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# THE BIRDS OF ILARO

J.A. Button

## III Part A: Partial and Regular African Migrants

### Ardea cinerea: Grey Heron (Aq. prt. Mig. F.)

2 noted at the Blue Elephant Cement Works Quarry, Ewekoro, on the main Abeokuta - Lagos Road, about 18 miles East of Ilaro, January 1st 1968. I have visited the site only during the present dry season (1967/68).

### Pyrrherodia purpurea: Purple Heron (Aq. prt. Mig. F.)

Single bird present at Ilaro Fish Pond most visits, which commenced December 15th 1967. Single sightings at Ewekoro Quarry January 1st. and 11th 1968. No sign of any seasonal fluctuation in numbers at Topo where records regularly kept on populations. Topo is 45 miles South-West of Ilaro.

### Bubulcus ibis: Cattle Egret (Sav. Br. Af. Mig. A.)

Numerous in the dry season.

#### Arrivals (Approx.)

November 23rd 1962: ECI (15 birds)  
October 29th 1963: ECI ( 2 " )  
October 20th 1964: ECI (24 " )

#### Departures (Approx.)

No records.  
March 24th 1964: ECI.  
May 4th 1965: ECI.  
R. Blackall reports several present with cattle on Aiyetoro - Abeokuta Road, July 14th 1965 (Pers.comm.)  
April 17th 1966: ECI

October 29th 1965: Ilaro

("Small group" pers. comm.)

November 5th 1966: Ilaro (1 bird)

November 9th 1967: ECI. (4 birds)

May 8th 1967: Ilaro

May 17th 1968

The children of Ilaro recite a Yoruba rhyme, with much flapping of hands, when the first Egrets of the season fly overhead:

"Leke leke, gba mi leke,  
Eiye adaba, gba mi leke".

I am grateful to a Yoruba friend for the following explanation:

"Egret, give me white (spots),  
Become like a brown dove, give me your whiteness".

"Leke leke" is then obliged to become as brown as "adaba" (Red-Billed Wood Dove), giving them coveted light spots on the finger nails.

### Ixobrychus minutus: Red-Necked Little Bittern (Aq. prt. Mig. O.)

1 bird noted, Ewekoro Quarry: February 10th 1968. G. Pettitt and A.P. Mead present. Netted March 3rd 1968. G. Pettitt and I. Campbell.

### Anastomus lamelligerus: Openbill (Aq. Af. Mig. F.)

July 30th 1967: 3 individuals soaring over the Yewa River at Idogo, 7 miles S.W. of Ilaro. The unmistakable outline of the bill was noted particularly. An unusual sighting for a bird considered to be a dry season visitor. Bannerman states: "the Openbill is only a visitor from south of the Equator to the localities where it has been observed in our area. It arrives in November and departs again in April.... Odd birds may remain behind, as it has been seen on the Benue in June and shot in Sierra Leone in July".

Milvius migrans: Black Kite (Wdsp. Prt. Af. Mig. A.)

Common dry season visitor:

Arrivals approx.

No records 1962  
 October 12th 1963  
 October 3rd 1964  
 September 28th 1965

Departures approx.

May 27th 1963  
 (On leave 1964 from April 24th)  
 June 13th 1965  
 Present June 10th 1966  
 when leave commenced.  
 June 3rd 1967  
 October 5th 1967 (20 at Papalanto 15 miles E. of Ilaro)

Breeds locally, favouring upper branches of Silk-Cotton trees.

Accipiter badius: Eritrean Shikra (Sav. prt. Mig. C.)

Frequent in the Ilaro area during the dry season, but in much greater evidence in derived Savannah nearer Abeokuta. A few rainy season records. Prey includes small birds: a Shikra which used to perch near my house at E.C.I. seized two small birds in flight seconds after being released from the hand following mist-netting. They were Camaroptera brevicaudata: Grey-Backed Camaroptera, and C. superciliaris Yellow - Browed Camaroptera. Killing by compression of the thorax. Feeding: a few feathers plucked from the head, and brain attacked through the eyes; then a few wing, tail and body feathers removed and intestines devoured; body last to be eaten.

Probably breeds in locality. Copulation noted E.C.I. March 3rd 1961.

Coturnix delegorguei: Harlequin Quail (Sav. Af. Mig. O).

Female specimen found dead at E.C.I.: December 14th 1964. Bannerman (1953, two vols. p.331) states: "I have given the range of this bird as a greater part of Africa, but not the forest region. It occurs from.....byssinia and Kordofan west to the Ivory Coast, Lake Chad and probably the Bauchi Plateau of Nigeria. Southwards it does not enter the equatorial forest ....." A male was found about the same time at Ibadan (J.H. Elgood pers. comm.) and these records extend the known range of the species into the southern forested area of Nigeria. (V. Button, J.A., 1965: Harlequin Quail at Ilaro and Ibadan: Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 2 (6): 53).

Macropteryx longipennis: Standard-Winged Night-Jar (Sav. Br. Af. Mig. C.)

Rare ECI: noted January 5th and 7th 1964; a pair same area January 18th 1965 in sparse secondary growth.

Scotornis climacurus: Long-Tailed Night-Jar

(Sav. Res. Af. Mig. C.)

Very common dry season visitor; partial to sitting on roads at night when many are hit by traffic within the first few weeks of their arrival in the South. As the season progresses they become more adept at avoiding vehicles.

Arrivals approx.

November 20th 1960  
 November 6th 1961  
 No records 1962  
 November 22nd 1963  
 December 1st 1964  
 November 7th 1965  
 No records 1966  
 November 10th 1967

Departures approx.

March 26th 1961  
 March 31st 1962  
 April 4th 1963  
 March 22nd 1964  
 April 11th 1965  
 No records 1966  
 " " 1967

Eurystomus afer: Broad-Billed Roller (Sav.Br.Af. Mig.C.)

Generally a common dry season visitor: though small numbers probably remain throughout the rains. Evidence of breeding E.C.I. at the beginning of the wet season. Prefers open country and extensive clearings in the forest. Flocks of 30 to 100 birds occasionally noted hawking for insects in the locality.

Arrivals approx.

November 12th 1961  
No records 1962  
November 22nd 1963  
October 17th 1964  
November 5th 1965  
October 28th 1966  
September 30th 1967

Departures approx.

On leave 1962  
May 25th 1963  
On leave 1964  
No records 1965  
June 9th 1966  
No records 1967

(The last record was a sighting of 20/25 individuals in a flock at Imasai: 12 miles East of Ilaro on the Ilaro - Abeokuta Road).

September 30th 1964: an individual watched at Ipake: there was no possibility of its being E. gularis, Blue-Throated Roller, the resident forest species.

Breeding at E.C.I. April 5th 1966: a pair noted "investigating" old Mesopicus pyrrhogaster, Fire-Bellied Woodpecker, hole about 25 feet high in dead tree on farm clearing. Pair feeding young at the nest. May 6th 1966.

Halcyon senegalensis: Senegal Kingfisher (Wdsp. pt.Af. Mig.C.)

Common resident; no variation in numbers seasonally noted. Frequents parkland and gardens and especially clearings in forest, perching and probably breeding in trees killed by "ringing" well away from water. Have noted the species occupying a basically aquatic habitat at Ondo. Wide circular display flights by 3 birds recorded May 13th 1965 at 100 ft. approx. E.C.I. "Spread-eagle" attitude adopted on perching. June 6th 1966 (Pers. comm. P.J. Webster) pair investigating hole in telegraph pole excavated by Fire-Bellied Woodpecker: Mesopicus pyrrhogaster E.C.I.

Halcyon leucocephala: Grey-Headed Kingfisher

(Sav. Prt. Af. Mig. C.)

Rare dry season visitor: December 3rd and 16th 1961; December 3rd 1963 and January 23rd 1964.

Merops malimbicus: Rosy-Bee Eater (For. Loc. Mig. C.)

Noted all months of the year in the area usually in small groups of 3 - 7, occasionally flocks of up to 60 birds recorded. Seen regularly over Ilaro Forest Reserve Ipake and the Derived Savannah Patches of the fringes of the Dahomey Gap. Characteristic call: a loud "prip - prip". Once heard trilling like Aerops albicollis: White-Throated Bee-Eater.

Aerops albicollis: White-Throated Bee-Eater

(Wdsp. Br. Af. Mig. A.)

Abundant dry season visitor.

Arrival dates, approx.

November 22nd 1963  
October 17th 1964  
October 21st 1965  
October 26th 1966  
October 26th 1967.

Departure dates, approx.

May 20th 1964  
June 13th 1965  
May 6th 1966  
Between May 11th - 15th  
Gone by May 8th 1967.  
1966.

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Campephaga phoenicia: Red-Shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike  
(Sav. prt. Af. Mig. F.)

Dry season visitor; status occasional (?) at Ilaro (E.C.I. and Government Reservation Area). December 7th 1964: female netted in new secondary growth G.R.A., observed occasionally edge of forest at the College, and in parkland near staff quarters. Not recorded at Ilaro Forest Reserve Ipake: probably too dense. Occasional status queried as the bird may be commoner than it seems: J.E. Elgood recorded four sightings on a weekend visit to Ilaro February 8th/9th 1964. I may have overlooked the species, not having learnt its call. Earliest seasonal date: December 7th (1964); latest: March 24th (1962).

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster: Amethyst Starling  
(Sav. prt. Af. Mig. F.)

Regular and at times abundant visitor arriving towards the end of the rains at Ilaro staying throughout the dry season, and leaving at the beginning of the wet season.

Arrivals approx.

Departures approx.

September 20th 1961	
Records omit 1962	
August 22nd 1963	March 27th 1964
September 12th 1964 (returned from leave Sept.10th)	March 27th 1965 (Ipake)
August 20th 1965	March 16th 1966
September 24th 1966 (returned from leave Sept.10th)	April 10th 1967
August 7th 1967	March 23rd 1968.

Prefers parkland, farmland and thickets in Derived Savannah, which it frequents in groups of several birds up to flocks of thousands; occasionally noted in parties of up to six individuals in thick forest at Ipake. The pattern of movement noted during the 1963/4 season seems typical:

August 22nd 1963: 5/6 birds noted in parkland at E.C.I.; first arrivals; noted in steadily increasing numbers until October 21st when flocks of thousands were found roosting on Imoru Hill (an "island" of thick new secondary growth between the Ilaro General Hospital and the main Ilaro - Abeokuta Road) and in the trees around the Ilaro Government Reservation Area. Nightly roost shared with thousands of Plesiositagra cucullatus: Village Weavers and Cinnamoptyx castaneofuscus: Chestnut and Black Weaver. Readily netted at this time. A marked falling off in roosting numbers noticed in January and February 1964, and by March 27th the roost was down to 30/40 birds. This was my last record of the species for the season. There appeared to be considerable fluctuations in the numbers present at the College during the period, indicating considerable movement afield for food during the day. First arrivals August 20th to September 11th 1965 and August 9th to 16th 1966 noted associating with Poeoptera lugubris: Narrow-Tailed Starling, feeding in mixed flocks in parkland E.C.I. V. Poeoptera lugubris, the Birds of Ilaro Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. Vol.4 No. 16.  
Call: a single sweet note, pitched at a different level by each member of the flock.  
Breeding noted on Topo Island in hollow tops of dead cocoa-nut palms: June 24th 1961 and May 13th 1965.

Part B: Palaeartic Migrants.

Falco tinnunculus: Kestrel (Sav. Pal. Mig. CL)

Occasional Ilaro during dry season preferring open country.

Charadrius dubius: Lesser Ringed Plover (Aq. Pal. Mig. C.)

February 9th 1968: a single bird at the Blue Elephant Cement Works Quarry Ewekoro, 18 miles East of Ilaro. (G. Pettitt and A.P. Mead present).

Capella galinago: Common Snipe (Aq. Pal. Mig. F)

Single birds flushed on last two visits to Ewekoro: February 10th and March 2nd 1968.

Actitis hypoleucos: Common Sandpiper (Aq. Pal. Mig. C.)

Present at rivers and ponds in the area. August 5th 1967: single bird on the bank of the Yewa River near Idogo (C. Wood Robinson present) 7 miles S.W. of Ilaro. Present at Ilaro Fish Pond in twos and threes; noted regularly since December 15th 1967 when I visited the pond for the first time. Common at Blue Elephant Cement Quarry. Netted January 11th and February 10th and March 2nd 1968. (Site first visited January 1st 1968).

Tringa ochropus: Green Sandpiper (Aq. Pal. Mig. F.)

Single birds noted every visit to Ilaro Fish Pond. Present at Blue Elephant Quarry. Not as common at Ewekoro as Common Sandpiper; Actitis hypoleucos or Tringa glareola; Wood Sandpiper. (Visits between December 15th 1967 and March 3rd 1968).

Tringa glareola: Wood Sandpiper (Aq. Pal. Mig. CL)

Several (7-12) birds noted on most visits to Blue Elephant Quarry (V. last two species); almost as common as Actitis hypoleucos.

Micropus apus: European Swift (Wdsp. Pal. Mig. F.)

A regular dry season visitor on the eve of migration. March 21st 1962: evening hundreds flying high in a deliberate S.E. movement. April 4th 1962: scores (40/50) circling low over College playing fields screaming. March 21st 1963: hundreds flying high evening in S.E. direction with European Swallows: Hirundo rustica and Little African Swifts; Colletoptera affinis.

March 27th 1964: exactly the same observation as in 1963. April 12/13th 1964: 30/40 circling low with H. rustica over Ilaro Reservation and the College.

March 25th 1965: 40/50 flying S.E. direction, moderate height over College. March 26th: circling low over College playing fields. March 29th: thousands moving S.E. over Ilaro, evening March 30th 1966: evening, circling over playing fields with C. affinis 20 approx. March 31st: scores moving S.E. evening.

February 1st 1967: 4/6 noted squeaking high over playing fields at College. March 29th 1967: 10 approx. circling over College playing fields in company with Palm Swifts: Cypsiurus parvus, C. affinis and Gordon's Rufous Chested Swallow; Hirundo semirufa.

April 4th: 20 approx. over Ibeshe village 4 miles N. of Ilaro.

April 13th: 300/400 over Ilaro circling in thermal.

April 24th: 10 approx. circling over Ishaga 25 miles N. of Ilaro.

February 23rd 1968: 3/4 circling high over College in evening after heavy afternoon rain; noted regularly in small parties 4 - 15 birds until April 17th. Appearance and behaviour dependent on the rains.

Budytes flavus: Yellow/Blue-Headed Wagtail  
(Sav. Pal. Mig. A).  
Regular visitor to College playing fields and staff gardens.

<u>Arrivals approx.</u>	<u>Departures approx.</u>
November 26th 1961	April 23rd 1962
No record taken 1962/3	
November 15th 1963	March 15th 1964
November 3rd 1964	April 5th 1965
December 3rd 1965	May 6th 1966
No record taken 1966/7	
October 26th 1967	April 15th 1968.

Roost of 150 approx. recorded at Ewekoro Cement Quarry on visits in December; January and February 1968 (G. Pettitt).

Anthus trivialis: Tree Pipit (Sav. Pal. Mig. F.L.)  
Intermittent  
Dry season visitor to gardens of Ilaro and parkland and playing fields of College. As suggested by Fry in Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (3) 1964 p.2 (Editor's Note on Palaeartic Migrants at Ilaro: Button) : some of the following sightings may refer to A. cervinus: Red-Throated Pipit:

March 7th 1961: 12 seen on bare ground on College Compound near staff quarters. December 17th 1961 5 same place. March 5th to 12th 1962: 3 to 12 birds regularly noted College parkland; seen to perch in trees. None noted in 1963.

January 22nd and February 16th 1964: single birds in Reservation gardens Ilaro. March 27th 1964: party of 6 on College parkland. Single bird noted by J.H. E good perching on fence of Ilaro General Hospital. None noted 1965. Single bird March 24th 1966, College. None 1967/8.

Anthus cervinus: Red Throated Pipit (Sav. Pal. Mig. C.L.)

Dead specimen brought by pupil at College found on playing fields dry season 1966. A few rufous feathers present on throat.

April 3rd 1966: 3 present on College playing fields with 30/40 Anthus leucophrys: Plain-Backed Pipits; rufous throat feathers much in evidence.  
(V. A. trivialis)

(On January 11th 1968, 3/4 large sandy coloured pipits noted at dawn on the Blue Elephant Club golf course near Papalanto 17 miles S.E. of Ilaro. No trace of plumage striations: striking feature, white outer tail rectrices. A. campestris: Tawny pipit - a strong possibility),

Muscicapa striata: Spotted Flycatcher (Wdsp. Pal. Mig. F.)

The only records refer to single birds: at E.C.I. on September 29th 1961 and October 30th 1961; October 8th 1967 edge of Ohumbe Forest Reserve 14 miles W. of Ilaro.

Muscicapa hypoleuca: Pied Flycatcher (Sav. Pal. Mig. C.)

January 16th 1964: 1 seen at Sangote (Abeokuta Road 20 mls. N.E. of Ilaro).

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Saxecola rubetra: Whinchat. (Sav. Pal. Mig. C.)

Common visitor dry season to patchy derived savannah of the area; rarely on parkland of College compound.  
Earliest sighting October 8th 1967 near Ebute-Igboro (14 miles W. of Ilaro).

Latest: March 27th 1965: Ilaro Agricultural Station.

Luscinia megarynchos: Nightingale (Sav. Pal. Mig. F.)

Regular dry season visitor Ilaro area frequenting Derived Savannah and new secondary growth around Ilaro and College. Earliest record of singing December 24th 1967 (Ilaro Fish Pond); latest March 25th 1964 (E.C.I). Voice unmistakable but lacking in richness of breeding song.

Sylvia borin: Garden Warbler (Sav. Pal. Mig. F.L.)

November 22nd 1963: 1st-netted in new secondary growth Ilaro Govt. Reservation. April 8th 1964: 2 specimens netted same site. One had loose yellow skin around the gape.

Acrocephalus arundinaceus: Great Reed-Warbler

(Aq. Pal. Mig. F.L.)

Single specimen netted at Ewekoro Quarry, March 3rd 1968 (G. Pettitt and N. Campbell present).

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus: Sedge Warbler (Aq. Pal. Mig. C.L.)

Single specimen netted at Ewekoro Quarry, February 9th 1968. (G. Pettitt).

Phylloscopus trochilus: Willow Warbler (Wdsp. Pal. Mig. C)

Noted rarely: January 21st 1966 calling "Phooeet" etc. at E.C.I. in staff gardens February 22nd & 23rd and March 4th & 17th 1968 in full song in parkland trees near school buildings.

Phylloscopus sibilatrix: Wood Warbler (Wdsp. Pal. Mig. F.L.)

Noted eve of migration at Ipake Forest with regularity. April 3rd 1965: reported in forest canopy at Ipake: C.H. Fry. April 11th 1966: party of 15 birds approx. working through foliage of the lower canopy. April 2nd 1967: approx. 20 in Ipake Forest, several giving voice to feeble "trilling".

Hirundo rustica: European Swallow (Wdsp. Pal. Mig. C.)

Visitor to Ilaro environs eve of migration.

March 21st 1963: several (7 approx) flying S.E. high with Colletoptera affinis and Micropus apus. March 22nd 1963 20 flying low over College field, beginning of rains.

March 27th 1964: 5 flying low over Derived Savannah patch at E.C.I. April 7th 1964: 12 noted flying low over playing fields at College. April 23rd 1964: 20 flying low over College field; a dozen over the Ilaro General Hospital. March 25th 1965: scores flying southwards at 100 feet approx. over College. Micropus apus noted the following evening.

No records 1966/67/68.



Lanius senator: Woodchat Shrike (Sav. Pal, Mig: F.L.)

Occasional late dry season visitor perching conspicuously cleared ground. Sightings: March 25th/26th 1964: 1 perching on wires at Agricultural Station Ilaro; March 15th 1965: same place; March 20th 1965: Government Reservation Area single bird; February 6th - 10th 1967: E.C.I. parkland, one.

Additions, Re-assessments, Omissions and Corrigendum:

Ardea melanocephala: Black-Headed Heron (Aq. Res. C.L.)

Single bird Ewekoro Quarry, January 1st 1968 (G.Pettitt present).

Casmerodius albus: African Great White Heron (Aq.Res. F.)

Occasional sightings of single birds at Ilaro Fish Pond.

Dendrocygna viduata: White-Faced Duck (Aq. Res. A.L.)

Parties of 15 to 35 "Wishi-wishi" noted on all visits to Ewekoro Quarry (January 1st; January 10th/11th; February 9th/10th; March 2nd/3rd 1968).

Alopochen aegyptiacus: Egyptian Goose (Aq. Res. 0)

Single bird at Ewekoro Quarry with 35 D. viduata, January 11th 1968.

Limnocorax flavirostra: Black Crake (Aq. Res. A.L.)

Single sighting Ewekoro Quarry March 2nd (G. Pettitt and N. Campbell present).

Gallinula chloropus: African Moorhen (Aq. Res. 0)

Single sighting Ewekoro Quarry: January 1st 1968.

Rostratula benghalensis: Painted Snipe. (Aq. Res. F.)

Netted at Ewekoro Quarry: 2 on January 11th (male and female); 1 on February 10th (male); 2 on March 3rd 1968 (male and female). As the species was caught on all occasions when nets were used at the Quarry, R. benghalensis must be considered numerous in this microhabitat - and very prone to getting itself trapped!

Caprimulgus nigriscapularis: Black-Shouldered Nightjar (For. Res. F.)

Frequent resident status in the area under study, its liquid trilling call can be heard at dusk and dawn throughout the dry season: November - March, and during drier spells in the rainy season. I once caught a specimen by hand cornered in the angle of a school building at night. (Omission from THE BIRDS OF ILARO I, Resident Non-Passerines).

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Corythornis cristata: Malachite Kingfisher (Aq. Res. C)

Single sighting by G. Pettitt at Ewekoro Quarry.  
February 2nd 1968.

Lophoceros nasutus: Grey Hornbill (Sav. Res. A.)

Noted on Derived Savannah between Ilaro and Abeokuta on several occasions throughout last year. Up to July 1967 I had no records of the species N. and E. of Ilaro. (V. Birds of Ilaro 1, Resident Non-Passerines).

Andropadus gracilirostris: Slender-Billed Bulbul  
(For. Res. F.)

Identified in bird army with Bulbuls, Flycatchers, and Sunbirds in heavy secondary growth at E.C.I., December 2nd 1967: an obvious Andropadus species with a slender, somewhat decurved bill, and a conspicuous white throat. This brings the number of Pynonotidae species sighted in the Ilaro area to 16.

Tchitrea viridis: Paradise Flycatcher (Sav. Res. C.)

March 14th 1962: male with white tail streamers on edge of patch of thick secondary growth at E.C.I. (Omission from The Birds of Ilaro II A Resident Passerines).

Cisticola erythropis: Red-Faced Grass-Warbler (Sav. Res. C)

Noted on all visits to Ewekoro Quarry calling in reeds as well as in long grass in D. Savannah around the edge of the pit. Common along the Papalanto - Ogun River Road, a few miles to the S.E.

Hirundo abyssinica: Lesser Striped Swallow (Sav. Res. C.)

March 3rd 1968: party of 15/20 frequenting area around the factory buildings of the Blue Elephant Cement Co. Ewekoro. One bird noted at roadside puddle. Approx. 20 recorded at point 8 miles along Ogun River - Papalanto Road in D. Savannah environment associating with Gordon's Rufous Chested Swallow: Hirundo semirufa and Ethiopian Swallows: H. aethiopia.

Psalidoprocne obscura: Fanti Rough-Winged Swallow  
(For. Res. F.L.)

December 10th 1967: 5/7 at Ebute-Igboro, 8 miles W. of Ilaro, flying around trees close to the Yewa River.

January 13th 1968: at Ebute-Igboro 5/7 in the evening with thousands of H. aethiopia.

I have noted this interesting Hirundine in only two other localities of Nigeria: at Obiaruku on the Ethiope River, 23 miles N. of Warri in the Mid-West (May 11th - 19th 1967) and with G. Pettitt, at the edge of the creek on the eastern extremity of "Topo Island" opposite Lagos, December 17th 1967. In all three cases the environment was one of patchy new forest growth in close proximity to water.

Corrigendum: In The Birds of Ilaro, II B Resident Passerines read Laniarius ferrugineus for Lanius f.

Lamprocolius purpureus: Purple Glossy Starling  
(Sav. Res. C)

April 11th 1968: pair noted near Papalanto - Ogun River Road (approx. mile 6) (24 miles S.E. of Ilaro). The Lamprocolius species referred to as L. chalcurus in The Birds of Ilaro IIB Resident Passerines is certainly this bird.

Estrilda melpoda: Orange-Cheek Waxbill (Sav. Res. C).

Odd sightings of small parties of 3/5 in D. Savannah parts of the locality. Observed in flocks of 30/40 birds with Spermestes cucullatus: Bronze Mannikin in swampy environment at Ebute-Igboro on the Yewa River; in flocks of 100's also with S. cucullatus in the reeds at Ewekoro Quarry. These observations were made on visits to both places between November and March (i.e. the dry season). (Omission from The Birds of Ilaro II B Resident Passerines).

Author's Note:

The status designations which follow the English names of species treated in the article are taken from Elgood's Check List of the Birds of Nigeria (1964) and of course refer to Nigeria as a whole, and not the Ilaro area.

References: Elgood J.H. (1964) A Check List of the Birds of Nigeria (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (1): 13- 25).

Button J.A. (1964) Palaearctic Migrants at Ilaro (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (1): 1 - 2).

Bannerman D.A. (1952) The Birds of West and Tropical Africa (2 Volumes).

Notes on Bee-eaters in the Borgu Area

by Frank Walsh.

Considerable attention has been focussed on the Bee-eaters of Nigeria, thanks to the efforts of our former Editor. As the Borgu area has yielded records of seven species it seems worthwhile to give a fairly detailed account of the situation there.

Table I gives the Seasonal Occurrence in Borgu and is followed by amplifying notes with remarks on breeding and ecology where these seem helpful.

TABLE I - Species present in Borgu: Seasonal Occurrence.

Species	First Date	Last Date	Remarks.
<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	1. iv. 67	29. vii. 67	
<i>Merops malimbicus</i>	9. viii. 67	21. ix. 67	Only two records.
<i>Merops nubicus</i>	20. ix. 67	20. vi. 67	Regular visitor.
<i>Aerops albicollis</i>	24. x. 67	4. v. 67	Regular passage.
<i>Melittophagus pusillus</i>	Resident - Some local movement.		
<i>Melittophagus bullocki</i>	Resident - Disperses in rains.		
<i>Dicrocercus hirundineus</i>	Resident - Much local movement.		