



**West African Ornithological Society  
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the grassy area, but during the middle of the day they could sometimes be seen flying over the residential area where they were first observed.

Late one evening in October, the bee-eaters could not be found, but my wife and I had noticed that before nightfall the birds would move to the trees close to the river at a point where there were holes in the river bank. When I climbed down the bank to examine the holes, all four bee-eaters flew out of one hole and settled noisily in a nearby tree. Whenever a bee-eater tried to return to the hole, a Banded Martin Riparia cincta would swoop down and frighten it away. By the time we had to leave, only two of the bee-eaters had managed to re-enter the hole.

Because two of the bee-eaters were duller in plumage, particularly as to the red throat, it is believed possible that the four birds constituted a family group.

The White-fronted Bee-eater is not listed in Bannerman's works on West Africa, but "Birds of the Southern Third of Africa" by Mackworth-Praed and Grant includes Angola within its range.

J. P. Gee

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SOME NEW RECORDS FOR LAGOS.

The following species are believed to be new for the Lagos area. They are not listed in "A List of the Birds of Lagos" by Sander (Nigerian Field, Vols. XXI & XXII), nor have they been found mentioned in subsequent writings available to me. Most of these observations have been corroborated by Messrs. J.B. Heigham and M. F. Forrester, who are also active in Lagos at the present time.

Black Heron Melanophoyx ardesiaca: Two flying over Victoria Island and Kuramo waters on the evening of 4th July, 1968; they circled overhead as though wanting to land, affording a good view and eliminating confusion with the Reef Heron Demigretta gularis. A single bird was seen at Apapa marshes on 2nd February, 1969, and a single bird was present on 9th March, 1969, at the same place.

Knob-billed Goose Sarkidiornis melanotus: A single bird at Apapa marshes. 2nd February, 1969. No knob on bill; the bird was apparently in immature plumage. Not seen on subsequent visits.

Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus: An adult bird feeding at Apapa marsh on 9th March, 1969, was seen to take a Chestnut and Black Weaver Cinnamopteryx castaneofuscus. Another different individual (probably immature) was observed hunting over Victoria Island on 16th March and again on 18th March, 1969.

Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea. One bird seen on ground near rain-filled water-hole on Victoria Island on 16th August, 1968. The bird was quite shy and it flew away when a cyclist passed near. A single bird has been seen on Victoria Island on several occasions during February and March, 1969.

Niger Mourning Dove Streptopelia decipiens: Two birds, believed to be a pair, were present on Victoria Island from 12th February to 13th March, 1969. They spent much of their time in the shrubbery along the creek which forms the northern boundary of the island, but also fed on nearby sandy areas and perched on telephone wires in the vicinity. These birds were carefully checked for identification and compared with Red-eyed Turtle Doves S. semitorquata which sometimes visit the same area. The two species were seen feeding together. Be-

sides being generally lighter the best field comparisons include the following:- (1) the light orange eye, with no surrounding red patch that can be seen in the field (2) the black half-collar bordered with white, the white being noticeable even at a distance (3) no contrast between a light forecrown and darker remainder of the head as is the case with the Red-eyed Turtle Dove (4) the white in the tail. The Niger Mourning Doves engaged in a certain amount of courting, and became increasingly vocal during the period when they were seen. One bird was noticeably darker in plumage than the other but not as dark as the Red-eyed Turtle Dove.

Long-tailed Parakeet Psittacula kramori: The first observation was of a single bird near Victoria Island on 23rd December, 1968. Messrs. Forrester and Heigham have since seen single birds and two birds together on several occasions in Ikoyi.

Pied Flycatcher Picedula hypoleuca: On 10th November, 1968, I saw a single bird in Ikoyi Park which matched perfectly the description of an adult male Pied Flycatcher. I have no explanation for the bird being in such plumage at that time of the year.

Reichenbach Sunbird Anabathmis reichenbachii: Two or three individuals located on 29th September, 1968, about five miles west of Apapa on the road to Ojo. The bird has since turned out to be quite common along Turnbull Road in Ikoyi. The writer is quite familiar with this bird having made its acquaintance in Gabon where it is common in scrubby areas near the coast, and has noted this species in similar habitat near Abidjan, once feeding young.

In addition to the above, a Crowned Crane Balearica pavoniá has been seen in the Apapa marsh several times during February and March, 1969. It flies into the marsh in the evening and roosts with the herons. It is probably an escape.

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