

# Editorial

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Many good papers have been sent for this issue of Afring News, so thanks to all contributors. The first two papers concern Gurney's Sugarbird and Yellow-billed Hornbill. The next two papers are about deformities – it is great that ringers are looking at birds in the hand in more detail than only the required measurements. Ringers are also concerned about the welfare of birds, as illustrated by the article on ethics that refers to emails on the ringers listserver. There is one paper on biometrics and moult – I would like to see more articles in this section! There are reports on the PCG ringing, a Whitethroat record, a summary of ringing in Namibia in 2003, ringing records from the FS Botanical Gardens, out and about in the E Cape, and ringing in Limpopo Province. Finally, there is a report on the first AFRING waterbird ringing course in Kenya which Doug and myself attended – a wonderful experience!

There will continue to be two National Ringing Training Courses in South Africa every year. Wakkerstroom in the first week of January seems to be better than early December, but this could also change in the future if there are enough ringers and trainees who prefer a different date. This year the Western Cape course was held at Potberg and provided a great change from Lamberts Bay. A possibility is that a course Lamberts Bay will be held every two years, with various other nature reserves being tried in alternate years.

Afring News is the newsletter of the South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING), based at the Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town. SAFRING will provide rings for projects throughout Africa, but is essentially the coordinating body for ringing in South Africa. The concept of AFRING is to coordinating ringing throughout Africa. Doug Harebottle is currently coordinating the waterbird aspect of the AFRING project.

Have a wonderful festive season with lots of ringed birds!

*Dieter Oschadleus*

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