



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



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plafond et fera un tri sérieux. Dix-huit membres votent pour la proposition et deux contre; elle est adoptée.

Il est convenu d'insérer dans la prochaine livraison de *Malimbus* des feuilles volantes pour demander aux abonnés leur opinion sur l'usage des fonds de la Société. Le Conseil se réunira ensuite et agira selon les vœux des membres.

8. Prochaine assemblée. Après quelque discussion, Peter Alexander-Marrack accepte de voir s'il serait possible d'organiser la prochaine réunion bisannuelle de la Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest Africaine aux Pays-Bas en mai 1994. Le Conseil prendra la décision définitive.

La Secrétaire rappelle que, comme la Société n'a ni siège ni constitution et que ses membres sont dispersés, il est très important que ces derniers fassent connaître au Conseil leurs sentiments. Ils seront bien accueillis car, faute de cela, il est difficile de savoir si la Société est gérée comme ses membres le désirent.

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, la séance est levée à 15.15. Une résumé suit ci-dessous d'un des exposés qui étaient présentés au programme scientifique.

A.M. Moore

Biology of some Palaearctic migrant warblers in northern Nigeria. During 1981-82, R. Wilkinson and I studied the seasonal occurrence, weight changes and moult of a number of Palaearctic warblers, using mist-nets in the reedbeds of the Jekara dam near Kano and in old farmland and gardens at or near Bayero University.

Six *Acrocephalus* species inhabited the reedbeds, three of them Palaearctic migrants and the other three Afrotropical species. Individuals of the Palaearctic species comprised about 85% of the total *Acrocephalus* captures in the period October to May. Sedge Warblers *A. schoenobaenus* were the most abundant species throughout this time, with increased numbers during the northern autumn and spring. Reed Warblers *A. scirpaceus* occurred predominantly in the northern spring only. A few Great Reed Warblers *A. arundinaceus* were caught in both passage seasons. The African Reed Warbler *A. baeticatus*, Rufous Cane Warbler *A. rufescens* and Lesser Chad Cane Warbler *A. gracilirostris* seemed to be resident throughout the year. All six species probably have a common breeding period and moult mainly during the northern autumn.

Both Sedge and Reed Warblers grew fat during March to May at rates of about 0.3 g per day, increasing from winter levels of around 10 g to a maximum of 18-20 g. Great Reed Warbler weights were also considerably higher in spring than in autumn.

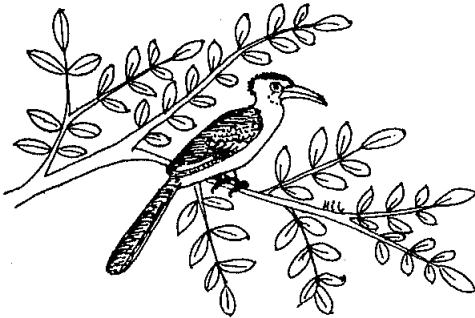
In the Sedge Warbler, the main period of active primary moult was from October to December but some birds suspended primary moult in the cooler period between December and February and resumed in March or April. A number of Subalpine Warblers *Sylvia cantillans* were in primary moult in January and February; this seems to be the first time that this species has been recorded moulting in Africa. Melodious

Warblers *Hippolais polyglotta* moulted in September and October, probably rather rapidly and before moving to their winter quarters further south.

Further details are given in *Bird Study* 34: 219-225, 226-234.

David Aidley

School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, U.K.



Red-billed Hornbill - Petit calao à bec rouge - *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Drawing: Hilary Tye

Request for help with Red-billed Hornbills *Tockus erythrorhynchus* in Africa

The current wisdom about the common and widespread Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* is that there are three distinct populations or subspecies in Africa. From Senegal to Tanzania is the nominate form *T. e. erythrorhynchus*, with brown eyes and white facial plumage. From Zambia to South Africa and Namibia is the form *T. e. rufirostris* with yellow eyes and grey facial plumage. In western Namibia is *T. e. damarensis* with brown eyes and white facial plumage, very like the nominate. All forms have bare pink skin around the eyes and as small patches on the throat, which become brighter during the breeding season.

However, a pair of Red-billed Hornbills was recently seen at Jurong Bird Park, Singapore, that had yellow eyes and black skin around the eyes. The origin of these birds was unknown but subsequent searches at the British Museum (Natural History)