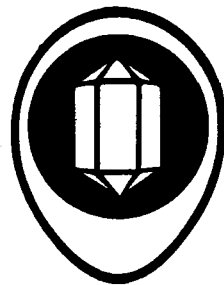




Laniocurdus torquatus
Drosselwürger

MITTEILUNGEN

ORNITHOLOGISCHE ARBEITSGRUPPE



SCHRIFTLEITUNG: POSTFACH 67, WINDHOEK, S.W.A.

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An early record of *Agapornis roseicollis*

L.C. Rookmaaker, Ommeren, Holland

According to Mebes (1981:88), the rosy-faced lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis* Vieillot, 1817) was discovered by François Levailant during his travels of 1781-84. At least one year earlier, however, the bird was observed and sketched by Robert Jacob Gordon (1743-1795), who visited the regions on both sides of the lower Orange River in 1779-1780 (see details in Rookmaaker 1983). Gordon and his assistants made many drawings during or after his expeditions in the interior of southern Africa, many of which are now preserved as the Gordon Atlas in the Rijksmuseum of Amsterdam (Holland). There are 112 drawings of birds which were identified by Rookmaaker (1980:18-21). The annotations accompanying these bird pictures usually are very brief, often not more than a Dutch or French name. Drawing no. 239 depicts an *Agapornis roseicollis*, on which is written: "uit het Namaqua land" in Gordon's handwriting, and "petite peruche male" in another hand (probably Levailant's). It is impossible to determine at present if Gordon saw the bird north or south of the Orange River. This is the only bird about which Gordon specifically remarked that he saw it in Namaqualand. Three other species are stated to be seen at the Orange River - possibly referring to another region -, *Zosterops pallidus*, *Tricholaema leucomelas*, and *Ceryle rudis*. Some other animals were said to occur in Namaqualand, e.g. a mammal (*Macroscelides proboscideus*) and three reptiles (*Agama atra*, *Bitis caudalis* and *Chameleo namaquensis*).

References:

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- , 1983. The observations of Robert Jacob Gordon (1743-1795) on giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) found in Namaqualand. Journal S.W.A. Wissensch. Ges., to appear.