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LESSER GREY SHRIKE AT LAGOS:A SPECIES NEW TO NIGERIA.

On 2nd November 1969 a grey, black and white shrike was discovered on Victoria Island, Lagos, by J.B.H.. On 14th November it was collected by J.P.G. with the assistance of Dr. H. Hassan.

The area in which the shrike was discovered is dry and open. It lies just behind Victoria Beach and a fishing village called Apese. It is covered with low grasses and weeds and there are a few widely-scattered bushes and low palms. During the period of observation the shrike was usually easy to locate, since it often perched in plain sight on top of one of the low shrubs.

The bird proved to be a sub-adult male Lesser Grey Shrike Lanius inor. It lacks the black forehead, eyebrow and lores of the adult, and the other feathers which would be black on the adult are very dark greyish brown. The upperparts are medium grey with a brownish cast, the rump somewhat lighter. The underparts appeared white in the field.

The fresh specimen was $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches long (206mm.). Other measurements are: Wing 114mm., tarsus 24mm., bill 14mm. A full and detailed description of the specimen has been lodged with the editor.

J.B. Holohan & J.P. Gee.

Although Lanius minor was included in the Provisional Check List of Nigerian Birds by J.H. Elgood (1964, Bul. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (1) 13-25.) he states (pers. comm.) that it was added to the list on the basis that it was thought to have occurred in Nigeria although there is no printed evidence to support it. Therefore, unless further evidence comes to light in the future, this can be regarded as the first fully substantiated record of this species in Nigeria. The specimen has been donated by Mr. Gee to the Zoology Museum, University of Ibadan.

Ed.

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