

can ring. I did have eight new nets a year ago, totalling 72 metres, but now the effective length is about half this and shortly I shall have to buy more mistnets, at vast expense, for the odd difficult people to chop up.

D.B. Hanmer, P O Box 3076, Paulington, Mutare, ZIMBABWE

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From Russia, With Love: this is an appeal to all birders in southern Africa, particularly those who look at waders. We would be grateful if this message could be announced at bird club meetings, and published in regional club newsletters, etc.

Thank you.

Les Underhill and Ron Summers

COLOUR-DYES AND LEG FLAGS ON WADERS IN SPRING 1991

There were four groups of ornithologists in the Taimyr Peninsula of the former Soviet Union in the 1991 northern summer. This is the breeding area for many of the migrant waders that spend the northern winter in southern Africa. The four expeditions each made a special effort to colour-dye as many waders as possible on the breeding grounds before they started their southwards migration. Many birds were also marked with coloured leg flags - essentially a colour ring with a small extension to make it more conspicuous.

Please be on the lookout for these colour-dyed birds anywhere in southern Africa from about late August onwards until mid-summer, when the dyed plumage is likely to have moulted. Record the species and both the colour of the dye, and the part of the bird dyed: breast, underparts, undertail feathers, rump, underwing. The leg flags will, of course, last longer. Record left leg/right leg colour combinations.

Please make reports of these (and any other colour-marked) birds to Terry Oatley at SAFRING, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700 (telephone 021-650-2421).

Les Underhill, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, RONDEBOSCH, 7700

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