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Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, *Dicrocercus hirundineus*.

13

This rather elusive species is by no means uncommon in the Borgu area, being found over a wide area of woodland and ex-agricultural land, it does not appear to be attracted to the vicinity of water. It has been recorded throughout the year, although subject to considerable local movement. It is usually seen singly or in pairs but parties of up to six birds are sometimes seen. It almost certainly breeds in the area but so far there is no direct evidence for this. Immature birds have been seen in July, August and September.

It feeds mainly from a fairly high perch, often the top of a dead tree is utilised. The prey catching flight is similar to that of the Red-throated Bee-eater and not at all 'swallow-like' as has been suggested by some writers.

R e f e r e n c e s.

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NOTES ON SOME PALEARCTIC MIGRANTS IN GHANA.

I. D. Moorhouse.

The following notes are taken from observations made in the Kumasi area of Ghana between October 1966 and the end of March 1967. Almost all watching was done in the company of F.R. Allison, to whom I am indebted for help in the field.

Kumasi is some 100 miles from the West African coast, and is largely surrounded by semi-deciduous forest, with some clearings and areas of dense swampland. The dry seasons roughly coincide with the time when Palearctic migrants are in the country, and consequently agricultural clearings are then mainly parched and unattractive to many birds, including waders.

Most of the notes were made at a sewerage farm on the outskirts of the city, and all the records refer to this place unless otherwise specified. The farm consisted of three large settling ponds with earthfill sides of laterite, which were devoid of vegetation, providing a most unusual habitat for the region, as well as giving the watcher extremely good views of the birds present. Because of its lack of vegetation the farm afforded the most attractive spot in the region for waders, and no species was seen in the district which was not recorded at the farm.

Although observations were unfortunately taken only until the end of March, it is not thought that much spring movement was missed. It is of interest to note how much the autumn migration dominates the records.

The nomenclature and order used in Bannerman, 1953, Birds of West Africa, is adhered to in the following.

NYROCA NYROCA White-eyed Pochard. A male was present from December 7 to 11. Although a regular visitor to much of West Africa, this is possibly the first record for Ghana.

SQUATAROLA SQUATAROLA Grey Plover. One on November 6. As Bannerman is not of the opinion that this species comes inland, the bird was probably accidental.

CHARADRIUS HIATICULA Ringed Plover. A party of about six birds was seen in late October for about two weeks, and again in early December. This species was occasionally seen in clearings in the area during this period.

CHARADRIUS DUBIUS Lesser Ringed Plover. Up to ten for 10 days in early December, and two in mid-January. This species appeared to wander more than most of the other waders, and it was seen in several localities, but only for a day or two at a time.

CAPELLA GALLINAGO Common Snipe. One in November on a small marsh adjacent to the sewerage farm. As Bannerman states that the main body of migrants does not arrive until December, this bird was probably on passage. The species does not seem to be as common in the Kumasi area as Bannerman intimates it is over much of West Africa.

CAPELLA MEDIA Great Snipe. One on 20th November.

EROLIA TESTACEA Curlew-sandpiper. Up to four birds in early October, with a single bird staying until November. No return passage was noted. This compares with records between March and April, and August and September for Nigeria Elgood et al 1966. Ibis 108: 84 - 116.

EROLIA MINUTA Little Stint. At least one present from late November to mid-December.

EROLIA TEMMINCKII Temminck's Stint. A maximum of four birds in early October with a single bird staying into November.

CROCETHIA ALBA Sanderling. One or two for about 10 days in early November. Elgood does not mention this species as being seen inland in Nigeria.

PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX Ruff. Two in Late October.

ACTITIS HYPOLEUCUS Common Sandpiper. By far the most common wader, being regular in many localities. At the sewerage farm, at least 20 were present throughout the time of observation. A maximum of 60+ were seen on one date at the end of January. Birds were not infrequently seen roosting in the branches of a dead tree, probably a regular habit.

TRINGA OCHROPUS Green Sandpiper. Fairly common and seen in several suitable localities. Their preference for overgrown streams made them unusual visitors to the sewerage farm.

TRINGA GLAREOLA, Wood Sandpiper. The most common wader after Actitis hypoleucos, with 10 to 15 present throughout the observation period. Maximum numbers of 30+ in late November and 60 at the end of January.

TRINGA ERYTHROPUS Dusky Redshank. Three birds present from October 19 to December 18. This is apparently the first record of the species in Ghana. Bannerman regards it as being accidental in West Africa, though Elgood finds it a regular visitor in small numbers, mainly to the northern lakes in Nigeria.

GLOTTIS NEBULARIUS Greenshank. Between three and six birds present from October 29 to February 19. In late January and early February irregularity of numbers suggested a small passage movement. In December a very dark bird with black legs but green feet was seen; this seemed unlikely to have been caused by staining.

GLOTTIS STAGNATILIS Marsh Sandpiper. One or two present for a few days in early November.

PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS Grey Phalarope. One was seen on April 3 on a reservoir at Obuasi goldmine, some 30 miles south of Kumasi. The bird was very tame, allowing approach to within four or five yards. It was still in winter plumage. A bird was seen to alight on one of the stilling ponds at the sewerage farm for a few minutes on the evening of November 20. Bannerman knows of no inland records for this species, and Elgood does not mention it from Nigeria. As far as is known, there were no unusual storms preceding either of these records, and it is perhaps conceivable that there is a small but regular inland passage.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE COMMON BIRD FAUNAS OF A
SMALL AREA OF N. NIGERIA AND A SIMILAR SIZED AREA
IN N. UGANDA.

D. P. Ebbutt.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION. I have attempted in this report to compare the common Ethiopian birds in two regions south of the Sahara. I realise that such a report suffers from many defects. I am not a trained ecologist, and two more similar regions could be found in the countries concerned, the zones I have chosen may not be valid ones from an ecological point of view. However, I hope to show some interesting comparisons and a few anomalies between the common birds of the two areas.