

APPROPRIATE RING SIZES FOR
SOUTHERN AFRICAN BIRDS

T.B. Oatley

Roy Earlé's letter and my footnote to it in the last Safring News has prompted several ringers to write in with comments. Letters from Dave Johnson and Mike Fagan are printed in this issue. Dale Hanmer has commented on the matter of additional ring sizes and writes, "...something between 2,3 and 3,0 mm would be useful and also one between 1,8 and 2,3 mm".

I have combined all the suggested ring sizes that have been found appropriate for the various species into one list (pp. 63-66). The two main contributors were Dale Hanmer (60 species) and Roy Earlé (34 species). Five of these species were common to both lists and they agreed on 4, differing only in respect of the Malachite Kingfisher, for which Dale recommended the E-overlap ring.

The list is arranged in Roberts number order. The first column of ring sizes is a duplicate of those given in the SAFRING edition of the Ringer's Manual, with the exception of the entry for Cape Rockthrush where the ring size does not appear in the Manual. The size given (marked **) was recommended by Piper and Schultz (1979) Safring News 8: 31-32. The final column of ring sizes are those now considered more appropriate. Suffix 'Y' or 'E' refers to rings of that prefix which are respectively special short shank and 2,5/4,0 mm variable overlap rings. Some ringers may be unaware of the K prefix rings which are 10,0 mm in diameter and provide an intermediate size between 8,0 mm and 11,0 mm. Where the ring size is followed by an asterisk, an overlap is considered desirable to obtain an optimum fit. Suffix 'F' or 'M' after the ring size indicates female or male.

Nearly all of the suggested new sizes are larger than those recommended in the Manual. However, it is important to remember that over the 20 or so degrees of latitude and longitude which comprises the SAFRING area, there is scope for marked geographic variation in size of widespread birds, and the ring sizes listed as appropriate need not necessarily be a good fit on all individuals of the species concerned.

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<u>ROBERTS NUMBER</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>RING SIZE (mm)</u>	
		<u>MANUAL</u>	<u>APPROPRIATE</u>
6	Dabchick	6,0	8,0
67	Little Bittern	6,0/8,0	11,0
130	Blackshouldered Kite	8,0	10,0/11,0
140	Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	-	12,5
148	Western Banded Snake Eagle	-	12,5
160	African Goshawk	-	8,0
171	Gymnogene	-	11,0/12,5
190	Harlequin Quail	3,0	4,3*
191	Blue Quail	-	4,3*
206	Buffspotted Flufftail	-	4,3*
287	Kelp Gull	8,0/11,0	10,0
314	Redeyed Dove	8,0	6,0
315	Mourning Dove	-	6,0
319	Tambourine Dove	5,25	4,5
320	Bluespotted Dove	-	4,5
321	Emeraldspotted Dove	4,3/4,5	4,5
323	Green Pigeon	-	8,0
340	European Cuckoo	-	6,0
342	Lesser Cuckoo	-	4,5
343	Redchested Cuckoo	-	4,3
344X	See 923		
348	Jacobin Cuckoo	4,3	6,0
374	Freckled Nightjar	3,0	4,5
376	Mocambique Nightjar	3,0	4,5
393	Narina Trogon	4,3	3,0/4,5

contd.

<u>ROBERTS</u> <u>NUMBER</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>RING SIZE (mm)</u>	
		<u>MANUAL</u>	<u>APPROPRIATE</u>
394	Pied Kingfisher	-	4,3/4,5
395	Giant Kingfisher	8,0	8,0/10,0
397	Malachite Kingfisher	-	2,5Y/2,5E
398	Pygmy Kingfisher	-	2,5Y
401	Greyhooded Kingfisher	-	4,5*
403	Striped Kingfisher	-	4,5*
406	Olive Bee-eater	3,0	4,5*
408	Böhm's Bee-eater	2,3	2,5E
410	Little Bee-eater	2,3	2,5E
413	Lilacbreasted Roller	4,5	6,0
445	Ground Woodpecker	-	4,5
447	Goldentailed Woodpecker	4,3	4,5
452	Olive Woodpecker	3,0	4,3*
496	Wiretailed Swallow	-	2,5Y
500	Mosque Swallow	2,3	3,0
515	Whitebreasted Cuckooshrike	3,0	4,5
517	Forktailed Drongo	3,0	4,3
519	European Golden Oriole	4,5	4,3
520	African Golden Oriole	4,5	4,3
521	Blackheaded Oriole	4,5	4,3
545	Blackeyed Bulbul	3,0	4,3*
552	Kurrichane Thrush	4,3/4,5	4,3
559	Cape Rockthrush	3,0**	4,3*
569	Buffstreaked Chat	-	3,0
576	Stonechat	1,8/2,3/3,0	2,3

contd.

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		<u>MANUAL</u>	<u>APPROPRIATE</u>
581	Cape Robin	2,3/3,0	3,0
588	Whitebrowed Scrubrobin	2,3/3,0	2,3
593	Collared Palm Thrush	-	3,0
599	Willow Warbler	1,8/2,3	1,8
604	Cape Reed Warbler	2,3	3,0
617	African Moustached Warbler	-	4,5
618	Grassbird	2,3/3,0	3,0
621	Southern Crombec	1,8/2,3	2,3
624	Rudd's Apalis	-	1,8/2,3M
627	Bleating Bush Warbler	1,8	2,3
629	Fantail Cisticola	1,8/2,3	1,8
636	Shortwing Cisticola	-	1,8/2,3M
642	Rattling Cisticola	1,8/2,3	3,0
644	Redfaced Cisticola	1,8	2,3
645	Blackbacked Cisticola	-	2,3
648	Lazy Cisticola	1,8/2,3	2,3
651	Karoo Prinia	1,8	2,3
677	Wattled-eyed Flycatcher	1,8	2,3
704	Yellowthroated Longclaw	3,0	4,3
717	Olive Bush Shrike	-	3,0
719	Orangebreasted Bush Shrike	-	3,0
721	Gorgeous Bush Shrike	-	3,0
723	Greyheaded Bush Shrike	-	4,3
749	Cape Sugarbird	-	4,3
750	Gurney's Sugarbird	-	3,0

contd.

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		<u>MANUAL</u>	<u>APPROPRIATE</u>
754	Coppery Sunbird	1,8	2,3
758	Greater Doublecollared Sunbird	1,8/2,3	2,3
766	Olive Sunbird	1,8/2,3	2,3
772	Black Sunbird	1,8/2,3	2,3
792	Lesser Masked Weaver	2,3	2,3F/3,0M
800	Yellow Weaver	3,0	2,3/3,0
802	Brownthroated Weaver	-	2,3F/3,0M
809	Firecrowned Bishop	-	2,3F/3,0M
810	Yellowrumped Bishop	-	2,3F/3,0M
816	Redshouldered Widow	3,0	2,3F/3,0M
825	Swee Waxbill	2,3	1,8
829	Goldenbacked Pytilia	-	2,3
837	Redbilled Firefinch	1,8/2,3	1,8
839	Blue Waxbill	1,8	1,8/2,3
847	Shafttailed Whydah	1,8/2,3	2,3
860X	See 921		
863	Bully Canary	2,3/3,0	2,3
921	Lemonbreasted Canary	-	2,3
923	Barred Longtailed Cuckoo	-	4,5
949	Basra Reed Warbler	-	2,3/3,0

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