



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



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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

atlases, birds of Indian Ocean islands, Palaearctic migrants in Africa and stork conservation. However, species and habitat conservation dominated the oral and poster presentations, workshops and informal discussions, primarily due to the devotion of two whole days to an ICBP/RSPB symposium on biodiversity and an IWRB/ICBP symposium on waterfowl and wetland conservation.

A pleasantly pan-African coverage resulted from contributions from many countries and lack of domination by any one region. About half the participants were resident in sub-Saharan Africa (including South Africa). Of these, almost one quarter were from West African countries, partly due to sponsorship by ICBP and RSPB and their involvement in projects in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. The field programme also had a West African flavour as a number of West African species reach as far as Burundi and were spotted (along with the hippos and crocodiles) on field trips to the Rusizi Delta and Kibira National Parks.

Recommendations were made that the 9th PAOC should be in a different region of Africa from recent venues and, despite Burundi's West African affinities, The Gambia is the proposed venue for 1996. This augurs well for the 1996 W.A.O.S. bi-annual meeting!

The long-awaited proceedings of the 7th PAOC are reportedly in press and, from the editorial efficiency evident at the 1992 Congress, those of the 8th PAOC should not be long in following.

Hilary Tye



White-cheeked Olive Weaver - Sénégal vert à joues blanches - *Nesocharis capistrata*
Photo: R. A. Cheke