



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



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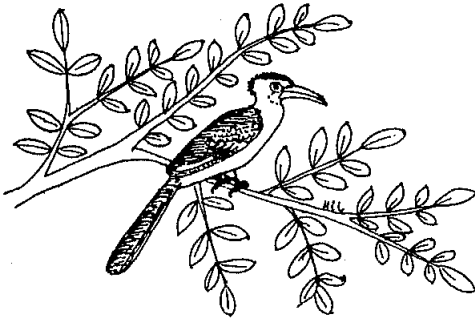
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Warblers *Hippolais polyglotta* moulted in September and October, probably rather rapidly and before moving to their winter quarters further south.

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)

and the Zoologische Museum, Berlin, revealed specimens with black facial skin from two areas. One is in Senegal and The Gambia, at the extreme north-western limit of the range of the species. The other is in western Tanzania, from about Lake Rukwa north to Lake Victoria. Few specimens had the eye colour recorded but some had brown (Senegambia) and others yellow (Tanzania). Such differences in eye and facial skin colour are sufficient to separate species in some other *Tockus* species and Red-billed Hornbills may consist of several species rather than only one.

Anyone with close-up colour photographs of Red-billed Hornbills is asked to examine them. Details of date, locality and colour of the eyes, facial skin and plumage would be most welcome, together with a copy of the photograph if possible. Records of specimens with black facial skin, so far unreported in the literature, would be especially welcome, together with any notes on behaviour, displays, calls and habitat. Your support in this quest is much appreciated.

Dr Alan Kemp
Transvaal Museum, P.O. Box 413, Pretoria, South Africa.

British Birdwatching Fair 1992

Generous sponsorship by the Bird and Wildlife Bookshop, of Piccadilly, London, enabled the Society to mount a display at the annual British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water at the beginning of September 1992.

In recent years, because several international ornithological projects have been set up in West Africa and because tourism has grown in Senegal and the Gambia, there has been increasing interest in the birds of the region and the display mounted by W.A.O.S. attracted many of the 9500 visitors who attended the Fair. A raffle and the sale of back numbers of *Malimbus* added a little to the Society's funds.

Thanks are due to the members of the Society who travelled to Rutland Water to man the stall and to Roger Beecroft and Anne Nason who kindly donated photographs for the display.

The 1992 Fair was held in support of the I.C.B.P. Spanish Steppes Appeal and raised £40,000 for that cause.

Amberley Moore

Eighth Pan-African Ornithological Congress, Bujumbura, Burundi

Bujumbura, bordered by the "beaches" of Lake Tanganyika, provided an interesting location for the latest highspot of the African ornithological calendar from 30 September to 5 October 1992. The wide range of topics included various aspects of avian biology and ecology with special sessions on raptors, speciation, censuses and