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responsible for the Ouagadougou anvils. However, the possibility that some other species of bird or small mammal was involved cannot be precluded.

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BREEDING OF BLACK-HEADED BEE-EATER IN ZAIRE - In their recent paper on *Merops breweri*, Dyer, Fry & Hendrick (1982, *Malimbus* 4: 43-45) state that "no nest has previously been reported, nor field notes published other than by Chapin (1939)". Obviously the paper by Schouteden (1962, *Doc. Zool.* 3: 60) has been overlooked, wherein he reported on several nests discovered at Bwamanda (03°10'N-19°15'E), Zaire, by V. Maes. In view of the importance of that discovery we think it appropriate to reproduce the field notes here once again, in full, especially since Schouteden slightly misinterpreted them. A few more recent data are added.

The Black-Headed Bee-eater *M. (Meropogon) breweri* is not very rare in the Ubangi area. Normally it is found quite close to rivers and can be observed in gallery forest. On 22 March 1962 a nest was detected when a bird flew up from the ground some 30 m from the border of gallery forest along Zingo River. The burrow was in flat sandy soil, among young *Imperata cylindrica* grass; it was 7 cm diam. and 130 cm long, curving towards the nest chamber, the floor of which was 25-30 cm below ground level. The nest contained three white eggs measuring 24.8 x 22.2, 24.9 x 22.3 and 25.5 x 22.5 mm. On 25 March 1962 several other nests were discovered along the river 500 m from the first, in recently burnt grassland with "hi donzale" (= *Trichopteryx*?) grass. Two were opened on 26 March. One burrow entrance was 60-75 cm high in a 1.5 m termite mound; the tunnel was 160 cm long and the floor of the nest chamber 50 cm lower than the nest entrance. In the burrow was a dead half grown youngster and in the nest chamber two living full grown ones on a layer of insect debris 3 cm thick (including wings of wasps and small red and green beetles). The second was in level ground between grass tussocks; the tunnel was 150 cm long, curved, with the nest chamber floor 50 cm below ground level. It contained one full grown youngster (others removed by Maes' assistant?), also on a thick layer of insect remains.

Three more nests were not seen by Maes himself. On 13 April 1962 a half grown bird from a nest with three young was presented to him (the nest said to be situated in level grassland near River Bombe); on 2 March 1974 an adult was caught on a clutch of two eggs in the same area (the nest said to be situated in an old stone quarry); and on 12 March 1974 a half grown nestling was given to Maes.

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