

## Short Notes — Notes Courtes

### Recoveries of rings from two European birds in Burkina Faso

We report here details of two ringed birds found dead in northern Burkina Faso. Ring recoveries of European birds in Burkina Faso are relatively rare, with a few from the Sahel area in the north of the country ([www.euring.org](http://www.euring.org)).

***Ciconia ciconia* White Stork.** Ring number FRP CF4028. Ringed as a fully grown individual on 16 Jun 2006 by Y. Kayser, at Tour du Valat, Arles, France (43°40'N, 4°38'E). Found dead on 20 Feb 2007 at Bourzanga, Burkina Faso (13°41'N, 1°33'W). The distance and time from the point of ringing are 3389 km in 249 days.

***Circus aeruginosus* Marsh Harrier.** Ring no. BYM DA 02135. Ringed as a pullus on 20 Jun 2005 by V. Birukov, at Kleshchino, Beshenkovichi District, Vitebsk Region, Belarus (54°58'N, 29°13'E). Found dead on 20 Feb 2006 at Bourzanga, Burkina Faso (13°41'N, 1°33'W). The distance and time from the point of ringing are 5302 km in 243 days.

The White Stork is a Palaearctic migrant that winters in sub-Saharan West Africa (Borrow & Demey 2004), in particular in the Sahel area of Mauritania and Mali; it is also a common visitor to northern Burkina Faso, as shown by a satellite-tracked bird ([www.oievaars.vlaanderen.be](http://www.oievaars.vlaanderen.be)) and “11–100” previous ringing recoveries ([www.euring.org](http://www.euring.org)). The Marsh Harrier is also a Palaearctic migrant that winters throughout sub-Saharan Africa (Borrow & Demey 2004); during the northern winter it is widespread in Burkina Faso, which is an important wintering area for the species, as demonstrated by the “101–1000” recoveries of European-ringed individuals, the highest in the whole of Africa ([www.euring.org](http://www.euring.org)). However, according to the Euring database ([www.euring.org](http://www.euring.org)), these are the first known recoveries from Burkina Faso of a White Stork ringed in France and of a Marsh Harrier ringed in Belarus. This Marsh Harrier recovery confirms that even individuals from eastern Europe winter in West Africa, together with those from western and central Europe (Strandberg *et al.* 2008), as no recoveries of any Marsh Harriers are reported from East Africa.

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### References

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## Observations of two species new to Mauritania and detailed records confirming the presence of two other species

We report Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* and Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* as new to Mauritania, and African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* and Purple Glossy Starling *L. purpureus*, for which there were no previous detailed records for the country. All four were observed in the Guidimaka region of Mauritania, by MS.

***Anthus similis* Long-billed Pipit.** Two were observed at 15°10'8.0"N, 12°10'56.9"W, c. 3 km north of Selibaby, on 17 Jan 2007. The area is a sparsely vegetated chain of stony and rocky hills that rise 50–80 m above the surrounding savanna, which is dotted with *Acacia* spp. and thorny bushes. They were observed from 16h00 to 16h15, during which they moved carefully between the rocks, constantly looking up and wagging their tails, but uttering no sounds. They were larger than Tawny Pipit *A. campestris*, with dark brown, strongly streaked upperparts, lighter underparts with dark streaks on the breast fading towards the flanks, and a dark tail with light outer edges. The throat and supercilium were pale, and a dark streak on each cheek was visible. The bill was long and deep, and the upper mandible slightly down-curved. MS identified them as Long-billed Pipit, with which he was familiar from repeated observations in Yemen and Oman. Richard's Pipit *A. richardi* has fewer streaks on lighter underparts, a more upright body posture and longer legs. Tawny Pipit *A. campestris* and Plain-backed Pipit *A. leucophrys* were eliminated because the