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and also on trees in the early morning.

Stone Partridge Ptilopachus petrosus: always many (up to 50) seen or heard. However to pinpoint their whereabouts is difficult as their calls reverberate around the rock masses so much. On one occasion in February we watched 2 separate groups, of about a dozen birds each, meet on a surface and they both set up a tremendous clamour for several minutes. They then disappeared in opposite directions.

Violet Plantain Eater Musophaga violacea: always 2 or 3 fleetingly seen in the trees on the North scree.

White-crowned Cliff Chat Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris: always a few seen, especially around the water at the spring. In February we have seen their most active behaviour - males chasing females and displaying around them (i.e. flying and dancing). Is this courtship - though it would be rather early for the genus?

Red-throated Rock Martin Hirundo fuligula: always many seen gliding along the faces and softly tweetering. They are best viewed from above.

Neumann's Chestnut-winged Starling Onycognathus morio: often up to 25 are seen flying from one end of the rock to the other through the trees on the North scree. Frequently they cling to the rock face. They are difficult to watch owing to their habit of flying a long distance at one go. Consequently we have not seen any courtship or nesting behaviour. They seem to be resident here throughout the year.

#### REFERENCES:

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### A RECORD OF SOME BIRDS OBSERVED ON A TOUR OF DAHOMEY AND NIGER

BY

Netta Robinson

On June 4th, 1971 I accompanied my husband on a working tour of Dahomey and Niger. We were on the road for three weeks. From Lome we travelled east to Cotonou and then North through Parakou and Angara-Debou to cross the Niger at Malanville to Gaya and on to Niamey. From Niamey we headed east through Dosso, Dogondoutchi and Birni N'Konni to Galmi

and then turned north to Tahoua. From Tahoua we set course through Keita and Madoua to Maradi and then east again to Zinder - the extent of our schedule.

The vegetation zones encountered were namely woodland savanna, thorn scrub and sahel savanna. Outward bound the places through which we passed and visited had experienced little or no rain but on the return trip from Zinder to Niamey it was apparent that some rain had fallen, notably between Birni N'Konni and Dosso. The sparse foliage showed a haze of green.

A greater number of birds were seen on this trip than are listed here. Included are only those whose specific identity is certain. FALCONIDAE is excluded altogether apart from the ubiquitous Milvus migrans, as insufficient familiarity with this group made spot identifications whilst on the move difficult and indefinite. With only one night spent in most places there was not the opportunity to record more than the more common species. ANGARA-DEBOU (Lat. 11° 19' north) in Northern Dahomey is rich in individuals and species and time spent in this area would be of the utmost interest. Coracias abyssinica and Ciconia abdimii were observed constantly from Gaya. Oena capensis seen constantly north of Dosso. Ploceus luteolus is a species which it is tempting to record - from Galmi, Maradi and Niamey, but diagnostic uncertainty between P. luteolus and P. pelzelni debars it from the list. Ploceus luteolus is depicted on the 45F Niger stamp which would seem to indicate its frequency. The habitat was not typical of the environment preferred by Ploceus pelzelni according to Bannerman (1953). Included with reasonable certainty now is Passer simplex - the small rather pied little bird observed so frequently on the road north of Dosso en route to Galmi and Tahoua.

Great White Heron Egretta alba: Observed on 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey.

Yellow-billed Egret Egretta intermedia: At Tessoua on 15/6 and on the road between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Reef Heron Egretta garzetta: 1 bird observed on 8/6 en route between Angara Debou and Niamey: a few birds seen on sandbank of Niger at Niamey on 8/6.

Cattle Egret Ardeola ibis: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 7/6, when a flock of approx. 100 birds were seen to be roosting in a tree in the village: on 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey: at Maradi on 13/6: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6: at Niamey as above on 19/6 (fewer birds than on 8/6): at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Abdins Stork Ciconia abdimii: On 8/6 numbers observed en route between Angara-Debou and Niamey and at Niamey on sandbank of Niger: at Tahoua on 11/6: at Maradi on 13/6: at Tessoua on 15/6 where 11 nests were counted in one tree in town centre, 11 birds sitting, bills wide agape in the noonday heat; many other nests were seen with sitting birds in other parts of the town: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6: at Niamey on 19/6, 1 bird only.

White-faced Duck Dendrocygna viduata: Recorded at Niamey on 8/6 and 19/6: in flight up and downstream of Niger.

White-headed Vulture Trigonoceps occipitalis: Recorded at Marriah, 20 KM South of Zinder on 16/6, a pair.

Common Vulture Neophron percnopterus: Numbers of this species observed at Zinder on 16/6.

Black Kite Milvus migrans: On 8/6 seen frequently en route between Angara-Debou and Niamey.

Lily Trotter Actophilornis africana: On 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey and also on 19/6: on the Niger at Gaya on 22/6.

Spur-winged Plover Vanellus spinosus: Recorded on 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey: on 22/6 on the Niger at Gaya.

Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6.

Senegal Dove Streptopelia senegalensis: Observed at Galmi on 10/6, drinking water from the overflow pipe from our bathroom: at Maradi on 13/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Long-tailed Dove Oena capensis: Recorded at Maradi on 13/6: at Zinder on 16/6.

Yellow-bellied Fruit Pigeon Trogon waalia: Recorded at Parakou on 6/6: at Angara-Debou on 7/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Senegal Parrot Poicephalus senegalus: A party of this species feeding and flying noisily from tree to tree at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Grey Plantain Eater Crinifer piscator: Seen at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Didric Cuckoo Chrysococcyx caprius: Seen at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Senegal Coucal Contropus senegalensis: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6: at Save on 24/6.

Little African Swift Apus affinis: A record at Zinder on 16/6.

Abyssinian Roller Copula abyssinica: Observed on 8/6 en route between Angara-Debou and Niamey: on the 17/6 between Zinder and Galmi.

Guinea Wood-Hoopoe Phoeniculus purpureus: A record of this species, 3 birds, on 17/6 between Zinder and Galmi.

Grey-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala: A recording of 1 bird at Niamey on 20/6. A sizable thunder storm and heavy rain occurred in the evening of 19/6.

White-throated Bee-eater Merops albicollis: At Tessoua on 15/6: at Zinder on 16/6.

Least Bee-eater Merops pusillus: 1 bird seen in the grounds of Hotel Le Sahel, Niamey on 8/6 and 19/6.

Red-throated Bee-eater Merops bullocki: Observed at Angara-Debou on 7/6 and 22/6.

Red-beaked Hornbill Tockus nasutus: A pair seen at Maradi on 13/6.

West African Barbet Iybius vielloti: Seen between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Fine-spotted Wood pecker Campethera punctuligera: A pair seen at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Black-cap Babbler Turdoides reinwardii: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Common Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 7/6 and 22/6.

Kurrichane Thrush Turdus pelios: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6 and at Save on 24/6, also at Parakou on 6/6.

Glossy-backed Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis: Recorded at Parakou on 6/6: at Maradi on 13/6.

Long-crested Helmet Shrike Prionops plumata: A party seen on 24/6 at Save.

Long-tailed Shrike Corvinella corvina: Recorded at Parakou on 6/6.

Barbary Shrike Laniarius barbarus: At Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Brown-necked Raven Corvus ruficollis: Numbers seen at Tahoua on 11/6.

Pied Crow Corvus albus: In Niamey near to the Niger on 7/6 and 8/6: and at 19/6: Zinder on 16/6: on the Niger at Gaya on 22/6.

Black Magpie Ptilostomus afer: On sandbank of Niger at Niamey on 8/6: on the Niger at Gaya 22/6.

Purple-glossy Starling Lamprolornis purpureus: Recorded at Dosso on 8/6: at Maradi on 13/6: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Chestnut-bellied Starling Spreo pulcher: Recorded at Maradi on 13/6: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Beautiful Long-tailed Sunbird Nectarinia pulchella: Observed at Zinder on 16/6: at Niamey on 20/6.

Splendid Sunbird Nectarinia coccinigaster: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 7/6 and on 22/6.

Carmelite Sunbird Nectarinia fuliginosa: Recorded on 4/6 at Cotonou.

Scarlet-breasted Sunbird Nectarinia senegalensis: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Violet-backed Sunbird Anthreptes longuemarei: 1 bird seen at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Saharan House-Bunting Emberiza striolata: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6: at Maradi on 13/6.

Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Buffalo Weaver Bubalornis albirostris: Recorded at Maradi on 13/6, feeding on ground in company with Spreo pulcher.

Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus: Seen at Galmi on 10/6: at Maradi on 13/6: at Zinder on 16/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Bronze Mannikin Lonchura cucullata: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Cut-throat Weaver Amadina fasciata: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6.

Senegal Fire-Finch Lagonostica senegala: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6: at Maradi on 13/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Bar-breasted Fire-Finch Lagonostica rufopicta: Recorded at Zinder on 16/6.

Red-cheeked Cordon-Blue Estrilda bengala: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melopoda: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Senegal Combassou Vidua chalybeata: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura: Recorded at Cotonou on 4/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

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FURTHER NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF MAMBILLA PLATEAU

By

H.H. Gray

On 22nd and 23rd April, 1971, I visited the Mambilla Plateau in the southern corner of North-East State to see the medical work of the Mambilla Baptist Mission there. Also, I spent part of one day at Serti, 30 miles north of the Plateau. The elevation at Serti is about 1,500 feet. The vegetation there is of wet guinea savanna type, with some forest