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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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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

a specimen from Bakossi, S.Cameroun (vide. Bannerman, 1953) and two from Mt.Moco in Angola (Brooke 1970). The specimen was sent to the British Museum (Nat.Hist.) for comparison and to A.E.De Roo who had recently described a new race (A.b.serlei (De Roo 1970) from the Bamenda Range in S.W.Cameroun about 90 miles from the locality where the present specimen was collected.

The African Black Swift is distributed widely in mountainous regions throughout Africa except Ethiopia and three sub-species have been described for West Africa:- A.b.glanvillei Benson, from a single specimen from Robupr, Sierra Leone; A.b.sladeniae (Ogilvie-Grant) Fernando Poo and adjacent S.Cameroun and Mt.Moco, Angola; and A.b.serlei De Roo from two specimens from Sabga, nr. Bamenda, Cameroun.

This article is an extract from a more detailed paper (Parker 1971), which is placed here for the benefit of those ornithologists in West Africa who do not have the opportunity of reading the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists Club.

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