



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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BIRD RINGING IN NIGERIA, 1965

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

R. E. Sharland

During 1965 once more a record number of birds - 5 096 - were ringed. It is not likely that more records will continue in future because our most enthusiastic ringer, Mr V.W. Smith, left Nigeria in March 1966*.

Most of the birds ringed were Yellow Wagtails Budytes flavus (in Vom 2511 and in Kano 1441). It is significant that although 107 birds were recaptured in Vom from the same or previous seasons and in Kano there were 170 recaptures, not one Vom-ringed bird was caught in Kano and no Kano birds were caught in Vom. Three wagtails were recaptured in Kano just over four years since they were first ringed.

Recoveries from abroad are shown in Schedule II. One wagtail was recovered west of Nigeria in Morocco, and there were several recoveries considerably east of north of Nigeria: two in Russia, one in Greece and one in Turkey. The wagtail no. 23887 is the most northerly recovery to date, and had travelled at least 4500 miles to near Leningrad.

There are three instances of wagtails ringed abroad being recovered in Nigeria. One was a bird ringed in Sweden in 1952, and the others were from Russia and Italy.

Several more recaptures of other migrants in subsequent seasons were reported, as shown in Schedule III. The male Black-eared Wheatear returned to the Agricultural Department Farm in Kano for the third successive year. A Whitethroat Sylvia communis retrapped eleven months after it was originally ringed, at Nguru, was the only one which I ringed that year.

Dr A.J. Hopson ringed a number of Sand Martins Riparia riparia and warblers at Malam'fatori on the western shore of Lake Chad in the spring of 1965, thus showing the potentialities of the Chad area.

Other records of foreign-marked birds being recovered in Nigeria, additional to those listed in Elgood et al. (Ibis 108 : 84 - 116) are :

* See p. 49 -Ed.

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus Sweden, 1964 Benin, 1945
 Osprey Pandion haliaetus Finland, 1965 Ashaka, 1965
 Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax Czechoslovakia, 1965 Kano, 1966

Details have also been received of the recovery in West Africa of fourteen Sooty Terns Sterna fuscata ringed in Florida; six of these were from Nigeria (Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 (5) : 21; and insert accompanying Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 (7)).

Schedule I - Birds Ringed

<u>Palaeartic Migrants</u>		<u>1965</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Garganey	<i>Querquedula</i>	1	1
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1	8
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Ch. dubius</i>	1	35
Common Snipe	<i>Capella gallinago</i>	2	8
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	2	5
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1	5
Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>	23	105
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2	60
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	1	1
Spotted Redshank	<i>T. erythropus</i>	-	4
Greenshank	<i>Glottis nebularius</i>	-	3
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>G. stagnatilis</i>	2	5
Little Stint	<i>Erölia minuta</i>	7	98
Temminck's Stint	<i>E. temminckii</i>	-	9
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	23	152
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1	1
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	-	1
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	5	9
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	5	7
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	8	15
J. esser Short-toed	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	-	1
Tree Pipit /Lark	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	53	92
Tawny Pipit	<i>A. campestris</i>	-	3
Red-throated Pipit	<i>A. cervinus</i>	-	117
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	4	18
Yellow Wagtails	<i>Budytes f. flavus</i>	3 978	11 239
	<i>B. f. faldegg</i>	10	17
	<i>B. f. thunbergi</i>	9	26
	<i>B. f. superciliaris</i>	-	1
	<i>B. f. cinereocapilla</i>	5	5
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	2	3
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2	6
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oe. hispanica</i>	-	1
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	31	90
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	26	56
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	21	79
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	-	2
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	2	8
Reed Warbler	<i>A. scirpaceus</i>	13	56
Marsh Warbler	<i>A. palustris</i>	-	1
Sedge Warbler	<i>A. schoenobaenus</i>	65	163
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	5	11
Icterine Warbler	<i>H. icterina</i>	26	36
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>H. pallida</i>	6	10
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	170	440
Whitethroat	<i>S. communis</i>	11	17

4524 13030

4524

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Lesser Whitethroat	<i>S. curruca</i>	-	1
Subalpine Warbler	<i>S. cantillans</i>	-	2
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	24	49
Chiffchaff	<i>Ph. collybita</i>	-	1
Wood Warbler	<i>Ph. sibilatrix</i>	4	10
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Ph. bonelli</i>	-	1
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	109	181
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	56	165
Collared Flycatcher	<i>F. albicollis</i>	1	14
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1	1 340
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	207	214
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	10	14
Isabelline Shrike	<i>L. isabellinus</i>	-	1
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	4	6
		<u>49</u>	<u>15029</u>
	57 species	4 952	15 051
<u>African Species</u>	142 species	144	4 636
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>199 species</u>	<u>5 096</u>	<u>19 687</u>

Schedule II - Recoveries

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

4467 Ringed 1.xii.1963 Kano 12° N, 8° 17' E.
 Recaught 1.v.1965 Gomel, Russia, 52° 26' N, 31° E.

Yellow Wagtail *Budytes flavus*

28664 19.ii.1965 Kano
 7.vii.1965 Katowice, Poland, 50° 15' N, 19° 2' E.

16966 7.xi.1963 Kano
 25.iv.1965 Porto San el Pidio, Italy, 43° 6' N, 12° 36' E.

17388 17.xii.1963 Kano
 25.iii.1965 Messina, Sicily, 38° 12' N, 15° 38' E.

18234 27.xii. 1963 Kano
 24.iv.1965 Lecce, Presicce, Italy, 39° 54' N, 18° 16' E.

17831 24.xii.1963 Vom
 16.iv.1965 Malta 36° N, 14° 40' E.

23887 8.iv.1965 Vom
 23.v.1965 Vyborg, Leningrad, Russia, 60° 41' N, 28° 46' E.

AH 99004 4.i.1964 Vom
 14.iv.1965 El Kezaa des Mgouna, Morocco, 31° 10' N, 6° 10' W.

23827 6.iv.1965 Vom
 *16.xi.1965 Bryansk, Russia, 52° 43' N, 25° 20' E. X

17518 14.xii.1963 Vom
 *18.ii.1966 Cavdir, Turkey, 37° 11' N, 29° 42' E. X

16872 23.xi.1963 Vom
 *4.xii.1965 Lamia, Greece, 38° 40' N, 22° 30' E. X

S 122862 22.v.1964 Rybachi, Russia, 55° 11' N, 20° 49' E.
2.ii.1966 Vom

H 190545 17.iv.1964 San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy
5.iv.1965 Vom

* These are the dates reported, I have queried whether they are the dates when the birds were found.

Schedule III - Recaptures

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

19116 Ringed Vom 30.iii.1964
Recaught 19.iii.1965

19073 Ringed Vom 26.iii.1964
Recaught 24.iii.1965

Whitethroat Sylvia communis

25543 Ringed Nguru 4.ii.1965
Recaught 2.i.1966

Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

18576 Ringed Kano 19.iii.1964
Recaught 16.iii.1966

Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus

18988 Ringed Kano 30.x.1964
Recaught 19.x.1965

NOTES ON A MIXED CORMORANT AND HERON BREEDING

COLONY NEAR MALAMFATORI (LAKE CHAD)

Jane Hopson

To the west and south of Malamfatori (13° 40' N, 12° 25' E) a large area of marshland is flooded each year from November to June by the rising waters of the River Yobe and Lake Chad. The floods reach a peak in January, and then the waters begin to recede until most of the marsh is dried out by June. During the winter of 1963-64, a large breeding colony of cormorants, darters, herons and ibises was discovered in the centre of this area of marsh.