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## Editorial

Tim Osborne

Here we are starting the New Year with the first issue of the bird club journal out early. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to make the *Lanioturdus* a success. I would like to specially thank Ellen Gudde for all the work she has done proofing the printer's drafts. Willie Peter and staff from Typoprint have been very understanding in trying to print the journal remotely from Outjo District.

There is a variety of articles in this issue, so there should be something for everyone. The editor would like to see a few more articles in German. None have appeared since Micki Ludwig published in Volume 35-1.

The country has finally had some rain over most parts so birding should be good for the remainder of the season. I have a nest of Carp's Black Tit in one of my nest boxes and the Chestnut Weavers are in breeding plumage. It looks as if the birds also like the rain.

## Interesting ringing recoveries

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I have been ringing in Namibia since 1997 and I thought readers would be interested in some of the more interesting ringing recoveries I have had.

Greater Flamingo 9A08236: Adult colour ringed with a green ring engraved with the letters NEZ on 4 October 2002 at the Walvis Bay Salt Company works. Seen by myself on 11 January 2003 at Fischer's Pan, Etosha National Park a distance of 531 km away. This bird was seen again at the salt works on 12 August 2003.

Greater Flamingo 9A15859: Adult colour ring engraved NGA ringed on 14 November 2001 at Walvis Bay Salt Company works. Seen at the same location 7 months and 30 days later and seen at Mile 4 Salt Works, Swakopmund 1 year, 9 months, 9 days later and 46 km away.

White-backed Vulture G22569 ringed as a chick in the nest on 25 September 2002 west of Leeubron, Etosha National Park. Ring found on the ground next to alive bird west of Otjiwarongo, 10 months, 30 days later and 174 km further south.

White-backed Vulture G21467 ringed as chick south of Adamax Pan, Etosha National Park on 10 October 1998. Found dead next to poison bait at Stillerus Farm, Outjo District, 2 years 7 months 28 days later and 43 km away. Another White-backed Vulture found dead at the same site was ringed as a nestling at Paradys, Etosha National Park 7 months 27 days earlier and 76 km away. A third White-backed Vulture found at the same site was ringed at Benfontein Farm, Northern Cape, RSA, 8 months, 9 days earlier and 1426 km away. This bird holds the record for the longest movement yet recorded for a White-backed Vulture.

African Hawk Eagle 9A08198, ringed as nestling at Windpoort Farm, Outjo District, found 2 years, 2 months, 6 days later as skeleton in a stock dam at Farm Onduri, Outjo District, 37 km away.

Common Tern 99Z2039, ringed on 1 August 1999 at Zeebrugge, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Caught and released alive at Walvis Bay Salt Works 3 years, 5 months 3 days later and 8334 km away.

Red-eyed Bulbul –All caught on Windpoort Farm:  
BD82106, ringed 10 December 2000 and recovered same day 7 km east at Bakenkop Farm.

BD82087 ringed 4 December 2000 and recovered at Bakenkop 12 December 2000, 7 km east.

BD87665, ringed 30 September 2002 and recovered at Bergtrophe Farm 18 October 2002, 28 km west.

These are interesting recoveries since they show that what we think are our backyard resident birds actually move a lot more. Maclean (1993 Roberts birds of southern Africa) lists the bird as a common resident but Harrison *et al.* (1997 Atlas of Southern African birds Vol II) mentions movements of the bird during the dry season in Namibia and Caprivi.

## REMARKABLE LESSER FLAMINGO RECOVERY

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On 13 July 2003 Robert Ndeti of the Kenya Wildlife Service and John Githaiga of the Department of Zoology, University of Nairobi, were at Lake Bogoria. They found a ringed dead Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor* along the lakeshore. Upon examining the ring number it turned out to be one of the Lesser Flamingos ringed as a nestling by Leslie Brown and Alan Root in 1962.

In 1962, the Kenyan ornithologist Leslie Brown, along with Alan Root, the wildlife cinematographer, and several other members of the East Africa Natural History Society took advantage of an unusual breeding event at Lake Magadi in Kenya to round up and ring 8,000 juvenile Lesser Flamingos. They used methods pioneered by Dr. Lucas Hoffmann on Greater Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*