

SELECTED RECOVERIES REPORTED TO SAFRING: January 1995 - June 1995

T B Oatley

This list feature 90 recoveries (including some controls) of 45 species. The records were reported during the period January to June 1995 and include some recoveries going back to July 1994; 21 of these records involve foreign-ringed birds. As can be seen from Table 5 of the ringing report for 1994-1995 (see p. 67), seabirds account for a substantial portion of annual recoveries (over 51% in all,

for the 1994-1995 year), but the purpose of these half-yearly reports is to provide a comprehensive cross-section of species in the recovery lists. Criteria for selection involve significant movement and/or interesting elapsed time between ringing and recovery, or a known cause of death.

ERRATA: In the previous report (*Safring News* 24: p.30) the age of a Steppe Buzzard ringed in South Africa (Ring No.7-85093) was incorrectly recorded as 'nestling'. The bird was actually coded as a juvenile less than six months of age.

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*

S 6966 nestling	20.10.92	Mercury Is off Namibia		
Dead	04.01.95	Cape Cross, Namibia	27 mths	448 km
V 7600 immature	14.07.87	Jutten Is, Saldanha Bay, W Cape		
Dead	22.01.95	Dwarskersbos, Western Cape	90 mths	50 km
S11661 nestling	21.07.93	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Drowned in driftnet	16.03.95	Berg River Mth, Western Cape	20 mths	117 km
S16986 adult	17.11.92	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Killed by predator	06.03.95	Bird Is Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape	28 mths	730 km
Z 1716 adult	22.10.85	Robben Island, Western Cape		
Dead	10.01.95	Gouritz R Mth, Western Cape	111 mths	328 km
V 0951 nestling	23.05.84	St Croix Is, Algoa Bay, E Cape		
Dead	12.04.95	Cape Receife, Eastern Cape	131 mths	25 km
S12336 nestling	10.04.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Sick	05.03.95	Mossel Bay, Western Cape	11 mths	386 km
S18328 nestling	11.04.94	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Sick	27.01.95	Sea Point, Western Cape	10 mths	730 km
V 0940 adult	01.03.83	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	19.02.95	Flat Rock, Wilderness, W Cape	144 mths	342 km
Apparent failure of local food supplies in Algoa Bay resulted in number of penguins from Bird Island and St Croix moving into western Cape waters.				

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*

H2126 adult F	07.11.87	Marion Is, Southern Ocean		
Control	06.12.94	Possession Is, Southern Ocean	85 mths	1 068 km

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

BS11170 nestling	15.10.86	Possession Is, Southern Ocean		
Control	12.02.95	Marion Is, Southern Ocean	100 mths	1 068 km
J08471 nestling	20.08.91	Marion Is, Southern Ocean		
Longline fatality	23.07.94	at sea off South Africa	35 mths	2 484 km

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

684610 1-2 yrs	06.08.69	Foula, Shetlands, Scotland		
Dead	24.12.94	Schoenmakerskop, Eastern Cape	305 mths	10 789 km

A respectable record of longevity for this small pelagic species.

Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*

940086 juvenile	05.12.86	Mercury Is, off Namibia		
Dead	14.05.95	Mercury Is, off Namibia	101 mths	0 km
922984 nestling	27.03.82	Ichaboe Is, off Namibia		
Killed by seal	22.02.95	at sea off Namibia,	155 mths	196 km
921929 nestling	21.01.82	Possession Is, off Namibia		
Dead	06.02.95	Oranjemund, Namibia	157 mths	208 km
991371 nestling	14.02.95	Bird Is, Lambert's Bay, W Cape		
Took a baited fish hook; unhooked and released	11.05.95	Port Edward, KwaZulu-Natal	3 mths	1 137 km
995968 juvenile	28.02.95	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	07.04.95	near Henties Bay, Namibia	2 mths	1 757 km
996260 juvenile	28.02.95	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	15.04.95	Inhassoro Mozambique	2 mths	1 634 km
997447 juvenile	28.02.95	Bird Is, Algoa Bay, Eastern Cape		
Dead	05.04.95	south of Meob Bay, Namibia	2 mths	1 504 km

The latter four records show how far young gannets can disperse in a few months in search of food.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

KA 3455 nestling	07.07.94	Domnitzsch, Sachsen, Germany		
Dead	20.03.95	Eureka Farm, Eastern Cape	8 mths	9 465 km
3285 nestling	28.06.94	Rumsai, Silute, Lithuania		
Killed by hail	29.01.95	Suikerbosfontein, Mpumalanga	7 mths	9 077 km
2619 nestling	20.06.94	Mokiai, Silute, Lithuania		
Killed by unknown predator	08.05.95	Peak View Farm, KwaZulu-Natal	11 mths	9 420 km

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*
 992409 nestling 23.11.94 Swarthoek, Northern Cape
 Sick 26.02.95 Jan Kempdorp, Northern Cape 3 mths 249 km

Cape Griffon *Gyps coprotheres*
 G16899 nestling 15.09.91 Colleywobbles, Idutywa Dis, E Cape
 Drowned in reservoir
 07.01.95 Hove Farm, Eastern Cape 40 mths 129 km

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*
 5H01441 immature 08.02.94 Zuidzande, Northern Cape
 Drowned in reservoir
 29.01.95 Hendriksville, Western Cape 12 mths 187 km

Longcrested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*
 984505 1-2 yrs 20.03.93 near Rosehaugen, Mpumalanga
 Road casualty 13.04.95 near Bambi, Mpumalanga 25 mths 49 km

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
 782704 adult 08.01.90 Rus de Winter, Warmbad Dis, N Prov
 Road casualty 18.03.95 Bankplaaspad, Mpumalanga 62 mths 93 km

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*
 843670 nestling 30.10.93 Kalahari Gemsbok N P, N Cape
 Drowned in reservoir
 11.01.95 Hudab Farm, Namibia 15 mths 211 km

849340 adult F 12.03.94 Kompas, Northern Cape
 Dead. Collided with game fence
 04.06.95 near Kuruman, Northern Cape 15 mths 94 km

Redknobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*
 718173 adult 26.04.71 Barberspan N R, N W Province
 Dead 05.02.95 Groenfontein, Free State 286 mths 419 km
 A venerable age for a coot, especially as it was ringed as an adult.

African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*
 654423 nestling 04.03.87 De Hoop Nat Res, W Cape
 Dead 27.01.95 Die Mond, Western Cape 95 mths 3 km

African Wattled Plover *Vanellus senegallus*
 523048 adult F 07.01.73 near Lake McIlwaine, Zimbabwe
 Dead. Took baited fish hook
 20.08.94 Lake Chivero, Zimbabwe 259 mths 3 km
 This bird was found dead with fishing line hanging out of its beak and fish hook embedded in its stomach. One wonders how much longer it might have lived but for this unnatural death. It is nevertheless the oldest of its species on record.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
 BC18898 adult 10.03.91 Langebaan Beachroost, W Cape
 Control 10.03.95 Swakop saltworks, Namibia 48 mths 1 215 km

Knot *Calidris canutus*
 425131 juvenile 30.12.73 Langebaan Beachroost, W Cape
 Shot for sport 22.05.95 Bay of Cadiz, Spain 257 mths 8 133 km

This must be the oldest Knot recorded, and must have flown over a third of a million kilometres on migration in its lifetime.

Water Dikkop *Burhinus vermiculatus*
 521840 adult 27.06.75 near Lake McIlwaine, Zimbabwe
 Dead 15.11.94 Lake Chivero, Zimbabwe 233 mths 0 km

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*
 T69441 nestling 03.07.94 Korppoo Korpo, Finland
 Dead 03.01.95 Vineta, Swakopmund, Namibia 6 mths 9 188 km

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*
 K11515 nestling 14.11.89 Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape
 Shot 23.05.95 Port Elizabeth airport, E Cape 66 mths 17 km

K14436 nestling 14.11.94 Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, E Cape
 Entangled in fishing line & released
 21.02.95 Hibberdene, KwaZulu-Natal 3 mths 594 km

Hartlaub's Gull *Larus hartlaubii*
 560803 nestling 24.05.75 Robben Island, Western Cape
 Dead 21.03.95 Black River, Western Cape 238 mths 17 km

561418 nestling 14.06.75 Robben Island, Western Cape
 Dead 20.05.95 Liesbeek River, Western Cape 239 mths 17 km

563179 nestling 15.05.76 Robben Island, Western Cape
 Dead 13.03.95 Milnerton Beach, Western Cape 226 mths 11 km

571019 nestling 21.05.81 Robben Island, Western Cape
 31.01.95 Cape Town area, Western Cape 164 mths 13 km

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
 661819 nestling 22.02.95 Bird Is, St Lucia, KwaZulu-Natal
 Dead 15.05.95 Maputo Bay, Mozambique 3 mths 229 km

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
 A 3160 nestling 19.06.94 Lake Engores, Latvia
 Dead 16.01.95 Knysna Estuary, Western Cape 7 mths 10 152 km

7296185 nestling 16.06.94 Lendekilen, Mandal, Norway
 Dead 15.12.94 Lambert's Bay, Western Cape 6 mths 10 070 km

AT125997 juvenile	04.07.93	Vehkalahti, Kymi, Finland		
Dead	15.01.95	Lambert's Bay, Western Cape	18 mths	10 318 km
AT99769 juvenile	28.06.88	Tampere, Tammerfors, Finland		
Dead	26.01.95	Gordon's Bay, Western Cape	79 mths	10 658 km
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>				
5T82617 nestling	11.06.94	Zeebrugge, Belgium		
Dead	14.01.95	Buffelsbaai, Western Cape	7 mths	9 640 km
DR64480 nestling	23.06.94	Wexford, Eire		
Dead	23.02.95	Umgazi, Eastern Cape	8 mths	9 956 km
DR72606 nestling	23.06.80	Jackdaw Is, Down, N Ireland		
Dead	11.12.94	Swakop saltworks, Namibia	174 mths	8 772 km
XS11701 nestling	09.06.80	Farne Is, Northumberland, England		
Skeleton	15.12.94	Hondeklip Bay, Northern Cape	174 mths	9 721 km
Swift Tern <i>Sterna bergii</i>				
577103 nestling	05.04.86	Marcus Is, Saldanha, Cape		
Dead	12.01.95	Umdloti, KwaZulu-Natal	105 mths	1 303 km
588501 nestling	07.04.93	Dassen Is, Cape West Coast		
Dead	03.01.95	Brighton Beach, KwaZulu-Natal	21 mths	1 283 km
Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>				
850501 1st year	03.02.95	Abe Bailey N R, Carletonville, Gauteng		
Dead	29.04.95	east of Ventersdorp, N W Province	3 mths	22 km
Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>				
E19538 free flying	02.09.89	Lynnwood Glen, Pretoria, Gauteng		
Weak, subsequent fate unknown	19.02.95	Lynnwood, Northern Province	66 mths	2 km
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>				
464427 nestling	25.02.92	Bloemfontein, Free State		
Weak, subsequently died	17.10.94	Bloemfontein, Free State	32 mths	0 km
European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>				
AD62866 1st year	18.01.94	Boteti River, near Maun, Botswana		
Control	17.09.94	Fenekpuszta, Zala, Hungary	8 mths	7 471 km
AD24017 free flying	13.01.93	Pretoria, Gauteng		
Sitting on eggs	16.06.95	Kurski region, Ukraine	29 mths	9 178 km
J753813 adult M	28.07.94	Icklesham, Sussex, England		
	02.01.95	Kowie River, Eastern Cape	6 mths	9 741 km

J802059 immature	21.09.94	Icklesham, Sussex, England		
Dead, collided with building	27.12.94	Joubertinia, Eastern Cape	3 mths	9 690 km
J316794 2nd yr F	21.08.94	nr Penmaenpool, Gwynedd, Wales		
Nearly drowned	12.12.94	Heriot Farm, Northwest Province	4 mths	9 255 km
J715367 immature	14.08.94	Greater Manchester, England		
Dead	26.12.94	Woody Cape, Eastern Cape	4 mths	10 092 km
J354771 immature	23.08.93	Fleetwood, Lancashire, England		
	25.12.94	Geelhoutbos R Mth, Eastern Cape	16 mths	10 110 km
B399424 juvenile	05.09.94	Colby, Isle of Man, England		
Control	26.02.95	Prozesky N R, N W Province	6 mths	9 493 km
C720951 adult	30.08.94	Wakefield, W Yorkshire, England		
Control	02.04.95	Prozesky N R, Northwest Province	8 mths	9 352 km
Cape Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>				
BD06478 juvenile	16.02.93	Betty's Bay, Western Cape,		
Road casualty	27.05.95	Betty's Bay, Western Cape	27 mths	0 km
Redeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>				
BB08363 adult	27.12.92	Oranjemund, Namibia		
Stunned, collided with window	09.02.95	Oranjemund, Namibia	26 mths	0 km
Blackeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>				
BB98993 adult	14.03.92	Melville Koppies, Jhb, Gauteng		
Dead	04.03.95	Melville, Jhb, Gauteng	36 mths	0 km
Olive Thrush <i>Turdus olivaceus</i>				
463193 adult	05.10.91	Botanic Gdns, Pretoria, Gauteng		
Shot	15.02.95	Silverton, Gauteng	40 mths	3 km
4A04153 adult	13.05.94	Middelburg, Mpumalanga		
Killed by dog	14.08.94	Middelburg, Mpumalanga	3 mths	0 km
A02453 adult	12.03.93	Stonehenge, Northwest Province		
Dead	31.05.95	Stonehenge, Northwest Province	27 mths	0 km
Cape Wagtail <i>Motacilla capensis</i>				
BC42211 adult	15.03.94	near Hillview Station, Gauteng		
Dead	06.05.95	Primrose, Gauteng	14 mths	4 km
European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				
463752 juvenile	17.12.92	Rondevelei, Retreat, Western Cape		
Weak, subsequent fate unknown	20.04.95	Pollsmoor, Western Cape	28 mths	6 km

Redwinged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

D10202 nestling 21.11.92 Fish Hoek, Western Cape
 Killed by cat 02.02.95 Fish Hoek, Western Cape 27 mths 0 km

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*

AD20453 adult M 29.03.95 Olifantsbos, Cape Good Hope N R
 Control 08.05.95 Pringle Bay, Western Cape 2 mths 41 km

Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird *Nectarinia chalybea*

X89801 juvenile F 24.10.94 Betty's Bay, Western Cape
 Control 08.05.95 Pringle Bay, Western Cape 7 mths 14 km

These two controls bear witness to the extent of movements undertaken by sunbirds in search of nectar. It is unlikely that the Malachite Sunbird took the direct route from Cape Point across False Bay; it would have travelled not less than 150 km to reach Pringle Bay over land.

Cape White-Eye *Zosterops pallidus*

AD91633 adult 04.05.95 Melkbosstrand, Western Cape
 Road casualty 17.06.95 Melkbosstrand, Western Cape 1 mths 0 km

AD38741 adult 10.08.94 Rondevlei, Retreat, Western Cape
 Road casualty 05.02.95 Zeekoevlei, Western Cape 6 mths 2 km

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus*

BC20154 adult M 12.09.91 Anysberg Nat Res, Western Cape
 Dead, collided with window
 08.06.95 Anysberg Nat Res, Western Cape 45 mths 0 km

Cape Weaver *Ploceus capensis*

BC41826 adult F 03.04.94 Klaasvoogdts, Robertson Dis, W Cape
 Killed by cat 26.06.95 The Hoop, Robertson Dis, WCape 15 mths 0 km

CV05487 adult M 03.04.94 Klaasvoogdts, Robertson Dis, W Cape
 Killed by cat 26.06.95 The Hoop, Robertson Dis, W Cape 15 mths 0 km

A sad case of a pair of both birds being caught by the same predator.

Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

F30844 adult M 30.03.91 Madzidzi Bay, Malawi
 Control 10.01.95 Monkey Bay, Malawi 46 mths 9 km

BD08716 adult 22.11.92 Heatherdale, Gauteng
 Dead 13.02.95 Ninapark, Pta, Gauteng 27 mths 21 km

BD08703 adult F 11.11.92 OPM Prozesky N R, N W Province
 Sick, subsequently died
 10.05.95 Klipplaatdrift, Northwest Province 30 mths 52 km

BC23226 adult F 01.08.93 Ficksburg, Free State
 Killed by cat 14.01.95 Ficksburg, Free State 17 mths 0 km

Redbilled Quelea *Quelea quelea*

AD66469 adult F 17.04.94 Ventersdorp Dis, N W Province
 Deliberately poisoned by aerial spraying
 12.01.95 near Tuinplaas, Northern Province 9 mths 297 km

AD85714 adult F 20.08.94 Ventersdorp Dis, N W Province
 Deliberately poisoned by aerial spraying
 18.01.95 near Tuinplaas, Northern Province 5 mths 297 km

Stripebreasted Seedeater *Serinus reichardi*

AB88548 adult F 30.06.90 Ngapani, Malawi
 Control 11.04.95 Ngapani, Malawi 58 mths 0 km

Pintailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

AC17803 adult F 25.06.91 Rondebult Bird Sanctuary, Gauteng
 Killed by cat 07.01.95 Alberton, Gauteng 43 mths 13 km

EUROPEAN MARSH WARBLERS ON THE CAPE PENINSULA**Mike Fraser & Liz McMahon**

Sandbanks, Kenmuir Steps, Glencairn 7995

With Dawie de Swardt having taken the commendably bold step of initiating the SAFRING truth commission and confessing that his Karoo Chats *Cercomela schlegelii* were actually Whitethroats *Sylvia communis* (De Swardt 1993), we report here the mistaken identity of European Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* in the southwestern Cape. As extra-limital records and an interesting turn of events in the use of ringing data, we would have reported this event in due course anyway (honest, m'lud).

On each of 31 January and 1 February 1992, we mistnetted a small *Acrocephalus* warbler while targeting Malachite Sunbirds *Nectarinia famosa* at a patch of flowering Wild Dagga *Leonotus leonorus* at Olifantsbos (34°16'S,

18°23'E) in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. The reserve list, somewhat surprisingly, cannot boast African Marsh Warbler *A. baeticatus*, but as it is a common enough bird in suitable habitat elsewhere on the Peninsula we assumed that our birds were this species. Without scrutinising them to any degree beyond basic measurements and scoring moult, therefore, we ringed and released them and duly celebrated an addition to our "patch" list. The fact that the birds were relatively large and in heavy moult should, however, have set alarm bells ringing as the diminutive African Marsh Warbler does not moult in South Africa but at its central African wintering grounds. Blissful in our ignorance, however, we dutifully completed our ringing schedules and moult cards and submitted them to SAFRING.

In due course the cards were forwarded by SAFRING to J M H (Kobie) Raijmakers who was studying moult in migrant warblers. He took one look at the details of our birds and contacted us suggesting, very gentlemanly, that the Olifantsbos birds were, in fact, Euro-