



**West African Ornithological Society  
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest  
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THREE-BANDED PLOVER Charadrius tricollaris AT LAKE CHAD.

The Three-banded Plover Charadrius tricollaris (called Afroxyechus tr collaris by Bannerman, 1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa, 1:394) has been recorded only four times in West Africa. Specimens have been collected near Marua in northern Cameroon (Bannerman op. cit.) and twice near Jos in Central Nigeria (Sharland, 1964, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1(2):4), and two were well seen near Malam'fatori on the Nigerian shore of Lake Chad (Button, Fry, Hopson & Hopson, 1966, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3(10):42). There is a sight record from as far west as Accra in Ghana (Bannerman op. cit.) which requires confirmation.

On 16th May, 1968, A.J.H. and J.H. had excellent views of a single Charadrius tricollaris on the shore of Lake Chad near Malam'fatori (ca. 13° 37'N, 13° 20'E). R.J.D. found this bird in the same area on 21st May, and was able to confirm the identification as it is a species he knows well from Central Africa. It was not seen subsequently.

In East, Central and Southern Africa this species is a common bird of dams, lakes, rivers, streams and puddles, feeding along muddy or sandy edges. It is generally sedentary, merely moving to nearby dams or pools in woodland when water levels rise. The four Nigerian records and the one from Cameroon are for May, August, September and November.

R. J. Dowsett, A.J.Hopson and Jane Hopson.

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WHISKERED TERNS Chlidonias hybrida SUMMERING AT LAKE CHAD.

Bannerman (1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa, 1:475), using the name Chlidonias leucopareia, considers the Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida to be a scarce Palearctic migrant to West Africa. Elgood, Sharland & Ward (1966, Ibis 108:103) give as the only Nigerian records birds seen at Lake Chad in April and near Zaria in May. Fry (1965, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 2(6):40) mentions what is presumably this same Zaria record, though attributed to a different observer. Hopson (1965, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1(4):13) saw six at Malam'fatori, Lake Chad in April 1963, and subsequent observations there have shown it to be occasional in spring (March-June) and autumn (September 1966), as many as fifteen being seen in a day (Ash, Ferguson-Lees & Fry, 1967, Ibis 109:484; Hopson, unpublished). In 1968 the Lake Chad Ornithological Expedition and I saw up to eleven on several days between 10th April and 11th May.

It would be reasonable to assume that all these birds are of Palearctic origin and merely on passage, were it not that in the summer of 1968 I have seen C. hybrida in breeding dress in two areas on Lake Chad. During voyages in the Federal Fisheries Service cabin cruiser "El Kanemi" I saw a party of four on 15th July near Bargarom (ca. 13° 25'N, 14° 05'E) and on 31st July and 1st August a single bird and a party of three near Kidri Island (ca. 13° 39'N, 14° 08'E). Both these localities are in Tchad territory. In both these areas there is suitable habitat for breeding on reed islands. Although Palearctic C. hybrida may summer in the area - as presumably are the moderate numbers of White-winged Black Tern Chlidonias leucoptera present (mostly in non-breeding dress) - there may nevertheless be a breeding population on Lake Chad.

R. J. Dowsett.

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WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus AT LAKE CHAD.

At about 10.00 hours on 20th August, 1968, a single Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus flew over me, calling, on the Nigerian shore of Lake Chad at Malam'fatori (ca. 13° 37'N, 13° 20'E). Soon after I was able to watch it at a pool on the sand beach at about 30 yards range. The sharply decurved bill and distinctive head pattern were well seen. Later I showed the bird to R. H. Parker and he kindly shot it for me. It weighed 295 gms. and had a wing length of 247mm. The remiges and retrices were only slightly worn. Mr. Parker prepared a study skin; on dissection it proved to be a male with very little body fat. The specimen is now in the Zoology Museum of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Elgood, Sharland & Ward (1966, Ibis 108:102) consider this an abundant Palearctic visitor to the coast of Nigeria, mostly October to March, but give no inland records. Bannerman (1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa, 1:435) mentions large numbers in August in the inundation zone of the Niger. Moreau (1967, Ibis 109:251) considers that these Niger records "raise a suspicion that some Whimbrels may cross