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Editorial

Timothy O. Osborne

We were supposed to be back on "schedule" with editions appearing every 3 months and I thought we were but a minor glitch occurred at the printers for volume 35(2). I had submitted the edition before returning to Alaska for a month and expected to find the volume in my mail box upon my return. It came as a surprise to me that no edition was ready. I inquired and found out that neither the Scientific Society nor Typoprint who prints the *Lanioturdus* had any idea where the manuscripts were. After several weeks of phoning and trying to trace the papers it turned out that a woman at Typoprint who had quit her job, had stuffed the manuscript into her desk drawer. It was finally located and printed in July instead of May!

I want to thank everyone who has been submitting papers for publishing, as we are now back to having a Club journal with recent information. This edition contains a variety of papers starting with two opposing viewpoints, but both working towards the same end result—reducing the number of birds poisoned in Namibia. Rob Simmons and Penn Lloyd give us the biology behind the hunting seasons and other authors see one small event but it all contributes towards scientific knowledge.

Mac Leod Safari Bird Observations

Neil Mac Leod

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The following irregular/unusual sightings were seen on a safari 9-16 February 2002.

Blackwinged Pratincole

Four birds were seen along Fischer's Pan in Etosha near Two Palms waterhole on 11 February 2002. I did not find any when I returned to the area two weeks later.

Hooded and White-headed Vulture

One adult bird of both species was seen close to Namutoni on 11 February 2002.

Knob-billed duck, Spur-winged goose and African Spoonbill

6 Knob-billed ducks were seen on Fischer's pan on 11 and 12 February 2002. Four Spur-winged geese were also seen on the pan. Around 12 Spoonbills were seen settling on Fischer's pan in the late afternoon.

Common Redshank

One bird was seen on both 14 and 15 February 2002 at the Walvis Bay lagoons. They seem to favour the first pond on the left-hand side of the road after the Esplanade bungalows.

The following species were seen on another safari during 23 February - 2 March 2002.

Terek Sandpiper

One bird was seen on both 28 February and 1 March. Different sightings on the larger part of the lagoon as well as the first small pond past Esplanade bungalows.

The following were seen on a third safari over 23 March - 5 April 2002.

Terek Sandpiper, Common Redshank and Grey Phalarope

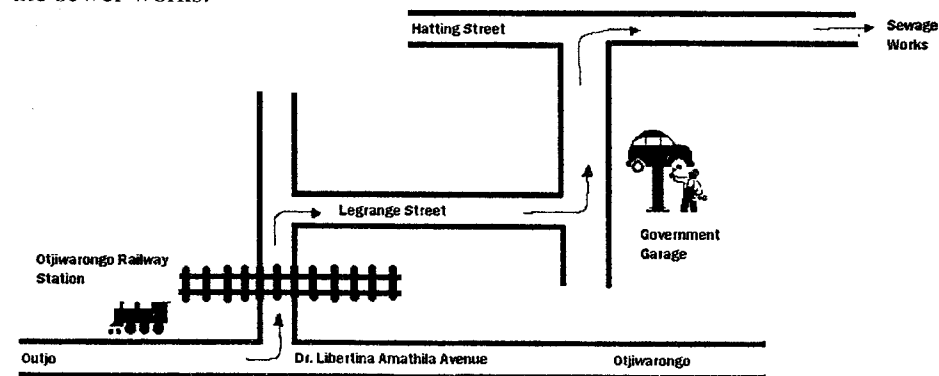
One Terek Sandpiper was seen on 27 March 2002, as it was feeding on the second pond past the Esplanade bungalows going the direction of the saltworks. One "not so Common" Redshank seen on the first pond past the Esplanade bungalows on 27 March 2002. One Grey Phalarope seen on the second pond past the bungalows. The bird appeared very wet and tired, as though it had just arrived from somewhere.

Additional notes:

I visited the Otjiwarongo sewage works around mid-day on 4 April 2002. Sadly, the only Whitefaced duck we found on a two week safari was trapped! The bird was luckily still alive and I managed to free it without any further harm. The left leg and foot seemed to be somewhat damaged. The bird flew from my hands and we all thought that it should survive the ordeal. Are there any birders around Otjiwarongo that could possibly keep an eye on the sewage works? Does anyone bird the sewage works or have records of birds seen there?

I have on previous occasions also found handmade traps at the Gammams Water Works in Windhoek!

For those of you passing through Otjiwarongo it would be worth your while to investigate the sewer works to see what is present and to report sightings to the Lanioturdus. I have drawn a map so persons unfamiliar with the town can find the sewer works.



Instructions to Otjiwarongo Sewage Works

1. From Dr. Libertina Amathila Avenue, turn into Ottohahn Street.
2. After crossing the railway-line, turn right into Legrange Street.
3. At the T-junction, turn left into Hatting Street.
4. At the T-junction, turn right and follow road to sewage works.