



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



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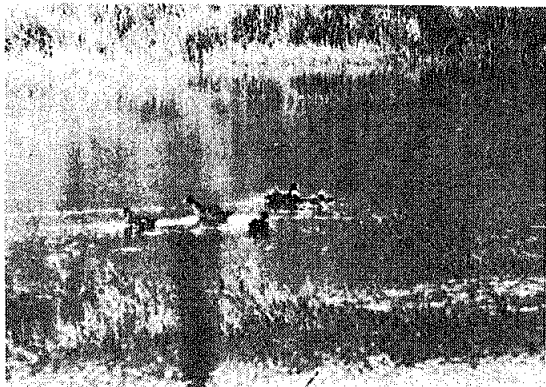
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FIRST YELLOW-BILLED DUCK RECORD FOR NIGERIA - This photograph of five Yellow-billed Ducks Anas undulata was taken by Chris Pearson on Mambilla Plateau, Nigeria, "about 1978", and was brought to my attention through the good offices of R.E. Sharland. The original is a colour print and shows clearly the bright yellow bills of all five birds, as well as other plumage features which make the identification unquestionable. The only previous West



African record is of one specimen from Vina River, Cameroon (Monard, 1951, cited by M. Louette, 1981, The Birds of Cameroon an Annotated Check-List, and mapped by Snow, 1978, An Atlas of Speciation in African Nonpasserine birds). Otherwise the species is unknown west of a line between north Ethiopia and west Angola. There are two 'good' races, differentiated on bill colour and some plumage features; but the race of the Mambilla birds cannot be safely determined from the photo. In southern Africa the species is somewhat migratory, with the most distant recovery of 1100 km; but whether the Mambilla (and Cameroon) birds are resident or migrants is open to question.

C.H. Fry

LITTLE EGRETS AND REEF HERONS HOVERING —

On 19 May 1985 I was watching a group of herons feeding quietly on a tidal mudflat in the lagoon of Abidjan. Species included Great White Egret Egretta alba (1), Yellow-billed Egret E. intermedia (2), Little Egret E. garzetta (11), Reef Heron E. gularis (13) and Grey Heron Ardea cinerea (1 imm). Suddenly a Little Egret started hovering over the shallow water of the lagoon, stabbing at small fish below. Its example was immediately followed by other Little Egrets as well as by Reef Herons. Sometimes while hovering their feet were trailing in the water and one Reef Heron even lowered itself slowly into the water, up to the belly, without touching ground. After a while up to three E. garzetta and five E. gularis were foraging this way. They were still doing so when I left half an hour later.