

## NOTES

### ***Description of a bill abnormality in a Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* in Spain***

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On 19 April 2006 we saw an unusual vulture at a feeding site in the Leciñena municipality, Zaragoza province (Aragón, northern Spain 51°50'N, 0°31'W). The vulture had what looked like a second mandible (see Figure 1). The bird was aged as an adult, according to its bill and eye colour and its white ruff. The second mandible was hanging close to the throat and did not appear to be disadvantaged when it was feeding. This is the first time that this vulture has been recorded at this feeding site, despite observations during 15 feeding trials. Approximately 100 griffons were seen per trial. We are

unaware of any reference to such an abnormality in Old World vultures (e.g. Mundy *et al.* 1992, Donazar 1993).



Figure 1. The Griffon Vulture showing the abnormality below its beak.

#### ***References***

- Mundy, P., Butchart, D., Ledger, J. and Piper, S. 1992. *The Vultures of Africa*. Academic Press, London.
- Donazar, J.A. 1993. *Los Buitres Ibéricos*. Reyero, J.M. (Ed). Madrid.

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