



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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INTERNATIONAL WILDFOWL CENSUS 1970/71

The winter of 1970/71 did not produce the spectacular numbers of migrant ducks that have been seen in recent years. The Lakes near Kano and Kazaure either were not full enough or were covered in the particular type of grass which restricts feeding areas for duck.

In the Kirikasamma area there were very large numbers of White Faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata and Fulvous Duck Dendrocygna bicolor but the only migrants seen were Garganey Anas querquedula with a maximum of 500 on February 26th.

The Matara/Nguru area held comparatively few local ducks and the flocks of migrants were fewer than have been seen in recent years. A greater variety of migrants were seen or shot (all my visits coincided with heavy Harmattan which restricted visibility). The first Gadwall Anas strepera to be recorded in Nigeria since 1929 was shot on Dec. 12th and fifteen Shoveller Anas clypeata and ten Common Teal Anas crecca were seen on the same date. Pintail Anas acuta were at their peak in December when 300 were seen and the maximum Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca recorded was 60. A Common Pochard Aythya ferina stayed on a pool in Kano city for three months.

Ferruginous, Pintail and Garganey were reported from Sokoto but no details of numbers. Frank Walsh also reported Pintail and Garganey from Northern Ghana.

The effect of dam construction and drainage which is planned for the Hadejia Valley and other areas in Northern Nigeria will not be known for some years. I have suggested to the Kano State Government that certain areas be preserved for sporting and tourist purposes.

R.E. Sharland.

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