



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



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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Several species of birds found in West Africa are known to have breeding units made up of the breeding pair plus nest helpers, and these usually help to feed nestlings and/or fledglings. The best documented example is that of the Helmet Shrike Prionops plumata but it is known to occur regularly in other species such as the Kakalaar Phoeniculus purpureus, Brown Babbler Turdoides plebejus and Long-tailed Shrike Corvinella corvina. Species which are likely to show the same behaviour are those which are found in small groups (family?) throughout the year and which do not migrate for example, Green backed Eremomela Eremomela pusilla, Black Magpie Ptilostomus afer.

I have been asked to review nest helpers in African birds and would be grateful to members of the N.O.C. for details of any observations which either gives positive or circumstantial evidence for nest helpers in any West African species. Please send the information to:-

L. GRIMES,
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA,
LEGON,
GHANA.

GAMBIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' SOCIETY

Members of the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society may be interested to learn of the formation of a Gambian Ornithologists' Society. The address is:-

GAMBIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' SOCIETY,
P.O. BOX 757,
BANJUL,
THE GAMBIA.