



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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MISCELLANEOUS BIRD RECORDSFOR THE IBADAN AREA.

Hammerkop Scopus umbretta. Recorded for Ibadan by Elgood & Sibley (1964, Ibis 106 :237) once only but it is a bird easily overlooked in well vegetated areas notwithstanding its size and appearance and is probably not as infrequent as this single record suggests. A single bird, believed to have been feeding on a stream on the farm of Ibadan University, was seen every night from 31st October to 3rd November, 1967, inclusive, as it flew to roost somewhere in the bush.

Common Snipe Capella gallinago. Elgood & Sibley (1964, Ibis 106 :237) give this species as a rare palaeartic migrant in January for the Ibadan area so it may be of interest to note that throughout February, 1968, three to five birds were regularly flushed from plots of dense, rather tall Pennisetum grass on the farm of Ibadan University. Numbers declined during early March, the last bird being recorded on 9th March. What was rather surprising was the presence of these birds in such a dry area, but they may have been sheltering in the shade of the grass as the area was usually visited during the early afternoon when the temperature was at its hottest.

European Roller Coracias garrulus. Two birds, possibly on passage, were seen in the Botanic Gardens of the Ibadan University on 13th March, 1968. These were definitely adult European Rollers and not immature Abyssinian Rollers C. abyssinica. I know both species well from the Sudan, having spent a considerable time sorting out garrulus from abyssinica in the autumn. Much confusion has been created by books emphasizing the presence or absence of tail streamers in the identification of these two species. Elgood & Sibley (1964, Ibis 106 ; 242-243) gave as doubtful records of garrulus three birds seen between November and April and considered the presence of garrulus as inconclusive. Later, however, Elgood et al. (1966, Ibis 108 ; 104) admitted two of the records as definite garrulus, viz. April 1951 and November 1952.

Rosy Bee-cater Merops malimbicus. Elgood & Sibley (1964, Ibis 104:238 & 243) give this species as a wet season migrant (or post-breeding dispersant) at Ibadan, occurring from the second half of June until September. In consequence it may be of interest to record the presence of three birds in the vicinity of the Fish Pond of Ibadan University during the dry season on 17th February, 1968.

Antony Pettet.

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A NEW RECORD FOR JOS PLATEAU.

West African Fiscal Shrike Lanius collaris.

On 30th March, 1965, I saw a male near Hillcrest School, Jos. In July, 1967, Mr. Allan Persenaire shot a male specimen at this same location. He later showed me the skin.

Herman H. Gray.

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

I should be grateful for any information that members may have on the breeding biology of the Red-winged Anaplectes Anaplectes melanotis, and particularly details of polygamous practises and associations with other birds or species of insects. It is hoped to produce a short account for the Bulletin and any information will be gratefully acknowledged.

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