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GREY PHALAROPES (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) NEAR LAGOS

J. F. Brown.

While out in my boat fishing in the sea off the West Mole of Lagos Harbour on the evening of 25 March, 1973, I observed a group of about twelve small birds swimming close to the Mole. At first I thought they were young terns, but I approached for a closer look. Although the sea was fairly rough, I got quite close to them, and they appeared quite undisturbed by my boat. Being still unsure of the birds' identity, I mentioned the incident to Joe Heigham the following day. Mr & Mrs Heigham therefore walked out to the end of the West Mole on Saturday, 31st March at about 3.30 p.m. and observed the birds, which they identified as Grey Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). The birds were observed for about 15 minutes, flying in among terns (Black Terns, Sandwich Terns, Common Terns, Common Noddies) fishing, and also occasionally alighting on the sea and swimming for short periods.

I went out again by boat the following evening, Sunday 1st April, observed the birds again, and confirmed Mr Heigham's identification. The relative unconcern at the approach of my boat is confirmed by Bannerman, who comments that Grey Phalaropes are extremely tame when resting on water.

I understand that this may be the first time Grey Phalaropes have been reported from Nigeria.

[This is the first record from Nigeria, but there have been previous encounters from the coasts of Liberia and Cameroun.

Editor.]