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the nest leaving the female on the branch, and feed the nestlings taking about a minute. He would then return to the female, which immediately entered the nest with food for the same period as the male. The female joined the waiting male and both flew off together. The female was never seen to enter the nest with food first. Close observation could not detect any food carried in the parent beak's, suggesting that the nestlings were fed on regurgitated food.

On 30th January, between 4.45 p.m. and 5.30 p.m., the male was observed to make six flights to the nest, bringing fresh nesting material. The female accompanied him on each trip but neither brought material nor entered the nest. She remained on the branch mentioned earlier and left the gathering, carrying and arranging of material to the male. It is difficult to understand why nest repair should be undertaken when the nestlings were at such an advanced stage, and in fact fledged three days later on 2nd February. However, a second brood was commenced fairly soon after the first one fledged.

A SECOND CONTRIBUTION TO THE AVIFAUNA OF TOPO ISLAND,

NEAR LAGOS

J.A.Button

Since July, 1964, when my report on the Avifauna of Topo Island appeared in Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 1 (2) : 5-8, I have made ten visits to the island, most of which were of three or four days' duration. Observations were limited mainly to the vicinity of the Rest-house, the area described and dealt with in the first report and by Wood-Robinson (Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 (5) : 18). These observations have nearly doubled the number of species recorded there; but Fry's assessment of the relative percentages of forest and savanna species (Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 1 (2) : 7-8) is affected only slightly. The present report includes mist-netting results over the same period.

Additions : (a) abundant; (f) frequent; (o) occasional; (d) dry season; (?) queries status not identification.

Egretta garzetta Little Egret (o) Five seen on 15th May 1965 perching on fish traps in Porto Novo lagoon near the Rest-house.

Ardeola ralloides Squacco Heron (o) One, 13th September 1965 and a pair, 17th May 1966 flying low over the lagoon.

- Hagedashia hagedash Hadada (o) On 25th April, 1966 a party of six alighted in coco-nut palms near the edge of the lagoon, ½ mile west of the Rest-house, at dusk.
- Dendrocygna viduata White-faced Duck (f?) Parties of 20-30 flying over the lagoon on 12th January 1965; and groups of 10-15 swimming and in flight on 19th April 1965 and 14th May 1965.
- Porphyryla alleni Allen's Gallirule (o) One climbing through dense reeds at the lagoon edge on 24th April 1966.
- Sterna sandvicensis Sandwich Tern (o) Ten seen over the sea, 14th January 1965.
- Sterna maxima African Royal Tern (o) Twelve flying over the sea, 1st February, 1965.
- Sterna albifrons Little Tern (o) One 1st February 1965 catching fish in the lagoon.
- Tyto alba Barn Owl. A pair in the Rest-house roof; heard 'wheezing' 22nd April, 1966 and 17th May, 1966, and seen 10th October, 1965.
- Crinifer piscator Grey Plantain-Eater (f) Observed regularly on all six visits since 19th April, 1965.
- Lampromorpha caprius Didric Cuckoo (o) Single birds heard on each of the last five visits in May, June and September, 1965 and April and May 1966.
- Micropus caffer White-rumped Swift (o) One flying round the Rest-house in company with Hirundo aethiopica and Colleoptera affinis on 17th May, 1966.
- Phoeniculus erythrorhynchus Kakelaar (o) Parties of 3-5 in palms and thickets away from water, calling loudly, on 20th June, 1965 and 23rd April 1965.
- Ispidina picta Pygmy Kingfisher (o) A single bird near the lagoon on 12th September, 1965. Three crossing the water and one netted 25th April, 1966.
- Halcyon malimbicus Blue-breasted Kingfisher (f) Resident; frequently netted.
- Merops malimbicus Rosy Bee-eater (o) Twelve flying high over the island on 14th January, 1965, and four similarly on 12th September 1965.
- Melittophagus pusillus Least Bee-eater (f) Usually perching low in isolated bushes near the former football field, and in reeds by the lagoon. Seen regularly in April, June and September, 1965 and April and May, 1966.
- Lophoceros semifasciatus Allied Hornbill (o) Single birds in a forested patch two miles east of the Rest-house on 20th June, 1965.
- Pogonornis dentatus Tooth-billed Barbet. A pair at the edge of the forest patch two miles west of the Rest-house on 20th June, 1965.
- Pogoniulus leucolaima Lemon-rumped Tinker-Bird. Singing in May, June and September 1965 and in May, 1966. The song is a sequence of four notes delivered at a much slower rate than in Yellow-throated Tinker-Bird P. subsulphureus.
- Indicator indicator Black-throated Honey-guide. A female netted in low vegetation at the edge of the football field on 19th May, 1966.

- Indicator maculosa Speckled Honey-guide. One netted in vegetation bordering the lagoon on 12th January, 1965. This is the first record of this scarce bird in Nigeria, or indeed apparently anywhere between Liberia (I. m. maculatus) and the Cameroun highlands (I. m. stictithorax). Colour photographs were taken and the bird released. Unfortunately the race was not determined.
- Motacilla aguimp African Pied Wagtail (o) From one to four have occasionally been seen in the Rest-house garden.
- Turdoides plebeja Sudan Brown Babbler (o) Noted on 10th and 12th September, 1965; 24th April, 1966; one netted 20th May, 1966. Extremely noisy behaviour in thick low vegetation near the football pitch, and in reeds and undergrowth at the edge of the lagoon.
- Thescelocichla leucopleura Swamp Bulbul (o) A few (1-4) seen on most visits, in thick vegetation by the edge of water. One netted on 12th January, 1965.
- Melaenornis edolioides Black Flycatcher (o) A pair and two others in thickets on grassland 1½ miles east of the Rest-house (20th June, 1965).
- Erannornis longicauda Blue Fairy Flycatcher (o) A pair and/or odd individuals in mango trees ½ mile west of the Rest-house on 12th January, 1965; 14th May, 1965 and 20th June, 1965.
- Tchitrea smithii fagani Fagan's Paradise Flycatcher (o) One on 14th May, 1965 and three on 19th and 20th June, 1965 including one netted in growth at the lagoon edge.
- Saxicola rubetra Whinchat (d) One on 12th January, 1965. This bird is much commoner on the mainland.
- Cossypha niveicapilla Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat (f) Netted, and heard frequently between January 1965 and May 1966.
- Luscinia megarhynchos Nightingale (f.d.) Much in evidence at the height of the dry season (15th November, 1964, 9th January, 1965). On 13th January, 1965, no less than twelve nightingales were heard singing loudly in bushes east of the cattle enclosure.
- Sylvia borin Garden Warbler (o.d.) Five observed in mango trees ½ mile west of the Rest-house on 12th January, 1965.
- Calamoecator rufescens Rufous Cane-Warbler (o) A few (1-4) seen and heard singing in reeds and vegetation at the edge of the lagoon (12th September, 1965; 25th April, 1966).
- Cisticola galactotes Rufous Grass-Warbler (f) Regularly seen and heard in reeds and islands in the lagoon.
- Prinia subflava West African Prinia (f) From two to eight seen and heard on most occasions.
- Hirundo semirufa Gordon's Rufous-chested Swallow (o) Two pairs on grassland, seen settling on the ground, on 25th April, 1966.
- Laniarius ferrugineus Bell-Shrike. One in a grassland thicket, 1½ miles east of the Rest-house on 12th January, 1965.
- Dryoscopus gambensis Gambian Puff-backed Shrike (o) Singly or in pairs in patches of forest at the edge of the lagoon on 15th November, 1964 and 15th May, 1965. Netted on 20th May, 1966.

Corvus albus Pied Crow. One flying over grassland 2½ miles west of the Rest-house, where the island is about a mile wide.

Zosterops senegalensis Senegal White-eye. A pair on the edge of the lagoon on 20th June, 1965.

Cyanomitra verticalis Olive-backed Sunbird (c) Netted regularly near the edge of the lagoon.

Anthreptes gabonica Mouse-brown Sunbird (f) Observed during most visits; often to be seen in Flame Trees near the Rest-house.

Hylia prasina Green Hylia (o) Seen, and the characteristic double piping call heard in patches of thick forest two miles east of the Rest-house.

Passer griseus Grey-headed Sparrow (f) In the vicinity of the Rest-house. Netted.

Cinnamopteryx castaneofuscus Chestnut-and-black Weaver (o) Four in palms near the football field on 17th May, 1966. One netted.

Plesiositagra cucullatus Village Weaver (f) Small colonies built in palms and bushes at a distance from the lagoon.

Malimbus nitens Blue-billed Malimbe (o) One on 19th June, 1965 and three on 24th May, 1966; all in thick cover near water.

Euplectes afra Napoleon Bishop (f?) Observed in vegetation by the football field and in reeds in the lagoon - 18th June, 1965, 13th September, 1966, and 50, including ten males, on 18th May, 1966. Netted; in the company of Spermestes cucullatus.

Spermestes poensis Blue-billed Mannikin (c). Netted.

Nigrita canicapilla Grey-crowned Negro-Finch (f) In forest patches and vegetation by the lagoon.

Spermophaga haematina Blue-billed Weaver (o) Observed on 22nd April, 1966 and 20th May, 1966 in thick forest patches. Netted.

Pirenestres ostrinus Black-bellied Seed-cracker. One was caught in a furred mist-net a few inches from the ground on 24th April 1966.

Estrilda paludicola Fawn-breasted Waxbill (?) So far I have not been successful in netting a specimen of this weaver (see Fry, 1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 1 (2) : 7-8), although I have seen it on two occasions. On 15th January, 1965, three birds were observed tugging at creeper tendrils on low bushes some distance from the lagoon side of the island and about a mile east of the Rest-house. After a few minutes they flew off apparently empty-billed. On 12th September, 1965, I watched six presumed juveniles with two adults in close attendance perching on the topmost twigs of a Mango tree near the water.

#### Mist-Netting Results

Site A. A 4-shelf 12' x 40' net was used on four occasions - 11th - 14th January, 1965, 13th - 15th May, 1965, 18th - 20th June, 1965 and 10th - 13th September, 1965. It was set at right angles to thick vegetation fringing the lagoon, near a patch of Borassus Palms about ¾ mile west of the Rest-house.

1965

	11-14/i	13-15/v	18-20/vi	10-13/ix
<i>Turtur afer</i>	2			
<i>Vinago australis</i>	1			
<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>		3	1	
<i>H. malimbicus</i>	2	1		1
<i>Indicator maculosa</i>	1			
<i>Mesopicos goertae</i>	1	1		
<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>		1		
<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		2		1
<i>Pyrrhurus simplex</i>	1			
<i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i>	1			
<i>Andropadus virens</i>		1	2	2
<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	2	1		
<i>Turdus libonyanus</i>		1		
<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	2	2	2	
<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>		1		
<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>		1		
<i>Cinnyris coccinigaster</i>	2			
<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>		1	1	
<i>Chalcomitra fuliginosa</i>	1			
<i>Passer griseus</i>		1	1	
<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>		1		

Site B. A 3-shelf 9' x 60' net was used on two occasions, 22nd - 25th April, 1966 and 17th - 20th May, 1966, at right angles to the lagoon, through waterside vegetation and extending into the reeds, about a mile west of the Rest-house.

1966

	22-25/iv	17-20/v
<i>Turtur afer</i>		1
<i>Ispidina picta</i>	2	
<i>Halcyon malimbicus</i>	4	1
<i>Turdoides plebeja</i>	1	
<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>	1	
<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	2	28
<i>Pyrrhurus simplex</i>		4
<i>Andropadus virens</i>	4	3
<i>Tchitrea smithii</i>		1
<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	1	4
<i>Turdus libonyanus</i>		2
<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	1	
<i>Camaroptera brevidaudata</i>	1	
<i>Tchagra senegala</i>	1	
<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>		1
<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>	1	
<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>	1	3
<i>Pirenestes ostrinus</i>	1	
<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>		2

Site C. A 3-shelf 9' x 40' Japanese net was placed through patchy vegetation on the west side of the disused football field on 17th - 20th May, 1966. The site was much more open than Sites A or B.

1966  
17-20/v

Turtur afer	1
Halcyon senegalensis	1
Indicator indicator	1
Pycnonotus barbatus	27
Turdus libonyanus	2
Camaroptera brevicaudata	1
Dryoscopus gambensis	1
Chalcomitra fuliginosa	2
Cinnamopteryx castaneofuscus	2
Plesiositagra cucullatus	3
Hyphanturgus brachypterus	2
Euplectes afra	3
Spermestes cucullatus	1
Spermestes poensis	4

#### Habitat Distribution of Avifauna.

The results of the author's ten visits to Topo Island from September, 1964, together with C. Wood-Robinson's observations (pers. comm.), have increased the species count of the area from 67 to 129. Habitat distribution using the broad classification of Elgood & Sibley (1964, Ibis 106 : 221-248) and Elgood (1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 1 (1) : 13-25) is as follows. Fry's analysis (1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 1 (2) : 7-8) is included for comparison :

	As at July 1964		As at July 1966	
	No. of species	%age	No. of species	%age
Aquatic	11	16.5	18	13.9
Coastal	1	1.5	2	1.6
Marine	1	1.5	4	3.2
Forest	11	16.5	26	20.0
Savanna	34	51.0	62	48.1
Widespread	9	12.0	17	13.2

#### Forest Birds.

The percentage of birds of forest habitat has increased from 16.5% to 20%. Lophoceros semifasciatus, Andropodus virens, Thescelocichla leucopleura, Hylia prasina and Malimbus nitens are typical forest birds in south-west Nigeria and have established themselves in patches of thick arboreal growth along the lagoon side of the island. This vegetation is spreading without check; it has engulfed at least two rows of the coco-nut plantation in some places. Hylia prasina, which I encountered previously only in well-matured secondary growth on the mainland, is now to be heard frequently on Topo, and was once seen in the palms at the edge of the wooded area.

In my first report on the Topo avifauna, I suggested that such dry-season migrants as Aerops albicollis the White-throated Bee-eater and

Bubulcus ibis the Cattle Egret seemed to stay longer on the island than they do on the mainland at Ilaro, some 45 miles to the north. Observations during the last two years support this view. However more work is required on bird distribution at both the Lagos and Cotonou ends of the island, on the mainland immediately opposite Topo, and on the coast to the east of Lagos, before any confident assessment of the relationship of the island's avifauna to that of the rest of south-western Nigeria may be made.

#### ADDITIONS TO LOCAL AVIFAUNAS

Malamfatori, Lake Chad. The following additions have been made to the Malamfatori (Lake Chad) avifauna since June, 1965 (Hopson, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 (6) : 52-53) :

Anas penelope Wigeon - about 10 on a weed-choked oxbow lake at Abadam on 2nd January, 1966, including one adult male in breeding plumage and three males in eclipse (J.A.B., J.H., A.J.H.); up to 30 were seen regularly on flooded stubble fields near Malamfatori during February, 1966 ( J.H., A.J.H.).

Chelictinia riccourii Swallow-tailed Kite - one over dunes near Malamfatori on 28th June, 1965; one in the same locality on 10th November, 1965. C. riccourii appears to be generally uncommon in north-east Bornu, since we have observed it on only four occasions in four years. The other two records are one near Dikwa on 29th June, 1962 and three near Kukawa on 29th December, 1965 ( J.H., A.J.H.).

Lophoaetus occipitalis Long-crested Hawk-Eagle - one or two noted on several occasions flying high over the Yobe valley near Yo between 27th June and 11th August 1965, when a bird seen perched at close quarters at Yo confirmed our diagnosis. A further bird was seen circling over the lake shore at Malamfatori on 18th July, 1965 ( J.H., A.J.H.).

Afroxyechus tricollaris Three-banded Plover - a pair was seen on several occasions between 24th August, 1965 and 8th September, 1965, on the margins of flooded tabkis to the west of the Duwuri dune-ridge. White forehead, white superciliary stripe extending from eye to eye over the back of the neck and double breast bands, the upper very narrow and the lower rather wider, were all clearly seen ( J.H., A.J.H.).

Cursorius temminckii Temminck's Courser - a single bird was observed in short grass on open farmland behind the coastal dunes at Kodokurugu on 3rd July, 1965 ( C.H.F., J.H., A.J.H.).

Bubo lacteus Milky Eagle-Owl - one in tall trees on the banks of the Abadam oxbow on 2nd January, 1966 ( J.A.B., J.H., A.J.H.).