



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



Join the WAOS and support
the future availability of free
pdfs on this website.

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.

Devenez membre de la
SOOA et soutenez la
disponibilité future des pdfs
gratuits sur ce site.

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.

The same nest was used for all three broods, with an interval of three weeks between the first and second brood and six weeks between the second and third. We believe that the same parents were involved in all three.

This study was funded by the A.P. Leventis Foundation. Many thanks to Martin Stervander for reading the manuscript. The kind assistance of Martha Samuel and Jonathan Azi, who took part in field observation, is also highly appreciated. This is report no. 14 from the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Institute.

References

- CHEKE, R.A. & MANN, C.F. (2001) *Sunbirds. A Guide to the Sunbirds, Flowerpeckers, Spiderhunters and Sugarbirds of the World*. Christopher Helm, London.
- ELGOOD, J.H., HEIGHAM, J.B., MOORE, A.M., NASON, A.M., SHARLAND, R.E. & SKINNER, N.J. (1994) *The Birds of Nigeria*. Checklist 4, 2nd ed., British Ornithologists' Union, Tring.
- FRY, C.H., KEITH, S. & URBAN, E.K. (eds) (2000) *The Birds of Africa*, vol. 6. Academic Press, London.

Received 19 May 2005

Revised 13 September 2005

Mary Molokwu, Ulf Ottosson & John Azi
A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute,
University of Jos, PO Box 13404, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria
<mm04ng@yahoo.com>

Rufous Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* at Fusa Hills, Plateau State, Nigeria

On 10 Apr 2005, during a trek into the Fusa Hills range in the Jos East local government area of Plateau State, Nigeria, a Rufous Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* was sighted and photographed at about 9h00 near Kudedu village (9°51'45''N, 9°4'25''E), c. 25 km southeast of Jos. The bird was plain sandy rufous-brown above, with plain sandy-white underparts, rufous rump, and fan-shaped rufous tail boldly tipped black and white, with a creamy-white supercilium bordered below by a narrow blackish eye-stripe (Borrow & Demey 2001). It was gathering grass stems and other nesting materials into a crevice c. 1.5 m from the ground in the straw fence of a hut. No attempt was made to approach the bird or nest.

This is the first sighting of this species on the Jos plateau (U. Ottosson & M. Hopkins pers. comm.). There are two distinct subspecies in Nigeria: the migratory nominate *galactotes* and the resident *minor* (Elgood *et al.* 1994, Keith *et al.* 1992). The observed bird is believed to be the resident *C. g. minor* (as shown by the nest

building), with a southern limit in Nigeria hitherto placed at Zaria (Elgood *et al.* 1994) *c.* 180 km northwest of Jos.

We are grateful for the support of Thomas de Douhet and Yves Gattepaille of Padakari during the trek, as well as the guidance of Dr Ulf Ottosson and Dr Mark Hopkins. This is Contribution 13 of APLORI.

References

- BORROW, N. & DEMEY, R. (2001) *Birds of Western Africa*. Christopher Helm, London.
- ELGOOD, J.H., HEIGHAM, J.B., MOORE, A.M., SHARLAND, R.E. & SKINNER, N.J. (1994) *The Birds of Nigeria*. Check-list 4, 2nd ed., British Ornithologists' Union, Tring.
- KEITH, S., URBAN, E.K. & FRY, C.H. (1992) *The Birds of Africa*, vol. 4. Academic Press, London.

Received 10 June 2005

Temidayo Osinubi & Babajide Agboola
A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute,
PO Box 13404, Laminga, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. <taymida@yahoo.co.uk>

A sight record of the Brown Nightjar *Caprimulgus binotatus* in Nigeria

On the evening of 1 Mar 2002, a truck in which I was riding flushed a nightjar from the road near the village of Iko Esai, Cross River State, Nigeria. The bird settled again farther down the road and we were able to approach it closely (to about 8 m) and study it in the beam of the headlights for several minutes before it flew off.

The bird was small and very dark uniform brown above, with slightly paler underparts, a buff or off-white line on the scapulars, and a small white patch on the side of the throat. The tail was not especially long or short. In flight it showed no pale wing patches or tail corners, and the tail seemed to have a square or slightly forked tip.

Identification of nightjars by sight, especially under artificial light, is usually problematic, but in this case it was relatively straightforward. The combination of small size, dark, unvariegated coloration and lack of white in the flight feathers is diagnostic of Brown Nightjar *Caprimulgus binotatus*, a poorly known forest species not previously recorded in Nigeria (Fry *et al.* 1988, Elgood *et al.* 1994, Cleere & Nurney 1998, Borrow & Demey 2001, P. Hall pers. comm.). There are no similar species (Cleere & Nurney 1998). Although I did not see the small "ear tufts" or the "tent" shape of the tail that this species is supposed to have, and the bird did not vocalize, all other nightjars of the region could be eliminated on the basis of