

AVAILABILITY OF RINGING DATA

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The availability of ringing data was discussed at the meeting of the Technical Sub-committee of SAFRING held on the 27 October 1977.

The current situation is that primary ringing data are reserved for the exclusive use of the ringer subject to certain conditions while recovery data are available to anybody who wishes to make use of them.

The discussion on this topic reached consensus and the suggested conditions applicable to the copyright on primary ringing data can be summarized as follows:-

- (i) Short-term amateur projects: a set "write-up" period (1-2 years) after termination of data gathering should be allowed during which the primary data are for the exclusive use of the ringer. At the end of the write-up period the primary data would be released unless an extension of the period of protection is granted by the Technical Sub-committee as the result of representation by the ringer concerned. Should a project be abandoned or be making insufficient progress the Ringing Organizer should use his discretion and release the primary data.
- (ii) Long-term projects: these are generally undertaken by professional bodies. Currently neither the Technical Sub-committee nor the Ringing Organizer has the power to make professional bodies release their primary data for general use. It was suggested that the data held by professional bodies should be released in five-year units after having been written up either as internal departmental reports or for publications. It was unanimously agreed that the Steering Committee should be requested to grant the Technical Sub-committee the power to review such long-term projects and, where necessary, release the primary ringing data pertaining to such projects. The Technical Sub-committee would then act as a court judging the merits of any request for primary ringing data held by professional bodies against any case put up for their continued reservation by the body concerned. In the event of the Technical Sub-committee failing to reach a decision the matter would be referred to the Steering Committee for arbitration.
- (iii) As happens at present the Ringing Organizer can make representations to any ringer (amateur or professional) on behalf of another ringer for the release of primary data for that particular ringer's use. Any arrangement resulting from such representations would be in the form

of a "gentleman's agreement" between the owner of the primary data and the user.

The above recommendations have been submitted to the Steering Committee of Safring for approval. It is not anticipated that the Steering Committee will substantially alter the recommendations and thus they can, for all intents and purposes, be treated as official SAFRING policy.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dr H. Schifter of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria is collecting all available data, particularly weight data, on mousebirds (Colius sp.) as part of his study of African Mousebirds.

Would persons able to assist him please write directly to him at: Naturhistorisches Museum, Vogelsammlung, Burgring 7 Postfach 417, A-1014 Wien 1, Austria.

UNCLAIMED RING

645-04674 Bird shot 20 January 1978, Voëlvlei, near Buffels River, Mossel Bay, Cape.

If anyone has any information on the above ring please will they contact the Ringing Organiser.
