

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON BIRD EXPEDITION AT UVIDUNDA MOUNTAINS-TANZANIA

Bird expedition was conducted at Uvidunda Mountains Forest between 20th - 25th August 2007. It involves Scientists from the University of Dar es Salaam (Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation). The purpose of expedition was to describe the importance of the Uvidunda Mountains Forest to a range of various birds' species. This expedition enabled us to document 42 species of birds that are not globally threatened.

Bird watching was done at different times of days by use of binoculars in several ranges of habitats and altitudes e.g. Mountains, Forest interior, Forest edge, Valley bottoms and along Rivers bank. Also watching was done in some area of peculiar features like fruiting tree, pools. This expedition was specifically done in Chonwe and Vidunda, areas located in the southern of Uviduda Mountains Forest.

Description of Study sites

1. Vidunda area

Location S 07^o35.331' E 036^o 55.884'

This is area closely to local communities farmland and is mostly dominated by patches of bushes and trees. Birds sighted were:

1. Common Bulbul
2. Hildebrand's Francolin
3. White eared barbet
4. Yellow fronted Tinkerbird
5. Black headed weaver
6. Forked tailed drongo
7. Lead coloured flycatcher
8. Red-eyed dove
9. Pied crow
10. Lesser masked weaver

2. Pwate Forest

Location: S 07^o35. 923'E 036^o57.249'

This is a small forest 2 km from Vidunda. Forest management in this forest is quite good although we saw some signs of logging activities. Birds sighted were:

1. Ring necked dove
2. Common Bulbul
3. Forked tailed drongo
4. Long crested Eagle
5. Hildebrand's Francolin
6. Pied crow
7. Blue napped mousebird
8. Black headed weaver
9. Bronze manikin
10. Thick-billed cuckoo
11. Blue napped mousebird

3. Chonwe Forest Reserve

Location: S07⁰35.296' E036⁰56.378'

This is an area located about 8 Km from Vidunda. Forest management is good although we saw some human activities (logging, timber) which continuing to take place despite of the area being regarded as a Forest Reserve. Birds sighted were

1. White bowed coucal
2. Striped king fisher
3. White eared barbet
4. Yellow fronted Tinkerbird
5. Miombo pied Barbet
6. African paradise flycatcher
7. White bellied tit
8. Scarlet Tufted malachite sunbird
9. Cardinal wood pecker
10. Black headed weaver
11. Zanzibar Red bishop
12. Peters Twinsport
13. White headed mousebird
14. Forked tailed drongo
15. Red eyed dove
16. Common Bulbul
17. Purple crested Turaco
18. Yellow rumped Tinkerbird
19. Brown necked parrot
20. Pied crow
21. Red billed Hornbill
22. Speckle throated woodpecker
23. Tawny Flanked Prinia
24. Croaking cisticola
25. Lead coloured flycatcher
26. Oriole Finch
27. Amethyst sunbird
28. McKinnon's fiscal
29. Black headed weaver
30. Pit tailed whydah
31. Black and white manikin
32. Crimson rumped waxbill
33. Red billed fire finch
34. Black fronted Bush Shrike

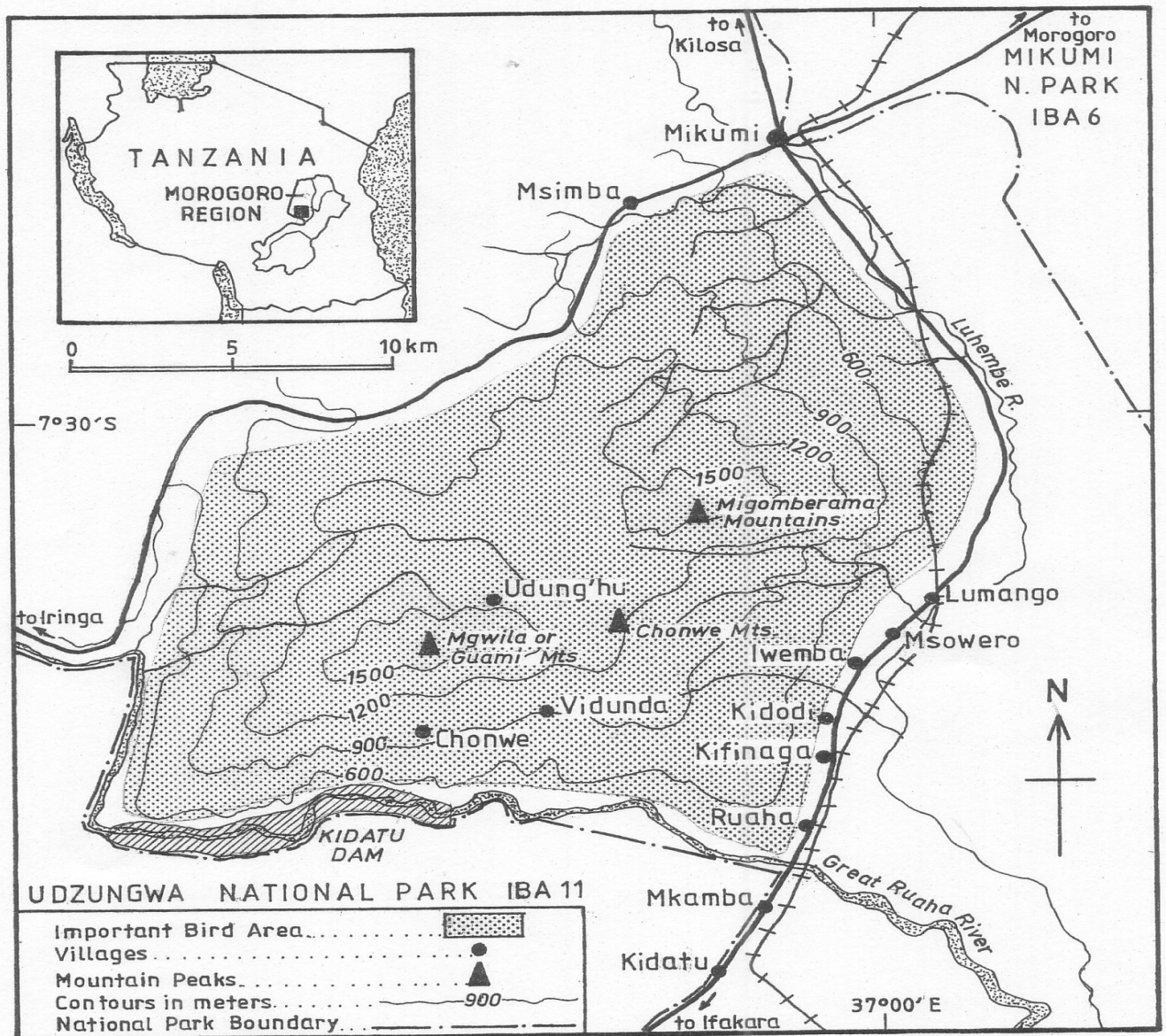
General comments

During our five days of expedition at Chonwe, Pwate and Vidunda we managed to saw large population of birds species stated above. We noticed that mostly of the birds numbers were observed in Forest edge. Due to shortage of land for agriculture there is Forest encroachment and if this practice is not prohibited it will have negative impact to Forest specialist birds' species (see appendix 2)

Plan for Next Expedition

After completion an expedition in Chonwe Pwate and Vidunda, which is in the southern part of Uvidunda Mountains we plan to conduct a similar study in Mgwila and Migomberama Mountains located in central and northern part of Uvidunda Mountains (see appendix 1).

Appendix 1



A map of Uvidunda Mountains Forest

Appendix 2



Land use at forest edge in Chonwe Forest, Morogoro Tanzania