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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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Odd observations from bird ringing in Nigeria

In 1960 I began ringing birds in Kano, Nigeria, using mist nets from China and British-made rings bearing the address Jos Museum Nigeria. I passed rings to friends in Jos and Ibadan, who began ringing there too and at one time Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* were being ringed in all three places. Eventually we changed to using British Trust for Ornithology rings with the British Museum return address. I published annual ringing reports in the *Bulletin of the Nigerian Ornithological Society* and subsequently *Malimbus* and details were summarised by Elgood *et al.* (1994). A few additional observations, which did not appear in these reports, are summarised here.

In Kano in September 1962, I caught a Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* with a piece of paper on its leg on which was written “Santa Maria”.

In December 1963, I found a village near Nguru where they had a small flock of White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* which they used as decoys for trapping wild storks. During my annual visits to this village up to 1980, I got several rings off storks captured by the village. Two of these had been put on by the same Catholic Father in Algeria.

In December 1965, I received a cable from the British Embassy in Cairo, saying that a bird had been handed in with a ring marked Jos Museum on its leg. I was never able to get the ring number.

In 1966, I received a letter in Greek from a shepherd enclosing a ring (Jos Museum no. 16872) from a Yellow Wagtail ringed at Kano on 23 Nov 1963 and recovered in Lamia (38°53'N, 22°27'E) on 12 Dec 1965, and saying that these birds “follow our flocks and we call them the travellers”.

Reference

ELGOOD, J.H., HEIGHAM, J.B., MOORE, A.M., NASON, A.M., SHARLAND, R.E. & SKINNER N.J. (1994) *The Birds of Nigeria*. Checklist 4, 2nd ed., British Ornithologists' Union, Oxford.

Received 16 May 2008; revised 21 July 2008.

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Bird observations from Aouk, S Chad, including additions to the avifauna

We document observations of three bird species (Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*, Yellow-throated Leaflove *Chlorocichla flavicollis*, Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*) that are either new to Chad or confirm previous unsupported