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Shrike Flycatcher Megabyas flammulatus: In June 1971 a pair was seen in a tall tree at Bunso. The male being most prominent with all white underparts and white rump with black wings, tail and head.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela Eremomela badiceps: observed in a tall tree south of Kumasi in February 1971.

Buff-throated Sunbird Nectarinia adalberti: in March 1971 two pairs were seen in Kumasi gardens. The cream coloured throat being clearly defined from the rich brown underparts.

Yellow-mantled Weaver Ploceus tricolor: observed in February 1971 in tall trees in Ashanti.

Red-vented Weaver Malimbus scutatus: Seen completing nests in Royal Palms in Ashanti in February 1971.

R.A. Honeywell

EARLY PALAEARCTIC WADERS AT KAINJI AND NEW-BUSSA IN 1969

I previously gave records of six Palaearctic Wader species which were seen in the Kainji Dam area in August 1968 (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 5 (19): 64-65). A more intensive watch was kept during 1969, counts being carried out throughout the rainy season (summer) at the New Busa Sewage Lagoons and along a 2 mile stretch of muddy lake shore at Kainji. Table I gives an indication of the wader species seen through the period April to September together with the numbers of counts made in the two habitats.

TABLE 1. Palaearctic Waders present at Kainji/New Busa in 1969.

	APR		MAY		JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP	
	NB	K	NB	K								
No. of Counts	17	3	26	5	33	2	40	8	46	11	33	6
Common S/piper	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Wood S/piper	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x
Green S/piper	x											x
Greenshank			x	x			x		x			
Redshank							x		x			
Spotted R/shank	x											
Ruff	x	x		x						x		
Black-t. Godwit							x					
Common Snipe	x											x
Curlew S/piper												x
Ringed Plover				x								
Black-w. Stilt	x		x	x			x	x				
Totals	7	3	3	6	0	0	2	5	2	5	4	3

Unfortunately the passage was very small and the individual and species fewer than in 1968. For completeness Stilt Himantopus himantopus records are included though these birds are probably not of Palaearctic origin.

From mid-May to mid-July no Palaearctic birds were seen. On the 18th July two Common Sandpipers Tringa hypoleucos were seen at the Sewage Lagoons and from that date were constantly present. On 19th July a single Common Sandpiper and a Redshank Tringa totanus were seen on the Lake shore. On the 25th July there was a small arrival of waders with six Common Sandpipers and single Greenshank Tringa nebularia, Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa, and Stilt at Kainji. On the same date at New Bussa there were twelve Common Sandpipers and a Stilt. Weather was heavy overcast with considerable rain falling as drizzle throughout the day. Observations of the birds at Kainji were made in very poor conditions and it was not possible to decide whether any individuals were in breeding plumage. At New Bussa one of the Common Sandpipers appeared to have a dull grey lower breast and belly and another bird seen closely showed conspicuous barring on the upperparts. All records for July and August are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2. Dates on which Palaearctic Waders were present.

(a) At Kainji.

Dates	Number of counts	Common S/p.	Wood S/p.	Greenshank	Redshank	Ruff	Black-t. Godwit	Black-w. Stilt
JUL. 6 & 10	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1
27	1	7	2	1	1	1	1	1
AUG. 3	1	12	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10 & 15	2	2 & 5	1	1	1	1	1	1
17	1	9	3	1	1	1	1	1
18, 22, 23	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
27	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
29	1	8	3	1	1	1	1	1
31	1	12	1	1	1	1	1	1

(b) At New Bussa

JUL. 1-14	16	1-2	1	1	1	1	1	1
18-24	9	1-2	1	1	1	1	1	1
25	1	13	1	1	1	1	1	1
26-31	12	2-6	1	1	1	1	1	1
AUG. 1-10	25	4-6	1	1	1	1	1	1
11-13, 15	4	4-6	1	1	1	1	1	1
16-30	16	1-5	1	1	1	1	1	1
31	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

The Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola present at New Bussa between 11th and 15th August and the Greenshank present at Kainji on 27th August were both in breeding plumage. The Ruff seen on 29th August had an almost pure white head and neck and was presumably a male in partial breeding dress. This bird was very wild and could not be approached at all closely. The period 27th-29th August was again one of heavy overcast and continuous drizzle.

The early arrival of these birds in the Kainji area clearly indicates a Saharan crossing. The presence of birds showing evidence of breeding plumage presumably precludes their having spent the summer further north in the tropics, though several Palaearctic waders including Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff Philomachus pugnax are known to do so (Dowsett, 1969, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 6 (22): 39-45).

Frank Walsh,

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