

The ultimately death of Dr.J.N. 'Koos' Geldenhuys and Dr. David Skead in a light aircraft crash on 16 October 1983, came as a great shock to their many friends and colleagues. They were two of South Africa's most active exponents of waterfowl research and both were experienced ringers.

Koos did more than anyone else to document the waterfowl resources of the Orange Free State and was actively engaged in the study of Spurwinged Geese. Dave ran the Transvaal Nature Conservation Division's Ornithological Research Station at Barberspan for over a decade and contributed greatly to knowledge of the behaviour and breeding biology of the Yellowbilled Duck and related species. They each authored articles in the last edition of Safring News.

Dave and Koos gave their all to waterfowl conservation knowing full well that to be effective, conservation measures must be based on sound ecological data. They were busy counting ducks in the innumerable pans of the western Highveld when the accident occurred.

They will be very sadly missed and the staff of SAFRING take this opportunity to pay tribute to them and to convey sincere condolences to their tragically bereaved families.

