



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



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Schedule 2 Controls in Nigeria of Palearctic birds

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

M14492 Ringed 16 July 1981. Taipalsari, Saimaa, Finland. $61^{\circ}10'N$, $28^{\circ}11'E$.

Controlled 25 Dec 1981. Falgore $10^{\circ}50'N$, $8^{\circ}40'E$.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

2481 Ringed 23 June 1979. Erlangen (Germany) $49^{\circ}36'N$, $10^{\circ}58'E$.
Controlled 00 Jan 1982. Nguru $12^{\circ}53'N$, $10^{\circ}28'E$.

0733 Ringed 22 June 1975. Osterburg (Germany) $52^{\circ}59'N$, $11^{\circ}36'E$.
Controlled 00 Jan 1982. Nguru.

Schedule 3 Controls at Kagoro of Afrotropical birds

Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*. Ringed 10 Nov 1978.

Controlled 16 July 1983.

White throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*. Ringed 12 July 1980.

Controlled 16 July 1983.

Green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronata*. Ringed 20 May 1979.

Controlled 16 July 1983.

Moloney's Illadopsis *Trichastoma fulvescens*. Ringed 12 July 1980.

Controlled 18 Sept 1983.

NESTLING-FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF LESSER WOOD HOOPOES - In the members of the *Phoeniculus aterrimus*-*P. cyanomelas* complex there are various degrees of sexual dimorphism in the bill, and sexually different calls (N.C. Davidson, *Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc.* 12, 1976: 2-17). The following observations of the behaviour of a pair at the nest may have some relevance to these two points.

On three occasions between 20 April and 1 May 1960, near Sabon Gari (about $10^{\circ}45'N$, $09^{\circ}E$) in Nigeria, I watched a pair of Lesser Wood Hoopoes *P. aterrimus* at their nest hole about 1.5 m from the ground in a *Combretum* trunk. Observations were made from a photographic hide of natural materials to which the birds had become habituated, 4 m from the nest. The pair always foraged in company and arrived together near the nest at intervals of about 15 minutes, the male calling 'kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa', something like the *sotto-voce* sound of a domestic duck (the "male call"), and the female replied with a soft, wheezing 'see-see-see-see' (the "female call").

The female always flew directly to the nest hole and entered, calling to the nestlings with the "male call" while her mate waited higher on the trunk; she then came to the mouth of the hole and, uttering now the "female call", received the male's food item and carried it into the nest. Adult males have a black gape or mouth lining, juveniles yellow. The



Figure 1 Lesser Wood Hoopoes at nest. Left, female; right, female above and male below.

lining of the female's gape was light yellow - another point of sex distinction; this fact, and the infantile character of the "female call", gave the impression of a nestling soliciting food from a parent.

This routine was invariably followed and the male never entered the nest. Indeed, when on one occasion he flew ahead of his mate and alighted first at the mouth of the hole, the pair was completely nonplussed and both had to fly away again to begin afresh.

Such food as I could clearly see consisted of spiders and mantids, brought singly.

If the behaviour noted here is general, one might conjecture that any foraging advantage of a longer bill for the male *schalowi* is outweighed in the female by the need for manoeuvre in the confines of the nest hole.