



**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.

7th March 1961 : 12 seen on bare ground on Egbado College compound, very tame. 17th December 1961 : 5 tame birds same place.
 5th-12th March 1962 : 3 to 12 birds regularly seen in parkland on the College compound.
 None seen in 1963.
 22nd January and 16th February 1964 : single birds in Reservation gardens. 27th March 1964 : 6 on College compound. *

4. Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca.

16th January 1964 : 1 seen at Sangote (Abeokuta road 17 miles from Ilaro).

5. Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata.

The only records refer to single birds on 29th September 1961 and 30th October 1961.

6. Whinchat Saxicola rubetra.

27th March 1964 : a pair perching on telegraph wires at Ilaro Hospital. Common in patchy derived savannah between Ilaro and Abeokuta from February.

7. Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos.

8th February 1964 (possibly earlier) to 25th March 1964 : 4 singing around the College compound and Reservation.

8. Garden Warbler Sylvia borin.

22nd November 1963 : 1 mist-netted on the Reservation.
 18th April 1964 : 2 mist-netted on the Reservation. One of these had loose yellow skin around the gape.

9. European Swallow Hirundo rustica.

21st March 1963 : flying S.E., high, with Colletes affinis and Micropus apus. 22nd March 1963 : 20 low over the playing fields, Egbado College.

27th March 1964 : 5 low over a patch of derived savannah at Egbado College. 7th April 1964 : 12 low over playing fields. 23rd April 1964 : 20 low over playing fields and hospital, Ilaro.

10. Woodchat Shrike Lanius senator.

25/26th March 1964 : 1 perching on wires at the Agricultural Station, Ilaro.

SEASONAL MOVEMENTS OF SOME BIRDS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

D. E. Macgregor

(Received July 1964)

In a country with such extremes of climate at the different seasons as Northern Nigeria, it would be surprising if there were not considerable local movements of many species of birds, as they seek to maintain themselves in their favoured 'microclimate'.

Such movements may vary from a scarcely perceptible shift from one part of a district to another, to a spectacular true migration. It may affect the whole or only a part of a population; many of these move-

* From my experience of Anthus at Abeokuta, and the habitat, it seems likely that at least some of these records refer to A. cervinus. I regret that time did not allow of my putting this view to the author before 'going to press'. -Ed.