



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



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THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RED-EYED TURTLE DOVE

STREPTOPHELIA SEMITORQUATA

This note raises a query regarding the habitat of the Red-eyed Turtle Dove which can be answered by members of the Society. The query arose when I was writing up notes on the birds seen on a short visit to Mount Cameroun in December 1970. (see this issue)

In my experience in Ghana it is not found in the lowland forest areas and only occurs in the more open and drier areas to the north of the forest belt and on certain areas of the Accra Plain. This distribution agrees with Bannerman (1953) who writes that it is "a bird of the open country and not of the forest, preferring plantations and second growth". In Cameroun, however, I found the bird to my surprise in the montane forest and Serle (1965) writes that the bird is found "in the forest from sea level up to 6000 ft. and in the orchard bush and gallery woods of the savanna." This distribution in Cameroun agrees with Machworth-praed and Grant (1971) who write that it is "found throughout the area (West Africa) in wooded country or forest, but quite often seen also in open country ..." Presumably in Nigeria there is a transition zone and it would be of interest if members would write in to the Bulletin describing the habitat in which they have found the Red-eyed Turtle Dove.

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L. Grimes.

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