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occasionally gave bursts of song, again suggesting that it was the male. The site was always a terminal fork, with light leaf shading above, rather thicker in the case of the *Tecoma*, though here, by the time the young fledged, the tree had almost entirely shed its leaves. The outer shells of the nests were of leaves, usually dead but sometimes green, with spiders' webs and lichen but practically no moss, and with a rather perfunctory lining of petioles, the whole seeming rather small for the size of bird. The two eggs (not measured) were pinkish, heavily marked all over with purplish red-brown streaks and smears, so that at a glance they looked simply brown. Both sexes incubated and brought food to the young, in the latter case swooping up onto a twig below the nest, pausing for several seconds and then hopping up onto the nest. After delivering the food, the adult swallowed faecal pellets. It then usually brooded the young for several minutes, even when they were quite large, though I cannot be sure that both sexes did this. Only one breeding attempt was completed successfully; usually the nests were predated, probably by Vine Snakes *Thelotornis kirtlandii* which were plentiful in the area. The successful nest (in the *Tecoma*) was started a few days before 9 November and the single young fledged 11 December.

The species was observed elsewhere in Sierra Leone either building or carrying food, both inside and at the edge of the forest, usually in much higher trees (some 15-20 m high) though one nest in a small tree at the forest edge was only slightly higher than my garden nests. In all, my records show breeding or attempted breeding in Jun (1, the only pre-rains record), Sep (3), Oct (5), Nov (8), Dec (2), Jan (2), the month being adjusted to the assumed date of laying. This seasonality is typical of *Andropadus* (Keith *et al.* 1992), although the species more strictly confined to forest (*A. virens*, *A. latirostris*, *A. ansorgei*) continue breeding well into the dry season (Feb-Mar) (Keith *et al.* 1992, pers. obs).

I thank John Elgood for reading this note and making some helpful comments.

Reference

KEITH, S., URBAN, E.K. & FRY, C.H. (1992) *The Birds of Africa*, vol. 4. Academic Press, London.

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Nest sites of Brown Nightjar *Caprimulgus binotatus* and Collared Nightjar *C. enarratus*

I was interested to read the notes on Brown Nightjar *Caprimulgus binotatus* by Carroll & Fry (1987) and Fry (1988), and would like to point out a record of a nightjar species nesting other than on a firm substance which pre-dates the one discussed in the notes: the Madagascan endemic Collared Nightjar *C. enarratus* has been recorded nesting on

an epiphytic fern *Asplenium* on a tree-trunk, 1.7 m above the ground (Dhondt 1976). Like the Brown Nightjar, the Collared Nightjar is a little-known species of the rainforest interior with large eyes and ridged eyebrows and whose nestlings have not been documented. Anomalously, its eggs are unmarked white, and it possesses a "facial disc", similar to that of a Barn Owl *Tyto alba* and which, I believe, does not occur in any other member of the genus.

References

CARROLL, R.W. & FRY, C.H. (1987) A range extension and probable breeding record of the Brown Nightjar (*Caprimulgus binotatus* Bonaparte) in southwestern Central African Republic. *Malimbus* 9: 125-127.

DHONDT, A. (1976) Une nidification de l'Engoulevent à collier *Caprimulgus enmaratus*. *Oiseaux Rev. fr. Orn.* 46: 173-174.

FRY, C.H. (1988) Brown Nightjar. *Malimbus* 10: 222.

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Book Reviews

The Vultures of Africa. By P. Mundy, D. Butchart, J. Ledger & S. Piper, 1992. 464 pp., numerous line drawings and colour plates. Acorn Books, Randburg / Russel Friedman Books, Halfway House. ISBN 1-874802-03-3. US$60, hardback.

This is a labour of love by four vulture experts, as expressively declared in a preface and acknowledgments. It is not, however, intended primarily for other vulture experts (if it were, sales would be small!) but is a good read for any interested naturalist. The style is easy and conversational; discussions start from first principles (*e.g.* a page on how evolution works) but progress to include the latest research results (to early 1992!) and the most arcane facts. Thus everyone, from layman to expert, will find interest in it. There is also much stimulating speculation in areas where knowledge is lacking, such as the function of the bare "eyes" beside the crop in griffons. The residences of the authors and, to some extent, availability of data, give the book a southern African emphasis, but the authors have tried to be as pan-African as possible, and there is a lot of West African information within. What few errors I spotted were not southern African, for example Djoudj National Park is said to be part of the Saloum area, and the Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* is not shown as present in Liberia nor "in the forest zone between Freetown and Ghana" (perpetuating the error of *The Birds of Africa*).