

LETTERS & NOTICES

Dear Mr. Oatley,

Seeing the latest Safring News prompts me to make a comment about ring sizes. Several years ago it fell to my lot to deal with a number of Meyer's Parrots *Psephenus meyeri*. Apart from the expected hazards of handling such ferocious beasts, the poor ringer finds that there is no ring suitable for the very short and muscular tarsus. The 6 mm rings which I used were not really big enough. They were a close fit but were probably unsuitable because parrots clench their legs up very tightly and the ring would cut the skin under that circumstance. An 8 mm would appear to fit the bill (no pun intended) but this ring is too tall (high) to fit the tarsus. The 6 mm ring is 7 mm tall, the 8 mm is 10 mm tall. If the 8 mm diameter ring was shortened to a height of 7 mm, it could then safely be used on parrots.

D.Johnson, Natal Parks, Game & Fish Preservation Board, P.O.Box 662, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200

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Dear Mr. Oatley,

There might be a case for a ring size between 2,3 mm and 3,0 mm. When I first started ringing Cape Reed Warblers (Lesser Swamp!) some years ago, I started using 2,3 mm rings. When I subsequently recaptured the birds I found the rings had tightened onto the leg. I don't know why, because they were obviously fitted to my satisfaction at the time of ringing. The Ringer's Manual recommends 2,3 or 3,0 mm, but since then I have always used 3,0 mm.

Another point is the 6,0 mm ring recommended for the Dabchick in the manual. Although I have only ringed one of these birds, it required an 8,0 mm ring.

M. Fagan, P.O. Box 898, FLORIDA, 1710