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BIRDS OF MID-WEST NIGERIA

by J. B. Heigham

Received 11 March 1976

A considerable amount of information concerning birds observed in the geographical area which is now the Mid-West State of Nigeria (shortly to be re-named Bendel State) is scattered through the literature, but there exists as yet no check-list for the area. This paper tabulates the species in a form which could be used as a basis for a check-list, and is compiled from a wide but not exhaustive literature; from my wife's and my own observations during eighteen months' residence at Sapele (05° 54'N, 05° 42'E), which included travel in some other parts of the Mid-West; and from notes and comments kindly made available by J.H. Elgood (JHE), M. Insole (MI), D.N. Johnson (DNJ), C.S. Porteous (CSP), R.E. Sharland (RES), and Mrs. F.E. Warr (FEW).

D.N. Johnson is carrying out an ecological study of forest birds in an area of secondary forest on the edge of Benin City and will be publishing the results in due course. Meanwhile his systematic mist-netting is proving most productive; for example, he has obtained the first positive record for Nigeria of the Dwarf Kingfisher Ceyx lecontei and shown its regular presence in the forest, and he has much additional information on the status of some other species included in the Appendix.

The Area

The Mid-West State covers an area of above 49 000 km² (19 000 sq. miles) and is bounded to the north by Kwara State, to the west by Western State (that division of it shortly to become Ondo State), to the south by the Bight of Benin, and to the east by the River Niger.

The habitats vary from the hilly derived savanna of the northern parts where inselbergs abound, through areas of primary and secondary forest, intersected by many watercourses, and agricultural and plantation areas (rubber and oil-palm) lying roughly across the centre, to the swamp forest, lagoons and mangrove creeks of the Delta in the south, where also are to be found some curious enclaves of apparently old grass savanna to the east of Sapele, north of the River Ethiope.

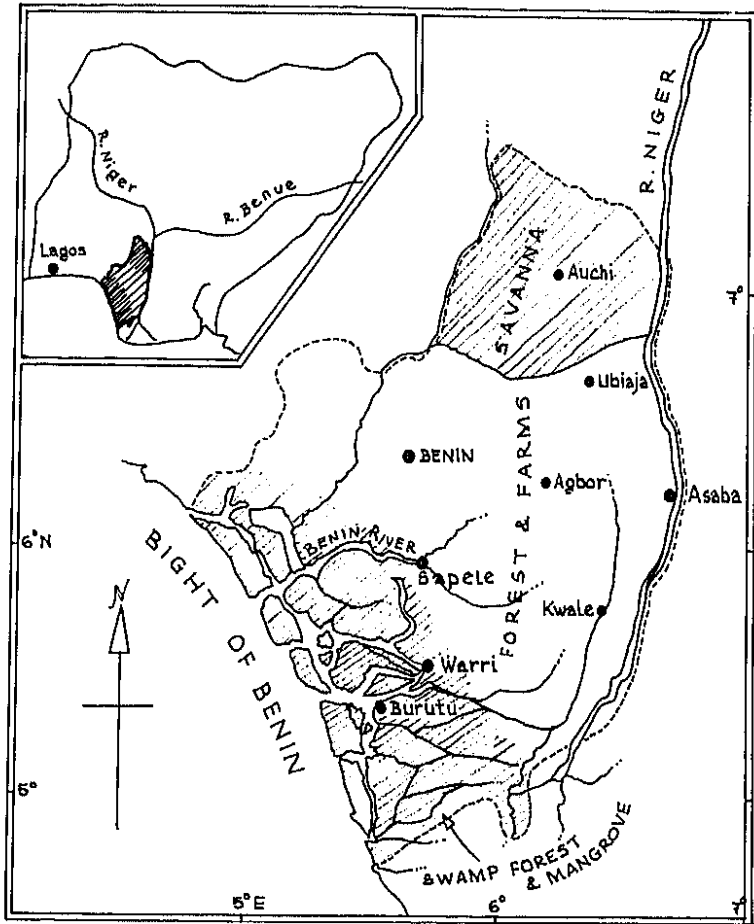


Figure 1. Mid-West Nigeria, showing the principal towns and geographical features. Inset : its location in Nigeria.

The population of the Mid-West State was estimated at 2.5 million in the 1963 Revised Census figures (it has certainly increased since then), and is broadly scattered in all areas (see main towns in Fig. 1). The creeks area, running south-east parallel with the coast line, is the least densely populated.

A major feature of present-day development - not unknown elsewhere - is the rapid decrease of the forest due to timber exploitation offset by relatively little re-forestation, with the corresponding increase in derived savanna largely used for purposes of shifting agriculture, although there are a few large-scale agriculture developments and new plantations.

Increasing urbanisation has not yet greatly affected the major habitats but there are clear signs of, for example, forest birds (particularly sunbirds Nectariniidae) adapting to human residential areas.

The Bird Fauna

At least 331 species have been observed in Mid-West Nigeria (Appendix), comprising 184 non-passerines (108 genera in 34 families) and 147 passerines (78 genera in 16 families). Some records were made in the early years of the century, but most have been made since 1930 and the greater part of those since 1960. There are some curious absences of birds which might be expected to be present, for instance the White-faced Tree Duck Dendrocygna viduata, Moorhen Gallinula chloropus, Flappet Lark Mirafra rufocinnamomea, Fiscal Shrike Lanius collaris (which Marshall, 1936, seemed surprised not to have come across in the savanna areas of Ishan 40 years ago), and the Chestnut-cap Flycatcher Erythrocercus mccallii. These and other species surely occur, and show the need for more widespread observation, especially in the northern savanna.

Status

The status of species, so far as presently known, is indicated in the Appendix. No special attempt has been made to give mean migration dates, but some can be inferred approximately from the data under Seasonality. Some arrival and departure dates at Sapele may be of interest (Table 1).

It is difficult to reach agreement on the meaning of ordinary words signifying frequency and, in view of the varying circumstances of the observers quoted and of my wife's and my own observations, I have felt unable to adopt exactly the same criteria as any of the other authors consulted. As a general basis for our own observations I have taken a "locality" as meaning an area of 24 km (15 miles) in diameter (as in the "Birds of Nigeria Field Card"), and the terms used for frequency in any locality may be defined roughly as follows:

<u>Common</u>	not less than 20 individuals seen in the locality in the course of two hours
<u>Frequent</u>	not less than five individuals seen in the course of two hours
<u>Occasional</u>	individuals or groups seen from time to time
<u>Rare</u>	less than five sightings per year
<u>Vagrant</u>	a single sighting, not to be expected.

Where other authors have used the same terms they are quoted as in the original text but occasionally it has been necessary to interpret comments and place the observations in one of the above categories. I have abandoned the use of the term "abundant" because it seems to me too easy to misinterpret.

Table 1. Some arrival and departure dates at Sapele

	Departure	Arrival
Cattle Egret	7.V.74	X.74
<u>Bubulcus ibis</u>	28.IV.75	16.X.75
Black Kite	27.V.74	24.IX.74
<u>Milvus migrans</u>	3.VI.75	26.IX.75
Common Sandpiper	27.IV.74	20.VIII.74
<u>Tringa hypoleucos</u>	28.IV.75	18.VII.75
White-throated Bee-eater	6.VI.74	
<u>Merops albicollis</u>	23.IV.75	
Swallow	8.V.74	28.IX.74
<u>Hirundo rustica</u>	6.IV.75	
Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail	12.IV.74	
<u>Motacilla flava</u>	24.IV.75	16.XI.75
Whinchat	5.IV.74	1.X.74
<u>Saxicola rubetra</u>	15.IV.75	

Acknowledgements

I owe a debt of thanks to those listed above who have given me the benefit of their own observations and I am very much beholden to Professor J. H. Elgood who has read the manuscript and made many constructive criticisms and suggestions of which I have made use, but I must myself take the responsibility for any omissions or inaccuracies.

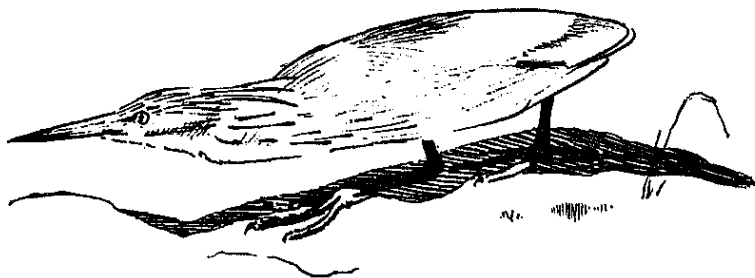
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APPENDIX - see overleaf



APPENDIX. ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED IN MID-WEST NIGERIA

Sequence and nomenclature follow White ('A revised check list of African birds', 5 vols., Occ.Pap.Nat.Mus. S.Rhod. 24B & 26B and Govt. Printer, Lusaka, 1960-1965) as set out by Parker (1970), and English names follow Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1970-1973).

Status c = common, f = frequent, o = occasional, r = rare, x = single sighting; for definitions and remarks see main body of paper; underlining indicates clear seasonal visitor.

Breeding Months in Roman numerals, evidence being eggs, nest or young; imm = immature.

Remarks Aq = aquatic, For = forest, Sav = savanna, Urb = town/village, Pla = plantation; references to Bannerman (1930-1951) and to Nigerian Field articles show volume and page, e.g. B2:266 or NF17:166.

S P E C I E S	S T A T U S (months)												B R E E D I N G	R E M A R K S		
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D				
PODICIPITIDAE																
Podiceps ruficollis	f	o														
PELECANIDAE																
Pelecanus rufescens	x				x											
PHALACROCORACIDAE																
Phalacrocorax africanus	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Ashinga rufa	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
ARDEIDAE																
Ixobrychus minutus																
Tigriornis leucolophus	x															
Nycticorax nycticorax	f	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Ardeola ralloides	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
A. ibis	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f
Eurynides striatus	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Egretta alba	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
E. intermedia	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
E. garzetta	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f
Ardea cinerea	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
A. melanocephala	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
A. goliath	x															
A. purpurea	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
SCOPIDAE																
Scopus umbretta	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f

Aq,Pla; adults and immes still present in ii as ponds dry out

Aq; r in Warri area;not reported since 1968

Aq; adults and immes over EthiopeR at Sapele

Aq; o in swamps in other unrecorded months (FEW)

Aq,Pla; regular in wet season around Sapele

Aq; reported by Mason (1940), no date (also B8:30);specimen collected

Aq; majority immes in dry season

Aq

For,Sav,Urb; birds feed in and around Sapele; roost in riverine For.

Aq

Aq; frequently overfly Sapele

Aq; generally with E.alba and E.garzetta

Aq; f in creeks;o in dry season elsewhere

Aq

Aq,Sav; usually single birds

Aq; (B8:17) considered uncommon;no recent record

Aq; usually single birds

Aq; mainly in creeks(FEW);(B8:37) "Plentiful in Warri Prov."

vii-ix

vii-ix

(Serle 1958)

vi-ix (JHB)

vi-ix (JHB)

vi-ix (JHB)

vi-ix (JHB)

vi-ix (JHB)

vi-ix (JHB)

PHASIANIDAE																						
<i>Francolinus lathamii</i>																						
<i>F. bicalcaratus</i>																						
<i>Numida meleagris</i>																						
<i>Guttera edouardi</i>																						
RALLIDAE																						
<i>Canirallus oculus</i>																						
<i>Crex egregia</i>																						
<i>Porzana marginalis</i>																						
<i>Limnocorax flavirostris</i>																						
<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>																						
<i>Callinula angulata</i>																						
<i>Porphyrion alleni</i>																						
HELIOPHILIDAE																						
<i>Podiceps senegalensis</i>																						
JACANIDAE																						
<i>Actophilornis africana</i>																						
<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>																						
<i>B. vermiculatus</i>																						
HAEMATOPODIDAE																						
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>																						
CHARADRIIDAE																						
<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>																						
<i>Pluvialis squarrola</i>																						
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>																						
<i>C. dubius</i>																						
<i>C. forbesi</i>																						
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>																						
<i>N. arquata</i>																						
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>																						
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>																						
<i>T. stagnatilis</i>																						
<i>T. glareola</i>																						

For: Mason (1940) stated "Very common in high forest"
 Sav
 Sav; (B8:145/146):stated to be common in parts Warri Province 1939;no date
 For; (Mason 1940) and B8:149);collected by HFM;considered scarce. Also seen by JEH August 1959
 Aq, For; flushed twice and handled (Mason 1940); no dates
 Aq; CSP Sapete and Sapoba;surprisingly not recorded before 1974
 Aq,Urb; Elgood et al. 1973
 Aq; seen regularly 1974/75
 Aq,For; "Goong" call heard frequently in swamp For in wet season
 Aq
 Aq; seen wet seasons 1974/75
 Aq; "Occasionally seen throughout year in quiet creeks", FEW;ix.1975 JEH
 Aq; Serle 1958 and JEH
 Winter records from Benin Province (B8:173); no other dates;habitat?
 Aq; (B8:174) 1942/1943
 Aq; group on coast xi.1965 (Warr 1969)
 Aq; (B8:189) (Marshall 1940)
 Aq; coastal areas and creeks
 Aq; coastal areas and creeks
 Aq; coastal areas and creeks
 Aq; Sav,Urb; varied habitat including farms and golf courses
 Aq; coastal areas and creeks
 Aq; coastal areas and creeks
 Aq; coastal areas and creeks
 Aq; coastal areas and creeks, also waterlogged areas inland
 Aq; edges of lagoons and freshwater swamps
 Aq,For; 10 perching on tree near sewage disposal area in For edge 12.iv.74

11-?

viii-xd
(Serle 1958)

ix-?

(Serle 1958)
ix-?
(Serle 1958)

vi-x

iii-v (imm
river sandbanks)

T. ochropus	o	o	o	o													Aq; lagoons and pools around Sapele
T. hypoleucos	c	c	c	c	o												Aq; widespread in all kinds of Aq habitats
T. totanus	o																Aq; coastal areas and creeks
T. erythropus	x																Aq; Smith (1966)
Arenaria interpres	o	o															Aq; coastal areas and creeks
Gallinago gallinago	o	o	o	o													Aq; swampy ground at Sapele
Calidris canutus	o	o															Aq; coastal areas
C. ferruginea	o	o															Aq; coastal areas
C. minuta	o	o															Aq; coastal areas
C. alba	o																Aq; coastal areas
GLAREOLIDAE						x											Aq; seen on Osse River; no other dates (Marshall 1940)
Pluvianus aegyptius						x	o										Aq; chiefly on sandbanks; seen at Sapele iv and v
Glareola cinerea						x	o										Aq; noted in wider estuaries all months, Maclaren 1952, no dates
LARIIDAE																	Aq; (Maclaren 1952); no other dates
Larus fuscus							f	x									Aq; at sea and in Dodo estuary, Maclaren (1952)
Rhinoptops flavinostrius																	Aq; specimen collected 22.xii.42 (B8: 227)
Anous stolidus																	Aq; (B8: 230)
Sterna tschegrava																	Aq; (B8: 227)
S. maxima																	Aq; (B8: 226) (NF17: 166)
S. hlirundo																	Aq; flying over Warri Port and Ethiopo River at Sapele
S. fuscata						x	x	x									Aq; breeds on river sandbanks but no breeding record yet for Mid West
S. nigra																	
S. albifrons																	
COLUMBIDAE																	
Columba malherbii																	For; JHB
Streptopelia semitorquata							x										Sav, Urb, Pla
S. vinacea																	Sav; probably all year in Sav in north
S. senegaleensis																	Urb; both observations in Benin (MI and JHB); surprisingly sparse
Turtur tympanistreria																	For Sav
T. afer																	For, Sav, Urb
T. brenneri																	For; c in north west Benin (Mason 1940)
Treron australis																	For, Sav, Urb, Pla
PSITTACIDAE																	Aq, For, Pla; very common in mangrove creeks (Maclaren 1952)
Psittacus erithacus																	For; "well distributed" (Mason 1940); not recently observed as often as T. macrorhynchus
MICROPHAGIDAE																	For; "Not...so common as T. persa" (Mason 1940); calls of species not distinguished
Tauraco persa																	Sav; probably all year in Sav
T. macrorhynchus																	
Crinifer piscator																	

iv-vi (B8: 221)

vi.i (1943)

Imm 8.vi.75

Imm 24.iv.74

Nest xii

Corythaeola cristata																					For; considered commonest plantain eater NW Benin (Mason); one, 10.iv.73
CUCULIDAE																					
Clamator levallantii																					For, Urb
Cuculus solitarius																					For
C. clamosus																					For; C.c.gabonensis (DNJ)
Cercococcyx mechowi																					"A common bird of high forest" (Mason 1940); no recent record
Chrysococcyx klaasi																					For; specimen collected xii.1938 (B8:281)
C. caprius																					Urb; around Sapele parasitises <u>Ploceus nigricollis</u> (Serle 1958 and JEH)
C. cupreus																					For, Urb; Urb also in dry season and late rains (JEH)
Centrocercus aereus																					For
Centropus leucogaster																					For
C. monachus																					For, Sav, Pla
C. senegalensis																					For, Pla
Tyto alba																					Urb, Pla
Bubo poensis																					For; "Only seen on two or three occasions" (Mason 1940); no date
Scotopelia peli																					Aq, For; specimen collected by L.H. Brown 24.xi.45 (B8:266)
Ciccaba woodfordi																					For
CAPRIMULGIDAE																					
Caprimulgus pectoralis																					For; specimen collected by R. Boulton in Benin Province (B8:288); no date
Macrodipteryx longipennis																					Sav; bred at Sapele 1974 and 1975
M. vexillarius																					Urb; vagrant male in breeding plumage at Sapele 10.viii.75 (JEH)
AFODIDAE																					
Apus apus																					For, Sav, Urb
A. pallidus																					Sav
A. affinis																					For, Urb
Cypsiurus parvus																					For, Sav, Urb; Imm 9.viii.75 (JEH)
Chaetura sabini																					For
C. melanopygia																					For; up to 6, four times in 3 days at Nkrowa (CSP and JEH)
C. cassini																					For

Courtship
iv.1975. Young
being fed
i.viii.51, vi '74

Eggs xli
(Serie 1958)

ii-iv

iii-viii; eggs
25.vi.50
(Serie 1958)
v-ix; egg
10.v.50
(Serie 1958)

PYCNONOTIDAE	Young vii, viii (JEH)	Sav, Urb, Pla; eggs viii and ix. 1949 (Serle 1958) For: DNJ For: For edge (JEH) For, Sav; sings loud especially morning For For; individuals exhibit varied songs and For, Sav / calls
<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		Aq, For; swamp palms
<i>Andropadus gracilis</i>		For, Urb
<i>A. gracillirostris</i>		For; DNJ seen regularly in study area
<i>A. virens</i>		For; DNJ seen regularly in study area
<i>A. latirostris</i>		For: (Mason 1940)(B4:149); no dates
<i>Ixonotus guttatus</i>		Aq, For; DNJ (B8:385)
<i>Chlorocichla simplex</i>		Aq, For
<i>Thescelocichla leucopleurus</i>		For; DNJ and JEH
<i>Phyllastrephus scandens</i>		For; Burutu and Asaba Division (B5:445/6)
<i>P. baumanni</i>		and DNJ at Benin
<i>P. icterinus</i>		Sav; around Sapele and in northern savanna
<i>Bleda syndactyla</i>		Sav; "rocky outcrops of Kukuru Division" (HEM in B8:413); no dates
<i>B. caucapilla</i>		Sav; JEH
<i>Criniger barbatus</i>		For; Elgood et al. (1966)
<i>C. calurus</i>		For; Mason (1940) and INJ
<i>Nicator chloris</i>		For: "fairly common... all over the area" NW Benin also Ologbo (Mason 1940)
MUSCICAPIDAE		For: "uncommon"; specimen collected (no date) Ologbo by W.A. Fairbairn (B4:412)
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		For: "seen on 2 or 3 occasions", specimen collected, no date (Mason 1940)
<i>Myrmecochla cinnamomeiventris</i>		For: JEH and INJ
<i>M. albifrons</i>	feeding young iii. 1975	For: (B4:436)
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		Sav, Urb; most frequently seen in residential areas
<i>Alethe diademata</i>		For: Nikrowa (JEH)
<i>A. poliocephala</i>		Aq, Pla; frequenting seasonal ponds in 1975 Sav; recorded by HEM in Kukuru Division (B8:436); no date
<i>Stiphornis erythrothorax</i>		Urb; JEH at Sapele
<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>		Urb; JEH at Sapele
<i>Stizorhina fraseri</i>		Urb; RES in Elgood et al. (1966) and JEH
<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	feeding young all vii. 1975	
<i>Turdus pelicus</i>		
<i>Trichastoma fulvescens</i>		
<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>		
<i>Sphenocacus mentalis</i>	iv-x (Serle 1958)	
<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		
<i>H. pallida</i>		
<i>Sylvia borin</i>		

<i>S. atricapilla</i>	x																			For; RES in Elgood et al. (1966)
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	o	o	x																	For; Urb; JEH in Sapele and surrounding For
<i>P. sibilatrix</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	Urb; JEH at Sapele
<i>Cisticola erythropus</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	Sav; Urb; Pla; in parts of Sapele alongside
<i>C. lateralis</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	C. galactotes
<i>C. anonyxa</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	Sav
<i>C. galactotes</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	Aq; Marshall (1940) and Warr (1969)
<i>C. natalensis</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	Sav; Urb
<i>C. brachyptera</i>	x																			Sav; HEM in B8:434 "One record from
<i>Prinia subflava</i>																				Kukuruku Division"; no date
<i>Apalis nigriceps</i>																				Sav; JEH and CSP
<i>A. flavidã</i>																				Sav; FEW at Warri
<i>A. rufogularis</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	For; JHE Sapoba 28.xii.60 (pers. comm.)
<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	For; JEH 13.ix.75 near Benin
<i>C. chloronata</i>	x																			For; INJ seen regularly in study area
<i>C. brachyura</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For; JEH at Sapele and FEW at Warri
<i>Eremoneila badiiceps</i>																				Sav; at Igarra in northern Sav. i.x.74; JEH
<i>Sylvietta virens</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For; Urb; JEH
<i>Macropythus concolor</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For; Marshall (1963) and JEH
<i>Hylia prasina</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For
<i>Pholidornis rufinae</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For; INJ seen regularly and frequently
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>																				retted in study area
<i>M. cassini</i>	x																			For; Sav
<i>M. olivaceus</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	For; probably present all year in For
<i>M. comitata</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	Sav; Urb; probably dry season visitor only
<i>Artomyias fuliginosa</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	Aq; For; common on For streams (Marshall
<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	1940 and Foulkes-Roberts in B8:394)
<i>F. cinerascens</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For; INJ
<i>Bias musicus</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	For; seen 1974 and 1975 in For edge with
<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	derived Sav (JEH)

Imm. vi.1974 (JEH)
 Imm. v.1974 and 1975 (JEH)
 fledglings
 4.vi.75 (JEH)
 Copulation
 13.vi.74
 Imm. v-viii.
 1974/1975

Nest and chicks
 19.II (HEM)

Aq; For; HEM obtained specimen 1939 on Osse River (B8:396); no other date
 For; Kwale; no date (Foulkes-Roberts in B4:254)
 Aq; For; Urb; Pla; regular in Sapele residential area (JEH) and in mangroves (FEW)

P. castanea															For; INJ seen regularly in study area	
P. blissetti															For; JBH near Sapele	
Trochocercus longicauda															Aq; "Niger Delta" (B4:287); not specifically recorded but haunts mangrove	
T. nigromitratus	x														For; specimen obtained (Mason 1940 and B8:406)	
Terpsiphone rufiventer															For; mostly T.r.fagani but examples seen at Warri (FEW) and Sapele (JBH) like tricolor	
Parus leucomelas															Sav; "... resident in suitable localities in Benin Prov." (HFM in B6:6)	
NECTARINIDAE															Aq; "common in rivers and creeks esp. in mangroves" (FEW)	
Anthreptes gabonensis															For; INJ seen regularly in study area and netted	
A. fraseri															For; Sav	
A. rectirostris															Imm. 6.vii.75 (JBH)	
A. collaris	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For; Urb
Nectarinia olivacea	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	For; widespread in all For areas
N. reichenbachii																For; Sav, Urb
N. cyanoaena																For; Sav; INJ and JBH
N. fuliginosa																Aq; Sav, Urb; regularly seen in Warri (FEW)
N. adelberti	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	Aq; For; Urb
N. venusta																Urb; "r in For" (B6:182); no date; INJ in garden at Benin, netted ix.1975
N. chloropygia																For; Sav, Urb, Pla
N. cuprea																(JBH)
N. superba																Sav; specimen obtained by HFM; no date; (B6:168); no recent record
ZOSTEROPIDAE																For; Urb; JBH; regular in and around Sapele; seen at Warri (FEW) and Benin (INJ)
Zosterops senegalensis																Sav; JBH in northern Sav and enclave east of Sapele
EMBERIZIDAE																Sav; noted by HFM at Auchi (B6:302); no date
Emberiza cabanisi																Sav, Urb; "Benin Province, north of For" (HFM in B6:278); "throughout year in Warri" (FEW)
FRINGILLIDAE																Aq; Sav; at Ishan and Asaba (HFM in B7:156)
Serinus mozambicus																Aq; colony at Burutu xii.69 (FEW)
PLCOCEIDAE																Building nests (B7:157)
Amblyospiza albifrons																eggs ii.44 (B7:123)
Ploceus aurantius	f															

Nests in dry season

Imm. 6.vii.75 (JBH)

eggs xii.68 (FEW) lms. ii, iv, vi, vii (JBH)

eggs x-xi (Serle 1958); lms. ii, iv, v

nestlings 11.vii.74; Copulation 23.viii.74

Building nests (B7:157) eggs ii.44 (B7:123)

<i>P. cucullatus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For, Sav, Urb; FEW and JEH nests all year.
<i>P. nigerrimus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Aq, Sav, Urb, Pla; eggs 28.vi.51 (Serle 1958)
<i>P. superciliosus</i>	x																			Sav; HFM observed in Jan.; collected at Igarra; no date (B7:98) For; INJ and JEH
<i>P. tricolor</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Sav, Urb, Pla; eggs xii.50 and vi, vii and viii.51 (Serle 1958)
<i>P. nigricollis</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	viii.74-i.75 (JEH) For; Sav; egg 6.v.49 (Serle 1958)
<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>M. nitens</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175) Sav; CSP and JEH
<i>M. rubricollis</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>M. malimbicus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175)
<i>Quelea erythropus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175)
<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>																				
<i>E. macrourus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>Passer griseus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>Vidua macroura</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175)
<i>V. chalybeata</i>																				For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>Pirenestes oestrinus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175)
<i>Nigrita canicapilla</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>N. luteifrons</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175)
<i>N. bicolor</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>N. fusconota</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175)
<i>Lonchura bicolor</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	For; uncomm near Sapele For; INJ; seen regularly in study area Aq, Sav; FEW and JEH; flock of c.500 near Sapele 28.vi.75
<i>L. cucullata</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	Sav; HFM Ishan, Benin Province; no date (B7:175)

Males build
nests all year.
Imm. v-viii.
Nests rainy
season, over
water

Nests vi.68.
(FEW) Imm.
vii.74-i.75 (JEH)
Nest building
Warri 16.iii.68 (FEW)
iv and v (HFM
in B7:136)

Breeding dress
vi-viii

Imm. 28.i.75

Breeding dress
iv-x

ims. i, ii,
iii.1975 (JEH)
carrying material
vi and ix (FEW)

Nest 16.iii.75

Eggs 2.ix.49
(Serle 1958)

Feeding young
20.vi.75

Eggs 9.vi.49
(Serle 1958)

eggs iv.74
(JEH)

Sav, Pla

Sav, Urb, Pla; imm. seen all year