



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.

vocalizations were given. Thus, this copulatory event displayed none of the overt aggression and violence witnessed by Crook. Certainly more observations are needed to clarify copulatory behaviour in Buffalo Weavers; perhaps Crook's observation was of forced copulation whereas in the instance described here the female solicited the copulation.

Another interesting question raised by Crook (1958) concerns the low frequency of observations of copulation in Buffalo Weavers. Perhaps a single copulation is all that is necessary to fertilize a clutch, as in the Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (Birkhead *et al.* 1987). Birkhead *et al.* (1987) suggest that very infrequent copulations occur in species where paternity is assured, principally by mate guarding. Male Buffalo Weavers chase males away from their nests and, perhaps more importantly, so do females (Crook 1958; Beaver in prep.). Perhaps the low frequency of copulation is a result of this behaviour which may assure paternity.

My thanks to the Department of Zoology, Michigan State University, for financial support and the Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles for logistical support.

References

- BIRKHEAD, T.R., ATKIN, L. & MØLLER, A. (1987) Copulation behaviour in birds. *Behaviour* 101: 101-133.
- COLLIAS, N.E. & COLLIAS, E.C. (1964) Evolution of nest-building in the weaverbirds (Ploceidae). *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.* 73.
- CROOK, J.H. (1958). Etude sur le comportement social de *Bubalornis a. albirostris* (Vieillot). *Alauda* 26: 161-195.
- FRIEDMANN, H. (1950). The breeding habits of weaverbirds. A study in the biology of behavior patterns. *Smithsonian Report*, 1949, pp. 293-316. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Received 26 March 1992

Donald L. Beaver
Dept of Zoology and The Michigan State Univ. Museum,
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA

British Storm-Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* off Côte d'Ivoire

Mead & Clark (1991) give details of a British Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* ringed in the Shetland Isles and recovered at Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire on 16 Nov 1990. This appears to be the second record for Côte d'Ivoire; Sharland (1955) reported one at Abidjan in October 1953 but this record was omitted by Thiollay (1985).

References

- MEAD, C.J. & CLARK, J.A. (1991) Report on bird ringing for Britain and Ireland for 1990. *Ring. Migr.* 12: 139-175.

- SHARLAND, R.E. (1955) Birds seen at sea. *Nigerian Field* 69: 168-171.
THOLLAY, J.M. (1985) The birds of the Ivory Coast. *Malimbus* 7: 1-59.

Received 13 April 1992

R.A. Cheke & L.D.C. Fishpool
c/o Natural Resources Institute, Central Avenue,
Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TB, U.K.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* in northern Cameroon

On 3 May 1991 I observed a Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* swimming in an inundated rice field near Lagdo, south-east of Garoua, northern Cameroon (9°3'N, 13°44'E). Based on plumage characteristics mentioned by Hayman *et al.* (1986), the bird was identified as a juvenile moulting into adult plumage.

This record, 750 km from the nearest sea, is the fourth for Cameroon. Previous records were single birds seen at Bityé in March 1930 (Bates in Bannerman 1930-51) and at Yaoundé in November 1987 and May 1988 (Fotso 1990). Inland records of Grey Phalaropes in Africa are unusual (Urban *et al.* 1986).

I thank Peter L. Meininger for stimulating me to publish this record.

References

- BANNERMAN, D.A. (1930-51) *The Birds of Tropical West Africa*. Crown Agents, London.
FOTSO, R.C. (1990) Notes sur les oiseaux d'eau de la région de Yaoundé. *Malimbus* 12: 25-30.
HAYMAN, P., MARCHANT, J. & PRATER, T. (1986) *Shorebirds*. Croom Helm, London.
URBAN, E.K., FRY, C.H. & KEITH, S. (1986) *The Birds of Africa*, vol. 2. Academic Press, London.

Received 26 May 1992

Rutger van Ouwkerk
Dorpsweg 27, 4389 TS Rithem, The Netherlands