

# LANIOTURDUS

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## Second Record of two Lappet-faced Vulture Chicks reared in one Nest in Namibia

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Lappet-faced Vultures *Torgos tracheliotus* are generally considered to lay one egg clutches (Hockey *et al.* 2005, Mundy *et al.* 1992) although two egg clutches have been recorded by Clinning (1978) and Bridgeford *et al.* (1995).



**Figure 1: The *Acacia erioloba* tree with the nest clearly visible.**

On 24 October 2013 two chicks were found in a single nest near Bakenkop in the Namib-Naukluft Park (23° 24.218'S 15° 34.465'E). Both chicks were alive and well and approximately 100 days old when found, as determined by the wing lengths (610 mm and 620 mm), using age-growth curves from Mundy (1982). The nest was quite large (3.0 x 1.6 m) and about 5.75 m above the ground in a solitary *Acacia erioloba*. One chick was considerably heavier than the other (6 780 g vs 7 880 g, measured with a digital scale accurate to 10 g). The chicks were ringed using SAFRING metal rings and fitted with patagial tags.



**Figure 2: The chicks before tagging on 24 October 2013.**

The nest was re-visited on 2 November 2013, mainly to obtain blood samples for DNA analysis. The chicks were still in good condition with wing lengths of 645 mm and 640 mm respectively. No weights were taken this time.



**Figure 3: The chicks in the nest on 2 November 2013.**

A third visit was paid to the nest on 9 December 2013 and the nest was found empty with no sign of the chicks so it is presumed that they fledged.

This is only the second time two chicks have been recorded in a single nest, the first occasion was in 1991 in the Tsondab River, also in the Namib-Naukluft Park (Bridgeford *et al* 1995).

References:

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