

News & Comment — Nouvelles & Commentaires

Request regarding possible future studies of the Lanner Falcon subspecies *Falco biarmicus abyssinicus*

Among the Lanner Falcon's subspecies, there is a lack of basic studies on the biology and ecology of *Falco biarmicus abyssinicus*. Knowledge of its distribution in West Africa has greatly improved in the last 20 years, but no papers have been completely devoted to this race in spite of its large range. For instance, there are no papers on feeding preferences and diet, nesting biology or habitat requirements. I invite ornithologists or students to consider carrying out a study of this race in a West African country. I can freely supply bibliography and also help with methodology and data analysis. Data collected and then published will be very useful both for conservation purposes in Africa but also in the Palaearctic where the Lanner is a threatened species.

Giovanni LEONARDI

Via Stazzone, 235 - 95124 Catania, Italy <areleo@yahoo.com>

The 14th Pan-African Ornithological Congress

The 14th Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) was held at Hotel Ngor Diarama, Dakar, Senegal, 16–21 October 2016, with the theme “Global changes — threats and opportunities for birds”. Around 250 participants, including several WAOS members, converged for the four days of plenaries, symposia and round-table discussions, a mid-congress excursions day and various workshops and meetings before and after the event. The Congress opened on Sunday 16 Oct with a series of training workshops, and an evening cocktail party with a lively local dance troupe, courtesy of the Ministry of Environment. The main auditorium was bursting at the seams for the formal opening on 17 Oct, with addresses by the Minister of Environment, the Dutch Ambassador and others. There was a good mix of plenary presentations and symposia, covering a range of themes. Of particular note was the “Vultures in Africa” symposium, which was followed by a three-day vulture workshop at the same venue. There were also substantial symposia on seabirds and waterbirds, and others addressing different aspects of migration. A number of posters showcased work underway in the region, with several on vultures and seabirds — both great topics for the venue, which hosted a small roost of Hooded Vultures *Necrosyrtes monachus* in the hotel grounds, whilst a range of seabirds were seen offshore. WAOS had a table in the poster area, with copies of *Malimbus* and a new society leaflet displayed and available to take away.