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RINGING IN NIGERIA IN 1983. 26th ANNUAL REPORT

by R.E. Sharland

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In the absence of any resident ringers in Nigeria, fewer birds were marked than in previous years. During seven months' visit in 1983, I ringed 224 Palearctic birds in the Jekara reedbeds and in scrub near Kano Zoo.

No recoveries of Nigerian-ringed birds were reported during the year but details of an Osprey and two White Storks trapped in Nigeria are shown in Schedule 2. They are the 16th Osprey and 32nd/33rd White Storks reported to date. The storks are caught by trappers from a village 10 km from Nguru in Bornu State. Three years ago a report on their illegal activities resulted in prosecution in Bornu State; unfortunately in Kano State little attempt is made to enforce the law and the trappers have a free hand. Storks play a role in control of grasshoppers; as both the Marabou Stork and Abdim's Stork are now sadly reduced in numbers in North Nigeria, it is vital that strict conservation measures be introduced.

I visited Kagoro four times. No forest birds have been ringed there for 2.5 years, yet 51% of the birds that I caught were recaptures. Details of some of them are shown in Schedule 3.

Schedule 1 Numbers of Palearctic species ringed

	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Common Sandpiper <i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	10	193
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	2	88
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	1	33829
Isabelline Red-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	6
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	10	512
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	88	2448
Reed Warbler <i>A. scirpaceus</i>	60	619
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Hippolais pallida</i>	1	225
Melodious Warbler <i>H. polyglotta</i>	1	158
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	41	2443
Whitethroat <i>S. communis</i>	2	2152
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1	1009
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	6	270
Total	224	57009
Ethiopian birds	106	15934
<i>Grand Total</i>	330	72943

Schedule 2 Controls in Nigeria of Palearctic birds

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

M14492 Ringed 16 July 1981. Taipalsari, Saimaa, Finland. 61°10'N,
28°11'E.

Controlled 25 Dec 1981. Falgore 10°50'N, 8°40'E.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

2481 Ringed 23 June 1979. Erlangen (Germany) 49°36'N, 10°58'E.
Controlled 00 Jan 1982. Nguru 12°53'N, 10°28'E.

0733 Ringed 22 June 1975. Osterburg (Germany) 52°59'N, 11°36'E.
Controlled 00 Jan 1982. Nguru.

Schedule 3 Controls at Kagoro of Afrotropical birds

Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*. Ringed 10 Nov 1978.

Controlled 16 July 1983.

White throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*. Ringed 12 July 1980.

Controlled 16 July 1983.

Green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronata*. Ringed 20 May 1979.

Controlled 16 July 1983.

Moloney's Illadopsis *Trichastoma fulvescens*. Ringed 12 July 1980.

Controlled 18 Sept 1983.

NESTLING-FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF LESSER WOOD HOOPOES - In the members of the *Phoeniculus aterrimus*-*P. cyanomelas* complex there are various degrees of sexual dimorphism in the bill, and sexually different calls (N.C. Davidson, *Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc.* 12, 1976: 2-17). The following observations of the behaviour of a pair at the nest may have some relevance to these two points.

On three occasions between 20 April and 1 May 1960, near Sabon Gari (about 10°45'N, 09°E) in Nigeria, I watched a pair of Lesser Wood Hoopoes *P. aterrimus* at their nest hole about 1.5 m from the ground in a *Combretum* trunk. Observations were made from a photographic hide of natural materials to which the birds had become habituated, 4 m from the nest. The pair always foraged in company and arrived together near the nest at intervals of about 15 minutes, the male calling 'kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa', something like the *sotto-voce* sound of a domestic duck (the "male call"), and the female replied with a soft, wheezing 'see-see-see-see' (the "female call").

The female always flew directly to the nest hole and entered, calling to the nestlings with the "male call" while her mate waited higher on the trunk; she then came to the mouth of the hole and, uttering now the "female call", received the male's food item and carried it into the nest. Adult males have a black gape or mouth lining, juveniles yellow. The