



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



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OLIVE-TREE WARBLER Hippolias olivetorum

AT KANO: A SPECIES NEW TO WEST AFRICA.

by R.E.Sharland.

The harmattan started early in Nigeria (17th. October 1971) and easterly winds prevailed for the following week. On 22nd. October I caught a striking warbler in my nets which on examination proved to be an Olive-tree Warbler Hippolias olivetorum. The upper parts were grey with a small white supercilium and the under parts white. The head had a very marked Hippolias-type peak and the bill was long and flattened. There was a very distinct wing panel caused by the pale outer webs of the secondaries. The outer tail feathers had pale tips. Measurements were: Wing: 83mm. Tail: 62mm. Bill: 18mm. Tarsus: 23mm. The wing formula was as follows: Wing point (longest primary) 3rd., 4th -1mm., 5th -4mm., 2nd -5mm. The bird was ringed and released. This appears to be the first record of the Olive-tree Warbler in West Africa.

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FURTHER OBSERVATIONS OF BUFF-HEADED

WOOD HOOPOE Phoeniculus bollei.

by Netta Robinson.

R.A.Honeywell (Some Interesting Observations from Ghana June 1971. BNOS 8:31) remarks on the appearance of Phoeniculus bollei in Ashanti.

I have records from Ilesha in Western Nigeria in 1964 of the same species in which the buff on the face, forehead and throat was distributed in the manner described by Honeywell (op.cit.). The birds which I observed, quite closely and frequently over a period of one year, also had red bills, I did not see any with horn coloured bills, and they moved about in groups of three. I have no record of the colour of the feet.

At the time, after consideration, I assumed them to be P.b.okuensis although, as pointed out by Honeywell, Bannerman (1953, Birds of West & Equatorial Africa. Vol. I.) regards this race as being restricted to the montane forest area of Lake Oku, in Cameroun.

Specimens in the Zoology Museum, Univ. Ibadan, from Gambari Forest Reserve, Western Nigeria, are typical nominate race P.b.bollei. It should also be remembered that okuensis has no buff colouration on the sides of the face. Ed.

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LONG-LEGGED BUZZARDS Buteo rufinus

NEAR KANO

by R.E. Sharland.

There have been several records of Long-legged Buzzards Buteo rufinus in Nigeria in recent years (BNOS 1 (4): 15; 5:45 & 53). In February 1968, R.J. Dowsett and I found one in an area of waste land upon which are a large number of wireless masts. This bird stayed until the end of March. In each subsequent year I have observed a Long-legged Buzzard in this area and this winter (1971/72) there have been two birds.

In January 1970 I discovered another Long-legged Buzzard in an area of scrub, seventeen miles ENE of Kano, at Gesawa (12° 8' N., 8° 45' E), and here too buzzards have been observed in every subsequent winter.

All the specimens observed to date have been pale phased birds, with pale heads and very pale, unbarred, tails. The underwing pattern is striking with whitish flight feathers which are dark tipped and a darkish patch at the carpal joint.

When disturbed the birds usually fly slowly from one Baobab tree to another, although once (at Gesawa) I did observe a buzzard soaring.

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