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LIST OF MEMBERS 1965

- Blackall, R., c/o Blaize Memorial Inst., P.O.Box 226, Abeokuta
 Bellow, M.L., Ministry of Social Welfare & Co-operatives, Kaduna
 Blackwell, K., Department of Zoology, University of Ife
 Boulter, H., Okungwo Memorial Grammar School, Nnewi, Onitsha
 Brotherton, Major J.G.H., W.A.I.T.R., P.M.B. 2077, Kaduna
 Brotherton, Mrs J.G.H. " "
 Button, J.A., Egbado College, Ilaro / Lagos
 Condon, D., c/o British High Commission, Kajola House, Campbell St.,
 Ebbutt, D., Government Technical Training Centre, Bukuru
 Elgood, Prof. J.H., 11, Parkside Avenue, Littlehampton, Sussex
 Fry, C.H., Dept. of Zoology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
 Grant, A.C., 11/17 Tinubu Street, P.O.Box 289, Lagos
 Gray, H.H., S.U.M. Kunav, Mkar.P.A., Gboko, Benue Province
 Gray, P., University of Lagos Medical School, P.M.B. 12003, Lagos
 Hallam, W.K.R., Nigeria Police, Jos
 Henshell, J.D., Department of Biochemistry, University of Ibadan
 Hopson, A.J., Federal Fisheries Service, P.O.Box 227, Maiduguri
 Hopson, Mrs A.J., " "
 Horwood, M.T., 17, The Avenue, Chichester, Sussex
 Johnson, G., Ministry of Works & Transport, Secretariat, Ibadan
 Kemp, R., Forestry Research Division, Naraguta, Jos
 Lang, Dr J.R., Vom Christian Hospital (S.U.M.), P.O.Vom, Plateau
 Macdonald, A., Hadley Court, Sidegate, Haddington, East Lothian
 * Macgregor, D.E., Min. Animal & Forest Resources, Kaduna /Scotland
 Marchant, S., 36, Arthur Circle, Forrest, Canberra, A.C.T.
 Markham, G.W., P.O.Box 184, Calabar
 Marshall, Sir H.F., Murhill House, Limpley Stoke, near Bath, Somerset
 Musgrove, H., Bank of West Africa, Jos / Apapa
 Payne, D., c/o Barclay's Bank, D.C.O., Ijora Branch, P.O.Box 304,
 Robinson, D.M., No 1 Medical Field Unit, P.M.B. 20, Ilesha
 Robson, C.B., c/o UAC Nigeria Ltd., P.O.Box 4, Port Harcourt
 Sharland, R.E., P.O.Box 791, Kano
 Skilliter, M., Audit Department, P.M.B. 2010, Kaduna / Zaria
 Skinner, Prof. N.J., Department of Physics, Ahmadu Bello University,
 Smith, V.W., Federal Department of Veterinary Research, Vom, Plateau
 Thomson, Dr K.B., Rural Health Section, Ministry of Health, P.M.B.2024
 Serle, W., The Manse, Drumoak, Aberdeenshire / Kaduna
 Walker, R.B., Dept. of Zoology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
 Watson, H.J.C., W.A.I.T.R., P.M.B. 2077, Kaduna
 Wood-Robinson, C., Ibadan Grammar School, Ibadan
 Woods, P.J.E., D.C.S.L.N.(P.) Co. Ltd., P.M.B. 26, Jos
 McLelland, Mrs V.S., Northwood, Chalton Rd., Bridge of Allan, Stirling-
 /shire, Scotland

* died February, 1965

BIRD RINGING IN NIGERIA, 1964. SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

R.E.Sharland

During 1964 there was a further large increase in the number and variety of birds ringed. Two Cetti's Warblers Cettia cetti ringed in Kano and two Ortolan Buntings Emberiza hortulana in Vom are newly-ringed species in West Africa, the former being the first recorded occurrence and the latter virtually so in West Africa..

A total of 2,071 Yellow Wagtails Budytes flavus were ringed by V.W. Smith and his team at Vom. Considerably more could have been marked if

rings had not run out in January. The Kano roost was used until February when the area dried out, when the birds moved to another marsh three miles away. This marsh also proved to be good for migrant Reed and Sedge Warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus and schoenobaenus in April, 34 and 61 being ringed respectively.

The autumn passage through Kano produced more Nightingales Luscinia megarhynchos but fewer Garden Warblers Sylvia borin than usual. One European Scops Owl Otus scops and one Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla were caught.

The spring passage through Vom was very productive and 172 birds were ringed including 9 Icterine Warblers Hippolais icterina, 2 Ortolan Buntings, a Rock Thrush Monticola saxatilis and a Scops Owl. The autumn passage was rather poor compared with the previous year; 78 birds were ringed including two Blackcaps.

I ringed 76 Ruff Philomachus pugnax in three visits to a lake near Kano in March; apart from this very few waders were ringed.

In the spring of 1964 a Spanish Wheatear Oenanthe hispanica was seen frequently on the implement park of the Agricultural Dept. Farm in Kano. What was presumably the same bird returned in the autumn and I ringed it. A Sedge Warbler ringed in Kano on 2nd April 1963 was recaptured in the same place on 4th March 1964. A Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus ringed in Kano on 23rd October 1963 was recaptured there on 29th October 1964.

Recoveries of Nigerian-ringed birds are shown in Schedule I. One Yellow Wagtail has now been recovered in Poland, 6 in Italy (all on the Adriatic coast), 2 in Malta, one in Algeria and one in Tunisia.

A Whimbrel ringed in Kent, England on 25th August 1961 was recovered near Lagos on 22nd May 1962, and 2 Swallows Hirundo rustica caught at Uzere, Eastern Nigeria, on 7th October 1964 had been ringed at Rheindorf, Germany, on 4th June 1964 and Fairburn, Yorks, England, on 6th September 1963. *

Schedule II summarises birds ringed during the year. Yellow Wagtails have been classified as 'flavus' except in the few cases where a male could be identified more exactly. A male flavus wagtail ringed in Kano on 2nd April 1964 appeared to be of the race B.f. superciliosus. In Kano 76 flavus wagtails were recaptured during the year, 32 recaptured from the previous season, 12 from 2 years ago, and 3 from three years ago. Two Snowy-crowned Robin-Chats Cossypha niveicapilla were ringed in 1963 and both were retrapped one year later in the same place.

One of the two Olivaceous Warblers Hippolais pallida ringed in Kano was a larger and greyer bird with a longer bill and probably belonged to the race H.p. opaca.

* (See also Note on recovery of Sooty Tern, p. 21.)

Schedule I - Recoveries

Hirundo rustica Swallow

2090 Ringed 28.x.1950 Calabar 4° 34' N., 8° 27' E.
 Recaught 0.vi.1963 Jerez de la Frontera, Spain 36° 45' N., 6° 8' W.

Budytes flavus Willow Wagtail

19280 20.iii.1964 Vom. 09° 44' N., 08° 46' E.
 11.iv.1964 Viserbella Rimini, Italy 44° 06' N., 12° 36' E.
 19596 27.iii.1964 Vom.
 30.iv.1964 Porto Santelpidio a Mare, Ascoli Piceno, Italy 43° 16' N., 13° 44' E.
 16822 16.xi.1963 Vom.
 1.v.1964 Fano Pesaro, Italy 44° 50' N., 13° 01' E.
 17862 4.i.1964 Vom.
 12.iv.1964 Malta 36° N., 14° 40' E.
 17345 13.xii.1963 Kano 12° N., 8° 17' E.
 26.iv.1964 Messaud el Gassi, Algeria
 4574 26.i.1962 Kano
 27.v.1964 Bydgoszcz, Poland 53° 18' N., 18° 07' E.
 18012 17.xii.1963 Kano
 18.ix.1964 Capitello di Vicenza, Italy 45° 34' N., 11° 32' E.

Schedule II - Birds Ringed

<u>Palearctic Migrants</u>		<u>1964</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	-	7
Little Ringed Plover	Ch. dubius	-	34
Common Snipe	Capella gallinago	-	6
Jack Snipe	Lymnocyptes minimus	-	3
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	-	4
Wood Sandpiper	T. glareola	3	82
Spotted Redshank	T. erythropus	1	4
Greenshank	Glottis nebularius	-	3
Marsh Sandpiper	G. stagnatilis	-	3
Little Stint	Erolia minuta	1	91
Temminck's Stint	E. temminckii	-	9
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax	76	129
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	-	1
Scops Owl	Otus scops	4	4
Hoopoe	Upupa epops	1	2
Wryneck	Jynx torquilla	3	7
Lesser Short-toed Lark	Calandrella rufescens	-	1
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	-	1,339
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	2	7
Rock Thrush	Monticola saxatilis	1	1
Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	-	4
Black-eared Wheatear	Oe. hispanica	1	1
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	40	59
Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	10	30
Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	25	58
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	2	2
Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	-	6
Reed Warbler	A. scirpaceus	34	43
Marsh Warbler	A. palustris	-	1
Sedge Warbler	A. schoenobaenus	61	98
Melodious Warbler	Hippolais polyglotta	2	6
Icterine Warbler	H. icterina	9	10
Olivaceous Warbler	H. pallida	2	4
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	9	10
Garden Warbler	S. borin	79	270
Whitethroat	S. communis	5	6
Lesser Whitethroat	S. curruca	-	1
Subalpine Warbler	S. cantillans	1	2

		1964	Total to date
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	15	25
Chiffchaff	<i>Ph. collybita</i>	1	1
Wood Warbler	<i>Ph. sibilatrix</i>	3	6
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Ph. bonelli</i>	1	1
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscica striata</i>	56	72
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	39	109
Collared Flycatcher	<i>F. albicollis</i>	4	13
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	-	3
Tree Pipit	<i>A. trivialis</i>	26	39
Red-throated Pipit	<i>A. cervinus</i>	-	117
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	14
Yellow wagtails	<i>Budytes f. flavus</i>	3,227	7,261
	<i>B.f. thunbergi</i>	4	17
	<i>B.f. faldegg</i>	1	7
	<i>B.f. superciliaris</i>	1	1
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	1	4
Isabelline Shrike	<i>L. isabellinus</i>	-	1
Crotolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	2	2
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	-	58
		<hr/>	
	54 species	3,754	10,100
		<hr/>	
Non-palaeartic-migrants	136 species	101	4,520
		<hr/>	
GRAND TOTAL	190 species	3,855	14,620
		<hr/>	

A WEEK AT BOKKOS

V.W. Smith

Bokkos (9° 20' N., 9° 00' E.) lies at the southern end of the Jos Plateau, at an altitude of just over 4,000 ft. Although within the area covered by the 'Provisional Check-list of the Birds of the Plateau Province over 3,000 feet' (Ebbutt et al., Bull. N.O.S. 1964) these notes may be of interest because they were made during one week (27th September to 4th October, 1964) at a time when there was a considerable movement of migrants. Breeding notes on some of the species have also been included.

The countryside is open grassland, favoured by the Fulani for grazing their cattle; rocky outcrops predominate. The main areas covered were approximately two miles radius of Bokkos and Daffo (11 miles West), and the road between these two villages.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*. Brood of half-grown ducklings on river.

Harriers *Circus* sp. None seen.

Bush Fowl *Francolinus bicalcaratus*. One killed contained a shelled egg.
Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*. One female seen; from its anxious behaviour, it seemed to have a nest or young nearby.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. Few seen on river.