



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



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Notes on Birds of Plateau Province (over 3,000 ft.) with a New Record.

Lesser Striped Swallow Hirundo abyssinica In contrast to what seems to have become this bird's normal nesting site - the eaves and walls of human dwellings, two pairs were observed nesting under the rock overhang at Dogon Dutse, Jos.

Buckley's Bush-Lark Mirafra buckleyi This lark, according to the literature, is the only West African lark which drums its wings in a series of stalling loops high in the sky before plummeting back to earth. Although the bird has not yet been positively identified close-to, this display has been observed in at least two places on the Plateau amongst rocky hills. The writer is open to correction on the identification *.

Lemon-rumped Tinker-Bird Pogoniulus leucolaima A single individual was seen in the Kigom Hills; it was observed from above, so that the rump, which was greenish-yellow, was well shown, and it was thought to be the present species, not the Yellow-throated Tinker-Bird P. subsulphureus. This is a new record for the Plateau.

Yellow-throated Long-claw Macronyx croceus A pair was observed in Jos nest building in May, 1966. A clutch of three eggs was laid but only one hatched and fledged, although it was not seen with its parents a few weeks later. The same pair built a second nest about 50 yards away in September and hatched four eggs. However only two of the young fledged - perhaps four mouths were too many to feed and only the strongest survived, though no carcasses were found near the nest.

P.J.E.Woods

New Records for Zaria. A Bonelli's Warbler Phylloscopus bonelli was netted at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, on 8th December 1966, extending its known range in West Africa one degree to the South. A Jack Snipe Lymnocyptes minimus was seen on the River Galma, Zaria, on 18th December 1966. On 29th December 1966 a Great Reed Warbler Acrocephalus arundinaceus was identified on the Galma, after good views were obtained.

Two further species which have not been hitherto recorded in the Zaria area now have some claim to admission, having been brought alive to the Zoology Department, Ahmadu Bello University, reputedly captured locally. These are a Rosy Pelican Pelecanus onocrotalus (28th October, 1966) and a White Stork Ciconia ciconia (8th December, 1966). The pelican was in excellent condition, and three days after it was examined two were said to have been seen at the N.T.C. Dam, Samaru, Zaria. Regrettably the race of the bird, which was not purchased, was not recorded. The stork was in poor condition, with clipped wings, and despite protestations to the contrary had probably been brought down from

*See opposite

the Nguru area, where the species is known to occur in some numbers. The specimen has since thrived well in captivity at Zaria.

C.H.Fry

R. E Q U E S T

Swift Specimens Wanted As part of a comprehensive study of the Apodidae, skeletal material of most African swifts, particularly Chaetura species, is badly needed. Specimens need only be eviscerated and dried in the sun or under a lamp; removal of the breast muscles speeds the drying process. Birds found dead under nesting colonies can be used. Will provide exchange material if desired. Contact : Dr Charles T. Collins, Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. U.S.A.

N O T I C E S

Proposed Expedition to the Cameroons. Regrettably, this expedition (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (10) : 49) had to be postponed indefinitely owing to the political climate at the time. It is possible that an attempt will be made to mount the expedition over the Christmas 1967 period.

Lake Chad Ornithological Expedition, 1967. Preliminary notice of this important expedition was given on p. 76. An advanced stage of planning has now been reached; the Council of the British Ornithologists' Union has voted £650 to the expedition, and J.H. Elgood and P. Ward are likely to participate, the former for the period in which the expedition will be in the field, i.e. about 20th March for four weeks, and the latter for a period of preliminary work in early March. In addition J.C. Deeming of the Inst. of Agricultural Research, Samaru, and G. Jackson of Ahmadu Bello University, will be in the field at Mallam'fatori for short periods in April to advise on entomological and botanical aspects respectively. A repeat of the closing paragraph of the first Chad notice.....the more experienced field ornithologists resident in Nigeria who could participate for a longer or shorter period at Mallam'fatori, the better. Would anyone interested please contact C.H.Fry.

*(p.100) Mirafra buckleyi is the only West African lark with a (presumably) mechanical song; which may be rendered "prrrp-prrrp-prrrrrrr". It is given in Ebbutt et al. (1964, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (3) : 13) as frequent on the Jos Plateau. -Ed.