

A DUTCH RINGING PROJECT

In the June 1992 issue of *Op Het Vinke Touw* the Dutch bird ringers' magazine, Bennie van den Brink discusses the results of European Swallow ringing in Holland and speculates on the migration routes and wintering areas in Africa. One advantage that the Dutch ringers have over some of their neighbouring colleagues is the knowledge that all swallows ringed in Holland are from Dutch populations. This premise is based on the reasoning that there are no passage migrants because there is no land north of Holland. Therefore all recoveries of Dutch-ringed swallows from sub-Saharan Africa give an indication of the wintering areas of these populations.

These Afrotropical recoveries are

concentrated in two areas: the southern parts of West Africa (Liberia, Ivory Coast and Ghana), and Zaire, with Angola and Zambia making up the southern limits of the wintering range. There have been only four controls of Dutch-ringed swallows in southern Africa, at Kitwe (Zambia), Rosherville (Transvaal), Warrenton (Cape) and near Witvlei in Namibia. Only two swallows (out of almost 173 000) ringed in southern Africa have been recovered in the Netherlands.

In an effort to learn more about European Swallows in Africa, Bennie van den Brink and colleagues are mounting an expedition in early 1993 to northern Botswana where they plan to catch and ring (using SAFRING rings) several thousand swallows. The results of this venture will hopefully feature in *Safring News* 22(2).

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RINGING IN ISRAEL 1991-1992

The Israel Bird Ringing Centre's issues of *Ringer's Newsletter* for 1991 and 1992 provide short English summaries of their articles (table headings are also translated from Hebrew). These include accounts of raptors studies such as one on an Eagle Owl breeding pair and one on trapping and ringing methods in a 2-year project involving 34 Egyptian Vultures. There is a description of two wader ringing projects, a report on a visit to the Ngulia ringing site in Kenya and updated records of Maximum Elapsed Time between ringing and recovery of approximately 45 species of Israeli birds to date.

The Centre has developed a computer software program for processing ringing

and recovery data and also ring and equipment stock-keeping.

The newsletters also describe the regular ringing meetings organised every 2-3 months at different ringers' permanent ringing sites all over the country, such as fish ponds, swallow roosts and Dead Sea feeding sites. The local ringer hosts the meeting which includes discussions as well as ringing sessions.

The Centre extends an open invitation to foreign ringers interested in participating in these activities and suggests that if they are in Israel, or are planning a visit, that they contact the Ringing Centre.

The address, for the benefit of potential visitors, is: The Israel Bird Ringing Centre, Har Gilo, D.N. Tsfon Yehuda, 90907, ISRAEL.