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Black-winged Oriole Oriolus nigripennis Occasional at Mkar and Mbaakon.

Amethyst Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster Several at Fikyu, near Takum, April 1954.

Pygmy Long-tailed Sunbird Hedydipna platura Several pairs at Jato Akaa in the mission station garden, January 1965. One killed by flying into the house wall was examined in the hand. Not noted in a visit there one month later.

Copper Sunbird Cinnyris cupreus A few at the Leprosy Settlement, Mkar, in wet season 1954 and 1955. Never seen at Mbaakon.

Splendid Sunbird Cinnyris coccinigaster A year-round resident at Mbaakon. Heard at Mkar in June 1965.

Yellow-bellied Sunbird Cinnyris venustus At Mkar, wet season 1954 and 1955. One at Mkar in July 1965. Never seen at Mbaakon.

Yellow-fronted Canary Serinus mozambicus A few at Mbaakon and Mkar.

Village Weaver Plesiositagra cucullatus Apparently seasonal; they arrived at Mbaakon on 10th March 1965, nested in June and July. In 1964 they left in early November.

Fire-crowned Bishop Euplectes hordacea
Orange Bishop E. orix Both in evidence in the wet season on farms; perhaps the former is more abundant.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu Uraeginthus bengalus A few at the Leprosy Settlement, Mkar, in February and March 1954. I was informed that these birds are occasionally captured at Takum in Wukari Division. I have never seen them as far South as Mbaakon.

Reference

Serle, W. (1957) A contribution to the ornithology of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. Ibis 99 : 371-418 & 628-685.

THE BIRDS OF ZARIA. III - RESIDENTS, VAGRANTS AND CHECK-LIST (NON-

PASSERINES)

C.H.Fry

III. Residents, Vagrants and Check-list (Non-Passerines). Since the first two parts of this article were written (I - African Migrants; II - Palaearctic Migrants) I have learned a good deal more - especially about seasonal distribution - about the birds of the Zaria area through having spent my first wet season here. The list which follows is an annotated check-list of the birds in which the African and Palaearctic migrants are included in systematic order without comment except where a major amendment to the status or distribution given in Parts I and II is necessary. Minor additions and corrections will be given in a subsequent paper after the completion of this series.

Little Grebe *Poliocephalus ruficollis* Rare. Single birds in February and June at Giwa and Maska (respectively 25 and 37 miles N.W. of Zaria on the Funtua road).

Long-tailed Shag *Phalacrocorax africanus* Frequent but irregular; non-breeding birds occur on all open waters, the R. Galma, larger fadamas etc. in all months.

Darter *Anhinga rufa* Rare. The few records refer to the early wet season, i.e. May and June.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Regularly seen in small numbers in waterside situations. There is no evidence as to its breeding in the area.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* About the same abundance as the Grey Heron, but only rarely occurs in wet habitats and prefers dry country, especially newly turned earth in fields. There is a breeding colony in the head of a tall tree in the centre of Zaria Tudun Wada. Egg-laying commences about the third week of April, and the young are near to fledging in the fourth week of June. I believe this colony is not interfered with by the townspeople, but the species is persecuted elsewhere and I have two or three times seen shot birds.

Purple Heron *Pyrroherodia purpurea* Rather commoner than the two preceding species; throughout the year in fadamas, on the Galma flood-plain etc. Unknown whether it breeds locally.

Goliath Heron *Typhon goliath* Recorded as a breeding resident from Zaria town or Zaria Province by Hartert (1915).)

Great White Heron *Casmerodius albus* Uncommon. Recorded in most months.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Rather more records than of the Great White Heron, throughout the year, but by no means frequent.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Locally frequent, but evidently less so in the dry season. Easily overlooked, even when the only concealing vegetation is water-lilies. Again, no evidence of local breeding, although this species very probably does nest in the area.

Little Green Heron *Butorides striatus* Common; in a wide variety of situations from very small transient puddles to lakes or sandy erosion streams. A nest with 2 half-grown nestlings was found at Maska Dam on 16th October (N.J.S.). On 2nd November I received two fledged Little Green Herons and kept them captive for two weeks before release. During this period the following notes were made :

The tail is continuously bobbed or flicked in the vertical plane at any or all times except when roosting.

The only note heard was a rapid vocal clicking; this was rare, not obviously elicited by any stimulus, and its function was not apparent.

During the first two or three days both birds occasionally 'bitterned' i.e. held the head and neck rigidly up, the bill pointing upwards but the eyes looking horizontally 'under' the mandibles. The longitudinally striped throat and neck are reed-cryptic in this posture.

The alarm reaction, noted on the first two evenings only, was to spread the rami of the lower mandibles wide, looking rather fearsome, and crouch back.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Vagrant. 1 imm. Maska Dam, 2nd May 1963; 1 adult same place 25th March 1965.

Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus An adult flushed from a road-side fadama about 30 miles North-East of Zaria on the Kano road on 2nd September 1965 constitutes the only record.

African Dwarf Bittern Ardeirallus sturmii Rarely recorded. Ward saw one at Maska (no date), and an adult frequented a wet area off the Kubani stream below Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria from 31st May 1965 for a few days.

Hammerkop Scopus umbretta Breeding resident. Not common, but widely distributed. 2 to 4 can generally be found at Maska Dam, where a nest built in 1962 or earlier was taken over by Barn Owls Tyto alba and is still recognizable to-day; and the species is frequently encountered on streams (whether in woodland or open farmland), rivers and lakes, and I have even seen it in such outlandish places as on top of a large inselberg (Kufena, Zaria). It may be presumed to breed in any wet area.

(White Stork Ciconia ciconia Recorded from the environs of Zaria or Zaria Province by Hartert (1915).)

Woolly-necked Stork Dissoura episcopus Ward recorded a pair at Samaru lake (late?).

Abdim's Stork Sphenorhynchus abdimii

Open-bill Anastomus lamelligerus

Marabou Leptoptilos crumeniferus Occasional; Maska (Ward) and Zaria (Fry) (5th February 1965).

Wood Ibis Ibis ibis

Sacred Ibis Threskiornis aethiopicus Occasional; Maska (Ward). One at Maska on 15th December 1963.

Ferruginous Duck Nyroca nyroca

(Slover Spatula clypeata Recorded from the environs of Zaria or Zaria Province by Hartert (1915).) (Omitted in error from Part II).

Garganey Anas querquedula Rare. Six at Maska on 19th January 1964 and 3 on the R. Galma flood meadows on 23rd August 1965. (Omitted in error from Part II).

(Teal Anas crecca Recorded from the environs of Zaria or Zaria Province by Hartert (1915).)

Pintail Dafila acuta

White-faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata Frequent and widespread on open waters and marshes. 7 ducklings, two or three weeks old, were handled on 23rd October. These and all other waterfowl, in the broadest sense of the word, are much persecuted.

Pygmy Goose Nattapus auritus Noted irregularly, usually in pairs, from February to October. I am unsure whether it is present in winter.

Knob-billed Goose Sarkidiornis melanotus Rare. One on 12th May 1963, flying over Zaria town; one at Maska on 21st March 1965 and two there four days later.

Spur-winged Goose Plectropterus gambensis Frequent at Maska, Samaru lake, and on the Galma marshes; irregular however, perhaps due to shooting, and all records fall between 16th March and 7th October.

Secretary-Bird Sagittarius serpentarius Recorded as a breeding resident in Zaria environs or Province by Hartert (1915). Thereafter no records at all until late February and March 1965, when 1, 1 and 4

birds were recorded on separate occasions, two being captured (Fry, 1965).

Lanner Falco biarmicus In winter the commonest falcon, widespread in a variety of habitats (woodland, inselbergs, farmland, suburban areas etc.), but numbers diminish considerable in the summer months and I have no August records :

I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII

13 9 7 13 18 1 2* 0 1 1 4 15 ... summed monthly totals

* (30th July)

I have no nest records, but the species almost certainly breeds at Zaria. Copulation has been seen in December. (I have two or three times seen falcons thought to be Peregrines F. peregrinus at Zaria, but confirmation is required).

Red-footed Falcon Falco vespertinus

Red-necked Kestrel Falco chiquera Widespread but rather uncommon. More often than not seen in fadamas or other wet habitats. Resident; no breeding data.

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

(Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni Recorded from the environs of Zaria or Zaria Province by Hartert (1915).)

Fox Kestrel Falco alopec Common local resident; restricted to the larger inselbergs e.g. Kufena (Zaria), Dunbi (14 miles South of Zaria) and Zagina (25 miles South of Zaria).

Grey Kestrel Falco ardosiaceus A rather frequent and widely distributed falcon, resident and breeding in the area. A pair nested in the top of the water-tower at Ahmadu Bello University in Spring 1965, the advanced nestling or early fledgling being caught by labourers on 9th June.

Swallow-tailed Kite Chelictinia riocourii

Black Kite Milvus migrans See p.15. In 1965 kites arrived at Zaria on 10th September, and were frequent on the following day, and common after another ten days. One was seen 40 miles N.E. of Zaria on 2nd September, and there was a single bird outside its normal range, at Zaria on 22nd August.

Black-shouldered Kite Elanus caeruleus Resident; not uncommon.

Bat Hawk Machaerhamphus alcinus Rare. A pair Maska Dam 3rd December 1962.

Tawny Eagle Aquila rapax

Wahlberg's Eagle Aquila wahlbergi A breeding resident, widely distributed in both woodland and scrubland (i.e. areas of poor lateritic and/or stony soil carrying a more-or-less dense flora of dry scrubby shrubs and small trees of mean height about 6 ft., intersected by erosion gullies, and usually with well-formed woodland immediately bordering the larger streams; a characteristic habitat outside forest reserves where farming is not intensive). It is less common than might be expected for a large raptor however. Ward found a nest at Samaru on 9th June 1960 (in a tree with nests of Heuglin's Masked Weavers Plegiositagra heuglini and Red-winged Anaplectes Anaplectes melanotis, which has subsequently been cut down) with two eggs on the point of hatching on 1st September. There must be some fidelity to nesting-sites, since a nest in Maska forest reserve has been occupied for three years (but I have no breeding dates).

The status of this eagle would be better known if it were not so

easily confused in the field with Circaetus cinereus (q.v.). Not even the habit of snake-carrying is a positive identification of the Circaetus, since A. wahlbergi also feeds on snakes.

Martial Eagle Polemaetus bellicosus. Rare; doubtless wide-ranging individuals; probably nests in remoter undisturbed areas. An immature on 14th November 1962; an adult on 8th August 1965, both at Zaria; and a pair of adults on the Kaduna road in September 1965 (D.Burkhardt).

Long-crested Hawk-Eagle Lophoaetus occipitalis Presumably a breeding resident, but uncommon, sometimes with gaps of months between sightings. No breeding data. Associated with wet areas, fadamas etc., but will occur in the parkland formed where ancient intensive farming encourages large shade trees but has cleared all smaller plant-life.

Lizard Buzzard Kaupifalco monogrammicus Breeding resident, locally frequent or common in the type of parkland described above. Two nestlings were given to me on 5th June 1963.

Short-toed Eagle Circaetus gallicus

Beaudouin's Harrier-Eagle C. beaudouini Both species certainly occur, but they are difficult to distinguish apart in the absence of field notes. Serle collected a nestling beaudouini at Zaria on 20th January 1940; but this is the only indisputable record I know of. During the last 25 years there must have been a great reduction in the quantity and quality of woodland savanna around Zaria (see remarks under Numida meleagris) and I suggest that the present and the following species both require mature woodland and are at present accordingly rare or vagrant in the Zaria area. C. beaudouini is apparently everywhere a rare species anyway. What is presumed to be C. gallicus is a regular, almost common, winter visitor (see p. 39).

Smaller Banded Harrier-Eagle Circaetus cinerascens Now rare (see above). There are early records from Zaria, and Hartert gave it as a breeding resident in Zaria Province. Wells recorded one at Zaria on 15th September 1965.

Brown Harrier-Eagle Circaetus cinereus Frequent; presumably a breeding resident; no nesting data. The dark brown adults with pale iris and silvery underwings are readily identified when soaring, but immatures are easily confused with A. wahlbergi. The present species is widely distributed in much the same habitat as A. wahlbergi but is commoner than that species.

Grasshopper Buzzard Butastur rufipennis

Bateleur Terathopius ecaudatus Scarce resident restricted to relatively mature and undisturbed woodland.

River Eagle Cuncuma vocifer Vagrant. An immature at Maska on 26th May and 20th June 1963.

Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis Rather scarce and irregular. Only about six records in three years, in various months.

Red-tailed Buzzard Buteo auguralis Uncommon and local breeding resident. They may fairly regularly be seen on certain of the larger inselbergs, where I believe they breed, and I have about 4 records of buzzards over woodland or scrubland away from inselbergs, in 3 years.

Shikra Accipiter badius Common and well distributed. Resident and probably breeds, but no data. I have somewhat more records for March and November than other months, which may indicate a passage. Rather few July, August and September records.

Chanting Goshawk Melierax metabates

Gabari Goshawk Micronisus gabar Widely distributed presumed breeding resident; not uncommon. Black phase birds have been noticed some 6 or 7 times. One was once watched standing on tarmac making feints at a chameleon crossing the road; the performance was interrupted by traffic.

Pallid Harrier Circus macrourus

Montagu's Harrier Circus pygargus

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus

West African Harrier-Hawk Gymnogenys typicus Rather scarce, but recorded regularly throughout the year except July, August and September, when no records. Probably breeds. Immature birds (which could be one or even two years old however) have been seen from December to March. An immature was once watched feeding on a dead toad at Samaru.

White-throated Francolin Francolinus albogularis Locally frequent breeding resident, but easily overlooked. The species has a predilection for ironstone outcrops in woodland or scrubland, e.g. at Anara forest reserve (35 miles South of Zaria), Dunbi, Zaria forest reserve, Samaru, several points off the Zaria end of the Kano road, Giwa and Guga forests on the Funtua road etc. It is probably a much commoner species than records would indicate, but is generally found only when it calls.

Bushfowl Francolinus bicalcaratus Common and widely distributed. Flying chicks noted on 5th December.

Stone-Partridge Ptilopachus petrosus Locally very common: on inselbergs and rocky outcrops, in erosion gully areas with plenty cover; thickets and woodland.

(Quails Coturnix Quails e.g. C. delegorguei are said to occur and this is intrinsically likely; no positive records however.)

Helmet Guinea-Fowl Numida meleagris My only Zaria area record in three years is a small flock in Dunbi woods. Ward in 1959 found them in Shika fadama and gullies only, but E. Butler (pers. comm.) says that they were abundant in the district in the '30s and '40s. The species has been decimated by destruction of habitat if not by hunting. In my experience the Guinea-Fowl only occurs in well-formed dense mature woodland, and there can be little doubt that there was formerly very much more of this than is found to-day.

African Crake Crex crex See p.12. In fact this is a locally common wet-season visitor, nesting at the height of the rains in fadamas and other situations so wet as normally to deter one from penetrating them. Nests have been found by J. Wallace (pers. comm.).

Black Crake Limnocorax flavirostris Frequent to common in marshy places.

White-spotted Pygmy Rail Sarothrura pulchra One at Samaru Lake on 31st October 1965. It is difficult to come by reliable information on the status of crakes and rails, and this species could be resident. The remains of a Sarothrura species were found in a dead Python sebae sent from Kano in December 1963.

Allen's Gallinule Porphyrylla alleni Locally frequent in fadamas in the wet season. No positive dry season records, but thought to occur then. Rather than pure grass- or reed-beds, it prefers marshes where other plants e.g. Polygonum, Mimosa are dominant or sub-dominant.

Lesser Moorhen Gallinula angulata Uncommon; recorded from June to September only. Similar in habitat to the preceding species, but lives in waterside reed-beds in addition. Skulking, easily overlooked.

Crowned Crane Balearica pavonina Occasional, Maska (Ward). A pair there on 11th November 1962 (Fry).

Denham's Bustard Neotis denhami

Black-bellied Bustard Lissotis melanogaster

Senegal Bustard Eupodotis senegalensis I have seen this bustard only twice at Zaria in three years, but have heard it (and to my ear the voice can be distinguished from that of Coracias naevius only with care) very frequently. It calls chiefly at dawn and dusk, and evidently inhabits the type of scrub-land described under Aquila wahlbergi. It must be considered a not uncommon, but highly secretive, bird.

Spotted Thick-Knee Oedicnemus capensis Locally frequent in sandy erosion areas, or lightly wooded savanna with ironstone or lack of a field-layer of plants. The only thick-knee species so far identified in the area.

Lily-Trotter Actophilornis africanus Common on all waters. Breeding resident.

Painted Snipe Rostratula benghalensis

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula

Forbes' Banded Plover Afroxyechus forbesi

White-headed Plover Xiphidiopterus albiceps

Spur-winged Plover Hoplopterus spinosus Rare. One Samaru lake 12th May 1963; one Maska dam 27th December 1964.

Senegal Wattled Plover Afribyx senegallus Breeding resident? Rather infrequent records in most months, usually of single birds or pairs, but flocks of 5 or 6 in June, August and September. Generally on marshes or water-meadows, but rarely (on passage?) on dry savannah.

Black-headed Plover Sarciophorus tectus Rare. First recorded on 21st March 1965 (Walker, 1965) a nest with c/3 being found. Three were seen in the same place on 9th May (A. Mathieson) and six there on 9th June (R.B. Walker). This must be regarded as a very southerly record, despite the somewhat equivocal remarks in Bannerman (1928-51) about its occurrence at Kaduna.

(Brown-chested Wattled Plover Anomalophrys superciliosus Recorded from the environs of Zaria or Zaria Province by Hartert (1915).)

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus

Common Snipe Capella gallinago

Great Snipe Capella media See p.39. Apparently snipe arrive with regularity about 12th August. This date is given in Bannerman (1953) for Zaria, and the dates of arrival in 1964 and 1965 were 12th and 15th August respectively (J. Wallace, pers. comm.). I have examined about 30 snipe shot in August and September this year on one marsh near Zaria and all have been C. media.

Curlew-Sandpiper Erolia testacea

(Dunlin Erolia alpina)

Little Stint Erolia minuta

Ruff Philomachus pugnax

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos See p.40. A few birds summered at Maska Dam and Samaru lake, and perhaps on the R. Galma, in 1965.

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola See Table 1 and p. 40. In 1965 Wood Sandpipers arrived at Zaria in the last week of August.

Redshank Tringa totanusDusky Redshank Tringa erythropus

Greenshank Glottis nebularius See p. 40. Revised first autumn date : 31st August.

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilisCurlew Numenius arquatusTemminck's Courser Cursorius temminckiiCrocodile Plover Pluvianus aegyptiusBronze-wing Courser Rhinoptilus chalcopterus

Pratincole Glareola pratincola A single red-winged bird at Maska dam on 1st November 1964.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus An adult at Maska, 22nd August 1965.

Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspiaWhite-winged Black Tern Chlidonias leucopterusWhiskered Tern Chlidonias leucopareia

Four-banded Sand-Grouse Pterocles quadricinctus Common in scrubland, erosion areas, lightly wooded savannah and on wooded streams from November to May, but no records outside these months. Grouse-like, so seldom seen during the day; but small bands of sand-grouse are regularly to be seen or heard at dusk during the winter and spring months.

(Button-Quail Turnix Recorded on two occasions only; probably T. sylvatica).

Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea Common on farmland and in suburban areas; nests throughout the year on buildings. Flocks may fly some distance to the nearest open water to drink.

Turtle-Dove Streptopelia turtur

Red-eyed Turtle-Dove Streptopelia semitorquata By and large a rather scarce breeding resident, but locally common. They prefer leafy thickets or shade trees, generally by water since such shade conditions most frequently occur in wet situations. Maska dam and Samaru lake might support 3 or 4 pairs each; they also occur in the Samaru Agricultural station residential area (but not at the younger University main campus two miles away), in trees along the edges of fadamas and on streams, and in the well-timbered moist woods at Dunbi.

Niger Mourning Dove Streptopelia decipiens Much the same status and habitat as the Red-eyed Turtle-Dove, but less common and more restricted to waterside situations. Their only site away from water I know of is the Samaru residential area. Serle (1943) says of this dove that in 1940 it was abundant and resident about Zaria. There has either been a marked change in status, which I doubt, or else perhaps he happened to live in an unusual local concentration.

Vinaceous Turtle-Dove Streptopelia vinacea Abundant and widespread.

Laughing Dove Stigmatopelia senegalensis Abundant in all habitats except mature Guinea woodland.

Long-tailed Dove Oena capensis

Black-billed Wood-Dove Turtur abyssinica

Yellow-bellied Fruit-Pigeon Vinago waalia A rather infrequent breeding resident. No breeding data. Mainly in farm- or parkland, but also in well-formed woods, forest reserves etc.

Senegal Parrot Poicephalus senegalus Common and widely-distributed. A conspicuous bird on the Samaru residential area, and during the last year Senegal Parrots have begun to invade the University main campus. The latter is only 11 years old, as opposed to Samaru which is 39 years old and much better wooded.

Long-tailed Parrakeet Psittacula krameri Locally common, this parrot has more precise habitat requirements than the Senegal Parrot. It frequents particularly Borassus palms in marshy places; I believe they breed about January but this requires confirmation. It is occasionally seen away from fadamas, waterside areas etc., and can occur on farmland; on the Samaru residential site it is a highly conspicuous and common bird throughout the year.

Barn Owl Tyto alba Resident; breeds. Rather few records, but doubtless commoner than these would suggest. For some months a pair roosted in, and may have nested in, a Hammerkop's old nest at Maska.

Marsh Owl Asio capensis Status unknown. J. Wallace drew to my attention the presence of at least six on the River Galma flood-plains in August 1965. One was seen there on 4th September and none on subsequent visits. It may be that they spread far up and down the river to find marshy areas which will still be suitably moist when (and if) they breed in the locality. Egg-laying on the Jos Plateau is chiefly in October and November (Smith, 1964) but it seems that many species nest a month or two later in the Zaria area than they do on the Plateau.

African Scops Owl Otus senegalensis

White-faced Owl Ptilopsis leucotis Frequent to common, and widespread. A well-grown nestling was examined on 5th March.

Pearl-spotted Owlet Glaucidium perlatum Rather infrequent records although the species is probably widespread and not uncommon. Whereas some 4 or 5 Ptilopsis leucotis may be heard calling at night from various sides, I have never heard more than two G. perlatum together. I have watched the species calling in late afternoon, and have twice heard its highly characteristic voice at mid-day but both times thought that Cossypha niveicapilla was probably responsible. The extraordinary paired 'eyes' on the nape in this genus of owls should be remarked

Spotted Eagle-Owl Bubo africanus Frequent; widespread. They nest in accessible situations in erosion cliffs, the nestlings being advanced in mid April (11th, 18th). They roost, and I believe may nest, on buildings as well.

Violet Plantain-Eater Musophaga violacea Very local resident; in well-formed woodland at Maska and Anara Forest Reserves, Dunbi etc. Once seen in very open parkland at Shika.

Grey Plantain-Eater Crinifer piscator A widely distributed frequent resident.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Cuculus gularis

Black Cuckoo Cuculus clamosus

Great Spotted Cuckoo Clamator glandarius Non-breeding passage migrant, arriving in late April (earliest : 14th) and early May, common in the first two weeks of May (latest : 29th), and much less in evidence on the southbound Autumn passage in the first half of November. Two February and one early March records may refer to wintering birds in the area, perhaps of Palaearctic origin.

Pied Cuckoo Clamator jacobinus See p.14. The implication that this is only a passage migrant at Zaria is totally incorrect; it is a common breeding summer visitor from the first week of April (revised earliest: 3rd) until the third week of September. A half-grown nestling was handed to me on 25th July but regrettably the breeding circumstances could not be determined. There are two November records - 3rd (Hartert) and 11th. This species is very much commoner than C. levaillantii at Zaria but the converse is the case at both Kano (Sharland, 1964) and Kaduna (Macgregor, 1964).

Levaillant's Cuckoo Clamator levaillantii See p.14. Rather locally distributed and uncommon wet season visitor.

Emerald Cuckoo Chrysococcyx cupreus

Didric Cuckoo Lampromorpha caprius Common and widely distributed wet season visitor, presumed to breed, from the first week of April to mid-September (earliest 16th March; latest 31st October).

Klaas' Cuckoo Lampromorpha klaasi

Black-bellied Coucal Centropus grillii Locally frequent wet-season visitor - or presumed so, since all observations fall between 8th April and 4th October. Restricted to fadamas, water meadows with lush or rank vegetation, or to drier overgrown fallowed fields next to water (Samaru).

Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis Common and widespread. A nestling about 10 days old was acquired on 16th October and hand-reared.

Main Nightjar Caprimulgus inornatus

Freckled Nightjar Caprimulgus tristigma Resident, local; apparently restricted to the larger inselbergs. The only positive records are from Kufena and Dunbi rocks, Zaria.

Standard-wing Nightjar Macrodipteryx longipennis

Long-tailed Nightjar Scotornis climacurus

European Swift Micropus apus See p.41. A very heavy passage over a considerable area (Maska, Samaru, Zaria, Kufena etc.) on 22nd August 1965. Thereafter none to date.

Pallid Swift Micropus pallidus

Mottled Swift Micropus aequatorialis

White-rumped Swift Micropus caffer

Alpine Swift Micropus melba

Little Swift Colletes affinis Common to abundant in urban and suburban areas, over water, in the vicinity of road bridges and culverts, etc.

Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus Very common and widespread.

Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinica

Rufous-crowned Roller Coracias naevius Not uncommon in woodland savannah, in farmland and parkland, but apparently absent from mid-July mid-October, and probably migrates along with the Abyssinian

Roller. Adults were carrying food to a nest on 27th April.

Broad-billed Roller Eurystomus afer

Hoopoe Upupa sp. See pp. 15 and 41.

Guinea Wood-Hoopoe Phoeniculus erythrorhynchus Frequent in all types of wooded land.

Lesser Wood-Hoopoe Scoptelus aterrimus Uncommon. More particular in its habitat requirements than the preceding species, being restricted to mature savannah woodland, kurmis (densely wooded streams) etc. Resident; doubtless breeds.

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis Common wherever there is sufficient open water for feeding.

other/ Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima Local and uncommon. A pair inhabit Maska dam (once three birds) where they presumably breed. My only record in the Zaria area is of one at an inch-deep puddle in a dried stream-bed on the Kano road on 20th February, and 5th March.

Malachite Kingfisher Corythornis cristata Rather uncommon; sparsely distributed in large reed-beds by lakes and rivers.

Pygmy Kingfisher Ispidina picta A diminutive and easily-overlooked bird whose true status has been elucidated only by mist-netting. Seen rather uncommonly, but netted at least as often and shown to occur widely and rather commonly in wet thickets, clumps of leafy shade-trees as on deserted village-sites, kurmis, and in moist woodland as at Dunbi.

Senegal Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis

Blue-breasted Kingfisher Halcyon malimbicus Local and scarce. Noted in Anara and Zaria forest-reserves and at Dunbi; also at old Birni'n Gwarri 60 miles West of Zaria..

Grey-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala See p.15. Certainly absent during the rains from the end of May. At Birni'n Gwarri, on a latitude with Zaria, two fledglings very recently out of the nest were seen on 13th April. If it breeds at Zaria it must do so extremely rapidly since it is only here for about 10 weeks.

Striped Kingfisher Halcyon chelicuti Scarce; only known from about three localities (Samaru lake, Ahmadu Bello University, near Kufena); has been seen or heard singing in most months and is probably resident.

European Bee-eater Merops apiaster

Carmine Bee-eater Merops nubicus Casual. Scarce records of single birds or small flocks up to 5 in all months except January, May, July and August.

White-throated Bee-eater Aerops albicollis

Red-throated Bee-eater Melittophagus bullocki Common and widely distributed in all major habitats within one or two miles of suitable breeding cliffs. Eggs are laid in the fourth week of February and the young fledge in the third week of April. Colonies are heavily parasitised by Indicator indicator. Four or five examples of the yellow-throated variant have been seen in the immediate environs of Zaria over three years. Resident; no migratory movement (cf. Serle 1957).

Least Bee-eater Melittophagus pusillus See p.15. Correction : the species does emigrate from the area. Last Spring date : 16th June (N.J. Skinner); earliest Autumn : 11th September, when well-established in fadamas, the juveniles not yet in adult plumage. On the assumption that it goes North in the early rains, this is another species which breeds at the southern end of its range (see p.10).

Grey Hornbill Lophoceros nasutus See p.15. Conspicuous diurnal north-westerly passage in the third and fourth weeks of June, thereafter absent until the first week of October. One on 27th July at Shika, and two in Zaria forest reserve on 20th August are non-starters.

Red-beaked Hornbill Lophoceros erythrorhynchus Very scarce over most of the area, but commoner North of Zaria than South, and a concentration in the Maska area.

Ground Hornbill Bucorvus abyssinicus Rare. A total of four records in the three years all from between Guga and Maska forest reserves on the Funtua road.

Bearded Barbet Pogonornis dubius Rather common and widely distributed; generally seen in pairs or small groups. Late nestlings or early fledglings have been obtained on 29th May and 5th June.

West African Barbet Lybius vieilloti Frequent or common in all types of woodland. A hole-nest in the side of a leafy 6 ft. pollarded tree trunk on 7th June contained three well-grown young, which were drowned a few days later by a freak late storm.

White-headed Barbet Lybius leucocephalus Uncommon and local. Habitat preferences - if any - not understood, but apparently likes the proximity of streams or fadamas. Resident; breed about February. A nest was found on 21st February but could not be examined; it probably contained eggs. Display, accompanied by remarkable vocalisations, has been seen on 20th February (not the same pair of birds as above).

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird Pogoniulus chrysoconus Common and widely distributed.

Black-throated Honey-Guide Indicator indicator Frequent; breeding resident parasitising largely M. bullocki, and during the breeding season of the latter (see above) honey-guides are conspicuous and much in evidence at the bee-eater colonies. I have not heard the species singing in the wet season after 5th May until 20th August, and have no sight records between 12th May and 20th August, but am unsure whether this implies emigration from the area during the rains. They were observed and heard singing on the Niger near Pateggi (where bee-eater species were then breeding) up to 24th May.

Lesser Honey-Guide Indicator minor Scarce but inconspicuous. Song and call(s) unknown. Records in April, July (50 Miles N.E. of Zaria), August, October, November (netted) and December.

Fine-Spotted Woodpecker Campothera punctuligera Frequent in denser woodland. Breeding resident.

Little White-Spotted Woodpecker Dendropicus obsoletus Frequent in woodland and scrubland. A nest, probably with eggs, in February.

Grey Woodpecker Mesopicus geortae Frequent and widespread, the commonest woodpecker.

Wryneck Jynx torquilla