

Afring News

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Afring News online accepts papers containing ringing information about birds. This includes interesting ringing trips, interesting captures, faunistic observations relating to ringing, and analyses of ringing data. It will also consider for publication a variety of other interesting or relevant ornithological material: reports of projects and conferences, and any other interesting or relevant material.



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BIRD RINGING REPORT FOR JULY 2006 TO DECEMBER 2013

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The previous report (46th) to summarise the ringing effort in southern Africa was published nearly ten years ago in Afring News volume 35 (2006) and summarised the July 2004-June 2005 ringing records. Since then the database has grown from 1,740,002 to 2,380,931 records. This report covers 8.5 years (the period July 2006 to December 2013), and future reports will cover calendar years.

Ringling effort

Between 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2013 SAFRING received 661988 records (594075 ringing records; 65019 retraps; 2554 recoveries of 1280 species) (Figure 1). The most prolific year over this time was 2010 where 91472 records (82584 ringing records; 8622 retraps; 266 recoveries of 872 species) were received. Ringing effort has decreased since then with only 64722 records (56709 ringing records; 7732 retraps; 281 recoveries of 692 species) being received in 2013.

Ringling effort by region

The effort from ringers was well distributed across southern Africa, with most records (ringing, retrap, recovery) originating from South Africa and Namibia (Table 1). The South African province to produce the most records over this period was the Western Cape (95670 records), while the province in which the most species were ringed was KwaZulu-Natal (Table 1).

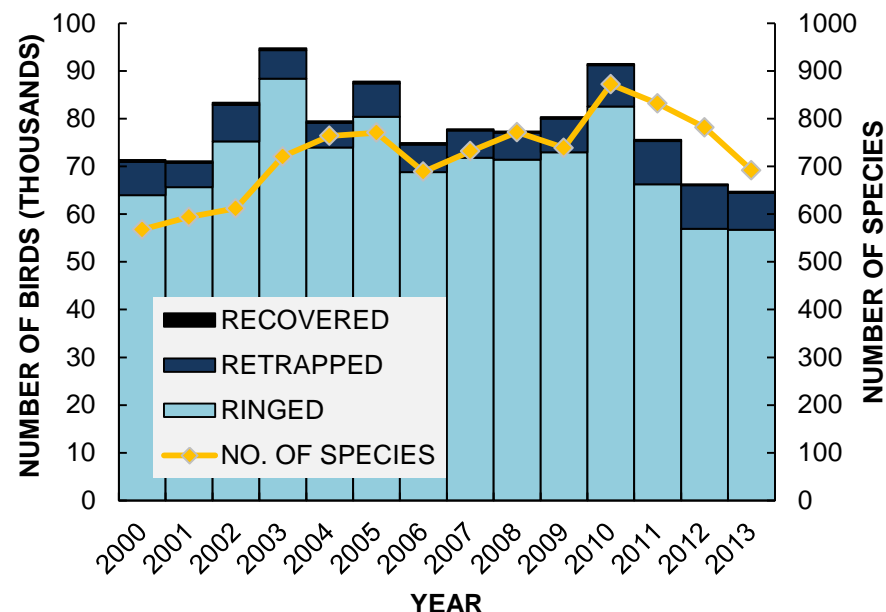


Fig. 1. Trend in ringing effort over fifteen years from 2000 to 2013

Table 1. Regional ringing effort in the 2006-2013 ringing years (all regions with over 1000 records) – South Africa.

Region	# of Ringers	# of Species	# of birds	% of birds	% of species
South Africa (total)	339	715	439682	66.4	55.9
-Western Cape	155	308	95670	14.5	24.1
-KwaZulu-Natal	105	488	93672	14.2	38.2
-Gauteng	96	370	91014	13.7	28.9
-Limpopo	89	429	43191	6.5	33.5
-North-West	100	317	31508	4.8	24.8
-Eastern Cape	69	290	26389	4.0	22.7
-Mpumalanga	72	334	22062	3.3	26.1
-Free State	67	236	20759	3.1	18.5
-Northern Cape	75	185	15417	2.3	14.5



Table 1b. Regional ringing effort in the 2006-2013 ringing years (all regions with over 1000 records) – countries other than South Africa.

Region	# of Ringers	# of Species	# of birds	% of birds	% of species
Namibia	76	435	105528	15.9	34.0
Zambia	12	209	31913	4.8	16.3
Botswana	27	226	8650	1.3	17.7
Oceanic Islands	16	37	7891	1.2	2.9
Nigeria	4	208	6959	1.1	16.3
Senegal	2	35	4423	0.7	2.7
Uganda	2	187	3180	0.5	14.6
Zimbabwe	16	169	2566	0.4	13.2
Mauritius	2	7	1898	0.3	0.5
Seychelles	9	30	1885	0.3	2.3
Moldova	1	49	1723	0.3	3.8
Mozambique	8	120	1408	0.2	9.4
Cameroon	3	81	1133	0.2	6.3

Ringing effort by ringers

During the review period there were 462 active registered ringers/groups submitting data with only 252 ringers capturing over 100 birds and 123 of these ringers caught more than 1000 birds (Table 2). Most of these ringers ringed a variety of species which were distributed across southern Africa.

The top ringer for this period was Mr Bennie van den Brink who ringed the most birds (27988 birds), while the individual that ringed the most species was Dr Ursula Franke (371 species) (Table 2).

DEA (Department of Environmental Affairs) is gradually ringing less seabirds every year.

Table 2. Top 20 ringers/groups over the 2006 to 2013 ringing years: Most bird records (ringed/ retrapped and recovered). Code 1 = ringed birds, 2 = retraps, X = dead birds.

Name	Total	Code1	2	X	Species
Mr B Van Den Brink (927)	28212	27988	223	1	146
Dr U Franke (1240)	25522	24170	1344	8	371
Mr D Heinrich (573)	22860	20417	2371	72	291
Dr PB Taylor (1060)	22375	19437	2921	17	421
Dr. HD Oschadleus (32)	18567	15989	2524	54	253
Mr JMH Raijmakers (162)	17239	15519	1718	2	369
Dr M Brown (1089)	14477	12720	1698	59	328
Mr M Boorman (572)	14139	13548	558	33	204
Mrs M. McCall (266)	13929	12598	1326	5	116
Mr Neil Thomson (1476)	13337	9554	3753	30	193
Miss ML Marais (740)	13181	12674	505	2	156
DEA (870)	12981	12972	3	6	9
Mr T Osborne (574)	11166	10246	888	32	162
Dr A Brooks (1383)	10384	9367	996	21	310
Mr JH Raijmakers (140)	10267	9278	984	5	326
Mr M Wilson (1096)	8966	8597	362	7	512
Mr C Williams (1340)	8218	7742	475	1	318
Mrs L Silks (265)	7942	7229	708	5	107
D Cox (1542)	7653	6375	1276	2	257
Mrs K. Nelson (1540)	7628	6873	749	6	211

Ringing effort by species

Of all the records received during this period, most belonged to terrestrial species ringed by citizen scientists (Table 3). A fair number of oceanic species were ringed on islands, such as Marion and Gough, where many researchers are based, as well as DEA employees.



Table 3. The most frequently ringed species between the 2006 and 2013 ringing years. Code 1 = ringed birds, 2 = retraps.

	Species	Total	Code 1	2	X
Terrestrial	Southern Masked-Weaver	52226	48753	3373	100
	Barn Swallow	44965	44726	222	17
	Southern Red Bishop	29953	27766	2143	44
	Red-billed Quelea	18865	18757	97	11
	Cape White-eye (split)	16285	14608	1652	25
	Cape Weaver	14195	12687	1458	50
	Red-headed Finch	12950	11431	1497	22
	Cape Sparrow	11641	10758	843	40
	Laughing Dove	10856	9698	1100	58
	Dark-capped Bulbul	10031	9232	778	21
	Blue Waxbill	9546	8453	1072	21
	Sociable Weaver	9013	6354	2614	45
	Common Waxbill	8965	7630	1317	18
	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	8565	4023	4525	17
	Cape Robin-Chat	7893	6066	1784	43
Marine	Cape Gannet	14697	13580	815	302
	Common Tern	14528	13601	835	92
	Black Tern	5875	5814	60	1
	Kelp Gull	4366	3982	220	164
	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	3935	3106	817	12
	Kittlitz's Plover	2443	2252	190	1
	Swift Tern	2006	1878	65	63
	Tristan Albatross	1680	509	1159	12
	Southern Giant-Petrel	1373	449	921	3
	Roseate Tern	1240	738	491	11
Raptors	Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	2558	2330	191	37
	White-backed Vulture	1681	1537	128	16
	Steppe Buzzard	957	941	3	13
	Cape Vulture	921	673	237	11
	Lappet-faced Vulture	853	772	67	14

Recoveries

For the 2005 to 2014 ringing period SAFRING received 2554 recovery records, which were largely sent from the general public. These records were received from various locations around Africa and worldwide. The species most recovered were the Cape Gannets and Kelp Gulls. These were found on beaches and it was not possible to verify a cause. The remainder of the documented causes of death were due to collisions with either motor vehicles or buildings, and deaths as a result of domestic/wild animals (Table 4). Some interesting recoveries are given in Table 5.

Table 4. Causes of bird mortality over the 2006 and 2014 ringing years where over 10 individuals were recovered.

Finding Condition	Total Number
Died: cause of death unknown	1109
No other information	259
Carcass: found beached, cause of death unknown	151
Collision: with motor vehicle (or found next to road)	117
Killed or attacked by: domestic cat	102
Sick or injured: subsequently died or put down	53
Collision: with a window	52
Killed or attacked by: domestic dog	46
Killed or attacked by: wild mammal	43
Shot: no reason given	31
Died: drowned	30
Ring found: no sign of carcass or skeleton	28
Collision: with a fence, line or wire	26
Killed or attacked by: unknown animal	23
Died: in, or near nest	19
Died: electrocuted	17
Trapped: accidentally entangled with fishing	15
Carcass: dead less than one week, cause unknown	13
Died: on long line from fishing vessel, drowned	13
Poisoned: no reason given	10
Victim of weather: due to wind (or storm)	10

**Table 5.** Select recoveries for the 2005 to 2014 ringing years

Ring #	Details		
CK06376	White Stork (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Unknown	French Bird Centre	
	2006-06-01 4914N0003W	France	
A091109	Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Juvenile	Bulgarian Ornithology Centre	
	2010-09-27 4234N2729E	Belgaria	
4399070	Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Nestling/Pulli	Swedish Bird Ringing Centre	
	1996-06-25 5558N1423E	Sweden	
S272146	Eurasian Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Nestling/Pulli	Finnish Bird Ringing Centre	
	2006-07-19 6122N2410E	Finland	
M55807	Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Nestling/Pulli	Finnish Bird Ringing Centre	
	2007-07-07 6205N2830E	Finland	
L015734	Cory's Shearwater (<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Nestling/Pulli	Portugal Bird Centre	
	1983-09-14 3009N1552W	Ilha da Madeira	
2523892	European Storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record 1 to 2 years	Russian Bird Ringing Centre	
	2011-07-29 5959N0111W	Sandwick	
602261	Black Harrier (<i>Circus maurus</i>)	Sex: Female	
	Ringing record Adult plumage	Dr R. Simmons	
793104	Steppe Buzzard (<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Immature	Dr H (& Z) Bernitz	
	2004-02-05 3325S1829E	Darling, WC	
L01423	Sand Martin (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Unknown	Mr M Wilson	
	2008-02-22 0033N3353E	Busia, Uganda	
BC99658	Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Adult plumage	Mr M Boorman	
	2001-11-12 2235S1432E	Saltworks, NA	
636605	African Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus moquini</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Nestling/Pulli	Dr R. Randall	
	1981-02-04 3348S2546E	St Croix Island, EC	
750794	White-chinned Petrel (<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>)	Sex: Unknown	
	Ringing record Adult plumage	Marion Island Researcher	
	1983-12-24 4654S3745E	Marion Island	
PA04160	Giant Kingfisher (<i>Megaceryle maximus</i>)	Sex: Male	
	Ringing record Adult plumage	Mr N Jackson	
	2003-04-29 2348S2957E	Magoebaskloof, NP	
K13540	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Sex: Female	
	Ringing record Nestling/Pulli	Dr A Jenkins	
	1993-11-24 3409S1826E	Cape Town, WC	
	Recovery Adult plumage	Dr A Jenkins	
	2008-08-29 3359S1828E	Cape Town, WC	
	Recovery Adult plumage		
	2004-11-08 3404S2028E	Bontebok, NP	
	Recovery Adult plumage	Un-registered ringer	
	Recovery Adult plumage		
	2012-11-29 3401S2446E	Humansdorp, EC	



Acknowledgements

We at SAFRING really appreciate all the effort of ringers and the general public (the latter in reporting recoveries), and would like to

thank everyone that has taken part in ringing and reporting resightings in southern Africa.

Appendix: Ringing density, 2006-2013, in the Cape Town area (left) and Gauteng (right). Grid colours: Green 1-9, Orange 10-99, Red >100 records (includes ringing, retraps, and resightings).

