

Editorial

Safring News has been expanded to *Afring News*! The idea was conceived last year while I was preparing a visit to some ringers in Kenya and the SAFRING steering committee approved the idea in June 2001. *Safring News* was first published 29 years ago in 1972 (see below). The cover changed in 1981, the year after Terry Oatley started working at SAFRING. *Safring News* has been the medium for SAFRING's ringing and recovery reports (previously published in *Ostrich*) as well as wide ranging articles about trapping birds, ageing and sexing, ringing expeditions, reports on studies using ringing, etc. written by ringers.

SAFRING has for many years provided ringing services to neighbouring African countries, and with the name change to *Afring News* greater links are established with countries further than neighbours. There is no other ringing journal in Africa – East African ringers publish their ringing reports in journals like *Scopus*. This issue has two articles that reflect the wider coverage of *Afring News*: although one is about ringing in Lebanon, it covers migrants to Africa and is written by Colin Jackson, an active ringer in Kenya; the other is about ringing forest birds in Tanzania. There are also two notices from Tanzania

taken from the African Birding list server. Other articles cover ringing in Zimbabwe and Botswana, lovebirds in Zambia, flamingoes in Namibia, and various subjects from South Africa. The change of name affects only the newsletter, SAFRING, the South African Bird Ringing Unit, continues unaltered.

In May I was invited to visit Israel for a conference for African delegates on bird migration, flight safety (bird strikes) and education (using birds in education). Yossi Leshem organised sponsorship for the conference.

In August a group from the ADU attended the European Ornithologists' Union and Wader Study Group meetings in the Netherlands. Both conferences were successful and a wide variety of ornithological research was presented. In addition, I attended the EURING General Assembly meeting where I was able to meet many European ringing coordinators.

All these developments and activities are helping to put SAFRING and ringing in Africa onto the world ringing stage. In return, SAFRING and all the ringers it represents benefit from the exchanges of ideas and information.

Dieter Oschadleus



Examples of the *Safring News* covers from the periods 1972–1980 and 1981–2000.

