



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



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perching on low shrubs and steep rock faces. The head was pale green or apple-olive, with a conspicuous pale yellow moustachial stripe bordering the pale green throat; whitish eye-ring; breast yellowish, clearly demarcated from tawny or pale rusty belly; mantle, back, wings and tail of typical *Emberiza* pattern; white outer-tail feathers; rump colour not recorded; bill, legs and feet pinkish. No voice heard.

Early in the morning of 24th March 1964 an Ortolan Bunting was caught by V.W.S. in a permanently-sited mist-net in his garden at Vom. It was weighed, measured, ringed and photographed, and inspected by D. Ebbutt before release. The following morning, 25th March, another Ortolan was netted in the same place. Weighings and measurements showed this to be certainly another individual, not the previous morning's bird whose ring might have fallen off! This too was ringed and released. The several colour transparencies made are fortunately excellent and confirm the identity beyond doubt.

We know of no occurrences of this Palaearctic migrant in West Africa apart from two females taken near Richard-Toll, Senegal on 6th October 1958 and 29th April 1961 (Morel & Roux, *Donnees nouvelles sur l'Avifaune du Senegal*, *l'Oiseau* 1962 : 32) and the three instances cited above. C.H.Fry and V.W.Smith .

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Marsh Owl

I would be pleased to hear any information members may have on the breeding and distribution of the Marsh Owl in Nigerian localities other than the Plateau - Sokoto or Lake Chad areas particularly. V.W.Smith