

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



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cont./			<u>1964</u>	Total to date
Willow Warbler	Phy11	oscopus trochilus	15	25
Chiffchaff	Ph. collybita		7	1
Wood Warbler	Ph. sibilatrix		3	6
Bonelli's Warbler	Ph. bonelli		. ]	. 1
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscica striata		56	72
Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca		39	109
Collared Flycatcher	F. albicollis		4	13
Tawny Pipit	ipit Anthus campestris		*	3
Tree Pipit	Pipit A. trivialis		26	. 39
Red-throated Pipit	ed-throated Pipit A. cervinus		,	117
White Wagtail	Wagtail Motacilla alba		7	14
Yellow wagtails.	Budyt	es f. flavus	. 3 <b>,</b> 227	7,261
1 "	B.f. thunbergi		4	17
	B.f. feldegg		1	7
	B.f. superciliaris		1	· 1
- Woodchat Shrika Lanius :		s senator	1	4 .
lsabelline Shrika	sabelline Shrika L. isabellinus			7
Ortolan Bunting	Bunting Emberiza hortulana		. 2	2
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucus		<u></u>	58
		54 species	3,754	10,100
Non-palaearctic migrants		136 species	101	4,520
GRAND TOTAL		190 species	3,855	14,620

## A WEEK AT BOKKOS

# V.W.Smith

Bokkos (9° 20' N., 9° 00' E.) lies at the southern end of the Jos Plateau, at an altitude of just over 4,000 ft. Although within the area covered by the 'Provisional Check-list of the Birds of the Plateau Province over 3,000 feet' (Ebbutt et al., Bull. N.O.S. 1964) these notes may be of interest because they were made during one week (27th September to 4th October, 1964) at a time when there was a considerable movement of migrants. Breeding notes on some of the species have also been included.

The countryside is open grassland, favoured by the Fulani for grazing their cattle; rocky outcrops predominate. The main areas covered were approximately two miles radius of Bokkos and Daffo (11 miles West), and the road between these two villages.

White-faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata. Brood of half-grown ducklings on river.

Harriers Circus sp. None seen.

Bush Fowl Francolinus bicalcaratus. One killed contained a shelled egg. Black-bellied Bustard Lissotis melanogaster. One female seen; from its anxious behaviour, it seemed to have a nest or young nearby.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos. Few seen on river.

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus. One seen on marshy ground.

European Swift Micropus apus. 3 moving South on late afternoon of 1st October.

Little Swift Colletoptera affinis. About half a dozen pairs feeding young in nests in Bokkos rest-house garage.

White-throated Bee-eater Agrops albicollis. Flock of about 30 passing southwards high up on 2nd October.

Red-capped Lark Calandrella cinerea. Two pairs in the vicinity of Bokkos rest-house, showing imminent signs of breeding; one bird seen carrying grass.

Blue-headed Wagtail Budytes flavus flavus. None seen until 3rd October (the author was working with cattle every day and can be emphatic on this point). On 3rd October, flocks, about 30 in each, were seen with two herds of cattle about 5 miles West of Bokkos. Thefollowing day some were seen with cattle at Barakin Ladi (about 20 miles North), but there were none with cattle in the Vom area (about 40 miles North) or at a known wagtail roost near Vom until 9th October. All birds seen at Bokkos appeared to be of the race given above.

<u>Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca</u>. One seen in bushes and stunted trees at Bokkos rest-house on 2nd October, and during the afternoon was seen to fly boldly off southwards until out of sight.

Hheatear Oenanthe oenanthe. None seen.

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra. There was always one in the cover at Bokkos rest-house. On 29th September one was mist-netted at the rest-house and ringed. This bird was recaught on 30th, with another which was also ringed. Both had moved elsewhere by 1st October, their place being taken by unringed birds. In the surrounding grassland, numbers increased considerably on 3rd October, every little vantage point being occupied by a Whinchat.

European Swallow Hirundo rustica. A few were seen on passage.

Woodchat Lanius senator. None seen.

Copper Sumbird Cinnyris cupreus. A pair were nesting in thick vegetation in a very deep water-course. No nest was found, but the female was seen twice carrying feed.

Yellow-fronted Canary Serious mozambicus. One of a pair was watched building a very delicate cup in a fork of a low bush along the Richa road on 3rd October.

In addition to the species which have been listed above, the following species were seen or heard at least once during the week. Species which were regularly seen and well distributed are indicated by 'K'. 7. Grey Heron Ardea cinerea Black-headed Heron Ardea melanocephala Hammerkop Scopus umbretta White-headed Vulture Trigonoceps occipitalis X Common Vulture Necrosyrtes monachus Lanner Falco biarmicus Falco tinnunculus Kestrel Falco ardosiaceus Grey Kestrel X Black Kite Milvus migrans Bataleur Terathopius ecaudatus Gypohierax angolensis Palm-nut Vulture Red-tailed Buzzard Buteo auguralis Chanting Goshawk Melierax metabates Rock Partridge Ptilopachus petrosus Crowned Crane Balearica pavonina Senegal Wattled Plover Afribyx senegallus X Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea Adamawa Turtle-dove Streptopelia hypopyrrhus Red-eyed Turtle-dove Streptopelia semitorquata Laughing Dove Stigmatopelia senegalensis χ Spotted Eagle Owl Bubo africanus Didric Cuckoo Lampromorpha caprius Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis X Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis Senegal Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis Grey Hornbill Lophoceros nasutus Black-throated Honey-guide Indiactor indicator X Buckley's Bush-Lark Mirafra buckleyi Crested Lark Galerida cristata Yellow-throated Longclaw Macronyx croceus X Common Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus Yellow-throated Leaf-love Pyrrhurus flavicollis Rod-tailed Chat Cercomela familiaris X Ant-Chat Myrmecocichla aethiops Fantail Warbler Cisticola juncidis X Rock-loving Grass-Warbler Cisticola emini X Rufous Grass-Warbler Cisticola galactotes Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo rufula Bell-Shrike Laniarius ferrugineus Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegala Pied Crow Corvus albus γ. Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Buphagus africanus X, Rock Bunting Fringillaria tahapisi X χ. Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griscus Village Weaver Placeis stagra cucullatus Orange Bishop Empleotes orix \*\*\* !\ Yellow-mantle Whydah Coliuspasser macrourus ). Long-tailed Black Whydah Coliuspasser ardens  $\chi$ Bronze Mannakin Spermestes cucullatus Quail Finch Ortygospiza atricollis X. Red-cheeked Gordon-blen Unaeginthus bengalus χ Combassou sp. Hypochera ny. Pintailed Whydah Vidva mecroura

# BIRD FROEDCREAM BY SPARKING

### J.C.H.Beacherton

Finding photography 'of the nost' almost an impossibility in this country, firstly for lack of time, and secondly be-cause of the insecurity of hidea, the very propert of materials proving attractive to the clocal population. I decided to try the stalking method.