

Rand Water Group: Mr. M.B. Schmitt
Mr. C.J. Vernon: The NIBRA view on study groups
Mr. J. Bourquard: an appeal for a special study group

SESSION 6 - WHETHER SAFRING NEWS? CHAIRMAN: Mr. L.W. Gillard

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

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

All sessions were interesting and the discussions lively. The majority of papers are summarised below. Alan Kemp's paper on capture marking techniques and that of Manfred Walther on the Knot are presented in full in the next issue. Peter Mundy's report on Cape Vulture research has already been published in Bokmakierie 25:4-8.

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 effect 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.