



**West African Ornithological Society**  
**Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest**  
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altitude is marked on 15 labels; one was collected at 2,200 ft (700 m), the remainder between 3,000 and 6,000 ft (900-1,800 m). In Angola Bocage (1877) recorded it only as a bird of the high plateaux. The Cameroon birds were at 1,100 m, but the Sierra Leone records are all from coastal localities.

Where it is known to occur, the rail is apparently not uncommon. Its potential range has certainly been extended in the Noun marshes of the Ndop Plain since the recent construction of a dam at Bamendjing and subsequent development of rice-farming.

There is no evidence to suggest that the rail is migratory in the southern and eastern parts of its range, though the seasonality of observations and the isolated São Tomé record point to the possibility of it being so in West Africa. Whether the discontinuity of its distribution is real, or merely a reflection of observer coverage, remains unknown.

I would like to thank Dr W. Serle, Mr G. D. Field, Dr D. W. Snow and Dr C. H. Fry for kindly providing information and making comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

#### References

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 ROBERTS, A. (1940) The Birds of South Africa. Witherby, London  
 John Parrott  
 69 Macdonald House, London SW11 5DW, U.K.

BIRDS OF THE PARC NATIONAL DE LA BÉNOUÉ - From 25 to 27 December 1978 I made a short visit to the Parc National de la Bénoué in northern Cameroon (08° 06' N, 13° 52' E). The reserve has been described by Kavanagh (*Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc.* 13(1977): 133-138), with a list of the birds that he recorded there. I noted most of the species listed by Kavanagh and made the following observations in addition.

- Plegadis falcinellus* One in a dry water-course.  
*Francolinus albogularis* Occasionally seen with the next species on tracks in the reserve.  
*Francolinus bicalcaratus* Common.  
*Vanellus albiceps* A single bird at the main hippo pool.  
*Tringa hypoleucos* Small numbers near the Bénoué river.  
*Pluvianus aegyptius* One at the Bénoué gorge near the Campement du Buffle Noir.  
*Columba guinea* Common around the Campement du Buffle Noir.

- Streptopelia vinacea* Abundant.  
*Streptopelia senegalensis* Common.  
*Ceryle maxima* One at the main hippo pool.  
*Coracias abyssinica* Several single birds.  
*Phoeniculus purpureus* One small group of about four birds.  
*Bucorvus abyssinicus* A pair and a single male in the central part of the reserve.  
*Motacilla aguimp* One at the Campement du Buffle Noir gorge.  
*Remiz parvulus* In a mixed party at the Campement du Buffle Noir.  
*Anthreptes platyura* At the Campement du Buffle Noir.

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#### APPEALS FOR INFORMATION

##### PELICANS

The IWRB Pelican Research Group would appreciate any observations of the Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* and of the White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* in West and Central Africa. Reports should be sent to the coordinator : A. Crivelli, Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles, France.

##### PHOTOGRAPHS OF *Corvinella corvina*

Dr L. Grimes (4 Ayr Court, Fleetwood, Lancs, U.K.) would be very grateful for any photographs of Long-tailed Shrikes suitable for publication in black-and-white.

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