Seasonal elevational movements of the little greenbul Andropadus virensin the Uluguru mountains, Tanzania

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Abstract

The little greenbul Andropadus virens Cassin 1858 is the most common and ubiquitous forest greenbul in Africa (Keith, Urban & Fry, 1992). In East Africa, it is mainly found in lowland forests, especially in edges, secondary growth and moist thickets (Britton, 1980). It is an understorey species mainly feeding on fruits, and occasionally, it forages on insects (Keith, Urban & Fry, 1992). It has been detected crossing forest gaps in the East Usambara mountains (Korfanta, Newmark & Kauffman, 2012).

In their reviews of forest birds and seasonal elevational movements in the Eastern Arc mountains, Stuart *et al*. (1993) and Burgess & Mlingwa (2000) make no mention of a seasonal elevational movement by the little greenbul. However, based on differences in capture rates of little greenbul between seasons, with cold season having higher capture rates, its seasonal elevational movements have been suspected by Stuart (1983) and Cordeiro *et al*. (2006) in the East Usambara and Udzungwa mountains, respectively. Nevertheless, our understanding of the seasonal migratory status of the little greenbul is poor and unequivocal evidence for seasonal elevational movement of the little greenbul based on the recapture of ringed individuals is nonexistent. In this note, I provide evidence for seasonal elevational movement of the little greenbul in the Uluguru mountains in central Tanzania.