



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.

Birds of interest from the Sangba area, adjacent to the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park, Central African Republic

The birds of Bamingui-Bangoran National Park and the adjacent safari area, northern Central African Republic, have been listed by Green (1983, 1984, 1990). I was able to pay a flying visit (of less than 24 hours) to the Sangba game management (safari) area on 21–22 March 1994. The Sangba is a tributary of the Bamingui, and the safari area is to the east of Bamingui village, at about 7°35'N, 20°15'E (see map in Fay *et al.* 1990). As I recorded a dozen species not on Green's lists, and as the avifauna of C.A.R. is generally poorly-known, it is worth placing these on record. As Green says, it is clear that the list of birds for the park is far from complete, and more detailed observations would be worthwhile.

One Swallow-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii* was seen on 21 March. I saw one or two birds which were clearly European Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: Green (1983) listed "*Cuculus canorus*" for Nov. but did not say if this was the Palearctic bird or the local African *C. (canorus) gularis*. I heard African Scops Owl *O. senegalensis* calling at night; Green (1983) reported "*Otus scops*" (regarded as including *senegalensis*) in all months, but did not state which form(s). Several territorial Red-tailed Larks *Pinarocorys erythropygia*, in song, were on burnt ground on the edge of light woodland. No particular comment is required for the following species recorded: Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Shikra *Accipiter badius*, Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*, Bearded Woodpecker *Thripias namaquus*, Red-breasted Swallow *Hirundo semirufa*, Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*, European Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*, African Moustached Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*, White-winged Whydah *Euplectes albonotatus* (in its distinctive non-breeding dress).

It is also worth clarifying two type localities. The Bamingui river is the type locality of two taxa, *Psalidoprocne pristoptera bamingui* (Black Saw-wing) and *Sylvietta brachyura oliviae* (Northern Crombec). Both were based on specimens collected by Boyd Alexander (the former on 13 Aug 1905). Because of the changing boundaries of what was German Kamerun these have sometimes been attributed to Cameroon, but this river is wholly within C.A.R.. At that time Alexander was exploring the area around Irena (now Chari) (Alexander 1907, vol. 2, pp. 191–195), near the confluence of the Bamingui with the Chari (8°35'N, 19°03'E) and the border with present-day Chad.

I am grateful to José and Thérèse Tello for their hospitality at Sangba, and the European Union-funded Ecofac project for the opportunity to visit that area. Arthur Green kindly commented on a draft of this note.

References

ALEXANDER, B. (1907) *From the Niger to the Nile*. (2 vols). Edward Arnold, London.

- FAY, J.M., SPINAGE, C.A., CHARDONNET, B. & GREEN, A.A. (1990) Central African Republic. Pp. 99–109 in EAST, R. (ed.) *Antelopes, Global Survey and Regional Action Plans, Part 3, West and Central Africa*. IUCN, Gland.
- GREEN, A.A. (1983) The birds of Bamingui-Bangoran National Park, Central African Republic. *Malimbus* 5: 17–30.
- GREEN, A.A. (1984) Additional bird records from Bamingui-Bangoran National Park, Central African Republic. *Malimbus* 6: 70–72.
- GREEN, A.A. (1990) Corrections to the list of birds of Bamingui-Bangoran National Park, Central African Republic. *Malimbus* 12: 53–54.

Received 26 March 1997

R. J. Dowsett

Revised 12 July 1997

12 rue des Lavandes, Ganges F-34190, France

E-mail: dowsett@worldnet.fr

Ringling recoveries between Nigeria and eastern Europe

The Russian ringling authorities have sent details of the following recoveries.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

A1532 Ringed: UUE-Massi, Parnu, Estonia 58°3'N, 24°46'E 4 Jul 1980
 Recovered: Matara Uku, Nigeria 12°47'N, 10°19'E Oct–Nov 1996

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

8652 Ringed: Vom, Nigeria 9°42'N, 8°45'E 17 Nov 1965
 Recovered: Pagrybe, Lithuania 55°30'N, 22°26'E Jul–Sep 1966
 24767 Ringed: Kano, Nigeria 12°0'N, 8°30'E 19 Feb 1965
 Recovered: Kuntsevo, Russia 55°45'N, 37°30'E Jun–Jul 1970

Received 3 April 1997

Revised 20 July 1997

R.E. Sharland

1 Fisher's Heron, East Mills, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 2JR, U.K.

First record of Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi* in Nigeria

On 25 February 1997 we saw a Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi* near Gashaka village in Gashaka-Gumti National Park (7°20'N, 11°35'E). The bird was singing in the top of a leafless tree of about 15 m height and was observed at length from a distance of less than 50 m through a telescope of 30x magnification. It showed a conspicuous white supercilium, two white wing-bars, bright rufous upper tail-coverts contrasting with the dark grey-brown upperparts, a bright rufous tail with