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of another (?) party of five birds on the same day and in the same locality. No Sanderlings were seen on a visit on 3rd November.

On 29th April, 1968, R.J.D. had good views of a single Sanderling on the Nigerian shore of Lake Chad at Afanouri near Malam'fatori (ca. 13°40'N., 13°23'E.). This bird was in partial breeding dress, and was watched at about 30 yards feeding on a sand beach in company with several Little Stints Calidris (Hrolia) minuta. Another individual in partial breeding dress was present on sandbanks at Malam'fatori (ca. 13°37'N., 13°20'E.) for the whole of 17th August 1968. What was probably a Sanderling was seen briefly at Malam'fatori on 21st August, and early on 24th August R.J.D. netted, photographed and ringed a bird in partial breeding dress there. Its remiges and retrices were fresh, but parts of the body plumage were in active moult. It had a wing length of 123mm. and weighed 46grms. This same bird was seen again next day and on 28th and 31st. On 27th August R.J.D. saw a different bird, in full breeding dress, in the same area.

Sanderlings are not uncommon inland in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, where they are passage migrants, chiefly in autumn, usually on sand beaches.

R. J. Dowsett & Frank Walsh.

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PALAEARCTIC WADERS AT KAINJI AND NEW BUSSA IN AUGUST.

During August, 1968, at Kainji (9°53'N., 4°36'E.) and New Bussa (9°54'N., 4°31'E.) a watch was kept for Palaearctic waders. Several visits were made to Kainji Lake which began to form after the complete blocking of the Niger on 2nd August. A stretch of open shore on the west bank was chosen, by the end of the month there was no open shore left on the west bank. Regular visits were also made to a small sewage lagoon at New Bussa. This lagoon is 315 x 160 x 6 ft. The sides have a slope of 1 in 3 and are paved with concrete slabs and surrounded by an earth mound 4 or 5 feet high planted with creeping grass. The sewage has already passed through septic tanks but is still very foul and heavily contaminated with DDT used in mosquito control. The inlet pipe protrudes about 60ft into the lagoon at surface level. It appears a most unattractive habitat but there is little human disturbance. Visits to the lake were usually made in mid-morning or afternoon, visits to the lagoon being at lunch time or about 17.30 hours local time.

Table 1. Palaearctic Waders on a patch of open lake shore at Kainji in August, 1968.

Date	<i>A.hypoleucos</i>	<i>T.ochropus</i>	<i>T.glareola</i>	<i>T.totanus</i>	<i>G.nebularius</i>
3	ca.12	-	-	-	-
15	12	1	-	1	1
17	8	-	-	-	-
18	10+	-	1	-	1
21	7	-	1	-	-
23	8	2	-	-	-
27	13	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Palaearctic Waders at New Bussa East Sewage Lagoon.

Date	<i>A.hypoleucos</i>	<i>T.ochropus</i>	<i>T.glareola</i>	<i>E.minuta</i>
8	3	1	-	-
9	3	1	-	-
11	2	-	-	-
25	7	1	1	-
26	5	-	-	-
27	6	1	2	1
28	9	1	2	1
29	5	1	2	1
30	14*	1	2	1
31	7	-	3	-

* Count of birds roosting on the inlet pipe at 18.55 hours.

Tables one and two show the numbers of the six species recorded. With the exception of the Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos which is present throughout the year records of waders inland in August are very few although coastal records for this month are more numerous. At Kainji Common Sandpipers have been seen in every month but the

June and July totals are much lower than that of August. These records strongly suggest trans-Saharan migration, the alternative of a journey up the Senegal river and down the Niger being almost ruled out by the date. Roux (1959, *La terre et La Vie*, 106 (4) : 315-321) states that most wader species are represented in the lower Senegal valley by late August or early September. A journey from the coast up the Niger (over four hundred miles) is most unlikely.

That these birds are passing through is clearly indicated by the fact that from about 19:00 hours on the 14th August until the morning of the 16th there was complete overcast at Kainji with a great deal of rain. On the 15th a Redshank *Tringa totanus*, the first record for the area, was seen together with a Greenshank *Glottis nebularius*, a Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, several Common Sandpipers, three Grey Pratincoles *Galachrysis cinerea*, and a Temmincks Courser *Cursorius temminckii*. This was only the second wet season record of the pratincoles and the first of a courser. By the afternoon of the 17th August only a reduced number of Common Sandpipers remained. Heavy overcast and rain also occurred on the nights of the 17th and 22nd of August. The other point of interest is that, by contrast, the Little Stint *Actinia minuta* (presumably the same bird) should have lingered for four days at the sewage lagoon.

Frank Walsh.

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GREY PLOVERS INLAND IN NIGERIA.

Moreau (1967, *Ibis* 109 : 232-259) lists waders for which evidence of trans-Saharan migration is available. He does not mention Grey Plover *Squatarola squatarola*. Grey Plovers were noted on a muddy island in the Niger river at Bussa (10° 15' N., 4° 33' E.) on seven visits between about 26th October, 1967, and 11th January, 1968. On four occasions a pair of birds were present, on the others only a single bird. By January the island was fairly dry and had been planted with assorted local crops.

Grey Plovers have been reported from Lake Chad by Hopson (1964, *Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc.* 1(4):7-15), and by Moorhouse (1968, *Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc.* 5(17) :13-15) from near Kumasi, but have not been reported elsewhere inland in West Africa. The Niger valley record taken with the others cited strongly suggests that the Grey Plover may well be included in the list of trans-Saharan migrants.

Frank Walsh.

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INLAND RECORDS OF GULLS.

Hitherto the only published record of Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus* inland in West Africa seems to be from Lake Chad where Hopson (1964, *Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc.* 1(4):7-15) regarded them as frequent from October to April. During the 1967/68 dry season immature *fuscus* were seen on three occasions on the river Niger.

- 3. x. 67 - A second year bird in good condition was seen settled on the water at Libate (10° 12' N., 4° 33' E.). on the canoe's approach the bird rose and flew off strongly downstream until out of sight.
- 5. i. 68 - Two immature birds were seen circling about high over the confluence of the Oli and Niger rivers (9° 46' N., 4° 38' E.).
- 11. i. 68 - At 09.00 hours a single immature bird was seen flying steadily downstream at a height of about 50 feet at Garafini (10° 2' N., 4° 35' E.).

Taken with the Chad record these sightings suggest that at least some members of this species may undergo trans-Saharan migration.

The Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* has also been reported from Lake Chad and there is a record from the Upper Niger, Elgood et al. (1966, *Ibis* 108 :84-116). *L. ridibundus* has twice been positively identified on the Niger at the southern tip of Fogo Island (10° 15' N., 4° 33' E.). In each case a pair of birds were involved. On the first occasion 28th December, 1967, the birds were in winter plumage but on the second, the 15th April, 1968, both birds were in full breeding plumage. In addition to these, seven other sightings of gulls were made in the same area, and