



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



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Peterson et al. (1966), Cave & MacDonald (1955) or Grossman & Hamlet (1965); i.e. B. buteo, B. rufinus, the Rough-legged Buzzard B. lagopus, the Steppe Buzzard B. vulpinus, the Eastern Steppe Buzzard B. menetriesi, the Mountain Buzzard B. oreophilus, the Jackal Buzzard B. rufofuscus, or B. auguralis.

Apart from the Cape Verde Is. B. buteo bannermani, this species is not known to occur in West Africa; however a number of examples of Long-legged Buzzards B. rufinus have now been recorded, including one sight record from Nigeria (Hopson, 1965), and five specimens and sight records in Senegal (Morel & Roux, 1966). The latter consist of : one B. r. rufinus (Eurasia) captured in 1913, one B. r. cirtensis (North Africa) captured 1961, one B. r. rufinus collected 1964, and two seen 1965. C.H.Fry

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Escape-Diving in Egyptian-Plover Chick and Black Crake. It is probably the case that most birds closely associated with water can swim. That an adult Black Crake Limnocorax limnocorax should do so is not particularly surprising, but it is worth placing on record that one which panicked on walking into (but not getting caught up by) a mist-net set in reed-beds at Tubkin Madareri, Sokoto Province (See p.), escaped underwater, re-appearing about two metres away. It may have swum or clung to underwater vegetation.

On the lower Kaduna River, near Bida, I saw several chicks of Egyptian-Plovers Pluvianus aegyptius in mid-April 1965. One of these, about a week old, I chased across a sand-bar to the water's edge, where it jumped in without hesitation, immediately submerged, and 'flew' underwater using its wings for about 20 metres. After 15 - 20 seconds it surfaced in midstream, where I caught it and found it scarcely wetted. The edge of the sand bar formed a cliff a few inches high. The water was clear and an excellent view was had of the first few metres of the chick's 'flying' progress.