



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



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from Kainji, between the above dates by the writer or Mr. J.S. Anderson. None of these sightings exclude the Grey-headed Gull Larus cirrocephalus of which three pairs in breeding plumage were seen on 26th April, 1968.

Elgood et al. (op.cit.) suggest that with its recent expansion in Europe L. ridibundus may appear more frequently inland in West Africa. The above records suggest that this may be the case and that the lake now forming above Kainji may become a regular wintering place for gulls.

Frank Walsh.

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EARLY ARRIVAL OF EUROPEAN SWIFTS IN NIGERIA.

Most of the reports of European Swifts Micropus apus in the Bulletin refer to the spring migration. At Kainji there were no records during the autumns of 1965 to 1967, in the springs 1966 and 1967 sightings were numerous. Bannerman (1953, Birds of West & Equatorial Africa, Vol. 1) mentions that M. apus reaches Sierra Leone in July and has been seen in southern Nigeria by late August. In the Bulletin only Hopson and Fry give August records. Hopson (1964, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1(4):7-15) gives it as common in August at Malamfatori, Lake Chad and Fry (1965, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 2(7):68-79) records a heavy passage in the Zaria area on 22nd August, 1965. Consequently it seems worth noting that on 3rd August, 1968, in the late evening nine M. apus were seen wheeling above the newly forming lake at Kainji just to the north of the concrete dam at Kainji. No other species of swift were present but swallows were quite numerous, they were mostly Hirundo aethiops but a few Hirundo rufula and Riparia paludicola were also seen. There were no M. apus on the morning or evening of the 4th August and none have been seen since.

Frank Walsh.

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INTERNATIONAL WILDFOWL RESEARCH BUREAU

MID-WINTER CENSUS 1968/69.

I have heard from the Wildfowl Trust that the date for the next Wildfowl census is 12th January, 1969.

I shall be grateful if anybody who can assist in this would please contact me giving the areas which they might be able to visit.

If any ornithologist from southern Nigeria is interested in visiting northern Nigeria in December or January and can count duck and waders on this date or any other date will he please also contact me,

R. E. Sharland,
P. O. Box. 791,
Kano,
N. Nigeria.

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ADDITIONS TO LOCAL AVIFAUNA - ZARIA.

An African Hobby Falco cuvieri was seen on 5th November, 1967 at Maska Fish Farm, 38 miles north east of Zaria. My only other record for this bird in Nigeria is from the flood plain of the River Rima, just north of Sokoto, on 3rd August, 1968.

I have several records of the Gold Coast Spine-tailed Swift Chaetura ussheri from the Zaria area this year. On each occasion one or two birds were seen in company with Little African Swifts Collocaltes affinis, and I suspect that their presence is often overlooked. My records from Zaria are as follows:- N.T.C. Farm, Samaru, 17th March and 11th April, 1968; Maska Fish Farm, 23th July, 1968; and in addition I have records from Ikoyi, Lagos, 19th March, 1966; Lake Matu, Bakura, 19th November, 1966; Dan Gora, 50 miles north of Zaria, 28th May, 1967; and Gombe, 28th December, 1967. This swift is evidently widely, although locally, distributed.

A Blue-bellied Roller Coracias cyanogaster was seen in the top of a tall