

Comments on the ornithology of Nigeria, including amendments to the national list

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SUMMARY.—This paper reviews the distribution of birds in Nigeria that were not treated in detail in the most recent national avifauna (Elgood *et al.* 1994). It clarifies certain range limits, and recommends the addition to the Nigerian list of four species (African Piculet *Verreauxia africana*, White-tailed Lark *Mirafrja albicauda*, Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri* and Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*) and the deletion (in the absence of satisfactory documentation) of six others (Olive Ibis *Bostrychia olivacea*, Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*, Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*, Little Grey Flycatcher *Muscicapa epulata*, Ussher's Flycatcher *M. ussheri* and Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens*).

Recent research in West Africa has demonstrated the need to clarify the distributions of several bird species in Nigeria. I have re-examined much of the literature relating to the country, analysed the (largely unpublished) collection made by Boyd Alexander there in 1904–05 (in the Natural History Museum, Tring; NHMUK), and have reviewed the data available in the light of our own field work in Ghana (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014), Togo (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2011a) and neighbouring Benin (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 2011, Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2009, 2010, 2011b).

The northern or southern localities of species with limited ranges in Nigeria were not always detailed by Elgood *et al.* (1994), although such information is essential for understanding distribution patterns and future changes. For many Guineo-Congolian forest species their northern limit in West Africa lies on the escarpment of the Jos Plateau, especially Nindam Forest Reserve, Kagoro. Nindam and neighbouring forests form an island of mid-altitude dry rainforest that contains tree species (Wilkinson & Beecroft 1988: 21) typical of peripheral semi-evergreen lowland or mid-altitude rainforest in West Africa (Jones 1963, White 1983: 79). White (1983: 175) placed the Jos Plateau escarpment forests within the Guineo-Congolian / Sudanian transition zone. At 09°28'N, Nindam Forest Reserve is further north than comparable situations in eastern Ghana and adjacent Togo, where hills bearing rainforest reach north to 08°30'N. Regrettably, the avifauna of the Nindam area was not documented in detail by Elgood *et al.* (1994), who did not mention the important survey detailed by Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988). More recent surveys have revealed that most of the forest has been destroyed, mainly as a result of logging (Abalaka & Manu 2007).

This paper addresses these topics, and also a number of published errors. Elgood *et al.* (1994) often repeated Elgood (1982, not 1981 as they stated) verbatim, so I mention the earlier book where there is need to demonstrate that a record pre-dated 1982. Records referred to as pers. obs. are unpublished, mainly from a 1988 expedition that I undertook with F. Dowsett-Lemaire and colleagues; a selection of the more important records was published by Ash *et al.* (1989) and Demey *et al.* (2003). A gazetteer lists all Nigerian localities mentioned, including several missing from that in Elgood *et al.* (1994).

Results

OLIVE IBIS *Bostrychia olivacea*

Sight reports were accepted by Elgood *et al.* (1994), although they suggested that 'the present records need confirming'. This should also apply to a report in 2004 from the area of Cross River National Park (*Bull. Afr. Bird Cl.* 12: 187). There remains no documented record between southern Ivory Coast (Yapo: Demey & Fishpool 1994) and southern Cameroon (Bipindi: Louette 1981). Claims from Nigeria clearly need to be differentiated from the widespread and more common Spot-breasted Ibis *B. rara*, for which Elgood *et al.* (1994) gave no Nigerian record, but whose presence was reported by Demey *et al.* (2003).

DARK CHANTING GOSHAWK *Melierax metabates*

There is a '?' plotted in south-west Nigeria on the map in Borrow & Demey (2014: 100), based on a sighting by R. Farmer of two on the coast at Tarkwa (06°25'N, 03°25'E) on 28 October 1980 (Gee & Heigham 1977). In the absence of natural savanna, this record should be queried. It was not mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994), although they did include an observation, from the south-east at Enugu, where Serle (1957) had other records.

LONG-TAILED HAWK *Urotriorchis macrourus*

Reported by Elgood (1982) and Elgood *et al.* (1994) as seen by R. E. Sharland at Kagoro, Jos Plateau escarpment (09°36'N), but the species was not recorded during surveys of the same forests by Dyer *et al.* (1986), Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988) and more recent observers. The BirdLife factsheet (BirdLife International 2014) listed this without comment as a 'trigger species' in support of recognition of the Kagoro-Nindam Important Bird Area. In similar habitat in Ghana, *U. macrourus* barely ranges north of 07°N (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014). If not a misidentification, the species could be no more than an exceptional vagrant. In any case, the Kagoro report should not be accepted without evidence that the bird ranges further north than Ile-Ife (07°29'N: Farmer 1979).

AFRICAN HARRIER HAWK *Polyboroides typus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) mentioned both nominate *typus* and *P. t. pectoralis* as possibly occurring in Nigeria, but the former subspecies is present in eastern and southern Africa, no closer to Nigeria than central Sudan (Dickinson & Remsen 2013).

CHESTNUT-FLANKED SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter castanilius*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) accepted a sighting from as far north as Nindam (09°30'N), but provided no details. This was based on a bird 'watched at close range attacking a fruit bat', during a visit of a few hours (Ash & Sharland 1986: 11), apparently by both observers (Wilkinson & Beecroft 1988: 52–53). The species was not reported during the extensive surveys by Dyer *et al.* (1986) and Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988). This is a species of primary rainforest, and its occurrence in mid-altitude dry forest requires confirmation, as confusion with African Goshawk *A. tachiro* is possible (the latter was not listed by Ash & Sharland, but is present in Nindam). BirdLife International (2014) listed *A. castanilius* without comment from the Kagoro-Nindam Important Bird Area. A sight record from Ibadan (Elgood *et al.* 1994) was not accepted by Ezealor (2001). The northernmost certain record is a specimen from near Benin City (06°20'N: Bannerman 1951: 123).

CASSIN'S HAWK-EAGLE *Aquila africana*

Reported (under *Spizaetus africanus*) by Elgood (1982) and Elgood *et al.* (1994) as seen by M. Horwood on the southern Jos Plateau (? at Kagoro, 09°36'N). Although the species was not

recorded during surveys of the escarpment forests by Dyer *et al.* (1986) and Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988), a sighting was reported in the same area in 2002 (P. Hall, *Bull. Afr. Bird Cl.* 10: 62), and U. Ottosson (*in litt.* 2015) has observed it there a couple of times. Occurrence on the Jos Plateau is not unexpected: in similar habitat in Ghana it ranges north to almost 08°30'N, being especially common in the hills of Volta Region (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014).

SCALY FRANCOLIN *Pternistis squamatus*

Adeyanju *et al.* (2014) listed this species, as well as Ahanta Francolin *P. ahantensis*, from Ibadan, but the presence of two sibling species at the same locality is very unlikely and requires confirmation. The nearest certain record of Scaly Francolin is north of the Niger-Benue, at Minna (Marchant 1953).

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles exustus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not mention the southernmost locality, which seems to be Sambisa Game Reserve, where it is common (P. Hall *in litt.* 2015), at c.11°40'N, 14°20'E. It had previously been reported south of Maiduguri by Louette (1981), but the locality concerned was Minetti borehole (Hall 1977a), at c.12°45'N.

WESTERN BRONZE-NAPED PIGEON *Columba iriditorques*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) gave the range as Benin (City) to Lagos, but there are localities further north, as far as Ile-Ife (07°29'N: Farmer 1979). It is now known from the south-east, at Afi River Forest Reserve (Demey *et al.* 2003).

ADAMAWA TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not give a southern limit for the central plateau population, which is Pankshin (09°20'N: Bannerman 1953).

AFRICAN MOURNING DOVE *Streptopelia decipiens*

A record mapped for Lagos by Borrow & Demey (2001: 194) was based on Gee & Heigham (1977), who reported it there in most months. But subsequently there has been no suggestion that it occurs on the coast (P. Hall *in* Elgood *et al.* 1994), and the earlier record should be considered a misidentification. Borrow & Demey (2014: 214) now omit the species from their map. *S. decipiens* is confined to dry riparian forest or woodland north of 09°30'N (as in Ghana: Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014) and south to Yankari National Park (09°45'N: Crick & Marshall 1981).

AFRICAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

The southernmost locality listed by Elgood *et al.* (1994) was Gaya, but it ranges further south, to Sambisa Game Reserve at c.11°40'N (Ezealor 2001).

BLUE-SPOTTED WOOD DOVE *Turtur afer*

Occurs north to Kaduna according to Elgood *et al.* (1994), but in fact the species reaches somewhat further, to Anara (10°44'N: Fry 1975).

AFRICAN GREEN PIGEON *Treron calvus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported it north only to the southern slopes of the Jos Plateau, but it is known further north still at Danbagudu (10°19'N: Fry 1975).

RED-HEADED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis pullarius*

Mention should be made of a record further north than those in Elgood *et al.* (1994), at Kano (Sharland & Wilkinson 1981), although presumably the possibility of this referring to

escaped cagebirds cannot be eliminated. This comment applies also to records in the south-west, from Lagos and Badagri (Elgood *et al.* 1994), although birds in the Okigwi area were wild (Marchant 1942).

BLACK CUCKOO *Cuculus clamosus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) listed no locality north of Zaria, but the northernmost report is from Kumbotso, Kano (11°53'N; Sharland & Wilkinson 1981).

DIDRIC CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx caprius*

The idea that this species has parasitised Cricket Warbler *Spiloptila clamans* (Wilson & Sallinen 2003) was unfortunately repeated by Ezealor (2013), although Dowsett (2005) considered that the possibility that these records involved Klaas's Cuckoos *C. klaas*, rather than Didric, had not been eliminated.

BLUE-HEADED COUCAL *Centropus monachus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) recorded it from Lagos to Lake Chad, but the Lake Chad population is isolated, and the main range in Nigeria reaches north only to Yankari National Park (09°45'N; Crick & Marshall 1981).

AFRICAN SCOPS OWL *Otus senegalensis*

Occurs further south of the Niger than Abeokuta (Elgood *et al.* 1994), in the Awgu area (06°05'N), from where Marchant (1942) described the distinctive song.

PEL'S FISHING OWL *Scotopelia peli*

Not confined to Guinea savannas as suggested by Elgood *et al.* (1994), with one reportedly collected by L. H. Brown at Osomegbe, on the Obe River (Brown 1948; Bannerman 1951: 266), in the derived savanna / forest zone. This is the same area in which Turk (2000) found Vermiculated Fishing Owl *S. bowvieri*, although Turk did not mention Brown's record, which P. Hall (*in litt.* 2015) believes may be erroneous.

VERMICULATED FISHING OWL *Scotopelia bowvieri*

Ezealor (2001) reported this species from the savanna zone at Pandam National Park (08°40'N), without details, but this is unlikely, and there is no authentic record further north than Sunvit farm (07°07'N, Ezealor 2001), and in neighbouring Benin at Lokoli (07°04'N; Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 2011). Pel's Fishing Owl is known from Pandam (Elgood *et al.* 1994), which perhaps explains the confusion. A report of the Upper Guinea endemic Rufous Fishing Owl *S. ussheri* from Agenbode (Agenebode) (P. Hall, *Bull. Afr. Bird Cl.* 3: 140) was demonstrated to refer to *S. bowvieri* (Turk 2000).

AFRICAN WOOD OWL *Strix woodfordii*

Rather than Nindam, the northernmost report is from Danbagudu (10°19'N; Fry 1975), a locality not mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994) and not in their gazetteer.

EGYPTIAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) mentioned only a single specimen for Nigeria, from the 'mouth of the Yo River'. In fact, Boyd Alexander collected three specimens there, all on 24 February 1905 (NHMUK).

SABINE'S SPINETAIL *Rhaphidura sabini*

A sighting of one in Yankari National Park (09°45'N) by C. Geerling (Elgood 1982, Elgood *et al.* 1994) requires confirmation, in view of the lack of suitable rainforest habitat. In the Lower

Guinea part of its range, this swift occurs south of 07°N, and in Nigeria the northernmost locality is Omo Forest Reserve (06°50'N: Green *et al.* 2007).

BATES'S SWIFT *Apus batesi*

There have been sightings from as far north as Nindam (09°36'N: Wilkinson & Beecroft 1988) and the species is mapped by Borrow & Demey (2014: 252). In view of the difficulty in identifying black swifts, evidence is desirable (e.g. photographs).

SHINING-BLUE KINGFISHER *Alcedo quadribrachys*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) quoted Bannerman (1933: 250) to the effect that the species occurred widely in the Northern Provinces, to Sokoto. In fact, Bannerman specified that Hutson did not report seeing it at Sokoto, but at Bungudu (Gungudu), Sokoto Province (12°16'N, 06°33'E). The northernmost record otherwise is from Shaffini swamp, Kainji (09°53'N: Wells & Walsh 1969: 89).

BLACK BEE-EATER *Merops gularis*

The northernmost of the localities listed by Elgood *et al.* (1994) was Owena, but there is a record from Ile-Ife (Farmer 1979), even further north.

BLUE-BREASTED BEE-EATER *Merops variegatus*

Borrow & Demey (2014: 266) mapped a record far to the west of the normal range, which is based on a sight report of three birds in 'lowland forest' at Sapele (05°42'E) on 10 June 1976 (C. S. Porteous *in* Elgood 1982, repeated by Elgood *et al.* 1994). The species was not found at Sapele while Heigham (1976) was resident there, and there can be little doubt that the record mentioned by Elgood (1982) was a misidentification of Little Bee-eater *M. pusillus*. Blue-breasted Bee-eater occurs west only to the montane grasslands of the Obudu Plateau, where first reported by Elgood (1965).

SWALLOW-TAILED BEE-EATER *Merops hirundineus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not detail the distribution of this woodland species, except in general terms. It ranges as far south as Ubiaja, where reported by H. F. Marshall (*in* Bannerman 1951: 327).

RED-THROATED BEE-EATER *Merops bulocki*

There is only one coastal record mapped by Borrow & Demey (2014: 266) for the whole of West Africa. This is based on the statement in Elgood *et al.* (1994) 'reported in coastal savanna at Lagos', which is based on a sight record by D. I. M. Wallace of one at Tarkwa on 31 January 1970 (Gee & Heigham 1977). This was doubtless a wanderer.

FOREST WOOD-HOOPOE *Rhinopomastus (ex-Phoeniculus) castaneiceps* / **BLACK DWARF HORNBILL** *Horizocerus (ex-Tockus) hartlaubi*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not distinguish the northernmost localities of these two forest species; for both it is Ile-Ife (Farmer 1979).

BLACK-CASQUED HORNBILL *Ceratogymna atrata*

The record mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994) from Ilorin Province should be treated as doubtfully correct, based as it is on a sight record (J. D. Clarke *in* Bannerman 1933). *C. atrata* can be confused with Yellow-casqued Hornbill *C. elata*, which has been seen as far north as Shaffini swamp forest, Kainji (09°53'N: Wells & Walsh 1969: 92), a record not cited by Elgood *et al.* (1994). The northernmost acceptable record of *C. atrata* in Nigeria is from Mekko (07°28'N), from where the tail of a specimen was preserved (Bannerman 1933).

NAKED-FACED BARBET *Gymnobucco calvus* / **BRISTLE-NOSED BARBET** *G. peli*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) gave northern limits for neither of these forest species; they are respectively Ilesha (07°37'N: Serle 1950) and Ile-Ife (07°29'N: Farmer 1979).

YELLOW-FRONTED TINKERBIRD *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Only one locality south of the Benue was presented by Elgood *et al.* (1994), but it is also widespread in the Mambilla area (e.g. Njawai; pers. obs. 1988), and Alexander collected it at Takum (NHMUK).

YELLOW-THROATED TINKERBIRD *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* / **YELLOW-BILLED BARBET** *Trachylaemus* (ex-*Trachyphonus*) *purpuratus*

The ranges of these two forest barbets were not detailed by Elgood *et al.* (1994): the northernmost locality for both species is Ile-Ife (Farmer 1979).

YELLOW-BREASTED BARBET *Trachyphonus margaritatus*

The species' southern limit is the Maiduguri-Chad Basin National Park area at c.11°45'N (cf. Bannerman & Bates 1924, Ezealor 2001), rather than Hadejia (as stated in Elgood *et al.* 1994).

WHITE-HEADED BARBET *Lybius leucocephalus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not give a southernmost locality: it occurs south to Yankari National Park (Green 1989) and Vom (P. Hall *in litt.* 2015).

CASSIN'S HONEYBIRD *Prodotiscus insignis*

The limits of this forest species were not detailed by Elgood *et al.* (1994): it is recorded north to Ibadan (Elgood & Sibley 1964). Elgood *et al.* (1994) attributed to the nominate race a bird collected at Benin (Benin City in Nigeria, not the country: Bannerman 1951: 350), based on a bird measured, but not retained as a specimen. The only specimen from the south-west (Abeokuta) was shown by Serle (1950: 88) to be of the race *flavodorsalis*. The range of the two races in Nigeria as described by Elgood *et al.* (1994) remains to be clarified, as there is a gap in the documented distribution of this species, with no record between Ibadan and Okomu National Park.

LYRE-TAILED HONEYGUIDE *Melichneutes robustus*

To the three localities listed by Elgood *et al.* (1994) can be added a more northerly one, Cross River National Park, Oban Division (Demey *et al.* 2003).

AFRICAN PICULET *Verreauxia* (ex-*Sasia*) *africana*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) placed this species, reported from Lokoja (Jourdain & Shuel 1935), in square brackets. The record has been considered only doubtfully correct by several authorities, as the commensal locality (where several sightings were claimed) and the nest site (a hole in a garden tree) are atypical. However, in February 2005 one was well described from Afi River Forest Reserve (06°20'N, 09°00'E: I. Imong *per* L. D. C. Fishpool *in Bull. Afr. Bird Cl.* 12: 187) and the species can be added to the Nigerian list.

GABON WOODPECKER *Dendropicos gabonensis*

A northern limit was not given for this forest species by Elgood *et al.* (1994): it is Ile-Ife (Farmer 1979).

CARDINAL WOODPECKER *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) gave the species' northern limit as Potiskum, but it does range slightly further north, to Gadau (Fry 1975).

FIRE-BELLIED WOODPECKER *Chloropicus (ex-Thripis) pyrrhogaster* / **YELLOW-CRESTED WOODPECKER** *C. (T.) xantholophus*

The northernmost locality for Fire-bellied Woodpecker is Ile-Ife (Farmer 1979), rather than Ibadan, as stated in Elgood *et al.* (1994). The sight record of Yellow-crested Woodpecker claimed near Sapele (C. S. Porteous *in* Elgood 1982, repeated by Elgood *et al.* 1994) is surprising, being well within the range of sibling *C. pyrrhogaster*, and so it is marked with a '?' on the map in Borrow & Demey (2014: 300). Both species were listed from Cross River National Park by Ezealor (2001), *pyrrhogaster* from the Okwangwo area and together with *xantholophus* in Oban Division. The latter appears to be correct for *xantholophus*, being based on Dyer & Gartshore *in* Elgood *et al.* (1994) and more recent observations; this is the species' westernmost locality. However, the occurrence of *pyrrhogaster* in Cross River seems not to have been substantiated in print and requires confirmation—the easternmost record in Nigeria appears to be Calabar (Mackenzie 1979), although there are reports of sympatry in extreme south-west Cameroon (Sørensen *et al.* 1996).

BROWN-BACKED WOODPECKER *Ipophilus (ex-Picoides) obsoletus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) gave Potiskum as the northernmost locality, but two specimens were collected by Alexander at Yo, Lake Chad, in early January 1905 (NHMUK).

SINGING BUSH LARK *Mirafra cantillans*

To the localities listed by Elgood *et al.* (1994) should be added a more southerly record, from Falgore Game Reserve (c.10°50'N: Wilkinson & Beecroft 1985).

WHITE-TAILED LARK *Mirafra albicauda*

No mention was made of this species by Elgood *et al.* (1994), although it was known from the Chadian region of Lake Chad (Vielliard 1972). In fact, of six specimens collected in 1905 by Boyd Alexander, one was from the Nigerian shore of the lake: at Kowa Baga on 25 April (specimen in NHMUK). The other five specimens were from localities in Chad along the Shari River, between Lafana and Dumtar. This is a new species for the Nigerian avifauna, but subsequent workers on the western shore of the lake have not found it (e.g. Gustafsson *et al.* 2003).

RUFOUS-NAPED LARK *Mirafra africana*

Elgood (1982) and Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported a specimen 'from Lake Chad area', but gave no supporting reference. There is no obvious habitat for the species in the area (pers. obs. 1968), and confirmation is required for a species usually restricted to upland grasslands.

FLAPPET LARK *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

The northernmost locality is not Maiduguri (*cf.* Elgood *et al.* 1994), as there are several reports (including display) north to Sokoto (13°N: Mundy & Cook 1972: 60).

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella rufescens*

Accepted for Nigeria by Elgood *et al.* (1994) on the basis of one ringed and others observed on the Jos Plateau. This migrant from the Palearctic is unknown south of the Sahara, except in Mauritania. In the absence of a photograph this single-observer report of an extreme rarity, not easy to identify, should not be accepted. Possibly these were immature Red-capped Larks *C. cinerea*, a very isolated population of which species is present on the Jos Plateau.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*

Rather than just the Jos Plateau (as in Elgood *et al.* 1994), the southernmost localities are more accurately Yankari National Park (Dyer & Gartshore 1975) and Leinde (Reichenow 1911).

SQUARE-TAILED SAW-WING *Psalidoprocne nitens*

Seven sightings from Lagos were mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994) without comment. These were probably misidentifications of square-tailed juveniles of the often confused, sibling Fanti Saw-wing *P. obscura*. There are no definite records of Square-tailed Saw-wing between south-east Ghana (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014) and south-east Nigeria at the Imo River, Owerri (Marchant 1942). Sightings claimed from western Togo (Douaud 1956, Cheke & Walsh 1996), including as far north as Pagala at 08°11'N, 00°58'E (in predominantly savanna habitat; pers. obs.), were also surely misidentified.

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla aguimp*

The description of its range in Elgood *et al.* (1994)—‘to 10°N in the west’—is ambiguous: it is not at its limit at 10°N, but extends at least to Bungudu (12°16'N), where the species is numerous (Bannerman 1936), and in Niger it reaches 15°N.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* / **AFRICAN PIPIT** *A. cinnamomeus*

Records of these two taxa in Nigeria require clarification. There are three specimens from the Lake Chad area identified as *A. richardi* (White 1957: 33): on 18 October 1904 (not 1940, as in White), 1 November 1904 and 1 March 1905. All were collected by Boyd Alexander, and from what is known of his travels (Alexander 1907), they were all taken in or immediately adjacent to the Nigerian shore of the lake. A fourth pipit, attributed to Blyth's Pipit *A. godlewskii* (B. P. Hall in White 1957), was also taken on 18 October. All of these are now thought possibly to represent a resident population of *A. cinnamomeus* (D. J. Pearson in Keith *et al.* 1992), and Elgood *et al.* (1994) were wrong to treat them unquestionably as Palearctic *richardi*. Those authors also reported that the race *lynesei* had been ‘netted at Kano’; they gave no reference, but this was presumably the bird ‘secured for identification’ at Kirikasama (12°42'N, well north of Kano) on 16 January 1964 (Sharland & Wilkinson 1981)—in the absence of a specimen even the specific identity must be uncertain. The resident population in the highlands of south-east Nigeria (Obudu and Mambilla), *cameroonensis*, is best treated as a member of the *A. cinnamomeus* complex (*cf.* White 1961).

BLUE CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Cyanograucalus* (ex-*Coracina*) *azureus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not describe its distribution in detail; the northernmost locality is Olokomeji at 07°25'N (Elgood 1977).

ANSORGE'S GREENBUL *Eurillas* (ex-*Andropadus*) *ansorgei*

Ezealor (2001) listed it for Gashaka-Gumti National Park, but this record (by far the north-easternmost in Nigeria) has not been documented and should be, given the difficulties that exist in identifying this species.

CAMEROON SOMBRE GREENBUL *Eurillas* (*A.*) *curvirostris*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not give a northern limit for this forest species. It might be thought to be Kagoro-Nindam Forest Reserve (Ezealor 2001), although the species was not among those mist-netted or seen in surveys by Dyer *et al.* (1986) and Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988). Otherwise the northernmost record is from Ilesha at 07°37'N (Serle 1950).

SLENDER-BILLED GREENBUL *Stelgidillas (A.) gracilirostris*

The easternmost locality mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994) is Owerri, but in fact it ranges throughout southern Nigeria to Calabar (Mackenzie 1979) and the Ebe River (pers. obs. 1988).

SJÖSTEDT'S HONEYGUIDE GREENBUL *Baeopogon clamans*

Listed from the Biseni forests (Ezealor 2001), which would be the western limit of the species' range (it being absent from Upper Guinea). Nothing has been published on the avifauna of these forests and this record should be documented. The same comments apply to Lesser Bristlebill *Bleda notatus*.

BAUMANN'S GREENBUL *Phyllastrephus baumanni*

Known north to Ede (07°43'N), the report from Pandam (Elgood *et al.* 1994) being a misidentification (Fishpool 2000).

ICTERINE GREENBUL *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

The species' range was not described in detail by Elgood *et al.* (1994): the northernmost locality is Mekko (07°28'N: Serle 1950).

WESTERN BEARDED GREENBUL *Criniger barbatus*

Contra Elgood *et al.* (1994), *C. barbatus* does not range 'right across the country', but Port Harcourt (07°05'E) represents the eastern limit (*C. b. ansorgeanus* collected, and the distinctive voice described, by Marchant 1953). It seems probable that sight records from the Calabar area (Mackenzie 1979) refer to the allopatric sibling Eastern Bearded Greenbul *C. chloronotus*.

WHITE-BEARDED GREENBUL *Criniger ndussumensis*

Nigeria lies at the western limit of this primary rainforest species, so it is unfortunate that Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not mention a single locality. None of the records west of the lower Niger (Ezealor 2001) have been documented, and it is unclear how they were separated from the sibling Red-tailed Greenbul *C. calurus*. Definite records of *C. ndussumensis* (confirmed by vocalisations) are from Cross River National Park eastwards (Demey *et al.* 2003).

WHITE-TAILED ANT THRUSH *Neocossyphus poensis*

The northern limit was not given by Elgood *et al.* (1994): it is Gambari Forest Reserve (Elgood 1977; pers. obs. 1968).

COMMON ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported just one record south of the Niger and Benue Rivers, to which can be added a male at Nguroje, on 11 March 1988, at an altitude of 1,600 m (pers. obs.).

BLACK SCRUB ROBIN *Cercotrichas podobe*

No southern limit was given by Elgood *et al.* (1994), but the species is known south to Gujiba (11°35'N), where collected by Boyd Alexander (Bannerman 1936; NHMUK).

LITTLE RUSH WARBLER *Bradypterus baboecala*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) suggested that *B. b. chadensis* has not been definitely recorded on the Nigerian side of Lake Chad, but they overlooked a Boyd Alexander specimen at NHMUK (Dowsett 2002). Subsequently, birds were handled by Gustafsson *et al.* (2003), of which one was sampled for molecular analysis (Alström *et al.* 2011; U. Ottosson *in litt.* 2013). The song of northern birds is unknown, but the molecular analysis suggests that this population may be related to birds from Rwanda with a high-pitched song. Elsewhere in Nigeria it has the

deep voice of southern and central African birds, as at Panyam (Stervander *et al.* 2005), Onitsha and Obrubra (Serle 1957), west to Ghana (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014).

AFRICAN MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Melocichla mentalis*

Occurs north to Tapkin Darina at 12°46'N, where collected by Boyd Alexander (Bannerman 1921; NHMUK); this locality was not mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994), who made no reference to this important paper.

YELLOW-BELLIED EREMOMELA *Eremomela icteropygialis*

The southernmost localities were not mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994): they are Gadau (Bannerman 1939) and Molai, Maiduguri (Hall 1977a).

GREY LONGBILL *Macrosphenus concolor*

Wells & Walsh (1969: 93) reported what was 'probably this species' in dry forest in the Kainji area (c.09°50'N), a record accepted without question by Elgood *et al.* (1994). It was justifiably queried by Borrow & Demey (2014: 412), as the vegetation type (typically Sudanian) is unsuitable for this rainforest species. The northernmost acceptable locality in Nigeria is Ede, at 07°43'N, where the species was collected by Serle (1950).

ORIOLE WARBLER *Hypergerus atriceps*

The only records south of the Benue according to Elgood *et al.* (1994) were from the Mambilla Plateau, but they overlooked Boyd Alexander's specimens from the Katsina River and Takum (Bannerman 1921; NHMUK).

FRASER'S FOREST FLYCATCHER *Fraseria ocreata*

Borrow & Demey (2001: 373) mapped this species from north of the Niger / Benue confluence, apparently based on Dyer *et al.* (1986). While the latter authors did indeed list the species (on p. 18) from Nindam, Kagoro, this was in error, for on p. 10 they explained that it was White-browed Forest Flycatcher *F. cinerascens* that was mist-netted. The northern limit of *F. ocreata* is Erin-Ijesha (Elgood *et al.* 1994), as now mapped by Borrow & Demey (2014: 420).

OLIVACEOUS FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa olivascens*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) accepted the monthly sightings at Benin City by D. N. Johnson (*in* Heigham 1976), but no-one else has found this rainforest species in south-west Nigeria and it is unknown from the Dahomey Gap, making confirmation desirable. On present evidence *M. olivascens* occurs in Nigeria only in the Cross River area (Ash 1990).

CASSIN'S FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa cassini*

Reported north to Iwo by Elgood *et al.* (1994), but a more northerly locality is Ede (Serle 1950).

LITTLE GREY FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa epulata*

Accepted on the Nigerian list by Elgood *et al.* (1994) on the basis of sight records from just one locality (Nindam, 09°36'N), which the observers considered 'not easily assignable to any other Nigerian flycatcher' (Dyer *et al.* 1986). In view of the identification problems presented by small grey flycatchers, occurrence at Nindam should be confirmed.

ASHY FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa caerulescens*

As there are so few Nigerian reports, it should be stressed that the only definite records (in addition to the Gambari specimen mentioned by Elgood *et al.* 1994) are from Kagoro (09°36'N; P. Hall *in* Bull. Afr. Bird Cl. 10: 60) and east of the lower Niger at Umuagwu and

Owerri, where Marchant (1953) collected one and observed others. This species does not associate with mixed-species flocks, and the sighting reported by Greig-Smith (1977) from Erin-Ijesha was probably misidentified.

DUSKY-BLUE FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa comitata*

Elgood (1982) and Elgood *et al.* (1994) referred to a sight record in relict forest at Pandam, on the southern edge of the Jos Plateau. No reference was given and it has not been possible to trace details. As the species has not been found in other forests on the Jos Plateau escarpment, such as Kagoro-Nindam (Dyer *et al.* 1986, Wilkinson & Beecroft 1988), this record is best considered unproven. In Nigeria, the northernmost record is otherwise at 07°33'N (Imesi-Ile: T. Ludlow *in* Elgood *et al.* 1994). A record from Gashaka-Gumti National Park (Ezealor 2001) can also be questioned, as no details have been traced in its support.

TESSMANN'S FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa tessmanni*

The only specimen record from Nigeria was supposedly from Shonga (09°05'N) on the Niger, obtained by 'Captain Ferryman' (Bannerman 1936, Elgood *et al.* 1994). This refers to A. F. Mockler-Ferryman (1856–1930: not 'Mochler' as in Sharpe 1906), who donated 20 specimens (of 17 species) to the British Museum, all purportedly from Shonga. However, much of his collecting was around Lokoja (07°47'N) and on the Benue (Mockler-Ferryman 1892: 152), and the exact origin of this flycatcher—presumably that listed as *M. modesta* (Mockler-Ferryman 1892: 316)—is uncertain. In Ghana, Tessmann's Flycatcher, although recorded from 19 30-minute atlas squares, occurs nowhere north of 07°12'N (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014). It seems probable that Ferryman's specimen, although in a consignment from Shonga, was from much further south. Listed for Ibadan (Ezealor 2001), but there have been no subsequent reports (Adeyanju *et al.* 2014) and this requires confirmation.

SOOTY FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa infuscata* / **USSHER'S FLYCATCHER** *M. ussheri*

These sibling species occupy the same niche (exposed branches high in the forest canopy), have the same 'jizz' and habits, and are so similar in plumage that they might even be considered races of a single species. Ussher's Flycatcher does not occur east of the Dahomey Gap; there is no satisfactory record for Togo or Benin, with the easternmost from Aburi, eastern Ghana (05°53'N, 00°11'W: Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014), from where there is a specimen (Reichenow 1903: 462). Any sightings further east should be documented, especially those mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994) from well within the range of Sooty Flycatcher (which certainly occurs eastwards in Nigeria from Gambari: Elgood 1977). Sooty Flycatcher occurs in Guineo-Congolian forests and is very unlikely at Serti, an area of natural savanna, where reported to have been seen and handled (Hall 1977b, Elgood *et al.* 1994); the observer now agrees that the record should be withdrawn (P. Hall *in litt.* 2015). Marchant (1966) had rightly doubted that *M. ussheri* occurs in Nigeria.

BLACK-AND-WHITE FLYCATCHER *Bias musicus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) recorded it north to Ibadan, but the species has been reported even further, at Yankari (A. Demeter *in* Crick & Marshall 1981). This is considerably further north (09°45'N) than in neighbouring countries, and confirmation is desirable (which view is supported by U. Ottosson *in litt.* 2015).

GREY-HEADED BATIS *Batis orientalis*

White (1963) reported an out-of-range female *B. o. chadensis* south of Egga (on the Niger). This was a collecting locality of W. A. Forbes, but Shelley (1883) made no mention of this specimen, and it was probably mislabelled. The only certain localities for this species

in Nigeria are in the Lake Chad region, south to Arrigui (Boyd Alexander specimens; NHMUK). The report of this species mist-netted on the Mambilla Plateau (Hall 1977b) was questioned by Louette (1981), and the very similar Western Black-headed Batis *B. erlangeri* would be more likely (as the observer now agrees; P. Hall *in litt.* 2015). In fact, F. Dowsett-Lemaire and I observed a pair of *B. erlangeri* on the Nigerian / Cameroon border at Chappal Waddi (1,900 m) on 23 March 1988, at the edge of montane forest. As the crown appeared grey and we were unfamiliar with either *Batis* at the time, we did not publish the record. It is now evident from habitat and voice (a written description was made at the time) that the species involved was *B. erlangeri*, which has a contiguous and widespread distribution in similar habitat in adjacent Cameroon (Louette 1981, 2005). This is a new species for the Nigerian avifauna.

RED-CHEEKED WATTLE-EYE *Dyaphorophya blissetti*

Elgood (1982, repeated by Elgood *et al.* 1994) reported the species as far north as Kagoro, 'heard regularly' (no source). No mention of the species was made by Dyer *et al.* (1986), and the record requires confirmation. It was not listed by Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988). The northernmost locality is Ile-Ife (Farmer 1979).

BLUE-HEADED CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Trochocercus nitens*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) accepted an observation of one 'in dense swamp' as far north as Yankari (C. Geerling). There is no other report of this rainforest species in West Africa north of 09°N, and the sighting requires confirmation (a view supported by U. Ottosson *in litt.* 2015). Ile-Ife (07°29'N) represents the northernmost locality (Farmer 1979).

RUFOUS-WINGED ILLADOPSIS *Illadopsis rufescens*

Not included in the Nigerian avifauna by Elgood *et al.* (1994), but mapped by Borrow & Demey (2001: 383) from south-west Nigeria, evidently based on a report from Ipake Forest Reserve, Ilaro (Button 1964), the only *Illadopsis* listed there. Subsequently, Button (1965) corrected his identification to Pale-breasted Illadopsis *I. rufipennis*. The easternmost acceptable locality for this Upper Guinea endemic is South Worobong, Ghana (06°26'N, 00°27'W: Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014). A claimed observation from southern Benin also involved a misidentification, of Puvél's Illadopsis *I. puvéli* (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 2011). Map corrected in Borrow & Demey (2014).

BLACKCAP BABBLER *Turdoides reinwardtii*

There is no record at Kano, as erroneously reported by Elgood *et al.* (1994); what Bannerman (1936) wrote was that Hutson found it 'up to latitude 11°30'N' in Kano and Bauchi Provinces. This accords well with its occurrence north to Gubuchi (11°12'N: Fry 1975).

RED-HEADED PICATHARTES *Picathartes oreas*

Adeyemo & Ayodele (2005) claimed to have studied the species' diet in Old Oyo National Park, which at 08°55'N, 04°00'E would have been an astonishing westwards extension of known range. Ezealor *et al.* (2007) demonstrated that the study was a fraud and that neither this species nor its sibling, the Upper Guinea endemic Yellow-headed Picathartes *P. gymnocephalus*, occurs anywhere near western Nigeria.

FOREST PENDULINE TIT *Anthoscopus flavifrons*

There has been no further information to confirm the single-observer sighting from Lagos (Elgood 1977, J. P. Gee *in* Elgood *et al.* 1994), and it must be considered very doubtful. The few definite records are from the forests of the south-east, west to Umuagwu (06°55'E), where collected by Marchant (1953).

WESTERN VIOLET-BACKED SUNBIRD *Anthreptes longuemarei*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported it south of the Benue only at Enugu (Serle 1957), but the species was also collected at Takum, by Boyd Alexander (NHMUK).

SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

In addition to Serti and Enugu (Elgood *et al.* 1994), the species is known south of the Benue at Takum (Bannerman 1948), where Boyd Alexander collected three specimens (NHMUK).

COPPER SUNBIRD *Cinnyris cupreus*

Reported to the 'northern limits of the Guinea Savanna' (Elgood *et al.* 1994); the northernmost locality seems to be Zaria at 11°03'N (Fry 1965).

JOHANNA'S SUNBIRD *Cinnyris johannae*

A Lagos sight record of this easily confused forest species, and a specimen from Abomey (Benin), mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994) cannot be accepted. There is a large gap with no authentic observations between southern Ghana (South Worobong Forest Reserve, west of the Volta: Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014) and south-east Nigeria (Cross River area; several observers). A reported sighting of a female as far west as Okomu National Park (06°25'N, 05°28'E: S. Eccles & P. Hall in *Bull. Afr. Bird Cl.* 12: 187) requires confirmation. The type locality of *C. j. fasciatus* was assumed to be Abomey as specimens from Fraser's collection came 'chiefly from Abomey' (Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 2011), but there is no evidence to support this interpretation, and the original type locality of 'West Africa' must stand.

SUPERB SUNBIRD *Cinnyris superbus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported this species in south-west Nigeria north only to Ibadan and Ife (c.07°30'N). However, it was mapped by Borrow & Demey (2001: 399) from much further north, based on records from Nindam (09°36'N: Wilkinson & Beecroft 1988), including a pair observed in February 1980 (Dyer *et al.* 1986: 11). Although the species is mapped as questionable by Borrow & Demey (2014: 462), these records seem acceptable; in eastern Ghana it reaches 08°30'N (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014).

EMIN'S SHRIKE *Lanius gubernator*

Among the few records from Nigeria, Elgood *et al.* (1994) mentioned a specimen collected at 'Gajibo (near Lake Chad)', giving coordinates for 'Gajebo' as 12°10'N, 14°00'E. This refers to a bird collected at 'Gujiba' by Boyd Alexander on 12 October 1904 (NHMUK). The locality appears on the map in Boyd Alexander (1907) as Gujba, at c.11°35'N, 11°55'E, and in the US Defence Department gazetteer the coordinates are given as 11°30'N, 11°55'E. This is the species' northernmost known locality.

BLACK-SHOULDERED PUFFBACK *Dryoscopus senegalensis*

A specimen was reportedly collected on 24 May 1938 in derived savanna '10 miles from' Oshogbo, in the south-west, by Dr William McLelland, and identified at the British Museum (Bannerman 1951: 457). This locality is not mentioned in the gazetteer in Elgood *et al.* (1994)—the coordinates below are from Happold (1987) and the US Defence Department gazetteer. This is by far the species' westernmost record. Nothing is known of the ornithological activities of the collector (a member of the Nigerian Medical Service), but in 1940, at least, he was based in the south-east (Calabar), not in the south-west (shipping passenger lists, National Archives, Kew). There seems to be no other locality of this name, and there was probably an error of labelling, meaning that occurrence in south-west Nigeria should be confirmed. The species is also listed for Okomu National Park (Ezealor 2001), but

without details. The only definite records in Nigeria are from the south-east, on the Obudu Plateau, where the species has been collected (Elgood 1965).

TROPICAL BOUBOU *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported it north of the Niger / Benue Rivers only to Kaduna, overlooking records even further north from Anara Forest Reserve and Zaria, at 11°03'N (Fry 1975).

MANY-COLOURED BUSH SHRIKE *Chlorophoneus multicolor*

Elgood (1982), repeated by Elgood *et al.* (1994), reported the species as far north as Kagoro, where 'sighted'. No mention of the species was made by Dyer *et al.* (1986) and Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988), and the record requires confirmation. It is otherwise known north only to Ile-Ife at 07°29'N (Farmer 1979).

GREY-HEADED BUSH SHRIKE *Malaconotus blanchoti*

Reporting it 'only just south of the Benue in southeast', Elgood *et al.* (1994) gave no reference. This is presumably based on a Boyd Alexander specimen from Takum, taken in June 1904 (Bannerman 1939).

VELVET-MANTLED DRONGO *Dicrurus modestus*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not separate this forest species from the mainly savanna-based Fork-tailed Drongo *D. adsimilis*. The northernmost record is a specimen from Ishan Division at c.07°55'N (Bannerman 1939). Recognition of the specific status of *modestus* (following Fry *et al.* 2000, Pasquet *et al.* 2007) adds a species to the Nigerian list.

NARROW-TAILED STARLING *Poeoptera lugubris*

No northern limit was given by Elgood *et al.* (1994), but it ranges to Ado-Ekiti, Ondo Province, at 07°38'N (Bannerman 1948).

FOREST CHESTNUT-WINGED STARLING *Onychognathus fulgidus*

Fry (1965) reported it from as far north as the Zaria area, but this was in error for Red-winged Starling *O. morio (neumanni)*, as the northernmost locality of *O. fulgidus* is Oyo at 07°52'N (Elgood *et al.* 1994).

BRONZE-TAILED GLOSSY STARLING *Lamprotornis chalcurus*

The only report from south-west Nigeria is the sighting at Badagry by J. A. Button (*in* Elgood *et al.* 1994). Supporting details have not been published and confirmation should be sought.

LONG-TAILED GLOSSY STARLING *Lamprotornis caudatus*

A single near Lagos was considered to be a vagrant or an escape (Gee & Heigham 1977, Elgood *et al.* 1994); this was a bird seen at Tarkwa, on 15 August 1970, by D. I. M. Wallace. Similar occurrences elsewhere in West Africa, e.g. in southern Ghana (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2014), are thought as likely to have captive origin as to be natural wanderers.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED SPARROW WEAVER *Plocepasser superciliosus*

'Absent south of the Benue' (Elgood *et al.* 1994), but Boyd Alexander collected it at Takum in June 1904 (Bannerman 1949; NHMUK). A sight report from as far south as Ibadan (L. H. Brown *in* Bannerman 1949), apparently accepted by Adeyanju *et al.* (2014), is probably a misidentification, as this species is endemic to Sudanian (Sudan-Guinea) woodland.

SLENDER-BILLED WEAVER *Ploceus pelzelni*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) mentioned a record from 'Egga' on the Niger, based on Bannerman (1949: 73, under *Sitagra monacha*). This locality has been variously referred to as Eggan or

Eggar, and is at 08°43'N, 06°18'E (not 08°30'E, under Eggan in Elgood *et al.* 1994: 279). The specimen was collected by W. A. Forbes, and is that listed under *Hyphantornis personatus* by Shelley (1883: 550); he was at Egga in the second half of September 1882 (Forbes 1883). This record would be exceptionally far inland for the species (throughout West Africa it does not occur north of the coastal belt), and as the specimen is a female its identification should be confirmed, to eliminate the sibling Little Weaver *P. luteolus*. The latter species has been collected as far south as Ibi at 08°10'N (Boyd Alexander collection; NHMUK).

VIEILLOT'S BLACK WEAVER *Ploceus nigerrimus*

Listed from Pandam (Ezealor 2001), but this would be the only record north of the Niger and Benue, and supporting details are lacking.

YELLOW-MANTLED WEAVER *Ploceus tricolor*

There is a locality further north than those given by Elgood *et al.* (1994), namely Ilesha (07°37'N), where the species was collected at a colony by Serle (1950).

BLUE-BILLED MALIMBE *Malimbus nitens*

The northernmost locality referred to by Elgood *et al.* (1994) as between Nasarawa and the Benue is more exactly between Aza and Tunga (08°08'N, 07°25'E: Serle 1940). Reported further north in Kagoro-Nindam Forest Reserve (Ezealor 2001), but surveys by Dyer *et al.* (1986) and Wilkinson & Beecroft (1988) did not find it, and confirmation is required.

RED-HEADED WEAVER *Anaplectes rubriceps*

The record from between Serti and Beli (Elgood *et al.* 1994)—more accurately 72 km north of Serti (Ash *et al.* 1989)—was not the first south of the Benue in Nigeria, as Boyd Alexander collected one further south at Takum (07°13'N) in 1904 (NHMUK).

RED-BILLED QUELEA *Quelea quelea*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) wrote that post-breeding movements 'may reach as far south as Zaria and the Benue River near the Cameroon border'. This would seem to be an interpretation of the map in Ward (1971: 289) and may be hypothetical. Documented records are to just south of Yankari, at 09°45'N (Dyer & Gartshore 1975), while it has been noted regularly in the last 15 years at the A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), south-east of Jos, at 09°52'N (U. Ottosson *in litt.* 2015).

GREEN-WINGED PYTILIA *Pytilia melba*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) gave no southern limit. Reported as far south as Yankari at 09°45'N (Crick & Marshall 1981), but otherwise north from Goram (11°17'N), where collected by Boyd Alexander (NHMUK).

RED-WINGED PYTILIA *Pytilia phoenicoptera*

Listed for two southerly localities, Sunvit farm and Gashaka-Gumti National Park by Ezealor (2001), but details have not been published and these would be the only localities south of the Niger / Benue Rivers (Elgood *et al.* 1994).

RED-FACED CRIMSONWING *Cryptospiza reichenovii*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported it only from the Obudu Plateau, but overlooked a record from Leinde Fadali, Gashaka-Gumti National Park (Ash *et al.* 1989).

WESTERN BLUEBILL *Spermophaga haematina*

Elgood (1982) and Elgood *et al.* (1994) mentioned breeding records at 'Ndian, Aug-Nov (Macdonald 1959)', but neither locality nor reference appears in their gazetteer or

bibliography. Ndian is in Cameroon (04°57'N, 08°52'E), and the reference is more correctly Serle (1959), who presented the observations of A. Macdonald.

BLUE-BILLED FIREFINCH *Lagonosticta rubricata*

The northernmost locality is not Aliya, as reported in Elgood *et al.* (1994), but Rano (*sic*) at 11°35'N (Sharland & Wilkinson 1981, Payne 1982).

RED-CHEEKED CORDON-BLEU *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Reported from Lagos (Gee & Heigham 1977), but like a record from Ibadan (Elgood *et al.* 1994)—not repeated by Adeyanju *et al.* (2014)—probably an escape from captivity.

CUT-THROAT FINCH *Amadina fasciata*

Borrow & Demey (2014: 538) plotted a record in the Lagos area, but it was not mentioned by Elgood *et al.* (1994). This was based on an observation of five at Tarkwa on 24 January 1984 by R. Farmer (*in* Boyd Alexander-Marrack *et al.* 1985), most probably of captive origin, as suggested by the observer.

VILLAGE INDIGOBIRD *Vidua chalybeata*

Elgood (1982) and Elgood *et al.* (1994) reported the species as 'met all year' at Lagos, and it was mapped by Borrow & Demey (2001: 470). However, for its host, Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*, Elgood *et al.* (1994) mentioned just one old record from Lagos, which 'could refer to an escape'. These records are based on Gee & Heigham (1977), who considered that Lagos indigobirds 'most resemble form *funerea*', which was then considered a race of the single recognised species of indigobird, *V. chalybeata*. As Bar-breasted Firefinch *L. rufopicta* is the common species at Lagos (Gee & Heigham 1977), it is likely that the corresponding *Vidua* is Pale-winged Indigobird *V. wilsoni*. This probably also applies to the record, originally published as *V. chalybeata*, from Warri (Heigham 1976). Map corrected in Borrow & Demey (2014).

CABANIS'S BUNTING *Emberiza cabanisi*

Elgood *et al.* (1994) did not mention the northern limit—the species has been reported north to Yashi, on the Katsina / Kano border (12°22'N: Bannerman 1949).

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Appendix: Gazetteer of Nigerian localities and others mentioned

Abeokuta	07°09'N, 03°20'E	Gubuchi	11°12'N, 08°01'E
Abomey, Benin	07°11'N, 01°59'E	Gujiba	11°35'N, 11°55'E
Aburi, Ghana	05°53'N, 0°11'W	Hadejia	12°27'N, 10°03'E
Ado-Ekiti	07°38'N, 05°13'E	Ibadan	07°23'N, 03°56'E
Afi River Forest Reserve	c.06°20'N, 09°00'E	Ibi	08°10'N, 09°45'E
Agenbode (Agenebode)	07°07'N, 06°41'E	Ife	07°28'N, 04°32'E
Aliya	11°10'N, 10°55'E	Ile-Ife	07°29'N, 04°33'E
Anara Forest Reserve	10°42'N, 07°37'E	Ilesha	07°37'N, 04°44'E
Arrigui, Lake Chad	13°28'N, 13°22'E	Ilorin	08°30'N, 04°33'E
Awgu	06°05'N, 07°28'E	Imesi-Ile	07°33'N, 04°38'E
Aza	08°06'N, 07°30'E	Imo River, Owerri	04°36'N, 07°31'E
Badagri	06°25'N, 02°53'E	Ipake Forest Reserve, Ilaro	c.06°50'N, 03°03'E
Bauchi	10°16'N, 09°50'E	Ishan	07°55'N, 05°19'E
Beli	07°52'N, 10°58'E	Iwo	07°38'N, 04°10'E
Benin City	06°20'N, 05°38'E	Jos Plateau	c.09°30'N, 08°55'E
Bipindi, Cameroon	03°05'N, 10°25'E	Kaduna	10°32'N, 07°24'E
Biseni forests	c.05°15'N, 06°30'E	Kagoro-Nindam Forest Reserve	c.09°28'N, 08°19'E
Bungudu (Gungudu)	12°16'N, 06°33'E	Kainji Lake National Park	c.10°05'N, 04°40'E
Calabar	04°58'N, 08°21'E	Kano	12°00'N, 08°31'E
Chad Basin National Park	c.11°45'N, 14°15'E	Katsina	13°00'N, 07°36'E
Chappal Waddi	07°01'N, 11°41'E	Kirikasama	12°42'N, 10°15'E
Cross River National Park, Oban Division	c.05°47'N, 08°26'E	Kowa Baga, Lake Chad	13°07'N, 13°52'E
Cross River National Park, Okwangwo Division	c.06°17'N, 09°14'E	Kumbotso, Kano	11°53'N, 08°30'E
Danbagudu	10°19'N, 07°46'E	Lafana, Shari River, Chad	10°30'N, 16°36'E
Dikwa	12°02'N, 13°55'E	Lagos	06°27'N, 03°24'E
Dumtar, Shari River, Chad	10°01'N, 17°35'E	Leinde	09°51'N, 13°09'E
Ebe River	c.05°05'N, 08°40'E	Leinde Fadali	06°58'N, 11°36'E
Ede	07°43'N, 04°26'E	Lokoja, Niger / Benue confluence	07°47'N, 06°44'E
Egga (Egga), Niger River	08°40'N, 06°20'E	Lokoli, Benin	07°03'N, 02°15'E
Enugu	06°26'N, 07°30'E	Maiduguri	11°50'N, 13°09'E
Erin-Ijesha	07°36'N, 04°45'E	Mambilla Plateau	c.07°30'N, 11°35'E
Falgore Game Reserve	c.10°50'N, 08°40'E	Mekko	07°28'N, 02°45'E
Gadua	11°50'N, 10°10'E	Minetti borehole	c.12°45'N, 13°45'E
Gambari Forest Reserve	c.07°08'N, 03°50'E	Minna	09°36'N, 06°33'E
Gashaka-Gumti National Park	c.07°20'N, 11°35'E	Molai, Maiduguri	11°50'N, 13°09'E
Gayana	11°52'N, 09°01'E	Nasarawa	08°30'N, 07°42'E
Goram (Gwaram)	11°17'N, 09°53'E	Ndian, Cameroon	04°57'N, 08°52'E
		Nguroje	06°57'N, 11°07'E

Niger / Benue confluence	07°47'N, 06°44'E	Sambisa Game Reserve.	c.11°40'N, 14°20'E
Nindam Forest Reserve	c.09°28'N, 08°19'E	Sapele	05°55'N, 05°42'E
Njawai, Mambilla Plateau	06°55'N, 11°34'E	Serti	07°30'N, 11°22'E
Obrubra	06°05'N, 08°19'E	Shaffini swamp, Kainji	09°53'N, 04°45'E
Obudu Plateau	c.06°40'N, 09°20'E	Shonga, Niger River	09°05'N, 05°09'E
Okigwi	05°50'N, 07°22'E	Sokoto	13°02'N, 05°13'E
Okomu National Park	c.06°25'N, 05°28'E	South Worobong Forest Reserve, <i>Ghana</i>	06°26'N, 00°27'W
Olokomeji	07°25'N, 03°32'E	Sunvit farm	07°07'N, 06°41'E
Omo Forest Reserve	06°50'N, 04°30'E	Takum	07°13'N, 10°00'E
Onitsha	06°10'N, 06°47'E	Tapkin Darina	12°46'N, 08°18'E
Oshogbo	07°46'N, 04°34'E	Tarkwa, Lagos	06°25'N, 03°25'E
Osomegbe, Obe River	06°57'N, 06°37'E	Tunga	08°08'N, 07°25'E
Owena	07°12'N, 05°01'E	Ubiaja	06°37'N, 06°20'E
Owerri	05°29'N, 07°01'E	Umuagwu	05°20'N, 06°55'E
Oyo	07°52'N, 03°57'E	Warri	05°36'N, 05°50'E
Pagala, <i>Togo</i>	08°11'N, 00°58'E	Yankari National Park	c.09°45'N, 10°30'E
Pandam National Park	c.08°40'N, 09°03'E	Yapo, <i>Ivory Coast</i>	05°42'N, 04°06'W
Pankshin	09°20'N, 09°27'E	Yashi	12°22'N, 07°55'E
Panyam	09°25'N, 09°13'E	Yo	13°33'N, 13°15'E
Port Harcourt	04°43'N, 07°05'E	Yo River (Komadugu-Yobe) mouth, Lake Chad	13°40'N, 13°22'E
Potiskum	11°45'N, 11°02'E	Zaria	11°03'N, 07°42'E
Rano	11°35'N, 08°40'E		