

## THE WASH WADER RINGING GROUP REPORT 1973/74

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This report outlines the activities of the W.W.R.G. over the year 1973-1974. It gives a brief account of the latest increases in knowledge of the migrations based on the less usual recoveries, and an account of the use being made of the data in the field of conservation (the Wash is threatened by a proposed water storage reservoir). The bulk of the report is devoted to the presentation of all the ringing recoveries/controls for 1973-74, plus maps giving the sites of all recoveries/controls. This is the main merit of the report for such documentation of raw data is unlikely to be published elsewhere. The final section of the report deals with a preliminary analysis of data on weights of the ten main study species. This includes Turnstone, Knot, Grey Plover, Ringed Plover and Sanderling which also occur in southern Africa. It is gratifying to note that plans for publication progress. Some definitive works on wader migration will certainly emerge from this group.

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### COLOUR RINGED SANDWICH TERNS

At Buffelsbaai, Cape Point Nature Reserve, on the 27 February, 1976, three colour marked Sandwich Terns, were seen amongst a group of terns and gulls on the shore. There were at least 60 Sandwich Terns, many of which had metal rings. Two counts gave 10 of 50 ringed and 11 of 60. There were also two ringed Swift Terns. The colours of the rings were:

White above Red on left leg,  
Turquoise above Red on left leg,  
Pale green above Yellow on right leg.

The bird with the turquoise and red rings appeared to have a damaged left foot. The bird with the pale green and yellow rings was only seen by one of us. The sighting was thus not confirmed and the upper colour may have been other than pale green.

There are few Sandwich and Swift Terns ringed in South Africa. The recoveries of Sandwich Terns come from several countries in Europe. Unfortunately, we do not have records of European colour marking projects for species likely to migrate here. The Sandwich Tern has been studied at the Sands of Forvie, Grampian, Scotland (Smith A.J.M. 1975 British Birds 68:142-156), where birds are colour marked. We have written to Supt. Smith informing him of the sightings.

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#### UNCLAIMED RING

BB 27355 Bird shot 16 January, 1977, Weston, Mooi River, Natal.

If anyone has any information on the above ring please will they contact the ringing Organiser.

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#### NUBRA - no more

At the Steering Committee Meeting on the 29 August 1977 it was decided to change the name of the Ringing Unit from NUBRA (National Unit for Bird Ringing Administration) to SAFRING which is a contraction of the "South African Bird Ringing Unit". It was felt that the new name better conveys the function of the Unit besides falling in line with the names EURING and AFRING.

The magazine Safring reverts to its old name of Safring News by which it was known until the end of 1974.

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