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Cliff-Swallow is less boldly contrasted. The rump is off-white or pinkish, the black back streaked with whitish, the underside off-white rather than pure white, and there is a dark chestnut wedge through and behind the eye. It is not at all the rare bird that Bannerman makes it out to be.

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* One, 8th January 1964 and one on 21-23rd March 1964. The former was on the river Galma flood-plain, and the latter, which was shot after prolonged unsuccessful attempts to net it and proved to be *L.i.speculigerus*, was at Samaru lake.

Woodchat *Lanius senator* (Table 1.) A regular visitor, common and widespread outside the more heavily wooded areas, from the beginning of November to the end of April (earliest, 20th October; latest, 15th May). Peak numbers apparently in November, January and April :

X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	V	
3	10	3	16	5	7	20	5	... summed monthly totals.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* A male, Kufena Rock, Zaria on 25th December 1963.

BREEDING OF THE YELLOW-THROATED LONG-CLAW

MACRONYX GROCEUS GROCEUS

J.R.Lang

The Long-claw has a long breeding season, as noted by Bannerman (Birds of Trop. West Afr., Vol IV p. 83-87) who states that August seems to be the principal month, but gives evidence of eggs found at Lokoja on 10th April, and half-fledged young at Ikoyi on 24th October, and details of nests found in every intermediate month. He also gives a good description (p. 87) of building operations. Vol. VIII p.372 contains a good description of the typical nest.

On the Jos Plateau, July and August have been accepted as the main breeding months by V.W.Smith^{1,2}. Last year I found five nests within full view of our house at Vom, from July to October, and already this year the birds are paired off, and one of a pair was seen collecting nesting material on 15th May. On 29th December, at the Vom wagtail roost, I saw a family of three long-claws consisting of male, female and a youngster. This is six miles from our house, so presumably indicates another very late brood (perhaps late October?). How long is a Yellow-throated Long-claw family likely to remain together ?

All nests found have been constructed of an outer grass structure and a neat inner lining of rootlets; they have all been open cups placed at the base of a tussock of grass. Only two of the nests were occupied, each having two eggs only.

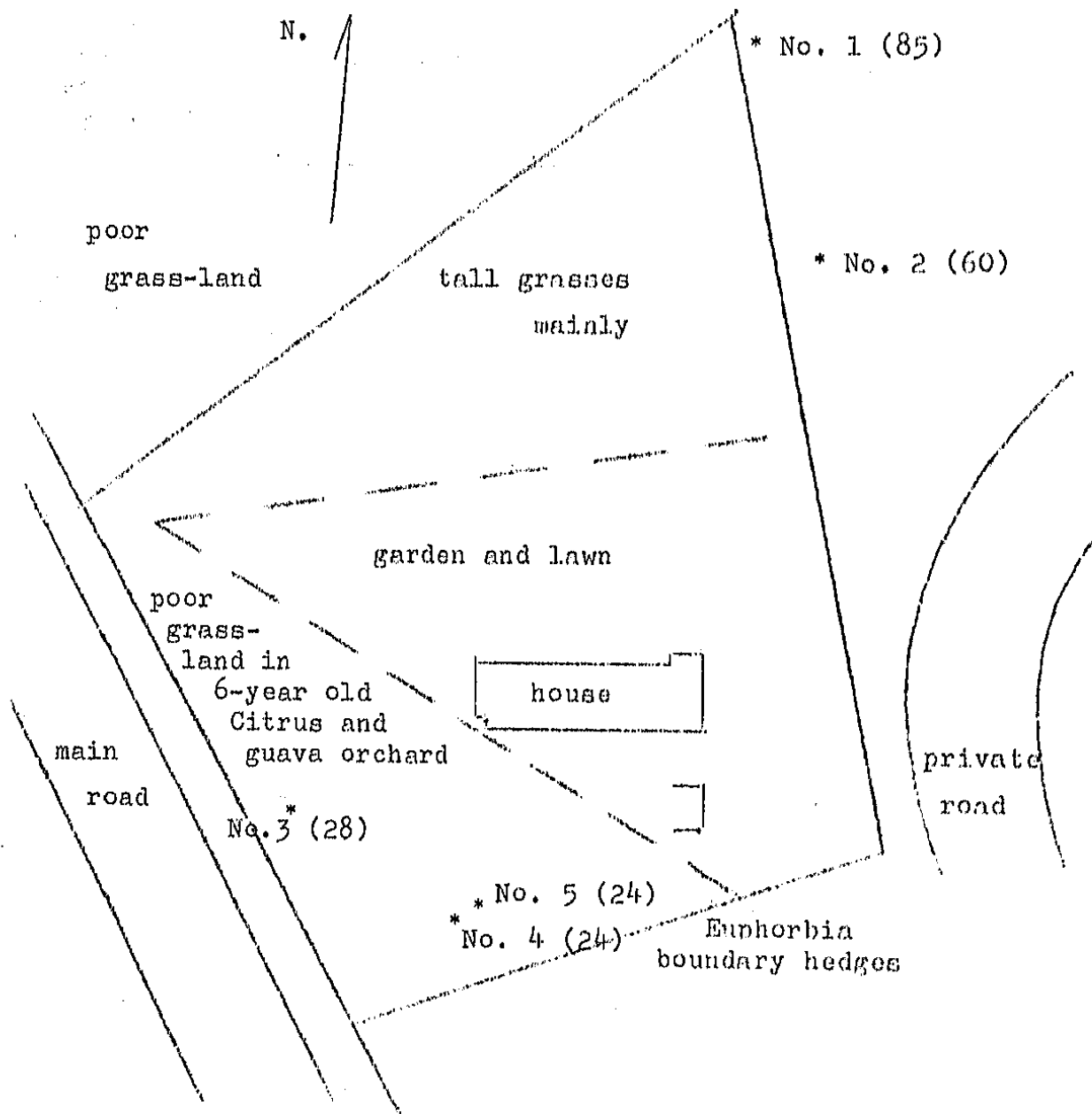


Fig. 1.- Situations of nests with distances in yards from house.

Nest No. 1	July 25th	Building in progress
	Aug 5th	Dirt in completed nest; no eggs; no birds in vicinity
Nest No. 2	Aug 9th	An older nest found derelict near No 1; no rootlet lining; never used.
Nest No. 3	Aug 18th	Nest under construction
	Aug 21st	Rootlet lining of nest now in place
	Aug 22nd	First egg laid
	Aug 23rd	Second egg laid

Only one bird (probably the male) gathered materials, the other seeming to act as decoy. There was a special call system between the two: after placing material on the nest, the male left to get more, calling "ooo-dill-ooo". When its beak was full, it called "tee" as it rose to fly the 60 yards back to the nest. Its mate flew after it, or landed prominently a few yards from it, calling "tee-oo...t' tee-oo...tee-oo".

Sept 4th	Both eggs still unhatched
Sept 5th	Both eggs hatched during the day (14 and 13 days' incubation respectively)
Sept 10th	Both nestlings well
Sept 16th	(11th day) Parents nowhere near the nest and no sign of nestlings - eaten?

- Nest No. 4 This was an old nest found during August; but of the 1964 season.
- Nest No. 5 (Based on findings at No. 3 nest, this was probably started about 14th September, and the eggs laid about 19th/20th September.)
- Oct 2nd Nest found near site of No. 4; contained c/2, one already cracked and one about to hatch.
- Oct 10th Only one nestling left in the nest; well grown.
- Oct 11th From the hide it was quite possible to note that the female has appreciably less black a 'waistcoat' than the male, and it is a shallow V-shape rather than a U-shape (no sexual differences in plumage are mentioned in Bannerman IV, nor in his shorter work, nor by Elgood (Birds of West African Town and Garden).
- Oct 13th Nestling well-feathered, and fed by the female on quite a large winged insect; later a faecal pellet was deposited on the edge of the nest and removed by the female on her next visit. The male was nowhere to be seen.
- Oct 15th Found nest deserted (12th or 13th day after hatching?), but the female was very active and noisy round about, voicing a new call - "Figaro, figaro, figaro, figaro".
- Oct 16th Both adult birds very vocal, and diving down into the grass, flying off in great agitation if disturbed. Does this suggest that the young bird was still alive and being fed in the grass?

Is it possible that all these nests represent the breeding activity of one pair of Yellow-throated Long-claws? The other pairs had different territories nearby.

References : Smith, V.W. (1962) Some birds which breed near Vom, Northern Nigeria. Nig. Field 27 4-34.
 Smith, V.W. (1964) Further notes on birds breeding near Vom, Northern Nigeria. Pt. II. Nig. Field 29 161-174.

THE SPOTTED HONEY-GUIDE INDICATOR MACULATUS,

A NEW BIRD FOR NIGERIA

J.A. Button

On 13th January 1965 I netted a specimen of Indicator m. maculatus Gray, the Spotted Honey-guide, on Topo Island. The mist-net was sited at a point approximately a quarter of a mile West of the non-catering rest-house, at right angles to a narrow belt of dense thorn bush fringing the lagoon, and adjacent to a patch of Borassus palms and Mango trees Mangifera. The position is always a good one for a net, seldom less than ten birds being caught in a day. I have never seen this species apart from the occasion of its capture.

Bannerman's (1953 : Birds of West and Equat. Africa, Vol. 1 p.741-2) references to the habitat of this little-known Indicator are none too explicit : "The Spotted Honey-guide is found in dense bush and on the edge of forest in Upper Guinea"; and again : "Indicator maculatus maculatus Gray is restricted to Upper Guinea. The type specimen came from Gambia, where it must be found in the desert bush, as there is no tree forest left in the Gambia. From Sierra Leone to Liberia there are also various records, but it has not been found as yet in the Gold Coast or Nigeria, though it must be expected to occur there".

The Topo Island environment may be described as 'Savannah-coastal', with a corresponding avifauna (cf. Button, & Fry, Bull. N.O.S. 2 : 5-7; Wood-Robinson, Bull. N.O.S. 2 : 18)

Description Head Crown olive green, forehead brighter, nape duller olive; bases of feathers lighter so that when erected, nape appears lighter. Eye brown, lids bare of feathers. External nares oval and surrounded by prominent bristles. Bill short and conical, horn