

Dear Sir,

I am here by informing you of an owl. On the 25.7.86 as we left going to the farm to collect some timbers with a tractor, our tractor broke down on the way. We spent 6 hours on the same spot.

I felt something smelling. I started moving around and later I found a dead owl beside the road. It was a different owl to those I know. This owl had a ring on the right leg with words written on it. Inform Zoo Pretoria 508-2681. This owl sure was run by a car and its a very big owl that I have never seen one like that. And please I have got that ring but there is no date on it.

Yours faithful

Stephen Dube, Marondera, Zimbabwe

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SAFRING has no record for the use of this ring. It was one of a series issued by the S.A.O.S. to ringers in the early 1960s. These rings were customarily issued in batches of four or five, rather than fifty, and many different people used rings from this series. There is scheduled primary data from some of them but not for rings 5082676-2681. Some ringers who live or have lived in Zimbabwe have been contacted but none of them have used this ring.

More recently, in April 1987, John Bunning caught a Fiscal Flycatcher at Melville Koppies bearing ring number BB-02026. Here again, SAFRING has no schedule for the series. The rings were originally issued to the late Royce Reed. If Royce ringed this bird, then it is a very old Fiscal Flycatcher! It seems more likely that the rings were used by somebody else.

If any reader can assist with more information about either of these rings, please write as soon as possible to:

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RONDEBOSCH,  
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