

A SUPPLEMENTARY CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

By

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Since the publication of the previous check-list of birds of the Kruger National Park (Pienaar and Prozesky, 1961), several species not included in this list have been recorded within the boundaries of this unique sanctuary.

Some of the new records may be considered as permanent or semi-permanent residents of the Park, but the majority are seasonal migrants which visit the area only periodically or on rare occasions during the wet season.

The cyclone 'Claude', which struck the southern coast line of Mocambique early in January, 1966, forced large numbers of sea birds many miles inland, and some of these strays were even blown across the Lebombo range, and were picked up in the Kruger Park and other parts of the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld. Despite the totally unexpected nature of the entry of these birds, they were alive when found, and are included in the list as freak visitors.

During a visit to the northern section of the Park in September, 1961, the distinguished Swedish ecologist, Dr. Kai Curry-Lindahl, positively identified an Ayre's Hawk Eagle, *Hieraëetus dubius* (A. Smith) along the Mphongolo river road near Shingwedzi rest camp.

Mr. O. Prozesky, ornithologist of the Transvaal Museum, collected a specimen of the Black-crowned Tinker Barbet, *Pogoniulus bilineatus* (Sundevall) at Nkongoma picket along the Crocodile River east of Crocodile Bridge, in February of the same year.

During a visit to the Bangu poort area near the Olifants River gorge in April, 1961, the authors, accompanied by Mr. C. Haagner, recorded several species of birds which had hitherto not been listed.

Of these, the most sensational discovery was that of the Spotted Creeper, *Salpornis spilonota* (Franklin). To date, this was the first record of the presence

of this very rare bird within the precincts of the Republic. It is an inhabitant of the *Barchystegia* woodlands of Rhodesia and northwards, but would seem to be associated here with the dense deciduous *Androstachys johnsonii* forests along the eastern border of the Park.

Also collected in the Bangu poort area at the time, were specimens of the Bearded Robin, *Erythropygia quadrivirgata* (Reichenow) and the Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus rufigena* A. Smith. The robins were collected in the densely wooded ravines entering the Bangu gorge, whereas the nightjars were flushed on an isolated rocky outcrop, with sparse scrub cover.

The Pafuri riverine forest was also visited by the survey party in April, 1961, and here the presence of the Bearded Robin was confirmed, as also that of the Natal Robin, *Cossypha natalensis* A. Smith. It was here also, while camping at the famous Pafuri picnic site, that the characteristic melodious call of the Wood Owl, *Ciccaba woodfordii* (A. Smith) was heard in the Park for the first time. These rare owls were positively identified by Haagner at Pafuri during a subsequent visit in October, 1961.

Another significant discovery was made by Haagner during this particular visit, when he recorded the presence of the tropical Redwing Warbler, *Heliolais erythroptera* (Jardine) in the dense reeds fringes along the Levubu River, at its confluence with the Limpopo at Pafuri. Haagner was fortunate enough to obtain excellent recordings of its high pitched almost insect-like song.

It would appear again to be the first record of this tiny warbler within the borders of the Republic.

In February, 1966, an Icterine Warbler, *Hippolais icterina* (Vieillot), was resident in the Satara Rest Camp and Prozesky managed to obtain recordings of its song.

Early in April, 1962, Mr. Prozesky (during a previous visit to the Park) found a Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris testacea* Pallas, along the water's edge at Bangu windmill. Towards the end of October, 1962, Prozesky also identified a Sharp-billed Honey-guide, *Prodotiscus regulus* Sundevall, along the road between Numbi gate and Pretoriuskop.

During December, 1962, one of us (Pienaar) collected a single specimen of the Green Twinspot, *Hypargos nitidulus* (Hartlaub), along the grass-covered banks of the Sabi River at Skukuza.

A pair of Rock Kestrels, *Falco tinnunculus rupicola* Daudin, were also recorded for the first time by Haagner, during this period along the main road between Shingwedzi and Punda Milia at Nkulumbene. A pair with four fledged young were also seen by T. Cade and Prozesky north of Shingwedzi in October, 1965.

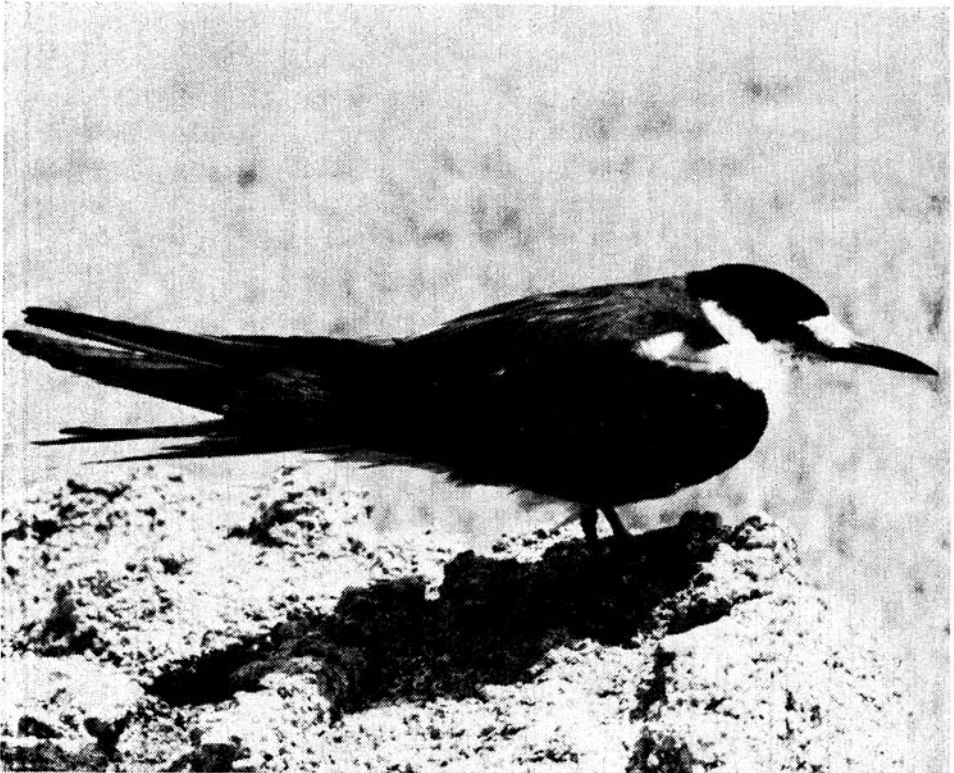
During February, 1966, the Eastern Red-footed Kestrel, *Falco amurensis* Radde, was found by Cade and Prozesky to be the most common kestrel in the central regions. A single specimen was seen at Doispán and during the

five days spent in the region around Satara, these Kestrels were observed every day in flocks of up to thirty birds feeding mostly on flying termites.

A single European Hobby, *Falco subbuteo subbuteo* Linnaeus, was also seen in February, 1966, six miles east of Satara in loose association with Eastern Red-footed Kestrels.

The Peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus peregrinus* Tunstall, which had for years evaded observers, has been seen quite frequently in recent years. During March, 1964, D. Wilkinson and Prozesky saw a tercel on the Timbavati road. In October, 1965, Cade, L. Greenwald and Prozesky found one at Pafuri, and during February, 1966, Cade and Prozesky saw a female five miles south of Satara.

During September, 1964, Mr. M. Johannsmeier of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services found a Dickinson's Kestrel, *Falco dickinsoni* Sclater, at Klopperfontein, confirming one of Rowland-Jones' records. Cade and Prozesky recorded fourteen Cape Vultures, *Gyps coprotheres* (Forster), of which one specimen was collected, from the Lindanda Memorial region, thus confirming another of Rowland-Jones' records.



A specimen of the Buffy Pipet, *Anthus vaalensis* Shelley, was also collected in February, 1963, by Prozesky along the main tourist road between Satara and Olifants Camp.

Rock Pigeons, *Columba guinea phaeonota* Gray, were discovered for the first time within the boundaries of the Park by District Ranger D. Lowe, during March, 1963, while on patrol in the mountainous country along the lower reaches of the Mashikiri River. This is one of the many inexplicable phenomena emerging from the distribution data of the avifauna of the Kruger Park. Although suitable habitats occur in abundance throughout the rest of the area, Rock Pigeons are everywhere conspicuous by their absence.

During a tour of the northern district of the Park, after the heavy rains of early January, 1965, a Cape Rail, *Rallus caerulescens* Gmelin, was seen by one of us (Pienaar) at a swampy spot near Nwahlangari windmill. This record was not beyond dispute and needs further confirmation. At three different localities, i.e. Saselandonga gorge, Makangela and near Nwambu windmill, pairs of Augur Buzzards, *Buteo rufofuscus augur* (Rüppel), were recorded. This is certainly an uncommon occurrence in an area where the Jackal Buzzard, *Buteo rufofuscus rufofuscus* (Forster) is a well-known inhabitant.

The White-fronted Sandplover, *Charadrius marginatus tenellus* Hartlaub, was recorded on sandbanks in the Levubu River at Pafuri, by Prozesky, during October, 1965.

During November, 1965, the ranger of Klipkoppies Section, Mr. S. Joubert, identified a White-winged Lake Tern, *Chlidonias leucoptera* (Temminck); in company with some other water birds, around the edge of Ramiti pan, along the eastern boundary. This record is also subject to further confirmation.

On the 7th January, 1966, during the height of cyclone Claude's ravages along the Mocambique coast, two specimens of the rare Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata* Linnaeus, were picked up in an exhausted state in the tourist road near Tshokwane and close to the entrance gate to Skukuza Rest Camp. (See Fig. (ii)). Both birds were assiduously cared for, but did not survive. During the same day, the Park's engineer, Mr. A. Kushke, was also surprised by the sight of a petrel-like bird in flight along the Nahpe road. Unfortunately, a positive identification could not be made.

It is also probably fitting to disclaim at this stage the presence of the Pied Babbler, *Turdoides bicolor* (Jardine) within the boundaries of the Park, and to delete it from the original check-list. Until such time as additional positive identification reconfirms its presence, the previous record of this species must be relegated.

The table below provides a systematic summary of the new additions to the bird-list of the Kruger National Park.

TABLE 1.
ADDENDUM TO THE SYSTEMATIC CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK.

Systematic List	Vernacular names	Roberts' No.	Locality of first recording	Date	Recorder
ORDER: FALCONIFORMES					
FAMILY: FALCONIDAE					
<i>Falco amurensis</i> Radde	Eastern Red-footed Kestrel Oostelike Rooipoot-valkie	119	Doispan	February, 1966	Cade and Prozesky
<i>Falco subbuteo subbuteo</i> Linnaeus	European Hobby Europese Boomvalk	115	Satara	February, 1966	Cade and Prozesky
<i>Falco peregrinus peregrinus</i> Tunstall	Peregrine falcon Slegvalk	113	Timbavati	March, 1964	Wilkinson and Prozesky
<i>Falco tinnunculus rupicola</i> (Daudin)	Rock Kestrel Kaapse Rooivalkie	123	Main road near Nkulumbene	December, 1962	Haagner
FAMILY: ACCIPTRIDAE					
(AQUILIDAE)					
<i>Hieraaëtus dubius</i> (A. Smith)	Ayre's Hawk Eagle Klein-jagarend	140	Mphongolo river road	September, 1961	Curry-Lindahl
<i>Buteo rufofuscus augur</i> (Rüppel)	Augur Buzzard Witbors-jakkalsvoël	152	Saselandonga gorge	January, 1965	Pienaar
ORDER: RALLIFORMES					
FAMILY: RALLIDAE					
<i>Rallus caerulescens</i> Gmelin	Cape Rail Riethaantjie	197	Nwahlangari windmill	January, 1965	Pienaar

Systematic List	Vernacular names	Roberts' No.	Locality of first recording	Date	Recorder
ORDER: LARO-LIMICOLAE (CHARADRIIFORMES)					
FAMILY: CHARADRIIDAE <i>Charadrius marginatus</i> <i>tenellus</i> Hartlaub	White-fronted Sandplover Vaal Strandloper Vaal Strandloper	235	Confluence Limpopo and Levubu, Pafuri	October, 1965	Prozesky
FAMILY: SCOLOPACIDAE <i>Calidris testacea</i> (Pallas)	Curlew Sandpiper Krombek-strandloper	251	Bangu windmill	April, 1962	Prozesky
FAMILY: STERNIDAE <i>Sterna fuscata</i> Linnaeus	Sooty Tern Swart seeswawel	295	Skukuza	January, 1966	Pienaar
<i>Chlidonias leucoptera</i> (Temminck)	White-winged Lake Tern Witvlerk-meerswawel	304	Ramiti pan	November, 1965	Joubert
ORDER: COLUMBIFORMES					
FAMILY: COLUMBIDAE <i>Columba guinea phaeonota</i> Gray	Rock Pigeon Kransduif	311	Mashikiri poort	March, 1963	Lowe
ORDER: STRIGIFORMES					
FAMILY: BUBONIDAE (STRIGIDAE)					

Systematic List	Vernacular names	Roberts' No.	Locality of first recording	Date	Recorder
<p>SUB-FAMILY: STRIGINAE <i>Ciccaba woodfordii</i> wood- fordii (A. Smith)</p> <p>ORDER: CAPRIMULGIFORMES</p> <p>FAMILY: CAPRIMULGIDAE <i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i> A. Smith</p> <p>ORDER: PICIFORMES</p> <p>FAMILY: CAPITONIDAE <i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i> bili- neatus (Sundevall)</p> <p>FAMILY: PRODOTISCIDAE <i>Prodotiscus regulus</i> regulus Sundevall</p> <p>ORDER: PASSERIFORMES</p> <p>SUB-ORDER: OSCINES</p> <p>FAMILY: CERTHIIDAE <i>Salpornis spilonota</i> (Franklin)</p>	<p>Wood Owl Bosuil</p> <p>Rufous-cheeked Nighthjar Rooiwang-naguiltjie</p> <p>Black-crowned Tinker Barbet Swartkop-tinker</p> <p>Sharp-billed Honeyguide Skerpbek-heuningvoël</p> <p>Spotted Creeper Gespikkelde boomkruiper</p>	<p>362</p> <p>372</p> <p>438</p> <p>443</p> <p>532</p>	<p>Pafuri</p> <p>Bangu poort</p> <p>Nkongoma picket</p> <p>Near Numbi gate</p> <p>Bangu poort</p>	<p>April, 1962</p> <p>April, 1962</p> <p>February, 1961</p> <p>October, 1962</p> <p>April, 1961</p>	<p>Pienaar Prozesky Haagner</p> <p>Pienaar Prozesky Haagner</p> <p>Prozesky</p> <p>Prozesky</p> <p>Prozesky Pienaar Haagner</p>

Systematic List	Vernacular names	Roberts' No.	Locality of first recording	Date	Recorder
FAMILY: TURIDAE <i>Cossypha natalensis</i> A. Smith	Natal Robin Natale lawaaimaker	579	Pafuri	April, 1961	Prozesky Pienaar Haagner
<i>Erythropgia quadrivirgata</i> quadrivirgata (Reichenow)	Bearded Robin Gebaarde janfrederik	585	Bangu poort	April, 1961	Prozesky Pienaar Haagner
FAMILY: SYLVIIDAE <i>Heliolais erythroptera rho-</i> <i>doptera</i> (Shelley)	Redwing Warbler Roovlerk-tinginkie	620	Pafuri	October, 1961	Haagner
<i>Hippolais icterina</i> (Vieillot)	Icterine Warbler Spotvoël	596	Satara	February, 1966	Prozesky
FAMILY: MOTACILLIDAE <i>Anthus vaalensis</i> Shelley	Buffy Pipit Vaalkoester	695	Shitsaleni	February, 1963	Prozesky
FAMILY: PLOCEIDAE SUB-FAMILY: ESTRILDINAE <i>Hypargos nifidulus</i> (Hartraub)	Green Twinspot Groenrobin	827	Skukuza	December, 1962	Pienaar

Note: Since the completion of this manuscript Mr. A. Kemp of Satara recorded a young African Marsh Harrier, *Circus ranivorus ranivorus* (Daudin) during February, 1967, 15 miles north of Satara on the main road to Satara. The occurrence of the Bokmakierie, *Telephorus zeylonus* (Linnaeus) in the Kruger Park was also confirmed through a positive sighting by this worker at Mzanzene, during the early summer.

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