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changes wrought by more intensive cultivation (M.D., M.E.G.).

Black-bellied See cracker *Pirenestes ostrinus* Reported by Hartert (Novit. Zool. 22, 1915, 244-266) as a breeding resident near Kaduna, its presence at Zaria has never been substantiated. Several were observed in tall grass in a fadama area at Anara Forest Reserve in September 1980 (M.D., H.Q.P.C.).

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DESTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN WHITE STORKS IN NIGERIA BY SHOOTING - Even more noteworthy that the number of Spanish-ringed White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* recovered in Nigeria in the last two years - eight - is their fate there. One was caught and released alive with its original ring; the other seven were shot. Details are:

- C 15540 Ringed 07/06/1977 (pullus), Miajadas, Cáceres, Spain 39°09'N 05°54'W  
-/12/1890, Nguru, Nigeria 12°53'N 10°30'E Shot
- C 14334 26/05/1978 (pullus), El Gordo, Cáceres, 39°52'N 05°20'W  
-/01/1980, Gashua, Nigeria 12°53'N 11°05'E Released alive
- C 11390 26/05/1978 (pullus), Elmaraz, Spain 39°50'N 05°37'W  
-/12/1980, Nguru Shot
- C 18943 27/05/1978 (pullus), El Gordo  
19/01/1980 Kano 12°55'N 10°30'E Nigeria Shot
- C 18823 05/06/1979 (pullus) Brozas, Cáceres 39°37'N 06°47'W  
-/12/1981, Nguru Shot
- G 01351 06/06/1980 (pullus), Muñana, Avila, Spain 40°35'N 05°03'W  
-/12/1981, Nguru Shot
- G 03338 04/06/1981 (pullus), Casas Viejas, Cadiz, Spain 36°21'N 05°49'W  
-/12/1981, Nguru Shot
- G 03491 06/06/1981 (pullus), Casas Viejas, Cadiz  
-/12/1981, Nguru Shot

All of the indications are that the Iberian/Maghreb population of White Storks, separated from the larger east European population by an ever-increasing distance, is in a state of decline (S. Cramp *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, 1977. See p. 329 and map p. 331). Doubtless the principal cause is drainage of European wetlands, but unnecessary persecution in African winter quarters cannot help. 17 other White Storks have been recovered in Nigeria since 1964 (R. E. Sharland, Ringing in Nigeria ... Annual Reports Nos. 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15-16, 17, 21 and 23, *Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. and Malimbus*), ringed in Spain (6), Tunisia (3), Morocco (1), Algeria (1), France (2), Germany (3) and Greece (1); two of them were recovered at Azare (39°37'N 22°16'E) (one "killed" and the other "caught by trapper and later released"), one at Biu (10°36'N 12°11'E), and the remaining 14 at Nguru. The fate of the Nguru 14 has not been given but it is safe to assume that they were all or nearly all caught alive by trappers for the well-known Kano live-bird trade. Presumably that trade continues unabated (R. E. Sharland, pers. comm.), with illegal destruction by shooting a new hazard and an additional burden for the wintering White Stork population to bear.

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