



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



Join the WAOS and support
the future availability of free
pdfs on this website.

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.
If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

Devenez membre de la
SOOA et soutenez la
disponibilité future des pdfs
gratuits sur ce site.

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.
Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante
(2) pour économiser du papier.

DEFENCE OF TERRITORY

I observed Crowned Cranes, both male and female, on several occasions chase other birds away from their territories. Birds driven away were Spur-winged Geese Plectropterus gambensis, White-faced Ducks Dendrocygna viduata, Black-bellied Bustards Lissotis melanogaster and Marsh Owls Asiicapensis. On two occasions I watched a pair of Crowned Cranes land only a short distance from a neighboring nest. Both times all four birds (the birds of each pair close together) approached each other by foot and with their backs necks and heads arched in a curved arc (defense pose) came to within a few meters of each other. Here they stopped. On neither occasion did they battle. Only two to three meters from each other they held their aggressive stance for 10 to 15 minutes. Then they began preening then feeding and slowly they widened the distance between themselves. This place was only 65 meters from one nest and 320 meters from the other. Although all four birds were very alert they did not even feign attack so there was no bodily contact.

Usually cranes fed about one to two km from the nest, but at times as close as 100 meters. When flying they seldom flew higher than 150 meters above ground except on two occasions when flying to roost in the evening, they were observed flying much higher. During slow deliberate flight I timed their flight at 120 wing beats per minute and in normal flight about 150 wing beats.

REFERENCES CITED

- Bannerman, D.A. (1931, 1951) The Birds of Tropical West Africa. London. Vol. 2 (1931); Vol. 8 (1951).
- Fry, C.H. (1965) The birds of Zaria. III - Residents, vagrants and checklist (non-passerines). Bull. Nig. Ornithol. Soc. 2 No. 7 68-79.
- Skilleter, M. (1963) Some notes on Kaduna birds. Nig. Field. 28 : 34-42.
- Smith, V.W. (1962) Some birds which breed near Vom, Northern Nigeria. Nig. Field 27 : 4-34.
- Smith, V.W. (1964) Further notes on birds breeding near Vom, Northern Nigeria. Pt. 1. Nig. Field 29 : 100-117.
- Walkinshaw, L.H. (1964) The African Crowned Crane. Wilson Bull. 76 : 355-377.

MIGRANT SCOPS OWLS DTVS SCOPS AT IBADAN

D. R. Wells*

The Palaearctic Scops Owl Otus scops was first recorded at Ibadan on 29th February, 1956 by Elgood (1959). Between 1959 and 1963 he recorded "several" more, all within the period December - February (Elgood & Sibley, 1964). During the past two winters the author has examined five of these owls at Ibadan, one in 1965 and four in 1966, all between early January and mid March.

It now seems likely that Otus scops regularly winters at least as far south as the forest edge in Nigeria, contrary to Bannerman's (1963) estimate that in West Africa it does not penetrate far beyond the desert fringe. An apparently increasing frequency of occurrence in Ibadan may well reflect progressive removal of the forest in the area (vide Elgood & Sibley, 1964).

Preponderance of records from December onwards is of interest. It indicates (a) that Ibadan lies off the autumn migration route or (b) that, due either to late migration from the breeding range (Hartert's record in Bannerman, 1933, for the Bilma Oasis 350 miles North of Lake Chad, was for early December), or slow filtering movements within the winter range, the southern limits of this range are not reached until late in the season.

Smith (Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 6 : 26-34 and erratum 7 : 84) has recorded migrants at Vom, again with no records before December and with a preponderance of records during the latter half of March. He also mentions a December record from Sokoto. The identity of a scops owl seen by the author catching insects round a light at Shaganu in Ilorin Province on 27th December 1965 was not ascertained. Apparently the earliest record in winter is Fry's (Bull. Nig. Orn. Soc. 4 1965 : 2-5) of one netted in Sokoto Province on 30th November, 1964.

References

- Bannerman, D.A. (1933) The Birds of Tropical West Africa. Vol. III (London) : 18-19.
- Elgood, J.H. (1959). Bird migration at Ibadan, Nigeria. Ostrich Suppl. No. 3 : 306-316.
- Elgood, J.H. & Sibley, F.C. (1964). The Tropical forest edge avifauna of Ibadan, Nigeria. Ibis 106 : 221-248.

BIRDS OF ILESHA

D.M. and N.W. Robinson

(The authors have deposited with the Editor a full account of the birds observed by them at Ilesha, 75 miles East by North of Ibadan, in Oyo Province, during twelve months from December 1963. The area is a mosaic of savannah and forest similar to that described by Elgood & Sibley (1964) for Ibadan, and all the species noted by the Robinsons were recorded also, and in similar seasons and abundance, by Elgood & Sibley. Thus only a few records are given in full below, the remaining species being check-listed. - Editor).

To the West of Ilesha the country is broken with rocky outcrops and intermittent farmed valleys, and to the North there are large cultivated areas in savannah; otherwise the country is "derived forest". Most observations were made on the New Reservation, a ½-mile square area of gardens surrounded by farmland.

Tambourine Dove Tympanistra tympanistra. A single record, in March.