

TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL
MOVEMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN PALAEOARCTIC WADERS

Recovered	Knot	Cur- lew	Sander- ring	Lt. Stint	Tern	Ring- ed Pl.	Common S.P.	Ruff, Grey Pl, & B.T. Godwit
U.S.S.R.		12	2	5	1	1	2	1 each
IRAN		2	1					
IRAQ			1					
SWEDEN	2							
E. GERMANY	1							
W. GERMANY	1							
ENGLAND	1		1					
BELGIUM	1							
DENMARK	1							
FRANCE						1		
MALTA			1					
TUNISIA		1	1					
ETHIOPIA		1			1			
MAURITANIA	1							
ZAIRE		1						
ANGOLA		1						

RAND WADER GROUP

M.B. Schmitt,
98 The Sentinel,
28 v.d. Merwe st.,
Hillbrow.

The Rand Wader Group, unlike other study groups, does not exist. It started with two people and after six years again consists of two people. Altogether 14 people participated in the activities, but dropped out after a very short time. The most likely reason for the high dropout rate is the conditions under which wader ringing is carried out: through the night, walking through mud - sometimes waist deep, and occasionally doing this on very cold and/or rainy nights. It is furthermore very likely that people only joined wader ringing to obtain A-permits, as many dropped out after qualifying as A-ringers.

Only five species of palaeo-arctic waders are being captured regularly and only the Ruff is being captured in sufficient numbers to warrant serious work, this might also act as a deterrent for prospective members.

Communication between members was done verbally or by phone, no newsletter or similar paper was ever sent out.

In session 4 on Project Planning and Data Analysis, Carl Vernon discussed the new schedule system. This is summarised in the Notices section of this issue. Rud Boulton gave an informative talk about the importance and value of colour ringing.

In session 5 the N.U.B.R.A. view of Study Groups was aired, while Mr. O. Bourquin was unfortunately unable to present his appeal, instead it was read out.

In session 6, the future fortunes of Safring News were discussed. The views of the meeting were synthesised into a resolution.

The final hour of the meeting was a free-for-all discussion in which anyone was able to, and did, ask pertinent questions. Mr. Ken Newman proved an impartial and cogent chairman in a turbulent session and synthesised the resolutions presented below.

RESOLUTIONS

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL UNIT FOR BIRD-RINGING ADMINISTRATION:

This meeting recommends that in future no ringing facilities should be made available to individual persons who have not submitted detailed project proposals, stating clearly their aims and objectives in trapping and marking birds.

This meeting recommends that all persons who are presently ringing birds without having a definite project, or not as part of an existing study group, be urged to review their activities to make them more productive.

This meeting recommends that SAFRING appear at least three times per annum and that an editorial committee be formed to assist the Ringing Officer in the production of this news bulletin.

The present system whereby certain nature conservation authorities require the applicant for a bird-ringing permit to comply with stringent requirements of identification of museum skins, and minimum numbers and variety of species handled and ringed, is not conducive to productive ringing. This meeting requests the authorities concerned to review their permit requirements in the light of resolutions taken at this meeting concerning projects.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Having heard convincing evidence that bird-ringing has become a cult, a means within itself, and a recreational outlet for a segment of the membership of the South African Ornithological Society, this meeting requests the Council of that Society to take all possible measures to restore bird-ringing to its rightful role as but one of the tools available to ornithological research. The Society and its branches are urged to bring about the gradual disappearance of "Ringing Sections" or subcommittees, to be replaced by "Research Sections" or subcommittees, responsible for organising and executing meaningful ornithological

research projects. The methods employed by such research sections might include ringing or other marking methods, but use would also be made of the talents of other members of the Society.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE NATAL PARKS BOARD

This meeting resolves that, in view of the fact that ringing is only one of the facets involved in a study of Quail, the request for the formation of a Quail study group should be referred to the Conservation Committee of the South African Ornithological Society, which is better qualified to deal with it.

LOCAL NEWS

RECOVERIES OF INTEREST

- R.241 Grey Plover Squatarola squatarola 5-30809 (D. Stanyard)
13.03.75 Walvis Bay, South West Africa 22,59S 14,31E
20.08.75 Crimea Region U.S.S.R. 45,07N 33,35E
(shot or killed by man)
- R.295 Sooty Tern Sterna fuscata PARIS GX 15.060
08.09.73 Ile Europa, Indian Ocean 22,20S 40,20E
31.01.76 Hluhluwe, Zululand 28,01S 32,17E
(found exhausted after a storm, revived & released at St. Lucia)
- R.318 Namaqua Dove Oena capensis 4-03105 (J. Winterbottom)
29.11.68 Sturmfeld, Gobabis, South West Africa 21,35S 18,52E
18.07.75 Bulawayo, Rhodesia 20,09S 28,36E
(found dead)

UNCLAIMED RINGS

- AA 14956 Recovered 23rd October, 1975, Crowborough Farm, Salisbury
- 8 04169 Recovered 25th January, 1976, Muldersvlei, Cape Province

If anyone has any information on the above rings please will they contact the Ringing Organiser.