

THE BLACK-NECKED GREBE *PODICEPS*
NIGRICOLLIS – A NEW BIRD RECORD FOR
THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

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The avifauna of the Kruger National Park (KNP) was described in detail by Kemp (1974). However, species new to the list are bound to turn up occasionally. Joubert and English (1973), who discovered the occurrence of the crimson-breasted shrike *Laniarius atrococcineus* Burchell, write: "Many of these species include migrants and vagrants entering the Park during rather abnormal times such as cyclones or periods of heavy rainfall."

After having listed the scaly-feathered finch *Sporopipes squamifrons* (A. Smith), for the Kruger National Park list some 15 years ago (van Bruggen 1960), this note deals with an additional new record i.e. the black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Brehm. On 1975.04.16 a specimen in winter plumage was observed by the author, for some time desporting itself on Kumana Dam alongside the main road H1–3 between Tshokwane and Satara. Notwithstanding rain and drizzle the bird was clearly recognizable and identification was confirmed by observation through binoculars 10 × 50. McLachlan and Liversidge (1957) show this grebe to be a vagrant occurring as far east as the eastern Transvaal, so that the KNP record naturally fits into this pattern of distribution. Usually this bird is to be found on the coast and only occasionally does it range far inland. This also applies to East Africa. In 1974 we observed a specimen in winter plumage in Kenya on the dam at Keekorok Lodge in the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 29 and 31 January; this is much further inland in a decidedly arid area. The KNP record may be correlated with the unusually wet summer of 1974/75 in southern Africa. In this part of Africa the black-necked grebe is both a resident breeder and a migrant from the north.

Odd specimens are probably likely to turn up at irregular intervals in the eastern Transvaal. The KNP obviously has seemingly suitable stretches of open water to temporarily accommodate the black-necked grebe.

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