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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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Sooty Tern Recovery. An immature female Sooty Tern Sterna fuscata marked U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 873-58863 was killed by a student of Molusi College, Ijebu-Igbo ($6^{\circ} 58' N$, $4^{\circ} 00' E$) some time between mid-April and late May, 1966. The skin is in my possession, but marking and recovery details have not yet been established.

D.R.Wells

Passage Dates of the White-throated Bee-eater at Kaduna. The table shows the first and last dates for northward and southward passage of White-throated Bee-eaters Aerops albicollis at Kaduna in five years. The regularity of this migration is remarkable.

Year	Northward passage		Southward passage	
	First	Last	First	Last
1962	6th May	23rd May	8th Oct	14th Nov
1963	11th May	24th May	9th Oct	13th Nov
1964	20th April	21st May	10th Oct	13th Nov
1965	4th May	25th May	10th Oct	12th Nov
1966	(Not observed)		27th Oct	22nd Nov*

* Rains ended late.

Flights were all strictly North/South, except when seeking evening roosts; they were mainly in the morning and evening, with a marked decrease at mid-day. Most sightings refer to one to three flocks of 10-40 birds each; such multiple flocks usually have a common East/West front, and flocks are separated by 20 to 60 yards. They fly at approximately 30 to 200 ft. high, at an estimated 15/20 M.p.h. Purposeful migration is interrupted (a) by random circling for periods up to 2 minutes, and (b) by descent to tree tops for sporadic feeding of 20 seconds to 20 minutes duration. There have been periods of up to 4 days when no birds have been seen, but there is no evidence of specific waves (cf. Fry, 1964, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (3) : 6).

M.Skilleter

Status of the Bluethroat in Nigeria. The only Nigerian records of the Bluethroat Cyanosylvia svecica up to 1965 are given by Elgood et al. (1966, Ibis 108 : 84-116) i.e. one at Sokoto, 27th December 1953, one at Kano 23rd January 1955, one at Potiskum February 1959, and two Zaria, 3rd December 1962. The authors note that the species has recently been found to be quite common in Senegal, but conclude that "it seems unlikely that the Bluethroat is as common a visitor to Nigeria as it appears to be to Senegal".

Very recent records of this species however lead me to suspect that in all probability it is a much commoner and more widespread bird in this country in the dry season. On 28th February 1966 I had a good view of a breeding-plumaged adult ♂ C. s. cyanecula in a drying-up bed of Mimosa pigra by a swamp adjacent to the Galma river in Zaria. On 18th December 1966 I put up nets in the same place, specifically to catch Bluethroats, and netted an immature bird, race uncertain. A net put up on 31st December 1966 in a similar Mimosa thicket on the Galma four miles away to catch Sedge Warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus caught another immature Bluethroat.

Around the tubki (lake) at Madareri, 7 miles West of Gwadabawa (13° 25' N, 05° 15' E), Bluethroats were found to be common during a visit from 3rd to 5th January 1967. This tubki is surrounded by dense beds of bulrushes Typha, outside which are drying-up marshes of knee-high sedges. In drainage ditches in this marsh there is a slightly higher growth, favoured by Bluethroats, and up to six could be flushed in an hour's walk. When flushed, they generally flew into the bulrush beds. None were netted, but an adult ♂ C. s. cyanecula was seen.

Like its close relative the Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos, the Bluethroat is a skulking bird whose presence can easily be overlooked. On the strength of the above observation however, I would suggest that it is of regular and frequent dry-season occurrence in moist marshes, with beds of hard shrubs like Mimosa pigra, throughout Nigeria North of about 10°. C.H.Fry

Weights of Sedge Warblers and Reed Warblers. It is of interest to compare the weights of Reed Warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus and Sedge Warblers A. schoenobaenus ringed in Kano with those ringed by V.W.Smith at Beni Abbes in Algeria. These suggest that the loss in weight due to trans-Saharan migration is considerable.

In the table below I have summarised the weights in the same manner as Smith (1966, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (11) : 50-61), i.e. period of captures; numbers of sample in parenthesis; mean weight, and range in weights.

<u>A. scirpaceus</u>	
<u>Kano 12° N, 8° 30' E</u>	<u>Beni Abbes 30° N, 02° W</u>
2.iv-27.iv (9) <u>11.3</u> 9-14	2.iv-4.iv (7) <u>9.3</u> 7.5-12.0 gms
<u>A. schoenobaenus</u>	
2.iv-20.iv (21) <u>11.6</u> 9.5-14	2.v (3) <u>9.6</u> 9.0-10.5 gms
1.v - 6.v (9) <u>15.2</u> 10-20 gms	

R.E.Sherland