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**Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest**  
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One can only hope that the laxidazical approach to wetland conservation in Nigeria may be given a spur by the results of the Ramsar conference, and that the various states conservators re-appraise the situation of areas such as Nguru, and various other localities in the Hadejia valley, as well as several of the major fadamas in North Eastern, North Central, Kano and North Western States, where the wholesale killing and trading in Nigerian protected birds continues, apparently unabated.

Finally one looks with pleasure at the Benue - Plateau State's move to afford complete protection to Nigeria's only breeding colony of the Rosy Pelican Pelecanus onocrotlatus on Wase Rock, even though the colony itself is inaccessible to all but the most experienced mountaineers. The move does, however, show a growing awareness of Nigeria's avifauna and I sincerely hope that the state will sponsor the research required to find out exactly where the pelicans feed during the breeding season (Dampar, on the Benue River has been cited) and really attempt some organised protection for this species at its most vulnerable time (i.e. on the feeding grounds).

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NOTES

TURACOS IN THE BENUE VALLEY

The area through which the Benue River and its tributaries flow contains southern guinea savanna vegetation, with patches of gallery forests along streams and also rain forest to the south and east of Takum and near the Cameroons border, south of Katsina Ala Division. The Turacos are a group of birds more often heard than seen except for the common Grey Plantain Eater. Their distribution follows the vegetation areas which the particular species favour. However, there is considerable overlapping of several species. Here are some notes on distribution of Turacos:

Guinea Turaco, Tauraco persa persa. The typical subspecies is found here. Location: Gallery forests near Benue River at Makurdi; Mkar mountain, near Gboko; southern Tiv areas in the mountains near the Cameroons border, that is, south and southwest of Jato Akaa. Seen also at Bete, 25 miles s.w. of Takum, 12 miles east of Takum; common in the forests around Bissaula (40 miles south of Takum) and eastward from there to Baissa. These last 2 areas are in Saradauna Province, N.E. State. The birds call kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa, often in unison. The call is very low-pitched.

Red-tip Crested Turaco, Tauraco macrorhynchus verreauxi. Occurs on the Obudu Plateau in montane forest. The call is a loud kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa, very low-pitched and described by Bannerman ( ) as harsher than that of the Guinea Turaco.

White-crested Turaco, Tauraco leucolophus. This beautiful bird favours areas with less forest but rather wet guinea savanna. Therefore it only partly overlaps the distribution of the Guinea Turaco. It frequents gallery forest near streams and can be seen there occasionally together with the Violet Turaco. Seen near Ahobee, south of Jato Akaa, also Harga (23 miles west of Takum), all in Katsina Ala Division. At Takum, where I hear it call each morning and evening in the trees near Bika stream. South of Takum near the villages Lissam, Kpambo, Jenuwa Gida, 5-15 miles from here. Also at Bote, 25 miles s.w. Eastward from Takum along the Yola road to Kumbo, 26 miles east of Takum, and northward to Kofai, 13 miles on the road to Wukari. There the hills give way to flat land and lower rainfall, so I doubt that it is found further north. This bird does not occur in the Baissa hills area. But it is found at Serti, in Sardauna Province, N.E. State,  $7^{\circ}30'N.$ ,  $11^{\circ}20'E.$  Most surprisingly, I heard it in gallery forests at Warwar, on the Mambilla Plateau (elev. 4,500 ft.) on 23rd April 1971. The call is unmistakable and easily distinguished from that of the Guinea Turaco. It begins with a rising shout, hu-uu, followed by kwa-kwa-kwa-, kwa being repeated 6 to 18 times. This kwa is of a higher pitch from that of the Guinea Turaco.

Violet Turaco, Musophaga violacea. Found along streams in gallery forest or thick savanna bush in all parts of the 3 Tiv Divisions (Makurdi, Gboko, Katsina Ala), Wukari Division, Baissa hills and Serti, in Sardauna Province.

Great Blue Turaco, Corythaeola cristata. I have never seen this bird. One reliable informant tells me he has seen it near Baissa (Rev. R. Recker). And Mr. Allen Persenaire shot a specimen in 1969 in the gallery forest of the Konshisha River, Makurdi Division,  $7^{\circ}N.$ ,  $8^{\circ}30'E.$  This river flows into the Cross River and is not actually part of the Benue River system.

Grey Plantain Eater, Crinifer piscator. Widely distributed and common in all guinea savanna areas.

H.H. Gray.

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SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS FROM GHANA

Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax seen in a swamp close to Accra in March 1971.