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**Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest**  
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### **Horus Swift *Apus horus*, new to Cameroon**

On 27 February 1992 in Cameroon, I stopped by a colony of Red-throated Bee-eaters *Merops bullocki* which were breeding in a gully by the side of the road near the Ranch de Ngaoundaba, approximately 20 km south-east of Ngaoundéré (7°19'N, 13°55'E) on the Adamawa Plateau. One of my companions, C.-G. Cederlund, spotted some swifts circling overhead which he thought were Horus Swift *Apus horus*. I confirmed the identification and, realising that there were very few records of this species in West Africa, I paid particular attention to the birds. There were at least ten Horus Swifts flying above the bee-eater colony; they frequently flew low over the gully, affording excellent views of both upper- and undersides. The birds had conspicuous white rumps which wrapped around onto the flanks, much larger in extent than the rump-patch of White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*. The tail was conspicuously forked, but lacked attenuated outer tail feathers, and there was a large white throat patch. I am familiar with this species in East and southern Africa.

In eastern and southern Africa the Horus Swift utilises nesting burrows of bee-eaters or sand-martins, particularly those of White-fronted Bee-eaters *Merops bullockoides*, the eastern counterpart of Red-throated Bee-eater. The swifts were not seen to enter any of the bee-eater burrows, which were occupied at the time, but the association with the bee-eater colony strongly suggests that the birds might breed at this site.

There are few documented records of this species in West Africa. Ash (1990) obtained the first breeding record for Nigeria at a site between the Mambilla Plateau and Serti, approximately 270 km west of the Adamawa Plateau. Fry *et al.* (1988) suggest that the species almost certainly occurs and breeds in north Cameroon/west Chad on the River Chari. Louette (1981) gives no records of the species for Cameroon. This would appear to be the first documented occurrence of the species in Cameroon.

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Horus Swift-Martinet *horus-Apus horus*.

Drawing: Hilary Tye