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ADDITIONS TO LOCAL AVIFAUNAS

Topo Island. I have made two visits to Topo Island from 24th to 27th April 1964 and from 23rd to 25th October 1964. During these visits I have recorded a number of species not mentioned by Button or Fry (Bull. N.O.S. 2 5-8). I should point out that the part of Topo I visited is not identical with the area covered by Button, but extends a further mile or so to the East beyond the 'assemblage of buildings' which, incidentally, includes a non-catering rest-house. At the extreme eastern end of this area is a small patch of forest bordering on the lagoon.

The following species appeared to be fairly common and were frequently seen during both visits :

<i>Cameroptera brevicaudata</i>	Grey-backed Cameroptera
<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>	Chestnut-winged Starling
<i>Lanius collaris</i>	Fiscal Shrike

Several individuals of L. collaris seem to frequent the area to the East of the cattle enclosure - about a mile to the East of the rest-house, but were not observed elsewhere.

The following species were only recorded on one occasion, although in most cases more than one individual was seen :

<i>Mesopicos goertae</i>	Grey Woodpecker (April)
<i>Viango australis</i>	Green Fruit-Pigeon (April)
<i>Scotornis climacurus</i>	Long-tailed Nightjar (April)
<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	Orange-cheeked Waxbill (April)
<i>Lamprocolius purpureus</i>	Purple Glossy Starling (April)
<i>Hyphantornis brachypterus</i>	Spectacled Weaver (April)
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher (24-25.x.1964)

Button refers to the fact that several dry-season visitors remain at Topo later than they do on the mainland at Ilaro 45 miles to the North. A flock of 20-30 Cattle Egrets Bubulcus ibis were still at Topo on 27th April 1964 and a similar flock had arrived by 24th October 1964. Several individuals of the Blue-headed Wagtail Budytes flavus flavus were also recorded as late as 26th April 1964. Quite a large number of White-throated Bee-eaters Aethops albicollis were recorded on both the April and October visits.

C. Wood-Robinson.

Malamfatori, Lake Chad. Four additional species of birds have been observed in the Malamfatori area since January (Bull. N.O.S. 4 : 7-15).

Nyroca nyroca Ferruginous Duck - flocks of up to about 150 seen frequently in flight over the marshes during January, February and March, 1965.

Porzana porzana Spotted Crake - one in thick reed beds on the lake shore on 15th March 1965. Streaked upper parts, dark vertical stripes on the flanks, pale yellowish-buff undertail coverts and bright orange-red at the base of the bill were all clearly seen. (This species is not given in Bannerman, but is given as 'rare' in Elgood's Provisional check-list of the birds of Nigeria, Bull. N.O.S. 1 p.16; the combination of plumage features mentioned, particularly undertail coverts

and bill colour, is diagnostic of the present species. -Ed.)

Bucorvus abyssinicus Ground Hornbill - one on dry flats between Abadam and Yo on 18th March 1965.

Oenanthe deserti Desert Wheatear - a single example on the dunes near the lake shore, 15th February, 1965.

In addition, European Coots Fulica atra (see Fry, Bull. N.O.S. 2 : 13; Hopson, Bull. N.O.S. 4 : 12 & 15) were seen regularly in small numbers during January, February and March 1965 on the marshes at Malamfatori. They were at all times extremely shy and invariably kept to the densest cover of Polygonum and Echinochloa. For this reason it is likely that we have overlooked the species previously and that it is in fact a regular winter visitor to the area. The habitat is different from that of F. atra wintering in the British Isles which in our experience are usually seen on open water rather than in thick vegetation.

J. & A.J. Hopson

Plateau Province over 3,000 ft. With reference to the Provisional check-list of the birds of Plateau Province over 3,000 feet (Ebbutt et al., Bull. N.O.S. 3 : 9-14) and the Additions (Sharland, Bull. N.O.S. 4 : 18-19), the following birds may be added :

- Rostratula benghalensis Painted Snipe. One, Sabon Gida, 23.x.'64
Erolia testacea Curlew Sandpiper. One, Sabon Gida 23.x.1964
Glottis stagnatilis Marsh Sandpiper. Two, Pan Yam Fish-farm, 3.ii.'65
Rhinoptilus chalcopterus Bronze-winged Courser. One found dead Vom, 24.xi.1964
Charadrius dubius Little Ringed Plover. One shot Sabon Gida
Hippolais pallida opaca Olivaceous Warbler.
Sylvia atricapilla Blackcap. One netted Vom, 22.xi.1964

D. Ebbutt & V.W. Smith

Mambila Plateau. D. Ebbutt was able to spend some two days on the Mambila Plateau from 23rd February, 1965 and has deposited a full list of the birds he recorded at three localities with the Editor - Mayo Selbe at the foot of the escarpment at 1,000 ft.; the escarpment; and the Plateau proper. Ebbutt records most of the species noted by Boulter (The Mambila Plateau, Bull. N.O.S. 4 : 17-18) and his more interesting records are listed below :

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|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <u>Sphenorhynchus abdimii</u> | Abdim's Stork | 1, Plateau |
| <u>Sagittarius serpentarius</u> | Secretary-Bird | several, Plateau |
| <u>Pseudogyps africanus</u> | White-backed Vulture | several, Plateau & Escarpment |
| <u>Aquila rapax</u> | Tawny Eagle | 2, Plateau; 1, Escarpment |
| <u>Neotis denhami</u> | Denham's Bustard | 2, Plateau, where apparently commoner around Christmas;
1, Mayo Selbe |
| <u>Streptopelia semitorquata</u> | Red-eyed Turtle-Dove | Common, Mayo Selbe |
| <u>S. vinacea</u> | Vinaceous Dove | Common, Mayo Selbe |
| <u>S. hypopyrrhus</u> | Adamawa Turtle-Dove | 1, Plateau |
| <u>S. decipiens</u> | Niger Mourning Dove | Very common, Plateau |
| <u>Colinus striatus</u> | Bar-breasted Mousebird | 4, Plateau |
| <u>Micropus melba</u> | Alpine Swift | 200+, Plateau. This large flock was under observation for some minutes in a valley North of Gembu. Might this be the winter quarters of the species? They were larger |

cont/.