

## Recent records of the White Stork, *C. ciconia*, from Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia)

By Constantine W. Benson

Die folgende Arbeit bedeutet einen Abschlußbericht des nach England zurückgekehrten, in der afrikanischen Ornithologie seit Jahrzehnten bewährten Verfassers. Die mitgeteilten Daten bestätigen und ergänzen unsere bisherige Kenntnis der Lage der Weißstorch-Schmalfront im rhodesischen Raum, wie sie bei uns bisher dargelegt ist in: E. SCHÜZ und R. BÖHRINGER, Vom Zug des Weiß-Storchs in Afrika und Asien nach den Ringfunden bis 1949 (Vogelwarte 15, 1950, S. 160—187), und: E. SCHÜZ, Die Verteilung des Weißstorchs im südafrikanischen Ruheziel (Vogelwarte 20, 1960, S. 205—222). Der Verfasser BENSON stimmt auch, wie wir sehen, mit SCHÜZ' Deutung der Südwestafrika- und Angola-Nachweise überein (1960, S. 217).  
Herausgeber

BENSON & WHITE (1957: 6) find that the White Stork is a regular visitor to as far west as the railway line through central Zambia (for the purpose of the present paper taken as 29° E), from October to March. In addition (p. 157), they give records of two flocks each of more than 100 birds seen at Mpika (ca. 31° 30' E) in mid-December and late February. But from western Zambia, despite the activities of such workers as C. M. N. WHITE and J. M. WINTERBOTTOM, they were only able to give one record from the North-Western Province (from Balovale) and none from Barotseland. TRAYLOR (1963: 33) records it as uncommon in Angola, while for South-West Africa HOESCH & NIETHAMMER (J. Orn., suppl., 1940: 141) give but two records, one however of a flock of 200 birds. On the other hand, ANDERSSON (in GURNEY, 1872: 280) found it quite common at Ondonga and in northern Damaraland, and abundant at Lake Ngami, while SMITHERS (1964: 56) records large flocks from Botswana (formerly the Bechuanaland Protectorate). In Malawi (formerly Nyasaland), as might be expected from the situation in eastern Zambia, BENSON (1953: 16) found it to be a regular visitor during November to March.

With the encouragement of Prof. Dr. E. SCHÜZ, at the time of the meeting of the International Council for Bird Preservation in Bulawayo, Rhodesia, in 1957, careful records have been kept of all subsequent sightings of White Storks in Zambia. These records, which follow below, are arranged in order from west to east. Co-ordinates are given for any locality neither traceable on the map nor in the gazetteer of localities in BENSON & WHITE (1957). Records of plural numbers may be assumed to refer to flocks, unless otherwise indicated. They reflect the position up to the end of 1966.

### Western Zambia (west of 29° E)

Liuwa Plain: 2 at a pan, with 2 *Ibis ibis* and 45 *Platalea alba*, 17th May, 1964 (R. C. HART).

Kafue National Park (these records are summarised by BROOKE, Puku, 4, 1966: 60). — (a) Busanga Plain, at 14° 10' S 25° 46' E: 2, 29th Oct., 1960 (J. M. C. UYS). — (b) Shakalonga, 16° 03' S 25° 56' E: 3 feeding on burnt grassland, immediately after passing of fire, 4th July, 1960 (R. I. G. ATTWELL). — (c) Nanzhila, 16° 15' S 25° 58' E: 1 on recently burnt grassland, 18th June, 1962 (ATTWELL).

Choma: 15 flying eastward, at 14.15 hrs., 14th Mar., 1960 (Uys).

Lochinvar Ranch: 10 present whole day, 15th Aug., 1960, scattered individually on recently burnt grassland, probably feeding on insects killed by fire (C. W. BENSON).

Sinazongwe, 17° 16' S 27° 27' E: 8 around a fire on recently cleared land, probably preying on insects escaping from fire, ca. 50 *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* also present, 4th May, 1961 (BENSON).

Mazabuka: Ca. 50 on ploughed land, Mar., 1962 (R. H. SMEATON).

Upper Kafue drainage (North Kafue Basin): Uncommon, mostly recorded during Apr., May, a few in June, and 1, 20th and 21st Aug., 1963 (for further details, see TREE, Ostrich, 1966: 184).

Within 60 km of Lusaka: — (a) 20 on cultivated land, 13th Apr., 1958, 2 likewise, 5th Aug., 1958, 20 preying on grasshoppers on cultivated land, 13th Apr., 1959 (ATTWELL). — (b) 20 seen

daily in same place 3 km south of Lusaka, 19th to 25th Apr., 1959, 8 at 15 km south, 24th May, 1959 (I. R. GRIMWOOD). — (c) 7 on ploughed land, 9th and 10th Jan., 1960 (A. DIGGINS). — (d) Records for Mar., Apr., Nov., 1960, including ca. 300, 19th Nov., also 1, 22nd July, 1960 (for further details, see TREE, Ostrich, 23 (4), 1962: 4). — (e) 1 on cultivated land, 16th Aug., 1960 (BENSON). — (f) 90 on *Acacia* trees, 25th Mar., 1961, at 07.30 hrs., departing immediately thereafter eastward (Uys). — (g) 27 on ploughed land, 27th Apr. to 1st May, 1962 (V. H. GILLET). — (h) 1 with large flock of *Ciconia abdimii* 22nd Nov., 1962 (W. S. STEEL). — (i) 8 on ploughed land, 3rd Dec., 1962 (J. N. E. JOHNSON). — (j) 2 on ploughed land, 10th Mar., 1963 (W. F. H. ANSELL). — (k) 1 on old cultivation, 31st May, 1963 (BENSON).

Ndola: 1, 7th May, 1961, 14 following day (W. VAN DER ELST).

#### Eastern Zambia (east of 29° E)

Chiawa, 15° 44' S 29° 00' E: 1 collected by WILLIAM IFUMBA, 8th Apr., 1961, who said there were ca. 200 present throughout his stay there, from 30th Mar. to 11th Apr. (BENSON).

Between Feira and 45 km to north: Ca. 100 in all, in scattered small flocks, but including one of 25, 20th Dec., 1962 (JOHNSON).

At 14° 45' S 30° 45' E: 22, 19th Mar., 1960 (B. L. MITCHELL); 36 at height of 150 m, at 08.00 hrs., 16th Jan., 1964 (BENSON).

Mpulungu (south end of Lake Tanganyika): Ca. 50 flying southward, 20th Oct., 1959 (STEEL).

Within 30 km of Mpika: Large numbers, Mar., 1960, including four flocks totalling 3,320 individuals, "all in view at one time", 10th Mar. (for further details, see TREE, Ostrich, 1961: 86); 3 on Mpika airfield, 27th Feb., 1959 (D. R. M. STEWART).

Mfuwe, Luangwa Valley at 13° 03' S 31° 47' E: 2 on airfield, 4th Dec., 1963 (ANSELL); 1, 29th June, 1964 (Uys); 3, 16th Mar., 1966, 1, 25th Mar., 1966, ca. 400., 15th Dec., 1966, less than 12 five days later, none following day (R. J. DOWSETT).

Chinsali: Ca. 200 on airfield, 18th Dec., 1962 (M. D. CRONE).

Katete, 14° 03' S 32° 02' E: 1, 8th Mar., 1960 (MITCHELL); 5, 19th and 20th Jan., 1963 (DOWSETT).

Within 30 km of Fort Jameson: 1, 15th Apr., 1963 (ANSELL); 1, 17th Jan. and 5th Feb., 1964, 3 (with ca. 100 *Ciconia abdimii*), 9th Feb., 1964 (G. HARRISON).

The foregoing records help fill in the gap for western Zambia. They show much fewer numbers of birds than further east. The records from the Kafue National Park, whence there is a total of only six individuals, are all the more significant because there have been several observers resident in the area since 1959. There is only the one western record of a flock of 100 birds or more, and furthermore it is from as far east as Lusaka. By contrast, there are four records of 100 or more from eastern Zambia, and this counting as one record TREE's total of 3,320 birds seen at one time near Mpika. It is also noteworthy that in the southern Congo, although VERHEYEN (1953: 215) gives records from the Upemba National Park (ca. 9° S 26° 30' E), including at least one flock of as many as 100 birds, RUWET (1965) gives not a single record from the Lufira area (ca. 11° S 27° E). It may be that the paucity of records from western Zambia and immediately to the northward is because this area does not lie on a line of migration. The Zambian records detailed above indicate that the birds are most numerous in November and December, and again in March, thus confirming WHITE & WINTERBOTTOM (1949: 7), who state that this species is (partially) a passage migrant. It would be interesting to know by what route those birds which visit Botswana and South-West Africa travel. They may use an eastern route, in view of the fact that TRAYLOR (op. cit.) regards this species as uncommon in Angola. Such a supposition would accord rather well with fig. 4 in VERHEYEN (Geffaut, 1950: 1—16).

A further point is the records of small numbers of birds falling within the period May to September. It is assumed that such birds had failed to return to their breeding quarters in the palaeartic, rather than that they were migrants from further south. To be sure, there is a record (not included above) of a bird ringed as a nestling at Bredasdorp, South Africa, recovered near the border of Zambia with Tanzania, on 25th March, 1962 (McLACHLAN, Ostrich, 1963: 48). But there are very few authentic

records of breeding in southern Africa (BENSON & IRWIN, *Ardea*, 1963: 220), and more-over the record from Zululand which they mention is referable to *Ciconia nigra* (LAWSON, *Ostrich*, 1965: 140).

Finally, attention may be drawn to a number of records from cultivated or ploughed land around Lusaka, where there has in recent years been considerable development of farming by modern methods. The same applies even more particularly, and over a longer period, to the country around Salisbury, Rhodesia. So it is interesting that BROOKE (*S. Afr. Avif. Ser.*, 9, 1963, also *Proc. Centr. Afr. Sci. & Med. Congr.*, Lusaka, 1965: 297—307) finds that occurrences of *Ciconia ciconia* around Salisbury have increased with changed methods of cultivation. Airfields, whence there are records from Mpika and Chinsali, may also favour the species.

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## Wachtel (*Coturnix coturnix*) „wassert“ im Roten Meer

Von Wolfgang Kost, Schwäbisch Hall

An Bord des Zweimastschoners „Xarifa“ („Xarifaexpedition 1957“, Dr. HANS HASS) konnte ich im Südteil des Roten Meeres etwa auf der Höhe von Massaua folgendes beobachten: Am Morgen des 10. November 1957 kam flach über die See eine Wachtel angestrichen und ließ sich knapp neben der Bordwand auf der Wasseroberfläche nieder. Etwa eine halbe Minute lang schaukelte die Wachtel, ohne wesentlich benetzt zu werden, auf den Wellen. Plötzlich flog sie sichtlich mühelos wieder vom Wasser auf und verschwand in flachem Flug zwischen den Wogenkämmen. Möglicherweise war sie vorzeitig, durch unsere Beobachtung gestört, aufgefliegen. Ich konnte den Vorgang durch ein Bullauge auf etwa 2 Meter Entfernung genau erkennen, aber leider nicht mit Sicherheit feststellen, ob die Wachtel nochmals in einiger Entfernung vom Schiff „wasserte“

Am 3. Mai 1966 beobachtete ich ein sehr ähnliches Verhalten bei einer Haustaube in Schwäbisch Hall. Die Taube versuchte in mehrfachen, vergeblichen Anflügen ihren Durst vom Rand eines künstlichen Teiches her zu löschen. Der Vogel war sichtlich bei den hohen Temperaturen ungewöhnlich durstig. Der Wasserspiegel des Teiches war aber zu stark abgesunken. Zudem erschwerte ein ungünstiger Abwind am Hang die Landung. Plötzlich überflog die Taube bei einem weiteren Landungsversuch den Beckenrand und ließ sich mitten auf der Wasserfläche mit leicht abgewinkelten Schwingen nieder, steckte sofort Kopf und Hals unter Wasser und sog einen tiefen Schluck ein. Anschließend erhob sie sich sichtlich ebenfalls mühelos von der Wasseroberfläche und flog weg.

Es ist mir leider nicht bekannt, ob ähnliche Beobachtungen häufiger gemacht worden sind. Man müßte aber demnach in Betracht ziehen, daß sich z. B. Wachteln beim Überqueren großer Wasserflächen auf dem Zug doch gelegentlich auf der Oberfläche niederlassen können, um kurz zu rasten. Sehr erschöpften Vögeln mag natürlich der Start von der Oberfläche nicht mehr gelingen. Bei längerem „Wassern“ dürften solche Vögel auch leicht von Barrakudas, Carangiden oder Haien erbeutet werden.

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