

LOCAL BIRD RINGING STATISTICS FOR THE 1983/1984 RINGING YEAR

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In the absence of Terry Oatley, I have had the pleasure of writing this 1983/1984 summarized ringing report. I have tried to keep as closely as possible to the format and definitions used by Terry last year, so comparisons can easily be made. Once again, there are a few ringers who have not submitted their 1983/1984 returns, or a note to the effect that no birds were ringed. The South West Africa total is affected, and possibly some others as well. This report is, however, believed to include most of the ringing data from the 1983/1984 season.

RINGING EFFORT

Schedules returned up to now (May 1985), indicate that 31 335 individuals of 409 species were ringed with SAFRING bands. This is a 14,4% increase over the previous year's figure (Oatley 1984). Table 1 gives a breakdown of the ringing effort, in descending order of totals ringed per region. The Cape still heads the log, although with a reduced number of birds ringed. 2 360 Cape Gannets *Morus capensis* were ringed on Bird Island, Algoa Bay, by John Colclough and helpers, as against 4 632 the previous year, and this reduction accounts for most of the drop. Second place for an individual species in the Cape is once again held by Swift Terns *Sterna bergii*, ringed by John Cooper and the African Seabird Group.

The Orange Free State is now in second place overall, and first with respect to the maximum number of an individual species ringed: 5 053 South African Cliff Swallows *Hirundo spilodera* by Roy Earlé. As there are only 4 registered ringers returning schedules from the O.F.S. this year, this represents a very good performance. The Transvaal is now third, with Natal trailing in fourth place. Zimbabwe showed a marked reduction in number of birds ringed, with a total of below 1 000.

Amateurs were responsible for ringing 37,7% of this year's total. Four individuals achieved totals of more than 1 000 birds, these being: Mrs Dale Hanmer with 1 591, Digby Cyrus with 1 415 and Mr and Mrs Roos with 1 189. These represent 5,1%, 4,5% and 3,8% respectively of the annual total. Table 2 on page 39 lists amateur ringers who banded 100 or more individuals of a single species during the year under review.

TABLE 1
RINGING EFFORT IN THE 1983/1984 RINGING YEAR

AREA AND ORGANIZATION	No. of active ringers	No. of species ringed	No. of birds ringed	% of total birds ringed
<u>CAPE PROVINCE</u>				
Eastern Cape	6	62	3 388	10,8
African Seabird Group		1	1 950	6,2
Cape Bird Club	11	58	1 734	5,5
SANCCOB Foundation		2	1 440	4,6
Sea Fisheries Research Inst.		1	1 210	3,9
Percy FitzPatrick Institute		13	1 207	3,9
Departments of Forestry and Agriculture		18	266	0,8
Regional subtotal			11 195	35,7
<u>ORANGE FREE STATE</u>				
	4	79	7 255	23,2
<u>TRANSVAAL</u>				
Provincial Administration		12	2 263	7,2
Witwatersrand Bird Club	12	153	2 244	7,2
Vulture Study Group		1	292	0,9
N. Tvl. Ornithol. Society	3	33	200	0,6
Postgraduates	2	2	101	0,3
Regional subtotal			5 090	16,3

cont'd.

TABLE 1 (contd.)

RINGING EFFORT IN THE 1983/1984 RINGING YEAR

AREA AND ORGANIZATION	No. of active ringers	No. of species ringed	No. of birds ringed	% of total birds ringed
<u>NATAL</u>				
Natal Bird Club	12	146	2 641	8,4
African Wildlife Society		20	34	0,1
Regional subtotal			2 675	8,5
<u>MALAWI</u>				
	3	144	1 917	6,1
<u>OCEANIC ISLANDS</u>				
SASCAR		12	1 870	6,0
<u>ZIMBABWE</u> O.A.Z.	4	115	989	3,2
<u>S.W.A./NAMIBIA</u>		49	334	1,1

NATURE AND DISTRIBUTION OF RECOVERY AND RECAPTURE REPORTS

Recoveries

491 individuals of 83 species were reported dead or dying during this period. This is 13% down on the 1982/1983 total of 563. The number of Cape Gannets recovered was 66, exactly one-third of the number recovered the previous year, while the ringing effort for this species dropped by about one-half. The greatest number of recoveries for a single species was of Redknobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* with 76, Cape Gannet taking second place and Swift Tern and Yellowbilled Duck *Anas undulata* tying for third place with 33 each.

TABLE 2

AMATEURS WHO HAVE RINGED 100 OR MORE BIRDS OF A SINGLE SPECIES IN THE 1983/1984 RINGING YEAR

RINGER	REGION	SPECIES	NUMBER
Mr. & Mrs. Roos	Orange Free State	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	494
		Cape Sparrow <i>Passer melanurus</i>	250
		Red Bishop <i>Euplectes orix</i>	143
		Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	107
M. Waltner	S.W. Cape	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	329
		Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	133
P. Scogings	Natal	Bronze Mannikin <i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>	246
L.J. Bunning	Witwatersrand	Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	234
D.Cyrus	Natal	Redheaded Quelea <i>Quelea erythrops</i>	182
		Cape White-eye <i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	132
D.Hanmer	Malaŵi	Brownthroated Weaver <i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>	150
		Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	115

contd.

TABLE 2 (contd.)

AMATEURS WHO HAVE RINGED 100 OR MORE BIRDS OF A SINGLE SPECIES IN THE 1983/1984 RINGING YEAR

RINGER	REGION	SPECIES	NUMBER
A.J. Tree	Eastern Cape	Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	139
L. Underhill	S.W. Cape	Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	120
A. Schumann	Natal	Bronze Mannikin <i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>	113
M. Patterson	Malawi	European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	100

17 recoveries were reported from outside the SAFRING ringing area. Of these, eight were recovered in Eurasia, seven in other parts of Africa, and one on Macquarie Island; the final bird, a Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* ringed in February 1984 as a chick on Marion Island, was recovered four months later at Kambara Island, Fiji, more than one-third of the way round the world!

Recaptures

14 ringers and six research teams supplied recapture data on retrap (Schedule 2) forms, while there were 57 reports from members of the public of birds alive and well. 1 655 individuals of 124 species were reported with nine reports coming from outside the ringing area. Six were in other parts of southern Africa, and three were from Possession Island in the Crozet Archipelago. Table 3 shows the regional distribution of recapture and recovery data.

REFERENCE:

Oatley, T.B. 1984. Local bird ringing statistics for the 1982/1983 ringing year. Safring News 13: 18-24.

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TABLE 3

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN RECOVERIES
AND RECAPTURES IN 1983/1984

REGION	RECOVERIES REPORTED BY		RECAPTURES REPORTED BY		TOTAL
	PUBLIC	RINGERS	PUBLIC	RINGERS	
Offshore islands (Cape and S.W.A./ Namibia	9	6	6	680	701
Sub-Antarctic islands*	1	7	4	306	318
Orange Free State	23	9	1	255	288
Malawi	3	10	1	237	251
Transvaal - rural	38	130	1	3	172
Cape and Transkei coast	106	2	13	19	140
Cape inland	42	-	1	51	94
Natal inland	16	-	1	51	68
Transvaal - Pretoria and Witwatersrand complex	14	-	2	12	28
Natal coast	26	-	1	-	27
Zimbabwe	12	-	2	1	15
S.W.A./Namibia coast	10	-	3	-	13
S.W.A./Namibia inland	3	-	2	-	5
Botswana and Mozambique	3	-	2	-	5
TOTALS	306	164	40	1 615	2 125
* Not included last year, but as ringing is undertaken on these islands (Marion and Gough) using South African rings, they will be included from this year.					