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## A note on *Sarothrura lugens*

by F. Roux and C. W. Benson

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Irwin and Benson (1966: 7) indicate that *S. lynesii* Grant and Mackworth-Praed is no more than a subspecies of *S. lugens* (Boehm), the only certain difference being that *lynesei* is the smaller of the two. Much further detail is provided by Keith *et al.* (in press). From the north-west of the known range of the species, in Cameroun, Keith *et al.* were unable to examine any specimens, and relied on the identification by Bannerman (1951: 157) of a female collected at Ngaounyanga, at 8° 48' N., 13° 33' E. This specimen is in fact the type of *S. modesta* Monard. The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, has received an adult female, containing in the ovary "plusieurs follicules bien développés," collected by Drs. H. J. Garcin and M. Germain 10 kilometres north of Obala on 10th April, 1966, Obala being at 4° 09' N.,



11° 32' E. This specimen has been compared with the two adult females of *S. l. lynesii* from Nsombo (one of them the type) and one from Ngitwa, north-eastern Zambia, in the British Museum (Natural History), detailed by Benson and Irwin (1966). As these authors state, there is some individual variation, though all three specimens, together with three other females of *lynesei* in the National Museum, Bulawayo, show the same overall characters of colour and colour-pattern, so that they are easily distinguished from females of any other species of *Sarothrura*. Unquestionably the Obala specimen shows these same characters; it has the centres of the feathers of the crown and nape (and sides of the head) markedly chestnut, as in the two from Nsombo, and in the pattern of streaking on the mantle is identical with the Ngitwa specimen. Benson and Irwin note the extent of white on the abdomen as also variable, and as well developed in the Ngitwa specimen, while in the one from Obala it is still more extensive. Nevertheless it is probably only subspecifically separable on size, and not on any other character. Measurements (in millimetres) are as follows:

	Number of specimens	Wing	Tarsus	Middle toe with claw	Culmen from base
Obala, Cameroun	1	82	22	27	15
Nsombo and Ngitwa, n.e. Zambia	5	71-74	17-19	24-25	13-14
Inyanga, Rhodesia	1	70	20.5	27	13.5

There is another specimen of nominate *lynesei* in Paris from Obala, obtained by the same collectors on 4th December, 1967. It is immature, the plumage mainly uniform blackish, with a dingy white chin, though with some adult female-like feathers appearing, mainly on the chest and wing-coverts. Its measurements are: wing 79, tarsus 20, middle toe with claw 26, culmen from base 13 mm. According to the investigations of Keith *et al.* (in press), of the rate of development of young birds in the genus as a whole, and see also in particular Liversidge (1968), it is probably not much more than six weeks old (from data of hatching), perhaps from an egg laid in late September.

These two specimens from Cameroun were obtained in an islet of savanna, surrounded by the type of equatorial forest which reaches near Obala its northern limit, see Keay *et al.* (1959).

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## *Zonotrichia albicollis* in continental Europe

In vol. 89, no. 1 of your journal Dr. A. Hoogerwerf and Mr. M. J. Tekke recorded the first White-throated Sparrow for the Netherlands. Since they, in the title of their note, ask if the record is the first for continental Europe, I write to inform you that the species has been found at least twice in Fenno-





Roux, F and Benson, C. W. 1969. "A NOTE ON SAROTHRURA-LUGENS." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 89, 67–68.

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