

FEATURES

FIRST NATIONAL BIRD RINGING CONFERENCE

The conference was held by the South African Ornithological Society and organised by the Ringing Committee of the Witwatersrand Bird Club. It was held at the Rand Afrikaans University on the 17th and 18th June, 1976. The conference preceded the A.O.M. or the S.A.O.S. and attracted the following delegates.

LIST OF DELEGATES

Dr. H.J. Bonga (SAOS Transvaal)
Dr. R. Boulton (SAOS Rhodesia)
Mr. C. Brongers (Natal Parks Board)
Mr. L. Bunting (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. M. Fitcher (SAOS Transvaal)
Dr. G. Gilling (Nature Conservation, South West Africa)
Mr. G. Gorter (Percy FitzPatrick Institute, Cape Town)
Dr. W. J. Groot (SAOS Cape Province)
Mr. G.A. Groenewald (SAOS Department of Nature Conservation)
Mr. L.H. Guy (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. L.H. Guyse (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. A.R. Kuhn (SAOS Nature Conservation Division)
Mr. P. Dutton (Mozambique Government, Maputo)
Mr. T. Ellis (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. R. Ellis (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. M. Fagan (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. R. Friedman (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. L.W. Gellard (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. S.K. Godschalk (University of Pretoria)
Mr. M. Halamandres (SAOS Transvaal)
Dr. R.M. Harwin (SAOS Rhodesia)
Mr. P. La Hausse (SAOS Natal)
Mr. A.D.S. Hewitt (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. C.J. Hopcroft (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. M. Johannsmeyer (SAOS Transvaal)
Dr. A.C. Kemp (Transvaal Museum)
Mr. J.A. Ledger (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. A.J. Manson (SAOS Rhodesia)
Mr. S. Millward (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. P. Mundy (Endangered Wildlife Trust/University of Rhodesia)
Mr. K.R. Newman (SAOS Transvaal)
Dr. F.W. Roberts (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. M.R. Schmitt (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. J.C. Sinclair (SAOS Natal)
Mr. C.J. Stutterheim (Rand Afrikaans University)
Mr. P.R. Steyn (SAOS Rhodesia)
Dr. R.W. Summers (Percy FitzPatrick Institute, Cape Town)
Mr. J. N. Talbot (SAOS Rhodesia)
Mr. W.R. Tarneton (Transvaal Nature Conservation Division)
Dr. E.G. Underhill (SAOS Cape Province)
Mr. C.J. Vernon (National Unit for Bird-Ringing Administration)
Mr. E.F. von Moltitz (SAOS Transvaal)
Mr. K. Walther (SAOS Cape Province)

Mr. P. Whitehouse (SAOS Transvaal)
Dr. J.M. Winterbottom (SAOS Cape Province)
Mr. S.W. Wolff (Transvaal Nature Conservation Division)

The Agenda was as follows:

THURSDAY 17 JUNE

Welcoming address: Mr. K.E. Newman, Chairman W.B.C.

SESSION 1 TECHNIQUES CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Cooper

Dr. A.C. Kemp: Some marking methods used for a variety of South African Raptors.

Mr. C.J. Stutterheim: The problem of colour-marking passerine birds.

Mr. J.A. Ledger: Developments on the detonator cannon.

SESSION 2 BIRD IN THE HAND CHAIRMAN: Mr. P.J. Whitehouse

Mr. P.J. Mundy: A vulture in the hand(s)

Dr. R.W. Summers: The biometrics and moult of Turnstone in the South-western Cape.

Mr. J. Cooper: Primary moult, mass and breeding cycles of the European Starling on Dassen Island.

SESSION 3 PROGRESS REPORTS CHAIRMAN: Mr. C.J. Vernon

Mr. W.R. Tarboton: Territoriality and social structure in Black Tits.

Mr. M. Waltner: Distribution and geographical origins of Knot wintering in Europe and Africa.

Dr. L. Underhill: The Cape Bird Club's Hartlaubs Gull project.

Mr. P.J. Mundy: Cape Vulture research in 1975.

FRIDAY 18 JUNE

SESSION 4 PROJECT PLANNING & DATA ANALYSIS CHAIRMAN: DR. A.C. Kemp

Mr. C.J. Vernon: The new schedule system

Dr. R. Boulton: Ringing plans and priorities for relatively non-migratory bird populations.

SESSION 5 STUDY GROUPS? DO THEY WORK? CHAIRMAN: Mr. C. Clinning

Reports from existing groups:

Transvaal Raptor Group: Dr. A.C. Kemp
Vulture Study Group: Mr. J.A. Ledger
Black-shouldered Kite Group: Dr. H.C. Biggs
Western Cape Wader Group: Mr. M. Waltner

Sand Wader Group: Mr. M.R. Schmitt
Mr. C.J. Vernon: The NUBRA view on study groups
Mr. J. Bourquin: An appeal for a quail study group

SESSION 6 "WHITHER SAFRING NEWS?" CHAIRMAN: Mr. L.W. Gillard

Mr. C.J. Vernon: The NUBRA view
Mr. P.J. Whitehouse: The amateur view
Dr. A.C. Kemp/Mr. J. Cooper: The professional view.

RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSION CHAIRMAN: Mr. K.R. Newman

The sessions were interesting and the discussions lively. The majority of papers are summarised below. Alan Kemp's paper on raptor marking techniques and that of Manfred Walther on the Knoc are presented in full in the next issue. Peter Mundy's report on Cape Vulture research has already been published in Bokmakierie 28:4-8.

THE PROBLEM OF COLOUR-MARKING PASSERINE BIRDS

C. J. Stutterheim,
Rand Afrikaans University,
Auckland Park,
Johannesburg.

Marking birds to enable field identification of individuals without rehandling is important in most research projects. Preferred marking techniques are those which have the least affect upon the behaviour and survival of the marked birds. A two year study on the red-billed oxpecker (Buphagus erythrorhynchus) in the Kruger National Park permits a review of six colour-marking techniques used on this species. The colour marking techniques tried were the following:

Colour neckbands, Backtag markers, Wing tags, Poncho markers, Colour rings and Colour dyes

Each marking method has its advantages and must be carefully evaluated in relation to the objectives of the research programme undertaken. The present paper covers three aspects of the techniques:

- 1) Usefulness in field identification
- 2) Survival of marked birds
- 3) Influence on population dynamics.