



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



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I pass this mudflat twice a day on my way to work for several years now and I regularly go counting and watching birds there, but it was the first and only time I observed this behaviour, so I suppose it is not common. Hancock and Kushlan (1984, The Herons Handbook) state that the feeding techniques used by the Little Egret are highly variable and they mention some often used 'active' techniques, but no mention is made of hovering. Brown, Urban and Newman (1982, The Birds of Africa, vol 1) do not mention hovering behaviour either.

Ron Demeý

PNUD, 01 BP 1747, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast

TWO NEW SPECIES FOR IVORY COAST - Since publication of J.M. Thiollay's Birds of Ivory Coast (Malimbus 7: 1-59) I have seen two new species, bringing to 685 the number of species of this country.

European Turtle-dove Streptopelia turtur

A party of about six seen in the South of Comoe National Park (near Ganse) on 10 Feb 1985 (observation made with Jan Van de Voorde).

Reichenbach's Sunbird Nectarinia reichenbachii

One near Dabou (coast) on 23 June 1985 in shrubs bordering ricefields. The bird was at exactly the same spot on three subsequent visits to the area on 30 June, 3 August and 28 September. At each visit an excellent view was obtained, the bird not being shy and sitting for long stretches on end on the same twig and always returning to it after short flights. The bright yellow of lower belly and undertail coverts was conspicuous. A sighting on 13 July 1980 in Abidjan (in some palms on the golfcourse, at that time still under construction) was almost certainly of the same species.

Ron Demeý

PNUD, 01 BP 1747, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast

JOHANNA'S SUNBIRD IN NIGERIA - Sabon Gida Akwanwe village lies in southern Gongola State, Nigeria, near the Mambilla Plateau, at 06°45'N, 11°00'E. The area is hilly (elevation c. 500 m), with large patches of lowland rain-forest interspersed with thick guinea savanna bush and plots of farmland. The village is 15 km from the Cameroun border, which here follows the upper Donga River. On 18 Sept 1985 I watched several species of forest birds there, including a Spotted Honeyguide Indicator maculatus eating caterpillars, and a male Johanna's Sunbird Nectarinia johannae. It had metallic green head, throat and back, non-metallic dark red breast, and black wings and tail. The only previous record in Nigeria was at Lagos in 1951.

H.H. Gray

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RINGING IN NIGERIA 1985 - No ringing was carried out in Nigeria in 1985, but six foreign-ringed birds were reported. Full details of two of these have been received (Schedule 1).

Of 38 White Storks Ciconia ciconia controlled in Nigeria since 1962, all but four were caught by trappers near Nguru using live storks as

decoys. The decoy herd was kept in the village of Margadu, on the border of Kano and Bornu States.

On 6 Nov 1985 J.S. Ash and I visited Kano State Wetland Reserve, accompanied by P. Hall (Ecologist, Bornu State), game guards, and officials from both States. We found 20 White Storks and Abdim's Storks C. abdimii, with one Cattle Egret, staked out with a large quantity of snares around them. The snares were destroyed and the birds will be kept in Maiduguri Zoo until their flight feathers have grown, when they will be released. The International Council for Bird Preservation and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, who arranged our trip to Nigeria, were very pleased that Conservation is now being given a high priority.

On the same trip we visited Kagoro and put up nets for one night. 11 birds were controlled; the longest recovery periods are shown in Schedule 2.

Schedule 1

- Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax Ringed 3/6/84, Slavonski Brod (Hrvatska) Jugoslavia, 45°08' N, 18°01' E.
Caught on fish hook, Nguru, -/2/85
- White Stork Ciconia ciconia Ringed 28/5/81, Castelo Branco, Portugal, 39°50' N, 07°11' E.

Schedule 2

Controls at Kagoro:	duration since ringed as adults*:
Olive Sunbird <u>Cyanomitra olivacea</u>	2 years 9 months
Bluebill <u>Spermophaga haematina</u>	6 " 4 " 13 days
White-browed Robin-Chat <u>Cossypha polioptera</u>	5 " 4 " 10 "
White-bellied Kingfisher <u>Corythornis leucogaster</u>	6 " 8 " 19 "
Little Green Bulbul <u>Andropadus virens</u>	5 " 4 " 24 "
Grey-headed Bristle-Bill <u>Bleda canicapilla</u>	6 " 5 " 10 "

(*for some comparable data see D.B. Hanmer, 1985, Safring News 14: 51-60).

R.E. Sharland

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to owls in Africa. In no way does it overlap or compete with any of the several other owl books which have appeared recently in Europe and the States; rather, it complements them. It does for owls what Steyn has already done for southern African birds of prey and Rowan for doves, parrots, louries and cuckoos, in putting them well and truly into the monographic literature and making the better appreciation of them readily available to all.

C.H. Fry