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Short Notes

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*, further sightings in Cameroon

On the afternoon of 24 Feb 1991, GRM and PB saw a Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio* on a grassy bank of a lagoon behind six mile beach, Limbe, Cameroon. The glossy colour and fully red bill and frontal shield showed this bird to be an adult. Presumably it was the same bird that was seen again by GRM and PB the following morning, and later at the same lagoon by CGRB and EMB (10 Mar 1991) and by EW (28 Mar 1991).

Another Purple Gallinule was seen on a well-reeded lake at Nkolbisson, near Yaoundé, Cameroon, by GRM on 8 Mar 1991, during a period when a number of other local and Palaearctic migrants were seen. GRM saw two Purple Gallinules at the same site on the evening of 20 Apr 1991 and on 17 July, and one on the morning of 23 July.

We are aware of one other site for this species in Cameroon: Nsimeyong, Yaoundé (Sala 1991). There could be a link between the Nsimeyong birds and those at Nkolbisson, as the two sites are only about 6.5 km apart.

This species is listed as occurring near Cameroon at Lake Chad in Nigeria by Louette (1981). However, the nearest coastal occurrences of the species are Togo and Angola (Keith 1986). The subspecific identity of the birds reported here was not established.

References

- KEITH, S. (1986) Family Rallidae: rails, crakes, gallinules, moorhens and coots. Pp. 84-131 in: E.K. Urban, C.H. Fry and S. Keith (Eds), *The Birds of Africa*, vol. 2. Academic Press, London.
- LOUETTE, M. (1981) The birds of Cameroon. An annotated checklist. *Verhandl. Kon. Acad. Wetensch. Lett. Schone Kunst. Belg.* 43: 1-163.
- SALA, A. (1991) La Talève poule-sultane *Porphyrio porphyrio madagascariensis* à Yaoundé, Cameroun. *Malimbus* 13: 78.

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