

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



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AN ANIFAUNAL SURVEY OF TAI NATIONAL PARK, IVORY COAST by M.E. Gartshore (1989), 67 pp. Study Report 39. ICBP, Cambridge. £5 from ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 OPJ, U.K.

This report includes the results of the first phase of a survey of one of the largest surviving blocks of primary forest in West Africa, and reflects a renewed interest in the Upper Guinea avifauma. Tai has been relatively poorly studied, previous data being summarised by Thiollay (1985, Halimbus 7: 1-59).

The report includes descriptions of 11 sites visited on the western side of Tai, both in primary forest and in the buffer zone, where logging and hunting occur. Besides noteworthy birds, mammals and other animals present at each site are listed. A total of 207 species of birds was recorded from good high forest. Four bird species were added to the Tai list and there is a large section on the identification of difficult species which may prove useful to those not fully familiar with this avifauna. Special attention is given to the seven Red Data Book species, including Picathartes gymnocephalus which was recorded for the first time in Tai. Appendices summarise results from timed counts, species found in bird parties, netting data, breeding records, mammals and herpetofauna encountered. This report follows the trend of recent ICBP study reports in including reproductions of black and white photographs.

Phase two of the survey took place in spring 1990 and it is hoped that it will have thrown some light on the as yet undescribed species of small oxpecker associated with the African buffalo Syncerus caffer (Thiollay, loc. cit.). In general, a well-presented report, with many interesting details, such as the detection of the clusive White-breasted Guineafowl Agelastes meleagrides by moulted feathers (later checked against museum specimens).

Hilary Tye

THE COASTAL WETLANDS OF LIBERIA: THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR WINTERING WATERBIRDS. By W. Gatter, 1988. Study Report No. 26. 45 pp. ICBP, Cambridge.

ETUDE ORNITHOLOGIQUE PRELIMINAIRE DE LA ZONE COTIERE DU NORD-QUEST DE LA GUINEE. By W. Altenburg & J. Van der Kamp, 1989. Study Report No. 30. 65pp. ICBP, Cambridge.

£5 each from ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 OPT, U.K.

These two ICBP Study Reports cover the water-birds of coastal areas of two W. African countries from which little information has been available in recent years. Guinea's coast is highly indented, and includes extensive mudflats, whereas Liberia's coastline is mainly sandy. Sierra Leone, in between, contains the break in character of the coast, with its northern half containing many large estuaries and its southern half being one long sand beach.