



**West African Ornithological Society  
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest  
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ALBINISM AMONGST ETHIOPIAN BIRDS - Numerous instances of albinism in African birds have been recorded in recent years (e.g. Ostrich 37: 238; 38:205,281,288; 40:62; 41:220,261; 42:70,148,230; 43:176,184; 45:42) to which I can add the following.

In March 1971 at Sabon Gida dam, near Jos, I saw two White-faced Tree-Ducks Dendrocygna viduata which had large patches of white in their wings. Recently in a patch of thorn scrub on the outskirts of Kano I saw a small flock of Grey-headed Sparrows Passer griseus, one of which was pure white. There did not appear to be any animosity towards it, and as it was fairly approachable I was able to photograph it.

I would be interested to hear of any other reports of albinism amongst Ethiopian birds.  
R.E.Sharland

MENETRIES' WARBLER *Sylvia mystacea* NEW TO NIGERIA AND WEST AFRICA -

On 17 April 1974 my wife and I netted a female-plumaged Sylvia warbler at Gaya, Kano State, in an overgrown dry river-bed, whose identity was unknown to us. The general impression of the bird in the hand was of a small grey Sylvia with sandy brown wings, dark tail and, as the only distinctive feature, rufous forehead. Detailed description :-

Forehead rufous, crown grey-brown, lores pale grey, ear coverts grey-brown, nape grey-brown; mantle, back, rump and uppertail coverts grey-brown; chin white with buff wash, throat and belly white, breast, flanks and thighs buff; undertail coverts white with light brown feather centres; lesser wing coverts grey, median coverts brown-grey, greater coverts brown with light brown fringes, primary coverts brown, primaries and secondaries dark brown with light chestnut edges, tertiaries brown-grey; tail dark grey, outermost feathers with white edges and tips. Beak grey, with base of lower mandible flesh and mouth yellow-orange; iris brown-olive, eye-ringing buff; legs light grey-brown, feet dirty yellow. Wing 57 mm, tail 51 (in moult, the outer 5 rectrices being replaced), beak 12. Wing tip  $p3=p4=p5$ ,  $p1 = pc + 3$ ,  $p2=p3 - 3.5$ ,  $p6=p5 - 2$ ,  $p7=p5 - 4$ ,  $p8=p5 - 6$ ,  $p9=p5 - 8$ ,  $p10=p5 - 10$ ;  $p3-5$  emarginate;  $p2=p6/p7$ ;  $p3$  with notch 11 mm from tip. Weight 9.25g.

The bird was ringed, photographed and released. Mr I.J.Ferguson-Lees has very kindly compared our description with skins in the British Museum collection at Tring, and informs us that he has no doubt whatsoever that the bird was an adult female Menetries' Warbler *S. mystacea*, a species which, with most of its congeners, Mr Ferguson-Lees knows in the field. Menetries' Warbler breeds in southern Russia and Palestine