

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



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Sooty Tern Recovery. An immature female Sooty Tern Sterna fuscata marked U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 873-58863 was killed by a student of Molusi College, Ijebu-Igbo (6° 58' N, 4° 00' E) some time between mid-April and late May, 1966. The skin is in my possession, but marking and recovery details have not yet been established.

D.R.Wells

Passage Dates of the White-throated Bee-eater at Kaduna. The table shows the first and last dates for northward and southward passage of White-throated Bee-eaters Aerops albicollis at Kaduna in five years. The regularity of this migration is remarkable.

Year		Nort	thward	равваде		Southward		passage	
•		First		Last		First		Last	
	1962	6th	May	23rd	May	8th	€;;ţ	14th	Nov
•	1963	llth	May	24th	May	9th	Oct	13th	Nov
	1964	20th	April	21st	May	10th	Oct	13th	Nov
	1965	4th	May	25th	May	lOth	Oct	12th	Nov
	1966	1966 (Not observed)					Oot	22nd	Nov*

^{*} Rains ended late.

Flights were all strictly North/South, except when seeking evening roosts; they were mainly in the morning and evening, with a marked decrease at mid-day. Most sightings refer to one to three flocks of 10-40 birds each; such multiple flocks usually have a common East/West front, and flocks are separated by 20 to 60 yards. They fly at approximately 30 to 200 ft. high, at an estimated 15/20 M.p.h. Purposeful migration is interrupted (a) by random circling for periods up to 2 minutes, and (b) by descent to tree tops for sporadic feeding of 20 seconds to 20 minutes duration. There have been periods of up to 4 days when no birds have been seen, but there is no evidence of specific waves (cf. Fry, 1964, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (3): 6).

M.Skilleter

Status of the Bluethroat in Nigeria. The only Nigerian records of the Bluethroat Cyanosylvia svecica up to 1965 are given by Elgood et al. (1966, Ibis 108: 84-116) i.e. one at Sokoto, 27th December 1953, one at Kano 23rd January 1955, one at Potiskum February 1959, and two Zaria, 3rd December 1962. The authors note that the species has recently been found to be quite common in Senegal, but conclude that "it seems unlikely that the Bluethroat is as common a visitor to Nigeria as it appears to be to Senegal".