



**West African Ornithological Society  
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest  
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## N O T E S

Wood Ibis at Ibadan. A single Wood Ibis Ibis ibis was seen wandering slowly along the cultivated grass verge of a house in the New Reservation; Ibadan, on 17th January, 1966, at 1530 hrs. The observation was made at a distance of only about 70 feet and the identification confirmed after reference to Bannerman (1953). The bird was utterly fearless of the occasional car but rather shy of approaching man, and remained for about 20 minutes. Two days later a pair was seen in flight in the same area, and a single bird was watched on 22nd January in exactly the same place as first seen. Elgood & Sibley (Ibis 106 1964 : 221-248) list this species as rare, i.e. with five or fewer records, at Ibadan.

D.M. Robinson

A Striped Crake Porzana marginalis at Ibadan. A rail picked up dead on 4th December 1965 by W.H. Bishop near a marshy stream on the University of Ibadan campus proved to be of this species. This is the second record for Ibadan (vide Elgood & Sibley, Ibis 106 1964 : 221-248). Elsewhere in Nigeria it has been recorded from Sokoto (breeding), Maiduguri and Bauchi (vide Bannerman, 1953).

As with many secretive birds in the Tropics this species will almost certainly prove to be much commoner than present records indicate. So far however, very little is known about it although it has turned up at odd places in Africa, from Algeria to Cape Province (Mackworth-Praed & Grant, 1957). The present specimen is now in the Ife University Zoology Department collection.

D. Wells

Bannerman, D.A. (1953) The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa. (London): 349-350.

Elgood, J.H. & Sibley, F.C. (1964) The tropical forest edge avifauna of Ibadan, Nigeria. Ibis 106 : 221-248.

Mackworth-Praed, C.W. & Grant, C.H.B. (1957) Birds of Eastern and North-Eastern Africa. Vol. 1 (2nd edition). (London): 289-290.

Blue Rock-Thrush at Zaria. On 24th March 1966 I saw a female Blue Rock-Thrush Monticola solitaria feeding on a recently burnt plateau about three acres in extent between the peaks of Kuffena Rock, Zaria. The species was hitherto unknown to me but was identified as such, after good views were obtained, through familiarity with textbook pictures. The bird was still present in the same place on 28th March, when in addition to a male Rock-Thrush M. saxatilis acquiring full breeding plumage there was almost certainly a second female Blue Rock-Thrush on the burn. The following morning the bird was netted, ringed Jos Museum 15173, photographed in colour, examined and released, but no other rock-thrushes were seen.

Description : Whole upperparts from forehead to upper tail coverts, including lesser and median wing coverts dark brownish gray. Wings brown, the primary- and greater coverts narrowly tipped buff; underwing silvery gray; axillaries mid gray with terminal and sub-terminal pale rufous or buff bars. Tail uniform very dark gray above and below. Lores, circumorbital area, chin, throat and upper breast buff, palest on the lores and chin and becoming suffused with ochre towards the breast; merging into the gray of head-top and nape; throat and breast finely mottled with brown; remainder of underside except under-tail coverts gray-brown, barred blackish and pale fawn, the proximal 2/3rds of each feather being gray, and the distal 1/3rd with three narrow crescentic dark bars separating two wider pale fawn areas; the barring becoming most prominent on flanks; under-tail coverts a warm ochre or pale orange heavily barred blackish. Iris dark brown; bill and legs black. Measurements : wings 121, 123 mm, tarsus 31 mm, bill 25.5 mm, weight 70.5 gms.

In the field it resembled a Turdus thrush or even a European Starling Sturnus rather than the Rock-Thrush M. saxatilis; it appeared an all-dark-gray bird with a french-gray wash over the head, mantle and particularly rump, browner wings, blackish tail, and a mottled and barred gray-brown underside with an ochreous wash on the throat and heavily-barréd rufous-brown undertail coverts; the bill is conspicuously long and appeared slightly decurved. M. solitaria lacks the short tail, upright stance and tail-vibration on landing which characterise the smaller M. saxatilis. No voice was heard. The bird fed entirely on the ground, but perched also freely in small trees and shrubs. Its habitat - a recently burnt thicket on an inselberg - is apparently exactly the same as that of the only previously recorded Blue Rock-Thrush in Nigeria, one shot on Igbetti Rock, 36 miles N.W. of Ilorin, in December 1960.

C.H.Fry

Further New Records for Plateau Province over 3,000 ft. The following species have been recently recorded on the Jos Plateau for the first time (vide Ebbutt et al., 1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 3 : 9-14; Sharland, 1964, ibid. 4 : 18-19; Ebbutt & Smith, 1965, ibid. 5 : 19; and Ebbutt, 1965, ibid. 6 : 52) -

Anastomus lamelligerus Openbill. One, Pan Yam, 2.i.'66.

Erolia alpina Dunlin. One, Sabon Gida, 30.xii.'65.

Tringa totanus Redshank. One, Sabon Gida, 15.xii.'65.

Halcyon chelicuti Striped Kingfisher. One present at Vom for several weeks after 30.ix.'65, subsequently netted. Recorded just over the border in Bauchi Province by Horwood. D.Ebbutt

#### R E C E N T P U B L I C A T I O N S

It is intended to note the more important recent publications relevant to West African ornithology, as a regular feature in the BULLETIN. The majority of such publications appear in Ibis, Ostrich, and the Nigerian Field, all of which are readily accessible publications so that reviews will not be given here.

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