

# EDITORIAL

Many readers have written or telephoned to comment on the new SAFRING NEWS cover. As current Editor I have received the compliments but am in no way responsible for the change and the credit must go to those who rightly deserve it. Previous Editor, Pat Morant, felt there was a need for a new cover and invited designs from ringers. John Bunning, Branch Ringing Organiser of the Witwatersrand Bird Club, submitted the best entry. Dr. John Ledger then prepared the plate and chose the colour combination. All three will be glad to know that their efforts have met with general approval.

Dr. Ledger deserves further credit for a long stint as Production Editor of SAFRING NEWS, a role he has now relinquished at his own request as he feels the post is redundant. Nevertheless, his contributions to the layout and design of the finished copy have always been valued and past volumes comprise fitting monument to his effort.

The present issue embodies some changes which deserve comment. First is a return to single spacing, which characterized early volumes of this magazine. Secondly, the 1980 S.A.O.S. Checklist of southern African Birds is used as the standard for all bird names, both English and scientific. The scientific name will appear after the first mention of a species in each contribution. In this regard Dr. Mundy's criticism (see letter on page 23) is justified. SAFRING NEWS is sent to ringing schemes all over the world and we cannot expect people using other languages to know the English names for migrant birds familiar to them (particularly when we don't know the new names ourselves!).

The international mailing list serves to maintain contact with other ringing schemes, but the primary purpose of this magazine is to keep the widely-scattered southern African ringers informed of one another's activities. It should keep ringers advised of new techniques and provide a medium for the publication of their records and data. Ringers who have completed projects should always endeavour to write up their results for publication in a scientific journal such as Ostrich. However, the chance factor in bird ringing frequently bedevils even the best of projects, and insufficient data is often the result. Nevertheless, the researcher is likely to have amassed useful data which, although inadequate for a paper acceptable to a formal ornithological journal, may add coherent details to our knowledge of the species concerned and is, therefore, worthy of publication.

In addition to providing for this sort of paper, there is plenty of scope for general informative articles. This issue contains a general cross-section of the types of contribution appropriate and, hopefully, will provide something of interest to most readers.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Oatley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

TERRY OATLEY