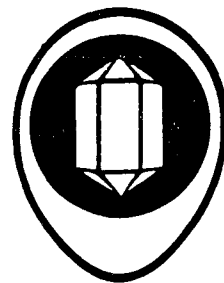


Lanioturdus torquatus  
Drosselwürger

## MITTEILUNGEN

# ORNITHOLOGISCHE ARBEITSGRUPPE



SCHRIFTFLEITUNG: POSTFACH 67, WINDHOEK, S.W.A.

No. 3-4

16. Jahrgang

Juni/Juli 1980

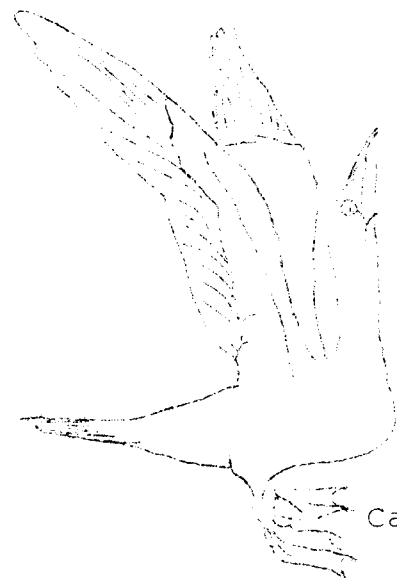
Ein seltener Fund

### NESTLING DES DAMARASEGLERS (Apus bradfieldi)

Was lange währt, wird gut! Nach diesem Motto wollen auch wir hoffen, dass unsere "Seglerforschung" durch den nun endlich eingetroffenen Artikel von Frau v.d. Elzen neuen Auftrieb bekommt und dass unsere Vogelfreunde diesem etwas abseits liegenden Gebiet mehr Aufmerksamkeit schenken mögen. Ein an sich **recht interessanter** Aspekt der Angelegenheit wäre z.B., ob die Segler - wie in Europa die Mauersegler - die hier ja Felswände als Nistplätze bevorzugen, sich in ihren Lebensgewohnheiten den Hochhausbauten Windhoeks anpassen und diese anfangen zu besiedeln. Die Skulpturenwand der Landbank, die bisher den Fledermäusen vorbehalten war, wäre doch eigentlich ein idealer Nistplatz für eine Seglerkolonie. (W.S.)

Frau R. van den Elzen aus Bonn berichtet uns über den Damarasegler wie folgt:

"Durch die freundliche Vermittlung von Frau A. Benseler erhielt ich während unseres Aufenthaltes in Windhoek im April des vergangenen Jahres einen nestjungen Damarasegler, den Herr H. zur Strassen am 15. April 1978 auf der Gobabis Rd. beim Avisdamm gefunden hatte. (s. Ornith. Mitt. Nr. 6, Sept. 1979, Seite 4).- Offensichtlich - denn beim Präparieren konnten von Herrn H. Mittendorf keine Verletzungen festgestellt werden - handelte es sich um einen vorzeitig ausgeflogenen Nestling, den seine Flügel noch nicht tragen konnten. Obwohl schon in Windhoek als Apus b. bradfieldi determiniert, nahm ich ihn zu Vergleichszwecken mit ans Zoolog. Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn, wo er unter der Inventarnummer: 79 713 in die Balgsammlung der ornitholog. Abteilung eingegangen ist. Wir besitzen noch zwei Damarasegler, ein ad. ♂, das W. Hoesch im Dez. 1938 in der Naukluft sammelte und ein ♀, das G. Niethammer am 20.3.1959 an der Spitzkopje fand. Der nestjunge Segler stimmt jedoch in Flügellänge (127 mm gegenüber 173 mm ♀ ; 176 mm ♂) und in der Färbung nicht mit den beiden adulten Exemplaren überein: den Schwungfedern fehlt der stahlblaue Glanz, alle Federn der Oberseite (incl. der Schwingen) tragen relativ breite, helle Säume, der Gesamteindruck der Oberseitenfärbung ist eher grau, nicht bräunlich wie bei adulten Stücken. Um ganz sicher zu sein, sandte ich deshalb den Balg an "den" Seglerspezialisten Herrn Richard Brooke, Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, in Kapstadt. Dieser bestätigte nicht nur die Determination als Damarasegler sondern hob auch hervor, dass dies der erste Beleg eines Jugendkleides von Apus bradfieldi sei. Da das Jugendkleid bis heute noch nicht beschrieben ist (ausgenommen des spärlichen Ansatzes in diesem Bericht), ein besonders wertvolles Belegstück, für das ich im Namen der ornithol. Abteilung noch ein herzliches Dankeschön aussprechen möchte."



Cape Gannet



SEA FISHERIES BRANCH RINGING PROGRAMME

Cape Gannet and Cape cormorant chicks have been ringed on South and South West African islands during the 1979/80 summer breeding season. A numbered metal ring was placed on the left leg and a combination of up to three coloured plastic rings on the right leg.

These birds were ringed in order to gather important information on their movements and life history as part of a study being conducted by the Sea Fisheries Branch. Anyone sighting ringed birds either at sea or on land can assist by sending (i) date of sighting (ii) place of sighting (iii) species (eg. Cape Gannet or Cape cormorant) and (iv) ring colour combination (eg. top=blue, middle=red, bottom=blue) to:

The Director  
Sea Fisheries Branch  
Private Bag  
SEA POINT 8060  
Attention: P.A. Shelton

OR if a dead bird is found the metal ring number should also be recorded and the information sent to:

Sea Fisheries Branch  
c/o South African Bird Ringing Unit  
University of Cape Town  
RONDEBOSCH 7700

No postage need be applied in either case, if the envelope is marked OFFICIAL.

Your co-operation in this research programme is greatly appreciated.

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Wir bitten um Meldungen gefundener Küstenvögel mit Beringung an die oben angegebene Adresse.

EASTER AT SANDWICH HARBOUR

Few South West Africans would query the uniqueness of Sandwich Harbour (or Sandvis Hawe as Nature Conservation would have it) but is it not unique in African terms? Here sea, sand, marsh and sky meet in a unique combination. Rarely in southern Africa can one expect to see such a profusion of migrant waders wheeling over the lagoon and marshes poised to fly in a matter of days to the

Arctic Circle for the northern summer.

One sees hundreds of Bar-tailed Godwits (R266) many already in breeding plumage - that unmistakable rich chestnut brown. I found a dead Godwit bearing a ring "Inform Zoo Pretoria" ringed by Charles Clinning in Walvis Bay in February, 1976. The computer print-out will state "50 km from ringing site". What is not stated is the far more fascinating probability that the Godwit had probably flown 80 000 km in the interim to breed each summer in the tundras.

The Greenshanks (R263) generally fly with the Godwits but seldom in numbers exceeding 50 birds.

More plentiful than the Godwits are the Curlew Sandpipers (R251) and Grey Plovers (R241) equally prodigious flyers, the odd bird here and there already in summer plumage. I also saw Knot (R254) and Ruff (R256) in partial summer plumage.

In company with the Curlew Sandpipers are Sanderling (R255) and Little Stints (R253) either feeding avidly at the waters edge at low tide or bunched together on a wind protected promontory preening or sleeping at high tide.

Ringed Plovers (R233) and the non-migratory Three-banded Sandplover (R238) frequent in the tidal streams draining the marshes into the lagoon. Turnstone (R232) are rare at Sandwich which lacks the rocky shoreline they normally prefer.

The White-fronted (R235) and Kittlitz's (R237) Sandpipers frequent the sandflats separating the lagoon from the sea; never in large numbers for they are resident birds.

For April, Stilts (R270) were conspicuous by their absence but not so the Avocets (R269) which favour the marshes over the lagoon. I counted 257 in all.

One of the great challenges to the birdwatchers at Sandwich is speculation as to what numbers are lost to observation in the inaccessible lagoonal flats south of the mouth. Climb one of the dunes near Conservation's Hut and look southwards - the lagoon extends almost to the horizon - far larger than Walvis Bay's. The Greater Flamingo (R86) easily outnumbers the Lesser (R87) in the marshes but what of the lagoon as a whole?

Overhead one sees the Terns if not the Gulls and the Pelicans - Common (R291) or Arctic (R294) (who can tell) the diminutive Damaras (R300), Sandwich Terns (R296), Swift Terns (R298), Caspian Terns (R290) and even a rarely seen Black Tern (R305X). If the Terns are not overhead, look to the sandbars near the lagoon mouth where you will find them packed together facing the wind.

On a long walk south between the lagoon and the dunes I finally found the Curlews (R267) and Whimbrels (R268) and Oystercatchers (R231) I was looking for. Amongst the 27 Oystercatchers I spotted a lone European Oystercatcher (R231X), a rare vagrant to southern Africa.

The Cormorants, Black-backed Gulls (R287) and Pelicans are no less a feature of Sandwich than they are of Swakopmund or Walvis Bay. Only the "little" gulls - Grey-headed (R288) and Silver (R289) are less in evidence.

The bobbing rafts of tightly-packed birds seen either in the lagoon or more rarely on the open sea are the Black-necked Grebe (R5). The Great Crested Grebe (R4) and Dabchick (R6) favour the ponds in the marshes. The Cape Teal (R98) flies readily from lagoon to marsh but the other ducks and geese - the Shoveler (R94), Shelduck (R90), Maccoa (R103) and Pochard (R102) are more fresh water birds. I always see Egyptian Geese (R89) with the duck - further confir-

mation of their distribution along the south west coast in any suitable habitat.

This time I only saw Grey Heron (R54) incongruously perched on the high dunes, often in company of Pied Crows (R522) and Pelicans. The Little Egret (R59) favours the marshes. There were no Night Herons (R69) in the reeds.

I scanned the lagoon for Gannets (R44) and Arctic Skuas (R284) to no avail. I will see them next time for one always returns to Sandwich.

J.S. de Villiers  
P.O. Box 568  
WINDHOEK 9000

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON BLACK OYSTERCATCHERS

Over 150 Black Oystercatchers (*Haematopus mocuini*) have been colour ringed at Saldanha, Western Cape, using red, yellow, blue, green, white and black Darvic plastic rings. The following sets of combinations have been used:- (1) Right leg metal, left leg three colours. (2) Green over metal right, left leg three colours. (3) Blue over metal right. (4) Blue over metal right, white left. (5) Red over metal right, and (6) black over metal right.

The following additional information would be much appreciated:- number of Oystercatchers present (particularly in the case of flocks) including the number of first year birds. First year birds can be identified by the dull brownish tip to the bill, very small dull eye ring and dull legs.

I am also keen to receive records of flocks of sub-adult Oystercatchers. Second-year birds resemble adults, but have small, dull eye rings.

All records will be acknowledged and details of colour ringed birds supplied.

Details of sightings with date and location should be sent to:-

P.A.R. Hockey  
Fitz Patrick Institute  
University of Cape Town  
7700 RONDEBOSCH

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BRADFIELD'S SWIFT

In the Newsletter No. 11-12 of Febr./March, 1980 Mr. C.F. Clinning reported on various Apus species.

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