



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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Senegal Fire Finch Lagonosticta senegala.

Constantly present in the urban area, often associated with flocks of Bronze Mannikins S. cucullatus and Senegal Combassous H. chalybeata.

Senegal Combassou Hippochera chalybeata.

Male in breeding dress first observed 25rd July, 1967, consorting with Grey-headed Sparrows on sandflats. Thereafter flocks of mixed sexes up to 30 strong frequently observed around urban area. One male in breeding dress observed on 28th January, 1968.

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura.

Frequently observed in breeding dress June to October, especially on sandflats near Apese Village. Thereafter males in eclipse and females in same area difficult to distinguish from Grey-headed Sparrows.

NOTES FROM TARKWA, LAGOS,

DECEMBER 1967 and JANUARY 1968.

G. Pettitt.

The following notes cover observations of sea and shore birds on nine visits to Tarkwa and Lighthouse beaches. The dates were December 2nd, 3rd, 9/10th, 11th, 14/15th, 16/17th, 23/24th, 25/26th and January 20th. A paper on the ethiopian species and the passerine migrants observed in the forest area behind these beaches will be prepared later for the Bulletin.

White-fronted Sand-plover Leucopoliis marginatus.

regular, up to twelve.

Grey Plover Squatarola squatarola.

up to five present most dates.

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula.

One 25th December.

Little Stint Erolia minuta.

One 26th December.

Sanderling Crocethia alba.

Usually 80 present.

Turnstone Arenaria interpres.

one on the West Mole, 11th December.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos.

maximum of twelve on 16/17th December.

Greenshank Glottis nebularius.

up to three regularly.

Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica.

Singly 3rd and 14/14th December; nine with the roosting Whimbrel on 17th December.

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus.

On some nights but not all; a large flock roosts on the shore. 650 were counted leaving for the west on the morning of 3rd December and 450 on the 17th.

Skua Stercorarius species.

An immature skua was seen on 2nd December and thought to be a Long-tailed. It was

a long-winged, lightly built bird, much more buoyant* in flight than the usual Arctic Skua S. parasiticus, wholly dark except for the conspicuous light underwing area, with no noticeable light patch on the primaries. No streamers. It joined terns feeding behind small boats, but fed with them and did not act parasitically. Because of the difficulty in identifying skuas when they are immature this record cannot be considered conclusive, particularly as this species is normally considered more pelagic than the others and is thought to go to South America rather than to the west of the South Atlantic. It would however be worthwhile to keep a careful look for this species on our coasts, the more so as the wintering area is unknown and the occurrence on migration, particularly in the Spring, in the north-west Atlantic are peculiarly variable. Two much heavier, immature, birds were seen on the 17th December, one was a Pomarine S. pomarinus, but the other might have been an Arctic S. parasiticus.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus.

Two or three hundred present most days on the beach, though all usually leave for the west in the evening and may be seen flying in formation up the lagoon. The majority are immature. On 14/15th December, of the quarter which were adult both L. f. fuscus and L. f. graellsii were present. On 24/25th; of the unusual number of 500 half were adult, all being the typical subspecies.

Brown-headed Gull Larus ridibundus.

A second winter bird on the 17th December.

Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia.

One on 3rd December.

Common Tern Sterna hirundo.

Largest number 440 on 2nd December, roosting on the beach. Normally not more than 40.

Arctic Tern Sterna macrura.

Two on 2nd December, one on 3rd.

Roseate Tern. Sterna dougallii.

Singly 9/10th December and 20th January; four on 14/15th December.

Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis.

Maximum 30 on 16/17th December.

Royal Tern Sterna maxima.

Twelve on 9/10th December but more often only four or five.

Damara Tern Sterna balaenarum.

Two on 2nd December and one on 17th.

Black Tern Chlidonias nigra.

Up to 300 on the beach. Numbers seem to depend on the extent to which the regular flock is in this area, or in the lagoon or harbour.