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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
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ALBINO GREY PLOVER AT LAGOS.

On the evening of 20th October 1969, J.B.Heigham and W.H.Houston observed a plover-like bird on the mud flats in the mangrove swamp at the eastern end of Victoria Island consorting with a Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula and a Forbes' Banded Plover Afroxyechus forbesi. The bird was the same shape and size as a Grey Plover Squatarola squatarola and behaved in a characteristic manner but its plumage was pure white and the only features in which colours were seen while it was on the ground were; its eye which was black, its bill which was grey with a light tip and dark base and its legs which were dark grey but appeared brownish or greenish at some angles of sight. The bird was subsequently flushed and in flight its plumage was completely white, including wing tips and tail, with the exception of light brown mottling at the junction of under-wing and flank. From size, shape and behaviour and the slightly darker under-wing we concluded that this was an albino individual of S. squatarola.

The bird was seen again in the same area on 27th October by J.B.H. and Mr. & Mrs. M. F. Forester. On this occasion it was consorting with another Grey Plover with which it eventually flew off.

It was seen for the last time by Mr. & Mrs M.F.F. in the same area on 28th October 1969.

J. B. Heigham.

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