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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.

ments are not well understood, and many are not noted in the literature. The following notes extracted from my records over the past few years may help to remedy this deficiency, and I hope that other members will be able to amplify the record, and perhaps any erroneous pictures of a species' status which I may give. Members may also be able to extend the exercise to other species.

Only a few chosen migrant species are dealt with below; a very substantial proportion of the avifauna is of course migratory in Northern Nigeria. I have excluded the European migrants, which are being fully dealt with elsewhere.

African Yellow-billed Cuckoo Cuculus gularis Definitely seems to be migratory. The earliest dates I have seen it are 2nd February 1954 (Ilorin) and 16th February 1964 (Kaduna). Last dates are more difficult as the bird may be overlooked when it stops calling, and I have been on leave at the crucial time in several years. It was in Kaduna as late as 2nd October 1959, but otherwise I have never seen it after the end of August.

Kaduna dates :	Arrival	3.iii.1959	Departure	2.x.1959
		17.iii.1960		(on leave)
		15.iii.1961		17.viii.1961
		17.iii.1962		28.viii.1962
		21.ii.1963		(on leave)
		16.ii.1964		

Levaillant's Cuckoo Clamator levaillantii This species also definitely seems to be migratory, being common between March or April and October each year. But it is difficult to account for odd occurrences in the dry season. A 17th January (1954) record is understandable for Ilorin, being fairly far South, but why should there be a single sight record on 12th December in Kaduna, in both 1962 and 1963? Apart from these three, my records all fall between the following dates :

Arrival	Departure
	17.x.1956
10.v.1957 (Kano)	1.xi.1957 (Kaduna)
22.v.1958 (Kano)	(on leave)
18.iv.1959 (Kaduna)	20.x.1959 "
	(No record 1960)
16.iii.1961	4.x.1961
23.iii.1962	27.x.1962
4.iv.1963	(on leave)
22.iii.1964	

Pied Cuckoo C. jacobinus This bird is easily confused with Levaillant's Cuckoo, but seems to be much less frequent and to visit Kaduna for a much shorter period. In contrast to Levaillant's, which can be seen almost daily between the recorded dates, the Pied Cuckoo is only noted every few days, often with gaps of a week or more. Kaduna records fall within the following dates :

Arrival	Departure
28.iv.1959	29.vi.1959
11.v.1961	17.vi.1961
23.iv.1963	(on leave)
17.v.1964	

(No record in 1960 or 1962)

Great Spotted Cuckoo *C. glandarius* In Sokoto, this bird is seen in a very clear-cut passage, and large numbers were seen daily between 21st April and 4th June in 1954, and between 18th February and 24th May in 1956. For the rest of the country my records are very few, but all fall between January and July :

1950 : 28.iv. Minna
 1954 : 21.iv. to 4.vi. in Sokoto - "regular"
 1956 : 18.ii. to 24.v. in Sokoto - "regular"
 1958 : 31.i. in Argungu; 13.v. in Kano
 1959 : 24.ii., 10.iv., 22.iv., & 30.vii, all in Kano
 1960 : 25.iii and 29.iii, Kaduna
 1961 : 2.vi in Kaduna and 26.vii in Bauchi
 1964 : 15.iv in Gombe.

Didric Cuckoo *Lamprolaima caprius* Commonly seen in the North between April and September. My dates for recent years are :

Arrival	Departure
21.iv.1954	16.viii.1954
10.iv.1956	9.ix.1956
16.v.1957	4.ix.1957
27.v.1959	21.viii.1959
17.v.1961	21.viii.1961
23.v.1962	2.viii.1962
14.iv.1963	(on leave)
29.iv.1964	

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* These bee-eaters are regularly seen in large numbers in the central part of Northern Nigeria in two distinct periods of the year, April/May and September/October *. Presumably they are on passage between the North and South. I have notes of such flocks (which are my only records) on the following dates :

1954 : 6.v. to 14.v. in Sokoto
 1956 : 28.iv. to 24.v., and 6.xi. in Sokoto
 1959 : 3.v. and 15.x. to 3.xi. in Kaduna
 1960 : 18.x., Kaduna
 1961 : 1.vi. in Kaduna and 18.ix. in Maiduguri
 1962 : 13.v. in Kaduna and 18.x. to 4.xi., Kaduna
 1963 : 5.v. to 14.v. in Kaduna
 1964 : 7.v. to 4.vi. in Kaduna

Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* The Grey Hornbill is undoubtedly found in Northern Nigeria all the year round, but at certain times mass movements of large numbers of birds can be seen. At first these moving flocks seem quite irregular, but in my records, although there are exceptions, the vast majority of records of big flocks fall regularly in June and October. This seems to point to a very definite North and South movement superimposed on a static local population. My records of flocks are as follows :

1945 : 21.vi., Vom	
1946 :	26.x & 30.x., Vom
1949 : 7.vi., Vom	
1950 : 6.vi. to 10.vii	and 27.x., all Minna
1954 :	21.x., Sokoto
1957 : 11.vi.	and 2.xi., all Kaduna
1959 : 8.vi.	and 13.x & 20.x. "
1960 : 15.iii	and 20.x. "

* (Horwood gives several November records from the Plateau etc. - Nig. Orn. Soc. Bull. 2 p. 3. -Ed.)

1961 :	10.x. & 18.x., Kaduna
1962 : 15,16 & 29.vi.	and 19.x. & <u>25.xi.</u> , Kaduna
1963 : 29.v.	and <u>29.xii.</u> , "
1964 : 31.v. to 13.vi.	"

Rufous-rumped Bush-Lark Pinarocorys erythropygia This bush-lark appears to be a bird of passage in Kaduna. I have only seen it once in each year when it was seen in flocks. My records are 1st April 1959, 25th April 1961, 28th April 1962 and 10th May 1963 on what is presumably the northward journey, and 22nd November 1960 on the southward.

Amethyst Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster This fine starling visited my garden in Minna and nested there, arriving 11th May 1950. Unfortunately I did not keep a note of its departure, but it was gone by July. In Kaduna it has visited my area on the dates set out, between which it can be seen every day. I have never seen it at any other time of the year.

1959 :	20.iii to 10.iv and again on 29.vi.
1962 :	20.iv to 12.v.
1963 :	14.iv (only record)
1964 :	12.iii to 20.v.

Although these dates might correspond with a passage movement, I am more inclined to think that it represents a spread during the breeding season from a more concentrated 'off-season' flocking zone.

Red-billed Wood Dove Turtur abyssinica The distribution of this species seems to represent the purely local 'spreading' of habitat during the rains, when a moist cool climate can be found in more open country than in the dry weather. My garden is more open than the older parts of Kaduna, and these doves take up residence in May and can be seen here until September. As far as my garden is concerned the movement is quite sharp, but the doves can be found a few miles away at any time.

Snowy-headed Robin-Chat Cossypha niveicapilla It is easy to assume that this somewhat skulking species should only be recorded during its breeding season in the rains, at which time it draws attention to itself by its fine song, even if it is actually present the year round. It is however remarkable that it is very easily seen at this time of the year, whether it is singing or not (it regularly uses my bird-bath for instance), but in spite of a fairly careful search I have never seen it at other times of the year. Either it changes its habits very considerably and becomes extremely skulking (which is possible) or it moves out of my area altogether (which I am inclined to believe).

I did not see it at all in Kaduna until I moved into my present house in Kashim Ibrahim road in 1962. I have since seen it every day between 15th May and 6th November 1962, between 25th May and the time I went on leave in July 1963, and from 5th April to the time of writing (July) in 1964. This is probably another example of a bird spreading out of thick woodland in the rains, but I would like to have records of its presence in more thickly covered parts of this district in the dry season.