would expect a bird to strike at fish preferentially in the area towards which its head is tilted, whereas in the latter case there should be no such preference. Their evidence favoured the second hypothesis; headtilting was always towards the sun, and was more marked if the water was made turbid.

During the incident described on the Nata River the water must have been turbid because of the disturbance of the muddy bottom by the restless Little Egrets, and it is noteworthy that the latter evidently were able to detect and catch fish without resorting to headtilting. Possibly the difference in behaviour can be explained by their continual movement, as a fish fleeing from the proximity of one bird might pass through the glarefree area within the catching range of a second bird. The lone Yellowbilled Egret, in contrast, stood quite still while looking for fish, so its chance of catching anything may have been increased by headtilting to shift the area of glare out of its effective catching area.

Krebs & Partridge (*op. cit.*) do not discuss why the heron does not merely orientate so that it is facing directly away from the sun. I hazard the suggestion that such an orientation, causing the bird's own shadow to fall immediately in front, would make fish difficult to perceive in turbid water. With the sun on one side, however, moving silvery fish might flash even in turbid water, and be easily seen.

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Bird feeding records from South West Africa

1. Night-feeding in Forktailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*. On two calm nights (from 21:30 onwards) in September a pair of Forktailed Drongos were seen hawking insects in the beam of floodlights at the Okaukuejo water hole in the Etosha National Park. The two birds fed for periods of up to 1,5 hours.
2. An adult Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* captured a Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus* on the side of a road in northern South West Africa.
3. Rednecked Falcon *Falco chiquera* in the Namib Desert Park.
   (a) In July 1974 two Greybacked Finchlarks *Eremopterix verticalis* were found beneath a tree used by a female Rednecked Falcon as a feeding post. Only the heads had been eaten.
   (b) During late September 1974 five carcasses of African Quail *Coturnix coturnix* were found on an old vulture nest. A female Rednecked Falcon was disturbed from an uneaten carcass. Of the remainder one had only the head eaten, two had head, heart and lungs removed but the remainder of the bodies untouched, and one was almost completely devoured. All had been killed within the past 24 hours, and the crop of the uneaten bird was completely empty.

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Cooperative breeding, duetting, allopreening and swimming in the Black Crake

Little is known of the biology of most African members of the Rallidae including the common and widespread Black Crake *Limnocorax flavirostris*, a sexually monomorphic, resident species of dense, permanent emergent vegetation which breeds at any time of the year, irrespective of season, at least in the tropics. I have often, as opportunity has arisen, made notes on this species since it is one that freely duets simultaneously, not antiphonally, as Chapin (1939, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 75:11) suspected, though it is not among the species discussed by Payne (1971, Ostrich Suppl. 9:125–146). However, it is not primarily on this aspect of their biology but on the assistance of immature individuals in nest building and looking after the downy young that I wish to present observations made in Rhodesia. I am prompted to do so since the essence of the matter is being included in Dr L. G. Grimes's review of cooperative breeding in African birds presented to International Ornithological Congress XVI.