

This is the first recovery in Africa of a Whinchat ringed in France. There are two other ringing recoveries of this species in Ghana, one each from the British Isles and Finland, the former recovered in Berekum and the latter at Pankronu (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett (2014). Whinchats are fairly common in Ghana from September to May, during the boreal winter (Borrow & Demey 2010), when their habitat extends into the forest zone following deforestation and the burning of old fields and dry floodplains. This produces a fresh flush of grass that is highly attractive for this species (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett (2014).

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### First record of Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani* at Mount Mbam, Cameroon

While studying the bird communities of Mount Mbam (5°54'–6°1'N, 10°40'–10°46'E; elevation *c.* 1100–2335 m a.s.l.), an unprotected Important Bird Area (CM014; Fotsó *et al.* 2001), from 5 Nov 2015 to 16 Jan 2016, using point counts and Mackinnon lists, we recorded many individuals of Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani*.

The first encounter was on 19 Dec 2015 at 8h38, where two individuals were found in a shrubby area at the edge of a montane forest patch, at 5°58'29"N, 10°45'59"E, *c.* 1873 m a.s.l.. The birds were heard calling and observed at *c.* 18 m distance, perched on bushes. The more visible of them was a typical weaver, slightly smaller than Village Weaver *P. cucullatus*, with a conspicuous black mask extending to the throat, a black bill and yellow eye (Fig. 1). The upperparts were a uniform olive colour from mantle to tail, with no wing bars. This contrasted with the bright golden-



**Figure 1. Bannerman's Weaver (left) and nest (right) at Mount Mbam, Cameroon (photo: ASKN).**

yellow from nape to belly. Both individuals were subsequently observed moving around a nest (Fig. 1), c. 30 m from the initial sighting location.

The birds were identified as Bannerman's Weaver by using Borrow & Demey (2014), and the calls were recorded on a Sony ICD-SX733/ICDSX733 Pro digital MP3 recorder with high gain microphone. The descriptions and recordings of Borrow & Demey (2014) and Chappuis (2000) confirmed these as Bannerman's Weaver calls. The nest shape and structure were also identical to the representation in Borrow & Demey (2014). Thereafter, we recorded 24 individuals of Bannerman's Weaver, nine of them at four point-count stations and 15 in Mackinnon lists, all in near-primary forests and forest-savanna mosaic.

Bannerman's Weaver is considered Vulnerable (<<http://www.datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/bannermans-weaver-ploceus-bannermani>>, consulted 26 Oct 2016), and occurs in west Cameroon and eastern Nigeria at 1100–2900 m, in forest edge and dense, shrubby habitats in more open parts of drier montane forests (Borrow & Demey 2014), and even in farmland where there are some natural trees and shrubs (Kenfack 2016). It has never been reported at Mount Mbam, even by the preliminary surveys (Njabo & Languy 2000) that identified the area as an IBA. However, it appears to be frequent in this area (often seen but not every day) in suitable habitat. This represents a range extension eastward from the Bamenda Highlands, and adds another threatened species to the existing list of species of global conservation concern for this site, which also includes the Endangered Bannerman's Turaco *Tauraco bannermani* (Fotso *et al.* 2001).

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