



whole population of them in the Peninsula cannot be much above 200 individuals.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
MEMBERS CAN HELP

HARTLAUB'S GULL ENQUIRY

Hartlaub's Gull, one of our most common coastal resident birds, ranges between Walvis Bay and Cape Agulhas. The greater proportion of the population, however, is concentrated in the Cape Bird Club area so it presents itself as an ideal species for study as a Club project.

This Gull is well known as a breeder in large colonies on the off-shore islands but little is known of its movement during the non-breeding season. Does each island population confine itself to a certain portion of the mainland immediately opposite the island? If they disperse do the juveniles move to a greater extent than the adults? What has occasioned the movement inland? It now frequents market places, rubbish dumps etc. far from the sea and has even taken following the plough. These and many questions concerning its life history at present remain unanswered,

By courtesy of the local authorities of Robben Island C.B.C. ringing parties have been ringing fledglings in the breeding colonies since 1970. During the period 1970 to '73 some 2000 were ringed. It soon became apparent though that it will be a long time before much information will be gathered from recoveries alone. (Note: a recovery refers to a ring taken from a dead bird) Adults which have been ringed could, of course, be caught but the difficulties involved will ensure scant returns.

With a view to gleaning far more information from the ringing effort plastic colour rings, in addition to the numbered metal ring, have been placed on the tarsi of some chicks handled recently. In 1972 254 chicks received blue plastic rings. In 1974 the Committee of the Cape Bird Club sanctioned a special grant for the purchase of plastic rings and 1200 of the 1707 chicks ringed with metal rings were given a black ring as well. Members of the Club were asked to check flocks of gulls recording the number of birds present and particulars of any ringed purposes. To date 365 forms have been submitted by 19 observers.

On Saturday, 24 May 1975, 374 chicks were ringed with metal rings and, in addition, were specially marked with plastic colour rings. On 31 May this total was brought up to 550 within a week. We now have an accurately aged sample of this year's chicks. The immediate task of our observers is to establish when these fledglings move to mainland. From subsequent observations over the next twelve months or so the aim is to ascertain how long juveniles are fed by the parent birds. Watch for food-begging behaviour and the response of the adults. When is the complete adult plumage assumed? The presence of brownish feathers distinguishes a juvenile for many months. Black-ringed birds are now about one year old and observers should please comment on their appearance. Observations may be recorded on the back of the report forms.

Observations from areas outside the Peninsula are particularly needed. Members residing at, and visitors to, places like Gordons Bay, Gansbaai, Hermanus and Langebaan could be most helpful in this respect. "NIL" reports are equally important so please report the number of gulls checked even if none is ringed. G.D. Underhill (address on page 1 Telephone 65-5698).

OUTINGS

The question of arranging one or more special outings for beginners was one of the topics discussed at the last Committee Meeting, and it was decided that to do so would certainly meet a need that has been expressed by a number of members. Unfortunately, this NEWSLETTER goes to the roneo in the midst of the winter holiday period, and it has not been possible, so far, to do more than to agree to the desirability of doing something! An announcement will be made as soon as possible.

THE MARINA DA GAMA COUNTS

There is no space in this NEWSLETTER but a fuller report will be circulated as soon as possible. For the moment and the record, the number of individuals BIRDS seen on the May count was 3334, June 3298. Species, May 68, June 75. Strange to say, June was the first time the common Crowned GUINEAFOWL (192) was seen! Members who have not yet given themselves the pleasure of attending one of these friendly yet useful gatherings, are urged to do so, for not only are they doing a conservation job, but they have perhaps the best possible opportunity of learning the birds. Telephone Mr. Hicks at 63470.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was, this year, better attended than on any previous occasion. This is very welcome, because, after all, the Cape Bird Club doesn't belong to its Committee, but to its members and this demonstration of democracy at work is very welcome.

The Chairman's report had been written by Gerry Broekhuysen shortly before he left for his disastrous holiday in Europe. This makes sad reading of the concluding paragraphs, and the Editors are only too aware of the loss the Club has sustained. But, your Committee is determined that the standard set by its late Chairman shall not only be maintained, but exceeded, and looks forward not only to more for the entertainment of members, but to more and greater efforts in what is now the most important and vital aspect of its work .... conservation. This report was read at the Meeting by the Club's Vice-Chairman, Mr. R.K. Schmidt.

At the end of the meeting one of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' films, Birds of the Grey Wind, (Ireland) was shown.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1974-1975.

During the course of the year the Committee has met 10 times. Attendance at these meetings was good. During the year Mr. D.S. Steele was co-opted on to the Committee.

THE MORE IMPORTANT TOPICS DISCUSSED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGSLamberts Bay:-

The erection of the notice board occupied a considerable amount of time. Various designs were considered as well as costs involved. The board which was eventually decided upon was not only the cheapest but the Committee felt the most suitable for the conditions which are pretty harsh. Donations towards the cost have come in slowly. It is in storage now until the Harbour Master has time to erect it. Mr. Hicks.

Rietvlei:

A number of Committee Members had an interview with the Mayor of Milnerton and some senior Council Members about the creation of a bird sanctuary on the Vlei.

Although the Council is very sympathetic and even appeared rather keen, they cannot act as the vlei and environment is owned by Milnerton Estate Ltd.,

Following a press report about a proposed Marina at Rietvlei, the Committee wrote to the Cape Times and to the owner, stating the need for a sanctuary and its requirements. Professional advice was offered if interest was shown. As far as can be gathered nothing definite has been decided about the establishment of the Marina, which seems a long term undertaking.

Membership Drive:-

As the Club has not shown any substantial increase in members in the last few years, a sub-committee was appointed to organise a membership drive.

The first suggestion was the design of a leaflet explaining the aims and objects of the Club and what is offered to members. This leaflet is in an advanced stage and will soon be available and sent to prospective members. A direct mailing campaign may eventually be decided upon.

The Committee has also considered the holding of public film and slide shows.

Marina da Gama at Zandvlei:-

In response to a request by the ecologist of the Marina da Gama Scheme, the Club has undertaken to carry out monthly bird-counts at Zandvlei. After an initial reluctance, members have eventually responded well and the counts are proving most interesting. As bird-counts of Zandvlei are available when the vlei and its surroundings was not interfered with, the present counts will give actual facts to what extent the present interference affects the birdlife. Reports on the counts have appeared in the Newsletter.

Club Affairs:-

It was felt that the club affairs could do with a "spring cleaning" and a sub-committee was appointed to go into the matter and recommend ideas which would stimulate interest.

A number of proposals were put forward and some have already been acted upon, while others will probably be introduced during the year. ....4/

Conditions in the Cape Point Nature Reserve:-

A sub-committee was appointed to scrutinise the conditions in the Cape Point Nature Reserve, which have given concern.

A report has been submitted to the Committee.

EXCURSIONS AND EVENING MEETINGS

Both, as usual, drew large attendances and especially in the case of the excursions things threatened to become rather unwieldy and the Committee felt that members attending were not getting the full benefit. It has, therefore, been decided to appoint for each excursion a group leader and that members attending will be divided up into smaller groups and that these cater for special needs.

MEMBERSHIP

As mentioned earlier, membership has been rather static. The total membership this year has been 424 in comparison with 430 last year.

PROJECT ORGANISERS

The following persons acted as project organisers:-

Although not actually a project in the sense of the word, Mrs. Davis was kind enough to organise the teas at evening meetings. She and her helpers deserve special thanks.

Mr. Stan Clarke was mainly responsible for the year's programme and for obtaining permission from the different property owners to have our excursions there. Dr. Winterbottom continued as organiser of the Field Cards scheme and Mr. Underhill was once again in charge of Nest Cards and the Hartlaub's Gull enquiry.

Mr. Wilson acted as recorder of Migration and Mr. Hicks was in charge of the slide collection.

The Newsletter flourished under the joint editorship of Messrs. Tongue & Schmidt.

Rudolf Schmidt again acted as Vice-Chairman and had opportunity to show what an able Chairman he would have been if he would have accepted the many times I have asked him to stand as Chairman in the past.

Mr. Schmidt here interpolated.

If I may add a word here, I always felt that Prof. Broekhuysen, apart from his other qualities, provided a link with the University which is of immense value to our club, and I therefore thought it best to keep him as Chairman, as long as possible.

As I am nearly as old as he was, I do not fall either into the category of younger men with fresh ideas whom he wanted to lead the Club.

Again the Department of Zoology at U.C.T. was the venue for our Evening Meetings and a special vote of thanks goes to the Head of the Department of Zoology for making the lecture hall and the Museum available to the Club.

In ending the Chairman's Report I like to express my sincere regret that I cannot be present to read it and that I have to ask the Vice-Chairman to do it for me. Although far away I shall be present in spirit. I am specially sorry that I can't be present as this is my last Chairman's Report after having been Chairman for more than 20 years.

For quite some time I have felt, that I at last should stand down and that somebody else, younger and with new fresh ideas, should take over as Chairman of the Cape Bird Club. I did try but it was made difficult for me to do this.

As I will be away for a considerable part of the year, the right moment to stand down has obviously arrived. The Cape Bird Club has always played an important role in my interests ever since it hatched on the 27th of August 1947 in the Swartkloof "wilds" and I am proud for having had the opportunity to serve the Club for so long and right from its start.

GERRY BROEKHUYSEN

Field Cards:-

The Field Card collection continues to accumulate slowly. Unfortunately, housing difficulties during extensions to the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute have rendered the files temporary inaccessible, but the need for more cards ....5/

in respect of the districts more remote from Cape Town, especially Vanrhynsdorp, remains; also for more cards for certain habitats, particularly pine woods, mountain renosterbosveld and sea cliffs.

J.M. Winterbottom.

MIGRATION REPORT FOR 1974

During 1974 the SAOS decided to alter this project slightly. Previously all records of migrants for the months of March to October had been required, but it was felt that if the project was slightly modified it could be made more effective, so the following has been arranged:-

1. All SAOS branches have appointed their own local migration recorder.
2. Information on first and bulk arrival dates and bulk departure dates of migrants should be sought.
3. All over-wintering records should be noted.

Explanation

1. Local branch recorders could co-ordinate their own club members and encourage them to submit returns.
2. Members are requested to forward only the first few spring records and the last autumn records of the common migrants. This should enable us to work out arrival and departure dates. If they observe any bulk arrival or departure this can also be noted.

Data can then be compared from year to year and from area to area on each species.

3. This is self-explanatory.

Please remember that with each record you should state the number of birds observed and the place. Records should be sent to my new address as from 1st August.

114 Briza Road,  
TABLE VIEW.  
7436.

G.H. Wilson  
CBC MIGRATION RECORDER.

HARTLAUB'S GULL ENQUIRY: CAPE BIRD CLUB

REPORT FOR 1974

During 1974 1707 chicks were ringed on Robben Island. 1200 of these were also ringed with coloured plastic rings. Members were asked to check groups of Hartlaub's Gulls, noting the total number present and details concerning any ringed birds in the flock.

Forms were distributed to record these details and 284 completed ones have been returned by the following:-

G.J. and M.H. Broekhuysen 8, M. Ballard 7, D.R. Bertish 4, M.I. Cherry and P. Buirski 3, C.C.H. Elliott and M.T. Ruttiman 4, M.J. Davidson 16, M.J. Love 116, M.M. Nelson 1, R.K. Schmidt 5, W.R. Siegfried 1, G.D. Underhill 18, L.G. Underhill 39, N. Williams 43, G.H. Wilson 1, L.J. Wilson 34, K. Zammit 5, It would be appreciated if members would continue making these reports.

NEW MEMBERS

Since the last list of new members was published in the March issue, the following new members have joined us.

Mrs. Joyce Ashley, Newlands; Mrs. J.J. Bremer, Bergvliet; A.H. Brown, Tamboerskloof; Ian H. Michler, Rondebosch; E. Langley Roberts, San Bay, Hermanus; I.N. Savage, Rondebosch; W.F. Smit, Bellville; Edgar Stein, Fresnaye; Mrs. R. Brown, Bergvliet; Mrs. E. Greshoff, Durbanville; L.A. Willemse, Camps Bay. And one new Life Member Mr. A.R. Thesen.

Should the above list include anyone who regards him/herself as in need of assistance, especially in the matter of getting to know the birds, PLEASE find any Committee Member at an outing and fasten on to him. It's an old-established, and effective method.

CLUB ACTIVITIESFIELD EXCURSION TO STELLENRUS. Sunday 27th April

Those who attended this outing will testify that it was extremely wet one! Nevertheless under trying conditions of wind and rain quite a number of birds were actually seen. Perhaps the most interesting and exciting was that dashing raptor the LANNER FALCON (114). A single bird was seen right at the beginning of the morning, and fortunately John Martin got his binocs trained on the elusive bird for positive identification. At the same time no less than 8 Crowned Plover (242) protesting loudly at the avian pirate. Then the rain started again and never stopped.

The writer's list showed 26 other species besides the two mentioned under the worst possible conditions. At the end of the morning we had a good viewing of the skulking Bar-Throated Apalis (622). A few days before the CBC excursion on the 23 April, in heavy fog, but no wind or rain, I recorded 44 different bird species, and three mammals. The birds included all three sunbirds and the Red-breasted Sparrow Hawk (156). On June 16 last year (1974), on the CBC excursion to this place, 49 species were recorded, including the Black Eagle (133) and Greater Honeyguide (440).

PAT LOCKHART SOMERSET WEST.

Meeting 16 May 1975

What a splendid bird-photographer Dirk Uys is! The moment the first slide came on to the screen there was a gasp from the audience, and we all knew what we were in for! As the Chairman said, Prof. Uys is one of our regular contributors to the evening programmes and one who never fails us, because in addition to being so good with the camera, he always accompanies the pictures with just the right gossippy commentary. This was one of our good evening meetings!

P.T.

A.G.M. 23 May.

The trap having been well baited with a promise of one of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' films (Birds of the Grey Wind), there was a record turn-out for the normally neglected AGM. And a good AGM it was, with plenty of comment from the members, and, at the end this most interesting film of birds in Ireland. To myself, the memory the film left is of the remarkable handsome ducks there are in the northern hemisphere. The film, of course, has been made to persuade people to join the RSPB, and good propoganda it is. I liked the shot of the speeding motor boat disturbing the nesting grebe, with the follow-up of a magpie eating the eggs, left unprotected. It is a pity that one man's pleasure can so easily be disaster for another species.....and so hard to persuade ordinary folk that what seems to be innocent fun can cause unseen damage.

The reports of this meeting appear elsewhere in the NEWSLETTER.

P.T.

MEMBERS' REPORTS.CAPPED WHEATEAR (568)

Whilst watching Red-capped Larks (488) and Tawny Pipits(692) at the Black River on April 21, I saw a very active little bird hopping about with a lot of whig-flicking and bobbing of the tail. Being in my car, I was able to approach to within a couple of metres, and saw it was a juvenile Capped Wheatear. This is the first time I have seen them at Black River.

MRS. N. WILLIAMS. PINELANDS.

BLACK EAGLE (133)

Above the old manganese mine, overlooking Hout Bay, my wife & I saw two Black Eagles, on Sunday May 4. They circled round for some time, but a ridge prevented us seeing whether they landed, though they sometimes came very low.

H.A. NOBLE LLANDUDNO.

This pair of birds has been reported a number of times of late, and undoubtedly is resident somewhere in the vicinity. Editors.

FLAMINGOES.Greater (86):

A flock of approx. 30 seen on the Bot River Lagoon; they all appeared to be adults. (23.2.75) A flock of approx. 9 seen on Langebaan Lagoon, Churchhaven side, on 8.3.75.

PAT LOCKHART SOMERSET WEST. ....7/

## Lesser (87)

Up to 40 with 120 sub-adults at Strandfontein Sewage works on 20 May 75.

## Greater (86)

For a short period, up to end April, up to 70 Greater.

E.T. HOLDER BERGVLJET

## Lesser.

When I was there (Strandfontein) on May 22, I estimated that there was a total of approx. 400 Lesser, of which about three-quarters were sub-adults.

P.T.

After a week of foul weather, we awoke on 30 May to sunshine and a delicate pale blue sky. We decided to go to Strandfontein, although of recent months it has been disappointing. The weather was ideal, and the first notable bird we saw, probing in the grassland was a painted Snipe (230). We went on noting several Cape Shovelers with blue nasal marks, and came to a small triangular pan where, among the Stilts and Sandplovers, were five Glossy Ibises (83). Over the bank was a much larger pan and the far side looked an odd speckled white. The glasses showed these to be Flamingoes and nearer investigation revealed a flock of about 700 Lesser Flamingoes (87) most of them still in juvenile plumage. We found too, that the Ducks and Pelicans, which has been lamentably few the last time we were there, had recovered their numbers.

## YELLOW WAGTAIL (689)

On May 19, I saw a Yellow Wagtail (grey head, as in Roberts) in the sewage works (Strandfontein). It was on the road parallel to the sea, and then moved on to the bank before it flew away. By its walking & flight there was little doubt that it was a wagtail. The chest was bright yellow, the back and tail greenish, the head dark grey. Two friends were with me and we watched it for some time.

MISS M. VANE.

The check list (1963) gives only 4 records. On May 16, 1974, Nico Myburgh reported one on the Lourens River, which was also seen by Rudolf Schmidt. N.S111 Editors.

## PURPLE HERON (57)

One has been reported at Strandfontein on May 19 by Miss Vane, and on the 22nd by P.T. Mr. Holder reports having seen 4 during April.

## ETHIOPIAN SNIPE (250)

4 reported from the Strandfontein area 20 May by Mr. Holder. He adds that Alf Brown also reports seeing them.

## STANLEY BUSTARD (219)

It is always pleasant to be able to report these handsome birds. I saw three in the fields about 15km west of Pacaltsdorp on Monday May 26. P.T.

## KLAAS'S CUCKOO (351)

Mr. Kuhne, a member of the staff of the "Burger" heard and saw a Klaas's Cuckoo (Meitjie) at Tamboerskloof on 4 June. R.K. Schmidt heard probably the same bird, calling repeatedly there the same day.

## FISCAL FLYCATCHER (665)

After the da Gama count on Sunday June 8, a few members, still unsatisfied, went on to the Strandfontein road, and, a short distance from the seaside road, saw a pair of Fiscal Flycatchers on the telephone wires. These birds are uncommon in the Peninsula area, though Rudolph Schmidt has a breeding record. Since a pair was seen, perhaps 1975 will be another breeding year?

P.T. and R.K.S.

## ON CLIFF-NESTING FISH EAGLES (149) &amp; PADDLING HARTLAUB'S GULL (289)

I was most interested in Mr. Roberts' record of a Fish Eagle breeding on a cliff, published in NEWSLETTER 116. While the site is most unusual, it is not unique, and nest sites are not invariably in trees. I would draw attention to a photograph of a nest on a jutting slab of rock published on p23 of my book "Eagle Days". Also recently I have seen a nest perched high on top of a huge boulder outcrop in the Matapos, Rhodesia. It received no protection from the elements whatsoever, and yet a chick was successfully reared last year. It is hoped to write this up, more fully at a later stage.

On paddling Hartlaub's Gulls, may I draw attention to a short note of mine, published in 1957 in OSTRICH 28,27-128. Here I dealt with the treading motion of a feeding Hartlaub's Gull and Gerry Broekhuysen added an editorian footnote comparing it to the feeding actions of Black-headed Gulls in Europe. (*Larus ridibundus*)

PETER STEYN BULAWAYO

#### HARTLAUB'S GULL

In reference to Mr. Holder's observations on "paddling" in mud by this species I wish to add that I have watched the closely related Australian Silver Gull (*Larus novaehollandiae*) paddling for invertebrates in banks of seaweed. Serventy, Serventy & Warham, in their "Handbook of Australian Sea-Birds refer to these paddling in sand on p.196.

P.D. SHAUGHNESSY RONDEBOSCH.

#### BLUE CRANE (216)

After studying tame Blue Cranes (*Anthropoides*) the following phenomena were observed.

1. When standing in the rain, the birds assume a hunched up position and close the nictitating membrane of the eye only. Is this a common occurrence with them.
2. The birds also display a yawn, or comforting movement when under peaceful circumstances, their feathers on top and back of the heads are gently stroked or brushed with the lips. This behaviour has been observed since the birds were a few days old, and it still occurs at the age of 1½ years. The yawn has also become a conditioned reflex. It happens sometimes that the bird will start the yawn while the hand or face is still approaching the head. Literature on cranes does not mention the above phenomena. It will be appreciated if club members could supply more information concerning the reasons for the occurrences described above.

ISABELLE NEL STELLENBOSCH.

#### THE COUNCIL FOR THE HABITAT

Annual Meeting at Durban.

Members will doubtless recall that a representative of the Cape Bird Club attended the inaugural meeting of this Council, held in Cape Town on March 5 last year. Its second meeting took place in Durban this year., and dealt chiefly with planning and protection of coastal areas. Since it was not possible for the Club to send a representative, Dr. Guy Currie, attending on behalf of the SAOS, was asked also to represent the Club. Dr. Currie has sent us the following report, and at the same time would like to thank the SAOS for sponsoring his attendance. The Committee of the CBC, in their turn, wishes to thank Dr. Currie for representing the Club.

Extract from the Executive Committee Report of the Council for Habitat.

The major project in 1974 was the development of a scheme to present to the Minister of Planning and the Environment concerning consultation at the planning stage of the environmental impact of any major development, e.g. Road building, mining, water and power development. etc.

The scheme involves a formula for the scientific determination of environmental impact and will be prepared for presentation in 1975.

#### LAMBERTS BAY

At the last moment, news has arrived that the Notice Board, subscribed for by members of the Club, (for which we still need R300) has been erected. Our thanks go to the Harbourmaster there, for doing this for us.

The Editors would like to thank everyone who has written to them and regret that the pressure on this issue of the NEWSLETTER has made it impossible to print their letters. It is very discouraging not to see your interesting observations, but we shall try very hard to include at least some of the material received during this last two (bumper;) months.

#### A PROPAGANDA LEAFLET AT LAST

The long-promised leaflet is now available and a copy is included with every copy of this NEWSLETTER. You may have as many more as you can use by asking Mr. Somerset 8.38.20



## CONFERENCE ON COASTAL CONSERVATION

1. Sandy Beach Ecology

Repetitive minor episodes of crude oil deposition can produce oil strata affecting all burrowing crustacea. Water ballast disposal from oil tankers off the Natal North Coast produces this.

2. The need for Marine reserves.

An urgency exists for their proclamation. There are some high priority areas which should immediately be proclaimed even if marine biological surveys are not complete.

3. Industrial Threat

The presence of factories with intractable waste which are situated on rivers or near the coast.

4. Mining Pressures.

Phosphate is in great demand. Large quantity is imported annually. There are deposits on the Cape West Coast.

5. Agriculture

Increasing siltation is occurring at estuaries in Natal. This is related to lack of soil conservation on farms.

MEASURES THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO CONSERVATION IN DEVELOPING AREAS:1. Landscape Architecture

Much advancement has been achieved in the analysis and assessment of the intrinsic values of an area. Values such as the sensitivity of the ecosystems, aesthetics of topography, etc. These values are given the right priorities in the development plan. The opinion of landscape architects must thus play an essential part in environmental conservation of developing areas.

2. Establishment of small reserves:

Several small reserves will build up a network of conservation in developing areas. Local authorities will encourage this.

3. Political Lobbying

Pressure that can be applied to a candidate representing your area, i.e. if he is not prepared to support a major environmental issue he will lose support and maybe his seat.

PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

EXCURSIONS: Sunday August 17. NOOITGEDACHT. Old Malmesbury Road,

Leaders: Messrs A. Morris & A. Gregory.

Meet at 9.45 am. 15 minutes allowed for late arrivals

Take the N11, which is the National Road to Malmesbury, for 3km past the Durbanville road junction at Vissershoeek Bridge, then turn right ... there is no signpost at the turnoff. Proceed about 12km to the Philadelphia-Klipheuwel cross-roads, and then take the Kalbaskraal road for a further 6km. The farm is on the left hand side, and the sign reads NOOITGEDACHT. J.F.W. Dempers. Go down toward the farm buildings, over the concrete bridge and park under the trees on the right. Journey from Cape Town plus minus 1 hour.

Long weekend August 30 to September 1

LAMBERTS BAY

We had intended to hire a bus to take us here, but with the availability of petrol on Saturday mornings, it will now be cheaper and more convenient for us to travel in our own cars. There is a good Municipal Caravan Park/Camp site at the far end of the town, and also an Hotel. People wishing to stay at the hotel should telephone: MARINE HOTEL. Lamberts Bay 49. (38 Rooms of which 15 have bath) One Star.

There should be plenty of gannets, cormorants and penguins to be seen on the adjoining island. This will enable members to see the Notice Boards and some of us wish to make artificial burrows for the penguins to nest in. A small Nature Reserve is only a few miles away (Otterdam) and, with luck, the Spring flowers will be in bloom.

Minimum of 4 hours drive from Cape Town attractive, but perhaps slower route is to turn left at the top of Pikeneers Pass and to go through Sandberg and Leipoldtville, though the more frequented way is to turn off the Graafwater just before entering Clanwilliam.

If further information is required, Phone Stan Clarke at 712745.

EVENING MEETINGS

FRIDAY July 18.

Mr. R. Geldenhuys of the Cape Provincial Department of Nature Conservation "CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT".

FRIDAY August 22.

Mrs. M.K. Rowan. "SOUTH AFRICAN DOVES AND PIGEONS"

FRIDAY September 19

Dr. P.D. Shaughnessy "BIRDS OF MACQUARIE ISLAND"

All at 8.15 pm. Zoology Lecture Theatre. NO ENTRY TO THE BUILDING AFTER 8.30pm.

FIRST HOWEVER TWO IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The first is that because of a plague of thefts from the Zoology Department at the University, the Cape Bird Club MUST lock the door leading into the building at 8.30 pm. Anyone arriving after that time will therefore be unable to enter.

The Second concerns an alteration to the next evening meeting which takes place on Friday July 18.... NOT the 22 as wrongly shown in NEWSLETTER 116. Owing to Dr. Shaughnessy's absence from South Africa, his talk has had to be postponed but the Committee is very pleased that Mr. R. Geldenhuys, of the Provincial Department of Nature Conservation will give a talk on

THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

This is substantially the talk he gave to the Scouts in Athlone last February and concerns what is probably the major problem facing us all at this time.