

Reports

Report on the 2002-2003 ringing year

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The period covered in this report is from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. A total of 89689 birds was ringed compared to 69383 in the previous year (Table 1). The total was made up of 84090 free-flying birds and 5599 nestlings. This is the highest number of birds ringed in a year with SAFRING rings. There is a fair amount of fluctuation in ringing totals over the last 5 years (Table 1), probably mainly due to the number of penguins and quelea ringed, as mentioned in previous annual reports. The figures for this report were compiled in May instead of the usual December, meaning that the data is slightly more up to date than in previous years, although there are always a few ringers who submit data a few years late.

Most birds were ringed in Namibia (Table 2) due to the efforts of Ursula Franke but she also ringed in South Africa. Ringing

records were received from Seychelles but not Mauritius; and also from Sao Tome and Cameroon. The top ringer is Henk Bouwman (Table 3), who was in 15th position in the previous year. Top raptor ringers are Mark Anderson for nestlings and Arie Williams with bal-chatries (Table 4).

The number of species ringed was 568, one less than the previous year (Table 1). The top species are European Swallow, Masked Weaver, Red Bishop, Redbilled Quelea, Cape White-eye and Cape Weaver as in previous years, but in a slightly different sequence (Table 5). Sacred Ibis has made the list due to ringing by Doug Harebottle and Dalton Gibbs.

Cape Gannets lead the Seabirds list (Table 6). Whitebacked Vulture is the most ringed nestling raptor and Pale Chanting Goshawk is the most trapped raptor (Table 7).

Table 1. Comparison of annual totals over 6 years.

Ringing year	Active ringers	New ringers	Birds ringed	Species ringed
1997/98	127	?	79977	504
1998/99	134	27	80958	536
1999/2000	155	34	65981	553
2000/2001	149	24	82792	554
2001/2002	148	25	69383	569
2002/2003	173	47	89689	568

Table 2. Geographical distribution of ringing effort in the 2002-2003 ringing year.

	Number of Ringers	Number of Species ringed	Number of Birds ringed	Average no. of birds per ringer
Namibia	17	237	12484	734
W Cape	41	242	17062	416
E Cape	13	147	2779	214
N Cape	5	22	217	43
Zimbabwe	7	195	1745	249
NW Province	6	200	7552	1259
Gauteng	38	352	22520	593
Botswana	4	95	5129	1282
Mpumalanga	7	164	2665	381
Limpopo	3	199	1984	661
Natal	18	290	9067	504
Free State	6	153	3557	593
Swaziland	1	22	33	33
Malawi	2	105	701	351
Seychelles	1	52	299	299
Sao Tome & Cameroon	2	106	1252	626
Zambia	2	56	643	322
Totals	173	568	89689	518

Table 3. Top 20 ringers in the 2002-2003 ringing year for all species.

Ringer	Province / country	Number of birds
Henk Bouwman	North West, South Africa	4599
Bennie van den Brink	Botswana	4480
Kobie Raijmakers	Gauteng, South Africa	3044
Ursula Franke	Namibia	2593
Bob Ellis	Western Cape, South Africa	2488
Tim Osborne	Namibia	2487
Margaret McCall	Western Cape, South Africa	2414
Hennie de Klerk	Gauteng, South Africa	2153
Shonie Raijmakers	Gauteng, South Africa	2151
Rita Marais	North West, South Africa	2105
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	2054
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga, South Africa	2038
Barry Taylor	Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa	1896
Pete Bartlett	Namibia	1712
Dave Johnson	Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa	1595
Johan Snyman	Gauteng, South Africa	1521
Colin de Kock	Gauteng, South Africa	1515
Mark Brown	Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa	1343
Frik du Plooy	Gauteng, South Africa	1281
Chris du Plooy	Gauteng, South Africa	1263

Table 4. Top 20 ringers in the 2002-2003 ringing year for raptors.

a) Nestlings			b) Free-flying raptors		
Ringer	Province/ country	Number of birds	Ringer	Province/ country	Number of birds
Mark Anderson	Northern Cape	96	Arie Williams	Gauteng	178
Kevin Mitchell	Zimbabwe	72	J & D Robson	Gauteng	172
Andrew Jenkins	Western Cape	54	Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	86
Rob Simmons	Namibia	49	H & Z Bernitz	Mpumalanga	85
Peter Bridgeford	Namibia	48	Mark Brown	KwaZulu-Natal	38

Table 5. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2002-2003 ringing year: terrestrial species.

Rank	Species	Total ringed	Previous rank
1	European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	10906	4
2	Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	6140	2
3	Red Bishop <i>Euplectes orix</i>	5387	1
4	Redbilled Quelea <i>Quelea quelea</i>	4588	3
5	Cape White-eye <i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	4116	5
6	Cape Weaver <i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1832	6
7	Larklike Bunting <i>Emberiza impetvani</i>	1705	
8	Cape Sparrow <i>Passer melanurus</i>	1643	12
9	Redheaded Finch <i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	1492	8
10	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1431	10
11	Blackeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	1171	9
12	African Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	1072	11
13	Blue Waxbill <i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	995	7
14	Cape Robin <i>Cossypha caffra</i>	881	14
15	Common Waxbill <i>Estrilda astrild</i>	875	16
16	Spottedbacked Weaver <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	855	18
17	Sacred Ibis <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	843	
18	Southern Greyheaded Sparrow <i>Passer diffusus</i>	812	
19	Olive Thrush <i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	799	15

Table 6. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2002-2003 ringing year: seabirds.

Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	Cape Gannet <i>Morus capensis</i>	3230
2	African Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	1865
3	Kelp Gull <i>Larus dominicanus</i>	1395
4	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1046
5	African Black Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus moquini</i>	297
6	Bank Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	266
7	Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	249
8	Hartlaub's Gull <i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	167
9	White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	156
10	Antarctic Tern <i>Sterna vittata</i>	125

Table 7. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2002-2003 ringing year: raptors.**(a) Raptor nestlings**

Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	Whitebacked Vulture <i>Gyps africanus</i>	110
2	Black Harrier <i>Circus maurus</i>	76
3	Lappetfaced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	60
4	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	43
5	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	42
6	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	14
7	Lizard Buzzard <i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	13
8	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	13
9	Cape Vulture <i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	11
10	Pale Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax canorus</i>	7

(b) Free-flying raptors

Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	Pale Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax canorus</i>	234
2	Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	148
3	Blackshouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	114
4	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	87
5	Jackal Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	55
6	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	47
7	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	46
8	Greater Kestrel <i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	43
9	Pearlspotted Owl <i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	39
10	Dark Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax metabates</i>	33