A CATALOGUE OF BIRDS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUB-REGION

(Part I: Families Spheniscidae — Burhinidae)

by

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The past sixteen years have witnessed an unparalleled outpouring of original work on the taxonomy of the birds of the South African zoogeographical sub-region, and the need for an up-to-date inventory of the avifauna embodying the valid part of this work is now very great. Lists and works which enumerate all species known to occur at the time of their compilation, and which are basic to any present or future assessment of the South African avifauna, are as follows:

Layard, E. L. 1867 Birds of South Africa
Layard, E. L. and Sharpe, R. B. 1875-1884 Birds of South Africa
Stark, A. C. and Sclater, W. L. 1900-1906 Birds of South Africa
Roberts, A. 1940 Birds of South Africa
Vincent, J. 1952 Check List of the Birds of South Africa

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McLachlan, G. R. and Liversidge, R. 1957 *Roberts' Birds of South Africa*

In addition to these fundamental works, some regional books require to be mentioned here, as they represent detailed analyses, usually supported by extensive collecting and first-hand field observations, of the avifauna of individual territories. Such works are:

Hoesch, W. and Niethammer, G. 1940 *Die Vogelwelt Deutsch-Südwest-afrikas*

Smithers, R. H. N., Irwin, M. P. S. and Paterson, M. L. 1957 *Check List of the Birds of Southern Rhodesia*

Smithers, R. H. N. 1964 *Check List of the Birds of the Bechuanaland Protectorate*

Clancey, P. A. 1964 *Birds of Natal and Zululand*

Numerous other less expansive lists are available, covering the birdlife of small territories, such as Basutoland, Sul do Save, the O.F.S., and of rural districts and even towns, many issued in recent months by the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Rondebosch. While most of these have been conned in the preparation of the following list, I do not believe it necessary to detail them here.

In publishing the first part of the *Catalogue*, some words of explanation are necessary. Since 1956, the S.A.O.S. List Committee, a body set up by the South African Ornithological Society, has worked assiduously to keep Vincent's *Check List* of 1952 abreast with proposed changes in nomenclature and advances in knowledge. A tentative scheme for a new *Check List* was laid down by this Committee as long ago as 1957, but made little progress. In preparing this new *Catalogue* I have acted entirely on my own, motivated by a desire to see a modern list of South African birds completed without further untoward delay as an aid to continued progress. This work does not necessarily reflect the views of the S.A.O.S. List Committee, though the Committee's decisions are followed closely, and is quite independent of any assessment of the avifauna of southern Africa which the aforesaid body may contemplate and succeed in publishing in the future.

**THE LIMITS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUB-REGION**

The limits of zoogeographical South Africa for the purposes of this *Catalogue* are as follows: All Africa lying to the south of the
Cunene, Okavango and Zambezi Rivers, embracing the territories of South-West Africa (including the Caprivi Strip), the Bechuanaland Protectorate, Rhodesia, southern Moçambique, the Republic of South Africa, and British administered Basutoland and Swaziland; also the territorial waters of South-West Africa, the Republic of South Africa and Moçambique.

RECORDS OF MARGINAL SPECIES

In preparing a list of the present type a certain measure of personal judgment has to be exercised in evaluating the validity of records of species new to the South African list in cases where specimens were not collected in the first instance, or where there is doubt as to the integrity of the worker. Following the high standards set by Mr. Smithers and his co-workers in the Southern Rhodesian and Bechuanaland Check Lists, I have disallowed sight records in most instances, placing these and other dubious records in square brackets. In the case of certain oceanic species taken in "Cape seas" in the days of the windjammers and not recorded since, I have simply followed time-honoured convention by including them, though with no sense of satisfaction in doing so.

As with many other parts of the world, South African ornithology is not without its deceptions, and one or two species which have a prima facie case for inclusion in any list of South African birds, were almost certainly not taken within these limits in the first instance. I have placed these forms on the Hypothetical List, which will appear at the end of the Catalogue.

CLASSIFICATION

The classification adopted in this list is that of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, as laid down in his A Revised Classification of the Birds of the World, 1951, which system was that adopted by Vincent, in his Check List, of 1952, and by McLachlan and Liversidge, in their deservedly popular Roberts’ Birds of South Africa, 1957.

In the preparation of any list or catalogue of birds of a given region at the present time, the choice of genera presents a serious challenge to the compiler. In the days of Dr. Austin Roberts, South African workers operated in a positive welter of subgeneric groupings for their birds. Present feeling has swung away from such an approach, and supports the elimination of subgenera and monotypic genera as far as possible, and while I personally favour large genera, I believe that generic merging has been taken too far by some workers, and that serious and detailed re-appraisal of the genera of many families is now long overdue.
In the choice of English names I have followed recent standard works closely, as unnecessary deviation from popular usage at this stage is quite unwarranted. Indeed, standardization of the vernacular names of South African birds is now a matter of impelling necessity, though in one or two cases, e.g., the vernacular name of *Circaetus fasciolatus*, where considerable confusion still exists between the names used for this eagle by different authorities, I have thought it expedient to coin an entirely new name. In the case of the snake eagle mentioned, this is convenient and unlikely to meet with more than token resistance from conservative workers, as the species is not well-known and figures little in the annual literature. In the English names I have also removed redundant hyphens and simplified presentation, as recently recommended by Landsborough Thomson, in *A New Dictionary of Birds*, 1964, p. 503.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

Order SPHENISCIFORMES

Family Spheniscidae: Penguins

Genus *Spheniscus* Brisson

*Spheniscus* Brisson, *Ornith.*, vol. i, 1760, p. 52; vi, p. 96.

*Type*, by monotypy, "Manchot" et "Manchot taché" = *Diomedea demersa* Linnaeus.

1. *SPHENISCUS DEMERSUS* (Linnaeus) Jackass Penguin

Confined to the coasts of south-western Africa.


Breeds on coasts of South-West Africa and the Cape, ranging to the coasts of Angola, eastern Cape, Natal, Zululand and southern Moçambique.

Genus *Eudyptes* Vieillot


2. *EUDYPTES CRESTATUS* (Miller) Rockhopper Penguin

Islands of the southern oceans, ranging north to 30° south lat. in winter.