



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



**Join the WAOS and support
the future availability of free
pdfs on this website.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.
If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

**Devenez membre de la
SOOA et soutenez la
disponibilité future des pdfs
gratuits sur ce site.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.
Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante
(2) pour économiser du papier.

Works consulted

- Bannerman, D.A. (1936) Birds of Tropical West Africa. Vol. IV. London
 Cave & Macdonald, (1955) Birds of the Sudan. Edinburgh
 Macgregor, (1950) Ibis 92 (3)
 Macworth-Praed & Grant, C.H.B. (1956) Birds of East and North-East Africa.
 Vol. 2. London
 Peterson, R.T., Mountfort & Hollom, P.A.D. (1954) Birds of Britain and
 Europe. London
 Smith, V.W. (1966) Breeding records for the Plateau Province over
 3,000 ft, 1957-1966. Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (12) : 78-91.
 Van Tyne & Borger (1959) Fundamentals of Ornithology. New York
 Welty, J.C. (1962) The Life of Birds. Philadelphia
 Williams, J.G. (1963) Birds of Central and East Africa. London

N O T E S

White Storks at Kaduna and Zaria. Mr M. Skilleter has written as follows :
 "Kaduna racecourse...saw what seemed to be the northward passage of several
 White Storks Ciconia ciconia - I say 'seemed' because they may have been
 immatures which moved locally rather than to Europe. Four arrived on the
 evening of 12th May (1967), two remained on 13th, there were seven on 14th
 and two from 15th to 18th, when they finally left. Four were seen by me
 at Kaduna Airport on 22nd May. The only previous record I have for Kaduna
 is three immatures which summered on the race-course from 21st April until
 17th September 1960."

Six White Storks which stayed at Samaru, Zaria from 15th to about 20th
 June 1967 constitute the first record of the species from the Zaria area.
 There were four adults and two immature birds, and they were seen by a number
 of observers. Mention was made in Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (12) : 100 of
 a captive White Stork at Zaria which was thought to have been brought down
 from the species' wintering quarters in the Hadejia area; this was certainly
 the case with another captive adult acquired by a Samaru householder in
 late May.

Editor

An Identity for Palearctic Buzzards in West Africa. In Bull. Niger. Orn.
 Soc. 3 (12) : 95 I reported seeing a buzzard Buteo sp. north of Sokoto in
 January and argued in favour of it being B. rufinus, although it was not
 possible to make a definitive identification. I have subsequently learned
 (G. Morel, pers. comm.) that two Stoppe Buzzards B. (b.) vulpinus were
 collected on 14th February 1967 near Thios, 50 miles east of Dakar, Senegal.
 The specimens were identified in Paris, and are the first record of the
 species in Senegal. The inference is that the Sokoto bird may well have
 been B. b. vulpinus, and so might a buzzard seen by J.S.Ash, I.J.Ferguson-
 Leos and the author near Malamfatori, Lako Chad, in late March. C.H.Fry

Records of the Cuckoo-Falcon near Zaria. On 5th May 1967 I had a good
 view of a pair of Cuckoo-Falcons Aviceda cuculoides in Dunbi Wood, 17 miles
 south of Zaria. What was doubtless the same species had been glimpsed there
 a fortnight previously without being recognised, and one or two Cuckoo-

Falcons were seen in the same place on each of two subsequent visits. It is worth noting that contrary to what Bannerman (1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa) says, the birds soared a good deal. On 28th May three Cuckoo-Falcons were seen in Dan Gora wood, 55 miles north-east of Zaria just off the Kano road, by N.J. Skinner and myself. I do not know that the species has been encountered previously in the Zaria area.

C.H.Fry

A Forest Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster* at Zaria. On 1st May 1967 a White-bellied Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster* was caught alive and healthy in a second-floor room at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, at about 0600 hrs. It corresponded with the lower Guinea race batesi and weighed 13.2 gms. The White-bellied Kingfisher is at best a rare and local bird (or else one which has been extensively overlooked), which on the basis of the few recent records in the south of Nigeria would appear to qualify as a forest bird, despite Elgood's categorisation of it as 'aquatic' (Provisional check-list of the birds of Nigeria, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 1 (1):13-25 (1963)). The nearest locality to Zaria where the bird has been previously recorded is Warri, 390 miles to the south, so that this remarkable occurrence would seem to be a real case of vagrancy. The previous night there had been a prolonged and severe wind- and rain-storm driving northwards over Zaria, and it is tempting to hypothesise that the bird, conceivably moving as a night migrant over a short distance, had been caught up in a gale and blown several hundred miles to the north during the night. It is quite possible of course that the actual breeding range of the White-bellied Kingfisher extends considerably to the north of the few localities about latitude 6° where it has been recorded in Nigeria hitherto; for instance the species may extend well to the north in riverain forest along the Niger, or it may have a population in the well-developed forest on the southern and south-western edge of the Jos Plateau. Whether, however, this kingfisher is a bird of Lowland Rain Forest or of dense forest-in-savannah, the fact remains that this record is a nice example of the way in which birds of deep forest, which are in nearly ^{all} cases highly sedentary (Moreau, 1966, The Avifaunas of Africa and its Islands) can move or be moved over long distances, and could establish themselves in forest islands a long way from the centre of distribution of the species.

C.H.Fry

European Nightjar at Vom, Plateau. On 20th April 1967 a European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* was killed by the car in which Dr J. Lang and Dr N. Grant were travelling near Vom, Plateau. Measurements are : wing 200 mm; weight (after 8 days' refrigeration, in a polythene bag) 98 gms. The long wing determines that the bird is of the northern European race C. e. europaeus, which is of very rare occurrence in West Africa. Ed.