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développée nous désigna l'oiseau comme un "dissident". La taille comparable à celle du Martinet noir nous a aussitôt confortés dans l'idée qu'il ne pouvait s'agir que d'un Martinet pâle. Cette mention paraît la première de l'espèce en Côte d'Ivoire (ce martinet ne figurant pas dans la récente synthèse de Thiollay: Malimbus 7: 1-59). Sa présence au sommet du Mont Nimba n'est somme toute pas si surprenante: Lamarche pour le Mali (Malimbus 2: 121-158) estime qu'Apus pallidus est régulier, voire fréquent sur tous les massifs rocheux (falaise du Bandiagara et Monts Mandingues, principalement).

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BILL AND LEG COLOUR IN FORBES' PLOVER

Charadrius forbesi - During my stay in the République of Zaire (1950-1960) I collected 12 Forbes' Plovers Charadrius forbesi in the region of Ikela (01°49'S, 23°17'E), Basankusu (01°14'N, 19°48'E) and Mbandaka (0°04'N, 18°16'E). The skins are preserved in the Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika (KMMA) at Tervuren, Belgium. Bill and leg colour were examined a few hours after collecting. My observations did not agree with those of Hayman, Marchant & Prater (1986 Shorebirds, Croom Helm, London) who wrote: "bill dark brown, some pinkish at base of lower mandible; legs yellowish-or pinkish brown."

My notes were as follows:

ADULT BIRDS

- 2 males, 1 female, Nov-Dec: bill black with some orange behind the nostrils, at the gape and near the gonys as described by Schouteden (1954 Faune du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi. III, Oiseaux non Passereaux. Ann. Koninkl. Mus. Belg.-Kongo, reeks in 8°, Zool. Wet., deel 29); legs flesh.
- 1 female, Nov: bill red orange with a black tip; legs flesh.
- 1 unsexed, Nov: bill black with some orange at the gape; legs pale brown.
- 2 males, Febr: bill red orange with black tip; legs flesh.

IMMATURE BIRDS

- 1 male, 4 females, Aug-Dec: bill flesh with a black tip; legs flesh except in one very young female (Oct) legs grey brown.

Comparatively the colour of the bare parts are the same in Hayman et al. (1986) and in Bannerman (1953 The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa. Volume 1. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh). Urban, Fry & Keith (1986 The Birds of Africa. Volume 2. Academic Press, London) also describe the bill as dark brown, pinkish at the base but the legs are described as pale yellowish to purple-brown. It may be that further detailed observations

still need to be made on colour of bare parts in other African birds.

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INLAND RECORDS OF WESTERN REEF HERON *Egretta gularis*

IN WEST AFRICA - Eccles (1985, Malimbus 7: 114) has given details of two inland sightings of the Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* in Ivory Coast and Nigeria, and has drawn attention to the fact that Brown et al. (1982 The Birds of Africa Vol. I) make no reference to inland sightings of this species from West Africa. Given the apparent rarity of inland records for West Africa (none are mapped by Snow 1978, An Atlas of Speciation in African Non-passerine Birds, though Bannerman 1953, The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa, Vol. I mentions a record from the inundation zone of the Niger river, and Sharland & Wilkinson 1981, Malimbus 3: 7-30 give details of birds at a lake near Kano in 1978 and 1979) the following observations, made during a long career of river watching, are perhaps worthy of note. All relate to dark phase birds.

- 1 at Vea Dam, Bolgatanga, Ghana ($10^{\circ}48'N$, $0^{\circ}51'W$) on six dates between 22 July and 31 August 1972.
- 1 at Pwalugu Bridge, White Volta river, Ghana ($10^{\circ}35'N$, $0^{\circ}51'W$) on 18.4.1977.
- 1 at Tafo Dam, Ghana ($6^{\circ}13'N$, $0^{\circ}22'W$) on 29.1.1978.
- 1 at Ouagadougou Barrage, Burkina Faso ($12^{\circ}23'N$, $1^{\circ}31'W$) on 1.5.1978 and 29.7.1979.
- 2 at Kankan, Milo river, Guinea Conakry ($10^{\circ}25'N$, $9^{\circ}18'W$) on 1.11.1984.
- 3 separately on Sassandra river, Ivory Coast (between $8^{\circ}22'N$ and $8^{\circ}26'N$) on 2.3.1985 and 13 separately (between $7^{\circ}50'N$ and $8^{\circ}26'N$) on 13.4.1985.
- 2 at the Bagbe stream - Gbe Stream confluence, Guinea Conakry ($8^{\circ}30'N$, $8^{\circ}03'W$) on 21.3.1985 and 1 on 10.4.1985.
- 1 at Odienne Dam, Ivory Coast ($9^{\circ}36'N$, $7^{\circ}32'W$) on 16.3.1985 and 14.4.1985.

Whether these sightings relate to a distinct species *E. gularis* or a dark-phase of *E. garzetta* cannot be ascertained. However, the Tafo bird was present with several *E. garzetta* and could only be distinguished on plumage colour, whereas on the Togo coast *E. gularis* and *E. garzetta* seen together on 2.2.1986 seemed structurally different.