



West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain



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6TH PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, 1984

At the end of the 5 PAOC in Malawi, a 3-man committee comprising Don Turner, Gerard Morel and Ken Newman was charged with the responsibility of convening the 6 PAOC in 1984. Three venues were formally proposed (Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe), and were accepted in that order of preference by those attending the Malawi meeting.

Since that Congress in August 1980, the committee has endeavoured to finalise a venue for the 6 PAOC, but it is with much regret that we have to announce that at this stage all three proposed venues appear doubtful starters:-

- KENYA will NOT now accept South African passport holders.
- NAMIBIA is not now a popular choice among many European delegates with its political status and future still so uncertain.
- ZIMBABWE has gone through a series of internal difficulties, and recently the OAZ have formally declined to host such a congress. They also feel they cannot guarantee that South African passport holders will be permitted to enter the country.

During the past few months we have been exploring alternative ideas for a congress venue. Swaziland was considered, but in view of the extremely high cost of the Holiday Inn complex outside of the capital, plus it completely lacking the atmosphere suitable for such a congress, this we feel can no longer be considered. With a decision having to be made within the next few months, and with us having to find a venue that will accept ALL passport holders, irrespective of their nationality we appear to be faced with the following alternatives:-

- Capetown, or a similar venue within South Africa.
- Mauritius.
- A cruise vessel somewhere in African waters (if available).
- Scrapping the whole idea of future Pan-African Ornithological Congresses.

In order to gauge public opinion, this is being circulated to all participants of the previous two congresses, together with circulation in a number of ornithological journals and publications. Would all persons showing an interest in attending a 6 PAOC, please write immediately, air-mail, to D.A. Turner, P.O. Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenya to say which of the above options would be your first and your second choice.

D.A. Turner, G.J. Morel and K.W. Newman

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