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still need to be made on colour of bare parts in other African birds.

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INLAND RECORDS OF WESTERN REEF HERON *Egretta gularis*

IN WEST AFRICA - Eccles (1985, *Malimbus* 7: 114) has given details of two inland sightings of the Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* in Ivory Coast and Nigeria, and has drawn attention to the fact that Brown *et al.* (1982 *The Birds of Africa* Vol. I) make no reference to inland sightings of this species from West Africa. Given the apparent rarity of inland records for West Africa (none are mapped by Snow 1978, *An Atlas of Speciation in African Non-passerine Birds*, though Bannerman 1953, *The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa*, Vol. I mentions a record from the inundation zone of the Niger river, and Sharland & Wilkinson 1981, *Malimbus* 3: 7-30 give details of birds at a lake near Kano in 1978 and 1979) the following observations, made during a long career of river watching, are perhaps worthy of note. All relate to dark phase birds.

- 1 at Vea Dam, Bolgatanga, Ghana (10°48'N, 0°51'W) on six dates between 22 July and 31 August 1972.
- 1 at Pwalugu Bridge, White Volta river, Ghana (10°35'N, 0°51'W) on 18.4.1977.
- 1 at Tafo Dam, Ghana (6°13'N, 0°22'W) on 29.1.1978.
- 1 at Ouagadougou Barrage, Burkina Faso (12°23'N, 1°31'W) on 1.5.1978 and 29.7.1979.
- 2 at Kankan, Milo river, Guinea Conakry (10°25'N, 9°18'W) on 1.11.1984.
- 3 separately on Sassandra river, Ivory Coast (between 8°22'N and 8°26'N) on 2.3.1985 and 13 separately (between 7°50'N and 8°26'N) on 13.4.1985.
- 2 at the Bagbe stream - Gbe Stream confluence, Guinea Conakry (8°30'N, 8°03'W) on 21.3.1985 and 1 on 10.4.1985.
- 1 at Odienne Dam, Ivory Coast (9°36'N, 7°32'W) on 16.3.1985 and 14.4.1985.

Whether these sightings relate to a distinct species *E. gularis* or a dark-phase of *E. garzetta* cannot be ascertained. However, the Tafo bird was present with several *E. garzetta* and could only distinguished on plumage colour, whereas on the Togo coast *E. gularis* and *E. garzetta* seen together on 2.2.1986 seemed structurally different.

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