



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



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#### SYMPOSIUM

Birds of Evergreen Forest 8 - 10 September 1987 at The Wilderness, Cape Province, South Africa. Papers and posters on the following topics: forest bird communities, biogeography of forest birds, population biology of forest birds, conservation of forest avifaunas. Prospective participants should contact the Symposium Organising Committee, E.C.W.3.S., P.O. Box 1305, Port Elizabeth, 6000, South Africa.

#### GABAR - A NEW JOURNAL COVERING AFRICAN RAPTORS

GABAR (Growth and Biology of African Raptors) is a new journal publishing material on African raptors, here defined as eagles, hawks, harriers, buzzards, falcons and owls, i.e. excluding vultures, seabirds and other predatory birds already covered by specialist publications in the region. Contents will include: short papers on completed studies, progress reports on ongoing research, short notes, unusual sightings, conservation problems and a Forum in which opinions, continuing controversies, constructive criticisms and new ideas are aired and challenged. The first edition has been printed and copies can be obtained free of charge from the address below. Subsequent editions will be distributed on receipt of a subscription fee.

Robert Simmons  
 Editor - GABAR  
 Dept. of Zoology  
 University of the Witwatersrand  
 Johannesburg 2001  
 Republic of South Africa.

#### 7TH PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Announcement - A wonderful opportunity to observe African wildlife, and birds in particular, to see what research is currently under way there, and to learn of conservation problems in the Afrotropics is presented by the 7th Pan-African Ornithological Congress, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 28 August to 5 September 1988. This will be the first such Congress in the heartland of tropical Africa. The International Council for Bird Preservation will have one day on the programme. A theme will be problems of the

Afrotropical forest avifaunas, with a coordinated excursion of 2 days in mid-Congress to selected, threatened Kenyan forests. There will be symposia, contributed papers, poster sessions, and, importantly, round-table and workshop sessions that emphasize the significance of birds locally (birds problems for man, such as crop destruction and aircraft collision with birds, as well as man's problems that affect birds). Circular 1 has been prepared, and is available from Congress Organizer Don A. Turner (P.O. Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenya), to whom one should write concerning all details.

Nairobi is a modern, international city situated close to major parks and game reserves. The Kenyan avian physiologist Prof. Geoffrey Maloiy is Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements. Prof. David Pearson (Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya) is Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee. The Congress Vice-Chairmen are Robert Dowsett, Gerard Morel, Lester L. Short and Jean Pierre Vande Weghe.

East Africa represents the last bulwark of the earth's Pleistocene faunas - come and see them under ideal conditions! - Lester L. Short, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. 10024-5192, U.S.A.

#### COLOUR RINGED LITTLE EGRETS

Since 1981 we have been colour-ringing Little Egret (Egretta garzetta) nestlings in the Camargue, Southern France, as part of a long-term study of their population dynamics and movement.

There is increasing evidence that the majority of this population winters in West Africa and four of these birds have already been observed in Senegal. In addition, Little Egrets ringed with metal rings in the Camargue have been recovered in the Gambia, Mali and Ghana. In order to better define the areas used by these birds and the occurrence of any seasonal movements, we would be grateful if ornithologists working in, or visiting, any wetlands in West Africa could look out for and report to us any observations of colour-ringed Egrets.

The colour rings are placed on the tibia. Up to three rings per leg have been used in the following colours: red, blue, green, white and orange. More recently we have used tall (22 mm) rings which are engraved with up to 3 horizontal stripes. The stripes may be 'thick' (4 mm) or 'thin' (1.5 mm). Thus to correctly identify a colour ringed Egret it is necessary to record, for both legs, the colour of the ring or rings and in the case of striped rings the position (top, middle or bottom of the ring) and thickness of the stripes.

Observations should be sent to Dr. H. HAFNER, Station Biologique de la Tour du Valet, le Sambuc 13200 ARLES (France).