



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



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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.

Ahmadu Bello University Library now has very good ornithological representation, and books and journals are available to registered borrowers, not necessarily University personnel, and 'visiting

scholars and research workers'. There is a photocopying service.

The Editor will gladly assist where possible with members' enquiries regarding the loan of literature.

- Benson, C.W. & Stuart Irwin, M.P., 1965. A new species of Tinker-barbet from Northern Rhodesia. Bull. B.O.C. 85 : 5-9.
- Cawkell, E.M., 1965. Notes on Gambian birds. Ibis 107 : 535-540.
- Collins, C.T., 1965. Down-like nestling plumage of the Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus (Lichtenstein). Ostrich 36 : 201-202.
- Elgood, J.H., 1965. The birds of Obudu Plateau, Eastern Region of Nigeria. Nig. Field 30 : 60-69.
- Elgood, J.H., Sharland, R.E., & Ward, P., 1966. Palaearctic migrants in Nigeria. Ibis 108 : 84-116.
- Grimes, L., 1965. Antiphonal singing in Laniarius barbarus barbarus and the auditory reaction time. Ibis 107 : 101-104.
- Grimes, L., 1966. Antiphonal singing and call-notes in Laniarius barbarus barbarus. Ibis 108 : 122-126.
- Liversidge, R., 1965. Egg covering in Charadrius marginatus. Ostrich 36 : 59-61.
- Ludlow, A.R., 1966. Body-weight changes and moult of some Palaearctic migrants in Southern Nigeria. Ibis 108 : 129-132.
- McGregor, I.A. & Landsborough Thompson, A., 1965. Blue Rock-Thrush Monticola solitarius in the Gambia. Ibis 107 : 401.
- Ripley, S.Dillon, 1966. A notable owlet from Kenya. Ibis 108 : 136-137.
- Serle, W., 1965. Notes on a small collection of birds made in Eastern Nigeria. Bull. B.O.C. 85 : 1-3.
- Serle, W., 1965. A third contribution to the ornithology of the British Cameroons. Ibis 107 : 60-94 and 230-246.
- Smith, K.D., 1965. On the birds of Morocco. Ibis 107 : 493-526.
- Smith, V.W. & Ebbutt, D., 1965. Notes on Yellow Wagtails Motacilla flava wintering in central Nigeria. Ibis 107 : 390-393.
- Smith, V.W., Ebbutt, D., & Woods, P.J., 1966. Breeding notes on the White-crowned Cliff-Chat Thamnodia coronata in central Nigeria. Ibis 108 : 137-138.
- Steyn, P., 1965. A note on the breeding of the African Hobby Falco cuvieri Smith. Ostrich 36 : 29-31.
- Steyn, P., 1965. Some observations on the Bataleur Terathopus ecaudatus (Daudin). Ostrich 36 : 203-213.
- Sutton, R.W.W., 1965. Notes on Ghanaian birds seen in 1964. Ibis 107 : 251-253.
- Tree, A.J., 1965. Return of Palaearctic birds to place of banding in Zambia. Ostrich 36 : 144.
- Ward, P., 1965. The breeding biology of the Black-faced Dioch Quelea quelea in Nigeria. Ibis 107 : 326-349.
- Ward, P., 1965. Seasonal changes in the sex ratio of Quelea quelea (Ploceidae). Ibis 107 : 397-399.
- Ward, P., 1965. Feeding ecology of the Black-faced Dioch Quelea quelea in Nigeria. Ibis 107 : 173-214.
- Ward, P., 1966. Distribution, systematics and polymorphism of the African weaver-bird Quelea quelea. Ibis 108 : 34-40.
- Williams, J.G., 1966. A new species of swallow from Kenya. Bull. B.O.C. 86 ; 40.