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- Nest No. 4 This was an old nest found during August; but of the 1964 season.
- Nest No. 5 (Based on findings at No. 3 nest, this was probably started about 14th September, and the eggs laid about 19th/20th September.)
- Oct 2nd Nest found near site of No. 4; contained c/2, one already cracked and one about to hatch.
- Oct 10th Only one nestling left in the nest; well grown.
- Oct 11th From the hide it was quite possible to note that the female has appreciably less black a 'waistcoat' than the male, and it is a shallow V-shape rather than a U-shape (no sexual differences in plumage are mentioned in Bannerman IV, nor in his shorter work, nor by Elgood (Birds of West African Town and Garden).
- Oct 13th Nestling well-feathered, and fed by the female on quite a large winged insect; later a faecal pellet was deposited on the edge of the nest and removed by the female on her next visit. The male was nowhere to be seen.
- Oct 15th Found nest deserted (12th or 13th day after hatching?), but the female was very active and noisy round about, voicing a new call - "Figaro, figaro, figaro, figaro".
- Oct 16th Both adult birds very vocal, and diving down into the grass, flying off in great agitation if disturbed. Does this suggest that the young bird was still alive and being fed in the grass?

Is it possible that all these nests represent the breeding activity of one pair of Yellow-throated Long-claws? The other pairs had different territories nearby.

References : Smith, V.W. (1962) Some birds which breed near Vom, Northern Nigeria. Nig. Field 27 4-34.  
 Smith, V.W. (1964) Further notes on birds breeding near Vom, Northern Nigeria. Pt. II. Nig. Field 29 161-174.

### THE SPOTTED HONEY-GUIDE INDICATOR MACULATUS,

#### A NEW BIRD FOR NIGERIA

J.A. Button

On 13th January 1965 I netted a specimen of Indicator m. maculatus Gray, the Spotted Honey-guide, on Topo Island. The mist-net was sited at a point approximately a quarter of a mile West of the non-catering rest-house, at right angles to a narrow belt of dense thorn bush fringing the lagoon, and adjacent to a patch of Borassus palms and Mango trees Mangifera. The position is always a good one for a net, seldom less than ten birds being caught in a day. I have never seen this species apart from the occasion of its capture.

Bannerman's (1953 : Birds of West and Equat. Africa, Vol. 1 p.741-2) references to the habitat of this little-known Indicator are none too explicit : "The Spotted Honey-guide is found in dense bush and on the edge of forest in Upper Guinea"; and again : "Indicator maculatus maculatus Gray is restricted to Upper Guinea. The type specimen came from Gambia, where it must be found in the desert bush, as there is no tree forest left in the Gambia. From Sierra Leone to Liberia there are also various records, but it has not been found as yet in the Gold Coast or Nigeria, though it must be expected to occur there".

The Topo Island environment may be described as 'Savannah-coastal', with a corresponding avifauna (cf. Button, & Fry, Bull. N.O.S. 2 : 5-7; Wood-Robinson, Bull. N.O.S. 2 : 18)

Description Head Crown olive green, forehead brighter, nape duller olive; bases of feathers lighter so that when erected, nape appears lighter. Eye brown, lids bare of feathers. External nares oval and surrounded by prominent bristles. Bill short and conical, horn

coloured, 11 mm. Chin and throat dirty white with dark olive shaft streaks.

Body	Bright olive yellow mantle concolourous with back and upper tail coverts; breast pale greenish gray spotted dirty yellow; belly pale greyish yellow; undertail coverts pale yellow, the feathers with brown centres.
Wings	Primaries and secondaries dark brown margined with bright olive yellow; coverts similarly. 100 mm.
Tail	Middle pair of feathers dark brown, remainder strongly graduated with white distal halves tipped with dark brown. 60 mm.
Legs	Greenish slate; feet zygodactylous; thighs brown streaked with dirty white.

SABINE'S GULL *XEMA SABINI* (SABINE) OFF WEST AFRICA

C.H. Fry

In view of the greater attention to and interest in non-birds which may result from the subsequent article, it is relevant to note here a species which may be a regular and frequent migrant in the Eastern Atlantic, although it has escaped mention in Bannerman.

Recently there have been a number of important records of Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* in the Eastern Atlantic and off South Africa, which between them give the first picture of the wintering and migration of the species in the Atlantic. An observation of my own which I should like to record here was of an immature Sabine's Gull at 6° 19' N., 11° 17' W. (20 miles from Cape Mount Liberia) on 21st May 1962 and of an adult in breeding plumage at 21° 13' N., 17° 42' W (40 miles from Cape Blanc, Mauretania) on 24th May 1962.

Except for one bird on the Azores in May 1950 (Mayaud, 1961), the first record from the Eastern Atlantic South of latitude 40° N. was in 1957, at Table Bay, South Africa, in December. A Sabine's Gull was seen at Slang Bay, South Africa, in February 1958, and 4 recorded close offshore near Table Bay in March 1961. These records are further discussed by Zoutendyk (1965), who gives details of the many observations of small flocks (up to 30 and 50 birds) off South Africa in February 1963 and 1964 (with one in May 1964) and concludes that the species occurs far more abundantly along the West coast of Southern Africa than was hitherto realised.

Roux (1961) describes the heavy north-westerly passage of Sabine's Gulls through which he passed off Senegal, Rio de Oro and Morocco between 7th and 12th May 1961. Flocks totalling 63 birds were seen on 8-9th May, all flying North-West. These and other Atlantic records, and the world breeding, wintering and migratory distribution, are discussed by Mayaud. The hypothesis of Fisher & Lockley (1954) that some Sabine's Gulls winter in the Bay of Biscay is rejected, and Mayaud concludes that there is a wintering population off South-West Africa, migrating