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Reçu 28 mai 1995

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Winter site fidelity of Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* in N. Nigeria

Berthold (1993) notes that bird ringing is revealing more and more cases of fidelity to wintering sites. Cuadrado *et al.* (1995) conclude that Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla* wintering in southwestern Europe seem to return to the same general area year after year. Elgood *et al.* (1994) list retraps of Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* by Sharland at Kano, up to seven years after ringing, and a Spanish Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* ringed in December 1964 which remained until February then returned for the 1965-66 winter. Elgood *et al.* (1994) quote R.E. Sharland as reporting that, of ten Common Redstarts *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* ringed at Kano, two were retrapped the following year.

A female Common Redstart *P. p. phoenicurus* was controlled by me over three winters, in the same 200-300 m of hedge, in my garden in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria. It was first ringed on 15 Nov 1962 and departed on 25 Mar 1963. It returned on 9 Nov 1963 and remained until 27 Mar 1964. It returned again on 30 Nov 1964, remaining until 18 Mar 1965, after which it was not seen again. The "arrival" dates in 1963 and 1964 refer to when the bird was first heard calling or was mist-netted. The "departure" dates were when it was last heard. It was also mist-netted from time to time to check its identity, and it became quite tame. There was also a male in the same hedge from 25 Feb 1962 until 5 Mar 1962, presumably feeding up before moving north.

I can find nothing in the literature providing evidence of similar, consistent, and

specific fidelity to such a limited winter site. The bird stayed, on average, about four months over three successive winters.

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Received 9 January 1995

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Revised 4 May 1995

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More observations of Audouin's Gulls *Larus audouinii* in Senegal

As a confirmation of recent observations of Audouin's Gulls *Larus audouinii*, wintering on the Senegalese coast south of Dakar (Baillon 1989, Delaporte & Dubois 1990, Anon. 1994), a team of Scandinavian ornithologists counted, in Nov-Dec 1994, on one day 112 and the next 456 Audouin's Gulls near Palmarin, in the same area where the earlier observations had been made. As we could visit only about 10% of the apparently suitable ponds, we suggest that the total wintering population could have been much larger. Many of the birds wore a white plastic ring in addition to a metal ring; we were able to read 16 of the latter which indicated their place of ringing as Spain.

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Received 4 January 1995

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Revised 1 July 1995

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