

Editorial

Thanks to many contributors there is enough material for a mid-year issue of *Afring News*. Now send in more articles so that there can be an issue at the end of 2003!

This issue contains general articles and reports from southern Africa, one of a visit to Kenya, and one of a ringing trip to Papua New Guinea – just to give a different flavour of birds.

Note that the end of June is the time to submit all outstanding ringing records, even if it is one bird. More and more ringers now send electronic data. One of the most important things ringers can do is to send their old ringing data electronically. Some ringers have done so already, notably Gerrie Grobler who sent over 35 000 ringing records with hardly any errors! The electronic data can then be analysed. Many species' summaries are being added to our web page continually, so keep browsing <http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/safring/results/results-index.htm>

Travel

In addition to the usual courses at Lambert's Bay and Wakkerstroom late last year, I had some ringing trips early in 2003.

On Dyer Island I was fortunate enough to catch a Leach's Storm Petrel. I visited Namibia twice: first to ring seabirds on the off-shore islands, and then to attend the Vulture Study Group meeting to ring with the Namibian ringers. A report of a recent trip to Inhaca Island is included in this issue. These travels are all illustrated on our web pages.

Obituaries

Manfred Schmitt was a ringer for several decades and sadly he passed away at the end of last year. Although I did not meet him, he phoned occasionally. I have written a short note but if any ringer knew him and would like to share some stories, please send them to me. Michael Byrnes passed away on 30 March this year. He had attended the first National Training workshop in Witsand in March 2000. He continued with his training and registered as a ringer, but unfortunately did not start ringing on his own due to ill health.

Dieter Oschadlous

23 June 2002

SAFRING Trust Fund

The SAFRING Trust, part of the BirdLife South Africa Trust, now has over R6000. Thanks to all who contributed, notably the Wits Bird Club and Ursula Franke. These donations need to continue, however. Why not consider a monthly debit order for a small amount? Remember that being part of most clubs requires membership fees in addition to cost of equipment. Ringers do not pay membership fees and receive *Afring News* for free. Please send single donations as cheques marked SAFRING Trust, or pay directly into the account and let me know about it.



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