

TAKE A CLOSER



Report leg-ring and wing-tag information to support threatened birds in southern Africa



Note:

- ◆ Date, time and place where bird was seen
- ◆ Colour, number and letters on the ring or tag
- ◆ Ring or tag on the left or right side of the bird

Send the information with your contact details to SAFRING and the relevant country office



SAFRING
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701, RSA
E-mail: safring@adu.uct.ac.za
<http://safring.adu.org.za>
Tel: ++ 27 21 650 2421/2
Fax: ++ 27 21 650 3434



ANGOLA
Ministry of Environment
Biodiversity Department
bsap.angola@nexus.ao
pedrovazpinto@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICA
BirdLife South Africa
Tel: ++27 11 789 1122
info@birdlife.org.za
P O Box 515
Randburg 2125, South Africa

BOTSWANA
Birdlife Botswana
Tel: ++267 6865618
birdlifemaun@botsnet.bw
P O Box 20463
Maun, Botswana

SWAZILAND
National Trust Commission
Tel: ++268 416 481 or 416 489
ceo@sntc.org.sz
P O Box 100
Lobamba, Swaziland

MOZAMBIQUE
Department of Geology
Eduardo Mondlane University
Tel & Fax: ++258 21 475280
P O Box 257
Maputo

ZAMBIA
Zambian Ornithological Society
Tel: ++260 126 0709
zos@zamnet.zm
P O Box 33944
Lusaka, 10101, Zambia

NAMIBIA
Namibia Nature Foundation
Tel: ++264 61 248345
sw@nnf.org
P O Box 245
Windhoek, Namibia

ZIMBABWE
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E-mail: pmundy@nust.ac.zw
P O Box FM 424
Famona, Bulawayo
Zimbabwe



Take A Closer Look

The objective of bird ringing is to establish information about the movements and survival of birds. Birds are valuable indicators on the state of an environment and monitoring bird populations is useful for agriculture, fisheries, and conservation authorities. Bird ringing can highlight issues of pollution, deforestation, power-line hazards, effects of long-line fishing, outbreaks of pest populations such as rodents or locusts, potential of disease epidemics and importantly the effects of climate change.

Every bird captured and identified by a bird ringer is marked with a uniquely numbered metal leg-ring or flipper-ring for penguins. Almost 2 million birds have been ringed in southern Africa since the inception of the ringing project in 1948. From the 2 million about 17 000 rings have been recovered which is less than a 1% return on the investment, with some species having a much higher return possibility than others. Color leg-rings and wing-tags are used for specific projects designed for further study of a species often because of the need to devise species-specific conservation strategies.

Although there are only around 200 bird ringers in southern Africa, there are thousands of bird watchers. Leg-rings or wing-tags engraved with numbers and letters that are large enough to be read with binoculars from a distance have the potential to better involve bird watchers in conservation projects. The engraved markers will potentially increase the number of reports on the whereabouts of individual birds which will help biologists to mitigate threats and risks to species.

Take a Closer Look is a poster jointly sponsored by The Namibia Bird Club and The Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS). The poster is aimed at encouraging people to take a closer look for leg-rings or wing-tags. The poster makes available the addresses where reports on sightings can be sent. The poster also specifies the information required from the bird watcher. Someone who cannot exactly identify a species can still report on the bird as the number on the ring or tag provides the authorities with the species information.

The southern African authority and data bank for bird ringing is the South African Bird Ringing Unit, SAFRING, based at Cape Town University. SAFRING is the best address to report sightings to but many people may prefer to simply report to the local country authority and leave the authority to report to SAFRING. Because birds do not recognize political boundaries and often move great distances the poster **Take a Closer Look** has the ringing authority contacts for South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Copies of the poster have been requested by each listed country. In Namibia it is intended that the poster will be used in relevant government offices, national parks, private game farms and other relevant places.

For copies of the poster please contact the NEWS office or NARREC in Windhoek

Liz Komen

NARREC

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