



This photograph of the main building of the National Museum is the first of a series of colour postcards of the Museum, its collections and displays which will shortly be offered for sale in the foyer. The Museum was founded on 20 July 1877, made its debut in the First Raadsaal in St. George's Street, and occupies the present building since 1915.

(J.O.P.)



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More Wire Nests

IN *Newsletter No. 6* (April 1974) we published a photograph of, and information on, an unusual nest of the rock pigeon (*Columba guinea*) found in Bloemfontein. This untidy nest consists of numerous pieces of wire, nails, beer can rings, washers, odd pieces of metal, a fish hook, bits of plastic and part of the backbone of a fish.

In *The Ostrich* 44(2) P.F. Woodall described a similar nest from Zastron containing an unused 16 bore shotgun shell and a cigarette lighter.

Mr L.B. de Jongh of the Free State Geduld Mines at Welkom recently donated to the Museum another rock pigeon nest made of wire. This newly completed nest is very tidy in comparison with the others and consists only of wire. A noteworthy feature is its "soft" lining of very thin wire. Members of the pigeon family hardly take the trouble to line their nests with soft material. Although not really effective in this particular instance, it at least appears to be an attempt to soften the nest. The Bloemfontein nest weighs 1 070 g, the one from Zastron 148 g and the Welkom nest 1 211 g.

Three bird nests consisting largely of wire are on display in the Potchefstroom Museum. The largest of these, weighing 972 g, was built by a tame female crow. The other two were built by different pairs of the Cape turtle dove (*Streptopelia capensis*), and apart from the bits of wire also consist of vegetable material. These nests weigh 25g and 67g respectively.

ABOVE: Rock pigeon wire nest from Welkom. Note the lining of thin wire.
BELOW: Wire nest from Bloemfontein.