

particularly interested in the habits of gulls. As regards to formation flying of them, I do not think it is anything new.

In Aberdeenshire, where I hail from, it was a common sight on a very fine summer's day to see them very high up, usually in batches of seven, in V-formation.

Gulls usually fly like this on their way from the sea inland. My theory was that they used V-formation on long-distance flight. They return to the sea in batches without any particular formation, stopping here and there to feed.

Yours faithfully,

Croach House,
Rickmansworth.

GEORGE DUNCAN.

[The gulls mentioned in "A Naturalist's Notebook" had reversed the process and used the V only when flying to the sea from their inland feeding grounds.—ED.]

COLONEL MARCUSWELL MAXWELL

SIR,—I note in your edition of the *Field* of September 3rd, 1938, that in the foreword to the article by Colonel Marcuswell Maxwell on rhino, together with his excellent photographs, you say that Colonel Marcuswell Maxwell was killed in a flying accident in Kenya early this year. This is not correct. Colonel Marcuswell Maxwell died in a Nairobi nursing home in Kenya on April 21st, 1938, following an operation.

Mr. Marius Maxwell, another distinguished big-game photographer and also a former resident in Kenya, was killed a year or more ago in a flying



LAID DOWN IN 1799

(See letter "A Relic of an Early Tramway")

accident in the South of France. It is probably due to confusion of these names that the error to which I wish to draw your attention has arisen.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR W. SUTCLIFFE

Nairobi, Kenya.

(District Commissioner).

AN ALPINE SWIFT

SIR,—Whilst out shooting on November 29th with Dr. T. H. Ward, and a party of guns, on Weston about a mile from Totnes, we saw what we took to be an alpine swift hawking for flies.

We watched it for fully five minutes, and it once passed within 5yds. of Dr. Ward and myself. I was pretty certain at the time it was an alpine swift, having seen them many years ago in Crete, where they were fairly common.

On returning to Weston House we looked the bird up in a book by R. Lydekker, and came to the conclusion that it was undoubtedly an alpine swift.

Yours faithfully,

The Mount,

F. J. C. HOLDSWORTH.

Totnes, S. Devon.

GAMEKEEPERS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THESE trials for spaniels were held at Barlay, Balmaclellan, Castle-Douglas, on November 29th and 30th, by kind permission of Major H. S. Streatfeild. The judges were Messrs. H. L. May and Ronald MacDonald. Results:

OPEN STAKE (ALL-AGED)—1st. Mr. Selwyn C. Jones's Liver and

A new flat box