

Birds of Bonza Bay, East London

By ALISON F. DODD

THESE drawings are of birds seen along the shore at Bonza Bay near East London.

Here I have watched the plump Black Oystercatchers (*Haematopus moquini*), searching among the rocks at the waters edge. They prize mussels from the rocks or probe the sand with their bills in search of food. These Oystercatchers are easily recognisable by their black plumage and orange bills and legs. They are about 20 inches in length. This is a resident species along the west coast as far as the Cape but is rare in Natal.

The terns shown in the drawing are Swift Terns (*Thalasseus bergii*), a resident species along our coast. It is a large tern of about 19 inches in length. The bill is yellow in both adult and immature birds. In the immature plumage the upper parts are mottled black, white and brown as shown in the left hand bird in the drawing. In the adult bird the neck and underparts are white while the wings, back and tail are grey. The head and long nape feathers that form the crest are black, in breeding plumage.

The drawings of Black-backed Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*), show adult birds. The young birds are mottled brown in colour and change gradually to the black and white of the adult. The bill, too, changes from brown to yellow with the lower mandible tipped with red. They nest on the coastal islands and are resident on the west and southern coasts but migrant to Natal and further north. They are the largest gulls found in South Africa, being about 24 inches in length.

Square-Lipped Rhino Transported in Uganda

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IN view of the transport of square-lipped rhino from Umfolozi Game Reserve in Natal to the Kruger National Park, it is interesting to read in the latest report of the Uganda National Parks that a similar operation was carried out there in March, 1961. In this instance, as a result of extensive poaching in the West Nile and Madi districts, which promised to exterminate the animals that had at one time been numerous in the area, it was decided to transport 20 to the Murchison Falls National Park. Ten were moved before the rainy season put an end to operations and of these seven are still believed to be doing well, although only four have been seen recently. Two, previously injured, died shortly after release, and a young calf, whose mother was one of those that succumbed, is being reared at the Park headquarters. It is hoped to add a further 10 animals from the same area next year.

