



**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.

If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

**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.

Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante
(2) pour économiser du papier.

Short Notes

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike *Campephaga phoenicea* on Mt Oku, Cameroon

On 25 March 1991 I saw a male Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike *Campephaga phoenicea* at 2,600 m on Mt Oku, north-west Cameroon. It was feeding alone in creepers at lower levels within thick montane forest, and allowed close and detailed observation. To my knowledge this species has not been recorded before on Mt Oku, being a lowland species of forest edge and secondary growth.

The plumage of this individual was also unusual. The red "shoulders" appeared particularly extensive, not merely being confined to the lesser and median coverts but extending onto the scapulars and greater coverts. The red area was margined narrowly with yellow. The extent of the red on *phoenicea* is known to be variable but is usually less than on this bird. It is possible that the yellow border observed was the yellow inner webs of the coverts showing through due to moult.

The occurrence of this species at high altitude and in such habitat is puzzling, although the forest on Mt Oku is dry and badly degraded. The forest-dwelling Petit's Cuckoo-Shrike *Campephaga petiti* has been recorded on Mt Oku (Stuart 1986). The possible co-existence of these species here may provide an opportunity to see if they interbreed, as some authorities consider them the same species.

The bird may represent an undescribed montane race of *C. phoenicea*. However I feel that such a distinctive species would have been recorded before on Mt Oku had it been resident there, as this is one of the few places in Cameroon relatively well covered by ornithologists. The bird may rather have been a vagrant to this altitude and one displaying possibly aberrant plumage. It may have been a migrant, as *C. phoenicea* is known to migrate in Nigeria, appearing in the north between early May and early November and moving south for November-April (Elgood 1982). The date of my sighting would more or less tie in with this timetable.

References

- ELGOOD, J.H. (1982) *The birds of Nigeria*. Checklist no 4. British Ornithologists' Union, London.
- STUART, S.N. (1986) *Conservation of Cameroon Montane Forests*. International Council for Bird Preservation, Cambridge.

Received 1 July 1991

Revised 7 March 1992

Eddie Williams

17 Sycamore Close, Upton, Wirral, Merseyside, L49 4QL, U.K.