

GUIDE

TO THE BIRDS

OF SOUTH AFRICA

by D.O. Kaufman

Broederbird (Albino ad nauseam). A large carnivorous bird which only comes out on moonless nights. The broederbird is pure white and inhabits certain areas of the plattland and the Free State as well as the less inhabited areas of Natal and the Cape. It also embarks on a yearly migration to the offices of the Sunday Times. Recent reports of ornithologists indicate that it has turned cannibalistic, and there are hopes that it may soon be extinct. It tends to keep very much to itself, but has been known to mate with the Blackbird. Also known as the Super Nat, and Big John.

BlackBird (Kaffir Blerrissimus). Found throughout South Africa despite repeated attempts to get it to settle in defined areas. Feathers the nests of most other birds. Has been known to mate with the Broederbird. Eats very little, yet works fairly hard. Can be recognised by its perpetual cry "Jabaasie, Jabassie".

Protesting Nusashrike (Cogito ergo sum). Also known as the Yellow Establishment Bird, The Great Red Conspiracy and the Lesser Tit. Found in little clutches in Durban, CapeTown, Maritzburg, Grahamstown and Braamfontein. Is reputed to live solely on marijuana and government grants. It tends to be a very noisy bird, always flying around the Blackbird and annoying the Broederbird and others. It has been seen at times on Robben Island, and every few years makes a bid for London or New York.

Blue Meany (Sus non cogitere). A rather stupid, but often entertaining bird, the Blue Meany preys on the Nusashrike and the Blackbird. Is found throughout the country and in the most unlikely places. Has been known to imitate the

Nusashrike. It is an extremely sensitive bird and can even detect signs of a person thinking, at which it gets extremely agitated and attacks blindly. It has indiscriminate feeding and drinking habits.

Lesser Nat (Dominum nostrum). Found in large numbers throughout the country. No determined colour shade due to interbreeding with Blackbirds. Was thought to be extinct in the 18th century but has shown remarkable signs of survival. The Lesser Nat is totally dominated by the Broederbird. It feeds solely on pap, wors and biltong and drinks large quantities of KWV and Lieberstien. Often found in churches on Sundays, although the Free State variety tends to migrate to Swaziland.

Sap-Sap (Nat Britannicus.) Again found throughout the country, although predominantly in Natal, the Eastern Cape and on the Witwatersrand. Can be distinguished from the Lesser Nat by its perpetual call "Imalrite jack, imalrite". Has similar feeding habits to the lesser nat. Migrates annually to Britain.

Progull (Ardus ad solitario). Also known as the Pink Sap-Sap, the Red Stooze and the Rich Nat, the Progull is an exceedingly rare bird in South Africa. It is usually young, as few actually reach maturity. Its eating habits are similar, but far more expansive than those of the Sap-Sap and the Lesser Nat. Its nests are also far more luxurious than any other bird. □