



**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.

- BORROW, N. & DEMEY, R. (2001) *Birds of Western Africa*. Helm, London.
- CRAMP, S. & PERRINS, C.M. (eds) (1994) *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, vol. 8. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- ELGOOD, J.H., HEIGHAM, J.B., MOORE, A.M., NASON, A.M., SHARLAND, R.E. & SKINNER, N.J. (1994) *The Birds of Nigeria*. Checklist 4 (2nd ed.), British Ornithologists' Union, Tring.
- RAINEY, H. & LACHENAUD, O. (2002) Recent bird observations from Ivory Coast. *Malimbus* 24: 23–37.

Received 9 February 2002

Jared M. Wilson & Ross McGregor

A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute, Jos, Nigeria and
Edward Grey Institute, Dept of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS, U.K.
e-mail: jared.wilson@zoo.ox.ac.uk, ross.mcgreggor@zoo.ox.ac.uk

The status of Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* in West Africa

Salewski *et al.* (2000) have suggested that the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* may be a rare Palaearctic migrant to Ivory Coast and Senegal, rather than a vagrant as stated by Dowsett & Forbes-Watson (1993). In fact Dowsett & Forbes-Watson list Black Stork as a regular Palaearctic migrant to Senegal, though vagrant to Ivory Coast and other W African countries. Dowsett & Forbes-Watson (1993) used the term vagrant for “a species with no more than five records (as far as can be determined)”. Their listings of Black Storks from Ivory Coast, Togo and Benin are based on data in Walsh (1991). However, that paper lists 32 sightings, involving 82 birds at 25 sites, including eight sight records from Benin, 11 records from Ghana and five from Togo. Therefore, even on their own criterion Dowsett & Forbes-Watson (1993) should not have classed Black Stork as vagrant in Ghana, Togo and Benin.

Walsh (1991) stated that Black Storks had been reported from five W African countries since 1965. These records, which include birds seen in two northern winters at three sites (in Ghana, Togo and on the Benin–Burkina Faso border), together with the records in Salewski *et al.* (2000), indicate that the W African savanna zone is inside the normal migratory range of the western populations of the Black Stork, as is clearly shown on the maps in Brown *et al.* (1962) and Hancock *et al.* (1992). However, despite recent increases in breeding populations in Europe (Snow & Perrins 1998) and regular migration through Corsica since the 1980s (Thibault & Bonaccorsi 1999) the Black Stork, inevitably, remains a rare visitor to W Africa.

References

- BROWN, L.H., URBAN, E.K. & NEWMAN, K. (1982) *The Birds of Africa*, vol. 1. Academic Press, London.

- DOWSETT, R.J. & FORBES-WATSON, A.D. (1993) *Checklist of Birds of the Afrotropical and Malagasy Regions*. Tauraco Press, Liege.
- HANCOCK, J.A., KUSHLAN, J.A. & KAHL, M.P. (1992) *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World*. Academic Press, London.
- SALEWSKI, V., BOBEK, M., PEŠKE, I. & POJER, F. (2000) Status of the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* in Ivory Coast. *Malimbus* 22: 92–93.
- SNOW, D.W. & PERRINS, C.M. (1998) *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, Concise Ed., vol. 1. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- THIBAUT, J.-C. & BONACCORSI, G. (1999) *The Birds of Corsica*. Checklist 17, British Ornithologists' Union, Tring.
- WALSH, J.F. (1991) On the occurrence of the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* in West Africa. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 111: 36–42.

Received 7 April 2001

Revised 1 July 2001

J. Frank Walsh

80 Arundel Road, Lytham St. Anne's, Lancashire FY8 1BN, England

First breeding record of Little Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos elachus* in Nigeria

On 11 Jan 2002, in relatively dense *Acacia* woodland 2 km east of Alagarno village (13°09'N, 13°33'E), Borno State, Nigeria, I noticed a male Little Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos elachus* repeatedly chasing a pair of Bush Petronia *Petronia dentata* from a 6-m *Acacia tortillis*. The behaviour strongly suggested nesting and I located a 5 cm diameter entrance hole at 1.5 m height, on the underside of a 10 cm diameter dead branch. It was impossible to look into the cavity but, on moving a short distance from the tree, the woodpecker reappeared with a small food item in its bill. On calling, a female left the cavity and flew off. The male entered the cavity briefly, reappeared without the food and flew off. There are no previous records of this species breeding in the country (Elgood *et al.* 1994) and few nests have been described throughout the species' range (Fry *et al.* 1988).

Little Grey Woodpecker is an uncommon resident of the Sahel zone from Senegambia east to Sudan (Fry *et al.* 1988). In Nigeria it is restricted to the extreme NE, near Lake Chad. The habitat of this nest is typical of the species in Nigeria, though it also occurs in more open *Acacia* and mixed *Acacia-Balanites* woodland in the Alagarno area (pers. obs.).

References

- BARLOW, C., WACHER, T. & DISLEY, D. (1997) *A Field Guide to the Birds of The Gambia and Senegal*. Pica Press, Mountfield.