Birds

You don’t have to be a botanist to appreciate flowers, nor a musician to savour the beauty of sound. You don’t have to be an ornithologist to enjoy birds – perhaps the most appealing of all wild creatures.

White Birds of the Sea and Shore

Gannets, gulls and terns

These are the birds one associates with curling, green waves breaking on rocks, leaving pools behind. Gulls and terns are related, gannets are the odd birds out; but they all share the sea as a source of food.

Divers of Inland Waters

Coots, cormorants and dabchicks

Almost every dam or pan is fitted out with these three very different diving birds. Each species is efficiently designed to use the resources of their habitat in their own specific way.

Long-necked Stalkers of Veld and Vlei

Herons and egrets

They all belong to one big family, but each has its own idea about making a living. Although designed to stand in water and spear frogs, some herons and egrets have settled for dry land feeding on mice, lizards and insects.

The Brown Enigma

Hamerkop

A lone species of Africa with no near relatives, the Hamerkop is as drab as the mud in which it feeds. This bird’s unusual nest and subversive appearance have linked it with superstitious beliefs.