



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



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Red Headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullaria*. I have frequently wondered at the source of the large number of Lovebirds that are exported periodically or sold locally. Whilst driving round Makurdi town I saw cages containing several hundred lovebirds suggesting that this Province is one of the sources.

White Breasted Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina pectoralis*. One seen near Yandev  
14 August 1958.

Cabani's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi*. A pair seen near Yandev on 15th August 1958

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantes pachyrhynchus*. A pair of Compact Weavers were found beside a small stream of Yandev Agricultural Department Farm.

R. E. Sharland.

(1) Gray, H.H. (1965) Some notes on the birds of Tivland. Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 7: 66-68.

(2) Fry, C.H. (1965) The birds of Zaria. III - Residents, vagrants and checklist (non-passerines). Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 7: 68-79.

Netting Hirundines by Flicking. One of the methods used in bird catching in both Britain and South Africa is known as 'flicking'.

It is a more active sport than most netting and can be used for Swallows, Martins and Swifts.

Select a site where your birds fly low (as they frequently do in Eastern Nigeria). Secure one end of the net to a pole or tree, fasten a short length of string to the upper <sup>loop</sup> of the other end of the net and tie the other end of the string on to a short pole which you hold in your hand much the same way as a fishing rod.

Let the net lie flat on the ground and as the birds fly over it raise the rod smartly.

Most of the Swallows caught at Cape Province in South Africa are caught by this method. I have found it works quite well in Kano but nearly all the Swallows here are the local non-migratory H. aethiopica.

R. E. Sharland.

Pygmy Goose Breeding in Nigeria I can find no records of the Pygmy Goose Nettapus auritus breeding in Nigeria though Sander (Nigerian Field XXI:153) records young birds near Lagos in June, and on 19th September 1961 I saw two adults accompanied by a pair of juveniles on a seasonal marsh near Kano.

On 15th August 1965, I stopped at a bridge near Birnin Kudu on the main Maiduguri Road. The river was high as a result of recent rains. A short way upstream there was a bare tree about 80ft high standing in deep water.

Four pairs of Pygmy Geese were sitting on the tree. Occasionally one of the birds would fly down to the river and return with food in its beak. If a male bird it would then pass it to a duck, who would hop along the branch to a hole and feed young birds inside. Ducks sometimes fetched food themselves but most of the 'fishing' seemed to be done by drakes.

It was impossible to scale the tree without a boat and ropes and it was very difficult to see into the holes but a bird's head was definitely seen at one hole. Pygmy Geese were seen to carry food to three separate holes.