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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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NOTES.BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus* AT LAKE CHAD:A SPECIES NEW TO NIGERIA.

At about 18.00 hours on 20th August, 1968, I saw an unusual wader on a sand beach on the Nigerian shore of Lake Chad at Malam'fatori (ca. 13° 37'N., 13° 20'E.). I pointed it out to R. H. Parker who confirmed that it had a strikingly decurved bill like that of a Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (= *Erolia testacea* of Bannerman, 1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa), but that the bird was considerably darker above than that species. R.H.P. considered that the bill was proportionately longer and heavier than that of a Curlew Sandpiper. Suspecting it might be a Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* I flushed it. In flight it showed no large areas of white, appearing rather like a large Little Stint *Calidris (Erolia) minuta*. At rest it was a little smaller than accompanying Common Sandpipers *Tringa (Actitis) hypoleucos*, noticeably larger than Little Stints. It was certainly not a Dunlin *Calidris (Erolia) alpina*, which R.H.P. and I both know well.

After a long search this bird was found again at about 07.00 hours next day in a large mixed flock of waders. It was watched at about 30 to 40 yards, and again I had better views than R.H.P. Additional features noticed were whitish belly, a superciliary stripe and a pale line in the scapular region, suggestive of those on a Little Stint. The closed wing had a noticeably darker outer edge, though not as striking as in the Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*. The bird appeared to be a very dark wader, rather short in the leg, with a decurved bill. Again the wing pattern was checked in flight, but the bird was not seen subsequently. The colours of soft parts were not seen satisfactorily, although the bill was dark, and it was not heard to call. Although it proved impossible either to collect this bird, or to obtain closer views, it seems it could only have been a Broad-billed Sandpiper.

The only previous West African record of this species is an old specimen labelled Senegal (Bannerman, op.cit., 1: 414). In North Africa there are four records from Tunisia and two from Libya, and it has been recorded from Egypt and the Eritrea Province of the Sudan (Etchecopar & Hue, 1967, Birds of North Africa: 255; White, 1965, Revised List of African Non-Passerine Birds: 132). The Lake Chad Broad-billed Sandpiper occurs at the same time as two other predominantly eastern waders, The Terek Sandpiper and

R. J. Dowsett.

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GREATER SANDPLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii* AT LAKE CHAD:A SPECIES NEW TO NIGERIA.

On 2nd August, 1968, R.J.D. shot a first-year Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii* on a sand beach on the Nigerian Shore of Lake Chad at Malam'fatori (ca. 13° 37'N., 13° 20'E.). The identity of the skin, which is now in the British Museum (Natural History), was kindly confirmed by Messrs. C. W. Benson of the Zoology Museum, Cambridge University and P. R. Colston of the Bird Room, British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

Then at 08.10 hours on 21st August, 1968, R.J.D. saw another similar plover on the open shore in the same area. He pointed it out to R.H.P. who was able to shoot it. The skin is now in the Zoology Museum of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. It was a female, and had a good deal of body fat. It had a wing length of 139mm and weighed 82.5 gms. The inner seven primaries of each wing were new, as were all secondaries and tertiaries and all but the central pair of retrices. There was no trace of body moult. This specimen was sent to Mr. R. Wagstaffe of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology, City of Liverpool Museum who confirmed the identification of the skin.

This species breeds in the eastern Palearctic and winters on the east coast of Africa and in coastal South West Africa, being quite common in Madagascar, Aldabra and the Comoros (Benson, 1967, Atoll Research Bull. 113: 89). It is resident on the coasts of Libya, Egypt and the Red Sea (Etchecopar & Hue, 1967, Birds of North Africa: 215). Recorded once inland in Malawi (White, 1965, Revised List Afr. Non-Passerine Birds: 127), but previously unknown in West Africa.

A full account of these occurrences will be published in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

R. J. Dowsett & R. H. Parker.