



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



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the immediate impression was of a very dark blackish-brown duck with noticeable white spots on the upperparts, wings and tail. The flight was noticeably laboured, and once settled back in the marsh it proved impossible to flush a second time. These characteristics alone suggest a Black Duck, and the sightings constitute the first records of this little known duck in Nigeria. Bannerman (1953) and Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1970-73) describe it as essentially a highland bird and give records from the Cameroun Highlands, an area verging on and showing considerable ornithological affinities with the Mambilla Plateau.

P. Hall

Two other firsts for Nigeria, Dendropicos poecilolaemus and Artomyias ussheri, are recorded on pp. 73 and 76.

Ed.

THRUSH-NIGHTINGALE Luscinia luscinia NEW TO NIGERIA AND WEST AFRICA - During September 1975, while netting in the grounds of the Zoological Gardens in Kano, I trapped a bird which although superficially resembling a Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos, was obviously of a different species. The more striking differences were the dull brown plumage, the lack of rufous in the tail and indistinct linear spots on the throat and breast.

A detailed description and measurements were made of the bird all of which fitted descriptions of the Thrush-Nightingale L. luscinia. A skin was prepared and has been lodged with the British Museum collection, where the identification was confirmed.

This would appear to be the first record of this north-west Palaearctic species (which winters in eastern Africa) as far west as Nigeria.

I would like to acknowledge my thanks to P. R. Colston of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tring, for his confirmation of the identification of the skin.

J. R. Best

ADDITIONS TO LOCAL AVIFAUNAS

YANKARI. In their paper on the birds of Yankari Game Reserve, Dyer & Gartshore (1975, Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc. 11, 40 : 77-84) recorded Secretary-Birds Sagittarius serpentarius just outside, but not inside, its boundaries. During my stay at Yankari in April 1974 I observed a Secretary-Bird in an open grassland area on Coulthard's Way between Mawulgo Spring and Sir Gawain Bell Falls. The accompanying game guard also recognised the bird on sight and did not seem to be surprised, so presumably it occurs regularly in the Reserve.

Andrew Demeter