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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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the immediate impression was of a very dark blackish-brown duck with noticeable white spots on the upperparts, wings and tail. The flight was noticeably laboured, and once settled back in the marsh it proved impossible to flush a second time. These characteristics alone suggest a Black Duck, and the sightings constitute the first records of this little known duck in Nigeria. Bannerman (1953) and Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1970-73) describe it as essentially a highland bird and give records from the Cameroun Highlands, an area verging on and showing considerable ornithological affinities with the Mambilla Plateau.

P. Hall

Two other firsts for Nigeria, Dendropicos poecilolaemus and Artomyias ussheri, are recorded on pp. 73 and 76. Ed.

THRUSH-NIGHTINGALE Luscinia luscinia NEW TO NIGERIA AND WEST AFRICA - During September 1975, while netting in the grounds of the Zoological Gardens in Kano, I trapped a bird which although superficially resembling a Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos, was obviously of a different species. The more striking differences were the dull brown plumage, the lack of rufous in the tail and indistinct linear spots on the throat and breast.

A detailed description and measurements were made of the bird all of which fitted descriptions of the Thrush-Nightingale L. luscinia. A skin was prepared and has been lodged with the British Museum collection, where the identification was confirmed.

This would appear to be the first record of this north-west Palaearctic species (which winters in eastern Africa) as far west as Nigeria.

I would like to acknowledge my thanks to P. R. Colston of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tring, for his confirmation of the identification of the skin.

J. R. Best

ADDITIONS TO LOCAL AVIFAUNAS

YANKARI. In their paper on the birds of Yankari Game Reserve, Dyer & Gartshore (1975, Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc. 11, 40 : 77-84) recorded Secretary-Birds Sagittarius serpentarius just outside, but not inside, its boundaries. During my stay at Yankari in April 1974 I observed a Secretary-Bird in an open grassland area on Coulthard's Way between Mawulgo Spring and Sir Gawain Bell Falls. The accompanying game guard also recognised the bird on sight and did not seem to be surprised, so presumably it occurs regularly in the Reserve.

Andrew Demeter

ZARIA. The following birds new to the Zaria area have been recorded since Fry's (1975a) additions:

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* An adult and an immature soaring in company with Black Kites *Milvus migrans* and Hooded Vultures *Neophron monachus* over Ahmadu Bello campus, 1 December 1975 (MD).

Cape Wigeon *Anas capensis* A single bird reported on Kubanni Lake (Ahmadu Bello University) by R. and H. Nation on 17 November 1975. It was observed again on the following day, close to the shoreline, and was flushed to confirm identity. This is an important record (see Hall 1976, Macdonald & Taylor 1976) (MD, CR).

African Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* One at the Galma River ox-bow lake behind Zaria City on 7 February 1976 (MD, MEG, RES).

Lesser Lily Trotter *Microparra capensis* A single bird foraging on floating aquatic vegetation on the Galma River ox-bow was pointed out by J. Edwards on 24 January 1976. (Identity confirmed by MD).

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus* Two birds in non-breeding plumage in company with White-winged Black Terns *Sterna leucoptera*, at the University Lake, 14 June 1976 (MD, MEG).

Quail-plover *Ortyxelos meiffrenii* A single bird flushed from cover in farmland behind A.B.U. campus on 2 March 1976 (MD). Another in the same area (possibly the same bird) on 17 April (MEG).

Green Fruit Pigeon *Treron australis* A flock of about 15 birds seen alighting in canopy of fringing forest in Anara Forest Reserve on 22 May 1976. More were seen the next day in the reserve (MD, MEG, RES).

Red-faced Lovebird *Agapornis pullaria* A flock of six was observed feeding along the edge of a kumli in Anara F.R. on 23 May 1976. On 30 May larger flocks, up to 30 birds, were seen flying about in the reserve. On 24 June a pair was observed over A.B.U. campus (MD, MEG, RES).

Fry (1975b) reported a probable Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* at Anara on 2 March 1975. A bird of this species was seen and positively identified there on 23 May (MD, MEG, RES).

An unfamiliar tinker-bird was heard calling at Old Birnin Gwari (11° 01'N, 06° 47'E) on 20 June 1976. It was tracked down and proved to be a Yellow-rumped Tinker-bird *Pogoniulus bilineatus (leucolaima)*. Although Old Birnin Gwari lies 100km west of Zaria, it is at the same latitude. This record is a substantial range extension for the species.

Michael Dyer

Observers: MD Michael Dyer, MEG Mary E. Gartshore, CR Chris Risley,
RES R. E. Sharland.

References

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