

suitable areas long the Chobe River, but the importance of these sites has yet to be assessed.

At Boteti River we had two more controls of swallows, ringed in Estonia and Belgium. This is much less than in 1993, when we had six controls in Botswana out of almost 6 000 trapped birds.

On this second expedition we ringed 10 069 swallows, of which 19,1% were adults (in

1993 about 28% were adults), as well as other palearctic and African species, achieving a total 10 371 ringed birds.

From December 1994 to January 1995 we hope to make our third and last swallow expedition, after which the big puzzle of data must be worked out.

We are hopeful that the efforts of South African ringers will be of considerable help in solving this puzzle.

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## Penguin News

Roughly 7 000 African Penguins were brought into the SANCCOB rescue centre near Cape Town in the first few days after oil slicks hit the coastlines of Dassen Island, Robben Island (both are major breeding colonies) and parts of the Cape Peninsula during the last days of June 1994.

At the same time, an order of 5 000 penguin flipper bands arrived to replenish the nearly exhausted stocks at SAFRING. This had been intended to be a few years' supply!

The entire consignment of flipper bands was snapped up at once, the largest single order in the history of SAFRING. The flipper bands are being fitted by a team of ringers from the Western Cape Wader Study Group, the Tygerberg Bird Club Ringing Group and the Avian Demography Unit. At the time of writing, the 3 000 cleanest penguins have been ringed, and the ringers and their assistants are recovering from assorted scratches (from claws), bites (from bills) and bruises (from flipper batterings). All

5 000 bands will be used on rehabilitated penguins over the next few weeks. Lambournes, the UK firm that supplies flipper bands, received an order for a further 8 000 – and agreed to manufacture the first few thousand urgently, so that they could be airfreighted to Cape Town as soon as they were ready!

Teal's Whisky are sponsoring the cost of a follow-up operation to monitor the progress of the rehabilitated birds intensively over the next few months.

*Thanks to Teal's Whisky for sponsoring the monitoring operation, to ringers in the Western Cape for their assistance with the ringing operations, to Lambournes for altering their production schedules at short notice, KLM for airfreighting 30 kg of penguin bands at no charge and to the Southern African Nature Foundation for their catalytic role.*