Dear Sir,

Initial results of the Cape Cormorant and Cape Gannet ringing programme of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute necessitate further comments on the use of colour rings described in Safring News (Vol. 11: 3-4). The colour rings for Cape Cormorants proved adequate, but high colour ring losses were sustained by Cape Gannets. Recapture of colour-ringed gannets showed that in several instances the colour ring had slipped down to partially or fully enclose the toes and web of the foot often causing permanent, but relatively minor, injury to the innermost and shortest toe. It is likely that ringed birds suffered increased mortality in this way. It is thought that the flexibility of the coiled ring allows it to expand over the foot, a process furthered by the plunge diving of gannets. Gannet colour rings were made of two thicknesses of material: 0,7 and 1,2 mm. Losses of thinner rings were far higher.

A possible solution is being tested on gannets by Dr. G. Ross at Bird Island, Algoa Bay. The ring is bonded with cyanoacrylate 'super-glue' which is readily drawn between the ring coils by capillary action. The glue forms an immovable bond and the ring is unable to expand. The effects of long-term exposure to seawater and guano on the bonding are unknown, and this should be borne in mind by any prospective user.

The Sea Fisheries Research Institute seabird research programme is now focusing on the gannet and fledglings will be metal-ringed only, as it is usually possible to catch a ringed gannet in the colony. Very few sight records of colour-ringed gannets have been returned. Colour ringing will be used only for intensive studies in the immediate future.

A. Berruti, Sea Fisheries Research Institute, P. Bag X2, Roggebaai, CAPE TOWN, 8012

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Dear Mr. Oatley,

Alec Manson's article on longevity of birds has goaded me into digging out my records for SAFRING. The following records are from birds ringed at Peterhouse for the most part, although the Kurrichane Thrust *Turdus libonyana* was ringed in Marondera, the Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* at Eirene and the Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides* at Beatrice.

RING NO.	DATE RINGED	RECOVERED, RECAPTURED	MINIMUM AGE Y	M	D
Arrowmarked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*					
593-09358	09.09.68	16.11.72	4	2	7
Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana*					
643-09605	19.06.71	03.08.79	8	1	14
Blackeyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*					
2-33479	29.10.72	02.11.79	7	0	4
Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*					
601-74516	28.12.63	06.07.68	4	6	11
Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*					
662-11217	18.07.71	17.10.79	8	3	0
Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird *Nectarinia chalybea*					
601-91841	28.12.66	18.11.70	3	11	21
Yellowthroated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*					
622-07630	20.11.64	22.09.68	3	10	2
Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*					
2-33261	23.10.70	19.06.76	5	7	26
Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*					
622-11469	18.02.73	12.08.79	6	5	24
Redbilled Quelea *Quelea quelea*					
601-74461	28.12.63	07.02.71	7	1	10
Yellowrumped Bishop *Euplectes capensis*					
A-127652	31.07.76	06.03.82	5	7	6
Pintailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*					
601-91093	17.11.64	21.09.68	3	10	4
Carmine Bee-eater* *Merops nubicoides*					
593-04864	30.10.65	12.03.71	5	4	13

* The Carmine Bee-eater was ringed at the colony near Beatrice. All the rest were ringed in the Marondera area.

P. Ginn, P. Bag 3741, MARONDERA, Zimbabwe

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