



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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NEW RECORDS FOR NIGERIA - White-breasted Tit Parus albiventris One bird seen on 16 April 1977 in the foothills of the Obudu Plateau in Cross River State. Head, chest and mantle black; belly, undertail coverts and stripe along wing white. With a small mixed bird party in open woods. The eye was black. The Black Tit Parus leucomelas has also been seen in this area; it is all black below, and the local race has a conspicuous yellow eye. I am familiar with P. albiventris from previous observations in Tanzania.

Banded Prinia Prinia bardii Two birds were seen on 17 April 1977 in a mountain forest ravine on the Obudu Plateau. They were well seen feeding and calling in thick foliage in a creek bed. General colour above grey brown, with white spots on wing coverts and along the long graduated tail. Below chest and flanks strongly barred brown. Bill dark, eye red. Throat grey, belly white. The call a rather shrill note repeated rapidly about eight times. This species is known to the observer from Mount Cameroon, and this is believed to be the first sighting in Nigeria.

Luhder's Bush Shrike Laniarius luhderi This quite unmistakable shrike has been seen on several occasions near the airport at Calabar, Cross River State. One was seen on 14 November 1976, two adults on 9 January 1977, and one adult and an immature on 1 April 1977. The birds skulk in deep shrubbery, and are rather quiet. The adult is black above, excepting the cap, which is bright buffy orange, and a white shoulder stripe. Below the throat and chest are orange, the undertail coverts white. The immature is olive brown above, with a wide yellowish shoulder streak, and a dull rufous tail. Throat and chest are yellowish. These field notes match the description in Praed & Grant (1973), and the identification is clear. Two other shrikes inhabit the same shrubbery, Tchagra senegala and Lanius collaris, but neither resemble the present species. It is of interest that the White-chinned Prinia Prinia leucopogon inhabits the same area, the range also restricted in Nigeria to the south east corner.

Paul Mackenzie

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER IN GHANA - On 4 October 1977 at Nakwa Lagoon, Ghana (05°13'N, 00°56'W) I flushed from the water's edge two Ringed Plovers Charadrius hiaticula and a distinctly larger unfamiliar plover. The latter looked very similar to but 'wrong' for a Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria. After trying unsuccessfully to locate the bird where it landed, I was returning when it flew from the original pool with a small sandpiper Tringa sp. and a Kittlitz's Sand Plover C. pecuarius. As on the first occasion it towered to some 40-50 m a few hundred metres from the pool, before gliding down to land close to me. I watched it on the ground and in two brief flights at about 20 m with a pair of Greenshank T. nebularia for several minutes before all three birds took off. The plover was not seen again.

On the ground the bird looked like a slender greyish Golden Plover with noticeably longer dark legs, a longer neck and a long tapering silhouette produced by the extension of the wings beyond the tail. The bill was black and the head appeared light because of the ill-defined pale area over the eye, on the forehead and on the lores. The upperparts were dark with

clear grey-buff edges to the feathers, appearing much greyer than in Golden Plover and more like Ruff Philomachus pugnax. The breast was lightly streaked, especially on the sides, but often appeared uniform pale buff. Belly and under tail-coverts were white. An indistinct pale bar showed across the primaries in flight, similar to but less contrasted than in the Golden Plover. Tail and rump were dark, the former narrowly barred darker. Before rising and after landing it held its wings momentarily vertically, showing clearly on three occasions the grey under-wing coverts shading to smoky grey axillaries.

The build and colour of the underwing identified it as a Lesser Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica ssp. While it would be wrong to identify the race positively from a field observation, the greyish appearance and large size, approaching that of a Greenshank, together with the western location suggest the nominate American form dominica rather than the Siberian fulva (Hollom 1968, The Popular Handbook of British Birds, Witherby).

M. A. Macdonald

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ON WAHLBERG'S EAGLE

The Wahlberg's Eagle (Aquila wahlbergi) is a medium-sized raptor, which in southern Africa is commonly seen in its breeding season from August to February. During this period it is possibly the most numerous breeding raptor in the sub-continent. However when it leaves the breeding area with its young in March-April, little is known of where it moves to. In southern Africa Peter Steyn suggests they fly north, while in Kenya Dr Leslie Brown suggests that they fly south.

In an attempt to obtain some information on the movements of this Eagle we are embarking on a colour tagging scheme in which a coloured strip of Darvic plastic is fixed to the "wrist" section of the wing. The tag will be visible both in flight and while the bird is perched. The main colour of the tag will represent the area in which the bird was

captured and tagged, while its individual number will be engraved on the tag in a contrasting colour. This will allow a bird to be traced to a particular area, while closer observation will enable individual recognition of the bird.

We are therefore appealing to all bird watchers in the Central African region to keep a lookout for any Wahlberg's Eagles which may have a coloured tag attached to one of its wings. The information desired is: the location of the sighting, colour of the tag and on which wing, and the individual number engraved on the tag.

Anyone seeing a marked Eagle is asked to kindly send information to A. J. Anthony, c/o 180 St John's Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8BE, Scotland, UK.

All correspondence will be acknowledged.

CORRIGENDUM

Dry Season Birds at Enugu and Nsukka. Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc. 13 (43) (1977), p.62 :

My identification of Quelea quelea at Enugu is probably in error for nonbreeding males of Vidua macroura. Pending further observations this record should therefore be ignored and Q. quelea deleted from the Enugu list.

S.G. Cowper