



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



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were very noticeable and differently set. The flock landed, this time with one of the birds in full view on the sea edge. Again I approached to within about 50 yards and was able to finally confirm my suspicion that it was a Herring Gull Larus argentatus. I also found its one certain companion nearby but inside the flock. This bird was clearly a sub-adult having mottled wing-coverts and the fact that the other had a dark mark on the bill suggested that it was not completely mature either. The same two birds were present on 9th February and a single bird, probably the elder of the two, remained in the area until 23rd March.

These records of Herring Gulls are the first for Nigeria and are based on the following field comparison with both adult and immature L.fuscus: bills heavier-looking, heads whiter, larger and apparently held up more, mantles distinctly paler than those of L. f. graellsii, being dark grey rather than slate in tone, and obviously so compared to those of L.f.fuscus (both races present on several occasions), wing coverts paler (as mantles) and wing mirrors on outer primaries showing more white, size (on ground and in flight) slightly but distinctly larger than most fuscus, wings appearing broader in flight. Clearly it is worth inspecting any flock of gulls in Nigeria for this species. What race of argentatus was involved above is not easy to deduce. The strongly yellow feet clearly exclude a. argentatus and the size and dark mantle indicate one of the N.W.African or Mediterranean forms rather than those from Fennoscandia or Siberia. The assumption that they were a. atlantis is however dangerous (though Bannerman, D.A., 1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa, vol.1.) records that the race does reach Angola).

D. I. M. Wallace.

White, C.M.N. (1965, A Revised Check List of African Non-passerine Birds, Lusaka, Zambia), states under Larus argentatus houglini; "Some form also visits Senegal and Gambia, generally assumed to be L.a.atlantis Dwight, which is paler above and has a wing 417-50 against 450-75mm., but none have been examined to verify the form

Ed.

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CRESTED GUINEA FOWL IN GAMBARI FOREST RESERVE.

On 24th October 1968, I saw a flock of eight to ten guinea fowl in Gambari Forest Reserve 20 miles south of Ibadan. They were in a block of forest where a road survey is currently in progress about half a mile from the main Ijebu-Ode road.

It is assumed they were Guttera edouardi, the Crested Guinea Fowl, since this is the only species of forest guinea fowl in this part of West Africa. It was difficult to see the birds clearly because of the thickness of the vegetation, but the black and white speckling of the plumage and the red colour on the head were quite obvious. The flock ran along the ground, making cackling noises, and then flew above the shrub layer out of sight.

The Crested Guinea Fowl appears to be an uncommon species. Bannerman (1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa, Vol.1, p.336) records it from only four localities in Nigeria, one of these being Olokomeji Forest Reserve, 25-30 miles north

west of Gambari. Elgood & Sibley (1964, Ibis 108 : 247) do not record it in their list of birds from Gambari, but its presence there is not surprising since the forest reserve is a relatively undisturbed region. One of the forest assistants told me that he has seen guinea fowl occasionally when cutting survey lines in the remote parts of the reserve.

D. C. D. Happold.

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BIRDS RINGED IN NIGERIA 1968 - CORRECTION

In Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 6 (21):28 I reported that Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca Ring No. 26642 had been found in Cyprus in 1965.

I have now heard from the Cyprus Ornithological Society to the effect that the bird was actually caught by a farmer using a line stick in April 1967.

R. E. Sharland.

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