

REPORTS & NOTES

REPORT ON THE RINGING YEAR: 1994-1995

T B Oatley

The July 1994 – June 1995 period represented the first full ringing year in the new-look South Africa, in which there are nine provinces instead of the old four. These new subdivisions of internal administrative regions has meant that some ringers, especially those of the Balchatri brigade, have to carry ringing permits from at least three different provinces to legally look for raptors within a one-day-drive of their domicile. Getting used to the proliferation of provinces has been a prolonged process because some of the new regions have taken some time to make up their minds what to call themselves.

Ringing effort

Because only two of the old provinces still have the same boundaries (but with modified names) on the new map, it has proved interesting to see how the dispersion of ringers lies with respect to the new regions. Table 1 tells all, or nearly all! There is one (new) province missing from the list because there was no ringer living in it for most of the 1994-1995 ringing year. Swaziland and Zambia, both currently represented by single ringers, are featured for the first time in Table 1.

Ringer's totals have been allocated to the province where they reside (or normally do most of their ringing); those who have ringed whilst on holiday in other provinces or countries in southern Africa have the totals in-

Table 1. Geographical distribution of ringing effort in the 1994-1995 ringing year.

Province or country	Number of ringers returning schedules	Number of species ringed	Number of birds ringed	Birds per ringer (average)
Western Cape	28	126	20 104	718
Northwest Province	13	258	18 583	1 429
Gauteng	18	216	5 374	300
Eastern Cape	10	129	4 915	492
KwaZulu-Natal	13	166	4 710	362
Botswana	3	129	4 449	1 483
Namibia	10	124	3 202	320
Antarctic	3	13	2 742	914
Mpumalanga	9	186	2 203	245
Zimbabwe	9	125	2 160	240
Free State	7	135	1 247	178
Northern Cape	4	43	715	179
Malawi	2	122	711	356
Zambia	1	17	136	136
Swaziland	1	22	111	111
Totals	131	512	71 362	545

cluded in their own province. In the last ringing report (*Safring News* 23: 83-87) I predicted that Northwest Province and Western Cape would head the list but I got the order wrong. Western Cape came out on top in terms of total numbers of birds ringed mainly because of the thousands of penguin rehabilitees that had to be banded following the *Apollo Sea* disaster. A glance at the final column, which gives the average number of birds ringed by each ringer in the region, shows that the Northwest ringers accounted for almost twice as many birds as did their colleagues in the Western Cape (though in this respect they were still beaten by Botswana).

The provisional total of birds ringed in the 1993-1994 ringing year was given as 66 545

in the last report; with the belated submission of more schedules, it had risen to 68 575 at the start of compilation of this report. The total for the 1994-1995 year, on the basis of schedules received to date, is 71 362. This represents the highest annual total in the history of the South African Ringing Scheme since its inception in 1948.

Those primarily responsible for this notable ringing effort are mentioned in Table 2, which lists the Top 20 ringers or ringing groups. Collectively they contributed over 67% of birds ringed in the 1994-1995 ringing year. Many of those listed man the network of ringing stations in the Northwest Province and Western Cape and due to the high level of ringing effort these stations are contributing

Table 2. Top 20 ringers or ringing groups in the 1994-1995 ringing year.

Ringers	Region	Number of birds ringed
Gerry Grobler	Northwest Province	4 900
George Underhill	Western Cape Province	4 595
Les Underhill (Penguin group)	Western Cape Province	4 076
Bennie van den Brink	Botswana	3 320
Dries Nel	Northwest Province	3 124
Bruce Dyer & Rob Crawford	Western Cape Province	2 797
Sam de Beer	Northwest Province	2 678
Marion Island team	Antarctic	2 596
Norbert Klages & group	Eastern Cape Province	2 559
Monica Poferl	Northwest Province	2 553
Jo Johnson	Western Cape Province	2 105
Dave & Sally Johnson	KwaZulu-Natal	2 009
Colin Martin	Western Cape Province	1 843
Henk Bouwman	Northwest Province	1 504
Tommy Hall	Namibia	1 415
William Scott	Northwest Province	1 278
Olaf Wirminghaus	KwaZulu-Natal	1 262
Kobie Raijmakers	Gauteng	1 199
Frank & Maggie Douwes	Northwest Province	1 163
Zephné & Herman Bernitz	Mpumalanga	1 155

substantially to new knowledge of local movement of many of our common birds.

The most frequently ringed of such birds are listed in Table 3. The list is similar to that of the previous year with 80% of the landbirds in common. The swallows had a bad year due to the drought in Botswana (and further south) and have fallen to fourth spot (see Bennie van den Brink's report pp. 81-82). The Bronze Mannikin

is new to the list in 10th place, due to the efforts of Pietermaritzburg ringers who are undertaking a project on this diminutive species.

The most-ringed raptor with a total of 355 individuals, including 40 chicks, is the Pale Chanting Goshawk. The raptors are seldom ringed in such numbers as to even approach the Top 20 (the PCG was 25th on the list this year), so the Top 10 are listed in Table 4. This

Table 3. Most-ringed birds for the period July 1994 – June 1995.

1994-95 Rank	Species	1993-94 Rank	Total
Landbirds			
1	Red Bishop	2	6 148
2	Masked Weaver	3	4 838
3	Cape White-eye	4	3 525
4	European Swallow	1	3 097
5	Cape Weaver	5	2 686
6	Redbilled Quelea	6	2 548
7	Cape Sparrow	8	1 619
8	Laughing Dove	7	1 343
9	Blue Waxbill	9	1 320
10	Bronze Mannikin	-	1 207
11	South African Cliff Swallow	11	816
12	House Sparrow	15	748
13	African Marsh Warbler	12	742
14	Blackeyed Bulbul	16	692
15	Common Waxbill	17	586
16	Olive Thrush	20	569
17	Redeyed Bulbul	19	544
18	Spottedbacked Weaver	-	515
19	Golden Bishop	-	514
20	Curlew Sandpiper	-	498
Seabirds			
1	African Penguin	2	5 610
2	Cape Gannet	1	4 534
3	Swift Tern	3	1 831
4	Macaroni Penguin	-	1 700
5	Wandering Albatross	4	559

list sets out to acknowledge the efforts of those ringers who travel many kilometres in their efforts to catch and ring pole-sitting birds of prey in Balchatri traps. Nestlings and rehabilitated or artificially-reared birds are excluded from the totals, but it is not always evident from the schedules whether all the birds have been caught as free-flying individuals. Some ringers may mistakenly be using age code 2 for fully-feathered nestlings (if a bird is still in the nest it should be accorded age code 1). Some of the totals in Table 4 may consequently err on the high side, but overall these figures do reflect the amount of ringing effort that has been devoted to raptors. Barn Owls and Spotted Eagle Owls have totals of 78 and 63 respectively for fully-grown birds, but the majority of these were of artificially-reared or rehabilitated birds. Barn Owls that have been artificially reared do not have a good record of rehabilitation (see Table 5) unless hacked back (allowed to fly free and return as they wish), a procedure that may take several months.

Recoveries

Table 5 lists 21 species that head the table of most frequently recovered species during the 1994-1995 ringing year. Five of the top seven are inshore seabirds; these species have re-

covery rates ranging from 1,29% for the Kelp Gull up to 2,3% for the Common Tern. By contrast the passerines have recovery rates ranging from lows of 0,25% and 0,27% for Cape White-eyes and Red Bishops respectively, up to 3,79% for Redwinged Starlings. As our annual ringing totals increase, so do the recovery rates decrease because of the lag between ringing and recovery. It may be 20 years or more before some of the birds ringed last year are recovered. Our overall recovery rate is now down to 0,97%.

Meanwhile, however, the increases in numbers of birds ringed is boosting the numbers of recoveries being reported by the general public, which this year totalled 552 birds of 115 species. These included 41 foreign-ringed birds, so local content was 511, which is 60 birds, or 13,3%, more than last year.

Recaptures and controls

Table 6 lists those ringers who have so far submitted retrap records for the 1994-1995 ringing year. The Wesvaal ringers are grouped under their club name because it is very much a network effort, and one which will become more and more significant as the number of years invested in ringing increases. Currently Cecilia Manson in the eastern highlands of

Table 4. Top 10 free-flying raptors caught in 1994-1995 ringing year.

Species		Total ringed	No. of ringers	Ringer with highest total of this species	
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	315	16	Abrie Maritz	99
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	132	15	Michael Raum	23
Blackshouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	123	17	Michael Raum	54
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	96	3	Abrie Maritz	94
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	69	10	Manfred Schmitt	24
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	66	15	Albert Schultz	26
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	42	11	Abrie Maritz	9
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	33	5	Terry Robertson	19
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	25	10	Alan Stephenson	6
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	25	7	Abrie Maritz	10

Zimbabwe is keeping the longest-running retrap scheme in the subcontinent going; a recent exciting recapture for her was a Stripechecked Bulbul that was first ringed in July 1980 and not recaptured since August 1982. Most would have assumed that the bird had not survived for more than a couple of years after ringing, but it has turned up hale and hearty in 1995, 13 years after its last recapture and now over 15 years old. Frank Douwes's scheme is also coming of age now and yielding some very worthwhile data on survival rates of a range of woodland birds. In addition to survival data we are starting to accrue, in the ringing station network areas, interesting and, in some instances, unexpected records of local movement, and some not so local. How far do Masked Weavers move? Maybe further than our previous recaptures and recoveries have led us to believe (but see below!). Watch this journal in 1996 for more about local movements.

Table 5. Most frequently recovered species in the 1994-1995 ringing year.

Species no.	Species name	Totals
	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i> 123
	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i> 94
	Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i> 17
	European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> 13
	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i> 12
	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i> 12
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i> 11
	Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i> 11
	Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i> 11
	Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i> 11
	Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i> 10
	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> 8
	Blackeyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i> 8
	Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i> 8
	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i> 7
	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i> 7
	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> 7
	Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i> 7
	Redwinged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i> 6
	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i> 6
	Spottedbacked Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i> 6

The Masked Weaver actually holds the record for the longest journey undertaken by any ringed African passerine. In February 1981 SAFRING received an airletter from an address in the Netherlands. It contained a flattened ring, number 2-67582, removed from a bird that had been killed by a cat in the town of Heemstede, 11 kilometres from Schipol International Airport, 9 020 km from Johannesburg where it had been ringed at Melrose by Messrs Hewitt and Piper on 19.11.72. There was nothing in the letter (written in Dutch) to suggest that this was some sort of elaborate hoax, so presumably it was a case of assisted passage, the bird perhaps exiled to Holland as a victim of the illegal trade in wild birds. Des Hewitt passed away many years ago, but Steven Piper is still very much with us, and still ringing, though his fancies have turned away from Masked Weavers to Vulchas and Longtailed Waggies.

Table 6. Ringers reporting retraps for 1994-5.

Name	No. retraps
Pete Bartlett	480
George Underhill	382
Onno Huyser	364
Yves Chesselet	360
Wesvaal group	306
Frank Douwes	137
Colin Martin	121
Dale Hanmer	117
Marc Herremans	114
Kobie Raijmakers	100
Tony Tree	79
Alec & Cecilia Manson	43
Jo Johnson	38
Stuart Maclean	34
Geoff Lockwood	33
Stewart Lane	31

SELECTED RECOVERIES REPORTED TO SAFRING: January 1995 - June 1995

T B Oatley

This list features 90 recoveries (including some controls) of 45 species. The records were reported during the period January to June 1995 and include some recoveries going back to July 1994; 21 of these records involve foreign-ringed birds. As can be seen from Table 5 of the ringing report for 1994-1995 (see p. 67), seabirds account for a substantial portion of annual recoveries (over 51% in all,

for the 1994-1995 year), but the purpose of these half-yearly reports is to provide a comprehensive cross-section of species in the recovery lists. Criteria for selection involve significant movement and/or interesting elapsed time between ringing and recovery, or a known cause of death.

ERRATA: In the previous report (*Safring News* 24: p.30) the age of a Steppe Buzzard ringed in South Africa (Ring No. 7-85093) was incorrectly recorded as 'nestling'. The bird was actually coded as a juvenile less than six months of age.

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*

S 6966 nestling	20.10.92	Mercury Is off Namibia		
Dead	04.01.95	Cape Cross, Namibia	27 mths	448 km
V 7600 immature	14.07.87	Jutten Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Dead	22.01.95	Dwarskersbos, Western Cape	90 mths	50 km
S11661 nestling	21.07.93	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Drowned in driftnet	16.03.95	Berg River Mth, Western Cape	20 mths	117 km
S16986 adult	17.11.92	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Killed by predator	06.03.95	Bird Is Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape	28 mths	730 km
Z 1716 adult	22.10.85	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Dead	10.01.95	Gouritz R Mth, Western Cape	111 mths	328 km
V 0951 nestling	23.05.84	St Croix Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Dead	12.04.95	Cape Reccife, Eastern Cape	131 mths	25 km
S12336 nestling	10.04.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Sick	05.03.95	Mossel Bay, Western Cape	11 mths	386 km
S18328 nestling	11.04.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Sick	27.01.95	Sea Point, Western Cape	10 mths	730 km
V 0940 adult	01.03.83	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	19.02.95	Flat Rock, Wilderness, W Cape	144 mths	342 km
Apparent failure of local food supplies in Algoa Bay resulted in number of penguins from Bird Island and St Croix moving into western Cape waters.				

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*

H2126 adult F	07.11.87	Marion Is, Southern Ocean		
Control	06.12.94	Possession Is, Southern Ocean	85 mths	1 068 km

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

BS11170 nestling	15.10.86	Possession Is, Southern Ocean		
Control	12.02.95	Marion Is, Southern Ocean	100 mths	1 068 km
J08471 nestling	20.08.91	Marion Is, Southern Ocean		
Longline fatality	23.07.94	at sea off South Africa	35 mths	2 484 km

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

684610 1-2 yrs	06.08.69	Foula, Shetlands, Scotland		
Dead	24.12.94	Schoenmakerskop, Eastern Cape	305 mths	10 789 km

A respectable record of longevity for this small pelagic species.

Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*

940086 juvenile	05.12.86	Mercury Is, off Namibia		
Dead	14.05.95	Mercury Is, off Namibia	101 mths	0 km
922984 nestling	27.03.82	Ichaboe Is, off Namibia		
Killed by seal	22.02.95	at sea off Namibia,	155 mths	196 km
921929 nestling	21.01.82	Possession Is, off Namibia		
Dead	06.02.95	Oranjemund, Namibia	157 mths	208 km
991371 nestling	14.02.95	Bird Is, Lambert's Bay, W Cape		
Took a baited fish hook; unhooked and released	11.05.95	Port Edward, KwaZulu-Natal	3 mths	1 137 km
995968 juvenile	28.02.95	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	07.04.95	near Henties Bay, Namibia	2 mths	1 757 km
996260 juvenile	28.02.95	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	15.04.95	Inhassoro Mozambique	2 mths	1 634 km
997447 juvenile	28.02.95	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	05.04.95	south of Meob Bay, Namibia	2 mths	1 504 km

The latter four records show how far young gannets can disperse in a few months in search of food.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

KA 3455 nestling	07.07.94	Domnitzsch, Sachsen, Germany		
Dead	20.03.95	Eureka Farm, Eastern Cape	8 mths	9 465 km
3285 nestling	28.06.94	Rumsai, Silute, Lithuania		
Killed by hail	29.01.95	Suikerboschfontein, Mpumalanga	7 mths	9 077 km
2619 nestling	20.06.94	Mokiai, Silute, Lithuania		
Killed by unknown predator	08.05.95	Peak View Farm, KwaZulu-Natal	11 mths	9 420 km

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*

992409 nestling 23.11.94 Swarthoek, Northern Cape
 Sick 26.02.95 Jan Kempdorp, Northern Cape 3 mths 249 km

Cape Griffon *Gyps coprotheres*

G16899 nestling 15.09.91 Colleywobbles, Idutywa Dis. E Cape
 Drowned in reservoir
 07.01.95 Hove Farm, Eastern Cape 40 mths 129 km

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*

5H01441 immature 08.02.94 Zuidzande, Northern Cape
 Drowned in reservoir
 29.01.95 Hendrikville, Western Cape 12 mths 187 km

Longcrested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

984505 1-2 yrs 20.03.93 near Roschaugen, Mpumalanga
 Road casualty 13.04.95 near Bambi, Mpumalanga 25 mths 49 km

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

782704 adult 08.01.90 Rus de Winter, Warmbad Dis. N Prov
 Road casualty 18.03.95 Bankplaaspad, Mpumalanga 62 mths 93 km

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*

843670 nestling 30.10.93 Kalahari Gemsbok N P, N Cape
 Drowned in reservoir
 11.01.95 Hudab Farm, Namibia 15 mths 211 km

849340 adult F 12.03.94 Kompas, Northern Cape
 Dead. Collided with game fence
 04.06.95 near Kuruman, Northern Cape 15 mths 94 km

Redknobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

718173 adult 26.04.71 Barberspan N R, N W Province
 Dead 05.02.95 Groenfontein, Free State 286 mths 419 km
 A venerable age for a coot, especially as it was ringed as an adult.

African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*

654423 nestling 04.03.87 De Hoop Nat Res, W Cape
 Dead 27.01.95 Die Mond, Western Cape 95 mths 3 km

African Wattled Plover *Vanellus senegallus*

523048 adult F 07.01.73 near Lake McIlwaine, Zimbabwe
 Dead. Took baited fish hook
 20.08.94 Lake Chivero, Zimbabwe 259 mths 3 km
 This bird was found dead with fishing line hanging out of its beak and fish hook embedded in its stomach. One wonders how much longer it might have lived but for this unnatural death. It is nevertheless the oldest of its species on record.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

BC18898 adult	10.03.91	Langebaan Beachroost, W Cape		
Control	10.03.95	Swakop saltworks, Namibia	48 mths	1 215 km

Knot *Calidris canutus*

425131 juvenile	30.12.73	Langebaan Beachroost, W Cape		
Shot for sport	22.05.95	Bay of Cadiz, Spain	257 mths	8 133 km

This must be the oldest Knot recorded, and must have flown over a third of a million kilometres on migration in its lifetime.

Water Dikkop *Burhinus vermiculatus*

521840 adult	27.06.75	near Lake McIlwaine, Zimbabwe		
Dead	15.11.94	Lake Chivero, Zimbabwe	233 mths	0 km

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

T69441 nestling	03.07.94	Korppoo Korpo, Finland		
Dead	03.01.95	Vineta, Swakopmund, Namibia	6 mths	9 188 km

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

K11515 nestling	14.11.89	Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape		
Shot	23.05.95	Port Elizabeth airport, E Cape	66 mths	17 km

K14436 nestling	14.11.94	Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape		
Entangled in fishing line & released	21.02.95	Hibberdene, KwaZulu-Natal	3 mths	594 km

Hartlaub's Gull *Larus hartlaubii*

560803 nestling	24.05.75	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Dead	21.03.95	Black River, Western Cape	238 mths	17 km

561418 nestling	14.06.75	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Dead	20.05.95	Liesbeck River, Western Cape	239 mths	17 km

563179 nestling	15.05.76	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Dead	13.03.95	Milnerton Beach, Western Cape	226 mths	11 km

571019 nestling	21.05.81	Robben Island, Western Cape		
	31.01.95	Cape Town area, Western Cape	164 mths	13 km

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

661819 nestling	22.02.95	Bird Is, St Lucia, KwaZulu-Natal		
Dead	15.05.95	Maputo Bay, Mozambique	3 mths	229 km

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

A 3160 nestling	19.06.94	Lake Engores, Latvia		
Dead	16.01.95	Knysna Estuary, Western Cape	7 mths	10 152 km

7296185 nestling	16.06.94	Lendekilen, Mandal, Norway		
Dead	15.12.94	Lambert's Bay, Western Cape	6 mths	10 070 km

AT125997 juvenile	04.07.93	Vehkalahti, Kymi, Finland		
Dead	15.01.95	Lambert's Bay, Western Cape	18 mths	10 318 km
AT99769 juvenile	28.06.88	Tampere, Tammerfors, Finland		
Dead	26.01.95	Gordon's Bay, Western Cape	79 mths	10 658 km
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>				
5T82617 nestling	11.06.94	Zeebrugge, Belgium		
Dead	14.01.95	Buffelsbaai, Western Cape	7 mths	9 640 km
DR64480 nestling	23.06.94	Wexford, Eire		
Dead	23.02.95	Umgazi, Eastern Cape	8 mths	9 956 km
DR72606 nestling	23.06.80	Jackdaw Is, Down, N Ireland		
Dead	11.12.94	Swakop saltworks, Namibia	174 mths	8 772 km
XS11701 nestling	09.06.80	Farne Is, Northumberland, England		
Skeleton	15.12.94	Hondeklip Bay, Northern Cape	174 mths	9 721 km
Swift Tern <i>Sterna bergii</i>				
577103 nestling	05.04.86	Marcus Is, Saldanha, Cape		
Dead	12.01.95	Umdloti, KwaZulu-Natal	105 mths	1 303 km
588501 nestling	07.04.93	Dassen Is, Cape West Coast		
Dead	03.01.95	Brighton Beach, KwaZulu-Natal	21 mths	1 283 km
Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>				
850501 1st year	03.02.95	Abe Bailey N R, Carletonville, Gauteng		
Dead	29.04.95	east of Ventersdorp, N W Province	3 mths	22 km
Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>				
E19538 free flying	02.09.89	Lynnwood Glen, Pretoria, Gauteng		
Weak, subsequent fate unknown	19.02.95	Lynnwood, Northern Province	66 mths	2 km
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>				
464427 nestling	25.02.92	Bloemfontein, Free State		
Weak, subsequently died	17.10.94	Bloemfontein, Free State	32 mths	0 km
European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
AD62866 1st year	18.01.94	Boteti River, near Maun, Botswana		
Control	17.09.94	Fenekpuszta, Zala, Hungary	8 mths	7 471 km
AD24017 free flying	13.01.93	Pretoria, Gauteng		
Sitting on eggs	16.06.95	Kurski region, Ukraine	29 mths	9 178 km
J753813 adult M	28.07.94	Icklesham, Sussex, England		
	02.01.95	Kowie River, Eastern Cape	6 mths	9 741 km

J802059 immature	21.09.94	Icklesham, Sussex, England		
Dead, collided with building	27.12.94	Joubertinia, Eastern Cape	3 mths	9 690 km
J316794 2nd yr F	21.08.94	nr Penmaenpool, Gwynedd, Wales		
Nearly drowned	12.12.94	Heriot Farm, Northwest Province	4 mths	9 255 km
J715367 immature	14.08.94	Greater Manchester, England		
Dead	26.12.94	Woody Cape, Eastern Cape	4 mths	10 092 km
J354771 immature	23.08.93	Flectwood, Lancashire, England		
	25.12.94	Geelhoutbos R Mth, Eastern Cape	16 mths	10 110 km
B399424 juvenile	05.09.94	Colby, Isle of Man, England		
Control	26.02.95	Prozesky N R, N W Province	6 mths	9 493 km
C720951 adult	30.08.94	Wakefield, W Yorkshire, England		
Control	02.04.95	Prozesky N R, Northwest Province	8 mths	9 352km

Cape Bulbul *Pycnonotus capensis*

BD06478 juvenile	16.02.93	Betty's Bay, Western Cape,		
Road casualty	27.05.95	Betty's Bay, Western Cape	27 mths	0 km

Redeyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus nigricans*

BB08363 adult	27.12.92	Oranjemund, Namibia		
Stunned, collided with window	09.02.95	Oranjemund, Namibia	26 mths	0 km

Blackeyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

BB98993 adult	14.03.92	Melville Koppies, Jhb, Gauteng		
Dead	04.03.95	Melville, Jhb, Gauteng	36 mths	0 km

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

463193 adult	05.10.91	Botanic Gdns, Pretoria, Gauteng		
Shot	15.02.95	Silverton, Gauteng	40 mths	3 km

4A04153 adult	13.05.94	Middelburg, Mpumalanga		
Killed by dog	14.08.94	Middelburg, Mpumalanga	3 mths	0 km

A02453 adult	12.03.93	Stonehenge, Northwest Province		
Dead	31.05.95	Stonehenge, Northwest Province	27 mths	0 km

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

BC42211 adult	15.03.94	near Hillview Station, Gauteng		
Dead	06.05.95	Primrose, Gauteng	14 mths	4 km

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

463752 juvenile	17.12.92	Rondevlei, Retreat, Western Cape		
Weak, subsequent fate unknown	20.04.95	Pollsmoor, Western Cape	28 mths	6 km

Redwinged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

D10202 nestling	21.11.92	Fish Hoek, Western Cape		
Killed by cat	02.02.95	Fish Hoek, Western Cape	27 mths	0 km

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*

AD20453 adult M	29.03.95	Olifantsbos, Cape Good Hope N R		
Control	08.05.95	Pringle Bay, Western Cape	2 mths	41 km

Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird *Nectarinia chalybea*

X89801 juvenile F	24.10.94	Betty's Bay, Western Cape		
Control	08.05.95	Pringle Bay, Western Cape	7 mths	14 km

These two controls bear witness to the extent of movements undertaken by sunbirds in search of nectar. It is unlikely that the Malachite Sunbird took the direct route from Cape Point across False Bay; it would have travelled not less than 150 km to reach Pringle Bay over land.

Cape White-Eye *Zosterops pallidus*

AD91633 adult	04.05.95	Melkbosstrand, Western Cape		
Road casualty	17.06.95	Melkbosstrand, Western Cape	1 mths	0 km

AD38741 adult	10.08.94	Rondevlei, Retreat, Western Cape		
Road casualty	05.02.95	Zeekoevlei, Western Cape	6 mths	2 km

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus*

BC20154 adult M	12.09.91	Anysberg Nat Res, Western Cape		
Dead, collided with window	08.06.95	Anysberg Nat Res, Western Cape	45 mths	0 km

Cape Weaver *Ploceus capensis*

BC41826 adult F	03.04.94	Klaasvoogdts, Robertson Dis, W Cape		
Killed by cat	26.06.95	The Hoop, Robertson Dis, WCape	15 mths	0 km

CV05487 adult M	03.04.94	Klaasvoogdts, Robertson Dis, W Cape		
Killed by cat	26.06.95	The Hoop, Robertson Dis, W Cape	15 mths	0 km

A sad case of a pair of both birds being caught by the same predator.

Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

F30844 adult M	30.03.91	Madzidzi Bay, Malawi		
Control	10.01.95	Monkey Bay, Malawi	46 mths	9 km

BD08716 adult	22.11.92	Heatherdale, Gauteng		
Dead	13.02.95	Ninapark, Pta, Gauteng	27 mths	21 km

BD08703 adult F	11.11.92	OPM Prozesky N R, N W Province		
Sick, subsequently died	10.05.95	Klipplaatdrift, Northwest Province	30 mths	52 km

BC23226 adult F	01.08.93	Ficksburg, Free State		
Killed by cat	14.01.95	Ficksburg, Free State	17 mths	0 km
Redbilled Quelea <i>Quelea quelea</i>				
AD66469 adult F	17.04.94	Ventersdorp Dis, N W Province		
Deliberately poisoned by aerial spraying	12.01.95	near Tuinplaas, Northern Province	9 mths	297 km
AD85714 adult F	20.08.94	Ventersdorp Dis, N W Province		
Deliberately poisoned by aerial spraying	18.01.95	near Tuinplaas, Northern Province	5 mths	297 km
Stripebreasted Seedeater <i>Serinus reichardi</i>				
AB88548 adult F	30.06.90	Ngapani, Malawi		
Control	11.04.95	Ngapani, Malawi	58 mths	0 km
Pintailed Whydah <i>Vidua macroura</i>				
AC17803 adult F	25.06.91	Rondebult Bird Sanctuary, Gauteng		
Killed by cat	07.01.95	Alberton, Gauteng	43 mths	13 km

EUROPEAN MARSH WARBLERS ON THE CAPE PENINSULA

Mike Fraser & Liz McMahon

Sandbanks, Kenmuir Steps, Glencairn 7995

With Dawie de Swardt having taken the commendably bold step of initiating the SAFRING truth commission and confessing that his Karoo Chats *Cercomela schlegelii* were actually Whitethroats *Sylvia communis* (De Swardt 1993), we report here the mistaken identity of European Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* in the southwestern Cape. As extra-limital records and an interesting turn of events in the use of ringing data, we would have reported this event in due course anyway (honest, m'lud).

On each of 31 January and 1 February 1992, we mistnetted a small *Acrocephalus* warbler while targeting Malachite Sunbirds *Nectarinia famosa* at a patch of flowering Wild Dagga *Leonotus leonorus* at Olifantsbos (34°16'S,

18°23'E) in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. The reserve list, somewhat surprisingly, cannot boast African Marsh Warbler *A. baeticatus*, but as it is a common enough bird in suitable habitat elsewhere on the Peninsula we assumed that our birds were this species. Without scrutinising them to any degree beyond basic measurements and scoring moult, therefore, we ringed and released them and duly celebrated an addition to our "patch" list. The fact that the birds were relatively large and in heavy moult should, however, have set alarm bells ringing as the diminutive African Marsh Warbler does not moult in South Africa but at its central African wintering grounds. Blissful in our ignorance, however, we dutifully completed our ringing schedules and moult cards and submitted them to SAFRING.

In due course the cards were forwarded by SAFRING to JMH (Kobie) Raijmakers who was studying moult in migrant warblers. He took one look at the details of our birds and contacted us suggesting, very gentlemanly, that the Olifantsbos birds were, in fact, Euro-