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Malimbus

Vol. 4 1982 No. 2, October

SEASONAL MOVEMENTS OF THE PYGMY KINGFISHER *CEYX PICTA* IN WEST AFRICA

by Roger Wilkinson

Received 11 August 1982

In a recent paper on bird migration in southern Africa, Benson (1982) contrasts the regular seasonal migration of the Pygmy Kingfisher *Ceyx picta* south of the equator with its apparent sedentary nature in the northern tropics. Elgood, Fry & Dowsett (1973) could find little evidence for migration of *C. picta* within Nigeria, although with more recent evidence Elgood (1982) notes seasonal movements in some areas of the extreme north.

The purposes of this paper are to demonstrate that seasonal migration in *C. picta* is widespread over the northern savannas of West Africa, and to emphasize the continuing need for information on the seasonal occurrence of birds in many localities in West Africa.

SEASONAL OCCURRENCE

Recently published information on seasonal occurrence of *C. picta* at various West African localities is summarized in Table 1, where the localities are listed in sequence of rising latitude. The data have been culled almost exclusively from papers in *Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc./Malimbus*. Table I suggests that, in the terminology of Elgood et al. (1973), *C. picta* is a 'southern concertina' migrant extending northwards for the rainy season and withdrawing south again for the dry season. South of 9°N the species is present throughout the year, whereas north of 13°N (and extending to at least 16°25'N in Senegal) it occurs only during the rainy season. At intermediate latitudes it is either present all year (e.g. Pendjari and Arli Nat. Parks), or is a partial migrant (e.g. Mole Nat. Park), or is totally absent in the dry season (e.g. Kano); what happens probably depends more on local conditions, like rainfall distribution and extent of kurmi woodlands, than on the precise latitude.

Table 1 overleaf
Text cont. p. 108

Habitat:	fe - Forest edge, H - Human and Urban, K - Kurmi, gallery forest, R - Riparian, S - Savanna, Sc - Scrub, P - Plantation, U - Ubiquitous	Co-ordinates	Months recorded	Habitat and Comments	Reference
Calabar, Nigeria	04°58'N 08°17'E	All months	Sc, P, Fe, Resident	BNOS=Bull. Nigerian Orn. Soc.	
Mid-west Nigeria	05°54'N 05°42'E	All months	S, H, P, Resident	Mackenzie 1979 Malimbus 1: 47	
Lagos, Nigeria	06°28'N 03°25'E	Jan-May, Jul, Aug, Nov	Resident?	Heigham 1976 BNOS 3(12): 76	
Ile-Ife, Nigeria	07°29'N 04°33'E	Oct	Coverage only for Sep-Feb	Gee & Heigham 1977 BNOS 13: 103	
Serti, Nigeria	07°30'N 11°22'E	Sep-Jan	Coverage only for Sep-Jan	Farmer 1979 Malimbus 1: 56	
Mole, Ghana	09°16'N 01°15'W	'Resident'	R, S, H	Hall 1977 BNOS 4(13): 66	
Mole, Ghana	09°16'N 01°15'W	'Wet season', but single recorded in	Partial migrant?	Greig-Smith 1976 BNOS 4(12): 49	
Mole, Ghana	09°16'N 01°15'W	Jan		Taylor & Macdonald 1978 BNOS 4(14): 4	
Yankari, Nigeria	09°38'N 10°25'E	Apr-Jan	U, Absent or less abundant in late dry season?	Macdonald 1978 BNOS 4(14): 80	
North & Central Borgu, Nigeria	10°00'N 04°40'E	Jan-Nov	K, R, Resident?	Crick & Marshall 1981 Malimbus 3: 103	
Nabouigou, Togo	10°10'N 00°45'E	Jul	Coverage mostly in wet season	Wells & Walsh 1969 BNOS 6(21): 1 112	
Yelwa, Nigeria	10°52'N 04°40'E	Dec	K, Coverage only for Oct- Dec	Cheke & Walsh 1980 Malimbus 2: 112	
Falgore, Nigeria	11°00'N 08°42'E	May, Jul	R, S, wet season	Hall 1976 BNOS 3(12): 67	
Pendjari & Arli	11°35'N 01°28'E	'Present all year'	R, S, Resident	R. Wilkinson (unpubl.)	
N.P.s, Benin & Upper Volta				Green & Sayer 1979 Malimbus 2: 14	
Potiskum, Nigeria	11°45'N 11°02'E	'Commonest at start & end of dry season'	Augmented by birds on passage?	Elgood 1982	
Maiduguri, Nigeria	11°49'N 13°09'E	Jun-Oct	S, R, wet season	Hall 1977-BNOS 4(13): 15	
Kanc, Nigeria	12°00'N 08°30'E	Jul-Oct; also recently May, Jun	S, H, wet season	Sharland & Wilkinson 1981	
Sokoto, Nigeria	13°02'N 05°16'E	'Odd times of the year; only Jun & Aug noted specifically	Authors consider <i>C. picta</i> 'probably resident'	Malimbus 3: 7 D.J. Aidley (pers. comm.)	
Quadi Enne, Chad	13°30'N 20°30'E	'Wet season', (Jul- Sep?) earliest 29 Jun	R? Wet season	Mundy & Cook 1972-BNOS 3(9): 26	
Quadi Zornam, Chad	14°07'N 19°06'E			Newby 1980-Malimbus 2: 29	
Malamfatori, Nigeria	13°37'N 13°23'E	Jul-Sep	Wet season	Elgood 1982	
Bani, Mali	14°30'N 04°12'W	Aug, SEP	R, S, wet season	Lamarche 1980-Malimbus 2: 121	
Gossi, Mali	15°48'N 01°19'W	Aug		Morel 1968	
Richard Toll, Senegal	16°25'N 15°42'W	Aug-Sep	K, wet season		

Ceyx picta, cont. from p. 54

The evidence available to Elgood et al. in 1973 was insufficient to show that *C. picta* is migrant. With more information on seasonal occurrence of birds at different localities it would not be surprising to find that other species, presently considered to be sedentary, may undertake regular seasonal movements too.

REFERENCES (See also Table 1)

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CORRECTION

Birds of Obudu, Malimbus 2 (1980) p 20: for *Ploceus ocularis* read *Ploceus nigricollis*. A.E. Heaton.

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