



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



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Palaeartic migrants ringed were:-

Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	1
"Flava" Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	10
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	2
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	8
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	17
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	3
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	124
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	32
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	6
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	2
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We could not see any *Typha* beds anywhere between Mallam Fatori and the Yobe. There is plenty of *Salvadora* on the "road" from Kukawa to Mallam Fatori but any future ringing at Mallam Fatori will be difficult unless the *Salvadora* there is preserved. I hope that the Forestry Department will take steps to protect this.

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#### THE NESTS OF THREE FOREST BIRDS

In the past year, I have observed the following 3 nests at Ikot Ibritam, A bak Division, S.E.State, Nigeria (4°46'N., 7°35'E.). The first is described by Bannerman (1953, *Birds of West and Equitorial Africa*), but no date is given. The other two are said to be unknown.

##### 1. Chestnut Wattle-Eye *Dyaphorophia castanea*:

On 26th May, 1972, a schoolboy showed me a nest of this species in a cassava patch among oil palm trees. The nest was 1 ft. above the ground in a small shrub with large soft leaves. It consisted of a very neat, deep, funnel-like cup made of dried grasses and small stems. The rim was lined with a white silken material (spider web?) to help attach it to two surrounding leaves and to bend down a leaf above it, thus partly hiding the nest. The two fresh eggs were very light blue, with dark brown spots, especially at the thick end. Egg measurements were 16 x 12 mm.

2. Slate-breasted Forest Warbler Apalis rufogularis:

On 10th June, 1971, I found this bird's nest in a Gmelina tree in our garden, 18 feet above the ground. The nest was constructed of small twigs, in the shape of a shallow cup. The bird was sitting on the nest. But one week later the nest was abandoned, and on investigation no eggs were found. This bird and its mate frequent our garden and the thickets nearby. Their plaintive whistles "whee whee--oo, whee whee--oo", call attention to them.

3. Buff-throated Sunbird Chalcomitra adelberti:

On 27th January, 1972, I found a nest of this sunbird 7 ft. above the ground in a small mango tree in our garden. The nest was a rather untidy dome, 10 x 10 in. of woven grass stems, with a 2 x 3 inch opening in the side. On closer examination it was found that the nest was lined with plant down. The four white eggs measured 18 x 12 mm. In early February, 1972, a schoolboy showed me another, similar nest, in a raphia palm, 15 ft. above the ground.

Herman H. Gray

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