

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE BONTBOK NATIONAL PARK, SWELLENDAM.

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The present report is based on visits to the Park, 12-16 and 21-24 August, 1961, and 13-20 January, 1962. I am much indebted to Mr. P. J. Barnard for inviting me to make the survey; and to him and Mrs. Barnard for much kindness and hospitality while I was there.

The bird environments of the Park may be considered to be four in number — the Breede River; the thick bush, mostly of Acacias, along its banks; the Aloe-clad hillside above the river at the Southern end of the Park (Lang Elsie's Kraal); and the rest, classified by Acocks (1953) as Coastal Renosterbosveld. In the systematic list which follows, some indication is given as to which of these habitats each species inhabits. Specimens collected are at present housed in the South African Museum, Cape Town.

The total number of species in this list, excluding the Ostrich (introduced) is 104. Of these, 13 were seen in August but not in January, 19 in January but not in August, two were not seen at all by me, and the remaining 70 were recorded on both visits. The reasons for these differences are sometimes obvious enough — e.g. summer migrants noted in January had not arrived in August; but other cases are very puzzling, as with the absence in January of the Thick-billed Lark and the Sweet Waxbill, both common in August.

No doubt many species will be added to this list in course of time. Obvious ones — birds known to be common in neighbouring parts of the District — include the Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*, the Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*, the Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradisea*, the Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*, the Rock Martin *Hirundo rupestris* and the Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*. The development of Protea and other growth in some of the kloofs could lead to the colonisation of the Reserve by the Sugarbird *Promerops cafer*, Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer* and, perhaps, Victorin's Warbler *Bradypterus victorini*, as well as to the permanent establishment of the Orange-breasted Sunbird and Yellow Bishop at present recorded merely as casuals.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

(Note — An * before the name indicates that one or more specimens were collected. Numbering according to Roberts': "Birds of South Africa" as revised by McLachlan and Liversidge.

1. (Ostrich, *Struthio camelus australis* Gurney — Volstruis. Introduced).
50. Reed Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax africanus africanus* (Gmelin) — Rietduiker. Uncommon; Breede River.
52. African Darter, *Anhinga anhinga rufa* (Lacép. & Daud.) — Slanghalsvoël. As for the preceding.
72. Hamerkop, *Scopus umbretta umbretta* Gmel. — Hamerkop. I did not see it but Mr. Barnard reports it from the Breede River.
89. Egyptian Goose, *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (L.) — Kolgans. Apparently two pairs resident along the Park's stretch of river.
96. Yellow-billed Duck, *Anas undulata undulata* Dub. — Geelbekeend. Not seen in August. Moulting birds and a party of up to 28, January.
95. African Black Duck, *Anas sparsa sparsa* Eyton — Swarteend. A pair seen on the river, 15 August; and again, with Yellowbills, 17 January.
105. Secretary-bird *Satgittarius serpentarius* (Miller) — Sekretarisvoël. One pair includes the Park in its territory. Open veld.
130. Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus* (Des.) — Blouvalkie. Seen once in August and daily in January. Open veld.
149. African Sea Eagle, *Haliaeetus vocifer vocifer* (Daud.) — Visarend. An immature over the river, 15 January.
155. Steppe Buzzard, *Buteo buteo vulpinus* (Gloger) — Bruin Jakkalsvoël. Occasional over the Park, January. Open veld and riverside bush.
114. Lanner, *Falco biarmicus biarmicus* Temm. — Slegvalk. Seen over the Park several times in January.
123. Rock Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus rupicolus* Daud. — Rooivalkie. Two together, 23 August; seen daily, January. Open veld.
125. Lesser Kestrel, *Falco naumanni naumanni* Fleischer — Klein Rooivalkie. A single bird, 16 January. Common a few miles away.
176. Grey-winged Francolin, *Francolinus africanus africanus* Stephens — Bergpatrys. Several in open veld, chiefly on sloping ground.
181. Cape Francolin, *Francolinus capensis* (Gmel.) — Kaapse Fisant. Abundant in riverside scrub, including aloe-growth, and foraging into the nearly open veld.
219. Stanley Bustard, *Otis denhami stanleyi* (Grey) — Veldpou. One pair; open veld, especially in the north-west corner, August.
225. Black Korhaan, *Afrotis afra afra* (Gmel.) — Swart Korhaan. Perhaps half-a-dozen pairs; open veld.
238. Three-banded Plover, *Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris* Vieill.—Drieband-Strandlopertjie. Several pairs along the river.
242. Crowned Plover, *Vanellus coronatus coronatus* (Bodd.) — Kiewiet. Up to four visited the grass area below the aloe-clad hill and that around the house, but apparently not resident.
258. Common Sandpiper, *Tringa hypoleuca* L. — Gewone Rooter. One on the Breede River, 22 August.
263. Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia* (Gunner.) — Groenpootruiker. Two on the Breede River, 13 August; one there, 15 January.
274. Water Dikkop. *Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus* (Cab.) — Waterdikkop. At least one pair along the river.

194. Hottentot Button-Quail, *Turnix hottentota hottentota* (Temm.) — Kaapse Kwartel.
One in open veld, 14 August; and another, 17 January.
307. Namaqua Sandgrouse, *Pterocles namaqua furva* Clancey — Kelkiewyn.
A pair seen in August, open veld.
311. Rock Pigeon, *Columba guinea phaeonota* Gray — Bosduif.
Apparently only a visitor to open veld and cliffs along the river.
- 312* Rameron Pigeon, *Columba arquatrix arquatrix* Temm. & Knip. — Geelbek-Bosduif.
Not seen in August; a good many in riverine bush in January, feeding on the berries of the yellowwood.
314. Red-eyed Dove, *Streptopelia semitorquata semitorquata* (Rüpp.) — Groot Ringduif.
Abundant in riverine bush.
316. Cape Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia capicola capicola* (Sund.) — Tortelduif.
Abundant in riverine bush, foraging also in the open veld. Nests, with eggs, August.
317. Laughing Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis senegalensis* (L.) — Rooiborsduifie.
Not uncommon in riverine bush.
322. Cinnamon Dove, *Aplopelia larvata larvata* (Temm. & Knip) — Kaneelduifie.
Once in dense riverine cover, 23 August.
- 351*. Klaas's Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx klaas klaas* (Steph.) — Meitjie.
One or two males in riverine bush.
356. White-browed Coucal, *Centropus superciliosus burchelli* Swainson — Vleiloerie.
At least one in palmiet and riverside bush.
368. Spotted Eagle Owl, *Bubo africanus* (Temm.) — Gevlekte Ooruil.
Found nesting among the rocks on a hillside by Mr. Barnard.
- 373*. Fiery-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus pectoralis pectoralis* Cuvier — Suid-Afrikaanse Naguil.
At least three or four, hunting in the open veld and lying up in the riverside scrub during the day.
380. Black Swift, *Apus barbatus barbatus* (P. L. Sclater) — Swart Windswawel.
A large party of this species and the next over the river, 22 August; another party, 15 January.
383. White-rumper Swift, *Apus caffer caffer* (Licht.) — Witkruis-windswawel.
One, over the river, 19 January.
386. Alpine Swift, *Apus melba africanus* (Temm.) — Grootste Windswawel.
With Black Swifts, August, as recorded above.
- 390*. Speckled Coly, *Colius striatus striatus* Gmel. — Gevlekte Muisvoël.
The common Coly of riverside scrub and aloes. Nest, August.
392. Red-faced Coly, *Colius indicus indicus* Latham — Rooiwangmuisvoël.
Noted in riverside scrub, 15 August and daily in January.
394. Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis rudis* (L.) — Bontvisvanger.
One on the Breede River, 22 August, and another, 19 January.
395. Giant Kingfisher, *Ceryle maxima maxima* (Pall.) — Reuse Visvanger.
Two or three pairs resident along the Breede River.
397. Malachite Kingfisher, *Alcedo cristata cristata* (Pall.) — Kuifkopvisvanger.
One on a pool near the river, 19 January.
402. Brown-hooded Kingfisher, *Halcyon albiventris albiventris* (Scop.) — Bruinkopvisvanger.
Noted in riverine bush, 19 January.
418. African Hoopoe, *Upupa epops africana* Bechst. — Hoephoep.
Not seen in August but noted daily in riverine bush, January.
- 432*. Pied Barbet, *Lybius leucomelas namaqua* (W. L. Sclater) — Bonthoutkapper.
No August records; noted several times in riverside bush, January.

445. Ground Woodpecker, *Geocolaptes olivaceus olivaceus* (Gmel.) — Grondspeg.
One on a rocky hillside above the river, 22 August.
- 450*. Cardinal Woodpecker, *Dendropicos fuscescens fuscescens* (Vieill.) — Kardi-
naalspeg.
Fairly common in riverside scrub.
- 466*. Clapper Lark, *Mirafra apiata algoensis* (Roberts) — Klappertjie.
Common in open veld.
- 463*. Thick-billed Lark, *Calendula magnirostris magnirostris* (Steph.) — Dikbek-
lewerkie.
Fairly common in open veld in August but not seen in January.
488. Red-capped Lark, *Calandrella cinerea cinerea* (Gmel.) — Rooikoplewerkie.
Fairly common where the vegetation is really short.
493. European Swallow, *Hirundo rustica rustica* L. — Europese Swawel.
Occasional over open veld, January.
495. White-throated Swallow, *Hirundo albigularis albigularis* Strickl. — Witkeel-
Swawel.
One or two pairs near the river, January.
498. Pearl-breasted Swallow, *Hirundo dimidiata dimidiata* Sund. — Pêrelbors-
swaweltjie.
One, with White-throated Swallows, 17 January.
502. Greater Striped Swallow, *Hirundo cucullata* Sund. — Groot Streepswawel.
One or two over the river, 17 & 19 January.
509. African Sand Martin, *Riparia paludicola paludicola* (Vieill.) — Afrikaanse
Oewerswawel.
Common along the Breede River, August; much less so, January.
511. Black Roughwing, *Psalidoprocne pristoptera holomelas* (Sund.) — Saagvlerk-
swawel.
One over the river, January.
- 517*. Fork-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus adsimilis adsimilis* (Bechst.)—Mikstert-byevanger.
Rare; riverine bush.
523. Black Crow, *Corvus capensis capensis* Licht. — Swartkraai.
A pair forage over the open bush; but six together, 23 August.
524. White-necked Raven, *Corvus albicollis* Latham — Ringhalskraai.
A pair visit the Park, chiefly near the river.
- 525*. Grey Tit, *Parus afer* Gmel. — Pietjoutjou.
One or two in riverside bush, 16-17 January.
- 543*. Cape Bulbul, *Pycnonotus capensis* (L.) — Kaapse Tiptol.
Abundant in riverine bush and aloes.
- 551*. Sombre Bulbul, *Andropadus importunus importunus* (Vieill.) — Willie.
As for the preceding.
553. Olive Thrush, *Turdus olivaceus olivaceus* L. — Kaapse Lyster.
Rare; riverine bush.
576. Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata torquata* (L.) — Bontrokkie.
Three or more pairs in the open veld.
- 581*. Cape Robin, *Cossypha caffra caffra* (L.) — Janfrederik.
Abundant in riverine bush and aloes; many young birds in spotted plumage,
January.
583. Karoo Robin, *Erythropygia coryphaea coryphaea* (Less.) — Slangverklikker.
Sparingly distributed in open veld where the vegetation is not too short.
606. African Marsh Warbler, *Acrocephalus baeticatus baeticatus* (Vieill.) — Klein
Rietsanger.
Once in reeds by the Breede River, August.

- 609*. Swamp Warbler, *Bradypterus babaecalus babaecalus* (Vieill.) — Kaapse Vleisanger.
Fairly common in reeds beside the river in August.
- 621*. Long-billed Crombec, *Sylvietta rufescens diverga* Clancey — Krombek.
Fairly common in riverine bush.
622. Bar-throated Apalis, *Apalis thoracica capensis* Roberts — Bandkeel-Kleinjantjie.
Abundant in riverine bush. Nest-building, August.
- 631*. Spotted Cloudscraper, *Cisticola textrix textrix* (Vieill.)—Gevlekte Klopkloppie.
Common in open veld.
- 637*. Neddicky, *Cisticola fulvicapilla silberbaueri* (Roberts) — Neddikkie.
Common in the better grown open veld and on the outskirts of the riverine bush and aloes.
- 638*. Dancing Cisticola, *Cisticola subruficapilla subruficapilla* (Smith) — Gysrugtingtinkie.
Common in open veld. Building, August.
646. Levaillant's Cisticola, *Cisticola tinniens tinniens* (Licht.) — Vleitingtinkie.
One by the river, 23 August.
651. Karoo Prinia, *Prinia maculosa maculosa* (Bodd.) — Karoo-langsterttingtinkie.
Fairly common in opener places in the riverine bush and in the better grown parts of the open veld.
658. Tit-babbler, *Parisoma subcaeruleum subcaeruleum* (Vieill.) — Tjeriktik.
Rare; riverine bush.
- 665*. Fiscal Flycatcher, *Sigelus silens* (Shaw) — Fiskaal-vlieëvanger.
Common in riverine bush.
- 672*. Cape Batis, *Batis capensis capensis* (L.) — Bosbontrokkie.
As for preceding.
- 682*. Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone viridis granti* Roberts — Paradys-vlieëvanger.
Several in riverine bush, January.
686. Cape Wagtail, *Motacilla capensis capensis* L. — Kwikkie.
At least two pairs along the river.
- *. Tawny Pipit, *Anthus novaeseelandiae rufuloides* Roberts — Koester.
Common in open veld, August; rare in January.
- 694*. Plain-backed Pipit, *Anthus leucophrys leucophrys* Vieill. — Donker-koester.
Fairly common in open veld in August; rare in January.
- 703*. Orange-throated Longclaw, *Macronyx capensis capensis* (L.) — Kalkoentjie.
Two or three pairs in open veld.
- 707*. Fiscal, *Lanius collaris collaris* L. — Laksman.
Ubiquitous. Building, August.
- 709*. Boubou, *Laniarius ferrugineus ferrugineus* (Gmelin) — Waterfiskaal.
Fairly common in riverine bush and aloes.
- 713*. Tchagra, *Tchagra tchagra tchagra* (Vieill.) — Tjagralaksman.
Common in riverine bush and aloes.
722. Bokmakierie, *Malaconotus zeylonus zeylonus* (L.) — Bokmakierie.
Common in open veld, less so in riverine bush and aloes.
- 745*. Red-winged Starling, *Onychognathus morio morio* (L.) — Rooivlerkspreeu.
Flock feeding on aloe blossoms, August.
- 746*. Pied Starling, *Spreo bicolor* (Gmel.) — Witgatspreeu.
Apparently not resident. Small flocks seen passing over in August, and noted several times by the river, January.
- 751*. Malachite Sunbird, *Nectarinia famosa famosa* (L.) — Jangroentjie.
Common in riverine bush and aloes; sparingly distributed in open veld in August but virtually absent there in January.

- 753*. Orange-breasted Sunbird, *Nectarinia violacea* (L.)—Oranjebors-suikerbekkie.
A single male seen along a dry water-course in open veld, August.
- 760*. Lesser Double-collared Sunbird, *Nectarinia chalybea chalybea* (L.) — Klein Rooibors-suikerbekkie.
Abundant in riverine bush and aloes; occasional in open veld.
- 775*. Cape White-eye, *Zosterops virens capensis* Sund. — Kaapse Glasogie.
Abundant in riverine bush.
- 786*. Mossie, *Passer melanurus melanurus* (Müller) — Mossie.
Fairly common in riverine bush. Nests, August.
- 799*. Cape Weaver, *Ploceus capensis capensis* (L.) — Kaapse Wewer.
Abundant in riverine bush and aloes. Nests, August.
810. Yellow Bishop, *Euplectes capensis capensis* (L.) — Kaapse Kaffervink.
One male in a kloof in the north-west corner of the Park, 15 August; and off-season birds in the same area, 17 January.
- 825*. Sweet Waxbill, *Estrilda melanotis melanotis* (Temm.) — Swie.
Common in riverine bush, August, but absent in January.
- 843*. Common Waxbill, *Estrilda astrild astrild* (L.) — Rooibekkie.
Common in reeds and riverine bush.
846. Pin-tailed Whydah, *Vidua macroura* (Pall.) — Koningrooibekkie.
A full-plumaged male by the river, 17 August.
- 857*. Cape Canary, *Serinus canicollis canicollis* (Swainson) — Kaapse Kanarie.
Fairly common in riverine bush and well-grown open veld, August, but absent in January.
- 863*. Bully Canary, *Serinus sulphuratus sulphuratus* (L.) — Geel-dikbeksyste.
Once, riverine bush, August; several, January.
- 865*. White-throated Seed-eater, *Serinus albigularis albigularis* (Smith) — Witkeel-dikbeksyste.
Sparingly distributed in riverine bush and aloes.
- 867*. Streaky-headed Seed-eater, *Serinus gularis humilis* (Bp.) — Streepkopsyste.
Common in riverine bush and aloes, August; less so in January.
- 873*. Cape Bunting, *Fringillaria capensis media* (Sharpe) — Streepkoppie.
Widely distributed and fairly common.

REFERENCE

Acocks, J. H. P. (1953), "Veld Types of South Africa", *Bot. Soc. S. Afr. Mem.* 28.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to bring the following publication under the readers' attention :

Brümmerhoff, S. W. D. and de Waal, H. L. : Retrosine from *Crotalaria spartioides*. *J.S.A. Chem. Inst.*, Oct., 1961, Vol. XIV, p. 101.