

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT: BIRD RINGING 1950—1951.

By E. H. Ashton.

The first report on the Society's bird ringing activities for the years 1948-1949 and 1949-1950 was published in "The Ostrich", December 1950 (Vol. XXI, No. 2). This report deals mainly with the progress made in 1950-51, but also includes late returns not dealt with in the earlier period. It is as up to date as possible, but there are doubtless some returns still outstanding which will have to be included in the next report.

Three additional sizes of ring have been introduced. One is intermediate, between the two small sizes that were introduced last year, and the other two are larger than the previous largest—the C-clip, and are big enough for the largest eagles and for pelicans. I would like to record my grateful thanks to Dr. Friedman of the Natural History Museum, Washington, whose help enabled the Society to obtain the smaller rings, as well as additional supplies of the smallest size. The Society is also indebted to the Bird Book Fund Trustees for a further grant for purchase of the new large-sized rings.

Approximately 8,500 rings were issued, bringing the total to approximately 19,000. The only new participant was the Natal Bird Club. Most of the ringing is now being sponsored by Bird Clubs and the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, to all of whom rings are now being issued in bulk, so although the number of those officially in receipt of rings has grown very little, the number of those who take an active part in ringing has increased considerably.

Almost ten times as many birds were ringed this year as in the previous two years together—4,031 as against 133 and 297. Most of this was done by the Witwatersrand and Cape Bird Clubs (about 1,850 and 1,500 respectively) and Dr. Eggeling (nearly 500). The latter has unfortunately been transferred to an area that is not propitious for ringing, and so his inspiring activities have had to be suspended—only temporarily, one hopes. There is every indication that the two Clubs will repeat, if not exceed, their achievements. In July, 1951, the Southern Rhodesian Government purchased 2,000 rings to enable Mr. D. Plowes to make a close study of Queleas and other granivorous birds. Just over 1,000 rings have also been issued for use on Marion Island, so there is every likelihood of this year's excellent record being exceeded in 1951-1952.

Details of the species ringed to the end of June, 1951, are given in Appendix I. 143 species were covered, bringing the total to 185.

Thanks to the swallows and swifts that have returned to their old breeding places, an appreciable number of recoveries has been made. Details are given in Appendix II. This list does not include those recoveries where the bird was found within a few days or weeks of being ringed at, or near, the place it was ringed, i.e., where it had died at or near the place of ringing soon after being ringed.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Bigalke and Mr. Steyn for the trouble they have taken in getting and forwarding information about all recovered rings sent to the Zoo, Pretoria, and to wish Mr. Steyn success and happiness in his new position of Conservator of Fauna and Flora, Transvaal Provincial Administration.

APPENDIX II.

No.	Ringed.		Recovered (distances and directions are approximate).
CAPE GANNET <i>Morus capensis</i>.			
B.1046.	Ichaboe Is. 8. 5.51.	Imm. R. W. Rand.	Chamune 50km. S. of Benguela. 15.7.51. 950m. N.
CAPE CORMORANT <i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>.			
D.1759.	Dassen Is. 1. 4.51.	Imm. R. W. Rand.	Killed by a bus in Cape Town. 4.4.51. 40m. S.E.
D.1504.	Marcus Is. 9. 6.51.	Imm. R. W. Rand.	Strandfontein. 17.6.51. 80m approx. S.S.E.
D.1820.	(Saldanha Bay) Marcus Is. 9. 6.51.	Imm. R. W. Rand.	Blaawbergstrand. 17.6.51. 60m. approx. S.S.E.
A.1027.	Dassen Is. 30. 3.51.	Imm. R. W. Rand.	Bot River 22/28 July, 51. Released with ring intact 90m. S.E.
CROWNED CORMORANT <i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>.			
D.1044.	Schapen Is., Langebaan. 11. 3.51.	Imm. R. W. Rand.	Melkboschstrand. 8.5.51. Released with ring intact 50m. S.E.
D.2044.	Marcus Is. 8. 6.51.	Imm. R. W. Rand.	Robben Is. 5.7.51. Bird sick. Ring removed 55m. approx. S.S.E.
BLACK-HEADED HERON <i>Ardea melanocephala</i>.			
C.509.	Geduld, Tvl. 29.10.50.	Juv. W.B.C.	Modder B. 3.12.50. 11m. W.
D.460.	Glendower, J'burg. 14. 8.50.	Nestling W.B.C.	Lovat Hall, O.F.S. Sept-ember 1950. 140m. S.
YELLOW-BILLED EGRET <i>Mesophoyx intermedia brachyrhynchus</i>.			
D.1308.	Geduld. 18. 2.51.	Nestling W.B.C.	Farm Tweefontein. P.O. Selonsrivier, Tvl. 6.4.51. 55m. E.
CATTLE EGRET <i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i>.			
D.1388.	Geduld. 18. 2.51.	Nestling W.B.C.	Lunga River Chingola/ Solwezi Rd. N.R. 24.5.51. 1,000m. N.
BLACK SPARROW HAWK <i>Accipiter m. melanoleucus</i>.			
A.138.	Domboshawa. 15.10.50.	Nest J. Hough.	Shot, Chindamora, 28.6. 51. 15m. N.
YELLOW-BILLED HORNBILL <i>Tockus flavirostris leucomelas</i>.			
D.497.	Dett., S.R.L. 26. 2.50.	Davison.	Seen 19m. from Dett on 13.7.51, 15m. from Dett on same road on 23.7.51.
WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT <i>Apus caffer caffer</i>.			
50:2706.	Fort Beaufort. 17. 1.51.	Adult J. S. Taylor.	Retrapped and released 3.4.51.

Others recovered at nesting site the following spring. Details not available.

CLIFF SWALLOW *Petrochelidon spilodera*.

Of birds trapped on various dates between 12.11.50 and 3.12.50 near Rustenburg, 27 were re-trapped 4.11.51 and 33 on 30.12.51.

MASKED WEAVER *Ploceus velatus tahatali*.
 50:1314. Bulawayo. 15.10.50. Adult Remained at nesting site
 E. H. Ashton. until March 1951. Re-
 appeared 23.9.51.

APP. I.

English Name.	Latin Name.	R'gd 48/49	R'gd 49/50	R'gd 50/51
Dabchick	<i>Podiceps ruficollis capensis</i>	—	1	—
Jackass Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demursus</i>	—	—	1
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	—	—	3
Mollymawk	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	—	—	15
Shy Albatross	<i>Diomedea cauta</i>	—	—	1
Cape Hen	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	—	—	16
Mother Carey's Chickens	<i>Hydrobates pelagica</i>	—	—	44
Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites o.oceanica</i>	—	—	19
Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	—	—	316
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i>	—	—	41
Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	—	—	439
Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	—	—	221
Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	—	2	5
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	—	14	249
Darter	<i>Anhinga rufus</i>	—	3	3
European Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	—	—	2
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea c. cinerea</i>	—	3	6
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	—	4	37
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	—	—	2
Little Egret	<i>Egretta g. garzetta</i>	—	—	19
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Mesophox intermedia</i>	—	—	—
	<i>brachyrhynchus</i>	—	—	36
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus i. ibis</i>	—	9	672
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax n. nycticorax</i>	—	3	3
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax leuconotus</i>	—	—	3
Abdim's Stork	<i>Sphenorynchus abdimii</i>	—	1	—
Saddlebill Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	—	2	—
Wood Ibis	<i>Ibis ibis</i>	—	1	—
Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis a. aethiopicus</i>	—	—	323
Hagedah	<i>Hagedashia h. hagedash</i>	—	—	3
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis f. falcinellus</i>	—	—	12
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber roscus</i>	—	—	1
Yellow-bill Duck	<i>Anas u. undulata</i>	—	—	4
Red-bill Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	1	10	—
Knob-billed Goose	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	1	1	—
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	—	—	3
Spurwing Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	3	—	1
Secretary Bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	—	2	—
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	31	—	163
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius parasitus</i>	15	8	6
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus c. caeruleus</i>	—	—	3
Andersson's Bat Hawk	<i>Machaerhamphus alcinus</i>	—	—	—
	<i>anderssoni</i>	—	1	—
Black Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxi</i>	—	2	—
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila r. rapax</i>	—	—	1
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	—	—	1
African Hawk Eagle	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus spilo-</i>	—	—	—
	<i>gaster</i>	—	1	1
Ayres Hawk Eagle	<i>Hieraetus dubius</i>	—	1	—
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	—	—	1
Long-crested Hawk Eagle	<i>Lophaelus occipitalis</i>	—	—	1
Black-breasted Harrier Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	—	1	1
Bateleur	<i>Terathopus ecaudatus</i>	—	—	1
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter m. melanoleucus</i>	—	—	5

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English Name.	Latin Name.	R'gd 48/49	R'gd 49/50	R'gd 50/51
Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax musicus</i>	—	—	1
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus ranivorus</i>	2	—	1
Humboldt's Francolin	<i>Pternistes afer swynnertoni</i>	—	1	—
Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix d. delegorguei</i>	—	2	2
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	—	1	1
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus meridionalis</i>	—	1	—
S.A. Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	—	—	1
Siberian Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i>	—	9	29
White-fronted Sandplover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus mechowii</i>	—	3	16
Chestnut-banded Sandplover	<i>Charadrius p. pallidus</i>	—	—	6
Kittlitz Sandplover	<i>Charadrius p. pecuarius</i>	12	20	61
Treble-banded Sandplover	<i>Charadrius t. tricoloris</i>	—	2	13
Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	—	—	1
Little-ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius coronicus</i>	—	5	2
Crowned Plover	<i>Stephanibyx coronatus</i>	—	2	2
Blacksmith Plover	<i>Hoplopterus armatus</i>	—	—	1
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria i. interpres</i>	—	—	1
S.A. Stilt	<i>Himantopus h. meridionalis</i>	—	4	—
Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula b. benghalensis</i>	—	—	2
Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	—	—	1
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris testacea</i>	2	—	3
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	11	28	50
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	—	—	4
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	—	1	1
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	5	4	169
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinerea</i>	—	—	1
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularius</i>	—	—	1
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1	1	3
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata (probably sushkini)</i>	—	—	1
Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata orientalis</i>	—	—	1
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	—	—	5
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>	—	—	2
Bronze-wing Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>	—	—	1
Gaboon White-collared Pratincole	<i>Galachrysis nuchalis</i>	—	—	1
Cape Dikkop	<i>Burhinus c. capensis</i>	—	—	1
Water Dikkop	<i>Burhinus v. vermiculatus</i>	—	14	28
Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus f. fuscus</i>	—	1	1
Southern Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	—	—	8
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	—	—	7
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	—	1	19
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucoptera</i>	—	—	1
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	1	—	—
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	—	—	1
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna macrura</i>	—	—	5
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna s. sandvicensis</i>	—	—	1
Cape Rockpigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	—	—	8
Cape Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola tropica</i>	—	2	—
Laughing Dove	<i>Stigmatopelia s. senegalensis</i>	—	3	8
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena c. capensis</i>	—	2	—
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos volkmanni</i>	—	1	—
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	—	—	2
Black-crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus serratus</i>	—	1	—
Diederick Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	2	2	4
E.A. Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus suahelicus</i>	8	—	1
Natal Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta natalensis</i>	—	—	1

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English Name.	Latin Name.	R'gd 48/49	R'gd 49/50	R'gd 50/51
Red and Black-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis cyanoleuca</i>	—	—	1
E.A. Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris orientalis</i>	—	2	1
S.A. Grey-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala pallidiventris</i>	—	3	—
European Bee Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	—	5	—
Little Bee Eater	<i>Merops pusillus meridionalis</i>	—	—	1
Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris leucomelas</i>	—	3	2
S.A. Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	—	5	2
Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus angolensis</i>	—	2	—
S.A. Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba affinis</i>	—	3	4
S.A. Wood Owl	<i>Ciccaba w. woodfordii</i>	—	1	—
Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo a. africanus</i>	—	7	9
E. Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus e. europaeus</i>	—	4	—
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis fervidus</i>	—	3	4
Pennant-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx vexillarius</i>	—	—	1
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus c. caffer</i>	—	5	8
Abyssinian Swift	<i>Apus c. streubelii</i>	—	—	1
Indian Swift	<i>Apus a. affinis</i>	—	—	4
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>	—	—	1
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp vidua</i>	—	—	102
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla c. capensis</i>	—	3	—
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	—	6	—
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	—	—	3
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>	—	2	—
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx c. capensis</i>	—	—	4
Jardine's Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardinei</i>	—	1	1
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>	—	—	2
Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis plumbeiceps</i>	—	4	6
Kurrichaine Thrush	<i>Turdus l. libonyanus</i>	—	1	—
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	—	—	1
Natal Stone Chat	<i>Saxicola torquata caffra</i>	—	1	—
Cape Robin	<i>Cossypha c. caffra</i>	—	—	3
Zambesi Scrub Robin	<i>Erythropygia zambesiana</i>	—	1	—
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus a. afer</i>	—	—	2
Crombec	<i>Sylvietta r. rufescens</i>	—	—	1
Cape Wren Warbler	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>	—	—	1
European Swallow	<i>Hirundo r. rustica</i>	—	2	—
Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>	—	—	1
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>	—	—	588
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	—	3	6
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo s. smithii</i>	—	—	2
Monteiro's Mosque Swallow	<i>H. senegalensis monteiri</i>	—	3	—
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>H. semirufa semirufa</i>	—	11	—
Large Striped Swallow	<i>H. cucullata</i>	—	13	5
Smaller Striped Swallow	<i>H. abyssinica unitatis</i>	—	5	6
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo g. griseopyga</i>	—	1	3
Uganda Swallow	<i>H. angolensis artincincta</i>	—	6	—
Cape Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne f. fuligula</i>	—	1	1
Fiscal Shrike	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	—	—	2
Souza's Shrike	<i>Lanius souzae</i>	—	2	—
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Urolestes m. melanoleucos</i>	—	1	1
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>	—	1	—
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus z. zeylonus</i>	—	—	1
Three-streaked Redwing	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	—	—	1

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Southern Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>			
	<i>verreauxi</i>	6	—	1
Pied Starling	<i>Spreo bicolor</i>	—	1	3
Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprocolius spp.</i>	—	1	—
Red-wing Starling	<i>Onychognathus m. morio</i>	—	1	—
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythroryncha caffer</i>	—	—	1
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>	—	—	11
Cape White Eye	<i>Zosterops pallida capensis</i>	—	—	2
Orangebreasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>	—	—	1
Social Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	—	—	1
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer m. melanurus</i>	—	—	10
Grey Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus diffusus</i>	—	3	1
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	—	—	2
Jameson's Weaver	<i>Ploceus x. xanthops</i>	1	—	—
Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	—	—	8
Redbill Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea lathamii</i>	—	3	12
Tropical Bishopbird	<i>Euplectes orix sundevalli</i>	—	—	1
Fire-crowned Bishopbird	<i>Euplectes h. hordeacea</i>	—	—	2
Cut-throat Widowbird	<i>Coliuspasser a. ardens</i>	—	—	17
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>			
	<i>meridionalis</i>	—	3	—
Brown Fire Finch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>	—	—	1
Shaft-tailed Widowbird	<i>Vidua regia</i>	—	1	1
Pin-tailed Widowbird	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	—	2	—
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	—	—	1
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Fringillaria impetuani</i>	—	—	1
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza f. flaviventris</i>	—	—	3
Total Birds Ringed		133	297	4031
Number of Species		26	78	143