



**West African Ornithological Society  
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest  
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This issue comes to you about a week later than anticipated, for which delay my apologies. Contributions for the 4th Bulletin, to appear on 31st January 1965, should reach me by 20th January.

It is gratifying to see in the 'Contents' column on the previous page that so many members - fully one third of the total membership - have contributed to the present issue. One paper was carried over from the previous number, and two more arrived in response to frantic last-minute appeals for copy : it is hoped that this will not jeopardise your desire to put pen to paper for the forthcoming issue. Editorial thanks to all contributors to Bulletin No. 3, especially those who sent their work already stencilled (a sure way to avoid drastic editing!).

CIRCULATION LIST : No change from previous issue.

PALAEARCTIC MIGRANTS AT ILARO

J.A.Button

Of the 150 species of birds seen by the author at Ilaro since October 1960, 10 are Palaearctic migrants. The apparent scarcity of birds of this category could be due to the effect of dense secondary forest growth, making observation of small species with no fixed territory difficult. Certainly far fewer Palaearctic passerine species penetrate to the forest zone than to the savannahs further North.

The following notes summarise my observations at Ilaro over four winters :

1. Common Swift Micropus apus.

A regular visitor on the eve of migration.

21st March 1962 : hundreds flying high in a deliberate S.E. movement. 4th April 1962 : scores circling low over Egbado College playing fields screaming.

21st March 1963 : hundreds flying high in S.E. direction with European Swallows Hirundo rustica and Little African Swifts Colletoptera affinis.

27th March 1964 : exactly the same observation as in 1963. 12/13th April 1964 : scores circling low with Hirundo rustica over Ilaro Reservation and Egbado College.

2. Blue-headed Wagtail Budytes flavus flavus.

A regular dry-season visitor, abundant from the third week of November to the end of March. Earliest arrival : 15th November 1963; latest departure : 23rd April 1963.

3. Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis. (See footnote opp.)

A regular dry-season visitor, generally January to March.