

EDITORIAL

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Alphonse Karr 1808 - 1890.

In this issue Dr G R McLachlan continues SAFRING's history from the point where Dr Hugh Ashton left off (Safring News, Vol 8, No.1, 1979). Dr McLachlan tells of the Bird Ringing Scheme's growing pains particularly with regard to the standardization and handling of an ever-increasing volume of data coming in from ringers. Ultimately, after Dr McLachlan's time, it was decided to computerize the data at SAFRING to ease the task of handling the large body of data that has accumulated and continues to accumulate. However, the quality of data at SAFRING is only as good as its various sources make it. Many recoveries cannot be processed since the ringers have failed to submit schedules carrying the primary data. You will find some twenty-odd recoveries listed in this issue for which I have no primary ringing data. Please check that you are not one of the guilty. While on the topic of missing data I can't believe that the paltry number of local recoveries and retraps submitted so far in any way reflects the number of retraps and local recoveries made in a year let alone over the active ringing lives of current ringers. Possibly I should take a leaf out of Dr McLachlan's book, climb into my Land Rover (even at today's petrol prices!) and visit all the errant ringers!

The more things change, the more they are the same.

Alphonse Karr 1808 - 1890.