

**SELECTED RECOVERIES FROM
SAFRING: JULY – DECEMBER
1992**

T B Oatley

This report is the first of what is to be a regular feature in all future issues of *Safring News*. In years past, official ringing scheme reports were published in *Ostrich*, often at irregular intervals. Of late it has become apparent that significant recoveries published in those scattered reports have not always caught the eye of the researcher and have been omitted from subsequent publications. Since 1989 an increasing number of recoveries have been included in the annual ringing report published in this journal, but these have been only the most noteworthy of the annual crop, with 20 being the most reported for any one year (*Safring News* 21: 61-70).

This report includes 73 recoveries, approximately one third of the over 200 recoveries so far reported for the last six months of 1992. The next report will cover the period January to June 1993.

'Recoveries' are rings from birds found dead or dying, but foreign controls of birds with SAFRING rings are also included. Records qualify for selection if they fulfil any one of the following three criteria: the record must involve noteworthy movement (as little as 10 km or more in species that are

normally sedentary); the elapsed time from ringing to recovery should be significant; the cause of death should be unambiguously specified (at least 50% of recovery reports give cause of death as unknown).

In the current batch it will be seen that domestic cats and road traffic take a significant toll, farm reservoirs are potential death traps for raptors, and swimming pools can become watery graves for smaller birds. The most striking recoveries, however, are those demonstrating dispersal, with Black-shouldered Kite and Cape Wagtail taking pride of place. Theoretically one would predict extensive dispersal for widely distributed species which show no evidence of geographic variation, so such movements should not come as a great surprise.

Nevertheless, it is good that ringing is providing positive confirmation of expectation, and interesting that both birds were ringed as nestlings. With the exception of colonially nesting species (seabirds, egrets, Cape Griffons) and raptors, most ringing effort in southern Africa is devoted to free-flying birds. This seems justified in view of the high predation rates on nestlings (especially of passerines). However, one can't help wondering what more ringing effort on songbird nestlings might yield, other than an increase in the indigestible component of Boomslang meals, of course.

**African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*
S 5827 (Nestling)**

Dead	06.01.91 17.12.92	Dassen Island, W Cape Mercury Island, Namibia	23 mths	912 km
S13056 (Nestling)				
Dying	13.06.92 14.09.92	Dassen Island, W Cape Pelican Point, Namibia	3 mths	1 226 km
S11190 (Nestling)				
Weak, taken to rehabilitation centre	09.09.92 14.10.92	Robben Island, Cape Swakopmund, Namibia	1 mth	1 292 km

V 2295 (Adult)				
Dead	25.10.85 02.10.92	Robben Island, Cape Kromme River Mouth., Cape	84 mths	597 km
P 4448 (Immature)				
Dead	08.10.75 10.10.92	St Croix Island, Algoa Bay Sea View, Cape	204 mths	45 km
S 2058 (Nestling)				
Oiled, dying	24.04.91 01.10.92	Dyer Island, Cape Bird Island, Algoa Bay	18 mths	638 km
Southern Giant Petrel <i>Macronectes giganteus</i>				
9 73010 (Nestling)				
Dead	15.02.90 26.11.92	Marion Is, Southern Ocean Port Nolloth, W Cape	33 mths	2 665 km
Cape Gannet <i>Morus capensis</i>				
9 67230 (Nestling)				
Dying	21.01.92 09.07.92	Malgas Island, W Cape Marshstrand, Cape	6mths	965 km
9 70722 (Nestling)				
Dead starved	12.03.90 08.12.92	Bird Island, Algoa Bay near Umfolozi R Mth, Natal	33 mths	834 km
9 81135 (Nestling)				
Dead	10.03.92 10.07.92	Bird Island, Algoa Bay Orange R Mth, Namibia	4 mths	1 098 km
Whitebreasted Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
9 02745 (Nestling)				
Dead, collided with powerlines	20.07.71 18.11.92	Barberspan Nat Res, Transvaal Sterkstroom District, Cape	256 mths	565 km
9 63922 (Nestling)				
Shot	05.08.90 06.11.92	Redhouse, P.E., Cape Fairesmith Dist, O.F.S.	27 mths	423 km
9 76793 (Nestling)				
Dead, collided with powerlines	01.07.92 12.09.92	Redhouse, P.E., Cape near Dordrecht, Cape	2 mths	291 km
Crowned Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>				
8 32930 (Nestling)				
Dead	22.01.92 03.07.92	Malgas Island, W Cape Hout Bay Harbour, Cape	6 mths	118 km
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				
6 44700 (Nestling)				
Dead	06.01.74 03.07.92	Essenbosch, Vrededorst Dist, O.F.S. near Potchefstroom, Transvaal	222 mths	46 km

Yellowedbilled Duck *Anas undulata*

7 74678 (Adult)

	03.07.89	Barberspan Nat Res, Transvaal		
Shot for sport	28.07.92	Steenkampskraal, O.F.S.	37 mths	134 km

Redbilled Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*

6 52624 (Juvenile)

	27.06.89	Barberspan Nat Res, Transvaal		
Shot	01.08.92	Middelburg District, Transvaal	38 mths	394 km

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

7 74601 (Adult)

	26.06.89	Barberspan Nat Res, Transvaal		
Suffering from botulism	04.10.92	Vlakplaats, Transvaal	40 mths	258 km

Cape Griffon *Gyps coprotheres*

G 16795 (Nestling)

	15.05.92	Colleywobbles, Transkei		
Collided with overhead powerlines	02.11.92	Cathcart District, E Cape	2 mths	133 km

Yellowbilled Kite *Migrans parasiticus*

8 43277 (Adult, rehabilitated bird)

	22.01.90	Durban, Natal		
Injured, taken to rehabilitation centre	30.10.92	Nhlabane Lake, Natal	33 mths	194 km

Blackshouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

K 04243 (Nestling)

	28.03.88	Rhenosterfontein, Transvaal		
Caught, died in captivity	12.10.92	Kachumbala, Uganda	55 mths	3 069 km

One of three chicks ringed in a nest on the Magaliesberg, this is the longest movement recorded for this species to date and the first Blackshouldered Kite from southern Africa known to have crossed the equator.

African Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

9 14263 (Adult)

	31.08.86	Spitzkoppe, Damaraland, Namibia		
Drowned in farm reservoir	15.12.92	30 km w Omaruru	76 mths	69 km

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

6 58059 (Adult)

	04.03.89	Waterberg Dist, Transvaal		
Dead	26.07.92	Bulgerivier, Transvaal	41 mths	14 km

Blackbreasted Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

9 16547 (Adult)

	10.10.82	Maltahohe District, Namibia		
Drowned in farm reservoir	26.09.92	Haruchas Farm, Namibia	120 mths	125 km

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*

7 81515 (Adult)	31.07.88	Namib-Naukluft Park, Namibia		
Ring only	15.11.92	100 km west of Karibib	—	132 km
K 08771 (1-2 years old)				
Electrocuted	21.06.86	Thabazimbi District, Transvaal		
	09.07.92	Thabazimbi District, Transvaal	73 mths	8 km
8 40656 (Adult)				
Dead	06.08.90	Kalahari Gemsbok Park, S Africa		
	28.11.92	70 km w of Windhoek, Namibia	28 mths	479 km

African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*

6 37179 (Adult)	28.01.77	Malgas Island, Cape		
Dead	12.12.92	Malgas Island, Cape	191 mths	0 km

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

4 90071 (Adult)	08.02.92	Ilot Benitier, Mauritius		
Sick, subsequent fate unknown				
	24.09.92	Port Louis, Mauritius	8 mths	35 km

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

BC 08878 (3-4 years)	01.10.89	Langebaan, Cape		
Trapped, held captive, then released				
	07.09.92	Cairo, Egypt	35 mths	7 326 km

Knot *Calidris canutus*

4 71005 (Adult)	24.03.84	Langebaan, Cape		
Shot	20.08.92	Manche, France	101 mths	9 337 km
4 51324 (7-12 mths)				
Control	24.03.84	Langebaan, Cape		
	30.07.92	Rewa, Poland	100 mths	9 753 km
4 71094 (Adult)				
Control	20.04.91	Langebaan, Cape		
	30.07.92	Rewa, Poland	15 mths	9 753 km

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

K 07693 (Nestling)				
Dead	04.12.87	Dassen Island, W Cape		
	14.11.92	Rondeberg, Cape	59 mths	17 km
K 09853 (Nestling)				
Dead	05.12.87	Dassen Island, W Cape		
	21.07.92	Milnerton, Cape	56 mths	61 km
K 11974 (Nestling)				
Entangled in fishing line	19.11.91	Redhouse, P.E., Cape		
	05.07.92	Glenashley Beach, Natal	8 mths	685 km

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*

5 27307 (Nestling)

	09.04.83	Marcus Island, W Cape		
Dead	01.11.92	Keurbooms R Mth, E Cape	115mths	514 km

5 74345 (Nestling)

	01.04.84	Marcus Island, W Cape		
Dead	20.11.92	Salt Rock Beach, Natal	104 mths	1 323 km

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

D 19265 (Juvenile)

	13.02.89	Graaff-Reinet, Cape		
Sick	03.09.92	Graaff-Reinet, Cape	43 mths	0 km

D 17358 (Adult)

	10.04.88	Beaufort West, Cape		
Drowned in swimming pool	14.10.92	Beaufort West, Cape	54 mths	0 km

Grey Lourie *Corythaixoides concolor*

5 92009 (Adult)

	16.11.91	Pafuri, Kruger N P, Transvaal		
Killed by genet	07.10.92	Teba, Pafuri, Kruger N P	11 mths	0 km

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

6 58388 (Immature, rehabilitated bird)

	03.10.91	Silvermine Nat Res, Cape Peninsula		
Struck by car	18.07.92	Ottery, Cape Town	10 mths	10 km

Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus*

8 20858 (Adult, rehabilitated bird)

	26.01.91	Constantia Nek, Cape Town		
Struck by car	12.12.92	Tokai, Cape Peninsula	23 mths	6 km

Whiterumped Swift *Apus caffer*

E 17902 (Adult)

	13.02.88	Brummeria, Pretoria, Tvl		
Caught by cat	11.12.92	Brummeria, Pretoria, Tvl	58 mths	0 km

Redfaced Mousebird *Colius indicus*

CC 03268 (Adult)

	04.07.92	Durbanville Nat Res, Cape		
Struck by car	15.11.92	Somerset West, Cape	4 mths	32 km

Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

E 14919 (Adult)

	31.12.88	Mkuze Game Reserve, Natal		
Trapped by thorn between ring and tarsus	17.10.92	Mkuze Game Reserve, Natal	46 mths	0 km
An unusual accident. Interesting also for evidence of summer site fidelity by this Afrotropical migrant.				

Blackcollared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*

4 87758 (Adult)

	28.09.91	Rustenburg Dist, Transvaal		
Drowned in swimming pool	15.09.92	Buffelspoort, Transvaal	12 mths	11 km

European Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

AD 04575 (Unknown, free-flying)

	29.12.91	Pretoria, Transvaalü		
Dead	24.10.92	Nyarambe, Zaire	10 mths	3 126 km

An interesting indication of the route taken by this swallow on its autumn migration from the breeding ground.

AD 05897 (Unknown, free-flying)

	13.01.92	Pretoria, Transvaal		
Dead	14.07.92	Ritoniemi, Finland	6 mths	9 839 km

Blackeyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

BB 90350 (Adult)

	14.10.89	Melville, Johannesburg, Tvl		
Caught by cat	13.11.92	Emmarentia, Transvaal	37 mths	2 km

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

4 61129 (Immature)

	03.12.88	Melville, Johannesburg, Tvl		
Dead	13.12.92	Parkview, Johannesburg	48 mths	2 km

4 61828 (Adult)

	15.05.91	Rondebult, Germiston, Tvl		
Dead	16.07.92	Verwoedburg, Transvaal	14 mths	52 km

E 00235 (Juvenile)

	16.10.90	Riversdale District, Cape		
Dead	07.11.92	Riversdale District, Cape	25 mths	14 km

Most Olive Thrushes are recovered near the ringing site, as in 4 61129 above; the other two recoveries supply more evidence for dispersal in this species.

Cape Robin *Cossypha caffra*

BB 84614 (Adult)

	19.07.86	Botanic Gdns, Pretoria, Transvaal		
Caught by cat	11.11.92	Weavind Park, Transvaal	76 mths	0 km

F 03882 (Juvenile)

	14.11.90	Betty's Bay, Cape		
Struck by car	14.11.92	Betty's Bay, Cape	24 mths	0 km

Paradise Flycatcher *Tersiphone viridis*

AC 06577 (Adult)

	26.12.90	Rustenburg Dist, Transvaal		
Dead	14.10.92	near Gwanda, Zimbabwe	22 mths	558 km

This Afrotropical migrant was probably on passage back to its summer breeding haunts. This is only the second recovery of a Paradise Flycatcher away from the ringing site.

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

F 08425 (Nestling)

Dead	16.03.89	Vanderbijlpark, Transvaal		
	15.09.92	Pinetown, Natal	42 mths	454 km
Remarkable evidence of dispersal.				

Fiscal Shrike *Lanius collaris*

4 65006 (Adult)

Drowned in swimming pool	23.05.87	Mondeor, S Transvaal		
	13.10.92	Mondeor, S Transvaal	65 mths	0 km

Bokmakierie *Telophorus zeylonus*

4 77252 (Adult)

Struck by car	06.09.86	Rondevlei, Cape		
	14.10.92	Zeekoevlei, Cape Peninsula	73 mths	0 km

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

4 63372 (Adult)

Shot	17.05.91	Durbanville, Cape		
	01.11.92	Durbanville, Cape	18 mths	0 km

4 58712 (Adult)

Caught by cat	08.08.87	Mowbray, Cape		
	14.10.92	Mowbray, Cape	62 mths	0 km

Cape Sugarbird *Promerops cafer*

CC 06314 (Juvenile)

Struck by car	26.11.92	Betty's Bay, Cape		
	23.12.92	Betty's Bay, Cape	1 mths	5 km

CC 08066 (Juvenile)

Caught by cat	25.10.92	Betty's Bay, Cape		
	20.12.92	Betty's Bay, Cape	2 mths	5 km

Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird *Nectarinia chalybea*

X 65312 (Adult)

Struck by car	28.03.92	Olifantsbos, Cape of Good Hope Nat Res		
	19.08.92	Simon's Town, Cape	5 mths	10 km

Black Sunbird *Nectarinia amethystina*

AB 99492 (Juvenile)

Collided with window	08.06.92	Lydenburg, Transvaal		
	07.10.92	Klipspruit, Transvaal	4 mths	26 km

Cape White-eye *Zosterops pallidus*

X 49802 (Unknown, free-flying)

Dead	28.09.85	Sedgefield, Cape		
	07.11.92	Sedgefield, Cape	86 mths	2 km

Cape Weaver *Ploceus capensis*

CV 02455 (Adult)

Dead	23.11.91	Rondevlei, Cape		
	12.09.92	Hawekwa, Wellington, Cape	10 mths	71 km

BC 15733 (1-2 years)	04.01.91	Betty's Bay, Cape		
Shot to protect crops	16.08.92	Leliefontein, Cape	19 mths	111 km
Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>				
BC 01716 (Adult)	25.06.88	Vanderbijlpark, Transvaal		
Found dead under tree with nest	27.09.92	Vanderbijlpark, Transvaal	51 mths	3 km
Thickbilled Weaver <i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>				
4 87423 (1-6 mths)	09.06.91	Pigeon Valley, Durban, Natal		
Caught by cat	29.10.92	Warner Beach, Natal	17 mths	27 km
Redheaded Quelea <i>Quelea erythrops</i>				
AD 00359 (Immature)	28.01.92	Darvill Sewerage Wks, Pmb, Natal		
Dead	26.11.92	near Creighton, Natal	10 mths	77 km
Redcollared Widow <i>Euplectes ardens</i>				
F 17788 (Adult)	03.11.90	Vanderbijlpark, Transvaal		
Control	27.10.92	Bedworth Park, Transvaal	24 mths	0 km
Redheaded Finch <i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>				
F 22058 (Age unknown)	20.04.92	Vanderbijlpark, Transvaal		
Dead	06.12.92	near Groot Marico, Transvaal	8 mths	198 km

