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**Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest**  
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bird at first foxed me completely; although obviously a honey-guide, it was smaller than adult I.indicator I had handled, the plumage, bill and eye were quite different in colouration to the adult, and the voice also differed, being a thin sibilant trill rather like a distant Four-banded Sand-Grouse Pterocles quadricinctus. At this time of year moreover, I would only have expected there to be adult honey-guides, since I.indicator breeds now (an important host, if not the major one, at Zaria being the Red-throated Bee-eater Melittophagus bullocki). Unless the Black-throated Honey-guide breeds at other seasons, the immature specimen, which I skinned, would be 11 or 12 months old so that the species is not sexually mature until 2+ years of age. An extraordinary thing is that I have never seen this immature plumage in the field, despite the fact that the Black-throated Honey-guide is a frequent and widespread bird in the area, and I would not regard it as excessively shy or easily overlooked.

Plumage description : whole upperside very dark olive brown except rump; most olive on forehead and mantle; the lores, ear coverts, nape, sides of neck having a dark grey wash; and the greater coverts, remiges and central two pairs of retrices being black-brown. Secondaries, secondary coverts and central two pairs of retrices narrowly edged olive green. Lower rump and upper tail coverts creamy white. Remaining tail feathers largely cream-white with slate markings as in adult. Very clear demarcation between dark upperside and pale underside : chin, throat and breast warm ochreous cream, especially the breast which might look almost pale orange in some lights in the field; remaining underparts cream paling to whitish undertail coverts. Soft parts : iris very dark brown; legs as adult; bill black 17.5mm; tarsus 17 mm; wing 95, 95 mm; tail 48 mm (much shorter than in the adult); overall length 6½ ins.; weight 28.0 gms (after several hours' captivity); sex indeterminable.

Another curious feature of this record is that the bird had been caught in a trap baited with millet; its stomach however contained beeswax. To summarise : in the field a 6½ in. bird, blackish-brown above with white rump and white outer-tail; the dark colour sharply defined from pale cream underside with yellowish or almost golden throat and breast. Note that the line of demarcation on the head falls below the eye, like e.g. a Bell-Shrike Laniarius ferrugineus.

C.H.Fry

Two Sudan Savannah Birds at Zaria. According to the map accompanying Keay's Outline of Nigerian Vegetation (1959. Lagos : Federal Govt. Printer) Zaria lies in Northern Guinea Savannah about 40 miles from the nearest boundary of this zone with the more northerly Sudan Savannah. The following two species have been thought of as Sudan thorn savannah species, and their occurrences at Zaria are therefore of some interest; the starling in particular would appear to be other-

wise a good 'marker' species for the Sudan zone.

Four Chestnut-bellied Starlings Spreo pulcher were sighted at dusk on 24th January 1965 crossing the Kubani stream to roost in a fairly large thorn bush. The piece of country has a dry scrubby appearance resulting from the concentration of cattle at a near-by veterinary station. The same four birds were seen the following evening by C.H.F. and myself, and on 26th January, after several attempts made difficult by the harmattan winds we mist-netted a single specimen. A record was made of the living bird on colour film, and then a skin prepared.

On 22nd March 1965 whilst doing routine observations in the same area as above I flushed a pair of plovers which I supposed to be Spur-winged Plovers Hoplopterus spinosus. Through binoculars however they proved to be Black-headed Plovers Sarciphorus tectus. They were feeding over a bare area just next to the main cattle route, and on tilled fields. I followed the birds through several short flights on the Honda more to enjoy the sheer beauty of these birds than to convince myself of their identity. They were in fact almost Spur-wings in negative, white neatly replacing black.

The following day I took C.H.F. to see the birds (he is very difficult to convince if the bird is not on his list!) and we found them in exactly the same place. I suggested they might be nesting. Later C.H.F. took visitors from Ife University, including K. Blackwell, to see these spectacular birds, and found a nest with three eggs, the incubating bird being disturbed. The nest was a very shallow depression devoid of lining. Unfortunately we were unable to continue observations on this interesting discovery, owing to absence from Zaria.

R.B. Walker

Anthus richardi lynesi at Mambila. D. Ebbutt netted a pipit on the Mambila Plateau on 24th February 1965 which the British Museum confirmed to be A. richardi lynesi, extending the known range slightly of this Cameroon montane population. Cameroon Mountain itself has another race, A. r. cameroonensis, the Cameroon Mountain Pipit. -Ed.

Red-capped Lark Breeding on the Jos Plateau. On 26th November 1962 at Sabon Gida Dam near Vom, whilst walking round the dam in the late afternoon I watched a slim boldly-marked lark with an unstroked chestnut cap feeding alternately two young, well-concealed beneath the grassy lip of an old wheel rut. I handled one fledgling, which could barely fly. On subsequent discussion with V.W. Smith we identified the bird as a Red-capped Lark Calandrella cinerea. Since then we have often observed the species together, but have no further evidence for breeding, except that at the same place on 29th January 1965 I saw one of these larks singing musically at a great height, then diving earthwards and continuing to sing from a rock outcrop. It may thus be double-brooded. (Bull. N.O.S. 2 : 4 and this issue p. 6 refer. -Ed.)

D. Ebbutt