

REPORTS & NOTES

SELECTED RECOVERIES REPORTED TO SAFRING: July 1994 – December 1994

T B Oatley

Recoveries in this list were reported during the period July to December 1994 and include a few earlier records which belatedly came to hand since the compilation of the previous report. The last winter has been a bad one for penguins and terns, with the month of July

being especially severe. Records for a total of 59 species have been selected for this list and they include some interesting movements and some notable longevities. As in previous reports, selection criteria involve significant movement or interesting elapsed time from ringing to recovery (or recapture or resighting) or known cause of death. Only a small proportion of the actual number of records of frequently recovered birds (such as penguins and gannets) are selected.

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*

S 14452 nestling

	12.04.94	Dassen Is, W Cape		
Dead	03.07.94	Swakopmund Beach, Namibia	3 mths	1 245 km

S 20308 immature

	26.07.94	Silverstroom Beach, W Cape		
Dead, starved	05.11.94	Pelican Pt, Walvis Bay, Namibia	4 mths	1 250 km

P 08764 adult

	29.06.76	St Croix Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Dead	05.11.94	Jeffrey's Bay, E Cape	221 mths	83 km

V 0432 adult

	03.10.84	St Croix Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Dead, oiled	28.09.94	Olifantsbos Point, W Cape	120 mths	682 km

Z 1591 juvenile

	09.09.80	St Croix Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Dead	11.12.94	Beach View, Western Cape	171 mths	22 km

S 12255 nestling

	26.05.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Dead, oiled	11.08.94	Boulders, Simon's Town, W Cape	3 mths	723 km

S 12267 nestling

	31.05.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Alive, emaciated	18.07.94	Salt Rock Beach, Natal	2 mths	675 km

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* cont'd

S 12479 nestling

	26.04.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Dead	01.07.94	Sam-se-Baai, Northern Cape	3 mths	808 km

A bad winter for the penguins with the sinking of the *Apollo Sea* and oiling of thousands of birds at the Dassen Island colony. A collapse of the food supply in the Algoa Bay area resulted in greater than normal movements, mainly westwards, of birds in that area. S 20308 was a rehabilitated bird from the *Apollo Sea* oiling event.

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

8 5812721 nestling

	07.03.94	Anvers Is, Antarctic Peninsula		
Sick, subsequent fate unknown	23.06.94	Mercury Is, off Namibia	4 mths	6 893 km

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli*

9 79619 adult

	29.08.93	Marion Is, Southern Ocean		
Dead	15.09.94	Brandfontein, W Cape	13 mths	2 011 km

Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*

9 22028 nestling

	26.03.81	Bird Is, Lambert's Bay, W Cape		
Died entangled in fishing line	03.07.94	Knollpunt, Namibia	160 mths	810 km

9 88201 nestling

	24.01.94	Malgas Is, Saldanha, W Cape		
Killed by man for food	24.07.94	off Namibe, Angola	6 mths	2 074 km

9 93513 nestling

	01.03.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Entangled in fishing line	10.07.94	Quelimane, Mozambique	4 mths	2 062 km

9 93559 nestling

	01.03.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Killed by man	08.08.94	Baia das Pipas, Angola	5 mths	2 540 km

Whitebreasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

9 86021 nestling

	31.03.94	Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape		
Dead	11.11.94	St Francis Bay, E Cape	8 mths	80 km

9 86143 nestling

	31.03.94	Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape		
Shot	20.08.94	Tarkastad Dist, E Cape	5 mths	188 km

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

V 6088 nestling

	18.07.91	Osowo, Slupsk, Poland		
Dead	19.12.93	Vadersgift, Free State	29 mths	9 466 km

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

7 74551 juvenile

	22.06.89	Barberspan Nat Res, N W Province		
Shot	27.08.94	near Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal	62 mths	555 km

Whitebacked Vulture *Gyps africanus*

G 04662 nestling

	07.09.89	Riverton Stn, nr Kimberley, N Cape		
Collided with powerlines	09.11.94	Riverton Dist, nr Kimberley, N Cape	62 mths	22 km

G 19794 nestling

	21.10.93	Dronfield, Northern Cape		
Dead, suspected poisoning	16.09.94	Boshoff Dist, Free State	11 mths	37 km

Lappetfaced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

G 19435 nestling

	08.11.93	Shingwedzi-Limpopo confluence, N Tvl		
Controlled	23.10.94	Chichele Pan, Zambia	12 mths	1 107 km

G 19435 wears a patagial tag L029 and was sighted feeding on a hippo carcass in the South Luangwa National Park.

G 17159 nestling

	19.10.92	Namib Naukluft Park, Namibia		
Dead	28.12.94	Waihoek Farm, Namibia	26 mths	258 km

G 09050 nestling

	17.10.87	Mkuze Game Res, KwaZulu-Natal		
Dead	27.09.94	Umfolozi Game Res, KwaZulu-Natal	83 mths	86 km

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

K 06514 immature

	10.11.90	Harare South, Zimbabwe		
Very weak, mercy killed	23.12.94	nr Harare, Zimbabwe	49 mths	29 km

Rock Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

5 81908 adult

	22.06.88	Windhoek Car Park, Namibia		
Dead, emaciated	04.08.94	Klein Windhoek, Namibia	74 mths	4 km

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

G 19120 adult

Electrocuted	19.01.94	Kruger Nat Park, N Transvaal		
	02.09.94	Bandelierkop, N Transvaal	8 mths	224 km

Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*

8 43467 adult

Road casualty	10.09.83	Hanover, N Cape		
	18.08.94	nr Hanover, N Cape	131 mths	2 km

8 43497 adult

Road casualty	08.10.84	Richmond Dist, N Cape		
	21.08.94	nr Richmond, N Cape	118 mths	6 km

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

7 85093 nestling

Electrocuted	02.03.94	Letabo Dist, N Transvaal		
	21.08.94	Mokhovoe, Russia	6 mths	8 569 km

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*

7 80001 adult

Collided with powerlines	08.09.85	Rooibank, s of Walvis Bay, Namibia		
	26.10.94	Rooibank, s of Walvis Bay, Namibia	110 mths	0 km

8 41771 adult

Road casualty	14.09.93	2 km from Aberdeen, E Cape		
	12.08.94	near Aberdeen, E Cape	11 mths	0 km

Ethiopian Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*

D 01479 adult

Found dead after very heavy frost	22.10.90	nr Darwendale Dam, Harare, Zimbabwe		
	01.07.94	Zvimba, Zimbabwe	45 mths	39 km

Knot *Calidris canutus*

4 71084 adult

Shot	13.04.91	Langebaan Beachroost, W Cape		
	24.08.92	Somme Bay, France	16 mths	9 405 km

Cape Dikkop *Burhinus capensis*

645 06736 adult

Found weak, taken into care	25.02.73	Walmer, Port Elizabeth, E Cape		
	24.10.94	Walmer, Port Elizabeth, E Cape	260 mths	6 km

Probably the longest surviving wild Cape Dikkop on record.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

K 07325 nestling

14.11.87	Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape		
Road casualty 07.10.94	Swartkops Estuary, E Cape	83 mths	6 km

K 14087 nestling

06.12.92	Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape		
Dead, entangled in fishing line with hook through beak			
08.09.94	Bonza Bay Beach, E Cape	21 mths	241 km

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

NA 23571 nestling

30.05.93	Mecklenburg, Wolgast, Germany		
Dead, starved 17.07.94	Bluewater Bay, E Cape	14 mths	9 826 km

HC 71179 nestling

20.06.93	Trzebielskie, Poland		
Dead 03.07.94	Cannon Rocks, E Cape	13 mths	9 795 km

AT 131526 juvenile

17.07.93	Aanekoski, Finland		
Dead 03.07.94	Keurbooms River Mouth, E Cape	12 mths	10 750 km

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*

5 27243 nestling

09.04.83	Marcus Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Dead 31.07.94	Strand Beach, W Cape	136 mths	142 km

5 27815 nestling

09.04.83	Marcus Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Dead 01.07.94	Swartvlei Mouth, W Cape	135 mths	461 km

5 27940 nestling

09.04.83	Marcus Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Sick, subsequent fate unknown			
17.07.94	Zinkwasi Beach, KwaZulu-Natal	135 mths	1 346 km

5 29903 nestling

20.04.85	Marcus Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Sick, subsequent fate unknown			
04.07.94	Walvis Bay, Namibia	111 mths	1 170 km

5 75944 nestling

17.04.82	Marcus Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Wing broken 05.11.94	Henties Bay, Namibia	151 mths	1 267 km

5 77465 nestling

05.04.86	Marcus Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Dead 03.07.94	Umzumbe, KwaZulu-Natal	99 mths	1 218 km

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii* cont'd

5 70200 nestling

Dead	19.04.80	Jutten Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
	07.07.94	Cove Rock, E London, E Cape	171 mths	919 km

5 89127 nestling

Dead, starved	07.04.94	Robben Is, W Cape		
	11.07.94	Sodwana Bay, KwaZulu-Natal	3 mths	1 533 km

5 89307 nestling

Dead	20.04.94	Robben Is, W Cape		
	11.07.94	Scottburgh Beach, Natal	3 mths	1 168 km

July 1994 seems to have been a bad month for young and old Swift Terns alike. There were three other July recoveries of juvenile birds.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

6 40564 adult

Shot	16.08.91	Hurley Estate, Mowbray, W Cape		
	16.12.94	Contermanskloof, W Cape	40 mths	20 km

6 40565 adult

Shot	16.08.91	Hurley Estate, Mowbray, W Cape		
	19.11.94	Contermanskloof, W Cape	39 mths	20 km

Two birds ringed with consecutive rings on the same day, shot by a sport hunter on the same farm on different dates.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

D 27623 adult

Collided with tree	24.06.94	Onderstepoort Research Inst, Gauteng		
	12.08.94	De Wildt area, Gauteng	2 mths	20 km

Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus*

8 21506 nestling

Dead	24.10.91	Victory Pk Bird Sanctuary, Jhb, Gauteng		
	15.09.94	Cresta, Johannesburg, Gauteng	35 mths	2 km

8 01707 free-flying

Electrocuted	18.12.93	Groot Langkloof, Calitzdorp Dis, W Cape		
	23.07.94	Calitzdorp, W Cape	7 mths	0 km

Rufouscheeked Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufigena*

4A 02220 adult

Road casualty	30.09.93	Vaalkop Dam, N W Province		
	08.10.94	Vaalkop Dam, N W Province	13 mths	0 km

Whitebacked Mousebird *Colius colius*

4 85940 adult

	17.08.91	Vereeniging, Gauteng		
Died on perch during very cold night				
	03.08.94	Vereeniging, Gauteng	36 mths	0 km

Halfcollared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*

E 20385 adult

	06.03.93	Potchefstroom Dis, N W Province		
Road casualty	17.08.94	Rustenburg, N W Prov	17 mths	90 km

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Y 04017 adult

	25.08.94	Rondevlei, Retreat, W Cape		
Road casualty	11.10.94	Somerset West, W Cape	2 mths	32 km

Bird found dead in radiator grill of car that had travelled that day from Knysna to Somerset West. The actual collision must have occurred somewhere between these two points.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

4 81029 immature

	16.10.93	Montgomery Park, Gauteng		
Drowned in swimming pool				
	28.11.94	Roosevelt Park, Gauteng	13 mths	0 km

Redbilled Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

5 86606 free-flying

	03.03.90	Manyeleti Game Res, E Transvaal		
Found sick, subsequently died				
	08.08.94	Manyeleti Game Res, E Transvaal	53 mths	4 km

European Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

AD 59995 adult

	10.01.94	Boteti River, near Maun, Botswana		
Killed for food	11.10.94	Mulongwe, Zaire	9 mths	1 968 km

AD 41110 free-flying

	03.02.93	Pretoria, Gauteng		
Found injured	14.12.94	Pretoria North, Gauteng	22 mths	4 km

X 405668 nestling

	10.07.92	Vilppula, Hame, Finland		
Collided with window				
	29.11.94	Middeldrift Farm, E Tvl	29 mths	9 851 km

AD 59995 was on passage back to southern Africa, and AD 41110 had evidently returned for its third summer here.

Cape Bulbul *Pycnonotus capensis*

BB 90598 juvenile

	08.06.89	Rondevelei, Retreat, W Cape		
Road casualty	04.09.94	Zeekoevlei, W Cape	63 mths	2 km

Redeyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus nigricans*

CV 05051 adult

	18.09.93	Potchefstroom Dis, N W Province		
Road casualty	03.07.94	Goedgedacht, N W Province	10 mths	24 km

Blackeyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

BB 73701 adult

	02.12.88	Zomba, Malawi		
Killed by dog	11.06.94	Zomba, Malawi	66 mths	0 km

4 72931 adult

	06.10.85	Mataffin, E Transvaal		
Dead	11.09.94	near Nelspruit, E Transvaal	107 mths	0 km

BB 98954 adult

	22.02.92	Melville Koppies, Jhb, Gauteng		
Collided with window	18.10.94	Randburg, Gauteng	32 mths	6 km

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

4 90167 immature

	04.04.93	Sandton, Gauteng		
Shot with pellet gun	16.11.94	Brits, N W Province	19 mths	53 km

4 61169 immature

	19.03.89	Melville Koppies, Gauteng		
Dead	03.10.94	Emmarentia, Gauteng	67 mths	2 km

4A 04150 adult

	18.04.94	Potchefstroom, Western Transvaal		
Controlled	19.07.94	Kroonstad, Free State	3 mths	106 km

4 02425 adult

	01.07.93	Kimberley, Northern Cape		
Shot	02.10.94	Kimberley, Northern Cape	15 mths	0 km

Some evidence to show that some of these thrushes move around. Bird 4 02425 had the misfortune to enter the property of an anonymous, self-confessed, thrush-hater who wrote: "they delight in digging up and consuming earthworms in my garden, which I regard as a valuable asset. I am a lover of birds and I welcome the presence of the other species referred to above, such as doves, mossies, mousebirds, Cape Robins, wagtails and bulbuls. I provide a birdbath and birdseed, crushed mealies,

breadcrumbs and fruit for them, as I regard them as my friends, but, although I try to be a good Christian, I have not yet been able to learn to love my enemies aforesaid.”

Cape Robin *Cossypha caffra*

BB 09460 adult

	30.01.78	Rondevelei, Retreat, W Cape		
Found weak	20.08.94	Retreat, W Cape	199 mths	2 km

This is the oldest Cape Robin on record; it was found weak enough to be caught by hand and given to a shopkeeper/ aviculturist who caged it overnight and released it the next day when it was obvious that it was not injured. The bird must have been in its 17th or 18th year.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

BB 68709 immature

	12.09.93	Gavle, Inre Fjarden, Sweden		
Only ring found, no sign of skeleton	10.08.94	Hopetown Dist, Northern Cape	11 mths	10 070 km

AT 61799 second year

	26.05.89	Stora Fjaderagg, Holmon, Sweden		
Dead	20.03.92	Dete, Zimbabwe	34 mths	9 180 km

Only the ring and unidentifiable remains of BB 68709 were found, for it probably perished in the summer of 1993. Details of AT 61799 had not previously been reported to SAFRING and were kindly sent by the Swedish Ringing Scheme Office.

Cape Batis *Batis capensis*

X 53934 adult

	07.07.87	Borreray, Loteni, KwaZulu-Natal		
Dead	28.12.94	Borreray, Loteni, KwaZulu-Natal	90 mths	0 km

Pirit Batis *Batis Pirit*

X 62178 adult

	07.12.88	Driekop, Philippolis Dist, Free State		
Shot	25.10.94	Driekop, Philippolis Dist, Free State	71 mths	0 km

Cape Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis nitens*

D 22215 immature

	26.04.93	Rietfontein Res, Sandton, Gauteng		
Dead	04.07.94	Halfway House, Gauteng	15 mths	7 km

Redwinged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

5 12037 adult

	06.01.91	Glencairn, Cape Peninsula		
Electrocuted	27.10.94	Simon's Town, Cape Peninsula	46 mths	0 km

Redwinged Starling *Onychognathus morio* cont'd

D 10209 nestling

	03.01.93	Glencairn, Cape Peninsula		
Shot	27.09.94	Glencairn Hghts, Cape Peninsula	21 mths	0 km

Two of five recoveries reported during the review period.

Redbilled Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

4 87500 adult

	27.09.92	Songimvelo Game Res, E Transvaal		
Dead	01.12.94	Barberton, Eastern Transvaal	27 mths	32 km

4 87526 adult

	08.10.94	Itala Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal		
Mercy killed	20.12.94	Goudhoek Farm, KwaZulu-Natal	2 mths	87 km

Both birds were subjects of translocation programmes; 4 87500 was found decapitated in a garden and 4 87526 was found amongst a herd of cattle in a very weak condition.

Cape Sugarbird *Promerops cafer*

CC 10574 adult

	07.07.94	Durbanville Nat Res, Western Cape		
Injured by cat	21.10.94	Durbanville, W Cape	3 mths	2 km

Gurney's Sugarbird *Promerops gurneyi*

4A 00068 adult

	20.11.92	G Klingbiel N R, Lydenburg, E Tvl		
Killed by cat	21.08.94	Lydenburg, Eastern Transvaal	21 mths	7 km

Marico Sunbird *Nectarinia mariquensis*

AD 18279 immature

	10.04.94	Rustenburg Dist, N W Province		
Killed with catapult	28.10.94	nr Brits, N W Province	7 mths	51 km

Greater Doublecollared Sunbird *Nectarinia afer*

AB 70188 adult

	18.06.89	Lydenburg, E Transvaal		
Dead	04.07.94	Lydenburg, E Transvaal	61 mths	0 km

Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird *Nectarinia chalybea*

X 32940 adult

	25.09.88	Haenertzburg, N Transvaal		
Dead	16.09.94	Allandale, N Transvaal	72 mths	4 km

X 58285 adult

	26.06.88	Helderberg N R, Somerset West, W Cape		
Sick, subsequently died	12.11.94	Somerset West, W Cape	77 mths	3 km

Scarletched Sunbird *Nectarinia senegalensis*

AB 25569 first year

	01.07.92	Chirawanoo, Banket, Zimbabwe		
Dead	13.07.94	Chegato, Zimbabwe	24 mths	360 km

Cape White-eye *Zosterops pallidus*

AB 90657 adult

	22.04.93	Bot Gdns, Grahamstown, E Cape		
Killed by cat	26.10.94	Grahamstown, Eastern Cape	18 mths	2 km

AD 03288 adult

	11.03.93	Kirstenbosch, Newlands, W Cape		
Killed by cat	15.12.94	Newlands, W Cape	21 mths	5 km

AD 38271 adult

	22.07.93	Rondevlei, Retreat, W Cape		
Killed by cat	06.12.94	Rondevlei, Retreat, W Cape	17 mths	0 km

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus*

BB 95741 adult

	27.09.89	Durbanville Nature Reserve, W Cape		
Dead	30.12.94	Durbanville, W Cape	63 mths	2 km

BB 06413 adult

	03.10.93	Somerset West, W Cape		
Killed by cat	13.11.94	Somerset West, W Cape	13 mths	0 km

Spottedbacked Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

E 08430 adult

	21.10.90	Marionwood N R, KwaZulu-Natal		
Dead	10.09.94	Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal	47 mths	2 km

BB 42950 adult

	23.09.90	Marionwood N R, KwaZulu-Natal		
Dead	08.08.94	Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal	47 mths	2km

Cape Weaver *Ploceus capensis*

BC 04625 adult

	08.12.88	Town Bush, Pmb, KwaZulu-Natal		
Road casualty	27.08.94	Cascades, KwaZulu-Natal	69 mths	0 km

Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

F 32510 adult

	10.10.90	Rustenburg Dist, N W Province		
Found sick	07.11.94	Kroondal, N W Province	49 mths	10 km

BC 18003 adult

	17.02.91	Melville Koppies, Jhb, Gauteng		
Killed by cat	06.09.94	Melville, Jhb, Gauteng	43 mths	0 km

Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* cont'd

BC 15168 adult

Shot	16.07.90	Noordehoek, Kroonstad, Free State		
	01.10.94	Heilbron Dist, Free State	51 mths	86 km

Redbilled Quelea *Quelea quelea*

AC 00815 1-6 mths

Trapped for food	12.01.94	Phinda Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal		
	28.07.94	Machinga Dis, Malawi	7 mths	1 455 km

Ring number was incorrectly reported as AC001815 (an invalid 6-digit number) but elimination of all other possibilities yielded this record which agreed with the local description of the bird.

Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

F 14328 1-6 mths

Killed by cat	06.04.87	Bedworthpark Dam, Vereeniging, Gauteng		
	11.12.94	Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng	92 mths	2 km

BB 69236 adult

Dead	31.01.88	Darvill Sewerage Wks, Pmb, KwaZulu-Natal		
	12.08.94	Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal	79 mths	4 km

Yellowrumped Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

BB 89049 adult

Road casualty	09.10.88	Betty's Bay, W Cape		
	17.12.94	Betty's Bay, W Cape	74 mths	0 km

Redheaded Finch *Amadina erythrocephala*

AD 39289 immature

Killed and partly eaten by unknown predator	11.05.93	Stilfontein, N W Province		
	20.09.94	Stilfontein, N W Province	16 mths	0 km

Pintailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

AC 10471 adult

Dead	14.04.91	Rondebult, Germiston, Gauteng		
	21.08.94	Alberton, Gauteng	40 mths	13 km