



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



**Join the WAOS and support  
the future availability of free  
pdfs on this website.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.  
If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

**Devenez membre de la  
SOOA et soutenez la  
disponibilité future des pdfs  
gratuits sur ce site.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.  
Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante  
(2) pour économiser du papier.

Size differences among adult birds from the three populations are shown in Table 1. The wing lengths of Príncipe birds fall within the size range of mainland *cephaelis* and the means are not significantly different (*t*-tests,  $P > 0.05$ ), while the Bioko population is significantly larger than both mainland birds (males,  $t_{87} = 6.512$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; females,  $t_{46} = 6.525$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and Príncipe birds (males,  $t_{41} = 3.792$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; females,  $t_{13} = 2.654$ ,  $P < 0.02$ ).

These results indicate that Príncipe birds should be regarded as part of the mainland subspecies *N. o. cephaelis*, while Bioko birds are recognizably larger and greyer and form a subspecies *N. o. obscura*, endemic to that island. It is more likely that colonization of Príncipe took place directly from the mainland rather than from Bioko, given the relative sizes of the two potential source areas and populations, so these results are not unexpected.

We thank the staff of AMNH and BM(NH), Tring, for access to specimens in their care. Dean Amadon, Humphrey Crick and Peter Jones provided useful comments on a draft and Humph re-assumed his old Editor's mantle to ensure impartiality in the referee process.

#### References

- Amadon, D. (1953) Avian systematics and evolution in the Gulf of Guinea. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 100: 393-452.

Received 20 July 1992

Revised 3 September 1992

Alan Tye<sup>1</sup> & Linda R. Macaulay<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>SLP 1, Amani, Tanga, Tanzania.

<sup>2</sup>7 Hill Road, Greenwich, CT 06830, U.S.A.

## Book Reviews

**Conservación de los Ecosistemas Forestales de Guinea Ecuatorial.** By John E. Fa, 1991. 221 pp. IUCN, Gland. ISBN 2-88032-993-0. Paperback £10 from IUCN, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, UK.

This is another in the IUCN Tropical Forest Programme series on West African countries (see reviews of others in previous issues of *Malimbus*). Written entirely in Spanish, it deals with one of the least-known and least-developed states in the region, 50% of whose export revenue comes from timber. The book reports strong pressure to increase timber extraction, which is regarded by the authorities as the only way to rehabilitate their country. This depressingly familiar attitude has led to enormous

habitat destruction in countries further west. The present situation is bleak; Equatorial Guinea possesses no forest regulations, no trained personnel, no equipment for forest conservation, no functioning legal system and timber concessions covering a large proportion of the remaining forests. The consequent formidable problems for conservation are clearly presented.

Introductory sections include a brief economic analysis and more detailed descriptions of the geography, peoples and vegetation of the country, followed by a history of forest exploitation. Also included are analyses of hunting and the value of "minor" forest products.

The biology section is brief but fairly good on botany and most thorough on large mammals, the author's area of expertise. The section on birds is poorly researched, particularly as regards Pagalú (Annobon). Although the bird sections on Bioko (Fernando Po) and mainland Mbini (Rio Muni) are brief, they include most key references, but the main works which deal with Pagalú are not mentioned, particularly Bannerman (1915, *Ibis* (10)3: 227-234), Basilio (1957, *Caza y pesca en Annobón. Aves de la isla*. Inst. Estud. Africanos, Madrid) and Fry (1961, *Ibis* 103a: 267-276). The author mistakenly states that "no faunal inventory of the island is known" and does not mention the endemic birds of Pagalú at all, neither in lists of endemics and threatened species, nor in a section on the biological importance of the island.

The book proposes a conservation programme including the establishment of specific protected areas (including one on Pagalú, which is omitted from the Summary) and gives a detailed account of each of these (although the bird lists are virtually useless). Lots of other recommendations are made, such as legal controls, a national land-use plan *etc.* These are undoubtedly essential; let's hope they can be implemented.

Alan Tye

**Report of the Ornithological Expedition to Northern Cameroon, January/February 1991.** By OAG Münster, 1991. 41 pp. OAG Münster, Münster. Paperback DM7.50 from Biol. Station Münster, Coermühle 181, 4400 Münster, Germany.

This is a brief report on a three-week expedition to trap Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* in the Chad basin of north Cameroon. The team also surveyed the birds of wetlands, mainly rice irrigation schemes, in the Logone-Chari and Lake Maga area. Age, sex and size data are presented on 105 trapped Ruff and counts given of other species at the study sites, together with a complete bird list for the trip.

Alan Tye