

Region of Interest & Aims

REGION OF INTEREST: The Southern African Seabird Group has as its primary interest all seabirds (coastal and pelagic) on the southern African list. The oceanic islands of the Prince Edward Group (Prince Edward and Marion Islands), the Tristan da Cunha group and Gough Island are also included. Waders are not considered to be seabirds, with the exception of Phalaropes. Essentially inland species such as the Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus* and the *Chlidonias* terns are included.

AIMS OF THE GROUP: The Southern African Seabird Group is primarily involved in coordination and communication both within its region of interest and with other seabird groups and interested people. Four broad fields of work are to be conducted :

1. Beached-Bird Censuses

"Beach Walks", organized on a standardised, and hopefully regular, basis to observe beached seabirds for the following purposes :

- (a) identification and collection of specimens for museums, moult and mensural data
- (b) as an index of oiling
- (c) checking for rings
- (d) seasonal variations in species and their age-classes.

2. Ocean Observations

Including "Sea Watching" from headlands, observations from fixed stations at sea and ocean transects. Standardised forms will be used.

3. Breeding Colony Censuses

Censuses of breeding colonies on both the mainland and off-shore islands in a standardised and regular manner.

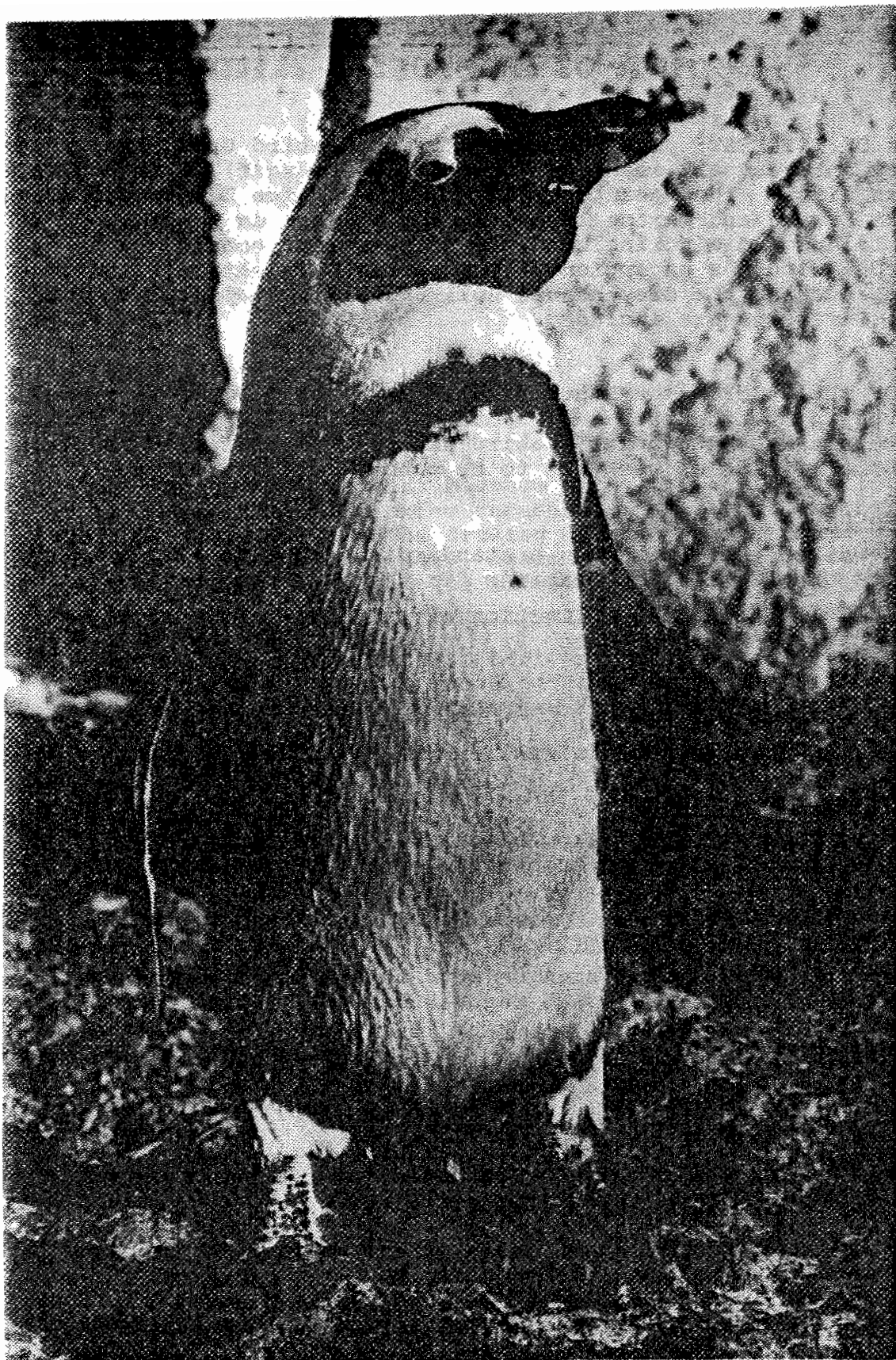
4. Awareness

Facilitating contact between members and other seabird groups.

5. Conservation

Collecting information on seabirds required for their conservation and the production of 'status' reports.

These five fields are, essentially, those covered by the existing three seabird groups and standardisation of techniques between southern African workers and these groups is a prime aim. In addition the group produces a bulletin twice a year, to keep contact between members and to report on matters of interest.



Jackass Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* on Marcus Island, 1979
Photographed by A.E. Burger