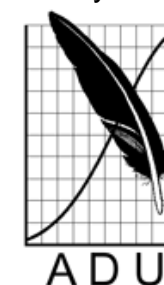


Ornithological Observations



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Ornithological Observations accepts papers containing faunistic information about birds. This includes descriptions of distribution, behaviour, breeding, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and plumage. It will also consider for publication a variety of other interesting or relevant ornithological material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, and any other interesting or relevant material.

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RAIDER OF THE BAGLAFECHT WEAVER NEST: VERVET MONKEY

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RAIDER OF THE BAGLAFECHT WEAVER NEST: VERVET MONKEY

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During June 2013 I was presenting a training course at the Fish Eagle Inn Hotel next to Lake Naivasha in Kenya. During this time I had the opportunity to submit many Virtual Museum records.

Next to our training facility there was a Bougainvillea plant that grew into a palm tree. In this group of plants there were two weaver nest sites. One site consisted of a group of Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* nests (see PHOWN 5759) and the other a group of nine Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* nests (see PHOWN 5823). The Spectacled Weaver nests were built on the palm leaves and the Baglafaecht Weaver nests were on the palm leaves and on the Bougainvillea plant (Fig. 1).

On 25 June 2013 a young male of the local Vervet Monkey *Cerco-pithecus pygerythrus* troop raided the Baglafaecht Weaver nest site (see PHOWN 5892). Although there were other monkeys, he was the only one that took nests. There were two males and one female Baglafaecht Weavers in the tree next to the nest site making quite a noise. The monkey first took an old nest which was left on the ground (I presume he did not find anything inside; Fig. 2) and then took a new green nest. He jumped out of the tree and went to another tree where he sat and started ripping the nest apart (Fig. 3). I discovered one egg under the nest site and it looked like he took out another egg while he was sitting in the other tree.



Fig 1 - Baglafaecht Weaver nests – part of the colony on 21 June 2013.

Vervet Monkeys have been recorded as raiding weaver nests previously – Southern Masked Weavers (Skinner and Skinner 1974), and Lesser Masked Weavers (D'Hondt and D'Hondt 1990).

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Acknowledgements

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Fig. 2 - The first nest that was dropped (broken egg shell next to it).



Fig. 3 - Vervet Monkey with Baglafaecht Weaver nest.

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PHOWN 5759 - http://weavers.adu.org.za/phown_vm.php?vm=5759

PHOWN 5823 - http://weavers.adu.org.za/phown_vm.php?vm=5823

PHOWN 5892 - http://weavers.adu.org.za/phown_vm.php?vm=5892