



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



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species, and therefore, all the other races are virtually sedentary although local movement has been observed in Zambia and is thought to occur in Rhodesia. It would appear, if this latter theory is correct, that pallidogriseus is restricted in range to the Jos Plateau in Central Nigeria and the inselbergs that surround it in lowland savanna.

I would be most grateful for any information regarding this species in Nigeria especially breeding information, observations (February-March) and specimens.

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NOTES.

VULTURES by P.J. Mundy & A.W. Cook.

(a) Common Vulture, Neophron monachus.

In our experience, after examining nearly 100 nests this small vulture has a clutch of one. We know of only one recorded instance where two eggs were laid, also in Nigeria (R. Shuel in Boughton-Leigh, 1932, Ibis, p. 458).

So far we have added one egg each to the clutches of two pairs of vultures. In one, both eggs were similar in size and colour, and the adult had already been incubating its own egg for at least three weeks. It accepted the new egg and has successfully hatched both, three or four days apart. We examined the nest during the actual hatching of the second chick and one of us had to lift the adult off

the nest! We should add that the hatching chick was cheeping all the while, but neither the elder chick nor the adult were vocalizing.

In the second nest, the adult had been incubating its own egg for at least one week. The new egg was markedly different in colour, being heavily spotted with brown, whereas the original egg was wholly white. The nest was examined two days later when only one egg remained, that of the sitting bird. Fragments of the "foreign" eggshell were present, but more interestingly, a small rock half the size of a tennis ball. Should we jump to the obvious conclusion, since we know that the Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus in East Africa can break ostrich eggs with rocks? But further than this, what intentions should we attribute to the sitting bird?

(b) Ruppell's Griffon, Gyps ruppellii.

On a recent visit to Waza National Park (N.Cameroun) in December P.J.M. found a nesting colony of Ruppell's Griffon on a very small rocky hill at the entrance of the Park. Photos of incubating birds were obtained from a range of 25 yds. and also some cine film was taken. There were at least 12 nests.

We believe this to be the second confirmed breeding site of G.ruppellii in West Africa, the first being on Kotorkoshi Inselberg (B.N.O.S. vol.8, 1971, p.46).

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AFRICAN BLACK SWIFT Apus barbatus FROM OBUDU PLATEAU: A SPECIES NEW TO NIGERIA.

by Roy H.Parker.

Some time ago a specimen, labelled Apus apus, was discovered (in the collections of the Zoology Museum, Univ. Ibadan) not to be of this species, but an African Black Swift Apus barbatus.

The specimen was collected by F.C.Sibley on 19th.March 1961, at Obudu Plateau, Eastern Nigeria (ca.6°40'N., 9°10'E.). The bird, an adult female, weighed 45.8grms and had wing, bill and tarsus lengths of 177, 6.5 and 14mm respectively.

The bird further proved to be of the Fernando Poo sub-species Apus barbatus sladeniae, thereby constituting only the fourth authenticated record of the race from mainland Africa, the others being represented by