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NIGHT HERON AND LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL RECOVERIES IN CHAD

by C. C. H. Elliott

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The following recoveries of foreign-ringed birds have been made in Chad in recent months:

Night heron Nycticorax nycticorax

MOSKWA D755 983

juv. 30.5.75 nr. Goloya Pristan, Kherson, Ukraine S.S.R. 46°31'N 34°36'E

ca. - .12.76 Ere, Bongor, Chad 09°45'N 15°49'E

- caught in fish trap, presumed dead.

This is the thirteenth recovery of a palaearctic Night Heron in Africa and fills in another gap in the recovery pattern, stretching the breadth of Africa immediately south of the Sahara. The other countries involved are Senegal (from Spain), Gambia (France), Guinee (Hungary, Czechoslovakia), Sierra Leone (France, two), Mali (France), Ahaggar, Algeria (Hungary), Nigeria (Hungary, USSR), Cameroun (USSR), and Sudan (USSR). It suggests that the western European populations of Night Herons tend to winter in western Africa while the eastern population choose central and eastern Africa, all at roughly the same latitude.

Lesser black-backed gull Larus fuscus

HELSINKI HT - 031.805

pull. 18.7.75 Virolahti (Kymi) Finland 60°25'N 27°24'E

ca. - 12.75 Ere, Bongor, Chad 09°45'N 15°49'E

- caught in a fish trap, died.

STOCKHOLM 8.041.535

pull. 1.7.76 Angholmarna, Trolle-Ljungby, Skane, Sweden 55°58'N 14°26'E

ca. 13.2.77 Bidanasso, 10 km E of Guelendeng, Chad 10°51'N 15°53'E

- dead on a sand bank in the Chari River.

In the western part of Lake Chad the Lesser Black-backed Gull is occasional (Ash, Ferguson-Lees & Fry 1967) or regular (Vielliard 1972, who says it is rare on the eastern Chadian side). I have not recorded the species in the vicinity of N'Djamena, where L. cirrocephalus is the common gull. On the West African coast Bannerman (1953) noted that the Scandinavian race is much less common than the British one.

REFERENCES

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- Vielliard, J. (1972) Données biogéographiques sur l'avifaune d'Afrique Centrale II. Alauda 11: 63-92

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