

CONGRATULATIONS!

Almost 3% of the SAFRING ringers received degrees at a single graduation ceremony on 4th May 1993.

The University of the Witwatersrand conferred a PhD degree upon Terry Oatley, SAFRING Coordinator, for his thesis **The biology and relationships of the Ground Woodpecker**.

A MSc was awarded to Ara Monadjem for his dissertation **The habitat factors determining the distribution of ten species of piscivorous birds on the Sabie River in the Kruger National Park in relation to river characteristics**.

Michael Raum was awarded a BSc.

Les Underhill

QUAIL TALE

I was on the point of leaving the SAFRING premises late one Friday afternoon when the telephone rang.

"Do you have any quails?" inquired an arch and very cultured feminine voice.

"No we don't," I replied, "but what precisely do you need?"

"I actually want to get hold of some quails' eggs," the lady replied, "and I was told that the University might be able to help."

The only facility I could think of at the University which might have such birds was the Medical Faculty which maintained a variety of animals for teaching and research and I told her this.

"Quite painless I'm sure," was her somewhat unexpected response. I assured her that I was also sure, but

doubted that I would be able to find anybody that late on a Friday afternoon who could tell me if they did have any quails. If she would care to 'phone me again on Monday morning, I said, mentally envisioning a gourmet banquet in Constantia that featured quails eggs on the menu, I would endeavour to find out.

She thanked me sincerely, then asked: "What Department am I through to?" "This is the BIRD RINGING UNIT, SAFRING" I replied.

There was a long pause, then: "Ooohh. When I got through to the University exchange they said they would put me through to the MURDERING Unit, and when I asked "the **what?**" the exchange replied "SUFFERING".

She never did 'phone back on Monday morning!

Terry Oatley