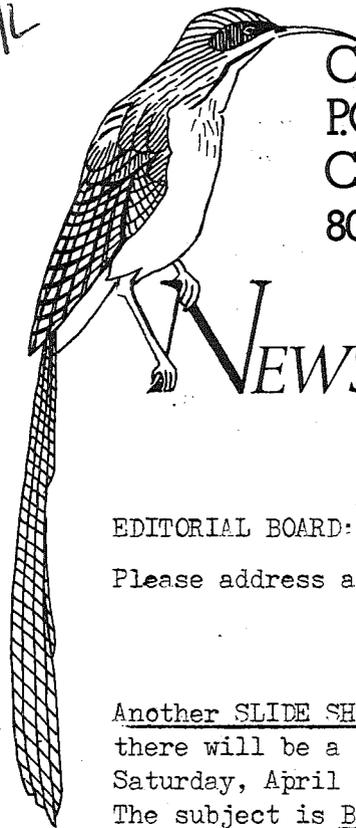


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CAPE BIRD CLUB — KAAPSE VOELWAARNEMERSKLUB  
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 CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD  
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PERCY FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE  
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NEWSLETTER

NUUSBRIEF

NO. 125 NR

NOVEMBER 1976

EDITORIAL BOARD: Derek Longrigg Rudolf Schmidt David Steele Philip Tongue

Please address all communications to the Club's P.O. Box

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Another SLIDE SHOW: Planned to take place during the Cape Town Festival there will be a SLIDE SHOW at the Sea Point Civic Centre on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, 1977 at 8.30 p.m.

The subject is BIRDS OF CAPE TOWN and the programme will be introduced by Rudolf Schmidt whose commentary at the 1975 Slide Show was so successful.

Tickets will be on sale from Committee Members at the first evening meeting in 1977 and from HANS KRAMER'S BOOKING OFFICE at his Record Salon at 52 Long Street (Phone 41-0736) from February 14---price R1.

The Festival Committee, as a fund-raising scheme, have created an Associate Membership which entitles those taking it to privileges of various kinds including greatly reduced admission fees to many of the Festival events. The membership fees are: Individuals R10; Husband and Wife R15; Families R20. Full particulars may be had from the Festival Director's office at Room 801 (8th Floor), Guardian Building, 31 Adderley Street. Phone 43-6237 and 43-6326. P.O. Box 2646 Cape Town.

In order to co-operate with the Festival organisers, Associate Members will be entitled to buy tickets for the Slide Show at a 50 per cent reduction on production of their membership card. Club members wishing to avail themselves of this reduction are recommended to become Associate Members of the Festival.

As the Sea Point Civic Centre holds roughly 750 people there will be room for all; nevertheless, please buy tickets and persuade your friends to do the same.

LAMBERT'S BAY: Lambert's Bay is quite a long way from Cape Town and is not visited all that often by Club Members so that we rely on reports from those who do get there about the condition of our notice board at the entrance to the Gannet colony.

Will anyone who goes there please cock an eye at the board and report any deterioration or damage AT ONCE to the Secretary or to any Committee member so that maintenance can be seen to.

MARINA DA GAMA: These counts are to be continued for another year at the request of George Begg. We are all grateful to those who have so faithfully turned out in fair weather and foul...fortunately usually the former...on the second Sunday of each month and we ask that they will continue to turn out during 1977. Further an invitation is extended to anyone with a little knowledge of our local birds who has not yet taken part in a count to come and join us; there are experts to vet their sightings and the company of like-minded people and the knowledge that the great enjoyment of the occasion is also an important job makes for a memorable morning's work.

We meet at the visitor's Centre, Eastlake Village, at 9.00 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month.

KIRSTENBOSCH GARDENS: A little controversy is always good for one. Following on the editorial comment on Prof. Winterbottom's hard words about the effect of gardening on the bird population at Kirstenbosch, we invited him to reply. He writes:

R.G-C's criticism of my remarks about Kirstenbosch (quoted in Newsletter No. 123) miss the point. Of course there must be flower-beds at Kirstenbosch and it may be necessary to cover them with unsightly wood-chips. What is not necessary is to turn the surroundings of the bed, a larger area than the beds themselves, into grass lawns of no botanical interest whatever. Previously one could see proteas, heaths and other flowers in at least partly natural surroundings. Now, except when the plants are in full bloom, the area is quite hideous, as well as being barren of all other forms of life except the plants in an artificial habitat.

THE FAIREST CAPE - BUT FOR HOW LONG ?

Readers may have noticed an article in The Argus about an SATV programme being made on the destruction of the environment in the Peninsula. I took the producer, Pat Rodgers, and a film crew to the Strandfontein Sewage Works on 11 November. In poor light conditions they were able to get good footage of flamingos, pelicans, terns and a Shoveller with ducklings. The scope of the 30 minute film is wide and only three or four minutes will be on birds, but nevertheless it should be of much interest to all. Commentary will be mainly by Prof. Richard Fuggle of the Dept. of Environmental Studies at U.C.T. It is likely to be broadcast in about March 1977 as part of a new series.

S. PRINGLE.

BINDING BOKMAKIERIE: The Salesian Institute in Somerset Road will bind Bokmakierie in Rexine covers. Each cover will hold 20 copies and the price is R7.00.

OWLS: I wonder whether I am the only member of the Club who didn't know that Owls' eyes are fixed in their head until Dr. Viljoen told us so at his slide show?

Immediately on arriving home I looked in Roberts and my English Field Guide but neither of them mentioned this interesting fact, so I turned to the Birders' Bible (known officially as "A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS" edited by Landsborough Thomson, published by Nelson in 1964) and looked up "Vision" and read the following:

Some hawks (Accipitridae) and Owls (Strigiformes) for instance have eyes as large or larger than those of man; in some species the eyes are as large as the head can accommodate, the two bulbs almost touching one another....This is not always obvious on superficial observation since only the cornea...is visible between the lids....In nocturnal birds (e.g. owls) with tubular eyes there is no movement at all, and it is said that the eye fits so closely into the orbit that it cannot be moved even with a pair of pliers!

P. TONGUE

LIGHTON'S BIRDS: Most members will have seen the announcement that a volume containing all the plates in ROBERTS has been published at four times the size of those in the book. The price is R25 but the publishers have offered to supply authenticated CBC members with copies less 10 per cent. If anyone wishes to take advantage of this offer they should send their order, with cheque for R22.50 to the Secretary, CBC, enclosing also a stamped addressed envelope to THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATURAL HISTORY PUBLICATION COMPANY, P.O. BOX 61, BLOUBERGSTRAND, 7436. The Secretary will authenticate their order and forward it in the enclosed envelope. It need not be stressed that the CBC can accept no responsibility in this matter other than OK'ing orders.

IN ORDER TO GET THIS ISSUE INTO MEMBERS' HANDS BEFORE CHRISTMAS SOME INTERESTING CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE HAD TO BE HELD OVER FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE.

REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

SIGHTINGS:

AFRICAN JACANA (228) - A single bird seen at Sand Vlei in the vicinity of Lakeside Fire Station during the da Gama count on Sunday November 14. Reported by Dr. Gottschalk and Alan Morris.

PETER'S FINFOOT (213) - Although this report is far away from the CBC area it seems to be of sufficient interest to include, especially as this elusive bird was seen well out of its range as recorded in the Checklist of Birds of the Eastern Cape Province (J.M. Patterson, 1958). Mr. J. Cranstone saw one on October 9 at Great Brak River between the National Road and the village. The Checklist gives Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage as its western limit. However, the ranger at Goukamma Reserve at Knysna has seen them there.

CHAFFINCH (870) - During the last few weeks I have frequently heard and several times seen a male Chaffinch and, on two occasions, a female in my garden at Klaassens Road, Constantia, - the last time about October 15. I have heard and seen them every year since we have been in the house for the last seventeen years: usually a pair together but once or twice there have been two females. I would confirm that they are usually high in the trees but they do feed on the ground. As their song is very loud and repeated many times they are not difficult to see.

- Irene Knock, Constantia.

I realise now that the Chaffinch is certainly not extinct. Males were heard calling in at least five distinct territories in Tokai on October 9, 1976. They were also heard on four of the six visits I made to the area during the following week. I had good views of a female on October 12 and a male was seen by Carl Vernon and myself on October 13. We also heard a Chaffinch singing in Newlands Forest on October 14.

- S. Pringle, Cape Town.

On October 21 I heard 7 different Chaffinches singing at Tokai Plantation and later the same day 2 more at Cecilia Plantation, so it still seems to be reasonably common.

- Rob Martin, Somerset West.

GREATER DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD (758) - "...the most interesting bird seen was the Greater Double-collared Sunbird. A pair was watched for some time and they may well nest in this area (see below). It was first reported here by Mr. C. Murray on September 30, 1956, almost exactly 20 years earlier. It is scarce in the CBC area and this is probably the extreme western limit of its range."

BOOTED EAGLE (139) - There appears to be a nesting pair of Booted Eagles in this area but so far we have not been able to locate the nest site.

- Both these reports by Rob Martin from De Wet, Worcester District.

BLACK CUCKOO (344) - On September 21 I heard a Clack Cuckoo near Riberts-vlei, Paarl District. This cuckoo parasitises the Boubou Shrike which is common in that area.

- Rob Martin

FORK-TAILED DRONGO (517) - On October 5 I watched one of these birds, which is seldom seen west of Bredasdorp, at Applegarth Farm, near Elgin in the Caledon District.

- Rob Martin

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (272) - Phalaropes are back: A report of a phalarope in full breeding plumage sent Ron Summers, John Cooper, Carl Vernon, my father and I scurrying down to the Strandfontein Sewage Works on October 19. We found the bird in one of the western pans which has often been frequented by phalaropes over the past six summers. Under ideal conditions we were able to drive very close to the bird and we immediately identified it as a female Rednecked Phalarope, the breeding plumage making sexing of the bird possible. Since then several people have been to look for the bird but it seems to have disappeared. I have always considered the Strandfontein phalaropes to be the Rednecked variety. In early April 1973 I managed to photograph the birds in colour from a hide on the edge of one of the small southern pans and the slides show one of the birds developing the distinctive Rednecked breeding plumage. There are recent records from other parts of

...the S.W. Cape

the S.W. Cape of Rednecked Phalaropes (P. Frost, Rocher Pan, near Velddrif on 20.1.73 and R. Summers, Heuningnes Estuary, near Struisbaai on 30.11.75) However E.L. Roberts has reported the Grey (24.3.74) and Wilson's Phalaropes (27.10.74) from the Afdaks River mouth. In view of this we examined a slide (deposited at the PFIAO) taken by Prof. Broekhuysen at Strandfontein in 1967 and decided that it also showed the Rednecked Phalarope. We are now wondering just how often the supposedly more common Grey Phalarope turns up on inland waters at the Cape. - S. Pringle.

The following is a list of uncommon birds sighted by Pat Lockhart, Somerset West, on an outing to the DOORN RIVER on October 11:

Penduline Tit (531) - seven seen; Grey Tit (525) - Several;  
Didric Cuckoo (352) - one; Klaas's Cuckoo (351) - One;  
Layard's Tit-Babbler (659) - One; Cape Tit-Babbler - several pairs;  
Fairy Flycatcher (678) - several pairs; Black-headed Canary (861) - 3 pairs;  
Lark-like Bunting (871) - thirteen.

KNYSNA SCRUB-WARBLER (611) - Heard in the woods at the lower end of Cecilia Gorge on November 27. - P. Tongue, Wynberg.

CASPIAN TERN (290) - Three seen whilst sailing at Rietvlei, close to my yacht - on Sunday November 21. - David Steele, Edgemoed

#### BEHAVIOUR:

CAPE DIKKOP (275) - I can find no reference in the literature to distraction display of the Cape Dikkop, so that the following observation may be of interest. On 12th October 1976 I found a Cape Dikkop sitting on one newly-laid egg in a bush clearing near Hermanus (the second egg was laid the following day). As the bird left the nest at my approach it suddenly turned when about seven metres from me, facing me with wings fully out-stretched. This posturing was repeated during several subsequent visits I made to the nest, and on the day before the hatch was due was intensified, with the bird turning when only about five metres distant, adopting a very erect posture with the wings fully extended sideways as before and taking short darting runs towards me, all the while uttering a most peculiar and unbirdlike sound which I can only describe as a long-drawn buzzing hiss. This display was repeated, but without the vocal sounds, after the hatch with the chicks out of the nest. I am uncertain whether both or only one of the sexes performed this display, though I believe it was the female only. I have never before experienced this behaviour at other nests of Cape Dikkop and Water Dikkop, nor witnessed anything remotely like it in the closely related European Stone Curlew, a species I know well.

- E.L. Roberts, Hermanus

#### NESTS AND EGGS:

BLACK HARRIER (169) - The pair of Black Harriers which successfully reared three young near Bot River in 1975 have this year bred again. The birds were seen displaying over their former breeding territory on August 22, 1976, and seemed to have settled down close to their old nesting site during a visit we made with Peter Steyn on August 27. I was absent throughout the whole of September, and it was not until October 24 that we found that the birds were nesting, not where we had earlier seen them, but some 2½ km from their 1975 site and near the top of the mountain at about 370m elevation. The nest was in a long, overgrown depression in the hillside and well concealed in Kolkol (Berzelia lanuginosa) growing in waterlogged ground. It was constructed entirely of dry grasses and raised about half-a-metre above ground level. There were four young, their ages ranging from about five to twelve days, which would fix the hatching dates remarkably close to those of last year (18th-20th October 1975). Food brought in by the male included mouse spp. (twice) and (probably) a guineafowl chick about a week old. The Black Harrier is not normally regarded as a mountain-breeding species and it is of interest to note that we saw both Rock-jumper (Chaetops frenatus) and Klipsp ringer Antelope (Oreotragus oreotragus) on the mountain well below the Harriers' nest.

- E.L. Roberts, Hermanus

CAPE DIKKOP (275) - I have a pair of Cape Dikkops nesting in my rose-bed, as they did last year. The eggs were laid on October 1 and 2 so will presumably hatch on October 28 and 29 and we await the inevitable tragedy when they will drown in the swimming pool. Last year six eggs were laid in two batches. Two chicks were hatched on each occasion. They reared one from the first sitting but the other was drowned when it was about a fortnight old. They laid again in December and these chicks were both drowned when they were less than a week old and the birds laid a third time only to lose the last pair of chicks in the same way when they were about two and a half weeks old. - Mrs Irene Knock, Constantia.

KNYSNA SCRUB WARBLER (611) - The reason for my string of visits to Tokai as reported under "Chaffinch" (supra) was the finding of a nest of the reclusive Knysna Scrub Warbler on October 9. This was only the second nest of the species ever recorded---the first being at Kirstenbosch in 1959. Details of observations made at the nest site will appear in OSTRICH. It is interesting that these birds belong to a small isolated population, since there is no suitable habitat for them between Table Mountain and the indigenous forest along the Garden Route.

- S. Pringle, Cape Town.

#### MIGRATION:

Mr. Pat Lockhart has sent the following list of first sightings this season:

|                               |            |                     |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| White Stork (80)              | October 17 | Rawsonville Marshes |
| Red Chested Cuckoo (343)      | October 18 | Somerset West       |
| Paradise Flycatcher (682)     | October 22 | Newlands Forest     |
| Steppe Buzzard (154)          | October 28 | Cape Flats          |
| White-winged Black Tern (304) | October 17 | Rawsonville Marshes |

#### CURRENT NEWSLETTERS

All Branches of the SAOS now turn out well-produced and perennially interesting newsletters...so much so that our own, which the editors like to believe was one of the first to improve its image, is now beginning to wear a slightly old-fashioned appearance.

We have on the editorial desk at this moment current copies of ALBATROSS (Natal Bird Club), BEE-EATER (E.Cape Wild Bird Society) and LANIARIUS (N.Transvaal Ornithological Society). The first impression on reading through them is the immense amount of work being done all over the country and the great amount of information contained in their pages: at last Southern Africa has built up a large body of, largely spare-time, enthusiasts able to make a significant contribution to ornithology.

ALBATROSS is running a series devoted to WHERE TO SEE BIRDS IN NATAL, printed on a separate loose page that may be filed with others as they appear: a top-class idea when one remembers how many members are beginners and how useful such information is.

BEE-EATER also contains No. 3 of a similar series WHERE TO BIRD ROUND PORT ELIZABETH; the one we have is about Cape Recife where six species of Tern may be seen and from where, in bad weather, there are records of three Albatrosses, Antarctic Skuas and the Giant Petrel. The adjacent sewage works, like our own Strandfontein, is a major feeding place for ducks and geese, ten species being recorded. (Cape Town members wishing to visit Cape Recife may like to know that entry is by permit obtainable from the Beach Manager, although where to find him is not stated). There is also an article recording the sighting of 36 Horus Swifts (384) in the P.E. area. There is a colony of them at Gamtoos River Mouth. A list of sightings of birds rarely recorded in the area is given and there is no doubt that CBC members on holiday there could report sightings made by themselves---with the usual caution about being absolutely positive in identifications---to the Editor of the BEE-EATER at P.O. Box 1305, PORT ELIZABETH 6000. They are: Secretary Bird (105), Black Harrier (169), Baillons Crake (202), Whiskered Tern (305), Grass and Marsh Owls (360 and 361), Pied Wagtail (685), Long-tailed Wagtail (688) and Banded Sand Martin (510). Date, Locality and Numbers, please.

HONEYGUIDE the quarterly journal of the ROS puts us all to shame and the August issue, handsomely printed and bound in a stiff paper cover, illustrated with photographs, must stand as the ultimate in local bird newsletters. Its frontispiece is a splendid photograph of a Cape Raven in flight and its contents include an article on bird photography by Alan Weaving who took it. An article on the North American Breeding Bird Survey by Dr. Peter Ward of Salisbury we found of the greatest interest. The instructions issued by its organisers (The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service) indicate the high degree of sophistication reached by North American bird-watchers and the disciplines they are subjected to in a vital survey such as this one.

Lastly we have received a special number of LANIARIUS wholly devoted to wader identification. Anything that helps us to grasp the basics of this difficult job is valuable and this 30 page number, enhanced by 3 pages of line drawings would be most instructive to anyone wishing to master the problems raised by these confusing birds. Members of the CBC may obtain copies of this special copy by writing to the Hon. Sec., Northern Transvaal Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 4158, Pretoria 0001, enclosing 50 cents. Anyone interested in wader identification is strongly urged to obtain one.

What emerges from this study of four typical newsletters is the amount of information that is building up in the areas they serve; information that it is hoped is being recorded centrally, for a mass of unique source material is certainly accumulating.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN RED DATA BOOK FOR BIRDS

Mr. John Cooper, a member of the S.A.O.S. Conservation Committee, has requested that all branches of the Society become involved in research on the status of "rare and vulnerable" birds in their regions. To assist in defining which species fall into this category, the C.S.I.R. has recently published "South African Red Data Book - Aves", authored by W.R. Siegfried, P.G.H. Frost, J. Cooper and A.C. Kemp. This publication lists 100 species which the authors consider in need of protection or whose status requires investigation. Information on each is given under a series of sub-headings - Present and former distribution, Status, Estimated numbers, Breeding rate in Wild, Reasons for decline, Protective measures taken, Protective measures proposed, Current research effort, Remarks. For any member interested in conservation this book can be obtained from C.S.I.R., P.O. Box 395, Pretoria 0001.

Of these 100 species approximately 25 occur, either as residents or stragglers, in the Cape Bird Club area. Mr. Cooper suggests that we can be of considerable assistance in compiling data on most of these by reporting any sightings to the Newsletter for possible publication, so that records can be accumulated over the years for future reference. Sightings reports should include: (a) Locality; (b) Date; (c) Numbers; (d) Activity e.g. overflying, feeding, etc.; (e) Weather conditions.

We would stress that members report only on species about whose identification they are absolutely certain; if there is any doubt in the observer's mind, no report should be submitted.

The Conservation Committee is encouraging Clubs to do surveys on particular birds in their areas, for instance the four northern clubs and Rhodesia have been asked to submit reports on the Wattled Crane. The species suggested for our area are the White Pelican and the Caspian Tern. Both are easily identified and we would ask members to make a special effort to report these.

Footnote: The birds listed which occur in this region are as follows: Jackass Penguin, White Pelican, Bank and Crowned Cormorants, Black Stork, White Stork, Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Cape Vulture, Peregrine, Booted Eagle, Fish Eagle, Mountain Buzzard, Caspian Tern, Roseate Tern, Damara Tern, Cape Eagle Owl, Knysna Scrub Warbler, Victorins Scrub Warbler, Karroo Green Warbler, Protea Seed-eater.

The foregoing, of course, does not preclude other sighting reports of interesting or lesser know birds in our area and we hope these will continue to be submitted as they are very welcome.

A SAMPLE TOUR

Having only once before travelled in the northern parts of the Republic, my wife and I, with two friends, wet off early in September last for a month's birding tour of the four provinces hoping that this would provide a fair sample of South African bird life. We think it did, and returned home well satisfied.

Space prevents my mentioning more than some of the highlights. Suffice it to say that I added some 50 new species to my list of South African birds, which now stands at well over 400. However, we began with something of a disappointment. Our first objective was Golden Gate to see Lammergeyer, but imagine our dismay when we were informed that no Lammergeyer had been seen there for at least nine months! The two old-established eyries were clearly visible from Glen Reenen, but we were soon of the opinion that they may never be used again. Footpaths blatantly signposted "Lammergeyer's Nest" lead all and sundry alarmingly close to the eyries of these already endangered birds, and certainly do nothing to encourage them to remain in these over-run mountains. We left Golden Gate feeling very bitter towards the National Parks Board, allegedly the conservators of such rare species, who, in pandering to the aimless sightseer, seem to have been largely instrumental in driving the birds away. One wonders how much longer the pair of Black Eagles we saw breeding there are going to tolerate similar disturbance.

Our spirits were somewhat revived, however, by our first sighting of three Bald Ibis near Vrede. We could not have wished for better views as they fed unconcernedly within 20 metres of the busy main road. As bird of prey enthusiasts, we were also pleased to see so many pairs of Secretary Birds in the O.F.S.

Our first morning at Pretoriuskop in the Kruger National Park delighted us with Green Pigeons and Brown-headed Parrots in the trees all around us, and a Kurrichane Thrush singing right outside our rondavel as we breakfasted. Black-crowned Tchagra, Southern Black Tit, Lizard Buzzard and Groundscraper Thrush were other "firsts" as we travelled north through the Park. Brown Snake Eagles were commonplace, and the Dark Chanting Goshawk was seen frequently. We had superb views of Martial Eagle and saw a Tawny Eagle on its great stick nest in a tall tree near the road. Wahlberg's Eagle was spotted occasionally, several times we came upon Bonelli's Eagle, and once, Ayres' Hawk Eagle. We saw Scarlet-chested Sunbird nesting in the bush and thrilled to our first sight of the colourful Crested Barbet. On one memorable occasion we were fortunate enough to come upon four species of vultures - White-backed, White-headed, Hooded and Lappet-faced - feeding on a carcass beside the road.

Letaba Camp was excellent for birds and produced our first Golden-breasted Bush Shrike, Grey-headed Bush Shrike and White-browed Scrub Robin. At the nearby Engelhardt Dam we found both Hamerkop and Goliath Heron nesting and saw our first African Jacanas and Wire-tailed Swallows. Close by, in the fork of a great tree, we spotted a Giant Eagle Owl clutching the remains of a guinea fowl in one enormous foot. What a magnificent bird to see in full daylight from a range of only five metres! One morning we were still congratulating ourselves on seeing three Cheetahs which leapt across the road narrowly missing our car, when we spotted a Gymnogene clambering about in characteristic fashion in a tree beside the road. The same day also produced Lesser Gallinule and Dwarf Bittern at one of the dams, Mocking Chat, Sabota Lark, and a colony of White-fronted Bee-eaters in the bank of a small spruit. The road to Ndumu in northern Natal proved one of the worst over which I have ever driven. It took us four hours to cover the 98 km and produced several new rattles from which I am sure my car will never recover. But at Ndumu, justly famous for its birds, we turned up, among many other species, Yellow-spotted Nicator, Dwarf Geese, Yellow White-eye, Purple-banded Sunbird, Little Banded Goshawk and a Bateleur at the nest. On our way south, over the same appalling road, we obtained our best-ever views of a fine adult Gabar Goshawk. At our next port of call, St. Lucia, the famous flamingo flock and the Pink-backed Pelicans were, of course, a must, and these we saw well during a boat trip which produced also an early Black Heron. The bush around Charters Creek was rewarding, if at times hazardous, for we not only saw Grey-hooded Kingfisher, Red-backed Mannikin, Black-collared Barbet and Golden-rumped Tinker Barbet, Green Coucal, Collared Sunbird and a nesting Puffback Shrike, but also came suddenly upon an eight-foot Black Mamba. South again now to Tsitsikama Forest where we were lucky enough to find a party of five Narina Trogons - two adults and three first-year immatures - and later, a group of no fewer than eight Knysna Loeries in the same tree. It was here that the weather turned sour on us after almost four weeks of continuous sunshine, but how could we complain after such a splendid "sample tour" of South Africa's bird haunts? - E.L. Roberts, Hermanus.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

At the Annual General Meeting of the S.A.O.S. on June 19, 1976, certain subscription rates were increased.

ORDINARY MEMBERS ARE NOW R7.50 PER ANNUM,  
Inclusive of the 50c Conservation Levy.

LIFE MEMBERS. R105 on joining the Society and proportionately less for members of long standing, with a Minimum Fee of R70.

SCHOOLS: Bokmakierie ONLY R3.00.

All other rates remain unchanged.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AND PAYABLE ON JANUARY 1, 1977. A form is enclosed herewith.

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STRANDFONTEIN SEWAGE WORKS:

The usual entrance gate off the Strandfontein Road is now CLOSED owing to major construction works on that side of the plant. Entry (subject to the possession of a permit) is now at the main entrance at the end of the road on the East Side of Zeekoe Vlei.

ALL VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO GO TO THE OFFICE AND SIGN THE VISITORS' BOOK and, on leaving, TO SIGN OUT. This is a precaution against being locked in.

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The next issue of the NEWSLETTER will appear sometime in January and will contain dates of the 1977 season's meetings and excursions.

Please let the Editorial Board have contributions by about January 10.

And don't forget to turn up at Marina da Gama on Sunday, January 9. 9 a.m.

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WE WISH ALL MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND NEW YEAR

STOP PRESS: There will be an evening of films on January 21, 1977.

Two films have been arranged: WINGED ARISTOCRATS OF EUROPE and PRIVATE LIFE OF THE GREBE.