



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



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Information on tape recordings was compiled by C. Chappius, who has also provided a bibliography of the recorded sounds, but the book does not include sonograms.

Although aspects of the taxonomy employed, especially some of the vernacular names, may upset purists, the Editors have trodden a sensible path and it is to be hoped that their decisions will be followed universally so that African ornithologists can have a standard to rely on. But how long current taxonomic ideas will last is anybody's guess with the advent of molecular techniques. Let us hope that the remaining volumes in this splendid series are completed before it has become the fashion to reproduce DNA fingerprints in all taxonomic literature!

R.A. Cheke

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF TERN CATCHING IN SENEGAL, WINTER 1987/1988 by P.L. Meininger (1988) 47 pp. ICBP, Cambridge. (From ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0PJ, UK).

BIRDS IN COASTAL SENEGAL, WINTER 1987/1988 by P.L. Meininger (1988) 41pp. (From the author at Belfort 7, 4336 JK Middelburg, The Netherlands; by cash or transferring £5 sterling, US \$10, or Dfl 15 to Dutch postal giro account number 874 895 attn. P.L. Meininger, Middelburg).

Tern catching on the west coast of Africa has become recognised as a major threat to the maintenance of the tern populations of West Africa and Europe. Roseate Terns are particularly threatened and an effective conservation programme by the Ghanaian government, the UK Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the International Council for Bird Preservation has been successfully implemented in Ghana, led by WAOS member Dr Ya Ntiamao-Baidu. Evidence from ringing recoveries points to a similar problem in Senegal and these publications give results from an expedition to investigate tern catching by Peter Meininger and Greetje Boerma in the winter of 1987-1988.

The ICBP Study Report is a well written, concise document that reviews ringing recoveries, evaluates the results of interviews made at 27 towns and villages along the coast about tern catching and gives an excellent species-by-species account of the distribution and status of 15 tern species along the coast of Senegal. Although tern catching is mainly practised by boys of 7-15 years of age for fun and occasionally for eating, the overall extent of catching in Senegal is such that up 20,000 may be killed per year. The report finishes with a brief summary of suggestions for tern conservation in Senegal. All-in-all, well recommended.

The privately published report on 'Birds in Senegal' is a useful annotated checklist of the 254 species that were recorded during observations on tern catching. Included is a summary of Palaearctic migrant waders wintering in Senegal, which number up to 100,000 birds. A useful addition to the library of West African ornithologists.

H.Q.P. Crick