

which will involve ringers from different ringing schemes in Europe studying key sites in Africa in cooperation with African colleagues. In addition to gathering data on different aspects of winter ecology of crucial importance for the conservation of European Swallows, these expeditions will also offer field training to less experienced local trainees.

### Coordination

At least three ringing centres will be involved in the coordination of the three main areas of research: a) breeding biology and dispersal, b) pre-migratory behaviour and flyways and c) winter ecology. The centres are likely to be: a) Netherlands, b) Italy and c) South Africa.

For each of the three main areas of interest there will be at least one field coordinator and one data coordinator. A regular newsletter will

be produced (probably for each of the three main research areas) which will contain summary statistics, brief local reports, methodological suggestions and techniques and the names of all participants.

The project is planned for a five-year period and may commence in the European summer of 1997. The first year will probably be regarded as an experimental phase in which to check methods and data-gathering techniques.

An inventory of the main roost sites in southern Africa will be a very useful preparation for local participation in the EURING Swallow Project. Once the project is firmly underway in Europe, there will be substantial increases in the numbers of migrant swallows bearing rings and a concomitant increased likelihood of southern African ringers controlling these birds.

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## TWO RINGS RECOVERED FROM ONE PALE CHANTING GOSHAWK

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When I began studying the behavioural ecology of the Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus* in the Little Karoo in 1988, one of the short term objectives was to ring and mark individual birds for later identification. It was essential to keep track of individual family members that either delay dispersal as non-breeders, or the occasional male that co-bred with a male and female in polyandrous trios.

I initially marked birds with colour rings and later, with patagial tags, neither of which lasted the eight years the study has been in progress. After a few years I sat with the predicament that I had many ringed Pale Chanting Goshawks in my study area, but only a few that I could identify individually.

However, in June 1992, one of the Balchatri Brigade (name not supplied for obvious reasons) drove into the study area. This ringer, unaware of my research, dropped the Balchatri in sight of the first Pale Chanting Goshawk encountered, caught the bird and ringed it. Only then did he realise that on the other leg, of all things, was another metal ring! So it turned out that this bird, which I caught during 1988 with Ian Newton's nest ring, was double-ringed! Since this female occupied a territory bisected by the national road, it was, from then, on easy to identify 'old Double-Rings' as she perched prominently on a telegraph pole.

The story does not end there because, in early 1996, a school friend was cycling through the Karoo (crazy idea), stopped for some reason (not such a crazy idea), saw a ringed bird lying on the ground and reported it (very good idea). It was 'Double-Rings', road-killed 91 months after being ringed for the first time. I wonder if, during her lifetime, she appreciated her costume jewelry?