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Short Notes — Notes Courtes

Increased abundance of Savile's Bustard *Lophotis savilei* in east-central Nigeria

Savile's Bustard *Lophotis savilei* is found in arid and semi-arid habitats from Senegal to Sudan. In Nigeria it occurs in the Sahel and Sudan Savanna vegetation zones of the north and northeast (Borrow & Demey 2001).

In 2008, Savile's Bustard was recorded during surveys on the effect of managed burning on avian diversity in the Yankari Game Reserve (9°45'N, 10°30'E), east-central Nigeria. The reserve is in the Sudan–Guinea Savanna vegetation zone, covering an area of 2244 km² at an altitude of 150–750 m. We used point counts (Bibby *et al.* 2000), with 700 points visited. Altogether, 263 observations of Savile's Bustard were recorded in the wet season (April–June) and 43 in the dry season (November–December). Two other species of bustard were also recorded: White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*, one in the wet season and one in the dry season, and Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*, three in the wet season.

There is one previous record of Savile's Bustard in Yankari Game Reserve (Elgood *et al.* 1994, Borrow & Demey 2004). Our observations, however, suggest it is regular and fairly common. This is noteworthy in relation to its previously known range in Nigeria. Similar changes in distribution have been observed for other species such as *Acrocephalus* and *Sylvia* warblers and Rufous Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* (Jones *et al.* 1996, Ottoson *et al.* 2002, Osinubi & Agboola 2006, Wilson *et al.* 2006). Human activities, such as increased farming and firewood collection, have been suggested as a possible cause. It is however not clear if these same factors have affected the Savile's Bustard.

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Extensions of documented distributions for three bird species in Burkina Faso

During the course of a visit to Burkina Faso (26 Sep to 4 Oct 2008) I observed a number of bird species in areas that appear to represent slight to significant extensions to documented distributions.

***Tockus fasciatus* African Pied Hornbill.** A single bird was seen well on 2 Oct in a narrow strip of riparian forest immediately below the Karfiguéla Falls (10°43'N, 4°49'W), near Banfora in the southwest of Burkina Faso. The dominant vegetation type on the escarpment above the falls is well-wooded savanna; the land below the falls, and away from the immediate vicinity of the river, is mostly under cultivation. *T. fasciatus* is reported to occur in dense deciduous woodland as well as to enter savanna along bands of riparian forest (Fry *et al.* 1988, Kemp 1995). It also ranges widely when not breeding, which in West Africa appears to occur predominantly between January and April (Fry *et al.* 1988, Kemp 1995). Holyoak & Seddon (1989) did not record this species in southwest Burkina Faso, and mapped distributions lie to the south of the border with Ivory Coast (Fry *et al.* 1988, Kemp 1995) or just reach it (Borrow & Demey 2008). This observation therefore represents a northward range extension for this species of *c.* 100 km. Further east in Burkina Faso, *T. fasciatus* is listed as occurring rarely at Nazinga Ranch (11°10'–11°18'N, 1°16'–1°43'W) (Portier 2002); this is also well north of mapped distributions for this species.

***Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris* Cliff Chat.** A pair of these birds was observed near the steps used to gain access to the top of the rocky escarpment at Karfiguéla Falls, on 2 Oct. The broken, rocky and heavily fissured habitat along and immediately above the escarpment is similar to that in which I have often seen this species in southern Africa. The female bird was seen well; adequate but more fleeting views