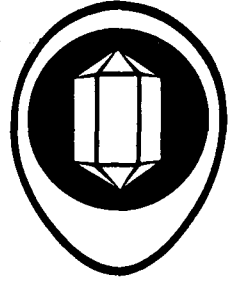


Lanioturdus torquatus
Drosselwürger

MITTEILUNGEN

ORNITHOLOGISCHE ARBEITSGRUPPE



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

No. 8

-- 8. Jahrgang --

November 1972

ZWEITE ORNITHOLOGISCHE TAGUNG IN WINDHOEK

vom 4. bis 6. April 1972

GREIFVOEGEL UND GREIFVOEGELSCHUTZ

Referat des Vorsitzenden des Vereins S.W.A. Jaeger,
H. Graf zu Castell-Ruedenhausen, Windhoek

Im Rahmen Ihrer Ornithologischen Tagung will ich als Vertreter des Vereins Suedwest Afrikanischer Jaeger ueber unsere Ritter der Luefte, unsere Greife, sprechen und damit ein Thema behandeln, das uns Jaegern und Naturfreunden ganz besonders am Herzen liegt, sind doch unsere Greife auch Jaeger, wie wir und somit unsere Kollegen.

Aus diesem Grunde will und muss ich dieses Thema aus dem Gesichtswinkel des Jaegers betrachten und darauf meinen Vortrag aufbauen. Seinerzeit, als ich im Mai 1963 die Ehre hatte, vor dem Ornithologischen Kongress an gleicher Stelle ueber unser Flugwild zu sprechen, hatte ich die Greife zu diesem Thema mit eingeschlossen und Ihnen einen Begriff ueber die Vielfalt und den Artenreichtum dieser Gruppe in unserer Suedwester Heimat gegeben.

Da mag nun ganz von selbst die Frage auftauchen, gehoeren denn die Greife ueberhaupt zum Jagdbaren Wild?

Die Antwort darauf ist, ja, die Greife gehoeren zum Jagdbaren Wild. Und das ist auch gut so, denn alles, was zum Jagdbaren Wild gehoert, faellt in den Verantwortungsbereich der Jaeger und der Jagdgesetzgeber, und man hat dadurch die Moeglichkeit, ihnen eine ganzjaehrigere oder langfristige Schonzeit zuzubilligen.

Gerade der Jaeger, der viel in der freien Natur ist, der Einblick in Vorgaenge und Geheimnisse des Tierlebens gewinnt, die den meisten Menschen verborgen bleiben, er ist am ehesten geneigt, dort zu schonen, wo andere vielleicht einen Schaedling vermuten.

Unser Suedwester Jagdgesetz sieht gottlob auch eine ganzjaehrigere Schonzeit fuer unsere Greife vor und gestattet nur dann einen Abschuss, wenn er zur Verhuetung eines Schadens geschieht. Das ist ein weitgesellter Begriff und es ist meist nicht moeglich, das Gegenteil zu beweisen.

So stellen wir jetzt die Frage, sind Greife oder ein Teil von ihnen schaedlich?

Darauf kann man nur antworten, den Begriff nuetzlich oder schaedlich gibt es in der Natur ueberhaupt nicht. Den hat der Mensch geschaffen, indem er alles nur von seiner Warte aus betrachtet. Alles, was ihm schadet, bezeichnet er als schaedlich, alles was ihm nuetzt ist nuetzlich.

REPORT OF VULTURE RINGING - WATERBERG 8. - 10. 7. 72

by J. Kinahan

On arrival at the campsite approximately one mile from the foot of the cliffs we had lunch before setting out to reconnoitre the possibilities of scaling the cliffs and investigating the colony of Cape Vultures which were nesting in them.

The actual rock-climbing was mainly left to four of us who are members of the Windhoek Mountaineering and Exploration Club. We, as rock-climbers had been greatly discouraged by bad reports of the Waterberg rock. However we found the rock good enough for even the most serious of climbs.

On the afternoon of the eighth we tackled a section of the cliff about one mile to the north of the main colony in order to gauge its possibilities. Unfortunately it was a race against time and we were only about one-third of the way up before the sun started disappearing.

Large numbers of Cape Vultures were coming and going all afternoon. A pair of Black Eagles was also seen as well as an European Hobby and an African Hawk-Eagle. Swarms composed of possibly thousands of Bradfield's, Alpine and Whiterumped Swifts gathered above the cliffs in the evening.

We retreated and met Mr. Kolberg who was to have directed us from the bottom as to where the nests were situated, as many were under overhangs.

Early in the morning of the ninth, seven of us headed for a break in the cliffs to the south of the colony. The steep, rocky foothills were densely vegetated with small thorn trees which retarded our progress to a certain extent. Within two hours we were on top of the plateau after using the rope over a final section of about fifty feet.

The plateau is incredibly beautiful but unfortunately almost as difficult to cross. It is covered with densely packed rock pillars interlaced with thick bush. We fought our way through the tangle for almost an hour before arriving at a point above the colony. The photographic possibilities were great as the vultures tended to fly quite close to us where we perched on precarious ledges and outcrops.

Before lunch four of us abseiled (method of descending a vertical rock-face by rope) into a nest which contained a chick about two to three weeks old. It and another older one in the nest about six feet away were ringed and measured. The stench on the ledge was overpowering and the one chick became extremely excited and regurgitated a liberal helping of pre-digested carrion onto the ledge. When this did not sway us it defecated onto our rope and this enraged its (the rope's) owner greatly. We climbed up the rope again and had lunch on top. When one climber abseiled down to retrieve some hardware on the ledge he discovered that the excited chick had leapt to its death many feet below. This was a tragic blow but the circumstances were beyond our control. Later another nest was reached which contained two eggs. These were examined and measured.

It was already too late to attempt to reach another nest before nightfall so we packed up and made our way back to the camp in good time.

Although we did not accomplish much, we did reconnoitre the colony and ring one chick successfully in the short space of time that was available. I think however that the colony is worth visiting in future years when more time is at hand and more work can be done.

SPENDEN FUER STUDIENREISE

VON HERRN HEINZEL

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SWASS/SANCCOB

Extract from: Minutes of the meeting of the Sanccob executive: 7/8/72; (A) Matters arising from previous minutes; -
 "(e) SWASS/SANCCOB report was considered next and it was reported by the Hon. Sec. that he had visited Dr. Rust and Mr. Kolberg; that a meeting had been arranged with the Nature Conservation Agency; and that their ring design would be shown to the Director of the Ringing Unit, Mr. Elliott. (Note: Subsequent correspondence indicated that the meeting with Mr. de la Batt and other conservationists would take place and that the recognition of SWASS/SANCCOB by the Administration would be one of the items to be discussed.)"
