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The bird continued to sing as it was approached. In response to playback of its own song, it continued giving the same song, but it did not move and stayed low in the dense thicket. After continuing to call for 20 min., it moved to another location, still staying low in the densest part of the thicket. At this time, in response to playback, it moved to a height of 5 m in a small tree in the thicket and continued to sing from that perch for 10 min., looking around aggressively before flying back down into the dense bushes.

The individual, which was seen very well, had the top of the head to the upper tail-coverts green, with wing-coverts and edges of the flight feathers also green. The tail was black. The throat was scarlet, with a wide black breast-band and, below that, a narrower scarlet band. The belly was a paler green and the under tail-coverts bright maroon.

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#### First Nigerian record of Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis*, and other notable records from SE Nigeria

During widespread field expeditions in the mangrove areas of Cross River estuary and the lowland rain forests of Oban Hills, from 1984–90, we collected information about the region's avifauna. Some of these observations refer to species that hitherto have not been recorded in SE Nigeria, and one, the Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis*, is new for the country. In the following accounts, the status of these species as given by Elgood et al. (1994) is cited in brackets at the end of each account.

*Anhinga rufa* Darter. Seven records: a total of 21 birds at a pond (in farming area c. 2 km north of the periphery of Calabar), between Nov 1986 and Feb 1990, all in the months Nov–Feb. [No sightings in the last 20 years.]

*Ixobrychus sturmi* Dwarf Bittern. Two birds, Nov 86, near Akamkpa, c. 40 km north of Calabar. [In southeast recorded only at Owerri.]

*Ardeola ralloides* Squacco Heron. Eight records: 17 birds at pond north of Calabar (see *Anhinga rufa*), and one at a pond in forest area c. 10 km south of Oban. All records in the months Nov–Feb, between Jan 1986 and Feb 1990. [Unreported from southeast.]

*Anastomus lamelligerus* Openbill Stork. Flock of five flying south along Great Qua River near Calabar, Jan 1989. [Unrecorded in southeast.]

*Nettapus auritus* Pygmy Goose. Eight records: 30 birds at pond north of Calabar (see *Anhinga rufa*), between Oct 1986 and Feb 1990, all in the months Oct–Feb. [Only one record from southeast, Afikpo.]

*Rynchops flavirostris* African Skimmer. One flock of c. 300, hunting in Cross River estuary, Feb 1987. Perhaps the same population as in Rio del Rey (see Green 1996). [No recent records until Sep 1989, single bird at IITA, Ibadan.]

*Poicephalus gulielmi* Red-fronted Parrot. Three birds in Oban Hills near Aking, 1 Sep 1990. Before we saw these parrots we heard the characteristic screeching calls, quite different from the calls of Grey Parrots *Psittacus erithacus*, which we often heard during our frequent visits to the Oban Hills. We soon spotted the three parrots sitting quite high up in a tree canopy and identified them as *P. gulielmi* by the greenish body, the contrasting colours of the mandibles (lower black, upper pale horn), the orange-red crown, forehead and leading edge of wings. The only other large rain forest parrot in SE Nigeria and adjacent Cameroon is the Grey Parrot (Fry et al. 1988). First Nigerian record. Not unexpected, as it is known from just over the border in Cameroon, in Korup (Rodewald et al. 1994) and Rio del Rey (Thomas 1995).

*Bubo poensis* Fraser's Eagle Owl. In 1989 calling quite often in the evening around Palm-Oil Club, 20 km north of Calabar. Call identified using Chappuis 1978. [Few records, Bonny to Ibadan, one heard in Oban West.]

*Jynx torquilla* European Wryneck. One, resting on a concrete pole close to our compound in Calabar, Dec 1987. [Few southerly records.]

*Fraseria cinerascens* White-browed Forest Flycatcher. One along a river bank in Akampka-Nsan forest area, Jan 1988. Known from just over the border in Korup National Park, Cameroon (Rodewald et al. 1994). [Two records for southeast: Mberubu and Nindam.]

*Erythrocercus mccallii* Chestnut-capped Flycatcher. One, north Oban, Jan 1987. Known from just over the border in Korup National Park, Cameroon (Rodewald et al. 1994). [One record from southeast.]

*Anthreptes gabonicus* Brown Sunbird. One in mangrove area near Inua Abasi in the Cross River estuary, Dec 1987. A "female coloured" sunbird showing whitish underparts and grey-brown upperparts, it was identified by its white stripe above the

eye and a thicker white stripe under the eye. [Common resident in mangroves from Badagri to Port Harcourt (and probably Calabar).]

*Nectarinia fuliginosa* Carmelite Sunbird. One near Inua Abasi in Cross River estuary, Dec 1987. Known from just over the border in Korup National Park, Cameroon (Rodewald et al. 1994). Could only be mistaken for *N. adelberti* (relatively common in gardens around Calabar), from which it was distinguished by its metallic violet throat. [Not yet noted in extreme southeast.]

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### Réaction du Petit Cossyphé à tête blanche *Cossypha niveicapilla* au cri d'alarme de l'Écureuil de Gambie *Heliosciurus gambianus*

La dernière semaine de juin 1998, je prospectais dans le lit complètement asséché d'un marigot, à une dizaine de kilomètres au sud de Toubakouta, dans le centre-ouest sénégalais. Il n'était tombé qu'une seule faible pluie, n'empêche que nombre de migrateurs intra-africains étaient présents. Parmi eux, un Petit Cossyphé à tête blanche *Cossypha niveicapilla*, caché au plus dense du feuillage d'un arbuste formant parasol au-dessus d'une vieille termitière, imitait avec insistance le Merle africain *Turdus pelios*, conformément à l'habitude de l'espèce. Je m'approchai à quelques mètres de lui, sans l'effaroucher, avec l'espoir de répertorier le maximum de voix pouvant être