

## THE HAND AND FOOT OF MAN IN THE INYANGA HIGHLANDS – A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

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A Kurrichane Thrush hopped across the grass and drank from the pool in the stream while I watched. A very ordinary sort of event you may say but the place was high up on the Inyanga Downs, at 2200 metres, and the date 25 July 1976. Such an event would have been so unlikely as almost to qualify for the epithet "impossible" when I first sat on the same spot just twenty years previously. The reason for the changes which have come about here is the advance of the hand and foot of modern man. We have been bombarded with information about the terrible effects of pollution and destruction of the natural environment by man. It is a refreshing exercise to study a situation where man, to some extent, and however unintentionally, may have caused some positive changes in the pattern of local wild life. The thrush was added to an ever-growing list of birds seen at this altitude, not one of which was observable in 1956.

All the same, while the upward march of exotic trees has, to some extent, favoured the parallel development of tree-oriented birds, it is possible that the grassland species may be imperilled. It is early days to be certain, but I suspect already a diminution in the numbers of pipits and longclaws. *Cisticola lais* [Wailing Cisticola] and *C. ayresii* [Wing-snapping Cisticola] may likewise be affected – also the African Stonechat. The Blue Swallow hunts over grassland and nests in antbear holes and dongas, which must be free of cluttering vegetation and situated where there is a fairly long run-in. It is probably being driven out of the area, as such nest sites become more and more rare, and in this connection, an entry in the Red Data Book, p. 80, is of interest. Listing the species as "vulnerable" the note reads "Reasons for decline: Pine tree plantations have affected the bird adversely, particularly in the Natal Midlands."

The first white settlers to visit the Inyanga Downs found a beautiful, wild bit of mountain country, with rocky outcrops of granite and diorite breaking through the prevailing rolling grassland. Numerous streams, many running underground, plunged down eventually into the rushing Gairezi or Inyangombi Rivers. There were no trees, except for the Mlanje Cedar *Widdringtonia nodiflora*, on the so-called "Black Mountain" and in a few sheltered kloofs and rock clefts. This indigenous cypress-like conifer, here so stunted, never attains the size of

specimens growing in Malawi. Stream beds gave shelter to bushes of wild *Buddleia Buddleia salvifolia* and Mchisi bush *Leucosidea sericea*, the St. John's Wort bush *Hypericum* sp. and tree ferns, with an undergrowth of bracken, brambles, ferns, heaths and many flowering plants, including aloes, ground orchids and the wild dagga *Leonotis leonurus*, much loved by sunbirds. There were no human inhabitants of the area, but many signs of an earlier occupation.

It is possible that the whole area was at one time covered by forest. Man began occupation in the Early Stone Age, fifty thousand years ago, and continued through the Middle and Late Stone Ages, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Traces of four distinct Iron Age cultures have been found in the Inyanga district. Although the Downs area was without any settled inhabitants when first visited by white pioneers, there was evidence of their presence at least up to the seventeenth century. At that date there seems to have been a general movement down to the Inyanga Lowlands. Although we cannot be certain of the reason for this, which may have been partly a matter of climatic change, yet it is possible that the eventual elimination of wood supply could have been the final determining factor. [p5]

When the first pioneers arrived in the somewhat inaccessible highland area, forestry and ranching were the obvious lines of development to be followed, succeeded by limited "settlement", fruit-growing and the exploitation of tourism. The Troutbeck Inn was built about 1950; the land above it, which forms the object of my study, was then uninhabited and virtually roadless, though roads were made down to the Gairezi river and across it to the Mozambique border; another down to the area now known as Nyamaropa, and eventually Mutoko; and there was access to the lower-lying "Inyanga North", developed for farming and as an African Tribal Trust Land.

In 1955 there was a rough track from Troutbeck Inn up to the spectacular view point on the escarpment of the Inyanga Mountains known locally as "World's View" at 2300 m. It traversed a tract of open grassland, dotted with rocky outcrops and crossed by streams which run into the Tsanga and thence to the Gairezi. Here at 2200 m., we built a cottage, at that time the highest house in Rhodesia. It proved to be a good vantage point for bird

observation. A few yards away from the building was a small donga, part of an underground stream, and here Blue Swallows were nesting and continued to do so for many years. A pair of Augur Buzzards nested on a krans visible from the house. Trees such as oak, willow and poplar were planted, together with flowering shrubs and flowers such as foxgloves, which established themselves and proved a great attraction for sunbirds.

A study of the local avifauna up to 1961 (Snell, 1963) makes interesting reading today because of the great changes which have taken place in the intervening sixteen years. The establishment of the three artificial lakes of Little Connemara and the making of roads, including the Joan McIlwaine scenic drive, encouraged the building of holiday cottages above the 2100 m. contour, and this development, in turn, meant the introduction of more trees and shrubs, and of paramount importance, the progressively more successful control of veld fires.

Accompanying the alteration of the terrain, changes to the pattern of the local flora and fauna were bound to occur. This is an on-going process, and a current one, worthy of study. The introduction of an expanse of open water alone, means the constant arrival of a whole new population of waders and other water-orientated birds.

Thus, of the inevitable changes brought about by hand, foot and wheels, some were intentional and some unforeseen. My own interest has centred in particular on the effects of the spread of trees, and the control of fires. From the beginning of the recent, modern development era, pines (chiefly *Pinus patula*) were planted by plot owners as windbreaks and attempts were made to introduce the wattle as a source of firewood. Wattle plantations above the Troutbeck level got off to a slow start, but, as in other areas such as the Vumba, self-sown specimens eventually sprang up where man's feet or wheels distributed the seed; for example the roadsides and the Little Connemara dam walls. Volunteer pine seedlings began to appear in the open veld in the 1960's and increased phenomenally after a runaway fire swept the area in the severe drought-and-frost year 1968. This process has unfortunately gone so far that in itself it has become pollution – volunteer pines were rapidly turning the whole area into a dense forest, while the increasing seedlings are protected owing to ever more stringent precautions to control fires.

Meanwhile, on plots around and near Little Connemara, gardeners introduced exotic trees and shrubs, which have had a smaller, but still definite, effect on the general environment.

When concerted action eventually reduced the incidence of runaway fires, the {p7] nature of the veld itself changed. Shrubby indigenous plants were no longer cut back by fire every two or three years, allowing the dominance of grasses. The grey-leaved woody plant *Helichrysum splendidum* and the prickly bush *Stoebe vulgaris* increased enormously, the former now threatening to eliminate the natural grass and many other plants altogether. It is interesting to note that, though a single fire will not kill these plants, the firebreaks, which are burnt every year, so that seeds are destroyed, are completely free of both species but produce a healthy growth of grass such as *Themeda triandra* (rooigras) and of a great variety of flowering plants.

Although the spread of *Pinus patula* is attributable directly to man's activity the equally rapid spread of *Helichrysum splendidum* is in a sense, a natural development, dependent only on the absence of fires. In this context perhaps, it is the grass which was the original intruder, being more resistant to fire and having a greater power of recovery. Talbot (pers. comm.) suggests that the growth of *Helichrysum* is the beginning of a new forest succession. The term forest does not denote only a community of trees, though such is often the final stage in the succession. In this habitat, one wonders whether the Mlanje Cedar would increase in numbers or size. It shows little sign of doing so at present.

Over the last two decades, the number of bird species seen on the Inyanga Downs between 2100 m. and 2300 m. has, in my opinion, roughly doubled. Within a few years of establishing some kind of a garden at 2200 m., I noted an increase in the number of perching birds, such as Layard's Bulbul [Dark-capped Bulbul] and the Fiscal Shrike [Common Fiscal], both of which were very seldom seen in 1956 and very common by 1976. Somewhat spectacular was the spread of the Cape Turtle-dove year by year. Actually, it seemed to me to spread from the Headlands area along the watershed; following the Baddeley – Pink Elephants road, to Troutbeck, and eventually to the 2100 m. level in July 1968.

Even more noticeable was the progress of the Red-chested Cuckoo, announced by its monotonous voice. It followed the pine trees and reached the Little Connemara area at the top of the escarpment by 1972, apparently "ascending" at the rate of about 30 m. a year.

This area of the Downs can be thought of as a high ridge running north and south, and forming a natural hurdle between the Inyanga Tribal Trust Land to the northwest, stretching towards Mutoko, and the valley of the Gairezi River on the east. It is, in fact, a watershed between the catchment areas of

the Gairezi and the Inyangombe, which eventually join in Mozambique to form the Ruenya, and then flow into the Zambezi. It is easy to believe that passage migrants from one comparatively low area to the other will occasionally be found going over the hurdle. This need not apply only to birds. A lioness, seen at World's View in June 1958 was probably doing just this, after being hunted by irate farmers at Inyanga North, and the pride of lions which settled temporarily at Little Connemara in August 1974 may have been refugees from a war-torn Gorongosa.

Amongst birds seen seldom or once only, which may have been making this cross-hurdle trip, I count the African Hoopoe, seen once at World's View; the Grey Lourie [Grey Go-away-bird] which inhabited our garden from February 23 to March 5, 1973; the two Southern Carmine Bee-eaters which paid a surprise visit on 12 December 1969 after a storm; and perhaps the Red-capped Lark, seen once on August 4 1963, and the Jacobin Cuckoo, seen first on 22 February 1973. There was also a pair of Namaqua Doves present for a few days in January 1968.

For reasons already given, the list of birds seen between 2100 and 2300 metres published in 1963 is now of little value, except for comparison with an up-to-date [p8] list. It contains at least two errors, and inevitably some omissions. The omissions are due, in some instances, to plain oversight, and in others, to difficulties in identification where almost all records are sight records. For instance, the area is obvious Pigmy Crake (Flufftail) country, yet I was unable at that date to name with certainty any *Sarothrura* species seen. Since that time, I have identified Boehm's Pigmy Crake [Streaky-breasted Flufftail] *S. boehmi* and the Chestnut-tailed [Striped Flufftail] *S. affinis*. These birds were obviously present, at least occasionally, before 1963, and independently of any subsequent changes.

Of the two conspicuous errors which now strike me, the first is the inclusion of the Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorgue* — almost certainly a misidentification of the African Quail [Common Quail] *C. coturnix erlangeri* according to Stuart Irwin (*in litt.* 1971). The second is of interest in the light of subsequent studies and discoveries. From the date of my first introduction to Inyanga in 1956, I encountered from time to time a large owl; usually perched on a rock in full daylight and affording plenty of opportunity for unhurried observation. I formed the opinion that this was not *Bubo africanus*, with which I was familiar at lower altitudes, but that it most resembled *B. capensis* and as such I recorded it. However, on consulting an authority on Rhodesian birds in 1962, I learned that no specimen of the Cape Eagle-owl had so far been collected in

the territory, and somewhat reluctantly I changed my record to read *B. africanus*. Subsequently, as most readers will know, it was established that the eagle-owl inhabiting the Eastern highlands of Rhodesia is in fact, a race of the Cape Eagle Owl *B. capensis mackinderi* (Benson and Stuart Irwin 1967).

The only other item which gives the 1963 article any present interest is the first record for Inyanga of the Taita Falcon. I collected this bird alive but slightly damaged, and it lived in captivity in Salisbury for two years subsequently. Unfortunately the skin was not acquired by the Museum when the bird died.

Obviously there is a clear case for serious study of the present bird population of the Upper Inyanga Downs, including a breakdown of the collected information under some such headings as the following, suggested by Stuart Irwin (*in litt.*):

1. Endemic highland birds
  - a) Uppermost breeding limits.
  - b) Uppermost limits to which wandering.
2. Non-endemic birds
  - a) Uppermost breeding limits
  - b) Uppermost limits to which wandering.
3. Migrants.

I make no claim to have made such a study, nor am I in a position to do it adequately. I hope that somebody else will feel inspired to carry it through. Meanwhile a straight list of bird species seen to date is offered as a basis for such a study.

One of the main difficulties which I have encountered in assembling and presenting this article is the late intrusion, as one might call it, into what was an essentially dry-grass habitat, of the sub-habitat of the man-made Little Connemara Lakes. For the purposes of this study, I have decided to ignore and omit the lakes and the birds which are gradually discovering them, and arriving in that limited, specific area. The interesting subject of the arrival of various waders and other water-orientated birds could well form the basis of a separate study. [p9]

#### REVISED LIST OF BIRDS SEEN ABOVE 2100 m AT INYANGA (number refers to Roberts)

60. Yellow-billed Egret *Egretta intermedia*. Roosted in pines at 2200m 24.4.67. Apparently independent of lake.
72. Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*. Frequents the streams and pools.
95. African Black Duck *Anas sparsa*. Breeding. Frequents the streams; now seen on the lake at times.
105. Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*. Common.
109. White-headed Vulture *Aegypius occipitalis*. Probably seen flying over on several occasions.

114. Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*. Several sight records. Probably breeding.
- 116X. Taita Falcon *Falco fasciinucha*. First recorded 17.1.60 (Snell 1963). Several subsequent sight records.
- 123/4. Rock Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Commonly seen hunting over the area.
129. Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus migrans*. Not very common. Pairs seen hunting 1972, 1977.
130. Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*. Not as numerous as at lower altitudes.
133. Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxi*. Breeds on the cliffs of the escarpment and hunts over the area.
138. Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*. I witnessed an amusing incident on the only occasion in twenty years when I have seen a Long-crested Eagle above 2100 metres. This somewhat lethargic eagle, which is addicted to perching for long periods on the top of a tree or telegraph pole, is common about Rhodes Inyanga hotel and occasionally seen at Troutbeck. On 24 April 1967 one appeared in our garden and perched at the top of a pine tree for fifteen minutes. At first it faced into the wind with its crest feathers streaming away behind it, but after flying down to collect some prey, it returned to the same perch, but facing the other way, with the fancy-feathered crest blowing about its eyes. At that stage, I saw the local Augur Buzzard, the obvious raptor owner of the territory, in the air a good kilometre away, begin a long, purposeful dive. I was strongly tempted to shout "Look-out!", such was the sense of menace. With alarming speed and directness the buzzard flew straight at the unsuspecting eagle and knocked it off its perch and right out of the tree, before continuing its flight in a steep upward curve. The eagle struggled up to another tree, but a second dive by the Augur Buzzard drove it away in confusion — apparently never to return.
142. Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*. Hunting over the area.
146. Black-breasted Harrier-Eagle [Black-chested Snake-eagle] *Circaetus gallicus*. Several sight records. Once seen carrying a snake.
151. Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*. Occasionally seen flying over the area.
153. Augur Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*. Common. Breeding. Nest on rock ledge on a vertical cliff. Lays two eggs and rears one chick, apparently each year. Immature offspring (mottled brown including breast, and tail brown) remains in the territory until the hatching of next year's egg.
154. Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*. In summer months, overlaps with Augur Buzzard.
168. Pale Harrier [Pallid Harrier] *Circus macrourus*. Migrant. Hunts over the area in summer months.
171. Gymnogene (Banded Harrier Hawk) [African Harrier-hawk] *Polyboroides radiatus*. One sight record.
177. Shelley's Francolin *Francolinus shelleyi*. Common.
187. Red-necked Francolin [Red-necked Spurfowl] *Francolinus afer swynnertoni*. First seen at 2200 m 23.1.78, following increasing concentration of pine trees in the area. {p10}
189. African Quail [Common Quail] *Coturnix coturnix*. Appears to be fairly common.
207. Chestnut-tailed Pygmy Crake [Striped Flufftail] *Sarothrura affinis*. Clear sighting of one pair 14.1.68.
- 207X. Boehm's Pygmy Crake [Streaky-breasted Flufftail] *Sarothrura boehmi*. Appears spasmodically, 16.4.70 etc.
215. Wattled Crane *Grus carunculatus*. A pair breeding in the area from 1955. Driven away by the construction of Little Connemara Lake or for other reasons, after 1964.
311. Cape Rock Pigeon [Speckled Pigeon] *Columba guinea*. On the cliffs of escarpment. Very numerous in some years, e.g. November 1969, when flocks of 40 — 50 birds were seen in various parts of the area round Connemara Lakes.
312. Rameron Pigeon [African Olive-pigeon] *Columba arquatrix*. First seen on cliffs at World's View. Now nesting in pine trees at 2000 m. Egg shells picked up below pines in January 1976, 1977 and 1978 and October 1977 all apparently associated with same pair.
316. Cape Turtle-dove *Streptopelia capicola*. Appeared to spread from Headlands area reaching 2200 m in 1970.
318. Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*. A pair feeding at 2200 m on one occasion only, January 1968.
333. Livingstone's Lourie [Livingstone's Turaco] *Tauraco corythaix*. Only in the relict forest patches, e.g. below World's View on the escarpment.
339. Grey Lourie [Grey Go-away-bird] *Crinifer concolor*. Visited and remained for several days at 2200 m in February 1973. No other records.
343. Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*. Followed the growth of trees upward, seemingly at a rate of about 30 m. a year, arriving at 2200 m in 1970. Now common right up to World's View.
348. Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*. Several sightings, a passage migrant.
367. Cape Eagle-owl, Mackinder's Owl *Bubo capensis mackinderi*. Inhabits rocky sides of valleys and dongas. Perches on rocks. Independent of trees. Larger and browner than the Spotted Eagle-owl.
380. African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*. Breeding on cliffs at World's View.
382. Mottled Swift *Apus aequatorialis*. Occasional sightings with other swifts in a "flyover" of swifts

- and swallows feeding on a hatch-out of insects. Very large, brown.
383. White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*. Is here a migrant, appearing in summer months. Breeding in old nest of Greater Striped Swallow 1965, 1966, etc.
- 385X. Scarce Swift *Apus myoptilus*. Probably breeding on cliffs of escarpment; often seen there and in mixed flocks flying over the escarpment.
407. Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides*. Probably wandering; two appeared at 2200 m on 2.12.69 after a storm, and stopped to feed (and rest!).
418. African Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. Probably wandering, one seen at World's View.
488. Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*. One isolated and surprising sighting near World's View 4.8.63.
493. European Swallow [Barn Swallow] *Hirundo rustica*. Appears in mixed flocks in summer months, but not common at this altitude.
495. White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis*. Appears and breeds in summer months, up to the highest level. Mud cup nest on buildings, under bridges and in dongas.
497. Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea*. Breeding migrant, arrives early September, leaves early April. Two broods, using same nest year after year. Nest is underground.
499. Grey-rumped Swallow *Hirundo griseopyga*. Appears in mixed flocks hawking insects over the area.
502. Larger Striped Swallow [Greater Striped Swallow] *Hirundo cucullata*. Breeding summer migrant, making a mud tunnel nest. [p11]
506. Rock Martin *Hirundo fuligula*. Apparently resident, not in large numbers, on cliff face near World's View.
507. House Martin [Common House-martin] *Delichon urbica*. May occur in mixed flocks hawking insects.
512. Eastern Roughwing (Eastern Saw-wing Swallow) *Psalidoprocne orientalis*. Breeding at about 1900 m, a few sight records up to 2250 m.
523. Black Crow [Cape Crow] *Corvus capensis*. Not very common.
524. White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*. Common, apparently resident. Nest on cliff at World's View October 1965.
545. Layard's Bulbul [Dark-capped Bulbul] *Pycnonotus barbatus*. Followed the growth of trees upwards, appearing at 2200 m about 1961 and becoming common to highest levels by 1967. Resident.
547. Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*. A forest bird, following upward spread of trees. One sight record at 2200 m 22.5.77.
552. Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyanus*. Followed trees, arriving at 2200 m in 1975-76. Once again present 1976-77, summer months, but apparently absent 1977-78.
553. Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*. Recorded from "Rangitoto", in bush forest on the edge of the study area.
568. Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*. After a devastating veld fire in 1968, pair seen on several occasions on burnt ground 1968-69. No later sightings.
573. Mocking Chat [Mocking Cliff-chat] *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*. One sight record, World's View.
576. African Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. Very common at all times of the year, and all over the area.
581. Cape Robin [Cape Robin-chat] *Cossypha caffra*. A common resident, in every patch of bush or scrub all round the year.
589. Starred Robin [White-starred Robin] *Pogonochla stellata*. Recorded in relict forest at "Rangitoto" on the edge of the study area.
599. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Following the trees, has become very common in the area from October to April.
610. Scrub Warbler [Barratt's Warbler] *Bradypterus barratti*. Fairly common but very shy and inconspicuous, apart from its loud, characteristic song.
617. Moustache Warbler [Moustached Grass-warbler] *Melocichla mentalis*. First record 1.12.76. A much better sighting 24.2.78.
618. Cape Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer*. Several sightings, but not very common.
622. Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*. Common resident in all patches of bush.
623. Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala*. Not very common in the area.
634. Ayres' Cloud Warbler [Wing-snapping Cisticola] *Cisticola ayresii*. Common breeding resident.
- 639/40. Wailing Warbler *Cisticola lais*. Common resident in all areas of short grass.
646. Levillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens*. Though not a "waterbird", it depends on the coarse vegetation growing in vleis and on edges of dams. Connemara Lakes area of grassland from 1966.
- 649X. Roberts' Prinia [Roberts's Warbler] *Prinia robertsi*. Resident and common in all patches of thick scrub or bush. Noisy, giving away its presence by excited scolding.

666. Yellow Warbler [Dark-capped Yellow Warbler] *Chloropeta natalensis*. Quite common in rank grass, bush tangles. Attractive song.
672. Cape Flycatcher [Cape Batis] *Batis capensis* at 2200 m 24.3.78. Upward extension of range.
681. White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus albonotatus*. Common a little lower down; occasional sightings above 2200 m since the upward spread of trees. {p12}
686. Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*. Seen in summer months in 1958 and 1962. Last seen 27.8.62 – never common. (Other wagtails absent from the area under discussion, though both *M. aguimp* [African Pied Wagtail] and *M. clara* [Mountain Wagtail] are recorded not far away.)
692. Richard's Pipit [African Pipit] *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Common. Breeding.
696. Large Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris*. Not common.
703. Orange-throated Longclaw [Cape Longclaw] *Macronyx capensis*. Fairly common and apparently resident.
707. Fiscal Shrike [Common Fiscal] *Lanius collaris*. Followed the trees; now common resident.
708. Red-backed Shrike *Lanius cristatus*. Passage migrant. Not common.
717. Olive Bush-shrike *Malaconotus olivaceus*. Following the dense growth of "volunteer" pines, appeared in the area about 1976.
723. Grey-headed Bush-shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*. Heard in patches of dense bush and relict forest.
745. Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*. Common resident, breeding on escarpment and on buildings.
750. Gurney's Sugarbird *Promerops gurneyi*. Inhabits *Protea* patches on Eastern slopes of the ridge forming study area.
751. Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*. Breeding, and present most of the year, except in coldest weather when flowers are scarce.
752. Bronze Sunbird [Bronzy Sunbird] *Nectarinia kilimensis*. Breeding, and present where there are suitable flowers.
- (758. Greater Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afer*. An unconfirmed, but suggestive sight record at 2200 m, which cannot be regarded as valid without collection of a specimen. The Lesser Double-collared Sunbird *C. chalybeus* [Miombo Double-collared Sunbird] did not occur in this habitat, until recently.)
760. Lesser Double-collared Sunbird [=Miombo Double-collared Sunbird] *Cinnyris chalybeus*. April 1978 in established gardens at Little Connemara. An upward extension of range.
762. Yellow-bellied Sunbird [Variable Sunbird] *Cinnyris venustus*. Breeding and resident throughout the year.
801. Jameson's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops jamesoni*. A pair breeding since 1975-76.
813. Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*. Numerous in summer months, breeding.
823. Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*. Arrived and became numerous in 1977.
826. Sweet Waxbill *Estrilda melanotis* [=Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccygia quartinia*]. Present but not numerous.
843. Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*. Common.
846. Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*. Fairly common; numerous in some years.
857. Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis*. Common resident.
872. Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Fringillaria tahapisi*. One record, 1961.
873. Cape Bunting *Fringillaria capensis*. Not common, but several sight records.

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