

# Editorial

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There is one issue of Afring News for 2002 since too few articles were received earlier in the year. Please start sending articles early next year so that there can be two issues! This issue contains papers on a variety of subjects from places as far away as the Seychelles and Nigeria. The next issue will contain the 2001 Ringing and Recovery Reports.

## **Ringing histories**

Earlier this year we began computerising ringing data species by species from the paper schedules. This gives ringers an overview of the particular species with a standard format of analysis, including: numbers ringed annually, the top five ringers, where the species have been ringed, and mass data. Twenty species have been summarised on our web pages at: <http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/safring/results/results-index.htm>, and many species are in the process of being added. If you would like to computerise your favourite species, let me know. One of the best things a ringer can do, however, is to first computerise all his/her ringing data and submit that to SAFRING.

## **Ringing data and new ringers**

Most ringers are now submitting their annual ringing data electronically and this is very encouraging. It means that more analyses can be done and it is possible to do more queries. It is imperative, however, that data be entered accurately. Training of new ringers has included very little or no training on data entry. From now on, when a trainee has completed the field training and the training ringer recommends that the trainee qualifies as a ringer, there will be an additional step. The trainee will be sent copies of schedule data which need to be computerised and sent to SAFRING. The data entry accuracy skill

level needs to be 99% before a trainee will be issued with a ringer's number. Special provision will be made for trainees without access to computers, but in the future it will be rare that someone who can afford to buy ringing equipment will not have access to a computer (or at least, to a computer belonging to a friend).

## **Travel**

In August I attended the 23rd International Ornithological Congress in Beijing, China. Eating Chinese for 2 weeks was fun! There was a Round Table Discussion on ringing and it was great to meet old, and make new, contacts with ringing organisers. In September Doug Harebottle and I travelled to bird clubs in the Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo Province, Northwest Province, Northern and Western Cape. In the evenings we gave feedback on the ADU projects and on ringing. In the mornings we gave ringing demonstrations. We ringed about 500 birds, including many species we had not handled previously. Photos can be viewed on our web page.

## **Trust Fund**

A special fund has been created within the BirdLife South Africa Trust, called the 'SAFRING Trust'. The income generated by the SAFRING component of the BirdLife South Africa Trust will be used to help keep SAFRING running in perpetuity. Please send cheques marked Safring Trust.

## **Thanks**

I'd like to thank Doug Harebottle who helped a great deal with editing this issue!

*Dieter Oschadleus  
28 October 2002*