

THE RHODESIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL BULLETIN - AUGUST 1951

No. 2

I am glad to be able to report that at a meeting of the Council of the SAOS held of 17th August 1951, the formation of the Rhodesian branch was approved. But we applied to be called the Rhodesian Ornithological Society, and the Council has asked for our reasons for wanting to extend our area to include north of the Zambezi. If any member would like to submit reasons why we should extend the limit of our area to include Northern Rhodesia will they kindly submit their reason in writing.

The Rhodesia Bird Club held its Annual General Meeting on the 25th August, and it was decided to continue with the RBC having the larger membership, but they claim to be not at all scientific in their approach to bird watching. I know of no member who is not continuing his membership of the RBC and I have offered to finish the Check List (copies available to everybody free on application). I am also carrying on with the keeping of the Distribution Records for the RBC and so records of both organisations can be co-ordinated. If more members would make the effort to send in their observations and records, a more up to date picture of our avifauna could be obtained.

Our constitution and details of organisation will have to be worked out, but we would like first to know if all Rhodesian members of the SAOS wish to be enrolled in our branch, and thus co-operate and pool their knowledge with their fellow Rhodesian ornithologists.

There are four new members in addition to the list in *Bulletin* No. 1: Sir R. Tredgold (Salisbury); Mrs. L. Webster (Sipolilo); Mrs. B. Ingle (Lalapanzi); Mr. E.J. Dickinson (Surrey, England).

Acknowledgements: A donation of £1 towards our expenses has been received from Mr. A.B. Fletcher of Gatooma.

Activities: Mr. D.C.H. Plowes informs me that on two days during August he ringed some 300 Red billed Queleas and 80 other species at Nyamandhlovu. The ringing of the queleas is in connection with a request by the Department of Agriculture that he investigate the damage done by granivorous birds (especially Red billed Queleas): Perhaps some of our members can assist in the investigations in any way on the lines suggested in an article in the *Rhodesian Farmer* of August 15th. Some data on the Red billed Quelea is given by Plowes in his Bulletin No. 1512 obtainable as a reprint from the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. R.A. Jubb during the month got over some good propaganda on the protection side by writing strongly to the press for the need for some protection of small passerine birds in the Salisbury Municipal area. Mr. Jubb is the author of another Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1494 called the Protection of Birds in S. Rhodesia. Captain James continued to write his bird articles in the Rhodesia Agriculture Journal.

During August Messrs. R.W. Rankine and M.P.S. Irwin left for Tanganyika to collect specimens for the National Museum at Bulawayo. Mr. Irwin has now forwarded [? illegible] specimens.

Members have reported the first waders of this migratory season at Rainham Dam, Salisbury, August 4th (Dr. Campbell); at Pasi Dam, Gatooma, August 5th (Fletcher and the Attwells); and Umvuma, August 6th (K.W. Greenhow).

Obituary. We regret to inform members of the death in London recently of Mr. R.M. Simmons. He came to the Vumba, Umtali, from India where he was an experienced ornithologist. His loss will be keenly felt, and especially in the Eastern Districts. He used to send in regular reports of the birds at his Vumba home, and he has written especially about bird song in articles in the *Babbler*.

H.M. Miles

Acting Hon. Secretary