



West African Ornithological Society
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ADDITIONS TO PLATEAU CHECK LIST (above 3000 feet)

J. R. Lang.

The original Plateau Province check list was published in Vol.1, no.3 of the N.O.S.Bulletin, by Ebbutt, Horwood, Sharland and Smith. This list is still available from the Editor. Since 1964 the following 26 additions have been made from time to time:-

<u>NOS Bull.no.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Bannerman (2 vol) p.</u>
3,p.17	Mottled Swift <i>Apus aequatorialis lowei</i>	622
4,p.18	Narina Trogon <i>Apaloderma narina constantia</i>	711
"	African Blue Quail <i>Coturnix chinensis adansonii</i>	*331
5,p.19	Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis</i>	385
"	Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	*415
"	Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	429
"	Bronze-winged Courser <i>Cursorius chalcopterus chalcopterus</i>	441
"	Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius ouronicus</i>	394
"	Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais pallida laeneni</i>	1024
"	Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla</i>	1016
5,p.32	Shortwing Grass Warbler <i>Cisticola b.brachyptera</i>	1094
"	Corsican Woodchat <i>Lanius senator badius</i>	1172
6,p.52	Skimmer <i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>	477
7,p.83	Guinea Wood Hoopoe <i>Phoeniculus purpureus guineensis</i>	646
9,p.14	Openbill <i>Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus</i>	174
"	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	415
"	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>	427
10.p.43	Swallow tailed Bee-eater <i>Merops hirundineus chrysolaimus</i>	686
"	White-fronted Black Chat <i>Myrmococichla albifrons frontalis</i>	979
12,p.100	Lemon-fronted Tinker Bird <i>Pogoniulus bilineatus sharpei</i>	732
14,p.41	Grasshopper Buzzard <i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	281
"	West African Prinia <i>Prinia subflava subflava</i>	1102
"	Green Fruit Pigeon <i>Treron australis sharpei</i>	514
"	European Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus</i>	600
"	Gambaga Dusky Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa gambagae gambagae</i>	899
18,p.52	West African Fiscal Shrike <i>Lanius collaris smithii</i>	1163

To these can now be added the following 10 species:-

- Rosy Pelican: Pelecanus onocrotalus (p.139). Three birds of this species circled over Vom Christian Hospital on the evening of April 2nd, 1968, and tried to settle to roost in a large tree. They were driven off by the crows which were nesting in the tree, one of which sat on the bill of one of the pelicans!
- Goliath Heron: Ardea goliath (p.147). One of these was seen by several observers (notably W.A.Bellamy and H.J.C.Grant pers.comm.) during April of 1967 and April 1968.
- European Golden Oriole: Oriolus oriolus oriolus (p.1204). A European Golden Oriole was netted by P.J.E.Woods and reported in an article on mist-netting (Bull.Niger.Orn.Soc. no.12,p.92), but was not formally added to the Plateau Check List. On October 12th 1969 I myself saw an immature Golden Oriole at Ouree Dam.
- White Wagtail: Motacilla alba alba (p.822). During the course of ringing yellow wagtails at the Vom sugar cane roost, a juvenile White Wagtail was netted on 7th Jan 1969.
- Long-tailed Parakeet: Psittacula krameri krameri (p.522). Small flocks of this species are to be seen at Gindiri, by the river, and are probably resident (personal Observation e.g. 12/11/71 & 31/7/72, and also pers. comm. from E.R.Drew).
- Blue Bellied Roller: Coracias cyanogaster (p.638). A pair of these Rollers was observed by me at Panyam Fish Farm on 29/7/72, and during the same week three were seen at Gindiri, near Panyam by E.R.Drew (pers. comm.)
- Brubru Shrike: Nilaus afer (p.1187). A bird of this species was netted at Vom Christian Hospital on 25/2/73.
- European Corncrake: Crex crex (p.345). A live corncrake was brought to me by A.McCausland on 13/4/73; it appeared unharmed, though weak, and was ringed and released near the site at which it had probably been caught. It had been caught on 12/4/73 by a youth near the Veterinary Research Station at Vom, on behalf of a local medicine man who had given it to A.McCausland the following day. This may be only the third Nigerian record for the Corncrake (c.f. Bannerman Vol.1, p.346. In the N.O.S. Bulletin the only mention of Crex crex is in No.1, where it is included in J.H.Elgood's Provisional Check List of Nigerian Birds).

Short-tailed Glossy Starling: Lamprotornis chalcurus chalcurus (p.1229).

On 16/5/72 two juveniles of this species were netted and ringed in our garden at Vom Christian Hospital, and at the same time two adults (the parents) were observed closely in the garden.

Opaque Tree Warbler: Hippolais pallida opaca (p.1024). An Opaque Warbler was netted in our garden on 12/2/73. This is in fact the second Plateau record, since one had previously been netted at the Veterinary Station, Vom by V.W.Smith, but had not been entered on the Plateau Check List. (On 5/4/73 an Olivaceous Warbler - H.pallida laeneni - was also netted in our garden).

(White's nomenclature involves substantial changes in name for two species marked *. These are:- Coturnix chinensis adansonii for Excoalfactoria adansonii, and Calidris ferruginea for Erolia testacea. The other changes are not likely to puzzle the reader. In the case of the Olivaceous Warbler Hippolais pallida laeneni, White states that nominate H.p.pallida is resident in Egypt and that H.pallida laeneni occurs in West Africa. ED.)

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A ROOST OF PIED KINGFISHERS - Ceryle rudis.

Netta Robinson.

It was intended in the first place that these notes on Ceryle rudis should cover a period of twelve months with twice weekly regular observations being recorded. It had been hoped to discover whether any definite wet season departures from the area took place and how many birds overall were involved in movements at the roost or whether eggs were laid and young hatched.

Unfortunately, unavoidable interruptions occurred during the time scheduled for the exercise, culminating in final departure from West Africa in August 1972.