



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



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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 Valat, le Sambuc 13200 ARLES (France).

We will be happy to send details of when and where birds were ringed and what is known of there subsequent life history.

MARQUAGE D'AIGRETTES GARZETTES AVEC DES BAGUES COLOREES

Dans le cadre d'une etude sur la dynamique de population de l'aigrette garzette, (Egretta garzetta) nous avons bague chaque annee et cela depuis 1981 des poussins d'Aigrettes en Camargue, midi de la France. Pour cela, ont ete utilisees des combinaisons de bagues de couleur permettant une reconnaissance individuelle. De part ce baguage on sait deja qu'une partie de cette population hiverne en Afrique de l'Ouest. Quatre de ces oiseaux bagues anterieurement avec des bagues en metal ont ete reperes en Gambie, au Mali ainsi qu'au Ghana.

Afin de mieux connaitre les sites importants pour ces oiseaux ainsi que leurs deplacements, nous souhaiterions que nous soient communiques toutes observations d'Aigrettes baguees. Les bagues sont placees sur le tibia. Le nombre de bagues par tibia peut varier de 1 a 3. Les couleurs utilisees sont: blanc, vert, bleu, rouge, orange. Plus recentement, nous avons utilise egalement de grandes bagues (22 mm de haut) comportant des traits noirs horizontaux. Ces traits sont soit epais (4 mm) soit minces (1.5 mm). Une bague peut comporter jusqu'a trois traits: haut, milieu, bas.

Pour identifier de maniere correcte une Aigrette baguee, il est necessaire de transcrire pour les deux pattes la ou les couleurs des bagues, et dans le cas des bagues comportant des traits, leur epaisseur ainsi que leur disposition (haut, milieu, bas).

Tout observations devrait etre envoyee a M.H. HAFNER, Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, le Sambuc 13200 ARLES (France).

Bien entendu nous communiquerons aux observateurs toutes les donnees dont nous disposons (age, date et lieu de baguage) sur les oiseaux repères.

BIRDS OF LIBERIA

Wulf Gatter is writing an annotated checklist about birds of Liberia/West Africa. He is interested to collect birds notices of this occidental African country as well as offshore records.

Names of correspondents will be notified in the published text. Contact Wulf Gatter, Buchsstrasse 20, D 7318 Lenningen, Federal Republic of Germany.