

CAP.

CAPE BIRD CLUB

K A A P S E V O E L W A A R N E M E R S K L U B

P.O. Box 5022,  
CAPE TOWN.

P.O. Box 5022,  
KAAPSTAD.

NEWSLETTER

NO. 127

NUUSBRIEF

MARCH 1977 MAART

PERCY FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE  
OF AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN,  
RONDEBOSCH.

THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER has gone to press on February 21 in order that it may reach all members in good time to announce the arrangements for March, April and May.

All correspondence received after that date will be published in the MAY issue.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Derek Longrigg Rudolf Schmidt David Steele  
Philip Tongue

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

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE SLIDE SHOW: By the time this NEWSLETTER is in members' hands, the SLIDE SHOW will be taking place in a few week's time. There are one or two points in regard to it on which the co-operation of members is very much to be desired and will be very welcome.

TICKET SALES: Please make every effort to sell tickets. Packs of these are to be obtained from Committee members at evening meetings and excursions. Or by telephoning Philip Tongue at 22-7921 office hours or 77-0155 after office hours...Mr. Tongue's office hours are flexible(!) or Alan Morris at 22-9659 or David Steele at 41-2036... or any Committee member whose number you know. Full instructions come with all sets of tickets for sale.

PROGRAMME: In order to produce an attractive programme we should like it to contain a few advertisements. Can anyone persuade a business friend to pay R30 for a full page or R15 for a half page. This, of course, amounts to a donation to the Club's funds but it also will allow of the production of a very handsome programme indeed. If you have any ideas, or better still, have found a willing advertiser, please phone David Steele at 41-2036 in office hours.

COOL DRINKS: It was felt that if cool drinks could be sold during the interval it would constitute a further source of revenue. But assuming that we have a good house for each evening, a number of volunteers will be needed to hand them out and take the cash. Anyone willing to help please contact Mrs. N. Davis at 74-1977.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: By now everyone should have paid their subscription for 1977 although the Hon. Treasurer says 'no'!

This seems to be an appropriate place to remind members, especially the one or two who grumbled about the increase that your Committee has no authority in this connection. The Cape Bird Club is a BRANCH of the S.A. Ornithological Society (headquarters in Johannesburg) and subscriptions are decided by Council having regard to the requirements of the Society. Of the money you pay, the Club may only retain R1.50, the remainder being handed over to the Society. It is quite possible to be a member of the S.A.O.S. without being a member of any bird club, as many of its members are, and in that case the Society takes all the subscription.

NEW MEMBERS: We are happy to record the following new members:-  
 Mr. A.M. Buss, Muizenberg; Mr. D.A. Cowan; Milnerton; Mr. I.M. Currie,  
 Bredasdorp; Miss Carol V. Davies, Observatory; Mr. G.M. Gibson,  
 Goodwood; Mr. Rudolf R. Kiefer, Parow; Mr. and Mrs P.J. Laas, Newlands;  
 Mr. P.H. Neatherway, Plumstead; Mrs E.M. McKerron, Rondebosch;  
 Mr. and Mrs D. Raulstone, Observatory; Mr. W.P. Stanford, Cape Town.

A NOTE FROM RIETVLEI: Now that the Milnerton Aquatic Club has taken over the control of approximately 120 hectares of the western side of Rietvlei, the bird, fish and animal life will have a good measure of protection.

The two deep water lakes are teeming with fish life and provide good feeding for Pelicans, terns and Cormorants. Approximately 50 hectares of vlei land on the eastern shore of the lakes has been set aside as a bird sanctuary. No development will take place there and the public are asked to "keep out". Signboards have been erected. A speed limit of 5 kilometres per hour has been imposed on all power craft in the South lake which adjoins the Sanctuary. Dogs are not permitted anywhere in the area.

Pelicans seem to have taken up residence at the South Lake and up to 60 at a time feed in the lake with a large proportion of feeding done at night. (Is this normal?)

Recently nine Caspian Terns were counted roosting together and Black Storks have been visiting the area.

SANCCOB has been given permission to use the area for the collection of affected birds at the gull roosting site and numerous treated birds have been released there to convalesce.

At present the Management Committee has two members representing conservation interests (one a member of the bird club) and it is hoped that sufficient conservation minded boating enthusiasts will join the club to maintain strong representation on the committee in future.

RON BELL.

STRANDFONTEIN SEWAGE WORKS:

(1) Visitors signing in at the reception counter will find a pad of forms on which they are invited to note sightings and numbers of four easily identifiable birds, namely, the PELICAN, CASPIAN TERN and the two FLAMINGOES. These have been placed there following a request from the compilers of the RED DATA BOOK and great importance is attached to the accumulation of knowledge as time goes on. MEMBERS ARE EARNESTLY REQUESTED TO TAKE AND FILL IN A FORM. It doesn't matter if you see none of the birds...return it marked none...which is of equal importance.

(2) Will all those visiting the works please note that it is essential that EACH member of a party holds a permit to enter. Failure to observe this requirement is a punishable breach of the regulations and is quite definitely not liked by the authorities. Please do not take anyone with you who is not provided with a permit, which is obtainable at the counter on the 13th floor of CITY PARK where the Sewage Department's offices are. City Park is at the corner of Loop and Longmarket Streets. Daily permits cost 20 cents, annual ones R2.

MARINA DA GAMA: There was a good turn-out for the January count which took place in pleasant weather. Comparative numbers for this and the two previous January counts are given:

Total number	'75	2 892	'76	2 699	'77	2 649
Total Gulls		1 218		898		1 242
Total species		73		79		82

Two rarities seen are the WILLOW WARBLER (a palearctic species)(599) and WILSON'S PHALAROPE, a North American bird.

PROMEROPS

At the January Committee Meeting there was a long discussion about the title of our NEWSLETTER. It has long been the practice in scientific circles to name their journals after some characteristic and local animal (with the distinguished and totally-English-illogical exception of the B O U's journal IBIS!) and so the Eastern Cape Wild Bird Society's broadsheet is THE BEE-EATER, the Northern Transvaal Ornithological Society's is LANIARIUS and so on. It was felt that as a new printing of the front page of the NEWSLETTER was about to be ordered, we too should have a title. The obvious one is that of the bird whose picture graces it at present, yet the idea of SUGAR BIRD-SUIKERVOL was not acceptable; journals ought not to have two alternative titles, even in the legitimate cause of bilingualism. The solution to this language problem was settled by calling in a third language...and so, in future, this broadsheet will appear under the name

PROMEROPS

SIGHTINGS: 1. For various reasons not all reports and observations, especially those concerning sightings can be printed. The two most cogent ones are that the sighting is not sufficiently noteworthy for public record, the other that it refers to a place outside the CBC area. Like all rules, this general one is sometimes broken...as was the case with the Finfoot which does seem to be moving slowly south-westwards. But it must be emphasised that we do want as many sightings as possible, now and always; none are wasted as all correspondence on this subject is filed.

2. Sightings of ALL the birds included in the Red Data Book are wanted, not only now, but always. John Cooper has started mapping distribution starting with the CBC area, and, ultimately, the whole of Southern Africa. To remind readers of those in the Red Data Book that normally occur in the CBC area, we reprint the list given in the November Newsletter: Jackass Penguin, White Pelican, Bank and Crowned Cormorants, Black Stork, White Stork, Both Flamingoes, Cape Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, Booted Eagle, Fish Eagle, Mountain Buzzard, Caspian Tern, Roseate Tern, Damara Tern, Cape Eagle Owl, Knysna Scrub Warbler (but not on the east slopes of Table Mountain), Victorin's Scrub Warbler, Karoo Green Warbler, Protea Seedeater.

\* These four species are the subjects of a special enquiry at the Strandfontein (Cape Flats) Sewage Works, for which a form is available on signing-in.

Information should include (a) Locality (b) Date (c) Numbers (d) Activity (e) Weather.

REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

SIGHTINGS:

Some sightings of the Grey-Headed GULL (288)

Melkbosstrand	30.6.74	L.G. Underhill	Sunrise Beach	18.1.76	M.J.Love
Langebaan	27.3.76	"	"	18.7.76	Cooper &
	24.4.76	"	"		Pringle
Hermanus	21.3.76	M.J. Love	Kalk Bay Harbour (Two)		
	25-28.6.76	"	"	12.3.76	C.J.Vernon
	(appears to be a pair)		Wynberg Station	April/May '76	"
Danger Point	26.6.76	M.J. Love	(A partially crippled one seen		
Gordons Bay (Two)	5.7.76	L.G.U.	on ten occasions)		
	(Three)	10.11.76	M.J.L.	Hout Bay	24.4.76 C.J.V.
Fish Hoek	Sept/Oct. '74	M.J.Davidson	Black River Maitland		
Liesbeek River	June/July '75	M.J.L.		12.6.76	N.Williams
Opp. Hartleyvale (Two)			Clifantsbos C.Point		
Liesbeek River	11.7.76	M.J.L.		26.6.76	R.Summers
(at Gull loafing spot)	14.10.76	"	Valkenberg Grounds	20.10.76	M.J.L.
Da Gama Count	Dec. '76 (One)	Jan. '77 (Four)			

The above figures with the exception of the last two were extracted from the counts done by the workers on the Hartlaub's Gull Enquiry. Unless stated, each record is for ONE bird.

GREY-HEADED GULLS are distinguished from Hartlaub's Gulls by their slightly larger size, slightly heavier build and uniformly pale cream eye. A bit of grey on the head does NOT make a Grey-Headed Gull as many Hartlaub's Gulls have some grey on their heads. The most reliable identifying feature is the pale eye. Hartlaub's Gulls generally have dark eyes, but in breeding plumage they have a beautiful cream and brown pattern in them.

Les Underhill 15.11.76

SIGHTINGS AT ELANDSPAD FARM (at the southern end of the Potberg; the farm includes about 3 miles of coastline). All sightings during the Christmas school holidays by John Michler and his son Ian.

RED-TAILED TROPIC BIRD (39): A single bird. It flew up and down a few times before going along the coast towards Mossel Bay.

GOLDEN ORIOLE (519): One immature bird seen for about five days visiting a mulberry tree close to the house. Since 1971 on two separate occasions a single adult has been seen.

OLIVE BUSH SHERIKE (718): A male of the ruddy phase has been on the farm for nearly two years. Having recorded its calls, Mr. Michler can call it in by playing them. On a recent occasion it not only responded to the call but perched on Mr. Michler's head!

GYMNOGENE (171): The following observation, contained in a letter from Mr. P.M. van der Westhuizen of Clanwilliam, was mislaid and has only just reached us. We regret this delay especially as the sighting is of exceptional interest.

"During the summer of 1976 my sons called me out to see a large brown 'eagle' perched in a tree about 100 yards away from my house. It sat calling, a sound which I noted as resembling the squeak of a rusty door-hinge. The boys said they had seen it a number of times. A couple of weeks later I had my binoculars and was able to make notes 'Dark brown, paler under, tail rounded, yellow black-tipped bill, bare face, long yellow tarsus". The next sighting was in an old cypress tree by the D.R.C. in the town.

"On Saturday, August 14, we were at Clanwilliam Dam, S. of the Motel, when a grey bird flew out of the reeds, giving me an excellent view; it settled on a rock at the far side, where it sat for a long time. This time there was no difficulty in identifying the bird; flight pattern, illustration and description all tallying with Roberts. With the identification of the grey bird settled, that of the brown one was clear. The one was an adult Gymnogene, the brown one, an immature bird. Neither is reported as occurring in the area.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (251): Among a number of this bird at Olifants Bay, Cape Point Reserve, on 26 December 1976, we saw one bird in what appeared to be completely full breeding plumage—a rich chestnut on chest and belly, and speckled above. I know some migrants attain partial breeding plumage before leaving at the end of Summer, but full breeding plumage at that time of the year is surely unusual. Have any others seen similar incidences?

H.J. Downing 10.1.77

EUROPEAN GOLDEN ORIOLE (519): Two seen eating figs in Helderberg Nature Reserve. 3.12.76

BLACK CUCKOO (344): Also in the Helderberg Reserve calling repeatedly (but not sighted, although Nico Myburgh and Doug. Wood, of the Reserve, have seen it on several occasions)...on Dec. 5 and 12, and again on Dec. 15.

Pat Lockhart Somerset West.

KNYSNA SCRUB WARBLER (611): This bird appears to be firmly entrenched along the wooded eastern slopes of Table Mountain, so no further reports of it in that area will be printed. Anywhere else, it will be recorded.

NESTS AND EGGS: (reported from Elandspad Farm—see under "Sightings")

GROUND WOODPECKER (445) A pair nested successfully in a dam wall near the farmhouse and raised three young.

ROCK PIGEON (311): An unusual occurrence was the finding of a Rock Pigeon's nest on the ground. We have many nesting in the farm sheds but this one built its nest on the ground between two empty oil drums. It deserted, however, no doubt because of interference by the farm animals. Last year a pair nested on the floor of one of my tower silos and two chicks fledged.

FISH EAGLE (149): Our Fish Eagles which are pictured in Newman's 'Birdlife in Southern Africa' and mentioned in Peter Steyn's 'Eagle Days' because of their unusual nesting site (picture on p.23 of that book) lost both eggs this year to some predator, but the birds are still with us. (24.1.77)

ROCK PIGEON (311): There seems to be considerable versatility in choice of nest sites by this bird. Mrs. Esme Smuts writes that she has found two nests in trees; one on a farm near Bredasdorp, the second in a tall palm tree near Kelvin Grove Club, Claremont.

#### THE HABITAT SURVEY

The S.A.O.S. Conservation Committee is testing, through the Cape Bird Club, the possibility of building up a list of major bird sites in its area. The object of such a list is to provide quick and adequate information for submission to the appropriate authority whenever any development scheme threatens any of them or there is any possibility of any area being regarded as worthy of protection.

In the past whenever either threat or protection has come up for discussion, or whenever any authority has asked for information in regard to the value of any site, it has involved a scramble for last-minute statistics for a report and, because they have not been readily available, complete and convincing evidence has been lacking.

Given a dossier containing that sort of information and covering the majority of major habitats, the work of the Conservation Committee will not only be easier but infinitely more accurate.

A form and a Field Card is sent to every member with this NEWSLETTER and we most earnestly entreat you to use them.

Never mind if you can't complete all the spaces; never mind if you feel that others know so much more than you do, never mind if you can't show more than a handful of birds on the field card...GO OUT TO YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE and have a go at it. Experts will follow in your tracks and dot your i's and cross your t's.

This is probably the most important job members have ever been asked to do; not only for the Club, but for birdlife in Southern Africa now and for the future.

Because this is a pilot study, which, if successful, will be extended to the other Bird Clubs, we must ask for the completed forms and field cards to be returned to the S.A.O.S. Conservation Committee, P.O. Box 3371, Cape Town, 8000, not later than April 30, 1977. What you send back will form the basis of a preliminary inventory which can be extended subsequently. Full details on another page.

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE BUSHMANS RIVER-KENTON-ON-SEA AND DISTRICT BIRD LIFE

By Patrick Lockhart.

Perhaps what first strikes the birding enthusiast from the Western Cape on coming to this beautiful area of the Eastern Cape is the sheer variety of bird species to be found in the different habitats existing there. Even during the winter month of June, when migrants can be virtually ruled out, there is an abundance of bird species, far exceeding those of 'my' area, Somerset West.

A walk...

A walk along the sanddunes and into the dune bush by the Bushmans River Mouth can provide the bird-watcher with quite a few thrills. I was fortunate enough to see a pair of Red-fronted Tinker Barbets attracted by a number of other species congregating around one little clearing in the bush. Although I have heard this species before, one does not often have the good luck to view them at close quarters. The other species in this instance were Cape White-eyes, a pair of Collared Sunbirds, a pair of Greater Double-Collared Sunbirds, Bar-throated Apalis, Cape Robin, Neddicky and Tchagra Shrike and a pair of Fork-tailed Drongos. For a while the different species seemed to attract each other with their calls and songs and then one by one made their exits until only the Cape Robin and Drongos were left.

On another occasion, as I stopped the car alongside the gravel road to Southwell at a likely spot where mixed bush and trees had almost taken over the grassland again, I wandered through and was rewarded by seeing a female Black Cuckoo-Shrike (a rarity in the Western Cape), caught a fleeting glimpse of the Chin-spot Batis on a Karroo Thornbush, and the scolding of a Southern Black Tit and Yellow-eyed Canaries to mention three species not seen in my home area. As I drove off a flock of Black-bellied Starlings flew into a tree by the roadside---again something new to me.

A memorable morning spent at 'Moneysworth', Mr. D. Galpin's farm on the road to Southwell, yielded the Blue-billed Firefinch, another 'lifer' for me, again the Southern Black Tit, Grey Cuckoo-Shrike and a magnificent Martial Eagle avoiding the attentions of Jackal Buzzard, as it swept majestically over the Kariega river and valley, providing a spectacular view from the homestead. On the grasslands Rufus-naped Larks, Orange-throated Longclaws and Cloud Cisticolas were put up. But were they Cloud Cisticolas (Cisticola textrix textrix) or Ayres' Cloud Cisticolas as listed in C.J. Skead's list for the area?

Another teaser presented itself in the bush area of this farm, where Wailing Cisticolas (or were they Lazy Cisticolas according to the Skead list?) were observed in the company of Neddicky Cisticolas and six little Blue-billed Firefinches. Two subjects that present a challenge and need classification on another visit!

While on the subject of the Neddicky, I was struck by the fact that while this species is an uncommon, even rare, mountain bird in the Western Cape, it appears to be both common and ubiquitous in the Bushmans-Kenton area and indeed in the Eastern Cape. A sighting of a large Crowned Eagle, wheeling and soaring over mixed forest and bush in the Salem area was very exciting but unfortunately the bird decided to veer off away from me in blinding sunshine, suddenly dropping into the forest out of sight. This species is of course not seen in the Western Cape any more.

Walks up both the Bushmans and Kariega rivers proved interesting but save for the odd Greenshank, no migrants. However, four species of Kingfisher were recorded, including the Brown-hooded Kingfisher, a species again not found in the Hottentots Holland area. Although I wanted to get another glimpse of a Half-collared Kingfisher, it was only on the Qora River Mouth on the Transkei Wildcoast, a week later, that my wish was actually granted. The Fish Eagle, giving its characteristic 'African' call, was ever present on both rivers and while I was watching one on the other side of the Bushmans River, a pair of Black Crows suddenly took wing and cawed their heads off, putting up a Spotted Eagle Owl, which floated off into some thicker Euphorbia trees, pursued by the robbing crows and a host of smaller birds, Black-eyed Bulbuls predominating. I had a close-up of a grey Sunbird in riverine bush and out on a reedy mudbank together with 10 Sacred Ibis, a gaggle of Egyptian Geese several Grey Herons, stood three graceful Spoonbills preening themselves. Towards dusk, flocks of Hadeda, crying raucously, flew into the riverine forest to roost and even the Fish Eagle flapped away disdainfully. Again the Hadeda is a very rare vagrant in our parts.

Last impression of the river, as darkneww descended, was the silhouette of a Grey Heron poised to strike a fish or frog and the harsh calls of the Water Dikkops, which I did not see.

Several pairs of the stately Stanley Bustard were seen feeding on the grasslands near Diaz Cross and along the road to Port Alfred during our stay. It was good to see this rather vulnerable species holding its own in this area, as it is no longer present in the Somerset West district.

No 'birding' vacation in the Kenton region would be complete without a visit to the famous Alexandria Forest and I was indeed fortunate to be able to make two memorable visits by courtesy of kind friends and to walk right into the interior of this indigenous forest. On the dead branch of a mighty Yellowwood rested the Long-crested Eagle, surveying the forest below from its favourite perch. Knysna Loeries in numbers glided in and out of the green foliage, ghostly Grey Cuckoo Shrikes flitting from branch to branch, noisy Kakelaars (Red-billed Hoopoes) cavorting around tree trunks with Sombre Bulbuls and Cape White-eyes in attendance, joining in the fun! A good sighting was also obtained of the furtive African Goshawk, while flocks of Trumpeter Horn-bills on one visit and Crowned Hornbills on the other, made their undulating flights above the first canopy, all the while calling incessantly to each other. Other forest rarities performed for us, including the Puff-back Shrike and the Yellow-breasted Apalis as well as the Bar-throated Apalis, Cape Batis, Forest Weavers, Black-headed Orioles and Bleating Bush Warblers.

Overhead sailed the occasional Mountain Buzzard, while one the harsh alarm calls of the Red-necked Francolin rang out. Of all these species mentioned only the Bar-throated Apalis, Cape Batis and Cape White-Eye are present in the Somerset West area. Finally as a stranger to those parts, I might add that the wildlife in general and birdlife in particular exceeded my wildest expectations.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE

From Pippa Vintcent, Mossel Bay:

Your note in the November Newsletter recording Peter's Finfoot (213) at Great Brak and Goukamma is of interest. I have seen a pair on the Kaaiman's River (George side of the Wilderness) on two occasions in June 1976. I should also like to say that something like a thousand Black-necked Grebe spent the whole winter at Rondevlei and Langvlei (the two smaller vleis where the Nature Conservation post Swartvlei is situated) for the second year in succession.

There is one Osprey more or less resident at Swartvlei and we frequently see a second one. I record what I can of the residence of this bird, and in 1976 it was away between March 22 and July 7, these dates being correct within a week or two.

The Arum valley White Stork pair successfully reared FOUR chicks this year, which has been a good one for spring rainfall. Previously they have not reared more than two since I started watching in 1972.

John, Elsie and

From Rob Martin, Somerset West:

THE RED DATA BOOK: We were interested in the reference to the Red Data Book for birds in the last Newsletter. One of the species listed is the Booted Eagle so perhaps the following comment would be of interest. Since 1972 we have seen a total of 180 Booted Eagles in the Cape Province. A highpercentage of these records are for months when migrant Booted Eagles should not be in South Africa and it now seems clear that there is a considerable breeding population in the Cape. We know of one breeding site in the CBC area (Clanwilliam) but we have strong evidence that it breeds in Piketberg, Worcester, Montagu and Vanrhynsdorp. Outside the CBC area we have 8 nests but there must be many more and we have come to the conclusion that Booted Eagles are at least as common as Jackal Buzzards. We have seen them in the following CBC districts: Caledon, Clanwilliam, Hottentots Holland, Malmesbury, Paarl, Peninsula, Piketberg, Robertson, Tulbagh, Vanrhynsdorp, Wellington, Worcester and Montague.

The Red Data Book also lists Protea Seedeater but we think it will be found that this species is neither rare nor endangered. Tony Milewski who recently completed a thesis on the Protea Seedeater agrees with us that it is a fairly common bird. It is a species that can easily be overlooked particularly if the call is not known. The same applies to the Victorin's Warbler, a common mountain species frequently heard but seldom seen.

We suggest that the Spotted Cloud Cisticola be considered a rare and endangered species as it has disappeared from some of its former haunts. It requires very low bushes on flats, a habitat that is becoming scarce due to intensive farming methods.

Another species on the decline is the Marsh Harrier probably due to the destruction of its breeding habitat, reed-beds. We would say that this bird is in greater need of protection than the Black Harrier.

From Rob Martin:

On the 27th December I found a small colony of Horus Swifts on the road to Bains Kloof above Wellington. I have a vague idea Peter Steyn found a colony near Wellington but I can't find the reference.

On the 6th January Tony Milewski and I spent the day at Karoo Poort in the Ceres district. The most interesting species seen included Penduline Tit, Karoo Green Warbler, Spike-heeled Lark, Pale-winged Starling, Tractrac Chat, Namaqua Prinia and Ludwig's Bustard.

The Bustard was a new district record. On our return journey we saw a dark-phase Booted Eagle near Droëhoek in the Kouebokkeveld. Karoo Poort gives members a good chance of seeing typical Karoo birds within a day's drive of Cape Town. The distance from Somerset West is + 170 km, the best route being through Bains Kloof.

A friend of mine, David Pepler, recently spent 10 days camping, in the Groot Winterhoek mountains on the Tulbagh-Piketberg boundary. On several occasions he heard the call of the Freckled Nightjar and he considered that at least three pairs were present. On the Dasklip Pass in the Piketberg district he saw the Gymnogene, a bird not often seen in the S.W. Cape.

During April 1976 I saw a Half-collared Kingfisher along the Witteklip River, Worcester district.

C A P E B I R D C L U B

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty-Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Cape Bird Club will take place at the Zoology Lecture Theatre U.C.T. on Friday, 10th June 1977 at 8.15 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies.
2. (a) Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting  
(b) Matters arising from the Minutes.
3. Reports (a) By the Chairman  
(b) By the Hon. Treasurer  
(c) By the Project Organisers
4. Election of officers for 1977/78
5. Any other business.

The formal part of the evening will be followed by a programme which will be announced nearer the date.

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

DAVID STEELE. Acting Hon. Secretary  
25 March 1977.

S A O S HABITAT SURVEY

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE IN COMPLETING FORMS

1. OBSERVER/ADDRESS                      No Comment
2. SITE NAME                              No Comment
3. HECTARES      Try to estimate; if you estimate in acres or whatever please indicate.
4. ALTITUDE      If you know it.
5. CO-ORDINATES.      This means latitude/longitude, but it will be sufficient if you give clear directions and identify the site with some easily recognisable landmark e.g. "15 km E of the bridge over the Diep River on the Cape Town-pampoenfontein road" (write such a description under "SITE NAME".
6. DATE              of visit
7. SKETCH MAP.      Do your best with this; it is well-known that few of the Club members are expert cartographers! Indicate north, which should be at the top of the map, by an arrow with the letter N above it.
8. SITE DESCRIPTION.      e.g. "The vlei is surrounded by marshy ground that does not dry out in summer; there is a large reed-bed with a large colony of Red Bishops. It lies at the lower end of a large field on the farm Rietfontein".
9. MAIN ORNITHOLOGICAL INTEREST e.g. "The vlei is attractive to migrant waders and usually holds a number of yellowbill. A Marsh Harrier is often to be seen. The surrounding marsh is usually occupied by Ethiopian Snipe etc. etc."
10. GENERAL COMMENTS e.g. "The farmer (Mr. Potgieter) is interested in birds and does not allow shooting. The site is, at present, not threatened being fairly remote from towns and main roads etc."

FURTHER POINTS:

- (a) Please don't be put off by the apparent complexity of the Form. If you can only fill in parts, please do. This is only a preliminary study and will, among other matters, show up weaknesses in the form itself.
- (b) You may send in as many forms as you like; the more the better. More may be had for the asking (together with Field Cards) from P.O.Box 5022, or any Committee member.
- (c) Don't, please, NOT send in a form for your favourite site merely because you are sure that everyone knows it and you will only duplicate. We expect to receive many duplicates.
- (d) On the Field Card don't try to be exhaustive; list what you saw on your last visit as well as you are able. But DO try to give approximate NUMBERS, not just ticks against the birds seen.
- (e) Please post completed forms and field cards to the address shown at the foot of the form NOT TO THE CBC.

PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO CO-OPERATE IN THIS IMPORTANT TASK

PROGRAMME

MARCH APRIL MAY 1977:

Evening Meetings at the Department of Zoology Theatre, U.C.T. at 8.15 p.m.  
Tea served in the Museum after the meeting --- 10c.

Friday - March 25. Dr. GUY CURRIE, Chairman of the S.A.O.S. Conservation  
Committee.

RECENT ADVANCES IN CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Friday - April 22. Mr. John Cooper B.Sc. (Hons). Research Officer,  
Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology.

THE PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS AND BIRDS  
OF THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

Friday - May 27. Members of the Western Cape Wader Study Group.  
SALT, SAND, WADERS AND WELWITSCHIAS.

Field Excursions.

Saturday/Sunday - March 19/20. Weekend Camp at BOTTELARY FARM,  
Langebaan Lagoon.

The farm is 45 km from Darling by the Ysterfontein road, taking  
the new road to Langebaan and 9 km from that place. (i.e. on  
the EAST side of the water). The CBC Notice Board will be  
displayed at the farm gate which carries a small name-plate.  
PLEASE NOTE that fires are only permitted at authorised places  
the DRINKING WATER must be taken, and that all LITTER MUST BE  
TAKEN HOME...NOT BURIED.

Leader: Stan Clarke.

Sunday - April 17. Andries Venter Research Station, Jonkershoek.

Go through STELLENBOSCH and continue along the Jonkershoek  
road. Turn down the road to the right just past the fish  
hatcheries. You will see the CBC Notice Board there.

Leader: John Harvey. Meet 9.15 a.m. 15 minutes allowed for  
latecomers.

Sunday - May 22. Vergelegen.

Follow the N2 and take the Somerset West-Strand turnoff, turn  
left again and proceed to the traffic lights. Here turn right towards  
Somerset West. At the first set of traffic lights you come to  
turn left along Lourensford Road. Continue for about 3 km until  
you see the CBC sign at Vergelegen entrance, on the right-hand side  
of the road.

Leader: Pat Lockhart. Meet 9.30 a.m. 15 mins allowed for latecomers.

MARINA DA GAMA COUNTS : 9 a.m. Sundays March 13, April 10, May 8.

Members who attended the Evening Meeting on February 25 will have seen that  
a CBC NOTICE BOARD has been placed in the Museum. This is for the use of  
members for any announcements they may like to place thereon...sales, wants,  
announcements of informal get-togethers...indeed, anything helpful either  
to themselves or for the good of the Club. PLEASE USE IT.  
Notices may be put there BEFORE the meeting.

EASTER STAMPS for this year consist of a dozen attractive designs of BIRDS.  
Whilst they may, of course, be bought at the Post Office, if any Club  
members would care to help a good cause by selling them, would they write to,  
or telephone

The Regional Organiser: Easter Stamp Fund (Mrs M. Thom) at  
98 Klip fontein Road, Rondebosch. P.O. Box 1375 CAPE TOWN  
Telephone 65-4153