

RHODESIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL BULLETIN. No. 7

JUNE - JULY 1952

Roll of members: The following new members have joined since the publication of the last *Bulletin*: C.W. Buchanan (Byo.); Mrs. M. Butler (Selukwe); Mrs. R.V. Collins (Sinoia); M. Jenkins (Selukwe); D.M. Marr (Selukwe); M.P. O'Farrell (Byo.); Miss M. Paterson (Byo.); B. Radclyffe (Selukwe); M. Saunders (Selukwe); Dr. R.B. Saunders (Selukwe); A.L. Strover (Selukwe); E.M. Vakey (Selukwe); Maj. N.S. Vissian (Selukwe); Miss E. Webb (Byo.)

On April 11th 1952 the Secretary of the SAOS Dr. J.M. Winterbottom wrote to the ROS Secretary as follows: *At its meeting the night before last, the Council elected 29 Rhodesian members and they instructed me to congratulate you and the Rhodesian Ornithological Society on your splendid effort in obtaining new members.*

The Little Bee-eater. Mr. C.J. Skead the Director of the Kaffrarian Museum, P.O. Box [?], King Wiliamstown, would be glad to learn details of the nestling period of the Little Bee-eater.

Nest Record Cards. John Gibb's of Oxford's Department of Zoological Field Studies and who is organiser of the nest record cards in England, wrote to the Secretary as follows: *Although the value of cards of nests which have been visited only once or twice is clearly somewhat less than those for nests visited more regularly, I am convinced that it is still very much worth while for you to continue to record every nest found with eggs or young. It is usually possible to obtain approximate dates of breeding, and often also figures of clutch and brood size from nests visited once or twice. In our own collection, too, only a small percentage of records are anything like complete, but we still ask for every nest to be recorded.*

It is also important, I think, to encourage people to continue recording nests of every species, no matter how common. So far we have found that analysis of the cards of the common species has been much more productive and valuable than analysis of the many fewer cards of the less common species.

188 cards have been submitted by members: 78 by K.W. Greenhow; 46 by E.A. Edwards; 21 by F.D. Mattyser; 11 by A.W. Stander; 10 by R.K. Brooke; 4 by Capt. G.L. James; 3 each by Mrs. G. Attwell, P. Ellenberger, H.M. Miles and Miss I Rorke; 2 by R.M. Henderson; 1 each by G.K. Donald, M.P.S. Irwin, P. Linton and B.V. Newby-Varty. Congratulations Mr. Greenhow!

127 are represented in this collection and nearly all of them refer to Mashonaland. 5 cards are devoted to the Orange Breasted Waxbill; 4 each to the White-browed Bush Chat or Heuglin's Robin; Spotted Eagle Owl; Spectacled Weaver and Red Bishop Birds. I find it difficult to believe, in view of the above, that some members have tried to find nests and fill in nest cards.

Mr. J. Vincent's *Check List of the Birds of S.A.* is obtainable from the SAOS Secretary, P.O. Box 1616, Cape Town, for 4/8d post free.

Mr Miles is in England on leave largely for health reasons. We wish him a happy holiday and look forward to his return in mid July. While travelling to the United Kingdom he was able to meet the leading members of the ROS at Livingstone.

The Selukwe Branch held a meeting on April 30th at which they discussed the list of birds protected by law in Rhodesia; they also held a field day at Surprise Dam on June 8th.

Box 1690,
Salisbury.

R.K. Brooke
Treasurer and Acting Secretary