

## LOCAL NEWS

### LESS RECENT RECOVERIES

Richard Brooke of the Durban Museum came across some interesting recoveries in 'Migratsii Ptits Latviiskoi SSR (Migrations of birds of the Latvian SSR) 1966'.

R.979 Lesser Spotted Eagle Aquila pomarina R-108168  
Pull. 10.08.52 nr. Strenciz, Latvia 57.37 N, 25.41 E  
Shot 09.11.54 Filabusi, Rhodesia 20.33 S, 29.24 E

It is quite a coincidence that two recoveries of A. pomarina should come to light at the same time and in the same Safring issue. See under Recent Recoveries.

R.80 White Stork Ciconia ciconia R-17182  
Pull. 16.07.27 Zuras, Latvia -  
Shot -.09.29 Weenen, Natal 28.57 S, 30.03 E

Does anyone know, for the record, what the date was of the first recovery of a ringed bird in southern Africa?

### COLOUR-RINGED GULL?

Has any ringer inadvertently or unofficially colour-ringed some Grey-headed Gulls Larus cirrocephalus? Mr. Whately a Research Officer with the Natal Parks Board observed a Grey-headed Gull bearing a blue colour ring. It was seen at Charters Creek on the west shore of Lake St. Lucia. According to NUBRA records, no L. cirrocephalus has been colour-ringed. But in 1973, about 300 L. hartlaubii were ringed with metal and blue colour rings as part of the C.B.C. gull project. Could the bird have been a Hartlaub's Gull? Mr. Whately still thinks the bird he saw was a Grey-headed Gull. 'Roberts' mentions an old record from Durban in 1900 and one at Makarikari, Botswana, so the occurrence at St. Lucia is not impossible. Natalians should keep their eyes skinned for colour-ringed gulls.

### TERN MIGRATION AT CAPE RECEIFE

This popular article describes the ringing of Sternidae at Cape Receife, Port Elizabeth, which was carried out by Karl Edwards and Tony Tree. Their total catch was 2235 including 2091 Common Terns (37 already foreign rings) 31 Arctic, 27 Roseate and 72 Tristan Terns.  
(Ref: Edwards, K.Z. (1974) - E. Cape Nat. 52:2-4)

### NETTING PALM SWIFTS

All Palm Swifts caught by us to date were captured at a palm tree in a private garden, near White River. This particular palm tree is of a species in which the dead fronds remain attached and hang down round the trunk. The Swifts roost and nest among these dead fronds and thus have to fly up vertically after swooping quite low over the ground. We erect our mist nets quite late in the afternoon and the birds avoid them until dusk, when the majority come in to roost. We have managed to catch a number of birds on each occasion. As we have been anxious to avoid disturbance while they are nesting, we have netted only in the non-breeding season, which seems to extend from May to September.

There are a number of other colonies in the district, but none of them appear to be so large or convenient for netting as this one. I am watching one particular colony breeding on a different species of palm, where the birds attach their nests to the underside of the green fronds. They are then much easier to observe. I have built a pylon hide at this palm so shall be able to observe them at close range as well as being able to photograph them.  
Report from: Howard Kirk, P.O.Box 55, White River, Transvaal.

#### OXPECKER CORRECTION

An editorial correction to the article on Oxpecker Ringing (Stutterheim, J.(1974) Safring 3(2):11.15) gave a mistaken impression of this species' diet. Johan Stutterheim writes that it is not certain if Oxpeckers feed on fleas as well as ticks. He has found fleas only on one symbiont the Warthog and it is not known whether the birds are able to catch fleas on these animals.

#### RECENT RECOVERIES

The following recoveries are listed for ringers' interest. The listing does not constitute full publication and the data may not be used by anyone but the original ringer without permission.

R.91	Knob-billed Goose <u>Sarkidiornis melanotos</u> S-19151 (H.Meyer)	
FG ♀	04.02.73 Mlezu, Que Que, Rhodesia	19.09S, 29.54E
Killed	17.11.73 nr. Itoko, Bokungu Reg., Zaire	01.00S, 21.45E
R.106	Cape Vulture <u>Gyps coprotheres</u> G-09849 (M.Johannsmeier)	
Pull.	22.09.73 Skeerpoort, Tvl.	25.45S, 27.45E
	19.06.74 Escom Line, Koffiefontein, OFS	29.25S, 25.00E
	- found dead below powerline, perhaps the first product of publicity by Escom.	
R.108	Black Vulture <u>Torgos tracheliotus</u> G-01358 (R.Jensen)	
Pull.	29.09.70 Namib Desert Park, SWA	22.57S, 15.21E
Found dead	13.06.74 Ukuib no.841, Karibib, SWA	22.15S, 15.50E
R.136	Lesser Spotted Eagle <u>Aquila pomarina</u> 526-0727 (P.Mendelsohn)	
	29.11.72 Pundu Milia Area, KNP, Tvl.	22.42S, 31.00E
Presumed dead	30.10.73 Azerbaijan SSR, nr.Kusary, USSR	41.24N, 48.27E

This recovery must rank as one of the most spectacular of the year. Only two A. pomarina have been ringed giving a 50% recovery rate! The details more or less mirror those for the recovery 'the other way around' reported above. The apparent date of recovery is rather late which suggests a surprisingly rapid rate of migration for a bird of prey.

R.165	Chanting Goshawk <u>Melierax musicus</u> 646-01248	
		(Siegfried & Ernst)
Adult	24.07.69 11km S. of Christiana, Tvl.	27.58S, 28.00E
Shot	19.07.74 Bergmans Hope, Herbert Dist., CP	28.28S, 28.00E

R.251	Curlew Sandpiper <u>Calidris ferruginea</u> 2-42687 (H.Pfister)	
Full-grown	14.11.71 Langebaan Beach, Cape	33.05S, 18.02E
Presumed dead	28.08.73 Dagestan ASSR, Adzhi Lake, USSR	42.18N, 48.07E
R.254	Knot <u>Calidris canutus</u> 4-15871 (G.Wilson)	
Full-grown	01.01.72 Bottellary, Langebaan, Cape.	33.08S, 18.05E
Caught & released	Wittensee, Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany	54.23N, 9.45E
R.255	Sanderling <u>Calidris alba</u> 2-03526 (M.Waltner)	
Post-juv.	05.03.70 Kommetjie, Cape.	34.09S, 18.19E
Shot	15.10.72 Donetsk Region, nr. Pervomaiskoe USSR	47.04N, 37.18E
R.291	Common Tern <u>Sterna hirundo</u> 2-56067 (A.J.Tree)	
Immature	23 11.71 Cape Receife, P.E., E.Cape	34.02S, 25.42E
Found dead	25.06.74 Lake Viren, Södermanland, Sweden	58.59N, 16.08E
R.493	European Swallow <u>Hirundo rustica</u> AA-03526 (P.Mendelsohn)	
	17.12.72 Skinnerspruit, Pretoria, Tvl.	25.44S, 28.10E
Caught, presumed dead	26.05.74 nr.Eisk, Krasnodar Reg., USSR	46.43N, 38.17E
R.493	European Swallow <u>Hirundo rustica</u> AA-01668 (A.Hewitt)	
Full-grown	24.02.72 Melrose Dam, Johannesburg, Tvl.	26.08S, 28.04E
Caught and released	17.10.74 Stein am Rhein, Schaffhausen, Switzerland.	47.39S, 8.51E

This is our first bird and the first swallow to be recovered in Switzerland. Apparently conditions have been quite unusual this year. The swallows remained in the area unusually late (see recovery date) and were then caught by an early cold snap. Quite a number died but others were rescued. Of the latter some were flown by Swissair to Marseilles and others were sent by train to Ticino in southern Switzerland to catch up with the warm weather. A press report in a British paper reported that swallows caught by a cold snap in Italy were flown to Cairo. Migration is easy these days.

R.493	European Swallow <u>Hirundo rustica</u> 601-37761(NBC Group)	
	21.01.67 Kwa Mashu, Durban, Natal	29.44S, 31.01E
Found dead	25.07.73 Altai Region, U.S.S.R.	53.46N, 81.22E
R.682	Paradise Flycatcher <u>Terpsiphone viridis</u> A-96382 (D.Chalton)	
	06.01.74 Ukulinga Farm, Pietermaritzburg Natal	29,37S, 30.16E
Found dead	00.08.74 Vila Junqueiro, Zambezia Dist., Mocambique.	15.30S, 36.59E

The ring was sent with the recovery report so there is no question of mis-identity. Explanations of this movement would be gratefully received.