

1977.

AFRING

Introduction:

AFRING was formed as a result of discussions at the 3rd Pan African Ornithological Congress, held in the Kruger National Park, South Africa in September, 1969. The original object was to organise co-operation between bird-ringing organisations south of the Sahara and to achieve as high a degree of standardisation in data collection as possible. As a first step, the secretary was requested to prepare a coded checklist of the bird species of the Ethiopian Region and a code for the geographical areas of Africa. These codes were finished at the time of the second main rendezvous of Afring members, at a meeting held under the auspices of the International Suez-Red Sea Committee during the 15th International Ornithological Congress in the Hague in September, 1970. Apart from adopting the standard Afring code, the meeting made certain changes to European ringing schemes:

1. to use Afring rings in African countries where ringing organisations existed,
2. to use Afring species codes for all species including palaeartic species in Africa,
3. to supply Afring with lists of all birds recovered or banded during Afring in Africa, and
4. to publish separate lists of ringing and recovery information of birds banded south of the Sahara with European rings.

Reports on ringing activity in Africa were to be published in the Ring.

Recent Developments:

The meeting in the Hague did not make it clear what the next step in the development of Afring was to be. The implementation of standardisation seemed to depend on subsequent progress within the Afring ringing organisations themselves. Two further developments did however occur. First was the finalisation of an international recovery form based on the European recovery form but adapted to take an Afring species number, Afring coordinates and a finder's copy incorporating a standard map of Africa and the main languages of member countries. A final stage of work was known to take place for a period of two weeks, September, 1976, in South African ringing organisation (the Department for Ornithological Administration) with the production of a ringy magazine called SAFRING which was sent to all participating countries in Africa on Afring ringing. The magazine carried several hundred labels from our best southern African birds and distributed to all ringing organisations in Africa.

Unfortunately, it was not possible for an Afring meeting to be held at the 10th I.O.C. in Canberra because only one or two members were able to attend.

The 4th Pan-African Ornithological Congress

The 4th P.A.O.C. will be held in the Seychelles from 6th - 13th November, 1976. It is suggested that this Congress might make a suitable venue for a meeting of Afring members to discuss the future of co-operation and standardisation of ringing in Africa, and indeed of Afring itself.

The object of this circular is to remind you of Afring's existence, to re-establish contact with you and to ask you if you will be attending the Seychelles meeting. If a meeting is considered worthwhile, I expect to circulate a questionnaire to establish the present state of ringing in each member country and to canvass opinion on possible subjects worth discussing. I do look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

C.C.H. Elliott,
Hon. Secretary
AFRING

C.C.H. Elliott,
FAO Project Quelea,
Boîte Postal 21,
N'Djamena,
Tchad,
Central Africa.

FOREIGN NEWS

We received the following letter from the National Parks, Senegal:

My dear colleagues,

We shall be beginning the first ringing of the White Pelican Pelecanus onocrotalus in the Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj in the Republic of Senegal in March, 1976.

The rings we are using are aluminium and numbered from S.A. 1 to S.A. 250.

We wish to ask all bird-watchers, hunters, and others who may either see or find a dead bird carrying one of these rings to please make a note of the recovery, remove the ring and forward the information to the following address:

Director of National Parks,
P.O. Box 5135,
Dakar,
Senegal.

Thanking you in advance,

A.R. Dupuy
Director of National Parks