



A Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* photographed by T.B. Oatley in the Ndumu Game Reserve.

Three percent of the almost 15 000 of these birds ringed (mostly as nestlings) in southern Africa since 1952 have been recovered and five per cent of these were found more than ten years after being ringed. The mean age of the 'over-tens' was 12 years and the oldest Cattle Egret recovered to date was shot in its seventeenth year.