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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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F. Walsh.

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NEW RECORDS FOR 'THE IBADAN AREA.

Violet Plantain-eater Musophaga violacea. A single bird was seen near the Fish Pond of Ibadan University on 21st April, 1968. It was seen only once although the area has been visited regularly before and since. Presumably this is another example of the continued southerly extension of savanna birds into the Ibadan region.

Pallid Swift Apus pallidus. Three birds of this species were seen feeding over the Farm of Ibadan University during the early afternoon of 13th March, 1968. These birds occurred at the beginning of the first conspicuous movements of European Swifts Micropus apus which lasted several days. Elgood et al. (1966, *Ibis* 108:104) cite previous records for the Jos Plateau and Zaria so that the Ibadan record constitutes the most southerly one for the species. It is not a difficult species to identify, provided birds are low enough and light is good, and observers should examine flocks of European Swifts for the presence of this bird, although my experience in the Sudan where the species is common indicates it is apt to winter further north than Micropus and migrate at slightly different times.

European Bee-eater Merops apiaster. At least four birds, believed to have been on passage, were seen over the grounds of Ibadan University on the 8th April, 1968. This is a species which is probably a more common passage migrant than Elgood et al. (1966, *Ibis* 108:104) suggest. I have a number of records for the savanna belt immediately to the north of Ibadan.

Red-throated Pipit Anthus cervinus. Present throughout the 1967/68 dry season on the farm of the Ibadan University. First recorded on 30th December, 1967 when four were present but these must have arrived sometime between 9th December when they were not present and 30th December. Numbers increased to ten by 10th January, 1968 and remained at this level until the middle of March when numbers declined (making allowances for an unnatural decline as a result of collecting during February and March). The last bird was recorded on 11th April. A bird in well-defined breeding plumage was seen on 17th January and two had attained this state by 6th February. The birds spent practically the whole period feeding on irrigated vegetable plots, although favouring the more open pineapple plot and the sides of nearby piles of cow-dung. Not recorded by Elgood & Sibley (1964, *Ibis* 106). The most southerly record that Elgood et al. (1966, *Ibis* 108, p.106) quote is Onitsha

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis. Five birds were seen in the Botanic Gardens of Ibadan University on 20th January, 1968 and single birds seen with Red-throated Pipits A. cervinus on the vegetable plots of the University Farm on 27th January and 9th March. Not recorded by Elgood & Sibley (1964, *Ibis* 106); considered a common winter visitor in the south by Elgood et al. (1966, *Ibis* 108:105) although I believe the possibility of confusion with Red-throated Pipits has been suggested elsewhere.

Antony Pettet.

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