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BIRDS OF THE CHAD BASIN BOREHOLES

by P. Hall

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In the Chad basin between Mongonu ($12^{\circ}45'N, 13^{\circ}27'E$) and Kauwa ($12^{\circ}58'N, 13^{\circ}40'E$), an extensive drilling programme was carried out in 1960 to provide artesian water at land surface from boreholes tapping the high-yielding aquifers there. The impact of this development has had a marked effect on the regional, social and economic structure of the area, and the agrarian economy is now largely dependent on them. However, there have also been other far-reaching effects on the delicate ecological balance of the area, the already grossly overgrazed pastures being unable to stand the continuous onslaught of cattle without any respite during the dry season. Around all of the boreholes extensive tracts of land are now trampled bare; the last remnants of vegetation are being recklessly devastated to accommodate the insatiable appetites of herds of goats; sandstorms are stirred up by the slightest breath of wind. The balance which had long been preserved has been upset, a process which culminated in the catastrophic cattle losses during the drought in the late sixties.

It is in this area that three of the boreholes are allowed to flow continuously, pouring thousands of gallons of water away into the arid surroundings and forming large pools which have proved exceedingly rich in birdlife. These are at Minetti, Bindir and Kauwa, and the birds that I have recorded at these boreholes are listed below. Most observations were made in the period June 1975 to February 1976, with intermittent observations at other times. Scientific nomenclature follows White (1960-65) and English names follow Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1970-73).

Ardeola ralloides Two at Kauwa and two at Bindir in August.

Ardeola ibis Frequent in most months at Minetti and Kauwa.

Egretta alba 1 at Kauwa in August.

Egretta garzetta Small numbers present at Minetti in August and September.

Ardea melanocephala Small numbers present at Minetti from August to November.

Scopus umbretta 1 at Minetti in August.

Ciconia abdimii Frequent at Minetti and Kauwa in August and September.

Leptoptilus crumeniferus Recorded at all 3 boreholes at the height of the dry season with up to 26 at Minetti in February.

Threskiornis aethiopica Small numbers at Kauwa in August and September.

Plegadis falcinellus 1 at Kauwa in January.

Dendrocygna viduata Small numbers at Minetti in August.

Anas capensis 2 seen at Minetti on the 11th November.

Plectropterus gambensis 5 at Minetti in August.

Aegyptius tracheliotus Frequent at Minetti and Bindir at the height of the dry season with up to 10 recorded at Minetti in February.

Trionoceps occipitalis 2 at Minetti in February.

Gyps ruppelli Recorded at all 3 boreholes at the height of the dry season with up to 12 at Minetti in February.

Gyps bengalensis Recorded at all 3 boreholes at the height of the dry season and undoubtedly the commonest vulture in the area with up to 40 at Minetti in February.

Neophron monachus Small numbers always present around all 3 boreholes.

Terathopus ecaudatus 1 at Kauwa in October.

Circaetus gallicus 1 at Bindir in March.

Melierax metabates Present in most months at Minetti and Kauwa.

Melierax gabar 1 at Minetti and 1 at Kauwa in August.

Butaster rufipennis Present in small numbers at Minetti and Kauwa in August and September.

Buteo rufinus 1 seen at Minetti on the 12th November.

Buteo auguralis 1 at Kauwa in September.

Lophoaetus occipitalis 1 at Kauwa in February.

Aquila rapax Frequent at Minetti in the late dry season with up to 8 recorded in February.

Aquila wahlbergi 1 at Kauwa in August.

Milvus migrans Frequent in all months at all 3 boreholes.

Elanus caeruleus 1 at Kauwa in September and January.

Pandion haliaetus 1 at Kauwa in September and 1 in October.

Falco biarmicus Individuals recorded at all 3 boreholes in February, June and September although particularly evident in June.

Falco chicquera 1 at Minetti in November.

Francolinus clappertoni 2 at Kauwa in February.

Otis arabs 1 at Bindir in August.

Vanellus spinosus Frequent in most months at all 3 boreholes.

Vanellus senegallus 1 at Kauwa in September.

Charadrius hiaticula Small numbers in November and February at Minetti with a maximum of 10 in February.

Charadrius dubius Small numbers from September to February at all 3 boreholes with a maximum of 20 at Minetti in November.

Charadrius pecuarius 1 at Minetti in June and frequent at all 3 boreholes in November.

- Charadrius tricollaris Present in all months from August to February at Minetti and Bindir with a maximum of 5 at Bindir in August and 5 at Minetti in November. Other records now seem to suggest that it is a dry season migrant to the north.
- Charadrius alexandrinus 5 at Minetti in November, 1 of which was caught.
- Tringa nebularia Present in small numbers at all 3 boreholes from August to November with a maximum of 15 at Minetti in November.
- Tringa stagnatilis Present in small numbers at Minetti and Bindir from August to February with a maximum of 10 at Minetti in November.
- Tringa glareola Present in small numbers at all 3 boreholes from August to January with a maximum of 15 at Minetti in August.
- Tringa ochropus 1 at Bindir in August.
- Tringa hypoleucos Small numbers at Minetti and Kauwa in August, September and February with a maximum of 3 at Minetti in February.
- Tringa totanus 3 at Minetti in November.
- Tringa erythropus 1 at Minetti in February.
- Calidris ferruginea Present in small numbers at all 3 boreholes from September to November with a maximum of 10 at Minetti in November.
- Calidris minuta Frequent at all 3 boreholes from August to February with a maximum of 50 at Minetti in November.
- Philomachus pugnax Frequent at all 3 boreholes from August to February with a maximum of 30 at Minetti in August.
- Himantopus himantopus Frequent at all 3 boreholes from August to February with a maximum of 30 at Minetti in November.
- Recurvirostra avosetta 3 at Minetti on the 11th November.
- Rostratula benghalensis 1 at Minetti in August.
- Pluvianus aegyptius 2 at Minetti in August.
- Glareola pratincola 1 at Kauwa in August.
- Glareola cinerea 3 at Bindir in August.
- Pterocles exustus 3 at Minetti in February.
- Pterocles quadricinctus Small parties at Kauwa in September.
- Columba guinea Frequent throughout the year at all 3 boreholes.
- Streptopelia decipiens Frequent throughout the year at all 3 boreholes.
- Streptopelia vinacea Frequent throughout the year at all 3 boreholes although smaller numbers during the dry season from November to February.
- Streptopelia roseogrisea Small numbers throughout the year at all 3 boreholes although frequent in the dry season from November to February.
- Streptopelia senegalensis Frequent throughout the year at all 3 boreholes.
- Oena capensis Small numbers throughout the year at all 3 boreholes although frequent in the dry season from September to February.
- Turtur abyssinicus Only 1 recorded at Kauwa in August.
- Psittacula krameri Frequent throughout the year at Kauwa.

Chrysococcyx caprius Present in small numbers at Minetti and Kauwa in August and September.

Bubo lacteus A pair caught at Kauwa in September 1972, after being affected by qulelea control operations.

Apus apus Small numbers passing through the area at all 3 boreholes in August.

Apus affinus Frequent at all 3 boreholes from August to November.

Cypsiurus parvus Small numbers at Kauwa throughout the year.

Colius macrourus Small numbers at Minetti and Kauwa throughout the year.

Ceryle rudis 2 at Bindir in August.

Halcyon chelicuti Small numbers at Kauwa from July to September.

Halcyon leucocephala Small numbers present at Kauwa from July to September.

Merops orientalis Small numbers present at Kauwa throughout the year.

Merops nubicus Frequent at Kauwa from June to September.

Merops albicollis Frequent at Kauwa from June to September.

Merops pusillus Occasional at Kauwa throughout the year.

Coracias abyssinica Small numbers at Minetti and Kauwa from July to November.

Upupa epops Occasional at Kauwa throughout the year.

Phoeniculus purpureus Small numbers at Kauwa throughout the year.

Tockus nasutus Occasional at Minetti and Kauwa throughout the year although frequent from July to October.

Tockus erythrorhynchus Small numbers at Minetti and Kauwa throughout the year.

Mesopicus goertae 1 at Kauwa in August.

Eremopterix leucotis Small numbers at all 3 boreholes from June to January.

Galerida cristata Small numbers at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Riparia riparia Small numbers on passage at Minetti in February and Kauwa in September.

Hirundo aethiopica Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Hirundo spilodera Frequent at Kauwa in August.

Motacilla flava Small numbers at all 3 boreholes from September to February.

Motacilla alba Small numbers at Minetti and Kauwa from November to February.

Lanius excubitor 1 at Kauwa in November.

Dicrurus adsimilis Occasional throughout the year at Kauwa.

Lamprotornis chalybaeus Frequent at Minetti and Kauwa throughout the year.

Spreo pulcher Small numbers occasionally at Minetti and Kauwa throughout the year.

Buphagus africanus Small numbers occasionally throughout the year at all 3 boreholes.

Corvus albus Small numbers throughout the year at all 3 boreholes.

Oenanthe oenanthe Small numbers at all 3 boreholes from November to February.

Cercotrichas podobe Occasional at Kauwa throughout the year.

Phylloscopus trochilus In small numbers on passage at Kauwa in August and September.

Prinia subflava Occasional at Kauwa throughout the year.

Apalis pulchella Small numbers at Kauwa in August and November.

Camaroptera brachyura Occasional at Kauwa throughout the year.

Eremomela icteropygialis Occasional at Kauwa throughout the year.

Muscicapa striata Occasional on passage at Kauwa in October.

Anthreptes platyura Small numbers at Kauwa from November to February.

Nectarinia pulchella Frequent at Kauwa in August and September and occasional at other times of the year.

Emberiza flaviventris Occasional at Kauwa from August to October.

Emberiza tahapisi Occasional at Kauwa from June to September.

Serinus leucopygius Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Ploceus luteolus Frequent at Kauwa throughout the year.

Ploceus velatus Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Ploceus melanocephalus Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Quelea quelea Common throughout most of the year at Kauwa.

Euplectes afer Small numbers at Minetti throughout the year.

Euplectes orix Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Bubalornis albirostris Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Passer griseus Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Passer luteus Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Petronia dentata Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

Sporopipes frontalis Small numbers at Kauwa throughout most of the year.

Vidua orientalis Small numbers at all 3 boreholes throughout most of the year.

Amadina fasciata Frequent at all 3 boreholes at least from September to February.

Estrilda troglodytes Frequent at all 3 boreholes at least from September to February.

Estrilda bengala Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.
Lagonosticta senegala Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.
Lonchura malabarica Frequent at all 3 boreholes throughout the year.

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