



Colour-ringed Egyptian Geese



We see them in our gardens, on farms and golf courses, and in most recreational parks, yet little is known about the movement patterns of Egyptian Geese, even though their numbers are increasing and some ring recoveries are over distances of more than 1000 kilometres! The Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town is undertaking a research project that seeks to understand where Egyptian Geese move to and from, when, and why. Birds are ringed with an engraved colour ring (as well as the standard SAFRING metal ring). Each colour ring has a unique combination of three letters (see photo above) which enables us to recognise each bird individually when it is re-sighted.

Although we will also be tracking birds using satellites, the success of the project is strongly dependent on re-sighting these ringed birds - and this is where we need your help. Should you encounter a colour-ringed Egyptian Goose, no matter where you are in southern Africa, please try and note the following information:

- The three letters on the colour ring - inscriptions should be read from the ground up.
- The background colour of the ring.
- The exact locality.
- The habitat (e.g. lake, wheat field, golf course).
- The date and time.
- Any other information of interest, such as what the bird was doing at the time.

If you are sure that you have read the ring correctly, please report the sighting to Egyptian Goose Project, Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, or e-mail: mduduzi.ndlovu@uct.ac.za. Tel: 021 650 3290; Fax: 021 650 3295; or send an SMS with the information to 083 769 5273.

You are welcome to include your contact details so that up-to-date reports of other resightings can be sent to you. Also feel free to contact Mduduzi Ndlovu should you require any information with regards to this project. Tel: 021 650 5924 or 083 769 5273. (E-mail as above)