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## SOME BIRDS IN CAMEROON

by Michael Kavanagh

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In the course of a field study of the Green Monkey, Cercopithecus aethiops tantalus, I spent the period March 1974 to October 1975 in Cameroon. My studies were mainly in the following three areas, detailed descriptions of which may be found in Kavanagh (1977):

(a) Parc National de la Kalamaloue (12° 09' N, 15° 53' E) in the Sahel. The park includes part of the floodplain of the River Chari and borders on the river itself. The vegetation consists largely of open woodland dominated by Acacia seyal, A. sieberiana, and Balanites aegyptiaca.

(b) Parc National de la Benoue (8° 06' N, 13° 52' E) in the Guinea savannah zone. The park borders on the River Benue and consists largely of open, undulating woodland with Isobерlinia doka, Terminalia and Lannea spp. being particularly common trees. Dense gallery forest runs alongside most watercourses.

(c) The land adjacent to the villages of Meket Mbeng and Baseng in southern Bakossi (4° 53' N, 9° 41' E). This is an extremely fertile area where the original rainforest has been cleared to make way for a mosaic of cocoa and coffee plantations, subsistence farms and rapidly regenerating secondary forest in places that are temporarily left fallow. Mt Kupe (2,050 m) lies 10 km to the south.

In addition, I made relatively brief visits to Parc National du Waza (12° 25' N, 14° 35' E) in the Sahel, Reserve du Faro (8° 24' N, 12° 50' E) and Parc National du Bouba Njiddah (8° 40' N, 14° 40' E) in the Guinea savannah zone and Kimbi River Game Reserve (6° 35' N, 10° 20' E) in an area of open mountain grassland (see Fig. 1).

In order to learn the various birds, I listed those that I could identify by using Mackworth-Præd & Grant (1970-73) and Elgood (1960). The annotated list that follows is not exhaustive. I was not concentrating on ornithological studies and may have missed even abundant species. Furthermore, I have included only those birds which were positively identified and I have omitted many species which were wholly to be expected at the various sites. For example, Quelea quelea was very abundant at both of my sahelian localities but I have not included it in the annotated list. Such species are listed in Appendix 1. Some feeding and behavioural observations are given in separate notes on pages 145-6. In this list, Loc. 1 - Loc. 7 refer to my observation localities, which can be identified by reference to Fig. 1.

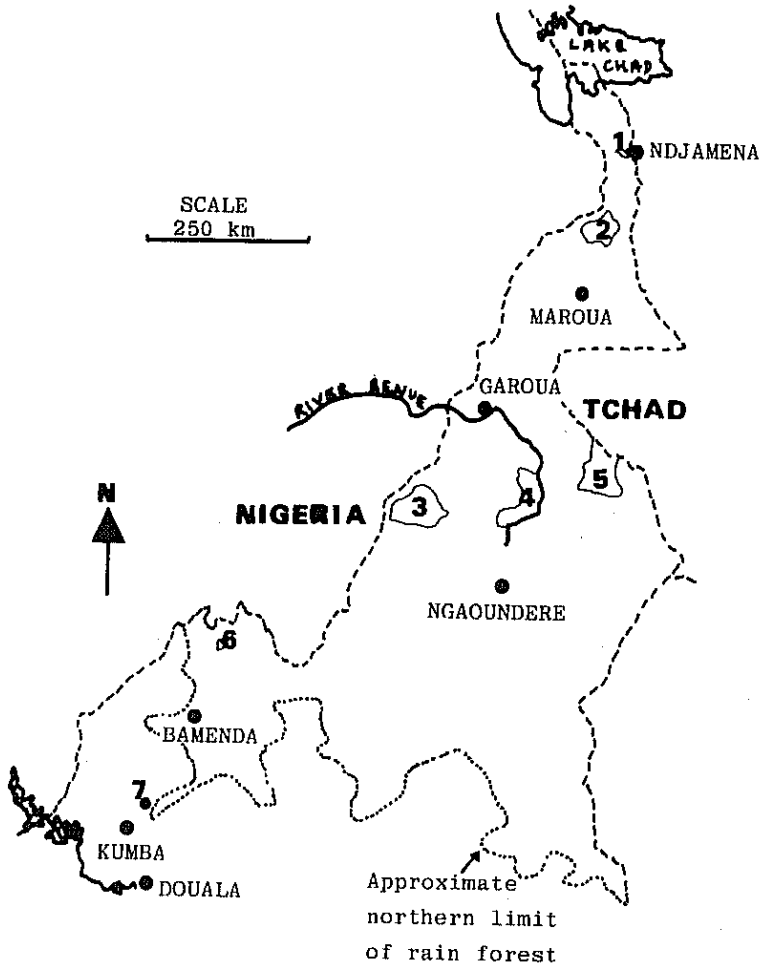


Figure 1. Part of Cameroon, showing the location of sites referred to in the text.

1 Parc National de la Kalamaloue, 2 PN du Waza, 3 Reserve du Waza, 4 PN de la Benoue, 5 PN de Bouba Njiddah, 6 Kimbi River Game Reserve, 7 Meket Mbeng and Baseng villages.

These site numbers are used in the annotated list.

- Struthio camelus Loc. 2 - April 1974 and March 1975. During April 1974, a group of one adult male and three adult females was first seen in open woodland. Two days later, two adult males, two adult females, seven large chicks and two small ones were seen moving as a group. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1970) give September to January as the breeding season.
- Pelecanus sp. Loc. 1 - May 1974.
- Egretta intermedia Loc. 2 - March 1975.
- Scopus umbretta Loc. 1 - March 1975, not abundant; Loc. 3 - January 1975, abundant, one pair observed copulating; Loc. 4 - January to May 1975, abundant, nesting during February; Loc. 5 - February 1975.
- Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis Loc. 1 - April to June 1974 and March 1975.
- Bostrychia hagedash Loc. 1 - March 1975. Not abundant. Sightings of this bird as far north as Kalamaloue are rare (Serle & Morel 1977). Loc. 4 - February 1975, abundant along the River Benue; Loc. 6 - May 1974, abundant near water; Loc. 7 - August to December 1974, abundant along small streams.
- Platalea alba Loc. 2 - March 1975.
- Aegypius tracheliotus Loc. 1 - March 1975. A single bird, north of the park boundary.
- Gyps ruppellii Loc. 1 - March 1975. Loc. 2 - March 1975.
- G. bengalensis Loc. 4 - January and February 1975. A pair nesting in a palm tree (Borassus aethiopum). A single chick fledged in early February.
- Neophron percnopterus Loc. 1 - March 1975. A single bird.
- Polyboroides radiatus Loc. 1 - March 1975. Loc. 4 - January and June 1975. Loc. 7 - August to December 1974. August: facial skin of an adult observed changing from pink to yellow over the course of two or three minutes. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1970) state that the facial skin becomes pink "under excitement". October: for eight minutes, an adult soared in circles following and below an immature. Each time that the adult drew close under the immature, the latter extended its legs and dropped down. The adult promptly dived away and the cycle was repeated. Another adult circled nearby.
- Accipiter melanoleucos Loc. 3 - January 1975.
- Melierax gabar Loc. 7 - November 1974. Single birds, twice. This is not normally a forest bird (Serle & Morel 1977) but I am certain of the identification.
- Lophoaelus occipitalis Loc. 1 - May and June 1974, March 1975 and July to October 1975. Loc. 7 - September to December 1974.
- Falco vespertinus Loc. 4 - February 1975. A single bird flew into the gallery forest at dusk on many evenings. This Palaearctic migrant is noted for its gregariousness (Mackworth-Praed and Grant 1970) but the identification is certain.
- Francolinus squamatus Loc. 7 - November 1974.
- Numida meleagris Loc. 1 - April to June 1974, March 1975 and July to October 1975. Abundant. Loc. 2 - April 1974 and March 1975. Abundant. Loc. 3 - April 1974 and January 1975. Loc. 4 - July 1974 and January to June 1975. Loc. 5 - February 1975.
- Balearica pavonina Loc. 1 - April to June 1974, March 1975 and July to October 1975, abundant. Loc. 2 - April 1974 and March 1975, abundant.

- Vanellus spinosus Loc. 1 - June 1974, abundant.
- Treron australis Loc. 6 - August 1974.
- T. waalia Loc. 1 - July and August 1975. Loc. 4 - May 1975.
- Psittacus erithacus Loc. 6 - August 1974, a flock of nine. This is typically a forest species (Bannerman 1953, Serle & Morel 1977), so it is perhaps surprising that it should be seen in the open montane country of Kimbi River Reserve. Loc. 7 - August to December 1974.
- Tauraco leucolophus Loc. 3 - January 1975. Loc. 4 - January 1975.
- Crinifer piscator Loc. 1 - May and June 1974 and July and August 1975. One observed collecting dry twigs (nesting material?) on 10 August 1975. Mackworth-Præd & Grant (1970) give February to May as the main breeding season in the northern part of the range. Loc. 3 - January 1975. Loc. 4 - July 1974 and February 1975.
- Corythaeola cristata Loc. 6 - August 1974. Loc. 7 - August to December 1974. August: a flock of six birds that were feeding in a large tree gave loud alarm calls and dived into dense, low cover when a medium-sized (unidentified) raptor flew overhead.
- Centropus anselli Loc. 4 - February 1975, a single bird.
- Tyto alba Loc. 2 - April 1974, one day-roosting under an artificial observation-platform in a tree.
- Bubo shelleyi Loc. 7 - October to December 1974. Twice single adults were found day-roosting in low trees, evidently asleep with their faces hidden. During December, an adult was disturbed while day-roosting with a smaller owl, possibly an immature of the species.
- B. lacteus Loc. 1 - July 1975, a single bird.
- Macrodipteryx longipennis Loc. 1 - June 1974, an adult male in breeding plumage. Loc. 4 - April 1974, an adult male in breeding plumage. Serle (1965) reported males in breeding plumage as being abundant in January 1957 in the "orchard bush" around Bamali (5° 56' N, 10° 25' E).
- Macrodipteryx vexillarius Loc. 4 - June and July 1974, abundant. I did not observe any with long ninth primaries.
- Merops nubicus Loc. 1 - May and June 1974, March 1975 and July to September 1975. Large flocks were always common along the River Chari and in all months except March they were common visitors to the open woodland, particularly at dusk. Loc. 4 - May 1974 and April 1975, not abundant.
- Coracias cyanogaster Loc. 4 - May 1975, two birds, moving together in open country.
- Tockus erythrorhynchus Loc. 1 - April to June 1974 and March 1975, abundant. Loc. 4 - June 1974, one female. This is a bird that is normally restricted to arid country (Bannerman 1953, Serle & Morel 1977). Its presence in Le Parc National de la Benoue was unexpected, particularly as it was recorded during the wet season and was not therefore the result of a southerly dry season local migration.
- Ceratogymna elata Loc. 7 - August to December 1974, abundant.
- C. atrata Loc. 7 - December 1974, one sighting of an adult male and one of a pair.
- Bycanistes cylindricus Loc. 7 - September to December 1974.
- Bucorvus abyssinicus Loc. 2 - March 1975.
- Lybius dubius Loc. 4 - February 1975, one bird.
- L. bidentatus Loc. 7 - October 1974, single birds.
- L. leucocephalus Loc. 1 - March 1975, one bird.

- Pogoniulus atroflavus Loc. 7 - October 1974, single birds.  
Campethera cailliautii Loc. 7 - October 1974, a single bird.  
Dendropicos obsoletus Loc. 4 - May 1974, a pair.  
Mesopicos goertae Loc. 1 - June 1974. Loc. 7 - October 1974.  
Hirundo rustica Loc. 7 - November 1974. First noted 21/11/74, suggesting a rather later arrival in that year than mid-September as observed by Serle (1965).  
Motacilla clara Loc. 7 - November 1974. Several were seen foraging on rocks (particularly at the waterline) in the River Jideh, a fast-flowing, cold, small river.  
Laniarius barbarus (black-headed form) Loc. 1 - June 1974 and March 1975. Loc. 3 - January 1975. Loc. 4 - February 1975.  
Dicrurus adsimilis Loc. 4 - April 1975, abundant.  
Poeyptera lugubris Loc. 7 - October 1974.  
Cinnyricinichus leucogaster Loc. 4 - July 1974. Loc. 7 - October 1974, a single adult male.  
Ixonotus guttatus Loc. 7 - December 1974.  
Hypergerus atriceps Loc. 4 - February 1975, a single bird.  
Bias musicus Loc. 7 - November and December 1974, single birds.  
Trochocercus longicauda Loc. 4 - February and April 1975, single birds. Loc. 7 - November 1974.  
Terpsiphone viridis (black and white males) Loc. 1 - May 1974 and July 1975. Loc. 4 - July 1974 and April 1975.  
Ploceus melanocephalus Loc. 1 - October 1975, abundant, nesting. Loc. 4 - June 1974, abundant.  
Estrilda nonnulla Loc. 7 - October 1974.

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APPENDIX

Common species excluded from the annotated list. Site numbers follow the species names.

Egretta alba, 4; Ardea melanocephala, 2; Ciconia abdimii, 3,4; Anastomus lamelligerus, 1,2; Leptoptilus crumeniferus, 1; Plectropterus gambensis, 1,2,3; Sarkidiornis melanotus, 1,3; Neophron monachus, 1,2; Gypohierax angolensis, 6, 7; Terathopius ecaudatus, 1; Melierax metabates, 1; Kaupifalco monogrammicus, 7; Haliaetus vocifer, 1,2,4; Milvus migrans, 1, 2; Pandion haliaetus, 1,2,4; Ptilopachus petrosus, 4,5; Vanellus senegallus, 2,3,4; Pluvianus aegyptius, 1; Streptopelia decipiens, 1; Oena capensis, 2, 5; Poicephalus senegalus, 4; Psittacula krameri, 1; Tauraco persa, 6,7; Musophaga violacea, 4; Centropus senegalensis, 3,4,6,7; Caprimulgus climacurus, 1; Colius macrourus, 1; Ceryle rudis, 1,4; Halcyon senegalensis, 4,7; H. leucocephala, 1,4,7; Merops albicollis, 1,7; M. bullocki, 1,3,4; Coracias abyssinica, 1,2; Upupa epops, 1,4; Tockus nasutus, 1,2,4; Lybius vielloti, 1,2,4; Hirundo abyssinica, 7; Motacilla flava, 1,4,7; Prionops plumata, 4; Lamprotornis purpureus, 7; L. caudatus, 1; Buphagus africanus, 4,6; Ptilostomus afer, 1,4; Corvus albus, 1,2; Pycnonotus barbatus, 1,3,4,7; Platysteira cyanea, 4,7; Anthreptes collaris, 7; Nectarinia senegalensis, 4; N. pulchella, 1; Zosterops senegalensis, 4; Ploceus cucullatus, 1; Quelea quelea, 1,2; Euplectes hordeaceus, 7; Estrilda melpoda, 4,7; E. troglodytes, 2; E. bengala, 1,2,4; Lagonostica senegala, 1.

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