

August 1959.

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Plumstead, Cape.

In this issue you will read that 880 new Nest Record Cards were filed by members of the Cape Bird Club last year. There were four members who scored a century and they really deserve our admiration. There were, however, also 17 members who sent in only one card each, and 9 with two each. I think these members should be able to find 10 nests each this season, and then the total would be 1000 or more. So let us all try our best to make it a record year.

Mr. J. Martin, the organiser of the Nest Record Card collection, sent the following list of contributors as well as the Report:

Those who submitted one card each were: Mr. Chaundy, Mr. S. Clarke, Major Diggle, Miss J. Ethelston, Master P. Hendry, Mr. Hoal, Mr. Humphries, Master D. Knipe, Dr. Kooy, Mr. J.R. Lasbrey, Miss Leipoldt, Mr. Nielsen, Miss C. Robinson, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Stanford, Master D. Wilson, Master R. Winterbottom.

Two cards each submitted: Miss Barnett, Mr. Bisset, Mr. Devereux, Miss Gillingham, Mr. J. Hofmeyr, Miss Hopkins, Mrs. Disa Iveson, Mrs. E. Martin, Master Peter Uys.

Mr. E. Ashforth contributed 6 cards, Mr. B. Ayris 4, Mr. Birnbaum 5, Dr. G.J. Broekhuysen 6, Mr. R.K. Brook 37, Mr. J. Brooks 5, Mr. A.R. Brown 120, Miss D. Clarke 5, Mr. A. Eaton 10, Prof. Hall 82, Mr. R. Hazell 3, Master Pierre Hofmeyr 36, Mrs. Knipe 55, Master R. Martin 19, Mr. J. Martin 163, Mr. E. Middelmis 26, Mr. H.K. Morgan 24, Mr. J. Macleod 112, Mr. N. Mcleod 37, Mr. C. Norgarb 6, Master Rice 5, Mr. R.K. Schmidt 19, Mr. W.P. Stanford 38, Mr. P. Steyn 7, Mr. C.P. Syndercombe 9, Mrs. Isobel Taylor 55, Dr. C.J. Uys 42, Master J. Watts 7, Mr. P. Wheeler 104, Mr. A.H. Wilson 11, Dr. J.M. Winterbottom 47, Mr. P. Zoutendyk 5.

REPORT ON NEST RECORD CARDS - 1958-59: (By Mr. J. Martin)

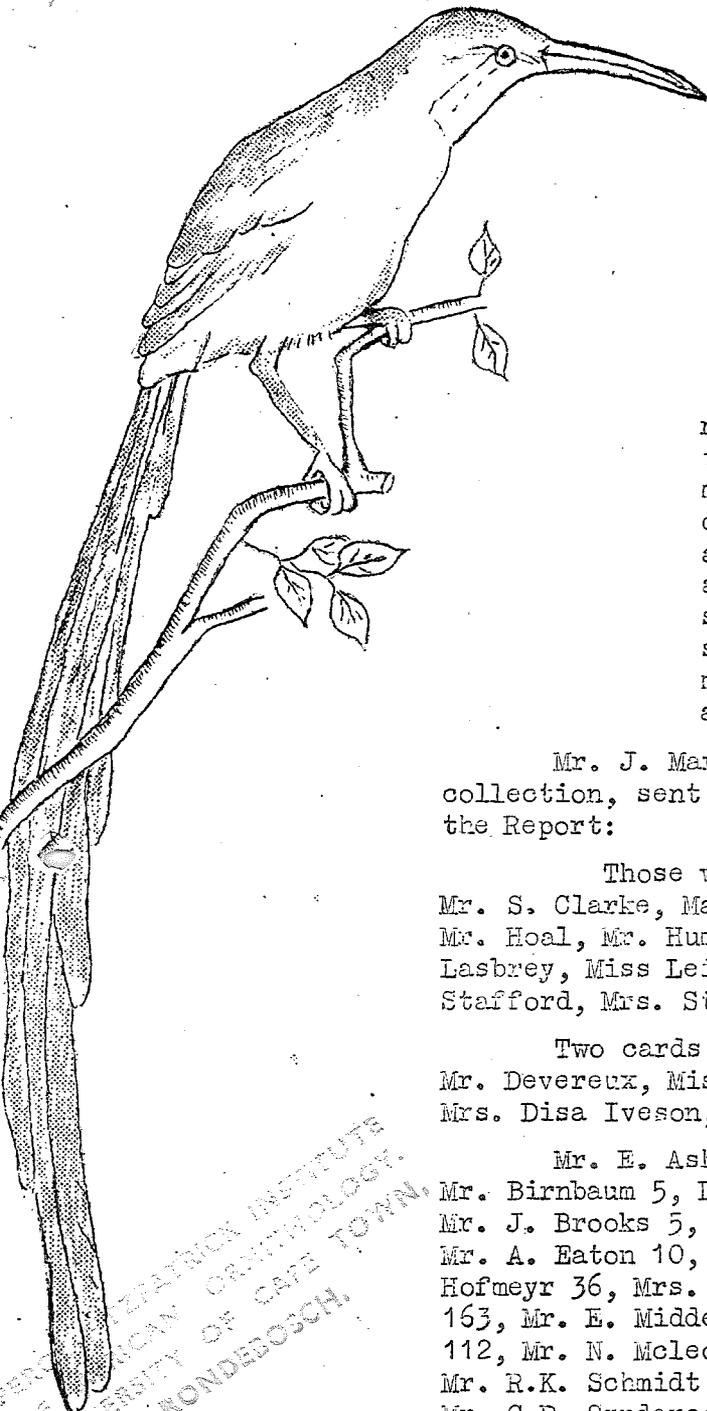
During the year under review the Cape Bird Club filed 880 new nest record cards covering 101 species. During this period 58 persons contributed to the scheme, 13 more than last year, showing that members are becoming increasingly interested in this work. Four members sent in more than 100 cards each.

The nests of three new species have been filed: (i) That of the Black Crake found by Mr. A.R. Brown at Tamatievlei, filmed by several club members and shots of which were shown at one of our evening meetings; (ii) The nest of the Blue Crane found at Bredasdorp by our acting honorary secretary, Dr. C.J. Uys, colour-slides of which were shown to us one evening; and (iii) The nest of Layard's or White-winged Seed-eater (*Poliospiza leucoptera*) found at Somerset West. (See notes by Macleod and Stanford, Ostrich, December 1958.)

Two of our ladies have done very well this year - Mrs. Isobel Taylor and Mrs. Knipe, each returning 55 cards - a very nice piece of work on each of their parts. Nor have our juniors let us down. Many of our younger members have sent in at least one card and Pierre Hofmeyr's 36 is the best in this group.

Eleven Black Oyster-catcher nests were found this season - most of them by Prof. Hall.

In our area the nest of the Sombre Bulbul was recorded for the first time in 1957 when three were sent in by Messrs. P. Wheeler and H.K. Morgan. Again this year cards were received from them - four this time.



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Four Boubou Shrike nests found last spring - two by Mr. Brown at a club outing at Eerste Rivier, one by Mr. Pat Wheeler and the fourth by Mr. A.H. Wilson - rather a stout effort.

Spoonbills again nested at Kersefontein, Mr. Martin Melck's farm near Hopefield, Mr. R.K. Brook of Rhodesia finding seven of these nests with young.

Four nests of the Common Waxbill were discovered with eggs and two of these nests were found to have the eggs of the Pintail Widowbird as well as those of the Waxbill. Mr. Brown found one of these nests near the Muizenberg Outfall containing two eggs of the host and two eggs of the parasite, while another nest was found at Verloren Vlei containing five Waxbill and three Pintail eggs.

Once again members are asked to send in cards of nests containing either eggs or young even though only one visit may have been paid to the nest. Possibly a record of this type could be of more value than a card with ten or more visits.

To those who have contributed to this scheme - MANY THANKS.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for the period June 20, 1958 to June 4th, 1959:

Since the last Annual General Meeting the Committee has met eight times. The meetings were well-attended and the Committee Members therefore were keen.

In January, our Chairman and our Treasurer, Dr. and Mrs. Broekhuysen, left on a six months' visit to Europe, and early in April our Secretary, Mrs. White, also went overseas for six months. Dr. Uys is Acting Secretary during her absence, and Mr. J. Macleod is looking after our Finance until Mrs. Broekhuysen returns.

Mr. J. Macleod and Mr. J. Martin again organised our Outings most efficiently, and Miss Ethelston organised lifts for the outings for members without transport.

Mrs. Knipe and Miss Ethelston arranged the teas for the evening meetings.

Dr. Broekhuysen was Migration Recorder and Ringing Organiser. Before his departure Dr. Broekhuysen stated that he had been unable to write his Report on Migration which he would, however, incorporate in next year's report.

Mr. Brown has been appointed Ringing Organiser until Dr. Broekhuysen returns.

Mr. Schmidt, Recorder of Bird Behaviour, reports that he has not had anything sent in at all this year.

Among other things decided by the Committee were:

I. The holding of a Photographic Exhibition later in the year. This is being organised by Dr. Uys.

II. To have a Club Library of Slides. Dr. Broekhuysen and Dr. Uys have already presented the Library with slides, and Mr. J. Martin has presented a Slide Box. We thank them for their gifts and hope other members may be able to assist with stocking the Library.

Members may borrow any of the slides to illustrate talks they may be giving.

III. To give support to the Noordhoek Pan Action Committee and to send a representative as requested.

This Committee was formed by interested members of the public with a view of approaching the Divisional Council and suggesting to them that the Pan be proclaimed a Reserve, as there was a possibility of starting a Coloured Housing Estate near the Pan. The Committee have been told by the Council that the matter will be reviewed in twelve months' time.

#### Evening Meetings:

Three evening meetings were held during the year, and all were well attended. The first was an informal one with questions and discussions. At the second meeting Mr. Schmidt gave an interesting talk on the Pearl-breasted Swallow, which was followed by slides shown by Mr. Stanford and Dr. Uys. At the third colour films on the 'Birds of Australia' were shown.

#### Field Outings:

During the year eight field excursions were held, two of which were week-end camps at Skrywershoek, at the first of which some of our experts ringed Bee-eaters.

Other areas visited were Darling, Macassa Beach, and Eerste Rivier, Klaver Vlei, Riet Vlei, Jonker's Hoek and Vergelogen.

News Letter:

Owing to lack of material only four News Letters were issued.

Membership:

The total membership to date is 217 showing a slight decrease of four, three of whom died during the year.

In concluding this report I have great pleasure in thanking my fellow members on the Committee for their enthusiasm and the hard work they have put in for the Club and for the great support they have accorded me during our Chairman's absence.

Professor Day, Head of the Department of Zoology, is thanked for making it possible to have the Club's meetings in the Zoology Department.

Acting Chairman.  
signed J. Robinson.

RINGING REPORT: (By Mr. A.R. Brown)

List of birds ringed by members of the Cape Bird Club from 1st July, 1958 to 4th June, 1959:

Duck:

Red-bill Teal .....	17
Cape Teal .....	4
Yellow-bill Duck .....	8

Sea Birds:

Cape Cormorant .....	1
Crowned Cormorant .....	21
Hartlaubs Gull .....	58
Black Oyster-catcher .....	2

Waders:

Blacksmith Plover .....	2
Kittlitz's Sandplover .....	4
Treble-banded Sandplover ....	7
Little Stint .....	18
Curlew Sandpiper .....	5
Marsh Sandpiper .....	1
Common Sandpiper .....	1
Ethiopian Snipe .....	2

Other Birds:

African Hoopoe .....	1
African Marsh Harrier .....	1
Black Eagle .....	1
Bokmakierie .....	4
Cape Sparrow .....	46
Cape Dikkop .....	4
Cape Wagtail .....	9
Cape White-eye .....	1
European Bee-eater .....	19
European Starling .....	3
Grey-backed Cisticola .....	3
Malachite Sunbird .....	1
Night Heron .....	1
Paradise Flycatcher .....	1
Spotted Eagle Owl .....	2
Yellow-billed Kite .....	5

Doves:

Cape Turtle Dove .....	34
Laughing Dove .....	75

TOTAL = 793

Swallows:

Larger Striped Swallow .....	10
Pearl-breasted Swallow .....	2
White-throated Swallow .....	20
European Swallow .....	384
Banded Sand Martin .....	2
Cape Sand Martin .....	12
Rock Martin .....	1

The following members participated in the Ringing Scheme: E. Ashforth (138); Dr. Broekhuysen (20); J. Hofmeyr (61); Mrs. D. Iveson (2); R.W. Rand (81); R.K. Schmidt (25); P. Steyn (6); Dr. Winterbottom (26); A.R. Brown and son (434).

(Dr. Broekhuysen reports: News has been received from the German Bird Institution Radolfzell that in April and May three European Swallows were seen with a red spot on the underside. It is very probable that these are three of the many which Mr. Brown caught at the Athlone Sewage Farm and which were stained before being liberated again. Ed.)

FIELD RECORD CARDS: (Report by Dr. J.M. Winterbottom)

The total collection now numbers 1922 cards from 23 Districts, of which three, represented by about 30 cards, are extra-limital to the Club's area. The following contributed cards during the year:

Messrs. P.F. Bolt (1); R.K. Brooke (6); A.R. Brown (3); Miss J. Ethelston (1); Miss Fawcus (1); Messrs W.T. Fergusson (18); P. Lor (1); E.H.J. Middlemiss (2); H.K. Morgan (8); T. Pottinger (4); Miss J. Robinson (27); Mrs. I. Taylor (5); Messrs. P. Wheeler (6); A.H. Wilson (13); Miss Windsor (1); Dr. J.M. Winterbottom (233) and Mr. P. Zoutendyk (1).

The actual total received is smaller than the sum of the above (331), since a number of cards were made out by two or three contributors in collaboration. Even so, 17 contributors (of whom three were not members of the C.B.C.) cannot be regarded as satisfactory for a Club the size of ours.

Of cards definitely assignable to single habitats, 268 deal with Permanent Vleis, 245 with Indigenous Bush on Flats, 232 with Temporary Vleis, 137 with Indigenous Bush on Mountains, about 130 with Gardens (nearly half contributed by non-members!) and 116 with Wattles. There are no cards for Sea Cliffs, Mud Flats, Rushy Tracts on Mountains or Hakea Bush; and only one card each of Inland Cliffs, Willow Groves, Salt Marshes and Commercial Vegetable Gardens.

Dr. J.M. Winterbottom as Chairman, South African National Section, International Committee for Bird Preservation, asks for more information about storks, he writes as follows:

"The response to circular letter of 5th May, 1958, asking for information on the White Stork, has been most encouraging and a great deal of valuable information has been sent in, for which my grateful thanks are offered on behalf of the Committee. Now that winter is here, I propose to forward the returns to Professor Dr. E. Schütz, who has organised the census of Storks in their breeding quarters in Europe. Should you have any information additional to that already sent in, I should be most glad to have it as soon as you can find time to send it in!"

The following request for help in compiling local lists of birds also comes from Dr. Winterbottom:

"From time to time, I draw attention to the need for local lists of birds. Here are the numbers of species recorded from some of the Districts in the Western Cape, so that you can see how the matter stands. Most of the other Districts are even less well-known than those listed here:

Philipstown .....	209 species
Oudtshoorn .....	207 species
Swellendam .....	196 species
Worcester .....	185 species, plus 1 more possible.
Little Namaqualand .....	181 species, plus 2 more possible.
Victoria West .....	139 species, plus 4 more possible.
Ceres .....	136 species
Vanrhynsdorp .....	136 species
Montagu .....	127 species
Robertson .....	127 species
Prince Albert .....	123 species
Mossel Bay .....	121 species
Riversdale .....	120 species
Laingsburg .....	105 species, plus 1 more possible.
Britstown .....	58 species
De Aar .....	40 species.

I shall be glad to supply anybody going to one of these Districts with a list on which the birds known to occur are marked. This will help you; all I ask is that you return the list with the birds you have seen ticked off - even if there arent any new ones on it."

#### CENSUS OF RED BISHOP COLONIES:

With the completion of the Vlei Counts, the next cooperative investigation to be undertaken by the Cape Bird Club will be a census of Red Bishop breeding colonies in a given area. In brief, and subject to the initial results, this work will take the following lines. The first task is to locate the colonies within the defined area. These will then be allotted to interested workers, who under the direction of the organiser, will record the nests and full-plumaged males in the colonies and any other relevant data. The area has not definitely been decided upon but will roughly be included in the circle which starts on

Table Bay at Salt River, passes through Wetton, curves in an arc south of the National Road to the road junction at Faure, thence to Vlotenberg and northwards, just east of Kraaifonwejn, to Fisantekraal, and then in another arch north of Durbanville and Vissershok to reach the sea again at Blaauwberg.

Mr. H.K. Morgan of P.O. Box 932, Cape Town, has undertaken to act as organiser. Volunteers are needed, and interested persons are requested to contact him as soon as possible. Breeding colonies are already starting and the sooner the investigation gets under way the better, so please do not delay.

CAPE BIRD CLUB.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.

The Cape Bird Club will hold a Photographic Exhibition of pictures of South African Wild Birds between 23rd and 28th November, 1959. Any interested individuals are invited to contribute and awards will be made for the best entries. The closing date, after which no more entries will be accepted, is Wednesday, 11th November, 1959.

Entries may be submitted for both or either of the following sections:

Black and White Prints: These must be mounted, not smaller than whole plate size ( $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " ) and not bigger than 20" x 16". Not more than 4 entries are permitted per person.

Colour Transparencies: These must be suitably mounted and should not be larger than  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". Not more than 4 entries are permitted per person.

Enquiries and entries to be submitted to :

Dr. C.J. Uys,

c/o Zoology Department,

University of Cape Town,

RONDEBOSCH, Cape.