EDITORIAL

Summer has almost come and gone without my noticing it. It has been an odd summer in terms of weather but judging from my discussions with other people, the birding has been excellent this year. The thing I have noticed while putting this edition of Lanioturdus together is the really good numbers of rare birds that were seen during these last few months. These records raise the question of what brings these spurts of rarities about.

Is it the unusual rainfall and general climatic patterns experienced over much of the subcontinent? Is just that we are getting more reports of rarities because there are a lot more birders out there at the moment? Is it a consequence of the "Patagonia effect" described by Peter Kaestner in a previous edition of Lanioturdus. Whatever the situation is, we have had two new birds added to the Namibian list in the last six months. A presumed Pied Flycatcher at the Windhoek Sewerage Works (October 1998) and a Red-throated Pipit in Swakopmund (March 1999). These records may represent interesting biological indicators of broader environmental processes influencing the sub-continent. These records are interesting in themselves but seen against a background of a large number of other rare birds in the same period we have to admit the possibility of large scale climatic (or other) factors influencing their occurrence in Namibia.

So what happens to these records? Currently nothing much!! All records reported to me are put into the Short Notes section and I encourage people to write up their sightings. My feeling is that a tremendous amount of
NEWS FROM THE NAMIBIA SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
LIBRARY

Very few of our members seem to be aware that the Namibia Scientific Society has a fairly substantial library (reference only) which is available for use by all members.

The following publications are obtained on a regular exchange basis. Members are welcome to make use of these magazines during the opening times of the library, being 8:00 to 13:00 (weekdays only). Should any members be unable to come during the morning, the magazines can be made available by specific request from 14:00 to 17:00. Please note, our library is a reference library, thus no magazines may be taken home. However, photocopy facilities are available.

The following list of publications received by the library will be updated in future editions of *Lanioturdus*.

**Publication** | **Last issue available**
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Animal Research and Development (Zoology) | Oct. 1998
Annals SA Museum | Vol. 105/5, Aug. 1998
Beaufortia (Zoology) | Vol. 48 (1-5), Nov. ’98
Bild der Wissenschaft | No. 8, Aug. 1998
Boissiera (Botany – French) | Vol. 28/1, Jul. 1998
Contributions to Zoology | Oct. 1998
Entomologica Fennica (Entomology) | Bd. 58/Heft 1, Aug. 1998
Entomologische Abhandlungen | Aug. 1998
Fieldiana (Zooology) | Sep. 1998
Gefiederte Welt (Ornithology) | No. 52, Nov. 1998
Hornbill (Ornithology) |

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Loro Parque (Ornithology) | Sep. 1998
Natural History | No. 6/98
Nature Australia | Autumn 98
Naturforschende Gesellschaft | Oct. 1998
Naturschutz | Oct. 1998
Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau | No. 6, Jun. 1998
Offenbacher Verein für Naturkunde | 3 Hefte / 2 Hefte
Ornis Fennica (Ornithology, Finland) | Vol. 75/1, Nov. 1998
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften | Aug. 1998
Ostrich (Ornithology) | Aug. 1998
SA Waterbulletin | Aug. 1998
Seevögel (Verein Jordsand) (Ornithology) | Vol. 19/2, Aug. 1998
Senckenbergiana Biologica (Naturwissenschaften) | Band 77, Jul. 1998
Senckenbergiana Lethaea (Naturwissenschaften) | Bd. 77 1/2, Aug. 1998
Transactions of the Zimbabwe Scientific Society | Nov. 1998
Veld & Flora (Indigenous Flora) | Sep. 1998
Water SA | Jul. 1998
Zoologische Verhandelingen | Sep. 1998
Zoosystema | Aug. 1998

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