



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



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EDITORIAL

The last two numbers (17 & 18) of the Bulletin have been issued to members without cardboard backs. This was due to a postal delay and I considered it far more important to get the Bulletins out on time, rather than delay issue for the sake of backs. I have, therefore, put two extra backs into each envelope, containing this number, and hope that members have not been inconvenienced too much.

I have been requested by several members to express my views on the use of both English and scientific names in the Bulletin, as some confusion has arisen in recent numbers.

To begin with I would like to quote the relevant passage that appeared inside the cover of earlier editions under Notice to Contributors. "...Nomenclature should follow Bannerman, The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa, 1953, unless reasons for departure from this work are given..." This was inserted as it was felt that any ornithologist working in West Africa would have to have access to this work. Therefore the adoption of the only comprehensive text-book for the area was perfectly valid. However, since the society was founded, the circulation of the Bulletin has spread and it is now taken in America, Asia, Europe, Australia and many countries within Africa outside our own area, which makes the conversion to a nomenclature which is more internationally accepted even more desirable.

I consider it would, in many ways, be preferable to follow White, C.M.N. Check-list of African Birds, 1960-65, throughout, but for the time being I suggest that we continue to use Bannerman (op.cit.) for species he includes, using White for others. Authors wishing to use White's names should include Bannermanian generic names in parentheses where these differ. Eventually I hope that we can adopt White's nomenclature in toto.

The most important point is that the use of names from other regional ornithological literature should be avoided as the arbitrary use of names from these can only increase the confusion now being felt.

This issue shows the fruits of Mr. R. J. Dowsett's labours at Malam'fatori, Lake Chad, during the spring and summer, and it is with deep regret that I have to inform members that Mr. Dowsett will be leaving the area to return to Zambia in mid-November of this year. His work during the autumn passage at Lake Chad is due to appear in Vol.5. No. 20., which will be circulated at the end of December.

Finally I must apologise for the poor quality of the illustration which appeared in Dr. R. W. Ashford's paper on Preuss's Cliff Swallow Lecythoplastes preussi, in the last edition. We now have the opportunity of using a scanner so that in future contributors can submit line drawings that will be reproduced clearly.

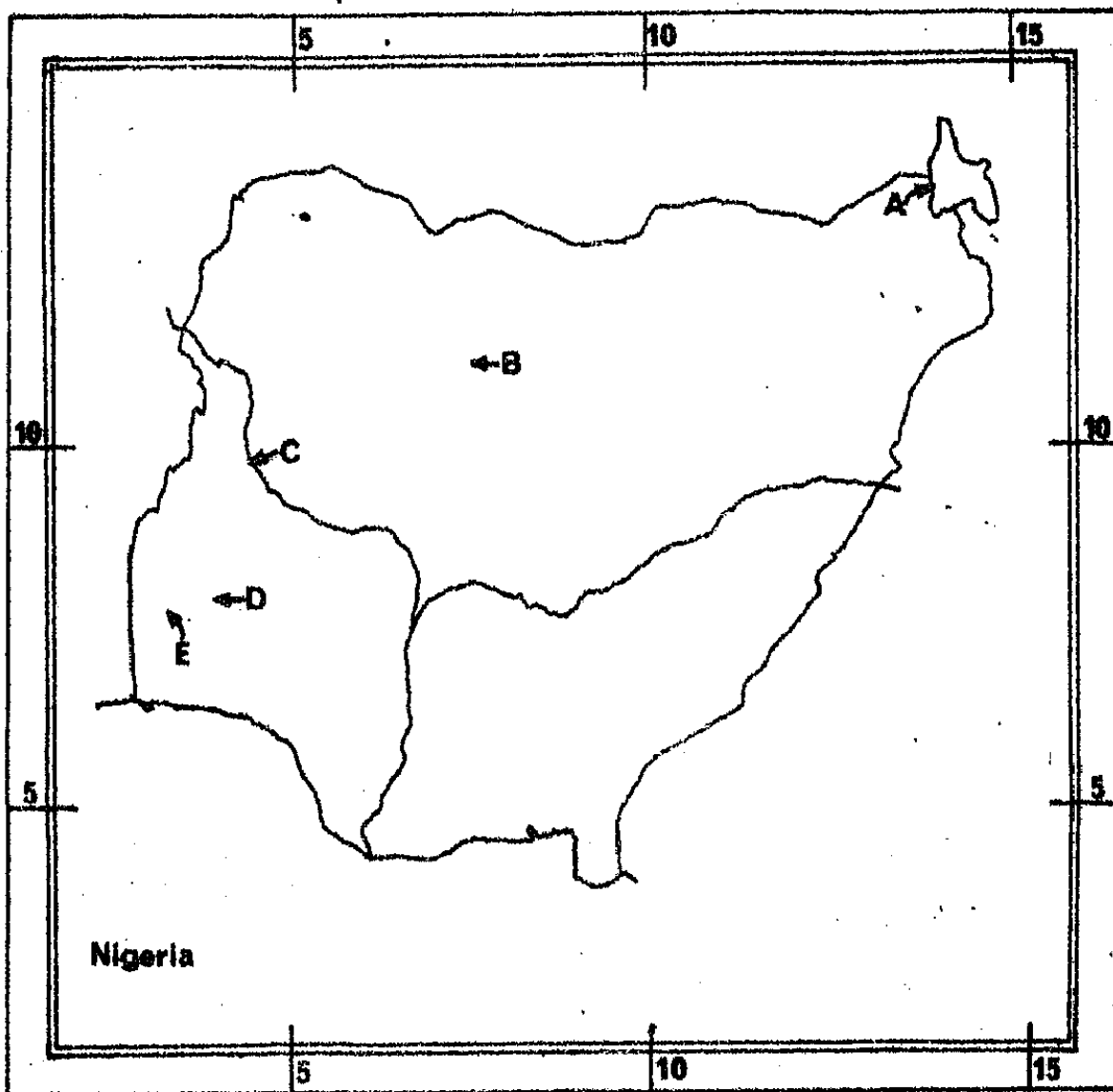
Roy H. Parker.

CORRIGENDUM Vol. 5. No. 19.

Contents	(line 10)	for	Sanplover	read	Sandplover
Page 61	(line 12)	for	ar as	read	areas
" "	" 32	for	occur	read	occurred
" "	" 33	for	..Sandpiper and	add	Greater Sandplover.
Page 63	" 46	for	<u>Claidris</u>	read	<u>Calidris</u>
Page 67	" 5	for	On..... Whilst	add	26th July, 1968,
" "	" 10	for	noticable	read	noticeable
" "	" 18	for	(p s comm)	read	(pers. comm.)

STOP PRESS. I have just discovered a limited number of Vol.4, Nos.13 & 14. If members who did not receive this issue will write to me I will enclose it with Vol.5. No. 20.

Ed.



- A. Malan'fatori, Lake Chad. (ca. $13^{\circ} 37'N.$, $13^{\circ} 20'E.$).
- B. Zaria, North Central State. (ca. $11^{\circ} 5'N.$, $7^{\circ} 45'E.$).
- C. Kainji, Kwara State. (ca. $9^{\circ} 53'N.$, $4^{\circ} 36'E.$).
- D. Oyo (new reservoir) Western State. (ca. $7^{\circ} 51'N.$, $3^{\circ} 53'E.$).
- E. Ado Rock, Western State. (ca. $7^{\circ} 50'N.$, $3^{\circ} 32'E.$).

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