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as odd individuals or in very small flocks with the exception of the falcons which appear to move over Aldabra in a steady migration, mostly in November/December. Large flocks of Crab Plovers *Dromas ardeola*, observed moving north from Aldabra, appear to represent a migration to breeding grounds on the coast of Somalia. There appear to have been some recent introductions on Astove.

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## Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* in South West Africa

by J. M. Winterbottom

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Some years ago, Mr. A. J. Horak, then living on the Okavango River, caught a strange dove, which he placed in his aviary. Some years later, when he had moved to Oranjemund, at the mouth of the Orange River, he caught another. They proved to be female and male respectively and Mr. Horak succeeded in breeding from them, after the death of the original female, from the offspring. He has now about eight of these birds, which he identified as the palearctic Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

I saw these birds on 28 September 1973, and there is no doubt about the correctness of the identification. The problem is, how did they get to South West Africa? Vaurie (1965, *The birds of the palearctic fauna. Non-passeriformes*) gives the winter quarters as "Africa south to Senegal, Gambia, the Sudan and Abyssinia". The only alternative to their being migrants which have overshot their mark is that they were escapes from captivity. While this last is just conceivable for the Oranjemund example, I find it quite incredible that anybody would be keeping Turtle Doves on the Okavango without Mr. Horak's knowledge; and we know that other palearctic migrants do overshoot their normal wintering range—witness Merlins *Falco columbarius* in Natal and European Swallows *Hirundo rustica* on Marion Island.

[The above note was shown to D. Goodwin, who suggests that some *Streptopelia turtur* might go further south than previous observations have suggested. For a record from Aldabra, see p. 14 above.—Ed.]