

Editorial

Studying seabirds and sexual discrimination

Studying seabirds requires the observer to be healthy, educated and interested. Does it also require the observer to be of a certain sex?

Much, if not most, of the research done on seabirds in the southern hemisphere is conducted in the "Far South" - sub-Antarctic islands and on the Antarctic continent. A number of countries run well-established bases at various localities in this region from which seabird research is conducted. As far as I am aware, the complement of most of these bases is exclusively male. I've heard all the usual arguments for this state of affairs. The most ludicrous one I've heard is that "there are no doors on the toilets"!

Recently I have met two scientists, from different countries with sub-Antarctic bases, who have been thwarted in their desire to study in the "Far South". Both are women. Should this still be happening in the Twentieth Century? I think not.

Do readers of *The Cormorant* have views on the matter? I would be pleased to publish correspondence, especially well-reasoned letters that *disagree* with the above opinion.

John Cooper



Afrikaans title of the Southern African Seabird Group

The Southern African Seabird Group has so far conducted its affairs in English. However, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, is compiling a new edition of its *Directory of Scientific and Technical Societies in South Africa* and requires an Afrikaans name for the SASG. After consulting Professor R.H. Pheiffer, Department of Afrikaans & Nederlands, University of Cape Town, it has been decided that the Afrikaans name of our Society is -

Studiegroep : Seevoëls van Suider-Afrika