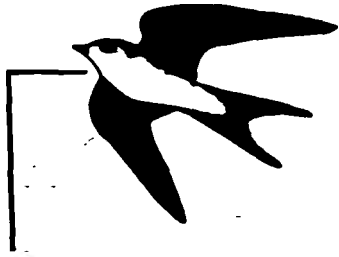


### 3. Huiswael — Uitheems



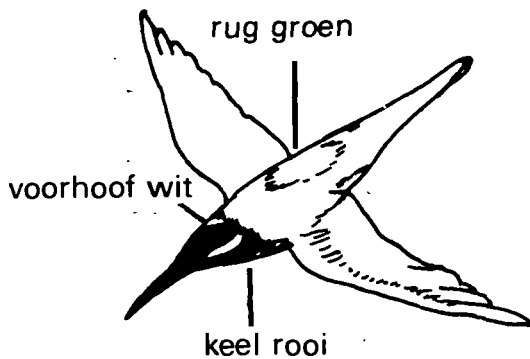
geen donker band op die sy van die nek

### 4. Pêrelbors-swaeltjie — Inheems

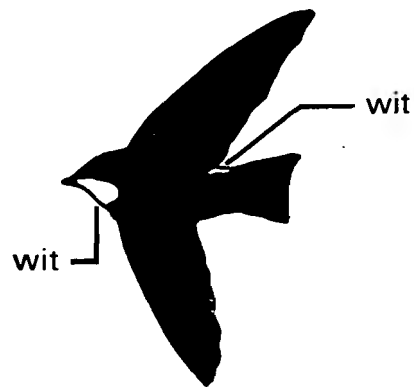


donker band op die sy van die nek

### 5. Rooikeel-byevreter — Inheems



### 6. Klein-windswael — Inheems



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## The Earliest Fossil Reptiles known from South Africa

Towards the end of 1979, while busy with fieldwork for a geological project on rocks from the Ecca Group near Prince Albert, the Karoo-Palaeontologist of the Museum, Bruce Rubidge, stumbled upon an *in situ* fossilised skull of a large reptile. This find immediately struck him as being perhaps the oldest fossil of a terrestrial reptile yet discovered in South Africa. Spurred on by this idea he searched the area for further fossils, but unfortunately to no avail.

Early in 1980, this find continued to tickle his imagination. Although the search for further

fossils proved unfruitful, he still felt convinced that if there was one there could be more! This curiosity resulted in a collecting trip to the same stratigraphic horizon in the Prince Albert district, during which 6 weathered reptilian skulls and numerous postcranial bones were unearthed.

These fossils are at present being prepared for further study. Unfortunately they are preserved in very hard rock and preparation is proving to be a very slow and tedious process. ©