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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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Estrilda troglodytes Black-rumped Waxbill One on newly-cultivated field near Malamfatori on 31st May 1965.

A.J. and J.Hopson

N O T E S

Harlequin Quail at Ilaro and Ibadan. A dead female Harlequin Quail Coturnix delegorguei delegorguei was brought to me by one of my pupils, Miss Mopelola Smith, on 4th December 1964. Its lower mandible was injured and it seemed to have flown into telegraph wires on the Egbado College compound. A male was found at Ibadan about the same time (J.H. Elgood, pers. comm.) and these records extend the known range of the species into the southern forested area of Nigeria. Bannerman 1953, I. p. 331) states " I have given the range of this bird as a greater part of Africa, but not the forest region. It occurs from ... Abyssinia and Kordofan West to the Ivory Coast, Lake Chad and probably the Bauchi Plateau of Nigeria. Southwards it does not enter the equatorial forest..."

The female Harlequin closely resembles the female Common Quail C. coturnix; main differences are that the latter has a pale whitish belly, cinnamon-buff breast with round or oblong dark spots, and a larger wing (105-119 mm (Bannerman) or 100-115 (Witherby et al., Handbook of British Birds, 1941)). My specimen of C. delegorguei has the entire underside from the throat to the vent dark buff ('pale chestnut' - Bannerman) with no dark spots on the breast. The wing measures 100 mm.

J.A.Button

Cut-Throat Weavers at Zaria. R.B.Walker (1965, Bull. N.O.S. 5:22-23) has recently reported a southerly extension of range for two Sudan savannah birds, the Chestnut-bellied Starling Spreo pulcher and the Black-headed Plover Sarciophorus tectus. These birds were recorded on the edge of farmland near settlements on the Kubani stream close to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and well within the broad vegetal region normally classified as Northern Guinea Savannah. On 26th March 1965, yet another record of a species normally associated with the semi-arid regions of the Sudan and Sahel Savannah, the Cut-throat Weaver Amadina fasciata, was obtained in the same area. A pair of birds was seen on this occasion in thorn bushes and since then, over a period of two months, up to 4 birds have been seen by other observers in the same locality. Bannerman (Birds of Trop. West Afr. VII p.289) quotes records for Nigeria from Maiduguri and other parts of Bornu and from northern Bauchi Province. In January, 1963 I recall seeing caged specimens of this bird offered for sale by traders in Kano where presumably it is found locally or just to the North. It is interesting to speculate whether these birds are normally found in small numbers well South of the Sudan Savannah zone or whether they have wandered unusually far South this year during the particularly prolonged dry season.

N.J.Skinner