

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



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Appendix : C.H.Fry

The following notes on the species dealt with in Macgregor's preceding paper, based on observations in Zaria from September 1962 to date (October 1964) are appended for what they are worth. Unfortunately I too have been absent on leave in the critical months of July to September in both years. Zaria lies 60 miles NNE of Kaduna in the same vegetation belt (Northern Guinea Savannah), but is somewhat drier and the country is much more heavily populated and deforested.

- Cuculus gularus Earliest: 2.iii.1963 & 27.ii.1964. Latest 25.x.1962 and 15.xi.1963.
- Clamator levaillantii Rather a rare bird at Zaria; the following species is very much commoner (compare Macgregor's remarks). I have rather few Zaria records and hesitate to say if the bird is migratory. 'First' and 'last' dates are 30.v. 1963, 20.v.1964 and 16.11.1963.
- C. jacobinus Common and conspicuous in April and May, less common in June. Earliest: 9.iv.1963 and 3.iv.1964. Only autumn record: 11.xi.1962.
- C. glandarius Common in May to 28th in 1963 and 29th in 1964. No autumn records and only sporadic spring records before May: 11.ii.1964, 24.ii.1963, 5.iii.1964 and 23.iv.1964.
- Lampromorpha caprius Earliest: 11.iv.1963 and 16.iii.1964. Common from 11.iv.1963 and 7.iv.1964. Latest: 31.x.1962.
- Atrops albicollis This species migrates northwards in the Northern spring (as do most African migrants in the Northern Hemisphere see Elgood & Sibley: This 106 (1964) p. 228) to breed "on the edge of the desert", and southwards in autumn to winter mainly in the derived savannal region.

North-bound birds appear to pass over Zaria in two distinct streams. In 1963 there were almost daily records between 2nd and 25th May, and between 3rd and 16th June; and in 1964 between 26th April and 29th May, with another large flock on 9th June. Relevent dates are set out below:

24.x to 13.xi.1962 2 to 21.v & 3 to 16.vi.1963 26.iv to 29.v & 9.vi.1964 24.x to 13.xi.1962 28.x to 17.xi.1963 14.x to ? 1964

- Pinarocorys erythropygia Thought to be migratory. Suddenly appears as a conspicuous songster (20.iii.1963 and 10.iv.1964) and doubtless breeds, but infrequent; probably remains for some time after cessation of song in May. Last date 7.vi.1964.
- Cinnyricinclus leucogaster Earliest 2.iii.1963 and 27.ii.1964. No satisfactory last dates.
- Cossypha niveicapilla I have several pre-May records of this rather uncommon and local bird (6.ii., 16.iii., 23.iv) and believe that in the dry season it moves away from gardens etc. to the thickest cover it can find. A conspicuous songster in May; once heard singing November.