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by the close observation entailed in getting the bird and one's self into a position where a photograph is possible. Some birds are much easier than others to photograph, for example kingfishers, bee-eaters and flycatchers will return again and again to the same perch; birds of prey often have favourite observation points, and even woodpeckers appear to have their favourite trees and will often oblige by keeping still long enough for one's purpose. Each area with its bird population must be studied closely before embarking on a photographic foray. It is surprising how patterns emerge and one's routes or points of vantage can be planned in advance of the actual expedition.

I would very much like to hear from anyone who is using the same or similar apparatus and method as my own.

THE BIRDS OF ZARIA. I - AFRICAN MIGRANTS

C.H.Fry

Introduction

- I African Migrants
- II Palearctic Migrants
- III & IV Residents, vagrants & checklist

Introduction This article will appear in four parts as above, and is basically a checklist incorporating notes on breeding, distribution, migration, habits etc., from which African and Palearctic migrants are separated out for specific treatment. It leans rather heavily on a paper (Fry, in press, The ecological distribution of birds in Northern Guinea Savanna, Nigeria; Proc. 2nd pan-Afr. Ornith. Congr.) which does not however contain notes other than on distribution; and incorporates where relevant typescript notes on the birds of Zaria left by E.Butler (1958) and P.Ward (1961). Other reference titles will be quoted in full at first mention and listed at the end of the fourth section. No apology is made either for the checklist nature of Sections III & IV of this paper or for the very inadequate observation on which the first two sections are based. Despite the fact that more and more is becoming known about the overall distribution and migrations of birds in West Africa, still very little fine detail can be confidently given and it will be a long time before the checklist era can be closed on this side of the Continent; again, although two years' residence at a locality is miserably little for the observation of migration, yet I feel that the recording of my data here could provide a basis for further discussion and a stimulus for observation, especially - as concerns Section I - in view of two other relevant

articles in this journal (Macgregor, 1964 : Seasonal movements of some birds in Northern Nigeria, Bull. N.O.S. 3:2-6; and Sharland, 1965 : Seasonal movements of birds in Northern Nigeria, Bull. N.O.S. 4 : 5-7).

The Zaria area covered extends within about 35 miles radius of Zaria city. A very considerable extent of this area is intensively cultivated, producing an open parkland; the remainder is more or less disturbed bush which approaches its climax of woodland savanna in occasional forest reserves, especially Anara Forest Reserve 25 miles South of Zaria. Also included in the area are two permanent lakes, Samaru lake (Zaria) and the Maska Dam fishponds 30 miles N.W. of Zaria near Funtua; a small perennial river, the Galma, which flows through Zaria to fall into the River Kaduna, and several inselbergs up to 250 metres high. The climate and topography and their effect on local bird distribution are described at length by Fry (ibid.).

Terms for abundance used throughout this article are :

Rare - 5 or fewer records.

Occasional - (Between Rare and Frequent).

Frequent - From one record per 2 hours to two records per hour on transect through habitat. / habitat.

Common - Three or more records per hour on transect through

I am indebted to several naturalists, particularly R.B.Walker and N.J.Skinner, for allowing me to include their original observations at Zaria, and R.E.Sharland (pers. comm.) has helped with several points on distributional limits falling between Kano and Zaria.

I. African Migrants.* As pointed out by Elgood & Sibley (1964 : The tropical forest edge avifauna of Ibadan, Nigeria. Ibis 106 : 221-248), African migrants move in time with the Palaearctic migrants, i.e. northwards in the Northern Spring at the end of the Dry / beginning of the Wet season, and southwards in the Northern Autumn or at the end of the Wet / beginning of the Dry season; with few exceptions they breed at the northern end of their range. In many cases, the White-throated Bee-eater Merops albicollis the breeding and non-breeding ranges are exclusive, so that stations in the respective areas see a well-defined immigration and emigration at different seasons, and stations situated between the areas experience well-defined passages (fig. 1). Often however a migration is only a small-scale shift in the centre of gravity of a population whose breeding and non-breeding

* Those species mentioned by Sharland (ibid.) but not given in my following list have not been recorded as yet from the Zaria area, i.e. Pelecanus onocrotalus, Anas punctata, Coturnix delegorguei, Caprimulgus rufigena and Anthreptes longuemarei.

ranges may overlap considerably (fig. ii). In these cases migration may be difficult to detect, and furthermore they may not be a wholesale egress from an area so much as a concentration in suitable habitats within the area (e.g. stations + in fig. ii). Such may be the case with several passerine species at Zaria.

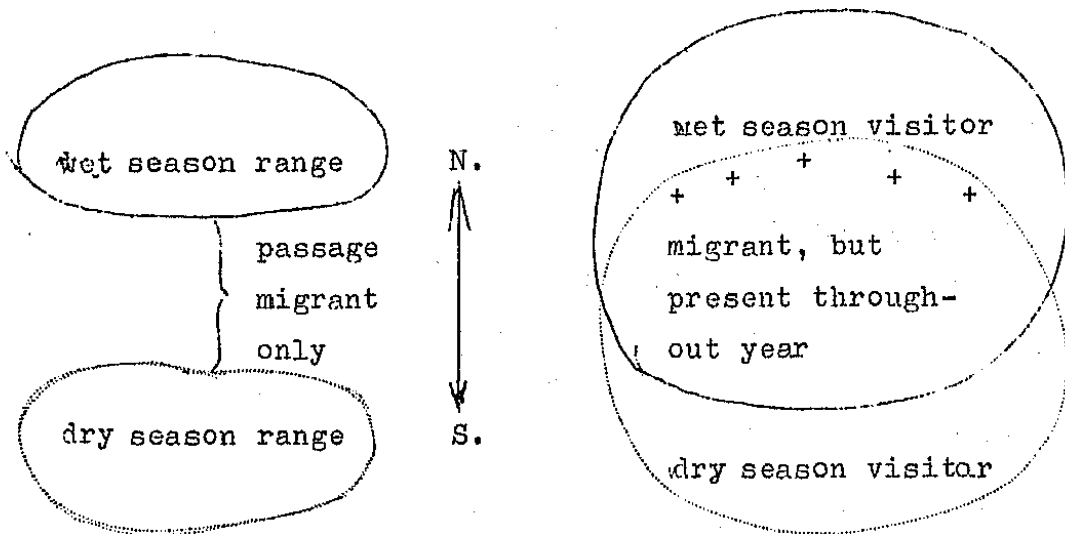


fig. i.

fig. ii.

(For explanation see text).

Thus a species may be migratory at a station where there is no obvious fluctuation in numbers throughout the year, and I include below a few species which I suspect to be migratory at Zaria although this may be eventually proved incorrect; a few other species are dealt with here on the grounds that they are definitely migrant elsewhere in Nigeria, although presumed non-migrant at Zaria.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* A dry-season visitor to southern Nigeria e.g. Ibadan (Elgood & Sibley). Very common at Zaria wherever there are cattle; around lakes, and in suburbia. The only known breeding site in the area is at Yakawada village a few miles South of Maska (R.B.Walker, pers. comm.) where the colony is only about 10 years old. The birds arrive at the village (from surrounding areas) in April and remain for two or three months; nestlings are present in late June (R.B.W.). Numbers seem to be constant throughout the year at Zaria, and at Kano (R.E.S.)

Abdim's Stork *Sphenorhynchus abdimii* A well-defined passage migrant which is not thought to breed in this area; rather in the drier zone to the North. Earliest Spring record: 100 on 3rd February, but Feb. records are scarce. Frequent after about 25th March through April, with large flocks (100s) passing through in the first week of May; latest, 13th May. Much less common in Autumn, when only seen in flocks of 4 to 8 birds; records from 12th September to 27th October.

Open-bill *Anastomus lamelligerus* Scarce dry-season visitor. My only local records are one 3.xii.1962, two 18.i.1963 and one 19.xii.1964, but P.Ward recorded it as frequent at Maska Dam (7 miles South of Funtua). Commoner in drier country to the North (Kano, Bornu).

Wood Ibis *Ibis ibis* Dry-season visitor? Noted on 25th February 1940 (3 birds) (Serle, W. (1943) Further field observations on Northern Nigerian birds. Ibis 85: 264-300 & 413-437), and on 8th December 1963 and 15th November 1964 (N.J.Skinner).

(Wildfowl: Most occurrences of African (as opposed to Palaearctic) ducks and geese are in the wet season, as might be expected; this

presumably reflects a concentration in the dry season on the large perennial lakes of Sokoto, Katsina and Kano Provinces.) See Section III.)

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* A common and widely distributed dry season visitor. Numbers dwindle rapidly from the middle of June and it is probably absent from the end of June until the beginning of September. This is one of the species which breeds in the southern part of its range in the dry season, moving northwards afterwards. It breeds at Zaria about March. Kano must be at the latitude of the birds' southern wet-season limit, as a very few are to be found there in July (R.E. Sharland.)

Swallow-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii* A rare bird as far South as Zaria and one which, further North, is a spectacular migrant. Three adults, 'Zaria Province' (the Zaria area here defined is the northernmost part of the Province), no date, recorded by Hartert, E. (1915) List of a small collection of birds from Hausaland, Northern Nigeria. Nov. Zool. 22 : 244-266 ; one at Zaria in February 1940 (Serle) and one, Zaria, February 1961 (Ward).

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* Frequent from November to February inclusive. The plumage is very variable from dark or mid brown to practically overall pale cream. Serle, a prodigious nest-finder, inspected no less than four nests in the environs of Zaria in December 1939 to February 1940.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis* Occasional, with records in most months, but most frequently from March to June. I do not understand the status of this hawk, and include it in Section I merely to invite comment. It is clearly one of the first birds of prey to be attracted to bush fires, but otherwise appears to frequent fairly well-formed woodland. The stomach of a bird I collected on the Zaria-Kaduna road on 1st May 1963 contained 2 7-cm. and 1 4-cm locusts, 1 4-cm. large green mantis (*Sphodromantis*), and a solifugid arachnid *Solpuga*.

Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* Partial migrant, occasional to frequent. Serle recorded a "striking increase in the numbers of this hawk in the middle of the dry season", especially January, with numbers back to normal in February. Serle noted that it breeds here in March and April. My aggregated records to date show most observations in December, then January and March.

African Crane *Crecoptis egregia*. Noted by Sharland as migrant at Kano. The only Zaria observation concerns a bird recovered alive after flying into a window on 8th June 1964. It was photographed and released and brought to me again, from another quarter, on 10th, and released again.

Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami* As Bannerman remarks, seasonal migration certainly takes place, - "the birds flying in a northerly direction in April and May and returning South in October and December, when large flights may be observed on the wing passing over such places as Zaria in the line of flight." I have seen it occasionally in December and January, when 1, 2 or 3 birds together have been flying in a measured 10° of South, and once in May. Hartert (1915) records the bird from 'Zaria Province' in October and November. Sharland has only 1 Kano record, in May.

Black-bellied Bustard *Liseotis melanogaster* Occasional; no obvious seasonal bias recorded. See Sharland.

Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* "Numerous observers have reported local movements of the species which appear to be dependent on the seasonal nature of the marshes in which it is found" (Donald & Elgood (1962) The Painted Snipe in West Africa; Nigerian Field 27 : 173-177). That I have two early-dry-season records of birds picked up on Ahmadu Bello University campus is slender evidence of a more regular migration however. Both were recovered from cats in the early morning, presumably having come to grief during flight the previous night. One was a male (6th December 1962), and the other probably a male (16th November 1964). Sharland thinks the species might be seasonal at Kano,

(present about November to July). Serle records the species near Sokoto in June and July only.

Painted Snipe are skulking birds which do not draw attention to themselves, but there are occasional records at Zaria (C.H.F., N.J.S.) of single birds or pairs - once 4 adults together - generally feeding quietly in rank grass or under low shrubs in marshy places: the River Galma flood pools in Zaria, Samaru lake, Maska Dam etc.

Forbes' Banded Plover *Afroxyechus forbesi* A dry-season migrant to Ibadan and the South (Elgood & Sibley). Single birds at Zaria on 18th May 1964 and 16th April 1965.

Bronze-wing Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* See Sharland. A rare (or overlooked) bird at Zaria. The species is crepuscular or nocturnal, and by day 'lies up' in thickets (near water?) where it will only be found by accidental flushing. Very generally in pairs, and frequents exactly the same diurnal roosting place for weeks. Like many nocturnal birds when flushed during the day, the Bronze-wing Courser flies only a few yards before pitching, often where visible, relying on its cryptic - and very beautiful - colouration and pattern for protection. Zaria records are too few for conclusions about seasonality: all however are from November or December except one in May, a catapulted bird brought to me alive.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* Included since the few records are suspiciously concentrated at one season: a male shot at Zaria on 9th November 1912 (Hartert), a flock of 6 at Samaru on 5th December 1962, and 1 at Samaru on 22nd December 1963.

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* See Sharland. In Zaria it is present throughout the year and no movement has been noticed. The bird is common on the R. Galma, but elsewhere rare, with sporadic observations at Maska Dam etc. Two or three of these birds often wander on to the tarmac road surface where the Jos road crosses the Galma, probably to take grit rather than insects.

White-headed Plover *Xiphidiopterus albiceps* Zaria: a pair at Maska Dam on 5th October 1964. Kaduna observers would be in a better position to amplify Sharland's observation, since there are no large river systems to attract this species in the Zaria area.

Black-billed Wood-dove *Turtur abyssinica* No migration noticed (ref. Sharland); a common and widespread dove in the environs of Zaria, by no means confined to more heavily wooded areas. I have found nests in October and November.

Long-tailed Dove *Oena capensis* A widespread dry-season visitor arriving in small numbers in the first to third week of October (earliest 5th) with numbers considerably reinforced from mid-November, nesting in February and March, and departing about the 2nd week of April (latest 10th; 17th). Writing a few months ago, I would have said the species was common or very common in the dry season; this winter however numbers are most noticeably down and it is no more than 'frequent'. A confiding bird, often in suburbia, whose song is a quiet monosyllabic coo. 'Male flocks' of about 10 birds have been noted frequently about November.

Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* See Sharland; 4 records, all May or June, of captured or killed birds given to me.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* Despite the fact that this cuckoo is highly conspicuous (by its call) during its breeding season about March to May or June, and inconspicuous at other times, I am confident that it is migratory in this area. In Spring it is frequent or common in the above-mentioned months (earliest 21st February*; latest 23rd June) and is there-after absent or overlooked (observers on leave from mid-July for 2 months) until the Autumn (4 October records, and 15th November). See also Macgregor: Seasonal movements of some birds in Northern Nigeria. Bull. N.O.S. 3 2-6.

*given in error as 2nd March, Bull. N.O.S. 3 p. 6.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*. One, Shika, 15th June 1964. Its scarcity here is interesting in view of its regularity at Kano (see Sharland).

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* See Fry Bull. N.O.S. 3 : p.6, to which Autumn records can now be added : Zaria, 1st November 1964 (C.H.F.) and 16th November 1964 (I.Watts). See Addendum p.17.

Pied Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* See Macgregor, Fry, Sharland (ibid.). This and the preceding species are most conspicuous on their northward Spring passage, especially as they are prone to frequent gardens. I have had both species calling simultaneously from different parts of my garden in May. Since the passage is of short duration at Zaria in both species I assume they do not breed in the area; Serle has much data on the breeding of *C. glandarius* near Sokoto. Hartert gives the only Autumn Zaria record : an adult collected on 3rd November 1912.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* Ref. Fry (ibid.), revised latest Autumn date 19th November 1964.

Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* My only record in the area is of one, its distinctive song heard at a distance, near Maska on 23rd June 1963. See Sharland.

Didric Cuckoo *Lampromorpha caprius* See Fry (ibid.).

Klaas' Cuckoo *Lampromorpha klaasi* A rare wet-season visitor. Only 5 records of birds seen and/or heard singing, between 16th March and 15th June. Observation in later wet months might well show it to be more frequent.

Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus* A common wet-season or passage migrant. For obvious reasons, it is difficult to acquire observations on nightjars, and they are not the easiest birds to identify to species even when a view is obtained. An alarmingly high proportion of my records are of dead birds picked up on roads (one which struck the quarter window of my car was flung dead into my lap). Plain Nightjars are commonly seen and found dead in May and June (one on 30th March), and in November and the last week of October. I have no record of breeding. Stomachs seldom contain less than 80 insects of perhaps 15 or 20 species, and nightjars are probably aerial vacuum-cleaners, taking everything within certain size limits indiscriminately.

Standard-wing Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis* Occasionally seen (probable status : frequent) from December (earliest - 10th) to April (latest - 29th). All records are of males with fully-developed standards, so presumably the bird breeds in the area in the dry season. In view of this, Sharland's June and October records at Kano are of interest but much more data is required from all parts of the species' range.

Long-tailed Nightjar *Scotornis olimacurus* Definite records (netted; found dead; good day-time views) only in February, May, October and November, but I have records of nightjars from all months which are probably this species. The species is a dry-season visitor at Ibadan (Elgood & Sibley), and a wet-season (?) migrant to Kano (Sharland), but could be resident or partially migrant at Zaria. Typical nightjar churring songs are frequently heard in February and March, and I suspect emanate from this species, indicating breeding at that time.

Mottled Swift *Micropus aequatorialis* Perhaps vagrant rather than migrant; in May 1963 about four were noted at Kufena Rock, Zaria, in a movement of swifts of 6 species on the 12th; on 14th there were about 10 *M. aequatorialis*, and on 21st at least 3.

White-rumped Swift *Micropus caffer* Apparently a wet-season visitor to the Zaria area where it is frequent, though sporadic, from February to June (earliest 7th February, latest 28th June). My only other record is of 2 + 1 birds in different localities on 11th October. The resemblance between the present species and the Little Swift *Colletoptera affinis* is such that caffer is very easily overlooked,

but the two species are in fact readily distinguished and I feel that if observers in Nigeria were constantly alert for caffer, the picture of its distribution and abundance would alter radically. I have seen it in many localities apart from the area under consideration; it is generally seen in twos or fours either on inselbergs or by road culverts. The bird very probably breeds in the Zaria area, and I have seen them entering nests of Red-rumped Swallows Hirundo rufula in February. (They habitually appropriate the nests of this or allied hirundines).

Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinica. A well-marked dry-season visitor from the 1st week October to the fourth week of June. A common and conspicuous bird, very common in residential areas where it breeds on buildings in suitable holes in April and May. In 1963 I reared 3 young nestlings given to me on 12th May and for a few days after 'fledging' they lived 'wild' but readily came to hand when called. At Kano this roller occurs throughout the year and is not noticeably migrant (Sharland).

Broad-billed Roller Eurystomus afer Sparsely distributed wet-season visitor. Earliest 6th April, latest 27th October. Breeds in the area and juveniles of the year may remain later than adults before migrating South in Autumn. It is restricted largely to the margins and environs of lakes (Maska, Samaru) but I have also seen the bird in suburban woodland at Samaru.

Hoopoe Upupa sp. I have not managed to determine whether the local Hoopoe, seen occasionally to frequently from the end of November to April (plus a pair of birds on 21st May 1963) belongs to the African or Palaearctic species. In any event the species appears to be a dry-season visitor. Sharland considers all his Kano birds to be the Palaearctic U. epops.

Grey Hornbill Lophoceros nasutus Macgregor (ibid. p.4) has drawn attention to the likelihood of this species being migratory. Certainly flocks are much in evidence in about October at Zaria, but prior to his article I had not kept notes on this, and can add nothing to his comments.

Senegal Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis A migrant to this area from the South in the wet season. First dates : 14th May, 1st June; last : 18th October, 1st November. From the middle of June onwards it is frequent or common and widespread, occurring in light woodland, suburbia, and erosion areas or the vicinity of streams. In mature woodland savannah its place is taken by the larger H. malimbicus.

Grey-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala Status not properly understood. A sparsely distributed visitor to this area, locally frequent (on larger streams and sandy rivers) from March (11th; 21st) until the end of May during which month I have a considerable number of records, but apparently absent in June onwards. The only Autumn observation is of one on 28th November (R.B.W.)*. However I have seen this kingfisher in the last week of December in Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi, and at Lake Alo, Maiduguri. Presumably, as Bannerman says, the species moves northwards at the beginning of the rains; I have no evidence as to its breeding in this area.

White-throated Bee-eater Aërops albicollis See Fry (ibid.).

Least Bee-eater Melittophagus pusillus Apparently migratory in parts of its range (e.g. Elgood & Sibley), but no evidence of fluctuation in numbers at Zaria, where it is frequent and resident. I have come across this bee-eater in dry situations like low-bush degraded savannah, but it has a marked preference for waterside or marshy areas, and is rather commonly found in Mimosa pigra scrub bordering lakes in the Zaria area, on the R. Galma flood-plain, and in fadamas.

* Also one at Giwa, 20 miles N.W. of Zaria, on 18th October (N.J.S.); see also Sharland's remark.

Rufous-rumped Bush-Lark Pinarocorys erythropygia An uncommon migrant to the environs of Zaria, occasionally seen from 20th March until 7th June. At the end of March and in April this fine lark is very conspicuous by virtue of its loud melodious song delivered in a moderately sustained song-flight; it is obviously beginning to breed at this time. Sarle has a Zaria record for 25th December 1939; nevertheless I think that most of the population moves out of the area in winter.

Although undoubtedly a rather scarce and perhaps locally distributed bird, the Rufous-rumped Bush-Lark should not be easily overlooked, especially in its breeding season, on account of its large size, and conspicuous markings and song. The song-flight is in wide circles at about 200 ft. high, and the legs are dangled, a feature which shows from a distance of several hundred yards. Around Zaria it frequents burnt ground, urban wasteland, and the edges of farmland; it requires open country with low grass and never occurs in wooded country or situations where a good all-round view from near ground level cannot be had.

My only other record of this lark is one near Kontagora on 21st November 1964.

Red-breasted Wheatear Oenanthe heuglini I have records from 8th December to 5th May, usually of parties of 4 - 10 birds, occurring almost exclusively on recently burnt degraded savannah. Immature birds have been seen in mid-March. The speed with which this species occupies bush after a fire is surprising and has led me to suspect that it is not so much a regular migrant as a fire-follower; but I include it here in view of Sharland's remark that it is a regular passage migrant at Kano.

Crested Lark Galerida cristata Partial migrant, numbers reduced during the rains ??

Paradise Flycatcher Tchitrea viridis Occasional in all months except January and September, and the infamous August when I am absent on leave; but it becomes frequent, locally common, from April to June. A shade-loving species restricted in this area to forest reserves and thick woodland, and mature gardens. See Sharland.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat Cossypha niveicapilla Like the preceding, this could be migrant at Zaria but I believe it merely concentrates into thickets etc. in the dry season (when it is in any case very inconspicuous - skulking, and not singing) and disperses out during the rains. All my records fall between February and June inclusive, and most in May when it is frequent. It is presumed to breed in April and May. The rich song incorporates exact imitations of the call of the Lizard Buzzard, just as it does at Ibadan; but whereas that hawk is common enough at Ibadan, it is scarce at Zaria and infrequently heard.

Pied-winged Swallow Hirundo leucosoma A scarce wet-season migrant (?) to the Zaria area, but does not occur at Kano (Sharland) so may be presumed to be at the Northern limit of its summer range here. This swallow is a fast flier, hawking insects through the trees or just above them in moderately well-wooded savanna; it is generally seen in pairs. I have several records for March and October, with a single bird on 15th December.

Rufous-chested Swallow Hirundo semirufa A common widely distributed wet-season visitor, again not recorded as far North as Kano. Arrives about 2nd week February, common from March until May, fewer records June and none thereafter except one on 9th November.

Lesser Striped Swallow Hirundo abyssinica Another well-defined migrant to Zaria in the rains, frequent from April to June; some recorded in July, and doubtless occurs later. First arrivals are in mid-February. This swallow is associated largely with inselbergs, and is not as widespread as H. semirufa. Earliest 31st January.

Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo rufula Common and widely distributed, but seldom very far from the cliffs in erosion gulleys and streams on which it nests. Numbers appear to diminish sharply about May and it may be entirely absent in July.

Banded Martin Riparia cincta Only local record : one observed very fully at Shika fadama on 15th June, 1964.

Fanti Rough-winged Swallow Psalidoprocne obscura Scarce wet-season visitor; near the Northern limit of its distribution at Zaria since it does not occur at Kano (Sharland). From mid-April (13th; 26th) to mid October (11th; 12th). Usually in pairs in well-wooded country, by kurmis etc,

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike Campephaga phoenicea Scarce wet-season visitor; most records in June; first date of arrival 7th May. Three autumn records the latest being 4th November. Ward noted it as frequent at Samaru residential area during the rains. Sharland's only record of this species was one in May about 50 miles South of Kano, from which it may be inferred that here is another passerine at its Northern limit.

African Golden Oriole Oriolus auratus Frequent in well-formed savannah woodland and in mature residential areas. Noted in all months and no periodicity noticed; see Sharland.

Amethyst Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster At Zaria this starling is seen regularly from the last week of February or the first week of March through to July, but I have no records after that month. It is frequent in much the same sort of habitat as the oriole, where its thin but characteristic note is often the first clue to its presence.

Copper Sunbird Cinnyris cupreus Ward noted this as 'common' without indicating its seasonal status. I have seen adult pairs frequently in May, and thereafter sporadically to October (21st) and I believe it to be a wet season visitor to this latitude. The Copper Sunbird does not occur as far North as Kano (Sharland).

Yellow-bellied Sunbird Cinnyris venustus A strongly migrant but rare species. My only records are a pair on 30th March and a single bird on 12th May; and also a male thought to have been breeding at Birnin Gwarri 50 miles West of Zaria, on 2nd April.

Black-faced Dioch Quelea quelea See Sharland. Small flocks have been seen at Zaria sporadically in most months, although the species is not certainly present in the rains.

Red-headed Dioch Quelea erythrope Ward (pers. comm.) says that this species was common in Shika fadama in June 1959 (Q. quelea being abundant there at the same time) and it might be a wet season visitor, regular or otherwise. I have no other record from Zaria and Sharland has not seen it at Kano.

Yellow-mantled Whydah Coliuspasser macrourus Elgood & Sibley give this as a migrant in the South. In the Zaria area it is common and widespread in the wet season, but recorded in all other months also and I do not know whether or not it is a partial migrant here.

Addendum

Clamator glandarius. Several Spring records in 1965 from 14th April.