

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



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Bubulcus ibis the Cattle Egret seemed to stay longer on the island than they do on the mainland at Ilaro, so 45 miles to the north. Observations during the last two years support this view. However more work is required on bird distribution at both the Lagos and Cotonou ends of the island, on the mainland immediately opposite Topo, and on the coast to the east of Lagos, before any confident assessment of the relationship of the island's avifauna to that of the rest of south-western Nigeria may be made.

ADDITIONS TO LOCAL AVIFAUNAS

Malamfatori, Lake Chad. The following additions have been made to the Malamfatori (Lake Chad) avifauna since June, 1965 (Hopson, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 (6): 52-53):

Anas penelope Wigeon - about 10 on a weed-choked oxbow lake at Abadam on 2nd January, 1966, including one adult male in breeding plumage and three males in eclipse (J.A.B., J.H., A.J.H.); up to 30 were seen regularly on flooded stubble fields near Malamfatori during February, 1966 (J.H., A.J.H.).

Chelictinia riccourii Swallow-tailed Kite - one over dunes near Malamfatori on 28th June, 1965; one in the same locality on 10th November, 1965. C. riccourii appears to be generally uncommon in north-east Bornu, since we have observed it on only four occasions in four years. The other two records are one near Dikwa on 29th June, 1962 and three near Kukawa on 29th December, 1965 (J.H., A.J.H.).

Lophoaetus occipitalis Long-crested Hawk-Eagle - one or two noted on several occasions flying high over the Yobe valley near Yo between 27th June and 11th August 1965, when a bird seen perched at close quarters at Yo confirmed our diagnosis. A further bird was seen circling over the lake shore at Malamfatori on 18th July, 1965 (J.H., A.J.H.).

Afroxyechus tricollaris Three-banded Plover - a pair was seen on several occasions between 24th August, 1965 and 8th September, 1965, on the margins of flooded tabkis to the west of the Duwuri duneridge. White forehead, white superciliary stripe extending from eye to eye over the back of the neck and double brest bands, the upper very narrow and the lower rather wider, were all clearly seen (J.H., A.J.H.).

Cursorius temminckii Temminck's Courser - a single bird was observed in short grass on open farmland behind the coastal dunes at Kodokurugu on 3rd July, 1965 (C.H.F., J.H., A.J.H.).

Bubo lacteus Milky Eagle-Owl - one in tall trees on the banks of the Abadam oxbow on 2nd January, 1966 (J.A.B., J.H., A.J.H.).

Micropus caffer White-rumped Swift one feeding over the coastal dunes at Malamfatori on 18th July, 1965, with a large flock of Colletoptera affinis, Micropus apus, Cypsiurus parvus, Hirundo iopica and Pseudohirundo griseopygia. The flock appeared after a heavy rainstorm and left abruptly after a few hours (J.H., A.J.H.).

Halcyon senegalensis Senegal Kingfisher - occurs frequently as a rainy season visitor to Acacia nilotica woodland in the Yobe valley. First noted in the Malamfatori area on 2nd July,1965, but the actual date of arrival was probably a month earlier. Last seen in mid-September. H. leucocephala the Grey-headed Kingfisher, is also a common rainy season visitor, but it occurs in dry open country as well as in riverside woodland (C.H.F., J.H., A.J.H.).

Batis minor Chad Puffback Flycatcher - at least one pair in thin Acacia raddiana woodland on dunes near Malamfateri on 6th January, 1966. The mantle of the male, grey spotted with white, was clearly seen as was the narrow dark chestnut breast-band of the female. Previously B. senegalensis the Senegal Puffback Flycatcher has been recorded from the Malamfatori area (Hopson, 1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 1 (4): 14), and the present record, the first from Nigeria, proves that the two species overlap in the vicinity of Lake Chad, minor extending to the east and senegalensis to the west. (J.A.B., J.H., A.J.H.).

Ptilostomus afer Piapiac - one in open woodland near the river between Yo and Daya, 4th July, 1965 (C.H.F., J.H., A.J.H.).

J.A.Button, C.H.Fry, J.and A.J.Hopson

Plateau Province over 3,000 ft.

Dicrocercus hirundineus Swallow-tailed Bee-eater - seen at a kurmi a mile south-east of Vom Hospital in November 1961. There is another record from the same kurmi on an unrecorded date. One was netted at Vom by V.W.Smith on 6th November, 1965, and these November dates suggest the possibility of (southbound) migration at that period.

Pentholaea albifrons White-fronted Black Chat - noted on 6th February, 1966 in a small river kurmi 6 miles north-west of Vom Hospital, towards the Kigom hills. Since then, it has also been recorded by P.J.E. Woods in the Kigom hill area. In January and February, 1965, a pair nested on the Veterinary reservation, Vom (V.W. Smith, pers. comm.)

Zaria. The following species have been recorded for the first time in the Zaria area, since the production of my check-list (1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2: 68-79 & 91-102):

Hagedashia hagedash Hadada - about 3 at Dunbi wood and inselberg, Zaria, 25th Octomber, 1965 (D.R.Wells, C.H.F.).