

CONTENTS

VOLUME 35 (2) 2002

OSBORNE, T. O. Editorial	1
LUDWIG, D. Chairman's report 2001 / 2002	2 - 3
BOIX-HINZEN, C.& WITTS, L. Aromatherapy for tits	4 - 5
OSCHADLEUS, H. D. Ringing report for Namibia, July 2000-June 2001	6 - 7
BOIX-HINZEN, C. Interesting bird sightings from Daan Viljoen Game Reserve over the past four years. .	8 - 11
FRIEDERICH, T. & FRIEDERICH, G. Bushmanland Adventures	11 - 15
BOIX-HINZEN, C., LUDWIG, T. & TURBE, A. Co-operative breeding in Carp's Tits <i>Parus carpi</i>	15 - 18
LE ROUX, J. Swift Tern Project	18 - 19
OSBORNE, T. O. Hartlaub's Francolins Egoli style	19 - 21
BIRD OBSERVATIONS/SHORT NOTES	21 - 24

Editorial

Timothy O. Osborne

The first edition of the *Lanioturdus* this year came out with only 20 pages and had a "thin" feel but I have received one email from a member who praised the contents as quality not quantity. His statement was "Congrats on the new *TURD!!!!!!!* That was really very much better! You know, if people just start thinking, observe, keep records, whatever. Then something like the paper by Eckart Demasius appears on adding value to bird lists. I think his results could be applicable everywhere. Those are the guys "who have nothing else to do but to observe their surroundings"." These are the kind of email editors enjoy receiving and it is even better if is accompanied with a CONTRIBUTION!

The rain, what there was of them, have come and gone so winter is rapidly approaching, the palearctic migrants have gone back north and the intra-African migrants have left but that is no reason to quit observing as there are many birds breeding during the dry season

I do not know if anyone has seen drafts of the new "Robert's" yet but it will be a massive book to cover "everything" known about the birds. One of the good features of the book is it will highlight what we do not know about the birds and that is still considerable, especially here in Namibia with our endemics and local races of birds. As an example the species editor of the Short-toed Rock Thrush, Richard Dean appealed to me to find nests of this common bird as little is known about most aspects of the breeding biology such as courtship behaviour, displays, number of breeding attempts per year, geographical/seasonal variation in clutch size, sex roles in nest building and incubation, incubation shift lengths, plumage and morphological development of young, fledging and post fledging dependence periods, interactions among young and breeding success. Incubation period is unknown. All that is just for one species for starters.

Ringling report for Namibia, July 2000 – June 2001

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This report covers bird ringing totals and recoveries relating to Namibia for the period July 2000 to June 2001.

Ringling

17 ringers ringed 7337 birds of 214 species, with an average of 432 birds per ringer.

The top ten ringers and the total birds they ringed during the 2000/01 ringling year are:

Ringer	Total
Mr T. Osborne	2107
Mr D. Heinrich	1401
Mr P. A. Bartlett	1141
R. Jones	515
Possession Island	500
Mr H. Kolberg	429
Mr M. Boorman	348
Ms L. Komen	256
Mr B. Brell	141
Mr P. Bridgeford	113

Selected interesting recoveries & retraps

The ring number is followed by the bird's age at ringling, date of ringling, and place of ringling. The recovery line indicates the state of the bird, date and place, the elapsed time (to the nearest month) and distance between ringling and recovery.

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
H01008 Nestling 20/12/1972 Walvis Bay, Namibia
Resighted 09/11/2000 Swakopmund, Namibia 27y 11m 24 km
Greatest elapsed time for this species in SAFRING's database.

Whitebacked Vulture *Gyps africanus*
G21892 Nestling 29/09/2000 Benfontein Farm, N Cape
Poisoned 08/06/2001 Stillerus, Namibia 0y 8m 1426 km
Greatest distance for this species in SAFRING's database.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
AT111818 Juv 11/07/1989 Pasala, Finland
Dead 18/01/2001 Sandwich Harbour, Namibia 11y 6m 9686 km

AT178440 Nestling 02/07/2000 Valkeakoski, Finland
Dead 30/05/2001 Hentiesbaai, Namibia 0y 11m 9301 km

NA001727 Adult 30/05/1993 Kirr, Germany
Dead 22/10/2000 Swakop River Mouth, Namibia 7y 5m 8575 km

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
MH24323 Nestling 25/06/1995 Aniland, Estonia
Dead 17/11/2000 Swakopmund, Namibia 5y 5m 9036 km

Reporting recoveries: If you find a dead bird with a ring, report the following details: Ring number, date found, exact locality found, cause of death (if known), state of bird (freshly dead, decaying, etc), your name and contact details (email, fax or postal address – to receive a report)

Report it to:

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