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## MORE BIRD RECORDS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO

by Robert A. Cheke

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Recently Browne (1980) and Cheke & Walsh (1980) have published complementary papers on the birds of Togo; the former dealt with coastal records and the latter authors mainly with birds in the north of the country. From May to mid-August 1980 and from late August to early December 1981 I was again based at Lama-Kara, in northern Togo, and describe here some observations of interest made during the above periods. These observations include records, marked in the following list with asterisks, of 43 species which did not appear in the earlier list (Cheke & Walsh 1980). Coordinates of named sites are listed in an appendix but many of the places mentioned were marked on the map in the earlier paper. The order and nomenclature for all Afrotropical species follow Hall & Moreau (1970) and Snow (1978).

\**Tachybaptus ruficollis* One on the Mono river 25 km east of Sotouboua at 08°33'N 01°16'E on 4 November 1981.

\**Nycticorax nycticorax* Two beside the Mono river near Atchinedji on 4 November 1981.

*Bubulcus ibis* Ten at Cinkanse on 10 October 1981 is my earliest dry season record and my latest is a single bird at Landa-Pozanda on 21 June 1980.

\**Ardeola ralloides* One near Naboulgou on 24 May 1980. Up to four in the Tététou area during November 1981. One 10 km N.W. of Anié at 07°50'N 01°08'E on 27 November 1981 and one at Sansanné-Mango on 7 December 1981. Also recorded by Browne (1980) and by Robinson (1972).

\**Egretta garzetta* One near Naboulgou on 10 October 1981 and another at Tététou on 10 November 1981. Also recorded by Robinson (1972).

*Ciconia episcopus* Five at Naboulgou on 19 May 1980 and another there on 24 May 1980.

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* Two at Naboulgou on 19 May 1980.

*Bostrychia hagedash* Small groups recorded at Naboulgou in May and December, at various sites along the Mono river in June, October, November and December, beside the Ogou river in September and October, beside the Anié river in October and the Kpaza river in June.

\**Sarkidiornis melanotos* Two on a bank beside the Oti river south of Sansanné-Mango on 7 December 1981.

*Nettapus auritus* A pair at Naboulgou on 25 May 1981.

\**Anas querquedula* A pair at Naboulgou on 10 October 1981.

\**Trionocephs occipitalis* One at 08°43'N 01°16'E in gallery forest beside the Mono river on 20 October 1981.

\**Pseudogyps africanus* One 5 km N of Blitta on 13 June 1980 and another at 08°44'N 01°16'E on 20 October 1981. Recorded by De Roo et al (1972).

*Polyboroides typus* Recorded from various sites along the Mono river in May, June, October, November and December. One at Landa-Pozanda on 5 September 1981.

\**Terathopius ecaudatus* One at 09°04'N 00°44'E on 19 May 1980, one 15 km E of Aou Losso at 08°43'N 01°12'E on 12 June 1980 and another at the same site on 28 October 1981.

*Buteo auguralis* Recorded on seven different occasions in the Sokodé area in May, June, October and November.

*Butastur rufipennis* One near Tététou on 26 November 1981 is my most southerly record.

*Polemaetus bellicosus* Two in the Keran reserve near Naboulgou on 25 May 1980.

\**Hieraetus fasciatus* One 20 km E of Aou Losso at 08°41'N 01°15'E on 22 October 1981 and another being mobbed by Pied Hornbills *Tockus fasciatus* near Tététou on 28 November 1981.

\**Aquila wahlbergi* One near Bafilo on 15 June 1980.

\**Haliaetus vocifer* A juvenile beside the Anié river near Tchébébé at 08°23'N 00°58'E on 28 October 1981 and an adult near Tététou on 19 November 1981.

\**Chelictinia riocourii* One as far south as Bafilo on 27 October 1981 and another at Sansanné-Mango on 7 December 1981.

*Pandion haliaetus* One seen beside the Mono river south of Tététou (at 06°53'N 01°36'E) on 10 November, 28 November and 3 December 1981.

\**Falco alopex* One near Péwa on 22 June 1980.

\**Francolinus albogularis* One near Landa-Pozanda on 18 October 1981. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969).

*Porphyrio alleni* One at Lama-Kara on 19 July 1980.

*Podica senegalensis* During May to July 1980 this species was recorded from many rivers including the Mono (as far south as Tététou and as far north as 08°56'N 01°21'E), the Na, Koué, Aou, Anié, Pasa and Kpaza (where one record was from high up in the Fazao mountains). During the dry season of 1981 I have no records other than from the Mono river and all these were south of Atchinedji.

- Charadrius forbesi* Three at Landa-Pozanda on 16 May 1980. Two of these were apparently paired as they reacted together against the third when it alighted near them. The paired birds opened their wings a little, lent forward, puffed out their chests to display their pectoral bands and ran simultaneously at the 'intruder' which retreated by flying off on its own. One was also seen at Landa-Pozanda on 2 June 1980 and two were present there on 31 October 1981.
- \**Himantops himantops* One at Tététou on 26 November 1981. Robinson (1972) recorded this species many times and it was also seen by Browne (1980).
- \**Tringa ochropus* Flocks of up to 20 seen along the Anié and Mono rivers during November 1981.
- \**Tringa glareola* One 10 km N.W. of Anié at 07°50'N 01°08'E on 25 November 1981. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969), Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).
- \**Tringa totanus* One beside the Keran river at Naboulgou on 7 December 1981. Recorded by Robinson (1972).
- Glareola nuchalis* Records in Togo, including breeding by *G. n. liberiae* and the occurrence of *G. n. nuchalis* at Landa-Pozanda, have appeared elsewhere (Cheke 1980, 1982).
- \**Columba guinea* One at Landa-Pozanda on 21 June 1980, three at Cinkanse on 30 September 1981 and one at Sansanné-Mango on 7 December 1981. Recorded by De Roo et al (1971).
- Corythacola cristata* Five near Fazao on 27 June 1980 and two there on 13 July 1980.
- Tauraco persa* One at Tchébébé on 12 October 1981 and another at Tététou on 28 November 1981.
- Climator levaillantii* One at Lama-Kara on 1 June 1980. A single at Landa-Pozanda on 2 June 1980 and two there on 25 August 1981. One at Lama-Kara on 17 October 1981.
- \**Cuculus solitarius* One calling in the Assouakoko forest, 40 km N of Badou, on 26 May 1980 and another calling and observed near Péwa on 6 September 1981.
- Cuculus gularis* One at Naboulgou on 25 May 1980.
- Glaucidium perlatum* One seen at Lama-Kara on 8 July 1980.
- \**Apus melba* A group of about 50 birds seen in the Fazao mountains at 08°33'N 00°40'E on 17 May 1980. Douaud (1957) recorded this species from Togo in April during two different years and the few records from West Africa were discussed by Moreau (1972) who doubted if they referred to African residents. The only records from Ghana were in February and March (Grimes 1974, Walsh & Grimes 1981). Snow (1978) refers to the species as *Tachymarpis melba*.

- Ceryle maxima* Recorded from Naboulgou on 19 May 1980 and 7 December 1981. Singles also seen in the Fazao mountains at 08°36'N 00°42'E on 13 June 1980, Landa-Pozanda on 11 October 1981 and beside the Anié river at 08°21'N 00°58'E on 28 October 1981.
- \**Alcedo cristata* One at 10°11'N, 00°54'E on 19 and 21 May 1980 and one at Lomé on 25 July 1980. Recorded by Robinson (1972) and Browne (1980).
- Ispidina picta* Singles seen in 1980 at Naboulgou (25 May), Lama-Kara (1 July) and Sansanné-Mango (6 August).
- Halcyon leucocephala* One at Naboulgou on 25 May 1980 and one at Lama-Kara on 1 June 1980 which was engaging in disputes, presumably over a feeding territory, with an *H. senegalensis*.
- \**Merops pusillus* Two at Lama-Kara on 1 June 1980. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969).
- \**Merops hirundineus* One in the Keran reserve near Naboulgou on 25 May 1980 and another at Lama-Kara on 1 June 1980.
- Merops albicollis* A flock of 50 seen flying over 09°04'N 00°44'E on 19 May 1980, 30 flying N.W. over Mo on 31 May 1980 and 32 flying in the same direction above Landa-Pozanda on 1 June 1980. Three near Tététou on 28 November 1981.
- Merops nubicus* One near Sansanné-Mango on 30 September 1981.
- Coracias cyanogaster* Three seen near Fazao on 12 July 1980, two of which were displaying by performing aerial acrobatics.
- \**Bycanistes fistulator* Twelve near Paza on 17 May 1980. The extent of white on these birds suggested that they belonged to the eastern race *B. f. sharpii* (see Bannerman 1953, Snow 1978). De Roo et al (1969) recorded *B. fistulator* from Aledjo but did not assign their specimens to a subspecies. I also saw a flock of 20-30 in gallery forest alongside the Ogou river near Goubi on 25 September 1981 and have other records at various dates from similar habitats 30 km E of Sotouboua, 20 km S of Atakpamé and in the Fazao mountains.
- Tockus fasciatus* Two at Lama-Kara on 29 May 1980 are my most northerly records.
- \**Tockus erythrorhynchus* One at Cinkanse on 7 December 1981. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969).
- \**Dendropicos fuscescens* One near Cinkanse on 6 August 1980.
- Hirundo smithii* Two pairs bred at Landa-Pozanda in 1981. On 24 October two active nests were found, one contained three 3-4 day old chicks and the other also supported young but was in an inaccessible position. The species probably also bred there in 1980 as eight birds, including some juveniles, were seen roosting near a recently vacated nest on 28 May.

*Hirundo lucida* Bred at Naboulgou in May 1980. The species probably also breeds further south as a pair were seen feeding fledglings at Fazao on 12 July 1980 and of about 25 present at Lama-Kara on 5 August 1980 many were juveniles.

\**Hirundo aethiopica* At least 30 were present at Fazao on 22 November 1981. Louette (1975) recorded an adult and three juveniles of this species taken in March 1970 at Kolékopé, also in Togo, in company with *H. lucida*. Louette's records were the first for Togo of *H. aethiopica* which is usually allopatric with *H. lucida*, the western representative of the superspecies (Hall & Moreau 1970). However *H. aethiopica* is now known to occur in Ghana also and has been found breeding on the Accra plains where it is thought to be a wet season visitor (Grimes 1972, J. F. Walsh pers. comm.). In addition, two were seen by J. F. Walsh on 5 May 1971 at Sugu (09°00'N 00°58'W) in Ghana, a town where *H. lucida* is known to breed (J. F. Walsh, pers. comm.). Also *H. lucida* has been found as far east as Jebba (09°08'N 04°49'E) in Nigeria (Bannerman 1953). These records, confirming an overlap in the species' ranges suggest that further studies of their migrations and ecology would be of interest.

*Hirundo senegalensis* Three at Lama-Kara on 8 July 1980 and two at Fazao on 13 July 1980.

*Hirundo fuligula* One near Aledjo on 16 May 1980. Three at Djamdé on 8 June 1980 and a pair seen at Péwa on 19 June 1980, 23 August 1981 and 6 September 1981.

*Hirundo preussi* At least twenty pairs nested under a bridge over the Keran river at Titira in June 1980.

\**Psalidoprocne obscura* A pair seen at 09°04'N 00°44'E on 19 May 1980 and three at Fazao on 12 and 13 July 1980.

*Motacilla aguimp vidua* In 1979 I did not see this species north of Sokodé but in 1980 a pair were resident in Lama-Kara, where they probably bred as one was seen carrying food on 18 July. On 31 August 1981 a juvenile was found injured at Lama-Kara from which a male *Ornithophila metallica* Schiner (Diptera: Hippoboscidae) was collected. Blood smears from the bird were examined but no parasites were found.

*Coracina pectoralis* One at Mo on 31 May 1980 and present in October 1981 at Landa-Pozanda where two males were seen chasing each other in the presence of a female on 31st.

*Chlorocichla flavicollis* Singles at Lama-Kara on 1 June 1980 and at Landa-Pozanda on 31 October 1981.

\**Laniarius aethiopicus* One at Naboulgou on 25 May 1980. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969) and by Browne (1980).

\**Oenanthe bottae* Three on grass-covered hills north of Defale on 7 December 1981.

\**Cercomela familiaris* One near Péwa on 23 August 1981. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969).

\**Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris* At least three pairs were present amongst rocky outcrops near Péwa on 18 July 1980. Two of the males were black-crowned forms (*M. c. bambarae* or *M. c. cavernicola*) but a third was white-crowned (*M. c. coronata*), the subspecies previously recorded from Togo (De Roo et al 1969, 1971). This observation of both forms occurring sympatrically is of interest since Green (1980) recently drew attention to the presence of these forms in close proximity on neighbouring hills in Benin and discussed their taxonomic status, which remains unclear. Both Bannerman (1953) and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1973) treated the white-headed form as a separate species. On 23 August 1981 a pair was present at the same site near Péwa and the white-crowned male sang repeatedly from near the summit of an inselberg.

*Sphenoeacus mentalis* On 1 June 1980 near Lama-Kara one was seen carrying dead grass, presumably for nest-building, into reeds beside the Kara river.

*Cisticola aberrans* At least three pairs, with singing males, were at Djamdé on 8 June 1980. Also recorded from inselbergs near Péwa in June and July 1980 and August and September 1981. Males were singing there in July 1980 and August 1981.

\**Sylvietta brachyura* Three at Mo on 31 May 1980. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969).

\**Batis senegalensis* A pair seen at Fazao on 13 July 1980. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969).

\**Erannornis longicauda* Two near Lama-Kara on 1 July 1980. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969).

\**Terpsiphone viridis* Seen near Sokodé, at Naboulgou and at Mo during May 1980 and at Landa-Pozanda in September and October 1981. Also recorded by De Roo et al (1969).

\**Anthreptes collaris* One near Aledjo on 19 June 1980 and another at 08°33'N 00°40'E on 27 June 1980. Recorded by De Roo et al (1969) and by Browne (1980).

\**Nectarinia pulchella* A male seen at Naboulgou on 24 May 1980 and another near Sansanné-Mango on 6 August 1980. Recorded by De Roo et al (1972).

\**Vidua orientalis* Males seen at Naboulgou on 19 May 1980 and at 07°50'N 01°08'E on 25 November 1981. De Roo et al (1969) recorded *V. o. togoensis* from Sansanné-Mango.

\**Nesocharis capistrata* One near Lama-Kara on 1 July 1980. It was a juvenile bird since it had a grey head (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1973).

*Lagonosticta rara* One at Titira on 14 June 1980 and pairs at Aleheridé on 22 June 1980 and Fazao on 12 July 1980.

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* One near Aledjo on 22 June 1980.

\**Buphagus africanus* Two on a buffalo *Syncerus caffer* at Naboulgou on 10 October 1981.

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## SUMMARY

Records of birds of interest seen in Togo during 1980 and 1981 are provided. These include information on 43 species which were not included in a list of birds seen in Togo between 1972 and 1979 (Cheke & Walsh 1980).

## RESUME

Renseignements sur des oiseaux intéressants vus au Togo pendant 1980 et 1981 sont donnés. 43 espèces présentées ne furent pas incluses dans une liste publiée des oiseaux vus au Togo entre 1972 et 1979 (Cheke & Walsh 1980).

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# APPENDIX

## Gazeteer

Aledjo	09°15'N	01°12'E	Kolékopé	07°48'N	01°18'E
Aléheridé	09°13'N	01°12'E	Lama-Kara	09°33'N	01°12'E
Anié	07°45'N	01°12'E	Landa-Pozanda	09°31'N	01°17'E
Aou Losso	08°45'N	01°03'E	Lomé	06°08'N	01°13'E
Atakpamé	07°32'N	01°08'E	Mo	09°05'N	01°03'E
Atchinedji	07°34'N	01°21'E	Naboulgou	10°11'N	00°48'E
Badou	07°35'N	00°36'E	Paza	09°13'N	01°22'E
Bafilo	09°21'N	01°16'E	Péwa	09°16'N	01°14'E
Blitta	08°18'N	00°59'E	Sansanné-Mango	10°21'N	00°28'E
Cinkanse	11°06'N	00°01'E	Sokodé	08°59'N	01°08'E
Defale	09°53'N	01°05'E	Sotouboua	08°34'N	00°59'E
Djamdé	09°32'N	01°03'E	Tchébébé	08°26'N	00°59'E
Fazao	08°42'N	00°46'E	Tététou	07°01'N	01°03'E
Goubi	08°37'N	01°26'E	Titira	10°00'N	01°07'E



Colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Hirundo preussi* (= *H. spilodera*), River  
Titira, Togo, June 1980. Photo R.A. Cheke