



West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain



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REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Parasitic Cuckoos

May I use this first issue of the Bulletin of the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society to ask for information? I am thinking of writing a paper on the parasitic cuckoos of West Africa and it would obviously enhance its value if I had all the available information at my disposal. If members would supply any information, no matter how small, concerning these birds and their migrations, breeding habits etc. it would not only help me but would form the subject of papers for the Bulletin.

M.T. Horwood

Bee-eaters

For the past 15 months I have been working on the ecology and breeding biology of the Red-throated Bee-eater Melittophagus bullocki with brief excursions to other bee-eater species. I wish to extend my study to all available (i.e. the commoner) West African members of the family and would be very grateful for any information on bee-eaters but particularly the following:

M. bullocki Exact sites and dates of breeding colonies (breeding cols. can be distinguished from roosting cols. since only the former have a heavy whitewash of excrement under the holes).

any evidence that colonies are occupied year after year.

Any colony of more than 150 holes.

Any records, especially of breeding birds, North of 12° or South of 8½°.

Any evidence of seasonality.

Any record of the yellow-throated variant (wor looking for; I have seen two at Zaria).

Aerops albicollis First and last dates for any station.

Any breeding or suspected breeding.

M. pusillus Locality of any unusually high concentration.

Evidence of seasonality.

Notes on any nests found - whether solitary or in a loose colony; immediate environs, ground, slope or bank, etc.

M. apiaster All records.

M. persicus All records

M. orientalis All records, particularly breeding.

Dicrocorcus hirundineus All records, particularly breeding.

I should be particularly thankful for IMMEDIATE INFORMATION on the exact localities of CURRENT BREEDING SITES or COLONIES of

M. nubiensis and M. malimbicus,

M. gularis and M. muelleri and D. hirundineus.

My thanks in anticipation; and grateful thanks to those who have already responded with information.

C.H. Fry