



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



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CORRESPONDENCE.

To: The Editor,
Nigerian Ornithologists' Society.

Dear Sir,

I am grateful to Professor Skinner for explaining to us the movements of the Grey-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala within Nigeria (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 5(20):88-90).

To summarise his findings this bird is found:-

- a. Nov.- Feb: between latitude 4.5° - 7.5° N.; non-breeding.
- b. (late Jan.) Feb.- May (early June) between latitude 7.5° - 11.2° N.; breeding. (mainly Mar.- May for Plateau at lat. approx 9.7° N.).
- c. June-Sept. between latitude 12° - 15° N. non-breeding.
- d. Oct.- Nov. : a rapid southerly migration back to a.

Most of my own records of this bird would fit in with this migratory pattern, except for the following, on which I would be grateful for Professor Skinner's observations:-

1. At Yankari, on 5th and 6th March 1966, I did not see any Grey-headed Kingfishers, the common kingfisher being the Blue-breasted H. nalinbicus. But from 31st Jan.-2nd Feb. 1969, the Grey-headed was the common kingfisher, and only one Blue-breasted was seen. Were these Jan./Feb. Grey-headed Kingfishers early migrants north, or late migrants south, or do some stay over in the reserve from October to June? Why did I fail to see them in March 1966 when they should have been becoming plentiful?

2. On the Plateau, my earliest record is 10th February (earlier than Smith's) and the latest is 14th May, except for one seen at Makafo (9.5° N.) on 24th June, 1967 - presumably a very late-migrating bird, rather than indicative of some which do not migrate north?

For the southerly migration, I have several field cards with no records of Grey-headed Kingfishers, suggesting that they do not reach this latitude until November. I have a record for the last week in December 1965, again at Makafo rather later than expected, though not as late as Fry's late December record from Yankari.

Yours sincerely,

John R. Lang.

Vom Christian Hospital,
P.O.Vom, via Jos,
Benue Plateau State.