

recessive condition for the character concerned. Total recessive albinism is usually associated with general systemic weakness of the bird concerned and such birds seldom live long.

Aberrant colouring or patterning which is not due to a lack of the normal melanin deposition in the feather(s) concerned is truly rare and its causes are poorly understood. An example of this is seen in the immature Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* photograph where apparently the two innermost upper minor secondary wing coverts on the left side do not look like the other coverts of that series, including the homologous ones on the right side but resemble the upper tail coverts.

It is desirable to record such aberrations, both photographically and in writing, even though their causation is not understood. A minority of such aberrations give a clue to the relationships of the species concerned and such a clue would be useful in the case of *Melierax* on which there is no agreement on what is its closest relative within the Accipitridae.

R.K. Brook, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology,
University of Cape Town, RONDEBOSH, 7700

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CHANGE OF RINGING ADDRESS

At its 1981 meeting the Steering Committee of SAFRING gave its approval to a proposal that the return address on South African rings be changed. The old legend 'Inform Zoo Pretoria' has served for the 30 years that the South African Ringing Scheme has been in existence but there have been repeated proposals to change it for various reasons. The main motivation for the change stems from the inevitable delays which a two-stage recovery route entails. Finders frequently fail to report all the details needed for a well-documented recovery, and if too much time elapses before they receive a request from SAFRING for further information, they are likely to have forgotten the essential details. To a ringer this may sound like a tall story, but regrettably we have adequate correspondence on file to prove it.

The new legend is:

INFORM SAFRING
UNIVERSITY CAPE TOWN

However, on the small size rings the international abbreviation UNIV. is used in place of UNIVERSITY.

The new rings will be going into circulation on Cape Gannets this summer as 16 mm stocks were the first to be replaced since approval for the change of address was given. Other sizes will be ordered with the new address as stocks get low.

Because SAFRING carries fairly large stocks of rings, it is likely to be several years before the 'Zoo' address rings are used up, and even longer before recoveries of such rings become infrequent, given the longevities recorded for most of our birds. Hence the two ring addresses will operate simultaneously for at least ten to fifteen years, and we hope that the staff of the National Zoological Gardens will bear with us until the returns to Pretoria dwindle and cease. Ring numbers will continue to be ordered sequentially, i.e. the same number will not appear under both old and new legends.

T.B. Oatley

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