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Schedule 4 - Controls in Nigeria

Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava

31100	Ringed	15.12.66	Vom	Controlled	23.11.71	Vom
AX81071	"	30. 3.67	"	"	7.12.71	Vom

Whitethroat Sylvia communis

HJ35205	Ringed	2. 3.69	Vom	"	29.11.71	Vom
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Subalpine Warbler Sylvia cantillans

HN72293	Ringed	4.11.70	Kano	"	27.10.71	Kano
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All Rings British Museum except 31100=Jos, K424500=Helsinki,  
K 95.548=Madrid and BB726=Paris

Co-ordinates Vom 9°52'N, 8°53'E.  
Kano 12°N, 8°17'E.

Ten Sedge Warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus ringed in Kano in previous winters were also controlled in Kano and one ringed in Ibadan the year before was controlled there.

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WAZA, CAMEROUN - ACCESS AND AVIFAUNA

by

P.J.Mundy

I visited Waza National Park, Cameroun, for two days in late December 1971, and I fully agree with Fry's opinion of the area as of "exceptional ornithological interest" (BNOS 1970, 7:1).

It is easy to get to the Park as there is a good road from Maiduguri through Bama and Mora, some half of which is tarred. The officials along this road are obliging and it is not even necessary to have a Cameroun visa as one can be obtained in Mora. In contrast, several people I know have had trouble at the more southerly border post near Mubi.

Waza camp is pleasantly situated and the facilities offered are standard except that when I was there the catering was very poor (and very expensive). It costs 1,200 francs per person, either West or Equatorial Africa currency, to enter the Park and the ticket is valid for one year. One cannot enter without a guide, the charge for whom is

at least 500 francs per day. Many of the tracks inside the Park are easily negotiable in an ordinary car at this time of year.

It is unlikely that anyone would stay at Waza for a long period or visit it many times unless one were working there, and so as Fry says (op.cit) it is worth placing on record even a very few days' observations. Although I visited the place about a month later in the dry season there are many differences between my records and Fry's, and between ours and Broadbent's (BNOS 1971, 8:58). Indeed, Broadbent, in March, saw 18 species not seen by either Fry or me in November/December.

Some of my records come from the extensive marsh outside the Park proper, in which case (marsh) is placed alongside that record. This area is hunted by people visiting Waza.

- Ostrich Struthio camelus: group of 10, including at least 2 mature males.
- Long-tailed Shag Phalacrocorax africanus (marsh): 2 all-black birds.
- Purple Heron Ardea purpurea (marsh): about 20 standing singly.
- Little Egret Egretta garzetta (marsh): group of 5.
- Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides (marsh): single birds all over
- Openbill Anastomus lamelligerus: group of 4 at a water hole
- W.Afr.Hadada Bostrychia hagedash (marsh): group of 8.
- Garganey Anas querquedula (marsh): hundreds feeding in the rice and only seen after a gun shot.
- White-faced Duck Dendrocygna viduata: a tight group of 200 at a water hole.
- Knob-billed Goose Sarkidiornis melanota (marsh): small gaggles totalling about 100 birds constantly flying to and fro.
- Spurwing Goose Plectropterus gambensis (marsh): at least 200 in small gaggles flying around constantly. I never saw the '2 geese' species mixing.
- White-backed Vulture Gyps bengalensis: about 20 seen, and 3 pairs nesting in trees at 40 ft. height.
- Rüppell's Griffon Gyps rüppellii: about 15 on the small inselberg at the Park's entrance and nesting there.
- Brown Harrier Eagle Circaetus cinereus: 1
- Red-tailed Buzzard Buteo auguralis: 1
- Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Merops superciliosus (marsh): group of 5 on the edge.
- Ant Chat Myrmecocichla aethiops: group of 3.

I did not see any pelicans, nor did I see any Grey Heron Ardea cinerea. In Sokoto (at 13°N, Sokoto is a little to the North of Waza's latitude), the Grey Pelican Pelecanus rufescens is present in the dry season and disappears usually in late February/early March. Its presence at Waza in late March (Broadbent, op.cit.) is interesting. The Grey Heron can be seen on the Sokoto rivers throughout the year and

is occasionally abundant there.

I am surprised at Broadbent's record of a Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis. It is certainly a migratory bird at Sokoto having been seen only in September and October (i.e. at the end of the wet season), and I emphasise that it is regular in its arrival and presumably in its departure. Also, the Swallow-tailed Kite Elanus riocourii is a visitor to Sokoto, appearing from late November to early February. I did not see any at Waza.

Neither did I see any Turtle Doves Streptopelia turtur which were recorded in such numbers by Fry.

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SOKOTO PROVINCE

(4) Excluding the Sokoto Town area

by

P.J.Mundy & A.W.Cook

The Province is large, 36,500 sq.miles in area, and approximately rectangular in shape, placed between the northerly coordinates of 14° and 11° 30' and the easterly coordinates of 3° 30' and 7°. Hence it lies almost wholly within the Sudan savanna belt, although at its southernmost limit it merges into Northern Guinea savanna. Annual rainfall varies from 500mm (=20") in the north to about 1000mm (=40") in the south of the Province, producing a range from north to south of 7 to 5 months respectively with less than 25mm of rain each month (for details see Elgood, Sharland & Ward, 1966, *Ibis* 108:86-88). Sokoto town itself, for instance, received 650mm (=25") of rain in 1970 and 473mm (=18.6") in 1971 (figures by courtesy of the Met. Office, Sokoto).

It should not be thought however that the Province presents a uniformly arid appearance. There are several east-west rivers that, although drying up superficially in the long dry season, yet maintain a subterranean flow sufficient to support some lush vegetation. Moreover, there are several lakes in the far north, that at Wurno having been described twice before (Podler 1970, *BNOS* 7:59; Mundy & Cook 1971, *BNOS* 8:42). And there is the River Niger itself, along the S.W. boundary of the Province.

Generally, of course, most of the Province is covered with the typical Sudan savanna vegetation - i.e. several different kinds of shrubs and trees, quite widely spaced with very little development of undergrowth. Acacia spp. predominate, and around Sokoto the species A. albida is the commonest. A good proportion of the Province, with its characteristic dry acacia woodland has been formally enclosed