

## LOCAL NEWS

The purpose of this section is to give up to date information on the latest recoveries, new projects started, colour-marking schemes, new group studies or any other information of local importance. Records of interest would be appreciated.

### LONG-LIVED WHITE-EYES

Geoff. Wilson (Cape Bird Club) reports controlling an 8½ year old Cape White-eye at Klawervlei, Faure, Cape. Several others over 6 years old have been reported. The checking of the records of the Australian Eastern Silver-eye Zosterops lateralis project, in which 100,000 have been ringed, revealed a Silver-eye of 8 years 11 months and a retrap rate of 2.7% over a 5 year study period.

### OIL SPILL OFF CAPE AGULHAS

The collision between the tankers Texanita and Oswego Guardian resulted in about 350 oiled penguins being brought to Cape Town for treatment. All treated birds are ringed before they are released.

### MIGRATING LAUGHING DOVE

An exceptional movement has recently been recorded for a Laughing Dove. A bird ringed at Mwakupani (near Maun), Botswana, in December, 1970 (Tony Tree) was recovered in February, 1972, at Gatooma, Rhodesia about 500 miles away. This must rank as easily the longest distance moved by the species. Tree remarks that the bird was one of a number moving through the area at the time of ringing.

### MALAWI RINGING

Ornithology has been placed on a firmer footing in Malawi thanks to efforts of Mr. Nigel Hunter. The various bird clubs have been amalgamated into an Ornithological Subcommittee of the Malawi Fauna Society. Mr. Hunter will act as Ringing organiser for the area and any ringers going to Malawi should make contact with him (Box 32, Blantyre).

The Unit is supplying rings at cost to Malawi ringers.

### SWALLOW IN NIGER REPUBLIC

A European Swallow ringed at Skipperspruit (Peter Mendelsohn) was recovered in an area of total desert in the Niger Republic (18.22N, 15.18E), a new recovery locality for S.A. - ringed birds. The bird was exhausted and died later.

## WADER RINGING GROUP FOUNDED

Since 1970 the number of Palearctic Waders ringed in the Cape Peninsula has increased dramatically. This year the Western Cape Wader Study Group was formed with the object of co-ordinating the efforts of individual ringers. The objectives of the Group are briefly as follows:-

1. To trap and ring all species of Waders
2. To do study moult and weight fluctuations.
3. To determine sex difference by means of measurements and/or plumage differences and study sex ratios.
4. To determine age, i.e. 1st year, 2nd year, Adult.
5. To plot local movements.
6. To plot long distance migration routes by means of ringing returns.

The founder members of the Group are all qualified ringers with experience in the handling and trapping of Waders, each has his own ringing equipment. The leader at present is Mr. M. Waltner and the other members are Messrs. C.C.H. Elliott, H.P. Pfister, G.D. Underhill, L. Underhill and G.H. Wilson. Many other people have assisted with the Group's work, it is hoped that some of these people will later become full members.

Usually Waders are caught at night in either single shelf or large three shelf mist nets, at a number of sites. Some birds have been caught while roosting on beaches using the 'torch and hand net' method.

The following table shows the ringing totals for the past two seasons:-

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1970/71 SEASON</u>	<u>1971/72 SEASON</u>
Curlew Sandpiper	1425	1788
Knot	16	173
Marsh Sandpiper	1	15
Common Sandpiper	7	2
Greenshank	10	18
Whimbrel	2	3
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	2
Sanderling	56	122
Little Stint	168	193
Ruff	5	70
Turnstone	3	2
Wood Sandpiper	-	7
Ringed Plover	9	5
Greater Sand Plover	-	2
Grey Plover	2	8
Terek Sandpiper	8	17
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TOTAL	1712	2427
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In addition Blacksmith Plover, Crowned Plover, Black Oystercatcher, Cape Dikkop, Stilt, Ethiopian and Painted Snipe have been ringed in small numbers. White-fronted Sandplover, Kittlitz Sandplover and Treble-banded Sandplover are regularly caught and ringed.

Overseas recoveries and controls to date have been few, but those in so far are very interesting:-

Knot : ringed 29-8-69 at Zeebrugge, Belgium  
caught and released 2-1-72, at Langebaan Lagoon.

Sanderling : ringed 14-3-71 at Kommetjie, Cape  
caught and released 15-5-71, Wash, England.

Curlew Sandpiper : ringed 7-5-70 at Klawervlei, Faure, Cape  
found dead 3-9-71, 13 miles north of Bulawayo,  
Rhodesia.

Curlew Sandpiper : ringed 24-9-69 at Walvis Bay, South West Africa  
caught and released 30-9-71 at Paarden Eiland,  
Cape Town.

A large number of local retraps have now been recorded.

During the 1971/73 season it is planned to colour ring Curlew Sandpipers using either white or pale green colour rings. Only birds caught at Paarden Eiland and Riet Vlei, Cape Town will be colour ringed. The idea is to try to establish local movement by observation. Anyone seeing a colour ringed Curlew Sandpiper should contact a member of the Group.

(report from G. WILSON)

### 15th RINGING REPORT

This much delayed publication is currently in press and should appear in the December issue of Ostrich. The report will cover the two-year period July 1968 to June 1970. Computer-programmes are currently being written to handle the print-out of ringing totals and recovery details. It is hoped to have the next report out by mid-1973. It will cover the period July, 1970 to June 1972. The 15th Report will contain details of virtually all recoveries made. In future it is planned only to publish selected recoveries and a comprehensive ringing totals list. The details of all recoveries will be circulated to all ringers in computer-print-out format.

### A PERFECT RECOVERY REPORT

A recent letter forwarded from Pretoria Zoo is perhaps an example of a perfect recovery report:-

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you that I found a penguin on the beach near Cape Point on 3rd September, 1972. It appeared to me that the bird had been dead no less than 12 - 14 hours and the following was noted:-

1. A ring attached to L/side flipper - No: P3406 on one end and the words "inform Pretoria Zoo" on the other.
2. There appeared to be no oil on the feathers nor was there any sign of external injury.
3. There were, however, signs of internal injury as the bird had a fair amount of water inside plus reasonable bleeding from the beak.
4. The blood was quite red and appeared a little frothy suggesting impact of some sort with an unknown object - perhaps a ski-boat or large sea-going craft.
5. There was a large swelling in the region of the stomach but no apparent secretion from the anal region.
6. The legs and feet were undamaged and of the natural charcoal colour.
7. None of the limbs appeared dislocated or broken and as the bird was well above the high-water mark, it probably had enough energy left to waddle a few yards.

I hope the above information is sufficient and of some value to your research department. The exact location was 2 km. S. of Olifantsbosch on the W. Coast in the Cape Point Nature Reserve.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID RICKETTS,

TOKAI, CAPE.