

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF TURKANA PROVINCE.

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Introduction.

The following notes on the birds of Turkana were collected by the Lake Rudolf Rift Valley Expedition, which was working in the province from February 10th to May 18th, and for a short time during September and October.

Since the study of Ornithology was only one of the side issues of the Expedition, the collection made, and the notes obtained, are necessarily very incomplete. They may, however, serve to show that a more detailed survey of the birds of the Lake Rudolf area, made over a longer period of time, would add most valuable information with regard to the nesting habits and the migrational movements of many birds whose habits are at present not well known.

The only place where any detailed work could be carried out by the Expedition was Ferguson Gulf, but even here, the time available was all too short. In April and May, the level of the lake was sinking fairly rapidly and at this point, owing to the shallow nature of the shore, the water was receding at a great pace. Along the western shore of the Gulf the water receded sixty yards between February 20th and April 14th, and another ten yards between April 14th and 25th. As a result the vegetation could not keep up with the water line, and there was a considerable expanse of muddy or sandy shore, which afforded no cover and very little food.

At this period, the majority of the Flamingoes, Pelicans, Waders, Terns and Gulls congregated each night at the south end of the Gulf where a considerable area of shore had become an almost impassable swamp, probably as a result of the constant movement of the birds.

In September, owing to heavy rains in the region of Mt. Elgon, Mt. Moroto, etc., many rivers, which for the greater part of the year are dry, had been flowing for some weeks, and the level of the Lake had risen two feet, and encroached nearly a quarter of a mile.

The coarse grass which had previously been separated from the water's edge by a hundred yards or more of dry sand, now stretched well out into the lake affording both cover and food for the birds, and several new arrivals were observed which had not been present earlier in the year. Amongst these were the European Glossy Ibis, the Wood Ibis, several Herons and Waders.

The roosting ground at the south end of the Gulf being under water, the birds no longer congregated in any one place, but passed the night apparently wherever they happened to be. Whether these changes depend in any way on the rise of the lake level and the corresponding alteration in the shore line, or whether they are controlled by migrational movements, regardless of climatic conditions, it is at present impossible to determine until a more detailed investigation can be carried out.

The ornithological material collected by the Expedition, numbering in all some two hundred skins, has been donated to the Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi, where the greatest assistance has been rendered in the identification of specimens by Dr. van Someren. The system employed in these notes follows that of Dr. van Someren in his "Notes on the Birds of East Africa." (Novitates Zoologicae, Vol. XXIX, Apr. 1922, No. 1, & Op. cit. Vol. XXXVII, 1932.)

Systematic list and field notes.

AFRICAN LITTLE GREBE (*Poliocephalus ruficollis capensis*, Salvad.).

Not often seen owing to the lack of suitable environment. The two males obtained were shot at Ferguson Gulf on April 12th from a party of four birds. It was never seen on the open lake, apparently preferring the smaller pools of water a quarter or half a mile inland. The birds were found to be very reluctant to fly, even when hard pressed. They dived continually and remained under water for a considerable period. The old theory that the Grebe follows, under water, the direction in which its bill was pointing before diving, certainly does not hold good with this species, as the bird would often appear in exactly the opposite direction.

GREY-HEADED GULL (*Larus cirrocephalus*, Vieill.).

Fairly abundant along the western shore of Lake Rudolf, where during the day they were generally found to occur singly. Toward sunset, they were inclined to gather into small groups before roosting, and at dark they were to be seen working along the shore by short stages to the roosting grounds. At the south end of Ferguson Gulf there was a common roosting ground where a great many varieties of water-birds congregated every night.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias leucoptera*, Temm.).

Very common, occurring in large flocks along the lake shore. Of the specimens obtained, two females are in full plumage; 15th and 16th April. One male is in nearly full plumage, and two are immature, first year birds; 2nd March, 16th April. In February and March, near the north end of Lake Rudolf, only immature birds were seen, and these never in flocks, but in small parties. Throughout the day, they were

to be seen feeding along the shore, but with no particular directional trend. At Ferguson Gulf, in April, they were present in very large numbers, and both mature and immature were obtained. During the mornings the majority rested on the shore, but at about 3 p.m. each day they would all start feeding, gradually working outwards over the lake throughout the remaining hours of daylight. At sunset the birds would again congregate, large numbers moving down to the main roosting ground, while a few smaller parties would pass the night at certain fixed points on the shore.

No indication of breeding was observed at this season or at any time. By the middle of September practically all the birds had assumed winter plumage, though a few were noted which showed a large proportion of the black breeding dress. During the next few weeks even these disappeared and by the middle of October no birds were seen with any trace of black.

At this time of the year a marked change in habits was observed; enormous numbers of terns came inland every afternoon, where for several hours they were seen hawking over the grassy margin of the lake in pursuit of grasshoppers and insects. They would sometimes go as much as two miles inland.

At dusk they were not seen to congregate into flocks, nor was any concerted movement toward a roosting ground observed; many of the birds continuing their search for food long after dark, eventually roosting individually, and not in flocks.

It seems probable that the change in feeding grounds between April and September would be due to a local migration of the fish since the abundance of grasshoppers along the lake shore had certainly not increased in the latter season but had, on the whole, decreased.

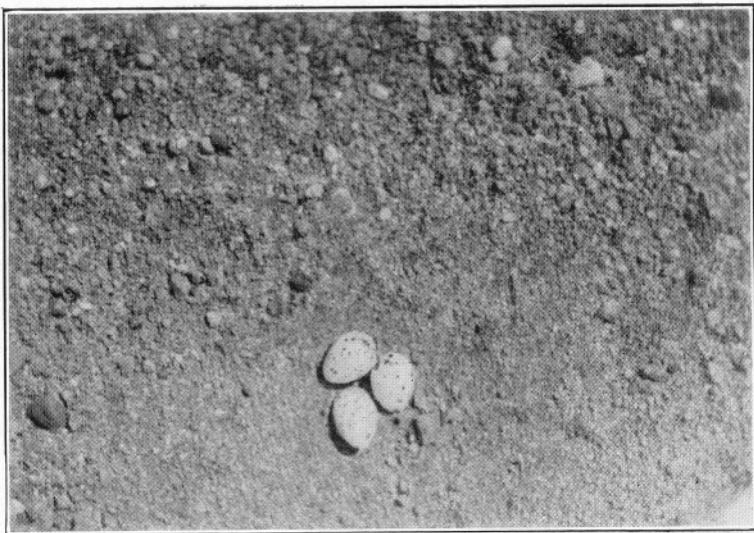
GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*, Gmel.).

A female obtained at Ferguson Gulf on April 4th is in full breeding plumage though the ovaries were not unduly enlarged and no other indications of breeding were observed. At this season the birds were fairly frequently seen along the shore, but only solitary individuals which were never seen to mix with the smaller terns or with the gulls. With one exception, every bird seen in April was working gradually southward, though whether this has any significance is not clear, for since this species has hitherto been considered as only a winter visitor to East Africa, one would have expected any April migration movement to be northward.

By the middle of September, the numbers of Gull-billed Terns had increased enormously, due to an influx of birds from the north. In some cases they were found congregated into flocks of thirty or more, particularly at the mouth of the Turkwell River where several flocks were to be seen, numbering in all some hundreds of birds.



Nest of Kite (*Milvus m. parasiticus*).



Nest and eggs of Scissorbill (*Rhynchoscypha flavirostris*).

At this season they seemed to become more sociable in their habits, and mixed freely with the White-winged Black Terns. All the birds observed in September and October had assumed winter plumage, and their movements showed no directional trend. A female in winter dress was obtained at Ferguson Gulf on September 23rd.

SCISSOR-BILL (*Rhynchos flavirostris*, Vieill.).

No Scissor-bills were seen until April 17th when a single bird appeared in Ferguson Gulf; the following day three birds were noted, and during the ensuing week many more were observed.

On April 25th, a nest was found at Ferguson Gulf, containing one fresh egg. The nest consisted of a fairly deep scrape some nine inches in diameter, in loose, dry sand close to the water's edge, and was entirely unlined. Numerous other scrapes were found at the same spot, but none of these contained eggs. On Central Island where the birds were very common, they commenced to lay on April 27th, and during the next few days a great many nests were found, with clutches of two and three eggs. The general appearance of these eggs is very similar to those of the Common European Tern (*Sterna hirundo*, Linn.) and in size also they agree very closely. The average measurements of seven eggs is 40.1×28.9 mm. as opposed to 40.9×30.3 mm. in the case of the Common Tern. The general colour is perhaps a trifle darker. The ground colour is sandy buff spotted and blotched with dark brown.

By September the numbers of Scissor-bills had very greatly increased, several thousands being present in the Ferguson Gulf area alone. On Central Island a number of immature birds were seen on September 25th some of which were only just able to fly, which suggests that possibly some pairs rear two broods in the season. The enormous increase in numbers, however, cannot be accounted for solely by the success of the breeding season, but must also represent another immigration of birds from elsewhere. The birds were always found to be very tame and quite unafraid of man, and like the Terns, they became very noisy when disturbed at their nesting sites.

The call is generally a shrill whistle, though occasionally a harsher note similar to that of the Terns is also heard.

COMMON PELICAN (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*, Linn.).

Very common along the lake shore, particularly in Ferguson Gulf and on Central Island. No signs of nesting were observed in the spring but on September 26th, a nest was found on Central Island containing a nearly fledged young bird and a second dead bird.

The nest was a coarse structure of sticks, situated about ten feet from the ground in a small tree. On the same day, another bird was seen carrying nesting materials, though no other nests were found.

Since the conditions were suitable and the birds numerous, it seems likely that at the right season they might be found nesting in large numbers on the Island.

EAST AFRICAN CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo lugubris*, Rupp.).

A female obtained at Ferguson Gulf on April 20th is in full breeding dress, and the ovaries were well developed, having two nearly ripe ova. No nesting sites were observed in the locality, probably on account of the unsuitable surroundings. It is clear, however, that the birds do nest somewhere on Lake Rudolf, probably on Central Island where they are very plentiful. Only a few specimens were seen in the Gulf.

PIGMY AFRICAN CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax africanus africanus*, Gmel.).

The Pigmy Cormorant also occurred in large numbers in the Gulf during April, flocks of several hundred birds being observed amongst which were both adult and immature. These flocks were generally accompanied by a few AFRICAN DARTERS (*Anhinga rufa rufa*, Lacep. & Daud.) but no specimens of either were obtained.

ANATIDÆ.

No specimens of Duck were preserved, but the following were seen or obtained at Ferguson Gulf.

CAPE TEAL (*Anas capensis*, Gmel.). GARGANEY TEAL (*Anas querquedula*, Linn.).

EUROPEAN SHOVELER (*Spatula clypeata*, Linn.).

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING TREE DUCK (*Dendrocygna viduata*, Linn.).

FULVOUS WHISTLING TREE DUCK (*Dendrocygna fulva*, Gmel.).

All the Ducks were as a rule exceedingly difficult to approach owing to the open nature of the lake shore. From February to April the first three species occurred in fair numbers, the Cape Teal and the Garganey often being seen together while the Shovelers remained by themselves. An evening flight took place, but its direction was variable and it was not ascertained whether the birds congregated at one roosting place. During April the number of Shovelers was appreciably on the increase and on April 22nd several packs were seen with about fifty birds in each. Up to April 24th or perhaps a little

later, any of the three first species were to be found at certain points on the lake shore, but no Tree Ducks were seen. Returning to the same locality on May 10th, all the points were again visited but none of these duck were found, while Tree Ducks were present in very large numbers. The Shovelers and Garganey had migrated northward to Europe while the Cape Teal had moved off to more favourable feeding or breeding grounds.

In September again, only Tree Duck were seen in Ferguson Gulf, the first indication of the return migration of the European ducks was on September 27th, near Ely, when four Shovelers were seen.

These were extremely wild and it was impossible to see the condition of their plumage. Another party of twenty were noted on October 7th at the north side of the Turkwell delta. Returning to Ferguson Gulf on October 8th it was found that all five species of duck, as first recorded, were present, with an apparent decrease in the number of Tree Duck.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*, Linn.).

Very common at all points visited on the Lake shore, particularly in Ferguson Gulf and Central Island. In April and May these birds were always seen in pairs, and on April 28th a nest containing eight eggs was found on Central Island, and while no other nests were found, several pairs appeared, by their behaviour, to be nesting.

By day, in Ferguson Gulf, many pairs would be seen on the shore, but towards evening from 4-30 p.m. onwards the majority of these would fly inland to a patch of grass land where they gathered into large flocks, feeding fearlessly amongst goats and donkeys, and in some cases even allowing native children to approach within a few yards of them. If undisturbed the geese would remain here at least until dark, but they had always dispersed again by daylight.

On September 25th, several pairs were found on Central Island with newly hatched young, but no pairs had more than three young birds, which may possibly have been a second brood.

At the mouths of the Turkwell River on September 28th and 29th, large quantities of Geese were found congregated into flocks numbering hundreds of birds, though nowhere else were such large flocks seen. On October 6th a party of nine birds was found which though apparently fully fledged were still unable to fly.

EUROPEAN GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*, Linn.).

None were seen in April and May, but in September they were present in Ferguson Gulf in large numbers. The birds were never seen singly, but only in large flocks of fifty to sixty individuals.

No indications of nesting were observed.

SACRED IBIS (*Treskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus*, Lath.).

This species was also found to be present in considerable numbers in September, whereas earlier in the year only a few birds had been seen. The increase in the numbers of both this and the previous species may have been due to the rise of the lake, altering the shore from bare sand to grassy swamp conditions.

AFRICAN SPOONBILL (*Platalea alba*, Scop.).

Occasionally seen in small parties but on the whole not very common. A nesting colony was found on Central Island on April 28th, most of the nests containing three fresh eggs. These are white, with irregular smears and spots of reddish-brown. The average measurements of ten eggs was 66.8×43.4 mm. The nests were situated amongst the rocks close to the water's edge, though in some cases no attempt at a nest was made, the eggs being laid on the bare rock. No specimens of the birds were collected.

GIANT HERON (*Ardea goliath*, Cretzchm.).

During the month of April, Giant Herons were noted in fair numbers on Central Island, though they were but seldom seen elsewhere.

A nest was found on April 28th containing one newly hatched chick and one egg. No other nests were seen. In September a marked increase in the numbers of the bird was observed in Ferguson Gulf and they were extremely plentiful round the delta of the Turkwell River and at several points on the west shore of the lake. Another nest was found on Central Island containing two half-fledged young, on September 26th. The nest was situated on the ground amongst large boulders, about 15 yards from the shore. It consisted of a large structure of sticks about two and a half feet in height and four feet in diameter.

The young birds at first lay close, but later left the nest, and attempted, quite unsuccessfully, to hide among the rocks.

The plumage of the young birds was very similar to that of the adult, but the permanent feathers were partly obscured by long dark grey down, while large areas of the skin remained bare.

The parent birds remained at a distance of about a hundred yards and showed no agitation. No other nests were found though the birds in the vicinity were all standing in pairs, whereas at all other places they were found singly.

MARABOU STORK (*Leptoptilus crumeniferous*, Less.).

Not common. No birds were seen in the Spring, but a few were observed at Ferguson Gulf in September. They had been noted in fair numbers on the eastern shore of the lake in August in conditions very similar to those of the Gulf, and the reason for their scarcity on the western shore is not clear.



Nest of Goliath Heron.



Young Goliath Heron leaving nest.

WOOD IBIS (*Ibis ibis*, Linn.).

No birds were seen in April or May, but in September they were present in considerable numbers along the whole of the western shore of the lake, from Ferguson Gulf to Lolelia, including Central Island. On September 26th a large nesting colony was found on the island, but this could only be examined from a distance with the aid of binoculars. The nests which must have numbered several hundreds, were situated in trees and bushes growing from the side of a cliff and in some cases were placed on rocky ledges.

In some nests, newly hatched young could be seen, and in others the parent bird was sitting very close, apparently incubating eggs. Unfortunately time did not allow of a closer investigation of this colony, and neither specimens of the birds nor eggs were obtained.

**EUROPEAN FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus ruber antiquorum*, Temm.)
LESSER FLAMINGO (*Phoeniconaias minor*, Geoff.).**

Both species of Flamingo were present in very large numbers, particularly in Ferguson Gulf, where a female of *P. r. antiquorum* was obtained on October 9th. During the day small parties, and also large flocks were to be found feeding along the water's edge. In April, it was noticed that at sunset enormous numbers congregated at the south end of the Gulf, coming in an almost continuous stream from the north for about half an hour after sunset.

A similar reverse flight took place each morning between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. Thus the number of Flamingoes in the Gulf by night must have been five or six times as great as that during the day.

In September and October, the roosting ground was swamped owing to the rise in the level of the lake, and at this season, it was found that the birds no longer congregated at any one point to roost, but passed the night in small parties scattered along the whole of the shore. Also, there was no apparent influx of birds at night, the numbers in the Gulf remaining constant both by day and night. No indications of nesting were observed, and the female obtained showed no enlargement of the ovaries, but it is possible that in September many birds had congregated at more suitable places in order to breed, which would account for the very marked change in their daily movements. It is probable that the Lesser Flamingo does breed on the Lake, but there is no evidence to show that the European bird does so.

EAST AFRICAN PRATINCOLE (*Glareola pratincola fulleborni*, Neum.).

The Pratincoles seemed to be constantly on the move, seldom frequenting any one locality for a long period. Near the north end of the lake on March 3rd, six males were obtained, and a great many birds were seen, where for the preceding week there had been none.

At Ferguson Gulf in April, the same thing was observed, the birds being present on some days in large numbers and at other times entirely absent. Six specimens, five males and one female were taken at the Gulf on April 13th and 15th.

Examination of the stomach contents showed that the birds had been feeding largely on Tiger beetles (Cicendelidae).

At the end of September the birds were far more numerous in Ferguson Gulf, but on October 8th to 10th none were seen.

The series of skins obtained agree very closely with the race *G. p. fulleborni*, and are recorded as such. In the Bulletin of the United States National Museum (Bull. 153, pp. 192) Friedmann includes a series of birds from the south of Rudolf, as *G. p. limbata*, but he admits that they are intermediate between *limbata* and *fulleborni*. The wing measurements of the present series ranges from 176-192 mm.; average 185 mm.

SOMALI COURSER (*Cursorius cursor somalensis* \geq *littoralis*).

Fairly frequently seen in the sub-desert country north of the Turkwell River, but nowhere very common. The birds were nearly always found at a considerable distance from water, apparently preferring the dry country. Only on one occasion were they seen to drink at the lake, when a party of eight birds came down to drink with the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse.

On September 22nd a pair were seen near Ferguson Gulf with two half-fledged chicks still unable to fly.

THREE-BANDED COURSER (*Rhinoptilus cinctus cinctus*, Heugl.).

Not very common. A single male, brought in with two eggs by natives, on April 2nd was the only specimen seen in the Spring. The bird was said to have been trapped at the nest, and since the eggs appear to be those of a Courser, this is probably correct.

The eggs have a sandy ground colour, closely speckled and lined with dark brown, and showed about two days incubation. The measurements are as follows: 36 x 24, 35 x 24 mm. Two other pairs were seen at Lodwar in September, and a pair was obtained on September 18th, but no further signs of nesting were observed and no other birds were seen in Turkana.

EGYPTIAN SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Hoplopterus spinosus*, Linn.).

Fairly common in certain localities on Lake Rudolf. The female obtained was shot near the north end of the lake on March 3rd.

No indications of nesting were observed on the west side, but a nest was found on the eastern shore on August 28th containing three nearly fresh eggs.

SOMALI SPOTTED STONE CURLEW (*Burhinus capensis affinis*, Rupp.).

A male shot off a nest on May 9th was the only specimen taken though the birds were fairly frequently seen throughout Turkana, in the drier areas of the country. The nest was situated in loose sand under a low bush, and consisted of a shallow unlined scrape and contained two fresh eggs. These are darker than those of the European species *B. o. oedicnemus*, but in other respects are very similar. They measure 50 x 38, 51 x 38 mm.

EUROPEAN CURLEW (*Numenius arquatus arquatus*, Linn.).

Fairly plentiful on most parts of the lake shore, but everywhere extremely shy and difficult to obtain. At Ferguson Gulf the birds took part in the evening flight with almost all the other Waders, and it was found that at such times they would frequently answer to a decoy whistle, and solitary birds might even be induced to approach to within a few yards. The female obtained was shot at Ferguson Gulf on April 14th. The bill measures 158 mm. (straight).

MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnalis*, Bechst.).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actites hypoleucus*, Linn.).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Erolia testacea*, Pallas.).

LITTLE STINT (*Erolia minuta minuta*, Leisl.).

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*, Linn.).

The first four species occurred in large numbers at all points of the lake shore, where they mixed freely with each other. Of the four, the Marsh Sandpiper was on the whole the most common, and the Little Stint the least common. The specimens obtained were all taken between April 18th and the 22nd at Ferguson Gulf. The movements of the birds here were very erratic, but were apparently not influenced in any way by weather conditions, as is sometimes the case. On some days throughout the morning, small waders of all kinds would be seen passing south in small parties, while on other days at the same time the movement would be northward. In the evenings there was a great movement and many birds probably went down to the roosting place at the south end of the gulf, though a few parties gathered at certain other points on the shore. By May 10th the birds were still plentiful but no indication of nesting was observed amongst any of the Waders. In September, many Common Sandpipers were found in the bed of the Turkwell River at Lodwar, where many pools were left after rains earlier in the year. Males and females were obtained. Several Green Sandpipers were seen but they were very wild and could not be approached.

PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles senegalensis ellioti* > *olivascens*).

The specimens obtained represent the intermediate form between *P. s. ellioti* and *olivascens*. They were collected on April 6th. These birds were very common throughout Turkana in the low-lying sub-desert country. East of Mt. Labur, large numbers came down to the lake to drink each morning, at about 7 a.m., the flight lasting about twenty minutes. Here it was noticed that the birds always flew very high until well over the lake when they would circle round and come down to the shore, while on the return journey, they would go straight inland, often only a few feet off the ground. This had no apparent connection with the direction of the wind.

At Ferguson Gulf, the birds began to appear at 6 a.m., the majority gathering about a mile inland, where they remained for an hour or more. By 7 a.m. hundreds of birds had congregated and for the next half hour a steady stream of small parties could be seen passing down to the water's edge, every group drinking at the same stretch of water front about two hundred yards in length. The time taken to drink was extremely short, occupying from 5—15 seconds, very rarely more. It seems curious that although such great numbers collected inland, it was very seldom that more than twenty birds would actually drink together: the usual number would be five to ten birds. It was frequently noticed that birds going down to water would join parties returning, at least for a short distance and apparently in some cases these birds returned without drinking at all. Since the return flight was always considerably faster and appeared to be more determined, the reverse process seldom took place, though on two occasions birds returning from the water were seen to join others going in the opposite direction, and to take a second drink.

When, during the day one came upon these birds inland, they were in parties of at least half a dozen and often more. No indication of nesting was observed in the spring.

At Lodwar, in September, a few individuals were seen to come to the water holes at all hours of the day, sometimes as late as 4 p.m., but it was noticed that these were invariably males and may have been fetching water for their young. A female was seen on September 14th near Lodwar with two unfledged young which were unable to fly.

On October 5—6th, at a point some miles south of the Kerio River mouth, large numbers came down to the lake to drink between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. each afternoon. In this case both sexes were noted. This was the only occasion when the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse were seen to come in any quantity to drink other than early in the morning.

BRIDLED SANDGROUSE (*Eremiolector sukensis*).

Probably as common as the Pintail, though less often seen, occurring apparently more in the rocky hilly country rather than on the open sandy plains. Unlike the latter species they drink only in the evenings, commencing to come to water about half an hour after sunset, in groups seldom exceeding six birds. They were only seen drinking at the lake on two occasions, four birds being observed on each occasion. This is probably due to the fact that their different habitat gives them access to neighbouring rock pools. Some waterholes in the dry bed of the Turkwell River at Lodwar were the only ones found which were frequented by both species. During, and after exceptionally heavy rains, at the end of April, and early in May, a few birds continued to come to the regular drinking places, in spite of the fact that the Turkwell was in flood and there was unlimited surface water on all sides. By day, the birds were found only in pairs but no nests or eggs were obtained.

ORANGE-THROATED FRANCOLIN (*Pternistes leucocephus infuscatus*, Cab.).

Not very common. The female obtained was brought in by a native at Lodwar on April 9th. No other specimens were seen.

RED-LEGGED BUSH FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus sephaena ochro-gaster* ♀ *granti*).

Very common in all suitable localities, particularly amongst the thick bush along the banks of the Turkwell River. A clutch of five hard-set eggs brought in by natives at Lodwar on April 4th belong to this species. The average measurement of these is 39.1×27.8 mm. The birds were found to be extremely shy and were seldom seen by day, though towards evening they became very noisy and could occasionally be seen when the majority went to roost in the tops of the low palm trees.

YELLOW-TUFTED BUSTARD. (*Afrotis gindiana gindiana*, Oust.).

Very common in the dry thorn bush country towards the north end of Lake Rudolf, particularly east and south-east of Mt. Labur, where they occurred in large numbers. None were seen further south near Ferguson Gulf, although the conditions were apparently similar. The birds were generally found singly or in pairs, sheltering from the heat of the day under low thorn bushes. The call note has a particularly ventriloquistic quality and is extremely difficult to locate. The specimen obtained was shot at Komogin River south-east of Mt. Labur.

SPECKLED-NECK ROCK PIGEON (*Columba guinea longipennis*,
Reichw.).

Common in northern Turkana where there are many rocky gorges, but seldom seen elsewhere. The male obtained was taken at Lokitaung on March 16th. No nests were found.

WHITE-VENTED RED-EYED DOVE (*Streptopelia decipiens permista*).

Very common throughout Turkana. The great majority of the Doves came to drink at the permanent waterholes every morning, while comparatively few were seen to drink in the evening.

At Lodwar large numbers of doves were shot for food and it was noticed that this species occurred in almost equal numbers with the Uganda WHITE-VENTED DOVE (*Streptopelia capicola tropica*, Reichw.). Near Ferguson Gulf also, both species were very plentiful amongst the palm trees about two miles from the lake shore, but none were seen to come to the lake to drink. Apparently these birds were more fastidious than most, preferring to go further afield to obtain water rather than drink the alkaline water of the lake.

The UGANDA BLUE-SPOTTED GROUND DOVE (*Turtur afer sclateri*), the LONG-TAILED GROUND DOVE (*Oena capensis*), and the SPECKLED-NECK DOVE (*Streptopelia senegalensis aequatorialis*) were also plentiful, but no specimens were preserved. Early in May many birds were seen courting and appeared about to nest, but none were found.

WHITE-RUMPED SPARROW HAWK (*Melierax gaber*, Daud.).

The male and female obtained were the only specimens seen during the three months, the female was shot at Lodwar, the male at Komogin River, both in very dry surroundings.

RUFOUS-BREASTED SPARROW HAWK (*Accipiter badius riggenbachi*, Neum.).

Not common. A specimen was seen at Lokitaung on March 14th and the female obtained was trapped by natives at Lodwar, April 10th. From the localities it would appear that the species prefers the well-wooded districts near permanent water, rather than the sub-desert country frequented by *Melierax gaber*.

BATALEUR EAGLE (*Helotarsus ecaudatus*, Daud.).

Fairly common along the Turkwell, but seldom seen elsewhere. The male obtained was shot whilst collecting and eating baked mud from the dry bed of the Turkwell at Lodwar on April 7th. When examined, the stomach was found to contain lumps of hard mud and in addition three rats and two eggs. The latter had been swallowed

whole and one was still almost intact while the other had lost most of the shell, though the inner lining membrane was still unbroken. The colour of the eyes and also that of the bare skin at the base of the bill and the legs faded rapidly when the specimen was killed, the eyes changing to dark brown, the bill and legs to dull orange within an hour of death.

SOUTHERN KITE (*Milvus migrans parasiticus*, Daud.).

Very common at Lokitaung and other parts of the northern Turkana, but less frequently seen in the region of the Turkwell.

A nest found at Lokitaung on March 14th contained two eggs, slightly incubated. It was situated about fifteen feet up in an Olive tree and was constructed of sticks and lined with lumps of mud, dung, and pieces of goat skin. Another nest found on March 24th was still under construction. This was lined in a similar manner but had as an additional delicacy, the dried carcase of a hedgehog.

The eggs are pale green with irregular marks of chestnut brown. Measurements: 54×42 , 50×40.5 mm. The sitting bird was found to be extremely timid leaving the nest at the first sign of danger, when she would be joined almost immediately by her mate and the two birds would remain in the vicinity, keeping at a safe distance, until satisfied that all danger was past. Only the male of this pair was obtained and since it showed no incubation patches, had taken no part in sitting on the eggs.

AFRICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Chelictinia rioccourii*, Veill. & Oud.).

This species was found to be very plentiful at Ferguson Gulf but none were seen elsewhere in Turkana.

The male obtained was shot on April 14th. They were always seen along the grassy margin of the lake in pursuit of grasshoppers which appear to be their staple diet. Their method of hunting is not unlike that of the Kestrel, the birds flying slowly and fairly low over the ground, continually hovering and dropping on to their prey. The stomach contents consisted solely of grasshoppers. When hunting they were not at all timid and could be approached with ease.

The birds present rather an unusual appearance in flight when seen from below; the underparts are pure white or very pale grey thus the outline becomes very indistinct against a bright sky. The most conspicuous feature is an oval black spot on the under side of each wing.

PEARL-SPOTTED OWL (*Glaucidium perlatum*).

A specimen was seen for the first time at Lodwar on April 29th. The following morning it was again seen when it killed a bat, afterwards retiring with it to a patch of thick bush where it was mobbed by Bulbuls

and Warblers. The bird obtained was shot on May 1st after which no more were seen.

UGANDA YELLOW-SHOULDERED PARROT (*Poicephalus meyeri saturatus*, Sharpe).

Quite common along the Turkwell where they were seen in pairs; but none were seen at Lokitaung or elsewhere in the north.

At Lodwar a pair was reported to be nesting in April, but this was not verified. The birds appeared to be on the increase throughout April. A female was shot on April 30th but showed no indications of breeding.

LESSER HONEY GUIDE (*Indicator minor nr. teitensis*).

The species was uncommon. A female was shot at Lodwar on February 13th.

BROWN-THROATED BARBET (*Tricholaema melanocephala stigmatothorax*, Cab.).

A few birds were seen at Lokitaung, where a female was shot on March 14th, and they occurred in small numbers in other parts of Northern Turkana, but were nowhere common. A single bird of this species was seen at Lodwar on April 6th.

NUBIAN RED-HEADED SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Campetherina nubica nubica*, Bodd.).

Fairly common throughout Turkana, especially near permanent water. A pair was observed to be constructing a nest on May 2nd at Lodwar, but this was abandoned before completion.

EAST AFRICAN BLUE-NAPED COLY (*Urocolius macrourus pulcher*, Neum.).

A male and female were obtained from a party of eight on March 25th in North Turkana, and several more were seen in the same district. On the Turkwell, in spite of apparently ideal conditions no birds were seen during the latter half of February nor throughout April. The species was again noted on May 2nd and many were seen, and for the ensuing fortnight they were present in considerable numbers. A further pair was obtained at Lodwar on May 3rd, but no birds were found nesting until September 17th when a bird was found sitting on her nest, but as this was inaccessible it was not examined; it apparently contained eggs.

ROLLER (*Coracias caudatus* ?).

A pair of Long-tailed Rollers was found to be nesting on April 3rd at Lodwar, but the nest was inaccessible and no specimen was obtained although several pairs were seen in the district.

On April 29th seven Rollers were seen passing over Lodwar towards the south-west. None of these were collected owing to the height at which they flew, and the species could not be ascertained with certainty, but it was obvious that they had square tails without the elongated outer feathers.

JACKSON'S HORNBILL (*Lophoceros jacksoni*, O. Grant.).

Extremely common throughout Turkana in wooded districts particularly along the Turkwell River. In the Lodwar area, during the first half of May several pairs appeared to be about to begin nesting, but no nesting holes were found.

WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER (*Merops albicollis maior*, Parrot.)

Not very common. The only birds seen were found in one locality on the plains south-east of Mt. Labur, where they were present in fair numbers on March 8th to 10th.

CRIMSON LONG-TAILED BEE-EATER (*Merops nubicus nubicus*, Gmel.).

This was very common along the lake shore from the middle of March onwards. They first appeared on March 15th on the east of Labur. At Ferguson Gulf they were found to be plentiful in April passing up and down the grassy margin of the lake. They were often observed to rest on the backs of goats and donkeys. A pair was seen passing over Lodwar in a south-westerly direction on April 30th and again on May 6th. Several were seen flying in the same direction, but none settled. All these birds were flying at a considerable height and were possibly on migration, as these were the only occasions on which the birds were seen inland from the lake.

BLUE-TAILED RED-BILLED WOOD HOOPOE (*Phoeniculus erythrorhynchus niloticus*, Neum.).

A few birds were seen at Lodwar in February and again in April, but none were observed in any other locality.

YELLOW-BILLED SCIMITAR-BILLED WOOD HOOPOE (*Rhinopomastus minor cabanisi*, Filipp.).

No birds were seen anywhere in Turkana during the Spring, but in September a few were found at Lodwar, where a specimen was obtained on September 17th. All the birds were very tame and easily approachable. No signs of nesting were observed.

PLAIN-BACKED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus inornatus*, Heugl.).

Nightjars were fairly plentiful throughout Turkana, particularly in the neighbourhood of Lodwar. Only one specimen was obtained, but

at least two species were present. Two clutches of eggs were taken on May 9th at the Kabua River, but unfortunately no specimens of the parent bird was obtained in either case. One probably belongs to the species cited and the other, considerably larger, to *C. frenatus*.

EUROPEAN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica rustica*, Linn.).

Very few Swallows were seen except near the lake, until after the beginning of the rains. On April 28th a flock of several thousand birds appeared over Lodwar at about 5 a.m. where they remained until dark wheeling over the Turkwell River at a considerable height. No specimens were obtained and the following day the birds had gone. It is probable that these birds were on their northward flight. On September 25th, the species was again noted some miles out over the lake, flying southwards.

NORTHERN LESSER WHITE-THROATED SHRIKE-FLY-CATCHER (*Bradornis griseus pumilus*, Sharpe.).

Very common throughout Turkana. Seen usually in pairs and never singly. A nest found at Lorogumu on May 15th contained two newly hatched young and one egg. The nest was constructed of twigs forming a deep cup lined with a few feathers and was situated about ten feet from the ground in a small acacia. This nest differed somewhat from that of *B. griseus griseus* which consisted of little more than a light shallow platform of rootlets and unlined; the eggs are, however, alike. The parent birds showed a similar reluctance to leave the nest, remaining until actually touched. No other nests were found.

UGANDA BROWN-BARRED PUFF-BACKED FLYCATCHER (*Batis minor nyanzae*, Neum.).

Not very common. The only birds seen were in northern Turkana amongst the hilly country at an altitude of about 5,000 ft. The female obtained was shot on March 21st and showed no indication of breeding.

PIGMY PUFF-BACKED FLYCATCHER (*Batis soror perkeo*, Neum.).

Not common. Two pairs were seen together at Lodwar on September 17th when a female was obtained but previously none were observed in Turkana nor were any seen subsequently.

PARADISE FLYCATCHER (*Tchitrea ferreli*, Guer.).

Not very common. Seen only in thick bush along the Turkwell after the beginning of the rains. The pair obtained are in the brown phase and had a nest containing three eggs which were laid on May 9th, 10th and 11th. The eggs are white with a very distinct zone of pink-lilac spots round the larger end and closely resemble those of the

European Tree-creeper (*Certhia familiaris*, Ridgw.) though a little bigger. They measure 19 x 14 mm. The nest was situated about six feet from the ground in very thick scrub and was composed of grass fibre lined with hair. Several specimens of the white-backed variety were seen at Lodwar, but these seemed to be rather timid and none were collected.

PALE-BACKED WHITE-HEADED SHRIKE (*Eurocephalus ruepellii ruepellii*, Bp.).

Very common along the Turkwell where two specimens were obtained on April 9th and May 4th, but none were seen elsewhere. The birds soon became fairly tame and would feed all round the camp quite fearlessly. No signs of breeding were observed in May, but on September 10th a nest was found at Lodwar with young birds. This was a very neat structure, built of twigs and fluff suspended in the angle of a horizontal fork, and it was impossible to see whether it contained two or three birds. The parent birds strongly resented any intrusion becoming very noisy and excited, though not actually aggressive as is sometimes the case with the Drongo Shrike. On September 19th another pair was seen feeding four fully fledged young which had already left the nest.

PALE-FLANKED BRUBRU (*Nilaus minor*, Sharpe).

Two males and a female were shot at Lokitaung on March 16th where the birds were found to be quite common. They were generally seen in pairs and were very noisy. No birds were seen further south until May 5th when a single female was obtained on the Turkwell River, near Lodwar. This bird was found to have swollen ovaries and would shortly have laid eggs, but no nest was found. During the next few days several more birds were seen, always feeding in the acacia tops. In September they were again found at Lodwar and some pairs appeared to have nests but none were located.

SOMALI STRIPE-HEADED BUSH SHRIKE (*Harpolestes jamesi jamesi*, Shell.).

Not common. A few single birds were seen in north Turkana but not elsewhere. The birds were very shy and retiring in their habits, and being very inconspicuous are probably more common than appears to be the case. The male obtained was shot near Lokitaung on March 25th.

LARGE GREY-BLACK SHRIKE (*Laniarius funebris funebris*, Hartl.).

Fairly common in the thick bush along the Turkwell River, but seen nowhere else in Turkana. The birds were found generally in pairs but were always shy and inconspicuous. In the early morning and

again towards evening the dual call of the male and female was continually heard, though the birds themselves kept well out of sight. A nest was found on May 10th containing two eggs, and on the next day as no further eggs had been laid the parent bird was collected and proved to be a male. The eggs which were slightly incubated are pale green with light reddish-brown markings uniformly distributed over the whole surface and not forming a zone as is the case with most of the Shrikes. The nest was situated about three feet from the ground in a leafless bush and was entirely exposed to the sun. It was constructed of coarse grass and rootlets fairly firmly woven together and unlined. The eggs measure 23 x 16 mm.

WHITE-RUMPED SADDLED-BACK SHRIKE (*Lanius somalicus mauritii*, Neum.).

Common in the open sub-desert country but not seen in the thicker bush or near water. They were found generally in pairs or occasionally singly, but never more than two birds together. Two eggs brought in by natives at Lodwar on May 10th were stated to belong to this species, the Turkana name for which is " Billingorro."

These eggs are creamy-white with a few indistinct greenish-brown spots forming an irregular zone round the large end and showed about three days' incubation. In general appearance they resemble the eggs of certain species of shrikes, but the identification is unsatisfactory.

EUROPEAN RED-BACKED SHRIKE (*Lanius collurio*, Linn.).

A male was shot at Ferguson Gulf on April 14th while feeding on beetles near the lake shore. On April 18th a female was obtained among the Dom Palm scrub some two miles from the shore. No other specimens were seen.

PALE-WINGED DRONGO SHRIKE (*Dicrurus adsimilis divaricatus*, Licht.).

Very common along the Turkwell where they were nearly always to be found "hawking" among the larger trees. A few birds were also seen at Lokitaung but in the north they were much less numerous.

A female shot at Lodwar on May 8th had one almost fully developed egg which would have been laid within a few hours. Such markings as are visible on the shell are nearly black and sharply defined, thus very similar to a clutch taken at the end of June, 1932, in South Kavirondo. Two birds were seen building on May 11th but no completed nests were found. The birds are always very aggressive, continually fighting with each other and almost any other bird that comes near them.

BROWN-NECKED RAVEN (*Corvus ruficollis*, Less.).

Very common throughout Turkana, particularly in the neighbourhood of Lodwar and Lokitaung where they became extremely tame.

The specimen obtained was shot on the lake shore east of Mt. Labur on March 2nd. Some birds appeared to be mating at Lokitaung at the end of March, but no nests were found. On April 28th a nest was seen on Central Island containing two eggs. These appeared to be normal eggs, but the nest was situated in an inaccessible part of the cliff and specimens were not obtained.

RED-BILLED OX-PECKER (*Buphaga erythrorhyncha*, Staud.).

Very common in the populated districts but seldom seen elsewhere, probably due to the scarcity of game animals. The Turkana kill the birds whenever possible, believing that they kill and eat their sheep and goats. This seems to bear out the theory that they feed not only on the ticks which infest the animals but on the wound caused by their extraction. A female brought in by natives on April 7th, at Lodwar, had swollen ovaries and was apparently about to lay, but no nests were located.

WATTLED STARLING (*Perissornis carunculatus*, Gm.).

Frequently seen near Lodwar and also in North Turkana near fresh water, but none were seen at the lake. The birds were always found in flocks of about thirty and they were never seen to mix with other species of Starlings although many others were found in the locality. No nests were found.

WHITE-BANDED GLOSSY STARLING (*Spreo superbus*, Rupp.).

Very common throughout Turkana, both in the thick bush and in the more or less open desert country. At Lodwar the birds became very tame, sometimes venturing almost into the tents in search of food. Several pairs appeared to be nesting at the end of April, but no nests were found.

GREEN GLOSSY STARLING (*Lamprocolius chalybeus*, Ehrenb.).

Common in West Turkana, but not in the vicinity of Lake Rudolf. A nest was found near Kacheliba on May 11th and probably belonged to this species, but unfortunately neither parent was obtained for identification. The nest had apparently weathered several seasons, but was very firmly constructed in a low thorn tree about six feet off the ground. It contained three eggs almost ready to hatch which in colour and size resemble very closely those of the Masai Glossy Starling (*L. c. massaicus*, Neum.). They measure 29.5 x 17mm.

GREEN-HEADED LONG-TAILED STARLING (*Lamproctornis purpuropterus*, Rupp.).

Fairly common in the wooded country along the Turkwell, but not often seen elsewhere. They were found generally in small numbers with the Spreos and not in flocks by themselves. Towards the end of April a few pairs appeared to be beginning nesting operations, and on May 11th a pair was seen to be re-lining an old disused Woodpecker's nest, but no eggs were found. The female shot at Lodwar on May 11th showed no enlargement of the ovaries.

HELMETED RED-WINGED STARLING (*Galeopsar salvadorii*, Sharpe).

Common in all suitable localities, particularly in the rocky gorges in north Turkana. Some birds appeared to be nesting towards the end of March, but all the supposed nesting sites were inaccessible and no eggs were obtained.

WHITE-HEADED GIANT WEAVER (*Dinemellia dinemelli*, Rupp.).

Common throughout Turkana. Two or three birds were generally found together, but seldom more. They occurred only in the very dry thorn-bush country and were never seen in the more wooded districts.

BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW WEAVER (*Plocepasser mahali melanorhynchus*, Rupp.).

Very common in certain localities in north Turkana but not seen in the Lodwar area. A large colony was found on March 10th and after light rains several pairs appeared to begin nesting. The majority of nests seen, however, were roosting nests, open at both ends, and none of the breeding nests examined contained eggs. The species was also common at Kacheliba, where on May 17th a female was shot off a nest which contained two eggs. Several other nests were examined at the same time but none of these contained more than one egg. It was noted at this colony that each nest with eggs was situated immediately below a roosting nest, and all were in low thorn trees. The two eggs obtained were half incubated and have a pale-pink ground with dark red and brown markings. They are rather elongate and both in colour and shape somewhat resemble those of the Gross-beak Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons montana*, van Som. They measure 24.75 x 16 mm.

BLACK-CHEEKED RED-HEADED WEAVER (*Anaplectes melanotus*, Lafr.).

Apparently rather scarce in Turkana. A few birds were seen in the northern part of the district in March, but none were seen elsewhere. Only one specimen was shot; its stomach contained little else than ants and beetles.

LESSER BLACK-FACED WEAVER (*Hyphantornis intermedius intermedius*, Rupp.).

This species was not observed in Turkana in April and May, but in September they were present in considerable numbers. The three specimens obtained were shot from a large flock on September 17th. The birds were found to inhabit the tall acacias along the banks of the Turkwell River. No nests were located.

LITTLE MASKED WEAVER (*Hyphantornis vitellinus uluensis*, Neum.).

No birds were seen after the beginning of the rains, the first to be noted was at Lodwar on May 5th. On the 7th they were found to be present in large numbers, mainly in flocks, while a few were observed to be building. At Lorogumu a small colony of six nests was found on May 15th in a large thorn tree. All the nests appeared to be occupied, but only one was accessible; this contained four fresh eggs of a greenish colour closely speckled with chestnut brown. Measurements: 20 x 14 mm. The nest was composed of coarse grass and unlined. One egg was found to be firmly embedded in the grass, possibly laid before the inner lining of the nest was completed, and so becoming covered.

LARGE PALE FIRE-THROATED FINCH (*Pytelia sudanensis*, Sharpe).

Fairly common in the thick bush along the Turkwell River but very shy and seldom seen. The birds increased in numbers at the beginning of the rains but no signs of nesting were seen. The birds obtained were taken at Lodwar at the end of April and the beginning of May.

UGANDA GREY SPARROW (*Passer griseus ugandæ*, Reichw.).

Very common at Lokitaung where they occurred in large flocks, but few birds were seen elsewhere. It was noted that they made use of old nests as roosting places, sometimes several birds being found together in one nest. No eggs were found.

LARGE GREY SPARROW (*Passer gongonensis* > *P. abyssinicus*).

Fairly common along the Turkwell River, but not seen elsewhere. The birds were found to be more shy than is the case with most Sparrows, and did not readily become accustomed to human beings.

A nest was found at Lorogumu on May 15th and probably belonged to this species though unfortunately no parent bird was shot.

The two eggs are rather larger than those of *P. g. ugandæ* and darker in colour. The nest was constructed of sticks lined with grass and a few feathers and had a tubular entrance; it appeared to have

been built some seasons previously and may have been, in the first instance, that of a starling or some other species.

MASAI YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW (*Petronia pyrgita massaica*, Neum.).

This species was not noted until September, when they were found to be plentiful round Lodwar. They frequented the tall acacias along the Turkwell, being found feeding in flocks amongst the Black-faced Weavers *H. i. intermedius*.

MOTTLED-BACK YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza poliopleura*, Salvad.).

Fairly common throughout the Turkana but nowhere seen in large numbers. The birds were generally seen in the open thorn scrub, where during the greater part of the day they were to be found on the ground or perched on the lower twigs of the bushes, as they sheltered from the heat of the sun. No nests were found. The specimens obtained were from the northern part of the district.

CINNAMON-HEADED FINCH LARK (*Eremopteryx signata*, Oust.).

Very common in flocks varying from twenty to fifty or more individuals, particularly in the dry country a few miles from the lake shore. The birds were never seen in pairs and did not show any signs of nesting. The three males obtained appear to be rather paler than typical *E. signata* in the markings of the head; the females also require to be compared with typical material as there is a possibility that the Turkana birds represent a geographical race. No birds were seen in September or October.

PINK-BREASTED SINGING LARK (*Mirafra poecilosterna poecilosterna*, Reichw.).

Not common. The specimen obtained was the only one noted in Turkana. The bird was taken at Lokitaung in March where it was found perched on a tree, and although observed for some little time was not seen to settle on the ground.

CRESTED LARK (*Galerida cristata somalensis*, Bianch.).

Not very common. The male obtained was procured at the north end of Lake Rudolf near the shore, where they were seen in fair numbers. A few more were observed at Ferguson Gulf, in April. They were not seen inland.

LONG-BILLED MOTTLED PIPIT (*Anthus sordidus longirostris*, Neum.).

A common species in the high country in Northern Turkana, but seldom seen in the low plains or near the lake. The birds were

noted singly, or occasionally in pairs though no signs of nesting were seen. It was noted that they were nearly always to be seen perching in trees, and not on the ground.

GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*, Billberg).

Very common along the lake shore where they occur in large flocks, but seldom far from water. On March 24th a flock of about forty appeared at a waterhole near Lokitaung and remained feeding in the neighbourhood for about four hours. No others were seen in the district, and it is possible that these birds were passing on migration. With this exception the birds were only seen at the lake shore. Many of the birds were in full plumage.

SOMALI BROWN SCRUB BULBUL (*Phyllastrephus strepitans pauper*, Sharpe).

This species was common along the Turkwell, frequenting the thick scrub. The birds were found generally in pairs but gave no indication of nesting. Although somewhat retiring in their habits, they are at the same time very inquisitive of any unusual sight or sound, often approaching to within a few feet of any intruder. They will however very rarely venture into the open.

UGANDA YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (*Pyconotus tricolor minor*, Heugl.).

A common species throughout Turkana, particularly round Lodwar and Lokitaung. A pair was seen building on May 5th near Lodwar, and an egg was laid on May 7th. The nest was situated on the lowest leaf of a Dom Palm, and had no base, but consisted of a ring of grass fibre and hair to keep the eggs in place on the palm leaf.

Before the second egg was laid, a heavy shower of rain washed the nest and egg on to the ground. No other nest was found though several pairs were breeding.

RED AND YELLOW-BREASTED SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia pulchella lucidipectus*, Hart.).

Though not encountered elsewhere, this species was common at Lodwar after the beginning of the rains. A nest was found on May 9th which was inaccessible but as the female was sitting, it probably contained eggs. Another nest was found on September 17th which contained two nearly fledged young. When the female fed the young she was quite fearless and could be observed at a distance of a few feet.

ABYSSINIAN BLACK-BELLIED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris mariquensis osiris*, Fins).

A female obtained at the south-east of Mt. Labur was the only specimen seen.

GREEN-RUMPED PURPLE SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes orientalis*, Hartl.).

This species was common throughout Turkana, but females were more often seen than males. A female shot on May 9th had swollen ovaries and was apparently about to lay, and on May 15th another was obtained from a nest containing two eggs. These are greenish-grey closely speckled with dark brown and black. The nest was situated about four feet from the ground in a low thorn bush and was constructed of fine grass and fluff felted together. The eggs measure 17.5 x 12 mm.

KENYA WHITE-BREASTED PENDULINE TIT (*Anthoscopus musculus sub. sp.*).

This was not a common species. The single specimen obtained near Lodwar on February 17th was the only bird seen.

KENYA WHITE-CHEEKED TIT (*Parus thruppi fricki*, Mearns).

Not common. A female was shot at Lokitaung on March 13th but no others were seen.

PALE WREN WARBLER (*Prinia somalica intermedia* \geq *erlangeri*?)

One male and a female were obtained. Several birds were seen in the hilly country of north Turkana, but on the whole they are not common. The birds were only seen singly, and were generally found feeding in the tops of tall acacias, where they were very inconspicuous.

UGANDA RUFOUS-FACED WARBLER (*Dryodromas rufifrons turkana*, van Som.).

A common species in the hilly country of north Turkana and not noted elsewhere. The birds were found to occur mainly in the low thorn scrub and the rocky outcrops. In the field, the relatively dark tail is a very conspicuous feature. This is held erect and continually waved from side to side, so that the bird somewhat resembles the European Wren. The birds were always found in pairs and seemed to be entirely fearless, paying no attention to any disturbing element unless a shot were fired, and then only moving off to a short distance to continue feeding. The search for food is very systematic, beginning either at the top of a bush and working gradually down to the ground or *vice versa*.

Both birds would work the same bush, and it was noted that one bird always finished first and passed on to the next bush, followed immediately by the second bird, which did not wait to complete the bush it was already working. The four specimens shot were obtained on March 19th and 20th. No signs of nesting were observed.

NORTHERN LITTLE YELLOW-BELLIED SCRUB WARBLER
(*Eremomela flaviventris griseoflava*, Heugl.).

Not very common. A few birds were seen near Lodwar in February and a female was obtained on the 15th. A single male was taken at Lokitaung on March 15th. No other specimens were seen.

WHITE-BELLIED CROMBEC (*Sylvieta brachyura leucopsis?*)

Fairly well distributed throughout Turkana, but nowhere occurring in very large numbers. Frequently seen at Lodwar feeding on the acacia tops, generally in pairs. Males and females obtained on the Turkwell River showed no signs of nesting.

TURKANA GREEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Camaroptera brevicaudata nr. abyssinica*).

This species was not common. Found only in thick bush along the Turkwell near Lodwar. Like the Scrub Bulbuls they were found to be rather inquisitive, but none were ever seen to emerge from cover.

AFRICAN REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus beaticus*, Vieill.).

A female shot on April 9th was the only specimen seen. It was found in the thick bush of the Turkwell River, and was difficult to approach.

WILLOW WREN (*Phylloscopus trochilis trochilis*, Linn.).

Not very common. Two females obtained on March 16th at Lokitaung were found feeding together in the acacia trees and were fairly tame. A female was taken at Ferguson Gulf on April 18th where it was observed amongst the grass tufts, near the lake shore. This bird was extremely timid and kept at a safe distance but eventually became entangled in some Dom Palm fibres. Two more birds were seen at Lodwar on May 3rd but were not obtained.

NORTHERN RUFOUS SCRUB CHATTERER (*Argya rubiginosa rubiginosa*, Rupp.).

Fairly common along the Turkwell, but not seen in any other locality. The birds seemed to confine themselves almost entirely to

the Dom Palm scrub, retiring to the thickest clumps when disturbed and never venturing more than a few yards into the open.

They were seldom seen in pairs, but generally three to five birds would be found together. A female shot on May 2nd had very much enlarged ovaries, and was within about two days of laying.

This bird was one of five engaged in courtship pursuit and exhibiting great excitement. No nests were found.

RUDOLF SPECKLED BABBLER (*Cichladusa guttata*, Heugl.).

A few birds were seen at Lodwar but not elsewhere. The birds were observed mainly in the Dom Palm scrub and occasionally in thick thorn scrub, but they were always extremely shy and difficult to approach. None were seen before the rains, the first bird being taken on May 3rd. The two females obtained showed no enlargement of the ovaries.

NORTHERN GREY-STREAKED SCRUB CHAT (*Erythropygia leucoptera* Sub. sp.)

The birds obtained agree very closely with three birds also from west Rudolf in Dr. van Someren's collection. They are intermediate between *E. leucoptera leucoptera* and *E. l. vulpina* both in the extent of the rufous area of the mantle and the grey of the crown.

The birds were found in fair numbers throughout Turkana, frequenting the open thorn scrub often far from water. They were observed to keep near the ground and were on the whole rather shy and retiring. When disturbed they fly only a short distance, and on settling raise and spread the tail, thus exposing the marked black and white tips of the tail feathers. This feature gives the bird something of the appearance of a Cisticola, when seen at a distance.

A female obtained at Lodwar on May 4th was found to have two ova nearly ready for laying. At Loruogumu a nest was found on May 15th containing two eggs and also an egg of the Solitary Cuckoo, *Cuculus solitarius*. The nest, consisting of a deep cup composed of grass and lined with hair, was well concealed, situated about a foot from the ground amongst branching stems of a small bush, enclosed by nettles. The two eggs which showed about four days incubation are pale greenish-cream fairly closely speckled with pink and brown, the markings being somewhat concentrated toward the larger end. They measure 19×15 mm. The Cuckoo's egg is much larger, measuring 24×20 mm. and is bright blue, similar to the eggs of the Glossy Starlings.