



**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.

BLACK-HEADED AND GREY-HEADED GULLS IN WEST AFRICA - Mackworth-Praed & Grant state that the Grey-Headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus* is the common breeding Gull of the African lakes and that there are odd records of Black-Headed Gulls *L. ridibundus* inland. Since 1970 both these birds appear to have been increasing their inland range in Nigeria. For the past three dry seasons there has been a mixed flock of about fifty gulls at Achi Lafia near Kazaure; about 80 appeared on Jekara Reservoir 32 km NE of Kano in January 1981, and a flock of 24 was seen on the Zoo Reservoir at Kano. On 17 January 1981 I saw a Black-Headed Gull on a borrow-pit in Zinder, Niger Republic, and on 21 February three were seen on the River Benue at Makurdi.

Considerable changes are taking place in many wetlands in West Africa and seasonal ox-bow lakes are being replaced by more permanent waters, which is likely to affect the inland distribution of these small gulls.

R.E. Sharland

P.O. Box 342, Kano, Nigeria

DESERT EAGLE-OWL IN NIGER - On 17 January 1981 during a visit to Niger Republic I camped on the side of a small rocky hill some 80 km north of Zinder. Here I heard a Desert Eagle-Owl *Bubo ascalaphus* every night and saw it several times by day. It was frequently harried by Pied Crows *Corvus albus*, Fan-tailed Ravens *C. rhipidurus* and Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus*, and was also followed several times by a Honey-Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*.

R.E. Sharland

P.O. Box 342, Kano, Nigeria

BLACK-NECKED GREBE NEW TO NIGERIA AND WEST AFRICA - On 6 April 1981 Dr David Aidley and I made a brief visit to Jekara Reservoir, about 30 km east-north-east of Kano, Nigeria, and in good lateral evening sunlight we saw a Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* feeding in loose company with two Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. They were on open water and moved slowly away from an initial range of about 30 m; we watched them for ten minutes. The Black-necked Grebe was in winter plumage and was identified as such, in distinction from the similar Slavonian Grebe *P. auritus*, by the tip-tilted beak and the dusky cheeks. I am familiar with the two species in winter plumage, and Dr Aidley concurred with my identification although he is not familiar with Slavonian Grebes. According to K.D. Smith in his appendix (p. 286) to R.E. Moreau's *The Palaearctic-African Bird Migration Systems* (Academic Press, London, 1971), *P. n. nigricollis* has a few records from the Sudan and has been recently at Lake Chad. I know of no other western African records. The species occurs sporadically in eastern and South Africa.

C.H. Fry

Zoology Department, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB9 2TN, Scotland