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BRONZE MANNIKINS 'FLYCATCHING' - On the morning of 8 May 1979 a light drizzle was falling, the end of a rainstorm which had lasted all night. The rain had brought out large numbers of flying insects, mainly termites. From branches on a small tree near Obudu, Nigeria, about half a dozen Bronze Mannikins *Lonchura cucullata* were flying out a short distance, catching insects in the air, and returning to their perch in a manner more typical of flycatchers. Fairly frequently they would miss the insect at the first attempt and would hover briefly before seizing it at the second or third try. This species feeds principally on grass seeds, and although Bannerman (1953) notes that they may flock to a termite swarm and seize the insects amongst the grass, he gives no indication of this flycatcher-like behaviour.

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Note: 'Flycatching' from termites and ants is common in a variety of unexpected birds (J. M. Thioilay, *Alauda* 38, 1970, 255-273) but the behaviour has hardly been described in detail for any of them. Editor.

OUT-OF-SEASON COURTSHIP BY BLACK-FACED FIRE-FINCH - On 9 February 1979 I observed a pair of Black-faced Fire-finches *Estrilda larvata* chasing each other around a piece of scrubland near Obudu, Nigeria. When they settled close together on a branch it was apparent that the male had a blade of grass in its beak, holding it over its head like an umbrella. It hopped sideways along the branch up to the female and away again; it repeated this a couple of times before they flew off and I lost sight of them. This would appear to be a form of courtship behaviour, and recalls similar behaviour seen at Lama-Kara, Togo, by Cheke & Walsh (*Malimbus* 2: 118); however, Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1970-73) give the breeding season for *E. larvata* as July and August, well after the date of my observation.

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THE STATUS OF SAVI'S WARBLER IN NIGERIA - In his excellent check list of the birds of Nigeria Elgood (1982) lists Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* as a 'vagrant palaearctic migrant', qualifying it with 'possibly vagrant' in the text. To northern Nigeria we consider that it is not a vagrant but a regular migrant. In support of that we note that a total of at least 13 Savi's Warblers have now been netted in Nigeria including six at one locality, Jakara Dam (12°40'N 8°10'E) near Kano, in the short period November 1981-February 1982. One of these, collected on 22 November 1981 (BM No. 1981 - 11 - 1), was in advanced primary moult suggesting that it was at least temporarily resident; three were collected in December and one in early February, all from dense *Typha* beds surrounding the dam. We believe that the low number of Savi's Warblers previously reported in Nigeria may reflect the earlier concentration of mist-netting activity in the periods of autumn and spring passage; our birds were all netted in the intervening period.

R. Wilkinson and D. J. Aidley
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