittering made by many species of sunbird and the first part (“tser-tser-tsew”) was sometimes uttered on its own with no follow-up. The calls resemble the description given by Barlow *et al.* (1997).

Reference

BARLOW, C., WACHER, T. & DISLEY, T. (1997) *A Field Guide to Birds of The Gambia and Senegal*. Pica Press, Robertsbridge,

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Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* and White-breasted Negro-Finch *Nigrita fusconota*, new to the Benin list

Stephanoaetus coronatus **Crowned Eagle**. I recorded two immatures of this species in Benin on 29 Mar 1997, at 9°12'N, 2°15'E in the Ouémé Valley on the southern end of the Forêt Classée of Ouémé Supérieur. I was attracted by their calls while they soared on thermals above the river, from 30 m upwards, at about 11h30. This behaviour allowed excellent views of both upper- and underparts. The most striking feature on the underparts was the brilliant white belly, particularly evident in the bright sunlight. The breast and wing linings were lightly tinged rufous, the remainder of the underwing being clearly spotted. The upperparts were light grey, the tail long and clearly banded. I thought the primaries had black tips. The enormous size, fine soaring flight, call (a very distinctive “kwee-kwee”, cf. Gibbon 1991), plumage and habitat contributed to its ready identification. The Martial Eagle *Polemaetus*