



**West African Ornithological Society**  
**Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest**  
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Very recent records of this species however lead me to suspect that in all probability it is a much commoner and more widespread bird in this country in the dry season. On 28th February 1966 I had a good view of a breeding-plumaged adult ♂ C. s. cyanecula in a drying-up bed of Mimosa pigra by a swamp adjacent to the Galma river in Zaria. On 18th December 1966 I put up nets in the same place, specifically to catch Bluethroats, and netted an immature bird, race uncertain. A net put up on 31st December 1966 in a similar Mimosa thicket on the Galma four miles away to catch Sedge Warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus caught another immature Bluethroat.

Around the tubki (lake) at Madareri, 7 miles West of Gwadabawa (13° 25' N, 05° 15' E), Bluethroats were found to be common during a visit from 3rd to 5th January 1967. This tubki is surrounded by dense beds of bulrushes Typha, outside which are drying-up marshes of knee-high sedges. In drainage ditches in this marsh there is a slightly higher growth, favoured by Bluethroats, and up to six could be flushed in an hour's walk. When flushed, they generally flew into the bulrush beds. None were netted, but an adult ♂ C. s. cyanecula was seen.

Like its close relative the Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos, the Bluethroat is a skulking bird whose presence can easily be overlooked. On the strength of the above observation however, I would suggest that it is of regular and frequent dry-season occurrence in moist marshes, with beds of hard shrubs like Mimosa pigra, throughout Nigeria North of about 10°. C.H.Fry

Weights of Sedge Warblers and Reed Warblers. It is of interest to compare the weights of Reed Warblers Acrocephalus scirpaceus and Sedge Warblers A. schoenobaenus ringed in Kano with those ringed by V.W.Smith at Beni Abbes in Algeria. These suggest that the loss in weight due to trans-Saharan migration is considerable.

In the table below I have summarised the weights in the same manner as Smith (1966, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (11) : 50-61), i.e. period of captures; numbers of sample in parenthesis; mean weight, and range in weights.

<u>A. scirpaceus</u>	
<u>Kano 12° N, 8° 30' E</u>	<u>Beni Abbes 30° N, 02° W</u>
2.iv-27.iv (9) <u>11.3</u> 9-14	2.iv-4.iv (7) <u>9.3</u> 7.5-12.0 gms
<u>A. schoenobaenus</u>	
2.iv-20.iv (21) <u>11.6</u> 9.5-14	2.v (3) <u>9.6</u> 9.0-10.5 gms
1.v - 6.v (9) <u>15.2</u> 10-20 gms	

R.E.Sherland