

ADDITIONS TO THE CHECK-LIST OF BIRDS OF THE MOUNTAIN ZEBRA NATIONAL PARK

B. L. PENZHORN and P. J. L. BRONKHORST

Mountain Zebra National Park

Private Bag X66

Cradock

5880

Abstract – Twenty-two additional bird species have been recorded in the Park, increasing the check-list total to 170 species.

In his report on the bird-life in the Mountain Zebra National Park, Skead (1965) reported 148 bird species in the Park. He predicted that vagrants could increase the total to 190–200 species. Since the publication of Skead's check-list, several bird-watchers have visited the Park and compiled lists of the birds seen. The authors have also kept a look-out for species not previously reported. Twenty-two additional species have been recorded, increasing the number of species recorded in the Park to 170.

The 22 additional species are listed below. The numbers denote those used by McLachlan and Liversidge (1957) in *Roberts birds of South Africa* and the nomenclature follows the *Check list of the birds of South Africa* (S.A.O.S. List Committee 1969).

- 47 WHITE-BREASTED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax lucidus*
WITBORSDUIKER (Lichtenstein)
White-breasted cormorants are recorded regularly at the large dam near the museum.
- 50 REED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax africanus* (Gmelin)
RIETDUIKER
A few vagrants have been recorded occasionally at the large dam near the museum.
- 61 CATTLE EGRET *Ardeola ibis* (Linnaeus)
BOSLUIVOËL
Cattle egrets are recorded regularly, although not resident in the Park. Skead (1965) predicted that vagrants from the lucerne lands in the Great Fish River Valley would visit the Park.
- 79 BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* (Linnaeus)
GROOT SWARTSPRINKAANVOËL
Black storks have been recorded infrequently during the summer months.

- 85 SPOONBILL *Platalea alba* Scopoli
LEPELAAR
Spoonbills are observed occasionally at dams in the Park. On one occasion six were seen together at the large dam near the museum.
- 95 BLACK DUCK *Anas sparsa* Eyton
SWARTEEND
Black duck are seen on the Wilgerboom River, usually where there is some cover, but a pair has been observed on a few occasions in an open valley at the upper reaches of the River. A black duck was flushed off a nest containing seven eggs on 1975.09.19. The nest was situated on a ledge on a cliff-face, about six metres above the level of the River.
- 114 LANNER FALCON *Falco biarmicus* Temminck
EDELVALK
The presence of this species, predicted by Skead (1965), can now be confirmed. It appears to be rare in the Park.
- 122 GREATER KESTREL *Falco rupicoloides* A. Smith
GROOT ROOIVALK
Members of the Eastern Cape Wild Bird Society observed six greater kestrels near the look-out point in the Park in March 1969 (Brown 1969a).
- 134 TAWNY EAGLE *Aquila rapax* (Temminck)
KOUVOËL
A single bird was seen on the Rooiplaat Plateau on three consecutive days during December 1973 (B.L.P.). This species was regarded by Skead (1967) as rather a vagrant of irregular appearance anywhere throughout the Eastern Cape.
- 158 LITTLE SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter minullus* (Daudin)
KLEIN SPERWER
A single bird was observed once in the dense riverine scrub in March 1973 (B.L.P.). In the Eastern Cape this species usually occurs in the forests of the coastal and sub-coastal belt (Skead 1967).
- 210 MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaeus)
WATERHOENDER
A single moorhen was seen on a few consecutive days in September 1975 below the museum at the drift in the Wilgerboom River.
- 245 BLACKSMITH PLOVER *Vanellus armatus* (Burchell)
BONTKIEWIET
Blacksmith plovers have been recorded infrequently, mainly at the small dam near the Nature Conservator's house.

- 258 COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* Linnaeus
 GEWONE RUITER
 Single birds have been seen on sandbanks along the Wilgerboom River.
- 367 CAPE EAGLE-OWL *Bubo capensis* A. Smith
 KAAPSE OORUIL
 An injured owl found in the Park was identified as a Cape eagle-owl by P. J. L. B.
- 368 SPOTTED EAGLE-OWL *Bubo africanus* (Temminck)
 GEVLEKTE OORUIL
 These owls are occasionally seen at dusk and at night.
- 373 FIERY-NECKED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus pectoralis* Cuvier
 SUID-AFRIKAANSE NAGUIL
 On moonlit nights, these nightjars are infrequently heard calling. Recorded at Berghof, Babylons Toren, the museum and in Fontein-kloof.
- 397 MALACHITE KINGFISHER *Alcedo cristata* Pallas
 KUIFKOPVISVANGER
 Recorded once at a small dam in March 1971 and along the Wilgerboom River in September 1975.
- 485 GREY-BACKED FINCH-LARK *Eremopterix verticalis* (A. Smith)
 GRYS KAFFERTJIE
 Recorded infrequently on the Rooiplaat Plateau.
- 517 FORK-TAILED DRONGO *Dicrurus adsimilis* (Bechstein)
 MIKSTERTBYVANGER
 Recorded regularly in the dense *Acacia karroo* scrub in the valley near the Nature Conservator's house and in the tall exotic trees at the house itself.
- 784 HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus)
 ENGELSE MOSSIE
 House sparrows were first recorded in the Park in June 1968 by Penzhorn and Morris (1968). They must have arrived after 1964, when Skead (1965) concluded his survey of the bird-life in the Park. House sparrows are resident at Babylons Toren, Berghof, Weltevrede and the museum.
- 808 RED BISHOP-BIRD *Euplectes orix* Linnaeus
 ROOI KAFFERVINK
 Red bishop-birds have been recorded by P. J. L. B.

859 YELLOW-EYE CANARY

Serinus mozambicus (Müller)

GEEOLOGSYSIE

Brown (1969b) recorded a small flock of these canaries in the Park in March 1969.

The following eight species have also been reported, but require confirmation:

- 146 Black-breasted snake-eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* A. Smith
- 160 African goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* (Daudin)
- 371 European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Linnaeus
- 395 Giant kingfisher *Ceryle maxima* (Pallas)
- 458 Rufous-naped lark *Mirafra africana* A. Smith
- 519 Golden oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus)
- 540 Rock-jumper *Chaetops frenatus* (Temminck)
- 649 Tawny-flanked prinia *Prinia subflava* (Gmelin).

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Mr C. J. Skead for reading and commenting on the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- BROWN, D. M. V. 1969a. New distributional data: 2. Greater kestrel. *Ostrich* 40:131.
- BROWN, D. M. V. 1969b. New distributional data: 2. Yellow-eye canary. *Ostrich* 40:132.
- McLACHLAN, G. R. and R. LIVERSIDGE. 1957. *Roberts birds of South Africa*. 2nd ed. Cape Town: Trustees of the S.A. Bird Book Fund.
- PENZHORN, B. L. and A. K. MORRIS. 1968. New distributional data: 1. House sparrow. *Ostrich* 39:272.
- S.A.O.S. LIST COMMITTEE. 1969. *Check list of the birds of South Africa*. Cape Town: South African Ornithological Society.
- SKEAD, C. J. 1965. Report on the bird-life in the Mountain Zebra National Park, Cradock, C.P. 1962–1964. *Koedoe* 8:1–40.
- SKEAD, C. J. 1967. Ecology of birds in the Eastern Cape Province. *Ostrich Suppl.* 7:1–103.