



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



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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