

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Report on the papers of
REGINALD ERNEST MOREAU
(1897-1970)
ornithologist

deposited in the library of the
Edward Grey Institute, Oxford

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Committee on Scientific and Technological Records

CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVES CENTRE

Papers of

REGINALD ERNEST MOREAU

(1897 - 1970)

Listed by Jeannine Alton

Harriot Weiskittel

Deposited in the Library of the Edward Grey Institute, Oxford

1974

Description of the collection

The papers cover the years 1918 - 73 and were assembled from various sources.

The early correspondence (Section II) and the African diaries, journals and working notes (Section IV) were retained in the library of the Edward Grey Institute, Oxford, by David Lack after Moreau's death; Item 4 gives a full account of Dr. Lack's disposition of Moreau's papers.

The material on Palaearctic-African migration (Section III) was received from Dr. James Monk, Moreau's literary executor, who edited the manuscript of The Palaearctic-African Bird Migration Systems for publication. Moreau had relied on an extraordinarily global network of correspondents for data and information; the later material in the files (1970-73) is Dr. Monk's continuation of this correspondence and his own notes and drafts.

Moreau was not a professional ornithologist. He was employed in the Army Audit Office in England and Egypt, later in the Colonial Service agricultural research unit in Amani, Tanganyika, and pursued his ornithological studies and observations in his leisure time. On his retirement, he devoted his time wholly to ornithology, as editor of Ibis and working in the Edward Grey Institute, at first in an honorary capacity.

Of special interest are the notebooks (Items 87-100) in Kiswahili by native observers trained by Moreau in Tanganyika, and Moreau's extensive correspondence with Dr. James Chapin (Items 11-27) which is remarkable not only for its wealth of ornithological information but also for the beautiful calligraphic drawings of animals and birds in which Chapin 'spelled out' his own name or that of others.

Summary of Career

| | |
|-----------|---|
| b.1897 | Kingston-on-Thames |
| 1906 | Educated Kingston Grammar School |
| 1914 | Entered the Civil Service (Army Audit Office) |
| 1920 | Move to Egypt (Army Audit Office) |
| 1924 | Marriage |
| 1928 | Move to Amani, Tanganyika (Colonial Service agricultural research unit) |
| 1946 | Retirement from Civil Service; return to England |
| 1947 - 60 | Editor of <u>Ibis</u> |
| 1947 - 66 | Work at Edward Grey Institute, Oxford |
| 1951 | Honorary M.A. Oxford |

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I. Biographical

1. Obituary notices: by Dr. J. Monk in British Birds, Vol.63, 1970 1970 - 71
by Stephen Marchant in The Emu, Vol.70,
Part 4, October 1970
by Constantine W. Benson in Journal für
Ornithologie, 112, Heft.1, 1971
The Times, June 3, 1970
autobiographical sketch, The Ibis, 112, 1970
with additional notes by David Lack,
James Monk, Sir Landsborough Thomson
Professor William Thorpe
Letter from Dr. H.W. Lissmann,FRS, to Dr. James Monk 1970
2. Two photographs
3. Personal correspondence (Christmas cards, letters of thanks)
4. Letter from David Lack to Mrs. Moreau (dated 20 August 1970) 1970
describing disposition of Moreau's papers, reprints, notebooks,
and correspondence

II. Correspondence

(The extensive correspondence re Palaearctic birds is included in section III.)

5. With William Rowan, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada 1930 - 35
6. Moreau's letters to L.S.V. Venables written from Amani 1934 - 35
7. Moreau's letters to L.S.V. Venables written from Amani 1936 - 39
(those of 1939 written in England)
8. With Arthur Loveridge, Harvard 1946 - 47
9. With Alexander F. Skutch, Costa Rica 1946 - 52
10. With Col. Richard Meinertzhagen 1951 - 54
- 11.- With James Chapin, Museum of Natural History, New York City 1941 - 60
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 11. 1941
 12. 1946
 13. 1947
 14. 1948
 15. 1949
 16. 1950
 17. 1951
 18. 1952
 19. 1953
 20. 1954
 21. 1955
 22. 1956
 23. 1957
 24. 1958
 25. 1959
 26. 1960
 27. Package of envelopes and drawings

28. With Myles North, Nairobi. Moreau's letter of 15 April 1961 proposes an ornithological expedition to climb Mt. Endau, Kenya, a feat which was accomplished in January-February, 1962. Much of the correspondence in the file (and in Items 29, 30, 31) is concerned with the planning of the expedition (see list on file cover for summary of contents.) 1959 - 61
29. Correspondence, invoices, list of supplies and notes collected by Myles North for Mt. Endau expedition and for the paper written about the results of the expedition 1961 - 62
- 30.- Myles North's correspondence with Moreau and John Tennant re results of expedition and Tennant's article in Ibis, 106, 1-6, 1964) 1962 - 67
- 31.
32. Miscellaneous ornithological correspondence arranged chronologically 1937 - 48
33. Miscellaneous ornithological correspondence arranged chronologically 1950 - 69
- 33a. 'Migrants in the Bay of Biscay': letters to Moreau, D.W. Snow and D.F. Owen as a result of an appeal for information in British Birds and Ibis. File also contains notes on others' published work and a copy of 'Autumn Migration Filmed and Recorded at Sea' by G.R. Edwards 1954

III. Work for 'The Palaearctic-African Bird Migration Systems'

(This material was received from Dr. James Monk who edited the book after Moreau's death. The 1970 - 73 correspondence and notes are Dr. Monk's own efforts to complete the work for publication.)

34. Reviews of 'The Palaearctic-African Bird Migration Systems', Academic Press London and New York, 1972 1972 - 73
35. Correspondence and information from colleagues re migration 1968
36. Correspondence with Graeme Backhurst, Kenya 1968 - 71
37. Correspondence with Gerard Morel 1968 - 70
- 38.- Miscellaneous correspondence and information received from other ornithologists 1969 - 70
- 41.
- 42.- File labelled 'Moult and Physiology' containing:
45. 42. Correspondence 1968 - 69
43. Moreau's notes, drafts, bibliographies, graphs and charts
44. 'Changes in Africa as a Wintering Area for Palaearctic Birds': typescript with Ms. corrections
45. Related offprints 1967 - 68
46. 'Changes in Africa as a Wintering Area for Palaearctic Birds': typescript with Ms. corrections, Moreau's data, notes on the published work of others, related offprints 1965 - 68
47. Correspondence with outside observers for 'Changes in Africa. .' 1968 - 69

- 48.- File labelled 'Western Asia' containing
52. 48. Bibliographical notes, drafts and copies of letters, data, maps, tabular summaries, unidentified corrected typescript and typescript of 'The Migration between Palaearctic Asia and Africa' (3 pp.)
49. Extensive correspondence with Lindon Cornwallis with data, tabular summaries and bibliographical notes used in preparation of 'The Migration between Palaearctic Asia and Africa'
50. Correspondence 1968 - 69
51. Correspondence 1969 - 70
52. Offprint by H. Kumerloeve (annotated by the author)
53. Miscellaneous data and notes collected by Moreau, bibliographies, n.d. notes on others' work, drafts of unidentified papers
54. Notes and data sent to Moreau by other ornithological workers and observers i.e. 'Bird Breeding Records, Serengeti National Park 1967', 'Extracts from Ruaha National Park Warden's Report' etc. 1967
55. 'The maintenance needs of Palaearctic migrant birds in Africa' by Moreau and I. Newton: typescript with extensive corrections by Moreau; 'Palaearctic Migrant Bird Species in Uganda': typescript by J.M. Lock(?); typescripts of 'Arenaria' and 'Charadrius dubuis' n.d.
56. Miscellaneous offprints 1962 - 68
57. 'Chapters 1 and 2' ('The migrant species and their ranges' and 'The fluctuating ecology of the source areas'): data, charts and graphs in various hands, correspondence, related offprints 1956 - 70
58. 'Chapter 3' ('The circumstances of the migrants' journeys'): correspondence with extensive data 1953, 1969 - 70
59. 'Chapter 3': data and related offprints 1966 - 69
60. 'Chapter 3': typescript with extensive Ms. corrections and amendments by Moreau and David Lack. Tabular summaries of data, bibliographical notes, Ms. draft (1 p.)
61. 'Chapter 3': correspondence, maps and related offprints 1969 - 70
62. 'Chapter 4. Numbers': data and calculations, related offprints and correspondence 1968 - 69
63. 'Correspondence on chapters 9 & 10. Warblers': includes data and related offprints
64. 'Chapter 13. Raptors': correspondence 1968 - 70
65. 'Chapter 13. Raptors': data, bibliographical notes, related offprints

66. 'Chapter 14. Water': correspondence with data (includes typescript of 'Status of Palaearctic Wildfowl in Ethiopia' by E.K. Urban) 1968 - 70
67. 'Chapter 14. Water': data, Moreau's drafts of letters, offprints
68. Ms. data on ringing (much of it collected by M. Radford) 1969
69. 'Ortstreue and Direction': correspondence with comments on the manuscript 1969
70. 'Ortstreue and Direction': bibliographical notes, tabular summaries of data, related offprint
71. 'Fat': correspondence and data 1967 - 70
72. Appendix prepared by Kenneth D. Smith: correspondence with J. Monk, corrected typescript with references 1970
73. Preparation of maps for publication: correspondence with Peter J. Evans 1969 - 71
74. Correspondence with Roger Ferrand re maps 1969 - 71
75. Miscellaneous correspondence re maps, typescript (with Ms. corrections by Monk) of list of distribution maps, list of species, notes of progress 1969 - 71
- 76.- Correspondence with ornithologists re permission to use
77. photographs and illustrations 1969 - 72
78. Ms. and typescript list of legends for plates, notes by Monk of photographs
79. Correspondence with Academic Press re publication of book 1971 - 73
80. Corrected typescript of contents page, foreword, chapters 1-8
81. Corrected typescript of chapters 9-11
82. Corrected typescript of chapters 12-16
83. 'Bird Fat Study': data ('% fat of live weight' and '% fat of dry weight') and calculations (one page of notes for each bird) n.d.
84. Duplicated maps, each hand-coloured to denote distribution of species. Some maps are extensively annotated by Lindon Cornwallis, Moreau and Monk
- IV. Diaries, journals and working notes
85. Daily journal begun in August 1918 containing many ornithological observations (notes of birds sighted and heard, their behaviour and habits) but also Moreau's reactions and experiences on his move to Egypt in 1920 1918 - 21

86. Ms. diary of observations and sightings, of excursions with other ornithologists etc. 1948 - 62
- 87.- 88 small notebooks containing lengthy, detailed records of
100. observations by African natives of individual nests. The notes are in Kiswahili but many of the volumes also contain Moreau's own notes, his summaries of the natives' observations or his calculations based on their data. This data enabled Moreau 'to show for the first time that the rate at which the individual nestling receives food tends to decrease with the number of birds in the brood.' (autobiography, Ibis, 112, p.554)
- | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------|
| 87. | 8 volumes | 1937 - 44 |
| 88. | 8 " | 1937 - 40 |
| 89. | 9 " | 1937 - 43 |
| 90. | 3 " | 1937 - 46 |
| 91. | 7 " | 1940 - 41 |
| 92. | 8 " | 1937 - 41 |
| 93. | 11 " | 1938 - 41 |
| 94. | 3 " | 1934 - 36 |
| 95. | 5 " | 1937 |
| 96. | 5 " | 1938 |
| 97. | 5 " | 1939 - 40 |
| 98. | 4 " | 1941 |
| 99. | 9 " | 1942 - 43 |
| 100. | 3 " | 1944 |
101. Notebook containing addresses, bibliographical notes, field observations, diary for 1933 (July-September) and 1934-35 (December-January) 1933 - 35
102. 'Quail': diary of observations (June-August) 1953
103. Abstract of information Moreau gathered from local inhabitants in North Spain re their observations of various species (information sent to David Lack) c1950
104. Draft of 'Notes on the Birds of the Levante and the Pityusae in Autumn' published in Ardeola, 1 (1954), pp.86-115: type-script 1954
105. Card index of records of foods etc. of Tanganyikan birds n.d.

V. Index to principal correspondents (numbers refer to items)

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