



**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.

- to analyse the extent of application of biocides and their direct and indirect effects on migrating White Storks.
- to draw together a list of areas which are of major importance for migrating White Stork.
- to produce comprehensive documentation, containing results of the project and suggestions for an international conservation strategy for the White Stork.

Because of the enormous range of the area which White Storks visit on migration, it is impossible in this project to carry out field studies and detailed investigations in all and migration and wintering countries. A really comprehensive overview of the situation for the White Stork can only be obtained if many collaborators submit information and observations on threats (birds found dead, pesticides, etc.) and on the occurrence and distribution of the White Stork in Southern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. People interested in collaborating are therefore asked to contact the project leader as soon as possible for further details:

WWF-Germany/ICBP White Stork Project
Dr Holger Schulz
Am Lindenberg 1
D3331 LELM
Federal Republic of Germany.

RARE WADERS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

To obtain a better insight into the occurrence of rare waders of Nearctic and/or eastern Palaearctic origin in sub-Saharan Africa (i.e. south of 20°N), it is proposed to publish a paper in Dutch Birding summarising all records of these birds from this region up to and including 1985. Observers are requested to send full details (including photographs where possible) of all records, whether published or unpublished, to P.B. Taylor, c/o The Computer Bureau, P.O. Box 42317, Nairobi, Kenya. In particular, information on plumage and bare parts should be as detailed as possible. Reprints or photocopies of papers and notes on already published records are also welcome. All contributors will be acknowledged.

WORKING GROUP ON GRANIVOROUS BIRDS: INTECOL

Le Professeur J. Pinowski organise un Symposium sur "le rôle des oiseaux granivores dans les écosystèmes". Il avait tout d'abord été prévu que ce Symposium serait tenu lors du Congrès International d'Ecologie (Syracuse USA) le 13 août 1986, mais à la demande de nombreux ornithologues une session sera aussi organisée lors du Congrès international d'Ornithologie, Ottawa, juin 1986. Les communications faites en ces 2 différents Congrès seront réunies en un seul volume. Le Professeur Pinowski m'a par ailleurs demandé de coordonner les travaux sur les oiseaux granivores en Afrique. Si cette question vous intéresse, voulez-vous vous mettre en relation avec moi pour voir ce que nous pouvons faire ensemble. Je vous remercie d'avance de cette collaboration.