



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



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Bell Shrike (Lanius ferrugineus): one 21st October.

Purple Glossy Starling (Lamprocolius purpureus): single bird noted.

Splendid Glossy Starling (Lamprocolius splendidus): a party roosts regularly in the trees.

G. Pettitt

LIGHTHOUSE BEACH, TARKWA, LAGOS.

The following notes were made from visits to Lighthouse Beach during the first two months of my stay in Lagos. Visits were made on September 24th, 30th, October 1st, 14th, 15th, 22nd, 28th, 29th and November 5th, 19th and 25th.

White-fronted Sandplover (Leucopoliis marginatus): present most days, maximum 15 on weekend 14/15 October.

Grey Plover (Squatarola squatarola): present on most days, maximum five on 19th November.

Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula): single birds 22nd October and 19th November.

Little Stint (Erolia minuta): one 5th November.

Knot (Calidris canutus): five on 1st October, two on 22nd October, one 19th November.

Sanderling (Crocethia alba): up to 120 recorded in the first two miles of the beach from the surfing end.

Turnstone (Arenaria interpres): one 14 and 15th October, and one 22nd.

Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos): up to 10 most days.

Greenshank (Glottis nebularius): up to five throughout the period.

Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica): two on 30th September, one 1st October, ten 14th/15th October, one 22nd October.

Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus): peak of 400 on 30th September; 100 on weekend 14th/15th October, 15 on 22nd, and handfuls thereafter.

Grey Pratincole (Galachrysis cinerea): one on 1st October, 18 on 14th/15th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus): up to 150 immatures present on the shore throughout the period.

Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini): on 25th November an adult bird was observed in the tern flock on the shore at the Tarkwa end on the beach. It was first noticed as a small gull, rather less than the size of the Sandwich Terns but taller; colouration white except for a grey mantle, black primaries with no mirrors, white head, which shaded into greyish with a blurry collar, not as sharp as a juvenile Kittiwake's. Head very rounded, like a small Common Gull's. Bill and legs colourless greyish brown with a very obvious white mark on the tip of the upper mandible. It was watched for about two minutes at close range through x 10 binoculars.

It rose with the terns and its characteristic pattern of black outer wing feathers with the conspicuous white triangular area on the hind wing was seen clearly. There was no sign that the bird was exhausted. It flew with the terns away to another part of the beach.

Careful watch should be maintained for this interesting Arctic species whose winter quarters were only recently discovered to be off South-West Africa. It commonly is found in autumn at least, in the seas off Galicia and Morocco and very probably passes through our waters, but its movements are imperfectly understood. In northern sea areas it is rarely seen from the land even where it is of regular occurrence out at sea. Observations from small boats at sea or from the liners would be well worthwhile.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): single birds 24th September and 15th October.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*): total of 38 identified, one on 1st October, three on 22nd, 26 on 28th and 29th, eight on 5th November.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura*): identified only on 22nd October (one), 28th and 29th (one), and 25th November (14). On the latter day the Sabine's Gull and three Roseate Terns were also seen in the flock, which may indicate that the population was swelled by birds brought in by a westerly wind system.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*): three adults in the flock on 25th November.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): up to 15 throughout the period.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*): up to six throughout the period.

Damara Tern (*Sterna balaenarum*): peak of 50 on 14th/15th October. Numbers much reduced in later November.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra*): peak recorded 400 on 1st October. More usually about 220 present. On 24th September some were definitely adult birds.

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*): one 24th September and one 28th and 29th October.

Yellow Wagtail (*Budytes flavus*): six on 15th October was noted between 08.48 and 10.25, at a timed average rate of six per min.

European Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): on the morning of 15th October a movement east along the shore was noted between 08.48 and 10.25 at the timed rate of six a minute. Ten passed west on morning of 5th November.