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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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Micropus caffer White-rumped Swift one feeding over the coastal dunes at Malamfatori on 18th July, 1965, with a large flock of Colletoptera affinis, Micropus apus, Cypsiurus parvus, Hirundo iopica and Pseudohirundo griseopygia. The flock appeared after a heavy rainstorm and left abruptly after a few hours (J.H., A.J.H.).

Halcyon senegalensis Senegal Kingfisher - occurs frequently as a rainy season visitor to Acacia nilotica woodland in the Yobe valley. First noted in the Malamfatori area on 2nd July, 1965, but the actual date of arrival was probably a month earlier. Last seen in mid-September. H. leucocephala the Grey-headed Kingfisher, is also a common rainy season visitor, but it occurs in dry open country as well as in riverside woodland (C.H.F., J.H., A.J.H.).

Batis minor Chad Puffback Flycatcher - at least one pair in thin Acacia raddiana woodland on dunes near Malamfatori on 6th January, 1966. The mantle of the male, grey spotted with white, was clearly seen as was the narrow dark chestnut breast-band of the female. Previously B. senegalensis the Senegal Puffback Flycatcher has been recorded from the Malamfatori area (Hopson, 1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 1 (4) : 14), and the present record, the first from Nigeria, proves that the two species overlap in the vicinity of Lake Chad, minor extending to the east and senegalensis to the west. (J.A.B., J.H., A.J.H.).

Ptilostomus afer Piapiac - one in open woodland near the river between Yo and Daya, 4th July, 1965 (C.H.F., J.H., A.J.H.).

J.A.Button, C.H.Fry, J.and A.J.Hopson

Plateau Province over 3,000 ft.

Dicrocercus hirundineus Swallow-tailed Bee-eater - seen at a kurmi a mile south-east of Vom Hospital in November 1961. There is another record from the same kurmi on an unrecorded date. One was netted at Vom by V.W.Smith on 6th November, 1965, and these November dates suggest the possibility of (southbound) migration at that period.

Pentholaea albifrons White-fronted Black Chat - noted on 6th February, 1966 in a small river kurmi 6 miles north-west of Vom Hospital, towards the Kigom hills. Since then, it has also been recorded by P.J.E.Woods in the Kigom hill area. In January and February, 1965, a pair nested on the Veterinary reservation, Vom (V.W. Smith, pers. comm.) J.R.Lang

Zaria. The following species have been recorded for the first time in the Zaria area, since the production of my check-list (1964, Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 : 68-79 & 91-102) :

Hagedashia hagedash Hadada - about 3 at Dunbi wood and inselberg, Zaria, 25th October, 1965 (D.R.Wells, C.H.F.).

Erolia temminckii Temminck's Stint - one on an oxbow pool by the R. Galma, Zaria, 20th March, 1966.

Cuculus solitarius Red-chested Cuckoo - in June 1965 I heard the call of this cuckoo clearly imitated by a singing Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat Cossypha niveicapilla at Zaria. The cuckoo was hitherto unrecorded from the area, but since C. niveicapilla is thought to be migratory at Zaria it was quite probable that it had heard and learned to imitate C. solitarius well to the south in Nigeria. However on 23rd June, 1966 several C. solitarius were heard and one seen in Dunbi wood, Zaria. The species is evidently rare or very local here however. The same applies to C. clamosus, of which there is only one record in the Zaria area, in May, although it occurs regularly throughout the wet season at Kano.

Monticola solitaria Blue Rock-Thrush - one, Kuffena Rock, Zaria, 24th-29th March, 1966 (Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 3 (9) : 13-14). A further record of this species in Nigeria has come to my notice; it is recorded from Sokoto on 3rd April, 1948 by Dobbs (1959, Niger. Field 24 : 102-119 & 185-191). Unfortunately no field details are given, but the same author has also recorded the Rock-Thrush M. saxatilis at Sokoto (1949, Niger Field 14 : 102-105.).

Cyanosylvia svecica ?svecica Red-Spotted Bluethroat - on 28th February a very good view was obtained of a red-spotted race of the Bluethroat, a male in full plumage, on the R. Galma in Zaria. The white-spotted C. s. cyanecula has also been recorded at Zaria (Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 2 (6) : 42), and the present race may have been C. s. svecica, although there are several Asian red-spotted forms as well.

Anomolospiza imberbis Cuckoo-Weaver - on 23rd June, 1966, two males and a female were clearly seen on the R. Galma flood-plain, Zaria.

C.H. Fry

NOTES

Three Interesting Birds in Lagos. On 19th March, 1966, after the conclusion of the inaugural meeting of the Resident Committee of the Nigerian Field Society in Lagos, the writer and N.J. Skinner visited the small park on the east of Ikoyi Island and the stretch of marsh beyond, where there are remains of mangroves which formerly covered a large part of Ikoyi.

We saw two rollers, very similar to the Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinica of northern Nigeria, but lacking the long tail streamers. The foreheads were concolorous with the crown. We are confident that they were European Rollers C. garrulus. It is of interest that the first two European Rollers I saw in Nigeria were in a very similar habitat, on Burutu Island.