



West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain



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C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Sir, - Mr P.A.Smith's record of Artomyias ussheri from the Benin river (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (10) : 48) is interesting, especially in connection with the division between the Upper and Lower Guinea avifaunae : but may I suggest that it is accepted with caution in the absence of specimens ? I am prompted to do this partly because Mr Smith is not accurate in his remarks on the distribution of A. fuliginosa, the implication being that his only source of reference has been Bannerman's Vol. IV "Birds of Tropical West Africa". Bannerman added to this in Vol. VIII where he records a specimen of A. fuliginosa from Igworiake, Benin Division, shot by Sir H.F. Marshall. Specimens of A. fuliginosa referred to the race chapini (Serle : Ibis 99 : 639, 1957) are available from Oguta and Umuagwu in the Owerri Province : and Serle also refers to the Benin specimen of chapini. Certainly then A. fuliginosa ranges West to Benin, the race chapini extending from there to the Southern Cameroons, while the nominate race is found in Lower Guinea.

As my own experience with A. fuliginosa suggests that flycatchers of this genus usually perch and feed at the tops of rather tall trees and are thus difficult to view really well, I feel that the acceptance of A. ussheri to the Nigerian list should await a specimen, especially because, as far as I can judge, plumage differences are not well marked. I doubt whether the pale streaked underparts of A. fuliginosa are easily detectable in the field, and the shape of the tail is not stressed by Bannerman as a field character.

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S. Marchant

R E Q U E S T F O R I N F O R M A T I O N

I would be grateful for any information that members may have on the breeding biology of the Red-winged Anaplectes Anaplectes melanotis, and particularly details of polygamous practices and associations with other birds or species of insects.

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