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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

T. O. Osborne
PO Box 22, Okaukuejo
kori@iway.na

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

Dr. Brooks Childress
Research Associate, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, UK
brooks@leics.u-net.com

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*

at the Tour-du-Valat in the Camargue region of France. The rings were obtained from the British Museum and the records now reside with the British Trust for Ornithology.

When found, the bird was 40.7 years old, making it the longest-lived Lesser Flamingo known to date.

Submitted with the kind permission of Messrs. Ndetei and Githaiga.

Summary of the 2002 Ringing Year in Namibia

Holger Kolberg

Principal Conservation Scientist

Directorate Scientific Services, Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Private Bag 13306, Windhoek, Namibia

metreper@iafrica.com.na

The 2002 ringing year ended on 30 June 2003 and the following is a summary of ringing activities in Namibia. Eighteen ringers (12 of these are permanently based in Namibia) submitted data to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) comprising a total of 10490 newly ringed (code 1) birds of 244 species, and 820 retraps or controls. Larklike Bunting, Redbilled Quelea and Cape Gannet make up the top three of newly ringed birds. By far the greatest number of retraps / controls are African Penguins (558) followed by Cape Sparrow (43) and Cape Gannet (24). A total of 153 raptors (including owls) and 68 vultures were ringed. Pale Chanting Goshawks were the most commonly ringed raptors and Pearlspotted Owls were the top owl species ringed, Cape Gannet head the list of seabirds ringed.

Table 1: Number of new birds ringed per ringer.

RINGER	NO. RINGED
Ursula Franke (Germany)	2567
Tim Osborne	2450
Dirk Heinrich	2054
Marine and Coastal Management (SA)	984
Mark Boorman	886
Holger Kolberg	497
Sandra Dantu	243
Jessica Kemper	194
Mark Paxton	123
Peter Bridgeford	111
Rod Braby	106
Dries Nel (SA)	86
Dieter Oschadleus (SA)	67
Gordon Scholtz (SA)	47
Bernd Brell	45
Wilferd Versfeld	21
Rob Simmons	9
Total	10490

Table 2: Number of retraps or controls per ringer.

RINGER	NO. RETRAPPED
Jessica Kemper	558
Tim Osborne	81
Ursula Franke	73
Dirk Heinrich	48
Marine and Coastal Management	22
Holger Kolberg	22
Peter Bridgeford	6
Dieter Oschadleus	4
Bernd Brell	3
Mark Paxton	3
Total	820