

expressly for the purpose of finding rings. Recently, a hunter shot four ringed Herring Gulls Larus argentatus in one day for a total of 2,000 RIs. reward. As such occurrences become more frequent, the temptation to shoot any bird on the off chance that it is carrying a ring will increase, and a heavy hunting pressure on non-game species may be precipitated. This of course must be avoided.

For the time being, the ring reward will be retained, but the situation will be kept under constant review. It is envisaged that with significant expansion in the Iranian Ringing Scheme, the reward will gradually be reduced and eventually phased out completely. At the same time, a publicity campaign will be launched to encourage the general public to take a greater interest in the objectives and results of bird ringing, and to send in bird rings in exchange merely for details of when and where the bird was ringed.

Besides wreaking havoc to the bird population such a reward scheme could also do great damage to SAFRING finances! Alas we just have to hope that as more people are educated in Africa the more reports we will receive about exclusively African bird species.

AN INTERESTING RECOVERY

R. 413 Lilac-breasted Roller Coracias caudata

Ring Number: 643-09918

This bird was picked up injured near Selous (18 10S, 30 15E) on 11 October 1973 by A.J. Manson. The following day it had apparently recovered so he ringed and released it at his home in Belvedere, Salisbury (17 49S, 31 01E). It was killed 3 years later on 12 October 1976 near where it was originally found injured.
