

are hatched. During the time of incubation the male watches at the entrance of the cavern where the female is sitting, and this is always a certain indication of a nest; but being always constructed in inaccessible places, it is very difficult to approach. "Nevertheless," says Levaillant, "I have sometimes overcome, with the assistance of my Hottentots, all the difficulties, and often risked my life to examine the eggs: the den in which they are contained is a most disgusting place: it is a true Cloaca, and infected with an insupportable stench. It is the more dangerous to approach these obscure retreats because the entrance is covered with dung, liquified by the moisture which continually exhales from the rocks, so that there is a constant hazard of slipping from the points of the rocks, and falling into dreadful precipices, over which the oricou establishes itself from preference. I have tasted their eggs, and I have found them good enough to be made use of: it is to be remarked that vultures never rest in trees, at least in Africa; and I am much deceived if it be not the same with vultures in every part of the world."

At the rising of the sun, the oricous may be perceived in great numbers at the entrance of