



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.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To: The Editor,
Nigerian Ornithologists' Bulletin.

Dear Sir,

Whilst agreeing that the local informants quoted by Mr.H.H.Gray in connection with the records of Ospreys Pandion haliaetus may have been mistaken I feel that the possibility that the species breeds in Nigeria should not be dismissed too lightly. For the last three years I have had the good fortune to spend a considerable amount of time travelling by canoe along the Niger in the Kainji area. During that time I have seen Ospreys on numerous occasions. The monthly totals of sightings are given below, together with seasonal incidence in three areas and incidence of pairs of birds. The three months with very low totals are ones in which I have done very little field work, so too much should not be read into these figures.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of Sightings.	9	11	6	1	4	1	7	2	5	10	14	8
Presence of Pairs	X						X			X	X	
Present at Kpatachi	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
Present at Awuru	X	X	X	X	X		X				X	
Present between Kainji and Bussa	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X

At the two sites Kpatachi and Awuru just to the south of Kainji I have only one record of a day on which I did not see an Osprey. At Awuru I have seen a pair in each July 1966-68.

I am quite satisfied that some birds are resident on this stretch of the Niger. Unfortunately I have no evidence of nesting but this could easily take place undetected in this desolate area.

Frank Walsh.

c/o C.R.E.'s Office,
Kainji,
P.O.Box 1208,
Lagos,
Nigeria.

To: The Editor,
Nigerian Ornithologists' Bulletin.

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read R.W.Ashford's account of a breeding colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallow Lecythoplastes preussi at the Oyo Reservoir (1968. Bull. Niger.Orn.Soc. 5 : 42-44). The colony was well established when I visited the site on 2nd January, 1967. No birds were seen in the area by D.R.Wells and myself on 30th May, 1965 nor by me when I was there alone in July of that year, but from the number of nests in the tunnel in 1967 it is more likely that the birds, which are not difficult to pick out from the other hirundines, were absent at that season not that the colony was newly formed.

I reported the presence of the breeding birds to the then editor, but with a slight note of doubt as to identification, as they bore to my mind very little real resemblance to House Martins Delichon urbica and I could see no sign of the chestnut patch behind the eye; I am glad to see that Ashford agrees with me that neither is a very helpful feature. I recorded the birds' call at that time as a triple rather than as a double chirrup.

Among the other hirundines that occur at the reservoir are Red-throated Rock Martins Ptyonoprogne rufigula; two or three were present on 25th July, 1965.

"Cotteridge",
Hook Heath Road,
Woking,
Surrey,
U. K.

Yours faithfully,

H. G. M. Bass.

It is most interesting to learn the age of the colony of Cliff Swallows which has, unfortunately, been completely destroyed by flooding. It will be interesting to see if the birds ever return. Ed.