
BIRD MIGRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The notice of *The Times*, March 3, "A Hungarian Stork in Natal," roused everywhere the greatest interest. This encourages me to ask you the favour of your publicity for the following considerations.

One of the hardest points to solve concerning the problem of bird migration was the question whether our birds, going to Africa for winter quarters, pass the Equator. The Hungarian stork shot in Natal is a direct proof that they pass beyond the Equator, and the ringed stork liberated in North Germany which was killed in the Bushmen's country is a further evidence of the fact. In both cases the identity of the individual was established with full certainty; and this invests them with the highest importance.

The geographical elements of the Hungarian stork shot in Natal were the following:—

It was liberated on the nest, as young one, at Hidvég, in the south-eastern part of Hungary (Transylvania), lying under N. lat. $45^{\circ} 30'$ and E. lat. (Greenwich) $25^{\circ} 30'$ on July 8, 1908, with a ring bearing No. 209. The bird reached Polela in Natal, which lies under S. lat. 30° and E. long. 30° . The course taken was nearly straight to the south, and passing the Equator, the length of travel in aerial line being about 8,600 kilomètres.

As a committee was formed recently at Pretoria for the observation of bird migration after the Hungarian model, and as our stork penetrated very deeply into the country of our South African friends, the high significance of the case may be judged by this; and I express the hope that the migration of the stork may soon be clearly established, chiefly if the daily Press, the most modern of great powers, gives it its mighty help, as in the present case.

With the assurance of my highest esteem, believe me, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

OTTO HERMAN, Director.

Royal Hungarian Central Bureau for Ornithology,
Budapest, March 12.
