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CALL OF WHITE-CRESTED TIGER HERON (TIGRIORNIS LEUCOLOPHUS) ATTRIBUTED TO RUFIOUS FISHING OWL (SCOTOPELIA USSHERI) -- The Rufous Fishing Owl, *Scotopelia ussheri*, is an enigmatic west African endemic. It is only known from some twenty records and is included in the ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book, (Collar & Stuart 1985), where it is categorised as rare. Its recorded distribution extends from Sierra Leone to Ghana, where it seems to be confined to forest fringing rivers and lakes.

Recordings of African owl species edited by Chappuis (1978a) include a call that he attributes to the Rufous Fishing Owl. In the notes accompanying the disc however, Chappuis (1978b) states that this identification is tentative since the bird that made the call was not seen. Fry, Keith & Urban (1988) however treat the identity of the bird in this recording as definitely being that of the Rufous Fishing Owl, and describe the call as a "low deep moaning 'whooh'".

In view of the status of this owl and, given the nature of the bird's habitat and behaviour, that records of its occurrence are likely to be inferred from call alone, the following observation is significant.

Chappuis made his recording in riverine forest on the edge of the Bandama river at Lanto (06°13'N 05°02'W), in central Côte d'Ivoire. On 22 October 1988 at exactly this locality, playback of the recording at 1815 hrs, (dusk on a fine clear evening with a full moon), elicited a response from a bird identical to that on the tape. The bird was hidden in a tree on a forested island in the Bandama river some 30 m directly opposite the source of the playback. The bird continued to call until a spotlight was played on the tree in an attempt to find it, whereupon it fell silent. On further playback with the lamp extinguished the bird called again but could not be seen nor induced to move. This state of affairs continued for about 45 mins. Further attempts at c. 2100 hrs produced identical results; the bird had not moved in the meantime but could not be seen.

At about 0530 hrs the following morning the bird again responded to the tape, from the identical spot. After some 2-3 minutes however the calls ceased and a short time later a bird took off from the source of the call and was seen against the sky in poor pre-dawn light as it flew upstream, from which direction the call was heard again shortly thereafter. At c. 0545 hrs the calls ceased once more and almost immediately a bird landed on a bare tree directly overhead of one of us (LDCF). The light was now sufficient to confirm the first impression that the bird was a heron; it was clearly seen to be a White-crested Tiger Heron (*Tigriornis leucolophus*). It remained on the tree for about 10 seconds raising and lowering its crest and then took off and flew out of sight downstream from whence the call was heard yet again.

Thus although the Tiger Heron was not actually seen to make the call on this occasion, the circumstantial evidence that it did so was strong. Confirmation was indeed obtained subsequently, for at the same spot at dawn on 28/1/89 a Tiger Heron perched briefly in the same bare tree immediately above LDCF, and was heard and seen to make the call twice, before it became aware of the observer and flew off. Furthermore, the call heard fits published descriptions of the voice of this species. Thus, Brown, Urban & Newman (1982) describe its call as "... a single or double, loud, hollow-sounding note repeated slowly and regularly for several min, like bittern boom (sic), usually at dusk or night", whilst

in Hancock & Kushlan (1984) it is stated that the "voice ... consists of a single or double note repeated for several minutes at a slow tempo".

White-crested Tiger Herons have been seen at this site on a number of other occasions. The call was first heard there on 30 January 1988, (when it was recorded by RD), and again on 13 August, 16 September, 1 October, 25-26 December 1988, 28-29 January and 28 April 1989, emitted spontaneously usually for brief periods immediately before dawn.

It seems therefore that the voice of Rufous Fishing Owl remains unknown.

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- AU SENEGAL, UN GONOLEK DE BARBARIE (LANIARIUS BARBARUS) A DESSOUS JAUNE APPARIE A UN SUJET NORMAL -- Le 19 juillet 1986, à Keur Gadj (= Keur Kadié, 13°36'N - 16°19'W), petit village de la zone soudanaise à 15 km à l'est du Parc National du Delta du Saloum, j'observai, perchée au haut d'un Neem (Azadirachta indica) une pie-grièche à dessous jaune. Il ne pouvait s'agir de la Pie-grièche soufrée (Malaconotus sulfureopectus) qui m'est familière. L'oiseau sautillait et chassait de rameau en rameau et se fit voir à bonne distance sous différents angles: calotte jaune, dessus d'un noir franc, menton, gorge, poitrine, abdomen d'un jaune soufre brillant. Peu après, un sujet typique de Laniarius barbarus se joignit à lui pour le chant en duo bien connu. Puis, le couple se déplaça sur un manguier voisin et disparut.

Le 17 septembre 1986, le gonolek à dessous jaune chanta trois fois, sans réponse, au même endroit; le 13 mai 1987, il était accompagné d'un sujet normal. Jusqu'à la date où k'écris (janvier 1988), des paysans de Keur