



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



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7TH PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The 7th Pan-African Ornithological Congress will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 28 August to 5 September 1988. There will be symposia, contributed papers, poster sessions, workshops, and excursions including several tied in with symposia on avifaunas of threatened forests of Kenya. One theme will be threatened Afrotropical forest avifaunas. I.C.B.P. will participate in a one full day's programme. Funding and suggestions for funding travel to the meeting, and participation of indigenous African ornithologists in it are solicited. For further information please contact D.A. Turner, P.O. Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenya, or Dr. L. Short, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, New York 10024-5192, U.S.A.

Avian physiologist Prof. Geoffrey Maloij of the University of Nairobi is the Congress Chairman. For those wishing to contribute papers or propose symposia, the Scientific Programme Chairman is Dr. David Pearson, Dept. of Biochemistry, Univ. of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi.

The weather should be ideal (cool nights in Nairobi, clear warm days). Avian habitats are nowhere more threatened than in the Afrotropics. East Africa still offers the best opportunity to view the last of the great Pleistocene world faunas. Nairobi is an international city with hotels in diverse price ranges. It is so favourably located for visiting various birds habitats that two days in the middle of the Congress will be devoted to overnight excursions. Mt. Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain, snow covered, the flamingo-famous Rift Valley lakes, various woodlands and the western forests are all but a few hours drive from Nairobi. Take advantage of this unique opportunity.

RESEARCH PROJECT: THREATS TO THE WHITE STORK ON MIGRATION

The breeding populations of the White Stork Ciconia ciconia in Germany and most other European countries have been declining heavily over the past century (in Western Germany about 80-90% (!) between 1935 and 1984). The trend is obviously towards the extinction of the populations. Habitat alterations in the breeding areas have proved to be the major reasons for this decline, but it cannot be explained by this factor alone. Carrying out very long seasonal migrations between Europe and West, East and South Africa, the White Stork also faces various threats on its migration routes in many other countries of Africa and in the Middle East, e.g. shooting, trapping, shortage of food and habitat alterations caused by desertification, overgrazing and human activities (agricultural development, pest control, building activities, road construction).

To obtain more detailed ideas of the consequences which threats to migration have for White Stork breeding populations, WWF-Germany and ICBP jointly started a two-year research project "Threats to the White Stork Ciconia ciconia on its migration routes and in its wintering areas". Aims of the project, which is financed by the Government of Schleswig-Holstein/West Germany, will be:

- to analyse factors threatening the White Stork directly and indirectly in the different countries on its migration route.