

July 1961.

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Mr. J. MacLeod was the first to report about the Common Terns, he writes: On 22 April '61 I found a Common Tern at the mouth of the Eerste River. It had a Heligoland ring numbered 7284749. I subsequently handled 120 dead and dying terns of which not one had been ringed. So far as I know all these birds were Common Terns, the single exception being a Sandwich Tern. On 9th June Mr. MacLeod reports having heard from Helsinki about the ring he took from a Common Tern on 4 May. This bird had been ringed in the nest on 27 June, 1959 at Nauvo, Ominainen, 60 15' N, 21 50' E. The distance about 10,500 Km S.

Mr. MacLeod collected 70 dead terns for the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute and Mrs. Rowan reports as follows:

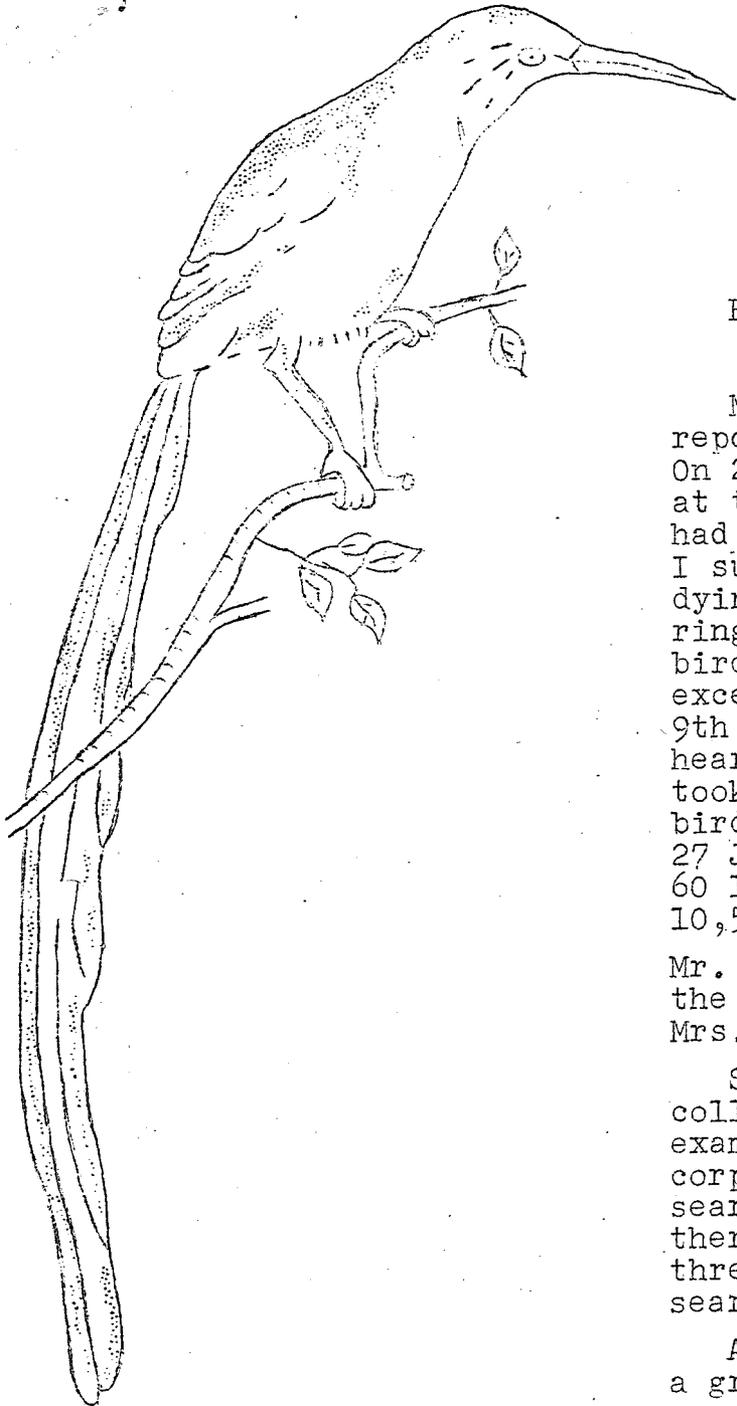
Some friends have helped in the collection, counting and post mortem examination of the pathetic little corpses, some have been assiduous in the search for rings (I understand that there have been 11 recoveries), and three laboratories have assisted in the search for the cause of death.

As a result of these concerted efforts, a great deal of valuable information has come to light and full-scale reports will be published at a later date. Meanwhile, we are most anxious to follow up some very interesting findings by Professor Kipps and the Virus Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, and to this end must procure a small sample of apparently healthy terns.

We know that in most years a few Common Terns remain in and around the Cape throughout the winter, and the purpose of this note is to appeal for reports of overwintering birds.

We would be most grateful if any member of the Cape Bird Club observing any terns would notify the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute (phone 69-5612) as promptly as possible of when and where the birds were seen. Only in this way can we hope to obtain the material for which Professor Kipps has made so urgent an appeal. He regards the present investigation as very important, and the co-operation of Club members would be much appreciated.

Dr. Winterbottom writes: In working through the Nest Record Cards, I have been struck by a number of curious gaps in the records from the South West Cape. Thus, there are no cards Whatever for the



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Yellow-billed and Little Egrets, only one for the Raven, 2 for the Cattle Egret and 3 for the Jackal Buzzard. Other unexpectedly small numbers are:

Neddicky	12	Thick-billed Lark	29
Pied Starling	13	European Starling	32
Red-winged Starling	22		

The unevenness of spread in the C.B.C. area has also become very apparent. This may be approximately indicated by the number of cards from each district. It is natural and inevitable that Peninsula (3905) and Hottentots Holland (1328) should rank first and second; but it is curious to find that the third district is Piquetberg (519) - well ahead of such more accessible districts as Belleville (411), Caledon (423) and Malmesbury (206). It is equally natural that the remoter districts should be at the bottom. Tulbagh (1) and Vanrhynsdorp (2). But what are we to say about Wellington (5) and Paarl (33)? Since the species recorded from these two districts are not the same, we have the magnificent total for the two districts combined of 38 cards for 25 species! Paarl is, as a matter of fact, a poorly worked area altogether, for there are a number of very common birds which, according to the Club's records, are unknown there at all - e.g. Blackheaded Heron, Marsh Harrier, Crowned Plover, Pied Kingfisher, Speckled and Cape Colies, Red-capped Lark and Pin-tailed Thydah.

Here is a challenge to our members. Let us concentrate on Paarl and Wellington this spring and see if we cannot get Nest Record Cards up to at least the total for Swellendam (140) or Hopefield (159); and Field Cards that will remove some of the obvious gaps in the species lists. Then next year perhaps we might tackle Worcester (8 cards referring to 7 species) and Tulbagh in the same way.

Dr. Brockhuysen reports: In the first week of July an article appeared in the Argus and the Cape Times in which it was mentioned that a large eagle with a ring round its leg was shot at Herbertdale near Mossel Bay. The ring number was given as 508/2110.

The ringing records of the C.B.C. show that this was a Black Eagle which had been ringed in the Bredasdorp district on the farm, van der Stel Kraal on 4th September, 1960. It was then a chick. This unfortunate bird therefore did not even reach the age of one year and must still have been partly in immature plumage.

Here follows the Chairman's Report, as read at the Annual General Meeting held on June 2nd, 1961:

During the past year the Committee met eight times and these meetings were well attended indicating that Members of your Committee took their responsibility seriously.

Of the topics discussed during the different Committee Meetings, the following are some of the more important ones:-

(a) The proposed road crossing Rietvlei. A map showing the exact spot where the road was going to cross was obtained and the general opinion was that it would not interfere too much with the bird life of the Vlei and it would be easier for Honorary Wardens of the Department of Nature Conservation to make regular checks on poaching, etc.

(b) Mr. John Perry's offer to make one of his bird paintings available at the end of the year as a prize for the member of the C.B.C. who had contributed most to the different record schemes of the Club was gratefully accepted.

(c) The creation of a Bird Sanctuary within the Helderberg Reserve was discussed and a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. John Martin and Mr. Jack MacLeod was appointed to go into the matter. The Committee paid a visit to the Reserve.

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(d) A full programme for Club activities during the current year was drawn up and sent to all members.

(e) The Committee discussed the Administrator of the Cape's decision to legalise the shooting of duck in the Bredarsdorp District at any time of the year. A letter of protest was drafted and sent. Dr. Uys was asked to inquire about the matter among local farmers in the district.

(f) Rumours that a Salt Winning Project was to be set up at Langebaan were discussed and the matter was investigated.

(g) The Committee was informed about the practice of bird catchers operating in the Rooi Els area catching Orange-breasted Sunbirds with bird lime. It was decided to pass the information on to the Department of Nature Conservation and to ask them to act.

Sub-Committee and Scheme Organisers.

Mr. John Martin, Mr. Jack MacLeod, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Schmidt again organised the many outings the Club had. Again the Club Outings were very well attended showing how much the members appreciated the efforts of the abovementioned Sub-Committee.

Miss Ethelstone and Miss C. Robinson organised lifts for people who required lifts. Miss C. and J. Robinson and Mrs. Broekhuysen looked after the tea during the Evening Meetings and they certainly deserve a most hearty thank you from members of the Club. Mr. Schmidt assisted by Mr. Clarke edited the News Sheet of which five issues were produced. Mr. John Martin continued to look after the nest-record scheme. Dr. Winterbottom remained organiser of the field-card scheme. Mr. S. Clarke again acted as recorder of observations on behaviour. Dr. C.J. Uys was in charge of the Club's slide library and Dr. Broekhuysen looked after migration records and ringing and the issue of rings. Mr. H. Morgan continued as organiser of the Red Bishop scheme.

Evening Meetings:-

Eight evening meetings were held. At the first meeting Dr. Winterbottom talked on the Shoveller. At the second, Dr. Uys who had just returned from six months overseas leave talked on his experiences in Britain and Europe. The third evening was a quiz evening. On the fourth there was a members film evening and on the fifth Mr. John Perry gave a talk on "Bird Paintings" and Mr. Le Strange showed some of his bird slides. On the sixth, Dr. Uys talked about Bird Photography. On the seventh Dr. Hey, Director of the Department of Nature Conservation addressed the Club and talked about Bird conservation and showed the Walt Disney film on Waterbirds. On the eighth Miss Joan Robinson talked on the Birds of the Bredarsdorp District and Mr. Schmidt on the Larger Striped Swallow.

All meetings were well attended.

Field Outings.

The Club had nine field outings. The areas visited were: Vergelegen, Schrywers Hoek, Cape Point Reserve, Bonteberg, Goedeontmoeting, Mud River, Spieka, Macassar Beach and Silvermine.

In addition the Club had a reception at the newly established Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology housed in the Department of Zoology and was invited to the Zoological Conversation.

The membership of the Club now stands at 238 which is about the same as last year.

Again in ending this report I have great pleasure in thanking my fellow members in the Committee for their enthusiasm. The Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer and those who served in the different Sub-Committees and organised the different investigation schemes deserve a special word of thanks. The Club's Financial books were audited by Mr. Jack MacLeod for which our sincere thanks. As usual the Department of Zoology has given us numerous facilities for which we are very grateful.

Mr. J. Martin reported about the Nest Record Scheme: In 1960, sixteen more persons contributed and 145 cards more were returned than in 1959, reflecting an increase of 847 nests. 133 species were recorded nesting, this figure showing an increase of 26 species compared with 1959. The following members helped to make this scheme a success; (the number of cards contributed is shown behind each name):-

Mr. J. Martin 241, Master R. Martin 166, Mr. J. MacLeod 129, Mr. P. Steyn 122, Dr. Uys 122, Mr. A. Brown 109, Mr. R. Schmidt 103, Mr. E. Middlemiss 79, Miss C.A. MacLeod 55, Dr. Broekhuysen 46, Mrs. S. Knipe 43, Mr. Lestrangle 40, Miss A. van Deventer 30, Mr. N. Myburgh 28, Mr. H. Morgan 27, Mrs. J. Martin 24, Mr. B. Mackenzie 21, Dr. Winterbottom 21, Mr. H. Brooks 13, Master P. Henry 13, Dr. Birnbaum 11, Mrs. I. Taylor 11, Miss C. Robinson 10.

The following members contributed less than 10 cards each:-

Mrs. Broekhuysen, Davidson, Moore, Morgan, Myburgh, Rowan, Sawkins, Winterbottom.
Misses Bayle, Brandt, Clark, Ethelstone, Hudson, B. Morgan
A. Myburgh, J. Robinson, Windsor.
Messrs. Ashforth, Barry, P. Broekhuysen, Butler, Clarke, Major Diggle du Toit, Dr. Gillham, Knipe, Lor, Prof. Mackenzie, Moore, Morkel, Muller, Murray, Norgarb, Pelteret, Dr. Proctor, Rau, Rice, Rohlands, A. Rowan, Syndercombe, Underhill, Urquhart, Paul and Peter Uys, A. and Peter Wilson, R. Winterbottom.

Mr. Jack MacLeod retired from the Committee and was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Club.

The bird painting presented by Mr. John Perry to the Cape Bird Club as a prize for the most active contributor to the various schemes of the club went to Mr. John Martin.