



**West African Ornithological Society  
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Gadj me signalent régulièrement la présence du couple. On notera qu'une coloration atypique ne semble pas un obstacle à la formation du couple. Une telle anomalie de coloration ne paraît pas avoir été signalée chez ce laniidé (G.J. Morel in litt).

Bannerman (D.A. (1939), Vol 9, p.381) a noté que les immatures de Laniarius barbarus ont la gorge jaune mêlé de rouge, et que les plumes du dessous sont jaunes, avec d'étroites barres gris sombre et quelques plumes abdominales terminées de vermillon. Dans le présent il s'agit d'oiseaux adultes, bien unis et cantonnés depuis deux ans, au moins, aux mêmes lieux.

Babacar NDAO, c/o Moustapha SOW Baidy, Léona, Kaolack, Sénégal.

NESTING OF THE STONE CURLEW (BURHINUS OEDICNEMUS DISTINCTUS) IN A FOREST OF CANARY PINE ON THE ISLAND OF EL HIERRO (CANARY ISLANDS) -- On the Canary Islands, the Stone Curlew (Burhinus oedicnemus) is represented by two subspecies: B. o. insularum Sassi, 1908, inhabiting the two eastern islands and B. o. distinctus Bannerman, 1914, on the central and western islands.

The typical breeding habitat of Burhinus oedicnemus, both in Europe and the Canary Islands is of open areas devoid of dense and tall vegetation (Cramp & Simmons 1983; Martín 1987). Nevertheless, in the Canary Archipelago there are records of Stone Curlews in the proximity of Canary Pine forests (Pinus canariensis). For example, Thanner in Bannerman (1963) observed the species between 1700 - 1800 m.a.s.l. at a locality near to Vilaflor, Tenerife (Volsøe 1951); Polatzek (1909), mentions its presence on El Hierro at 800 m.a.s.l. and more recently in late July 1983, K.W. Emmerson (pers. comm.) recorded 3 birds in the pine forest ecotone in the south of El Hierro. However, up to the present the species had never been found nesting in such habitat.

On the 10 April 1987, a shepherd from El Pinar (El Hierro), reported a nest in an area of pine forest. This nest contained one broken egg, probably trampled by his sheep, and was being tenaciously defended by adult birds. That day, we visited the spot which was in the vicinity of Hoya del Morcillo, 1050 m.a.s.l., and located 2 adult birds. After careful inspection of the area, we found fragments of a Stone Curlew egg. On further visits to the site (17 & 19 April), no birds were recorded.

The nest site was in a small clearing approximately 20 x 9 m. The pine forest contains a high proportion of mature trees, many surpassing 20 m in height. It is practically devoid of any understory and possesses numerous clearings.

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M. Nogales and E.C. Hernandez, Departamento de Zoología, Facultad de  
Biología, Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Islas Canarias.

N. Trujillo (G.O.N.A.), C/Carretera General no. 6, Armeñime (Adeje),  
Tenerife, Islas Canarias.

BIRDS OF NIGER -- In view of the excellent article on 'Birds of Niger' I  
should like to put on record a few observations made over Christmas in  
1956 when I visited Gwadabegi. Gwadabegi is about 100 miles North of  
Maradi in the Northern part of Zone 3. (Giraudoux et. al. Malimbus 10:  
1-140).

Struthio camelus - Ostrich. 20 seen on 26/12/56.

Sagittarius serpentarius - Secretary-bird. 1 seen 25/12/56.

Eupodotis ruficrista - Crested Bustard. A pair seen on 26/12/56.

Corvus rhipidurus - Fan-tailed Raven. 1 seen 26/12/56.

R.E. Sharland, 1 Fishers Heron, East Mills, Fordingbridge, Herts, U.K.

#### REVIEW

BIRDS TO WATCH: THE ICBP WORLD CHECK-LIST OF THREATENED BIRDS by N.J.  
Collar & P. Andrew, 1988. 320pp. ICBP Technical Publication No. 8,  
I.C.B.P., Cambridge. £9.50 ISBN 0-946888-12-4.

If you want to get the most up to date and authoritative information on  
threatened birds from around the world, this is your book. One thousand  
species, or 11% of the world's avifauna, are given a paragraph each,  
detailing distribution, threats and literature sources. Then follows  
lists of the threatened species for each country and another for species  
which are nearly threatened. If you can't afford Collar and Stuart's  
"Threatened birds of Africa and related islands" then use this book to  
identify the species which desperately need your attention. Looking  
through the book, I found that West African countries hold populations of  
up to 15 endangered species (Cameroun) and an average of 5 species per  
country. If you want to find out which they are, in your country, buy  
this book!