



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



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I have recorded it are :

1954 : 23.vii in Sokoto and 27.viii in Gusau
 1956 : 3.vi in Kaduna / Kaduna
 1957 : 24.vii., and 5.viii to 25.ix frequently in
 1959 : 1.vii in Kaduna
 1961 : 6.v and 12.v in Kaduna
 1962 : 19.vii in Kaduna.

D.E. Macgregor

Mist Netting Hazards. On 18th September 1964 I found a 3½ ft. long File Snake Mohelya poensis caught by the head in a mist-net set up in the bush behind Egbadho College, Ilaro. The snake had obviously been attracted by the flutterings of a male Olive Sunbird Cyanomitra olivacea already in the net and had climbed five feet up the net after crossing over from nearby vegetation. Rather optimistically it had been trying to swallow the sunbird. The bird was already dead; the snake very much alive.

Once before, on 2nd February 1962, I netted a snake, this time a West African House Snake Boaedon lineatus. The mist-net had been lowered at dusk to avoid the inevitable harvest of Epulette Bats Epomophorus gambianus and lay loosely along the ground across the hunting path of the 4 ft. long snake. It got itself hopelessly entangled and unlike the File Snake could not be extricated alive.

J.A. Button

White-throated Bee-eater Eating Oil-Palm Nut Fibres. Bee-eaters are certainly amongst the more specialised birds as regards their food requirements, and I was very surprised to find oily red-orange fibres of the Oil-palm (Elaeis guineensis) 'nut' in several gizzards of a number of White-throated Bee-eaters Aerops albicollis which I collected for research purposes at Ibadan in April 1964. This food is of course extremely lipid-rich and is eaten by a very wide variety of mammals and birds etc. It is tempting to surmise that the bee-eaters eat it 'in order to' build up lipid food reserves in the body prior to their longish northwards migration to the breeding grounds. Presumably the birds strip the epicarp from the fruits in the trees, rather than descending to fallen fruits on the ground, but any observations on this score which can be made by people resident in Aerops' winter range would be greatly appreciated. C.H. Fry

Finfoot in Kaduna. The Finfoot Podica senegalensis is not an easy bird to see well, and the following note of its occurrence in Kaduna