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## RINGING IN NIGERIA 1975. 18th ANNUAL REPORT

by R.E.Sharland

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The autumn passage through Kano in 1975 was very good, but condensed in that it started later and ended earlier than usual. Conditions were good for catching wagtails in Kano in the spring, but water levels are now so high that it is doubtful if any further birds can be caught there. This is not a general rise in the water table, but a combination of laterite extraction for house-building with concentrated rains in August 1975.

The dam-building programme of Kano State has reduced the number of places for ringing waders. The birds themselves have been much in evidence (see, for instance, p.43). A Levillant's Cuckoo was trapped in Kano and kept in a bird-bag overnight, when it laid an egg!

Schedule 1. Numbers of Palaearctic species ringed

		<u>1975</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		5
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		4
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		8
Pintail	<i>A. acuta</i>	1	4
Garganey	<i>A. querquedula</i>	4	100
Shoveler	<i>A. clypeata</i>	1	4
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>		1
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		1
Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	2	3
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2	25
Little Ringed Plover	<i>C. dubius</i>		51
Kentish Plover	<i>C. alexandrinus</i>	1	1
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		1
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1	10
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>T. stagnatilis</i>		17
Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>	24	492
Green Sandpiper	<i>T. ochropus</i>	4	31
Common Sandpiper	<i>T. hypoleucos</i>	8	179
Redshank	<i>T. totanus</i>		2
Dusky Redshank	<i>T. erythropus</i>		12
Terek Sandpiper	<i>T. terek</i>		1
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	6	51
Great Snipe	<i>G. media</i>		1
Jack Snipe	<i>G. minima</i>	3	19
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	2	17
Little Stint	<i>G. minuta</i>	48	322

Temminck's Stint	<i>C. temminckii</i>		14
Sanderling	<i>C. alba</i>		1
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	42	595
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1	19
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		1
White-winged Black Tern	<i>S. leucoptera</i>		1
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>		4
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		11
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		14
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	5	57
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>		1
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	11	1499
European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		1464
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		2
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	643	36982
White Wagtail	<i>M. alba</i>	5	36
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		3
Tree Pipit	<i>A. trivialis</i>		122
Red-throated Pipit	<i>A. cervinus</i>	1	131
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		4
Woodchat Shrike	<i>L. senator senator</i>		48
Corsican Woodchat Shrike	<i>L. s. badius</i>		1
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		4
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	500
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		26
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>O. hispanica</i>		1
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>		8
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>M. solitarius</i>		1
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	17	249
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	41	325
Bluethroat	<i>L. svecica</i>		4
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		2
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		6
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	29	1967
Reed Warbler	<i>A. scirpaceus</i>	19	367
Great Reed Warbler	<i>A. arundinaceus</i>		142
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	1	167
Melodious Warbler	<i>H. polyglotta</i>	14	66
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>H. pallida</i>	2	142
Olive Tree Warbler	<i>H. olivetorum</i>		1
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	105	1692
Blackcap	<i>S. atricapilla</i>		24
Whitethroat	<i>S. communis</i>	5	2846
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>S. curruca</i>	2	154
Subalpine Warbler	<i>S. cantillans</i>	6	183
Menetries Warbler	<i>S. mystacea</i>		1
Orphean Warbler	<i>S. hortensis</i>		1
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	54	856
Chiffchaff	<i>P. collybita</i>		5
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>P. bonelli</i>		20

Wood Warbler	<i>P. sibilatrix</i>	15	153
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		281
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	12	242
Collared Flycatcher	<i>F. albicollis</i>		23
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		6
	Palaeartic birds	1138	53437
	Ethiopian birds	103	14726
	Total	1241	68163

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ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF YANKARI GAME RESERVE - Following publication of our list of the birds (Dyer & Gartshore 1975, Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc. 11: 77-84), we have had the opportunity to visit the Reserve again, from 13 to 19 December 1975. 120 species were recorded then, of which 11 are new, as follows.

Falco biarmicus Lanner A pair was seen daily at Wikki Camp.

Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt A group of three seen along the Gaji River.

Sterna leucoptera White-winged Black Tern A single bird feeding along the Gaji.

Centropus monachus Blue-headed Coucal Up to 10 distributed over about 20 ha of Cyperus swamp.

Merops pusillus Little Bee-eater One mist-netted at the confluence of the Gaji and Wikki streams; also several sight records of individual birds.

Lanius collurio isabellinus Isabelline Shrike One, probably female, being mobbed by a small flock of Euplectes bishops.

Myrmecocichla aethiops Ant-eater Chat One seen in farmland about 1 km north of the Reserve boundary.

<u>Hippolais polyglotta</u> Melodious Warbler	}	One of each species was mist-netted in light bush along the Gaji River.
<u>H. pallida</u> Olivaceous Warbler		
<u>Cisticola brachyptera</u> Short-wing Cisticola		

Vidua chalybeata Indigo-bird One or two seen in several flocks of fire-finches Lagonosticta.

We are grateful to Dr N.M. Gadzama, Department of Biological Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, who organized the field-trip to Yankari and to Mr A. Lassan, Senior Game Preservation Officer, North-East State, for granting permission to use mist-nets in the Reserve.

Michael Dyer and Mary Gartshore