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24
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NOTES FROM IKOYI PARK, DECEMBER 1967 AND JANUARY 1968

G. Pettitt.

The following observations were made on twelve visits to the marsh adjacent to Ikoyi Park, Lagos. Visits were made in the evenings of December 8th, 13th, 17th, 19th and 27th, and of January 4th, 6th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 25th and 30th. Nets were set in the mangrove swamps on January 4th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 25th and 30th. I was accompanied by J.A. Button, to whom I am grateful for the initial identification of most of the Ethiopian species, on December 17th and 19th, and January 6th, and assisted in trapping by A.P. Mead on most of the ringing trips.

It is hoped to continue trapping regularly in this area for the next three years and to collect weight, moult, and retrap information on observatory lines.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea: one or two most occasions.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta: single birds on three dates.

Green-backed Heron Butorides striatus: up to six regularly present.

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus: singly.

Black Kite Milvus migrants: up to ten often present.

Gabar Goshawk Micronisus gabar: one in my garden, west of the park, 8th December 1967.

Black Crake Limnocorax flavirostra: up to four present.

Grey Plover Squatarola squatarola: eight on 15th January 1968.

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula: once only, 22nd January 1968.

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius: up to twelve regular.

Forbes' Banded Plover Afroxyechus forbesi: two normally present.

Senegal Plover Stephanibyx lugubris: seven on the north Ikoyi grave-yard 9th January, 1968.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos: up to 10 throughout the period.

Greenshank Glottis nebularius: one to four always present.

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus: up to ten usually present. Numbers augmented at dusk by roosting birds. 30 were seen on one night roosting on the top of the poles erected in the lagoon to mark fishing areas, all the tops being occupied and fighting for position was observed.

Red-eyed Turtle Dove Streptopelia semitorquata: the roost of twenty or so birds continues in use.

Laughing Dove Stigmatopelia senegalensis: present near gardens at the fringe of the area.

Red-billed Wood-dove Turtur afer: regular. Of two trapped one (on 25th January) was in moult.

Grey Plantain-eater Crinifer piscator: up to four present.

Didric Cuckoo Lamprolaima caprius: one or two.

Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis: regularly present, both the light and the rufous phases.

Long-tailed Nightjar Scotornis climacurus: present on the golf course on Ikoyi and beside my garden.

Little African Swift Colletoptera affinis: regularly present.

Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus: regular.

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis: up to five regularly present.

Malachite Kingfisher Corythornis cristata: of three trapped, January 15th, 17th, and 25th, all were in moult.

Senegal Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis: one at least always present. One trapped on 9th January was in moult.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher Halcyon malimbicus: at least two regularly.

White-throated Bee-eater Aerops albicollis: up to six present throughout the period.

Least Bee-eater Melittophagus pusillus: two trapped 25th January.

African Pied Wagtail Motacilla aguimp: one trapped in my garden 14th January was in moult.

Yellow Wagtail Budytes flavus: up to five regularly present.

Yellow-throated Longclaw Macronyx croceus: two occasionally present.

Common Bulbul Pyconotus barbatus: up to ten present. One trapped 30th January was in moult.

Scarlet-spectacled Flycatcher Platysteira cyanea: four trapped were all free from moult.

Blue Fairy Flycatcher Erannornis longicaudata: at least two always present.

Garden Warbler Sylvia borin: two trapped on 25th January were in active moult.

26
Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus: seven trapped in January were all in active moult.

Grey-capped Bush Warbler Apalis caniceps: two seen 15th January (with Major M. Cruikshank and Mr. and Mrs. J. Heigham) and one trapped.

Rufous Grass-warbler Cisticola galactotes: at least ten always present.

European Swallow Hirundo rustica: occasional visitor.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike Campephaga phoenicea: female in my garden 22nd December.

Woodchat Shrike Lanius senator: one on 6th January.

Barbary Shrike Laniarius barbarus: usually two present.

Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegala: recorded once.

Splendid Glossy Starling Lamprocolius splendidus: the roost of forty or fifty birds continued to be used throughout the period. One pair noted building 19th December. One pair near Kurama Water, Victoria Island, were feeding young on 23rd January. Of the four trapped in January two were in moult. The eyes of this species are variable in colour, from distinctly yellow to white. Bannerman's emphasis on the white eye is misleading.

Yellow-bellied Sunbird Cinnyris venustus: occasionally seen. One trapped 30th January.

Carmelite Sunbird Chalcomitra fuliginosa: regular in small parties.

Olive-backed Sunbird Cyanomitra verticalis: five trapped of which three (17th and 22nd January) were in moult.

Mouse-brown Sunbird Anthreptes gabonica: three trapped of which one was in moult.

Swainson's Spectacled Weaver Hyphanturgus brachypterus: one trapped.

Black-bellied Seedcracker Pirenestes ostrinus: juvenile 22nd January.

Emin's Bush Shrike in Borgu.

by Frank Walsh.

On 15th October, 1965, shortly after my arrival in Nigeria, I saw a bird which I thought was a Red-backed Shrike Lanius collurio near the New Bussa township. Consulting Bannerman (1953) I found that the bird might have been Emin's Bush Shrike Lanius gubernator and that to be certain of identification the rump colour must be noted. On 18th October, 1965 I again saw the bird in the same area of degraded North Guinea savannah, where it generally perched in full view on the tops of shrubs and once on telephone cables by the New Bussa-Kainji road. Again my field notes were inadequate for certain identification. Subsequently, D. Wells (pers. comm.) informed me that he had seen a similar bird which at the time he assumed was collurio, at New Bussa on 3rd September, 1965.