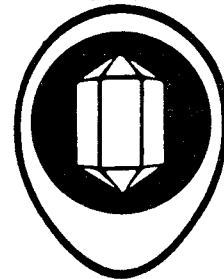




Lamiorurdus torquatus
Drosselwürger

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THE CAPE EAGLE OWL IN SOUTHERN SOUTH WEST AFRICA

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by C.F. Clinning, Windhoek

Mr. H. Walter of Walvis Bay recently showed me a photograph of an adult Cape Eagle Owl which he took in October, 1956 at Lorelei in the Orange River valley. This is a new record for South West Africa, the species' previously known range being in the mountains of the southern and eastern parts of South Africa (see the map in: McLachlan and Liversidge 1978).

While it is possible that the bird photographed by Mr. Walter was a vagrant, there may be a resident population of these owls in the lower Fish and Orange River valleys. Recent unsubstantiated reports record them from the Fish River Canyon.

Scientific Society members should acquaint themselves with the differences between Cape and Spotted Eagle Owls (see Steyn and Tredgold 1977) and be on the look out for Capes when visiting suitable localities in the south.

References:

G.R. McLachlan and R. Liversidge (1978) "Roberts Birds of South Africa", Cape Town. Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund.

P. Steyn and D. Tredgold (1977) "Observations on the Cape Eagle Owl": Bokmakierie 29.2: 31-42

AFRICAN GREY PARROTS BRED IN CAPTIVITY IN WALVIS BAY

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from: Namib Times, Tuesday, 3rd July 1979

Mrs. Jane Delpont of Nr. 83, Eighth Street, Walvis Bay has proved that it can be done.....that it can be done despite what breeders, universities, research stations and other institutions say cannot be done. That is that parrots breed in captivity.

Mrs. Delpont says that she has two African Grey parrots, one of which is 29 years old and the other about ten years. These two parrots were kept in separate cages built into the cupboard unit in the Delpont kitchen. Some three years ago Mrs. Delpont cut the meshwire

seperating the cages. She added: "The parrots started making love calls and then all of a sudden Madame Whisky laid three eggs but did not sit on them for hatching. In three months time there were another three eggs!"

SO Mrs. Delpont left something should be done about this and she wrote to various breeders in the Republic, universities, research organisations and such. All gave the same reply. The birds will not breed in captivity, especially in a cage.

However, undaunted the Delpont's put an empty milk can to the side of the cage and within three months another three eggs were laid, in the can. This time Madame Whisky sat on the eggs but all three chicks died when half way out of the eggshells. The can was thrown away and substituted with a hollowed out stump of wood. Again three months later three eggs were laid in the stump. Again the mother parrot sat on the eggs and this time - two parrot chicks were born. The third egg was thrown out.

Mrs. Delpont said she has delayed writing to Onderstepoort to tell them that African Grey parrots do breed in captivity in order to see whether these chicks will pull through. They are now three weeks old and their eyes have opened.

Mrs. Delpont adds: All food suggested in books for feeding to parrots while they have young ones have been refused by the parents. They eat their normal diet and they take a loving interest in their young ones. "I am sure these are the first parrots to breed in an ordinary cage and in the kitchen at that where there is noisy arroundings such as dogs, washing machines and cooking. I shall let the various organisation know of this successful breeding in captivity and perhaps Walvis Bay can claim some honours as far as African Grey parrots are concerned", Mrs. Delpont said.

Nochmal: Die Rauchschnalbe, Vogel des Jahres

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In der No. 2-3 der Mitteilungen der Ornithologischen Arbeitsgruppe stellten wir den Vogel des Jahres, die Rauchschnalbe, vor. Daraufhin fanden wir noch einen interessanten Artikel ueber eine stattgefundene Kreuzung zwischen einer Rauch- und einer Mehlschnalbe aus "Wir und die Voegel", Zeitschrift fuer Natur- und Umweltschutz, Nr. 3, Juni 1979, von Karl-Heinz Loske:

"Der Seitensprung der Schnalbedame

Rauch- und Mehlschnalben kreuzen sich manchmal! Im Rahmen einer wissenschaftlichen Populationsstudie konnte eine solche Kreuzung nachgewiesen werden. Die Untersuchung fand 1978 in der Soester Börde statt.

Ein Rauchschnalbenweibchen hatte seine erste Brut mit vier Jungen erfolgreich abgeschlossen und begann am 20. Juni mit einer Zweitbrut. Das in einem Winkel eines Schweinestalls gebaute Nest enthielt am 19. Juli 1978 etwa zwei Wochen alte Jungvoegel, die am selben Tag beringt wurden und das Nest am 28. Juli verliessen. Am 26. August wurde ein Jungvoegel dieser Brut etwa 100 Meter vom Gebaeude, in dem sein Nest war, gefangen und kontrolliert. Es handelte sich dabei eindeutig um einen Bastard, der Merkmale sowohl von der Rauch- wie auch von der Mehlschnalbe aufwies. So erschien der Kopf kuerzer und dicker als bei einer Rauchschnalbe, Oberkopf wie Oberseite waren stahlblau gefaerbt. Die Schwingen waren braeun-