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CAPE BIRD CLUB — KAAPSE VOELWAARNEMERSKLUB
 P.O. BOX 5022 POSBUS 5022
 CAPE TOWN KAAPSTAD
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NEWSLETTER

NUUSBRIEF

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
 DEPARTMENT OF ORNITHOLOGY
 BLOEMFONTEIN

NO 115 NR

MARCH 1975 MAART.

JOINT EDITORS: R.K. SCHMIDT & PHILIP TONGUE.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS PLEASE TO THE CLUB'S P.O. BOX 5022, CAPE TOWN. 8000.

NOTES & COMMENTS

AN EXHIBITION AT RONDEVLEI

An exhibition to illustrate graphically the work done at the Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary since its inception on January 1, 1952, is to be staged in the Leonard Gill Field Museum. It will coincide with the first three weeks of the Cape Town Festival and will be open daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

In authorising this, the Divisional Council of the Cape want to stress how this sanctuary has been organised and the role it has played, not only as an amenity, but as a station where observations of ornithological value are accumulated. The presentation of the material offered will be mainly for the man-in-the-street.

BOKMAKIERIE

We are asked to inform members that the address of Bokmakierie is now:

5 Blanche Avenue,
 Darrenwood,
 Randburg,
 JOHANNESBURG.
 2001.

P.O. Box 9081 should no longer be used.

AN INFORMATION CENTRE FOR THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE RESERVE

We haven't got the Field Museum we asked for the March 1974 NEWSLETTER, but Mr. Ernest Middlemiss, the chief warden of the Rondevlei Sanctuary is just completing an Information Centre in the old cottage-like building, on the main road through the reserve, at the back of the Restaurant.

We should like to thank the Management Board for this addition to the attractions in the reserve, which promises to be of great interest.

AND A WALL CHART OF LOCAL BIRDS IN THE RESTAURANT

A suggestion in Committee that a wall chart should be made up from 16 of the pictures in the Provincial Administration's book SOME PROTECTED BIRDS OF THE CAPE PROVINCE, with brief notes about them, and an invitation to those interested to join the Club has received the blessing of the Nature Conservation Department, and immediate steps are being taken to prepare it.

THE CHECK LIST

Although the Club's CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN CAPE was published in 1963, it is still the only guide to the birds most likely to be seen. Certainly the status of some species is changing, but the booklet is a necessary tool for any serious birdwatcher. Copies are still available and cost 50 cents from the Secretary.

S.A.O.S. PROJECT FUND

The Hon. Secretary of the SAOS has asked us to remind members of the CBC that applications for assistance from the SAOS Project Fund for the period 1975/1976 must be lodged with him before 1 July, 1975.

This fund was set up early last year to provide financial assistance to members undertaking research on specific ornithological projects. Applications should contain a detailed statement of the aims of the project, the methods to be used, and the costs involved, and should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, SAOS, P.O. Box 3371, CAPE TOWN. 8000.

CAPE POINT

The Cape Bird Club congratulates the Chief Ranger, Mr. Gerald Wright, on the prosecution of the men found illegally taking crayfish from the reserve. This is a step in the right direction of which we all heartily approve.

Just as we go to be roneoed, the news of the disastrous fire has appeared in the newspapers. Our regret at this misfortune is accompanied by the thought that the presence of large crowds in a nature reserve is incompatible with the purpose of such a place, and whilst the cause is, at the time of writing, not known, we do feel that NO fires should ever be permitted in such an inflammable environment.

MONEY WANTED

The information board at Lambert's Bay ought to be ready for erection in the next few weeks. It is hoped that we shall be able to arrange for an excursion at an inclusive rate, later in the year to enable members to see it for themselves, but in the meantime we need at least another R 300.00. This is a worth-while experiment on the part of your club, so what about selling that gold watch grandfather left you, and giving us the proceeds? Or even not selling the watch, and giving us a donation?

AND PREMISES

The Club could be better managed, especially now that its activities are snowballing so rapidly, if it had a small centre where its records could be kept, and its secretarial department could be centralised. Would any member like to donate the use of one or two rooms or an office, preferably in the Mowbray - Wynberg area for easier parking and more comfortable access for that purpose? The SAOS too, could well utilise some of such accommodation for storage of some of its papers etc. If it were absolutely unavoidable it would be possible to pay a small (mark that word!) rental. Can anyone help? Your Club is developing so rapidly that a centre where members could meet, where a library could be assembled, and such things as Committee meetings held would be a godsend.

A.G.M.

The 27th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Zoology Lecture Theatre, at 8.15 p.m., on Friday May 23, and a nomination form will be found at the end of this NEWSLETTER. Please remember that Committee members are ordained to be thrown out at such times, and that Secretaries, Treasurers etc. are not expecting to hold office forever. It is obviously the duty of members to exercise their power under the Constitution to see that the Committee is constantly replenished with new blood.

CONSERVATIONRIET VLEI

As most members will have seen, when an article about the proposed Marina at Riet Vlei was given a write-up in the Cape Argus, the Secretary wrote a carefully worded and (we think) persuasive letter to that newspaper, setting forth the Club's feelings about the future of Riet Vlei. A copy was sent, at the same time, to the Managing Director of Milnerton Estates Ltd., who own the vlei and surrounding land, enclosing a copy of it. This has been acknowledged by the Company's Secretary, with a note that, at present, no decisions had been taken in regard to the vlei's future.

SCOUTS

Shortly before Christmas, the Conservation Committee of the S.A.O.S. received a letter from the Coloured Scouts Association in Cape Town asking for guidance in the training of scouts in the requirements of the World Conservation Badge, awarded to scouts in all countries at the instigation of the World Wildlife Fund. Some quick reconnaissance work by a committee member led to the belief that some sort of a crash course in the basics of conservation was desirable, and thanks to the co-operation of the Club, the Wildlife Society and the Cape Provincial Council's Nature Conservation Department, as well as other individuals, it was possible to arrange for three talks on Friday evenings, and three Field excursions, for five troop leaders, together with 55 senior scouts from each group.

This course seems to have been an unqualified success. I (PT) was present at the first lecture, given by our own Gerry Broekhuysen, and, having been away in the Knysna country, was able to arrive rather late at the last, a superb talk (which it is hoped members will be able to hear later) about the real core of the matter the exponential growth of population and pollution accompanied by the exponentially decreasing amount of food and non-renewable resources by Mr Geldenhuys of the Nature Conservation Department. When I arrived, I was immediately struck by the complete absorption in the talk shown on all faces. There is no doubt that this represents a real breakthrough into part of the community that up to that time has never been taken into the confidence of the conservationists. The discussion that followed was lively and intelligent and there is no doubt that those distinguished people who so generously gave their services at extremely short notice have been amply rewarded by their success. Since we members of the Cape Bird Club are deeply committed to conservation, we should like to tender our thanks to those who have done the cause so great a service.

OYSTERCATCHER ISLANDS

Club members will recall the fears expressed for the future of the Black Oystercatcher (231) on Peninsula beaches. Ever-increasing disturbance of even the remotest areas may be seriously affecting the breeding success of the species.

On a recent trip (1 Feb. 1975) to Marcus Islands, in Saldanha Bay by Stephen Pringle and myself, I counted 104 birds from a tower built on a rock in the island's centre. We estimated that the total population of the island was between 150 and 200 birds. We found 18 nests without making any attempt to search systematically. There was also a number of nearly full-grown chicks around, and we ringed three. The nests in places were within three metres of one another. On a previous occasion, I found a nest with one egg lying in a crack in the bare rock. The egg was warm, showing that it was being incubated. The Oystercatchers were very active; piping parties were often seen, and piping could be frequently heard at night time.

All these facts point to the tremendously heavy use of Marcus Island by Black Oystercatchers. Territories are very small and there is strong pressure for nesting sites. Marcus Island is uninhabited and it is suggested that disturbance in the mainland has concentrated breeding effort on the island.

There, the Oystercatcher's chief enemy is the Black-backed Gull (287) which takes advantage of the human disturbance to steal eggs and chicks.

It would be interesting to know if other islands are also exploited on the same grand scale by Black Oystercatchers.

OLIVE ELLIOTT.

CONSERVATION AREAS

One of the questions in last years questionnaire was "what areas do you think should be protected?" When we analysed the replies, we made a list of the 27 different places members felt should be protected, and gave it to the SAOS Conservation Committee for their comments. The Editors would especially like to thank Dr. Guy Currie for the time he gave in a busy professional life, to return our list with the following comprehensive report. (The figure in brackets is the number of members, out of the 80 who answered, who gave each area as a place to protect)

1. Langebaan Lagoon (12) A SAOS project.
2. Riet Vlei (5) A CBC project.
3. Milnerton Lagoon (5) See 2.
4. Cape Point (5) This is already a Nature Reserve. See notes and comments.
5. Black River (5) Cape Town Municipality has a reserve scheduled for a point near Raapenberg, in which the CBC is to co-operate.
6. Gordons Bay/False Bay Coast (3) The False Bay Protection Society is looking after this.
7. Sand Vlei (3) A CBC project. There will be a small sanctuary here.
8. Kommetjie (2) Noordhoek Long Beach (1) Already lost.
9. Liesbeeck River (2) Too vague!
10. Verloren Vlei (2) The CBC has already approached the Provincial Administration of the Cape.
11. Potberg (2) Potberg Kloof is private property and is well conserved at present. There is a Cape Provincial Administration project to conserve, count and annually ring the Vultures there.
12. Bot River Lagoon & Marsh. (2) This ought to be investigated.
13. ALL estuaries (2) Too vague.
14. Noordhoek Long Beach (2) See 8 supra.
15. Kleinmond Lagoon & Marshes (2). This area seems not to be well enough known for comment. Perhaps the CBC might report?
and one member each recommended the following.....
16. Breede River Mouth. Engineering projects for a bridge are being investigated by the SAOS. The idea of a sanctuary has been suggested to the Heidelberg Divisional Council+ The area involved is on private farmland, and Dr. Currie, on behalf of the SAOS Conservation Committee will be enquiring into this proposal at the End of April.
17. Elands Bay. See 10 supra.
18. Hermanus Lagoon. This is little known to the Conservation Committee though I (PT) regard it as a very valuable gathering/roosting/feeding ground for duck, waders and, in summer, vast numbers of terns. It ought to be watched and reported on.
19. Kuils River. The mouth is Defence property; and this and the temporary vleis south of the main road are well conserved so far. The Conservation Committee has it on its projects list.
20. Breede River. The member giving this gave no other indications.
21. Saldanha Bay. This is where the Marcus Island/Langebaan projects are. See 1 supra.
22. Fish Hoek Valley. Could the member suggesting this give any more detailed information.
23. Palmiet River Valley Villiersdorp. And about this?
24. Robben Island if development becomes a possibility.5/

The Conservation Committee's laconic comment here is "wait for it?"

25. Klaver Vlei. Used now as an irrigation Dam.... i.e. pumped full when the river is flowing well and then utilised during the dry season, and must now work for its owner. "Even under these circumstances I (Dr. Currie) consider that its bird life can be best protected during the breeding season by weekly patrols to enforce lawi.e. labourers collecting eggs etc."
26. Silvermine to protect the Black Eagle nesting site. (already abandoned)
27. Eerste River Excessively polluted by the winery.
- It was suggested that the CBC should investigate the status of 11, Potberg and 25, Klaver Vlei.

THE MARINA DA GAMA COUNTS

A short note appeared in NEWSLETTER 114 about the first of these events, which took place on Sunday December 8 and was attended by 24 members, at which a total of 1512 individuals of 62 species were counted by the four teams.

Since then, two further counts have taken place, on January 12 and February 9. The results have been suprising. On January 12 we counted 2892 birds, of 73 species, and the February total was no less than 3465 birds of 84 species.

January's list included among the most numerous species plus or minus 750 Coot (212), 141 Sand Martins (509) 1194 Hartlaub's Gull (289), 106 Reed Cormorant (50). Less abundant but more interesting were the Marsh Sandpiper (262) Half-collared Kingfisher (396) one of each The two Namaqua Doves (318) a species that seems to be spreading into the Peninsula and six Purple Herons (57).

February's list included 1400 (more or less) Coot (212), 392 Sand Martins (509) many of which were making strenuous attempts to nest in various heaps of soil, apparently dumped by the contractors... but a reduction in the number of Hartlaub's Gulls (289) to 496. Waders were rather more abundant this month, there being 58 little Stint (253), 60 Curlew Sandpiper (251) though only a handful of other migrant waders. Ducks were twice as numerous but the Reed Cormorant (58) population was smaller with 29 against January's 106. There is an outbreak of Botulism this month, and the counters found a number of dead or dying cormorants; in parentheses it may be noted that the Strandfontein Muizenberg sewage Disposal ponds have also been infected, with many birds dying, including a number of Avocet (269).

The "specials" on February 9 included a Painted Snipe (230), a Pied Barbet (432) another bird extending its range into these parts a Half-collared Kingfisher (396), a Little Bittern (67), and a Mandarin Duck! not however a new species but an escape from captivity. The Dusky Flycatcher (655), spotted by Michael Cherry, and confirmed by Gerry Broekhuysen, was in a very abnormal habitat, being a bird of the forests.

There is no doubt that members enjoy these Sunday morning outings, and there is also no doubt that some of us come not only for the pleasure of doing something worth-while, but to improve their knowledge of Peninsula birds. The existence of four teams lends a slightly competitive element as does the varying count from month to month. And, of course, we get to know one another, and this is always something attended with a little difficulty in a club like ours. The Marina provides tea, coffee and biscuits at the end of the mornings work, when we sit in the comfortable visitor's lounge and talk about our adventures.

If any members who haven't yet tried this would like to do so, please do. We meet at the Visitor Centre every second Sunday, at 9 a.m., and you are more than welcome. And, what is more, doing a good public relations job as well. If you intend coming please phone Len Hicks at 63470.6/

POSTSCRIPT

Since the above was written Prof. Broekhuysen informed the Editor that he was pretty sure that the Little Bittern (67) was a much rarer species, the Dwarf Bittern (66). Roberts mentions that there are only two records from the Cape Peninsula, both dating from the last century.

MEMBERS' REPORTS, NESTS, ETC.RED BISHOP BIRD (808)

A new breeding record for the Cape Peninsula area was achieved in the Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary during the 1974 breeding season when about twelve pairs of Red Bishops formed a small colony in the bed of *Typha capensis* on the north-eastern shores of Rondevlei.

The breeding was particularly successful and the colony was not interfered with in any way by any predator.

An average of 4 eggs per nest was counted.

E. MIDDLEMISS. RONDEVLEI.

PARADISE FLYCATCHER

A pair of Paradise Flycatchers have reared 2 chicks in the grounds of a house on the mountain side of Boyes Drive, Muizenberg. On Boxing Day the parents were obviously feeding, but I could not find the nest and two weeks later the young were flitting about the garden gum trees, chirping sweetly.

CAPE WAGTAIL

A Cape Wagtail had a nest of 2 chicks in an 8' Norfolk Pine tree in the garden adjoining the Nico Malan Theatre. The nest was at eye-level and therefore easily observed.

RICHARDS PIPIT

A Richards Pipit has successfully raised 3 young in a nest not 3' from the edge of the road where cars by the hundred roar to a stop at the stop sign every day of the week.

MISS N. WILLIAMS. PINELANDS

HAMMERKOP (72)

Directly opposite the junction where the Kuils River road joins the Somerset West freeway, by the golf course, is what I take to be a Hammerkop's nest in a 3-pronged fork of a gum tree, about halfway up. Although I have never seen a bird, it is still being added to. Have any members seen the bird?

MRS. E. SMUTS. RONDEBOSCH

LAUGHING DOVE (313) A NEW SEABIRD?

The Oceanography Department at U.C.T. has a tower 1300 m out to sea near Melkbostrand in which they do observations of currents. During the last few months Mr. M. Price of the department has observed what he described as a Laughing Dove on the tower. In the first week of January 1975 he observed the bird had two small chicks. Previous to this he had noticed a pair.

One wonders whether the chicks will make the coast on their first flight?

JOHN COOPER P.F.I.A.O.

HARTLAUB'S GULL (289)

- A copy herewith marked (A)

MARSH SANDPIPER (262)

- A copy herewith marked (B)

(A)

Up to end of 1974 there were very few migrant waders to be seen at the Strandfontein Sewerage Works, and so it was with interest that I noticed7/

a fair number on the Black River below the Valkenberg Hospital and above the turn off to Maitland from the freeway. (Black River Parkway).

When I had a chance I stopped more or less opposite the Kodak Headquarters and parked the car alongside the river. This gave a very clear view of a reasonable stretch of the river and it was not necessary to use binoculars to observe the birds which were active there.

The very interesting thing that was to be seen, and which I had not seen before, was the behaviour of the Hartlaub's Gulls. There must have been up to a hundred in the shallows of the river and on the muddy banks. Over a period of about 45 minutes I noticed that not less than four of these gulls were "paddling" in the shallow water - after the manner of flamingoes, and were then picking up the food that they were able to stir up.

Is this a local Hartlaub Gull habit? Does it happen elsewhere among gulls of the same species or gulls of the same family?

All of us have watched thousands of Hartlaub's Gulls over the years - is this behaviour unique?

Have you ever seen Dabchicks sitting on a sandy beach - walking around - preening out in the open?

In the years that I have been watching birds, and particularly water birds, I have not seen a dabchick on dry land. And yet, there they were. Four of them waddling in their unbelievably ungainly fashion out of the shallow water onto the beach and preening there as though they had been doing it all their lives.

One knows that their legs are set so far back on their bodies that they find it almost impossible to walk - yet there they were doing their balancing act about 100m away.

Where did this happen? At Strandfontein Sewerage Works, When? 18 February, 1975.

(B)

Unusual Preening behaviour of a Marsh Sand-Piper. 18-2-75.

Near the central distribution point of the Strandfontein Sewerage Works a large pond has been drained and a few shallow pools have remained. Gathered at one of these, about 50 m from the roadway was a varied collection of waders - among them: Greenshank (1); Ruffs; Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers along with one Marsh Sand-Piper.

This Sand-Piper was standing in the water, which reached up to his "knees" and was busy preening himself.

What was the excitement?

Each time that he preened he dipped his bill into the water and then preened. It was simple to observe him since he was preening the side nearer to me; i.e. the area above the right wing. He was facing away from me and showed no sign of anxiety or concern at my presence. After about 10 minutes he walked out of the water and continued preening himself on the shore beside the pond.

Apart from dipping his bill in the water before each preening action, this bird did not seem to manifest any features different from normal.

E.T. HOLDER BERGVLIT

MEMBERS' REPORTS, AND SIGHTINGS CONTINUEDBOOTED EAGLE (139)

On New Year's Day, walking in Helderberg Kloof Farm, I saw five raptors circling round and hunting over vineyards, with a small pine forest with fynbos. Their prey, a flock of Helmet Guineafowl were giving frantic alarm cries, as, at intervals one of the raptors swooped on them. Four of the raptors were Steppe Buzzards (154) but the fifth was more slender and lighter in colour, and its swoops made from tree-height, were faster and more dashing. Eventually all the birds dispersed and no kill was made. About 20 minutes later, the same lighter bird flew over us and circled to have a look at another flock of Guineafowl, and I had a good view of it through my binoculars. The longish, slender tail, creamish-white underparts together with a line of black spots on the edge of the under wing coverts small bill and buffish colouring under the chin, denoted the uncommon Booted Eagle, in its light phase. This was an even better sighting of this bird than the previous one I had in the Clanwilliam area in 1974.

P. LOCKHART. SOMERSET WEST.

On February 1, I was again in this area in cloudier, cooler conditions, and I again saw a flock of Guinea Fowls taking evasive action from the attentions of the Steppe Buzzard. As it scattered the Buzzard flew off into the clouds, and a very streamlined raptor took its place and proceeded to stoop on the guineafowl. Through the binoculars I was able to see its blackish head; there was no brown on the crown, as one finds in the Lanner Falcon (114) and judging by the size, this was a female Peregrine Falcon (113). After several unsuccessful stoops it saw me and made off at high speed.

Among the Guineafowl there was one little albino. There are at least two albinos in this flock.

P. LOCKHART. SOMERSET WEST.

GLOSSY IBIS (83)

On Monday 3 February at the Black River, I observed 2 Glossy Ibis feeding in the water, alongside the reeds. They were in the same stretch of water for three days, but on the fourth there was no sign of them.

MISS N. WILLIAMS. PINELANDS

BATELEUR (151)

During the recent visit to the Smallblaar River in Du Toits Kloof I was reminded of Mr. Mew's report of the sighting of a Bateleur in that area during September 1973.

On Tuesday November 19 last year, I saw what I judged to be one, drifting across the valley towards the slope of the Du Toits Berge, it was in view for no more than about 10 seconds as the strong wind enabled him to soar at a considerable speed.

I am aware that Mr. Peter Steyn expressed some doubt about the earlier sighting in NEWSLETTER 107, and I am not prepared to question his more qualified logic. However, I am not entirely convinced, and hope to report more fully shortly.

GORDON SCHOLTZ. RONDEBOSCH

STRIPED FLUFFTAIL (207)

On 11 February 1975 a Striped Flufftail was seen at the Eerste River, Stellenbosch. According to Roberts, the most southerly sighting in Swellendam.

PROF. R. SIEGFRIED. STELLENBOSCH

Readers are referred to the notes on the Da Gama counts, for news of a Dwarf Bittern (66) and of a Dusky Flycatcher (655) in decidedly unusual surroundings.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

On Friday February 13 the first of the year's meetings took place in the Zoology Theatre at the University. To start the season Mr. Stafford Smith showed half of the slides he took on a recent visit to the Galapagos, with a promise that the remainder would be exhibited to us at a later date.

This proved to be a splendid start as Mr. Smith is something special in the photographic field; what is more he knows his birds and knows how to make his talks interesting.

To this listener, what was equally absorbing were those slides that showed the general appearance of the islands themselves; their aridity came as a surprise even to one who reads about such places whenever anything about them appears in print. Those who are able to make a voyage on the Lindblad Explorer are indeed fortunate; this tiny ship (it is only 2500 tons) makes many normally inaccessible places attainable, though perhaps not many of those who travel on it have the capacity to obtain so much knowledge from their experiences as was Mr. Smith.

BOT RIVER LAGOON

Those members who went on the Bot River Lagoon excursion will testify to its being an excellent locality for viewing a large variety of wetland and dryland birds.

Altogether 64 different species were identified. A check list has been lodged with the Club Secretary for those who are interested. The excursion was made more exciting by the additional sighting of 3 Grysbuck; 9 Grey Rheedbuck; and by the find of a decapitated Fieldmouse impaled on a twig. Was this the work of a Fiscal Shrike?

A week previously the area was reconnoitred by myself who was surprised to find two Blue Cranes standing in water deep enough to completely cover their legs. On closer inspection a juvenile (?) Blue Crane was seen alongside the one parent bird. All three moved off into even deeper water on his closer approach. Has anyone noted such behaviour in Blue Cranes before? Unfortunately these Blue Cranes could not be found on the day of the outing.

A further disappointment was the disappearance of large numbers of waterfowl as reported by Arthur Gregory in Newsletter No. 111 of July 1974. This is a disturbing discovery. A farmer in the district blames the low water level of the lagoon as being the factor responsible for the disappearance of these large numbers of birds. He also reported that the Divisional Council of Caledon had cut a channel from the lagoon to the sea, thereby draining it most effectually. Has the food potential for waterfowl been detrimentally affected? Certainly one can find hundreds of thousands of mussels shrivelled and rotting in their shells, whilst heaps of watergrass lies drying and stinking in the sun. Why should this draining of the lagoon be necessary?

ARTHUR G. GREGORY.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members, who have joined since the last list was published.
Mrs. Sheila Black (Plumstead), Miss Eleanor Collier (Mowbray), Mr. & Mrs. G.S. Cullen (Rondebosch), Mrs. E.E. de Braal (Rondebosch), Mrs. A.C. Haupt (Somerset West), Mrs. Margaret Hannam (Somerset West), Mr. N.C. Hartley (Tokai), Mrs. L.E. Hartley (Tokai), Mrs. Sally Hogan (Kenilworth), Commodore W.D. Hogg (Simonstown), Mrs. A.L. Ryusch van Dugteren (Constantia)10/

PROGRAMME FOR APRIL AND MAY 1975.

DETACH THIS PAGE AND KEEP IT FOR REFERENCE.
NO OTHER NOTICES WILL BE CIRCULATED.

MEETINGS. In the Zoology Theatre at the Department of Zoology, University of Cape Town.

Friday April 18 8.15p.m. Activities at the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology. Talk by Dr. John Harcus "BIRDS OF THE FOREST".

Friday May 16 Prof. C.J. Uys "Days with Birds". We are glad to welcome Prof. Uys once more; he is probably our most regular speaker. Last year we gave him a rest, and we now hear that he has a new clutch of slides.

EXCURSIONS

STELLENRUS SUNDAY 27 APRIL.

Meet at 9.30a.m. 15 min. allowed for latecomers At a road junction about 7½ miles from Somerset West on the road to Stellenbosch you will see a signpost marked STELLENRUS. The CBC sign will also be there. Turn along this gravel road for a short distance to an open area, where we meet. The farm STELLENRUS however is 5 miles further on. Members travelling from Lynedoch to reach the main road, then turn left.

RED HILL
SIMONSTOWN

Sunday May 25. Take the False Bay road towards Simonstown. About 1½ km before the town, turn right up the hill. Near the summit, note the disused cafe on left-hand side, then 1 km further there is a road to the left where you will see the CBC sign. Turn into this road, pass over the cattle grid, then immediately left to the parking area.

Meet at 9.30a.m. 15 min. allowed for latecomers.
Leader:
Mr. John Harvey.

A LAST WORD

The Hon. Treasurer reminds us that about 100 subscriptions are still outstanding. May we repeat that the cash we would spend in reminding them by post would be better spent on the Club's objects.

Also please note that the subscriptions is now R 6.50, the odd 50 cents being the conservation levy imposed by the SAOS (which is being put to very good use by it).

Secondly FAMILY membership is 50 cents extra for EACH member of the family and must be husband/wife/minor child (ren). It does not apply to brother/sister relationship.

The notice in the January NEWSLETTER was not, we fear sufficiently clear.