

REPORTS & SHORT NOTES

REPORT ON THE 1997-98 RINGING YEAR

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With the computerization of the SAFRING ringing records, new report queries had to be generated. Largely they are similar to previous reports and are much easier to obtain than in the past. In future I will, however, be looking at what is meaningful rather than what reports were printed in the past. One frequently asked query is for ringing totals at a particular site, e.g. Bonamanzi. This was practically impossible previously. With the new system it will be possible for all data submitted to SAFRING electronically.

Ringling effort

The total number of birds ringed in 1997/98 is 79977 (7930 nestlings and 72047 adults). This is a significant increase over the published figure of 67429 in the previous ringing year. The increase is largely due to the number of queleas ringed (see later).

The ringing effort per province (or country) is based on ringers' residence, rather than where birds were actually ringed (Table 1). No schedules were received from Zambia. Gerrie Grobler's intensive ringing has brought Free State to the top of the list.

Table 1. Geographical distribution of ringing effort in the 1997-1998 ringing year.

Province or Country	Ringers	Number of species ringed	Number of birds ringed	Average birds per ringer
Free State	12	227	16 673	1 389
Gauteng	25	274	14 562	582
Western Cape	18	137	12 941	719
Northwest Province	5	117	10 406	2 081
Eastern Cape	16	191	7 451	466
Namibia	12	225	4 408	367
Botswana	3	122	3 851	1 284
Zimbabwe	5	177	2 851	570
KwaZulu-Natal	9	165	2 692	299
Mpumalanga	7	172	2 231	319
Antarctica	3	3	639	213
Northern Cape	8	49	538	67
Northern Province	1	44	324	324
Swaziland	1	41	210	210
Malawi	2	52	200	100
Totals	127	504	79 977	630

Table 2. Top 20 ringers or ringing groups in the 1997-98 ringing year, number of birds ringed.

Ringers	Region	Number of birds ringed
Gerrie Grobler	Free State	8 033
Sam de Beer	Northwest Province	4 838
Dries Nel	Free State	4 527
Sea Fisheries Research Institute	Western Cape Province	3 794
Monika Nel	Northwest Province	2 505
Rita Marais	Northwest Province	2 432
Debbie Philogene	Western Cape Province	2 264
Stephanie Tyler	Botswana	2 172
Don Williams	Gauteng	1 949
Robert Thomson	Gauteng	1 931
Margaret McCall	Western Cape Province	1 910
Pat Hulley	Eastern Cape Province	1 688
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga	1 558
David Philip	Botswana	1 524
Darryl Deetlefs	Gauteng	1 444
Jo Johnson	Western Cape Province	1 323
Gordon Scholtz	Western Cape Province	1 292
William Scott	Gauteng	1 287
Rihaan Geyser	Gauteng	1 261
Andrew Tucker	Gauteng	1 202

Gerrie Grobler increased his own (and the national) annual total record by ringing 8033 birds (Table 2).

The Redbilled Quelea took top position (Table 3) because of the intensive effort by the Wesvaal group to ring them.

The top 10 raptors trapped are shown (free-flying Table 4, nestlings Table 5). There are some distinct differences in the species in these two categories, although some birds appear in both lists. The top raptor ringers are distinguished by

trapping free-flying birds or ringing nestlings (Table 6). The data for the ringing of raptor nestlings has not previously been highlighted – these ringers make an excellent contribution: when these birds are recovered, their exact ages are known.

Recoveries

There were some 571 recoveries during the ringing year under review, with the most frequently recovered species being the Cape Gannet (Table 7). The Redbilled Quelea is low in the list in spite of the large numbers ringed.

Table 3. Most-ringed birds for the period July 1997 – June 1998.

Landbirds			
Current Rank	Species	Previous Rank	Total
1	Redbilled Quelea	2	20 341
2	Red Bishop	1	5 739
3	Masked Weaver	3	5 167
4	Cape White-eye	5	2 487
5	European Swallow	8	2 309
6	Cape Weaver	4	2 269
7	Cape Sparrow	11	1 281
8	Blue Waxbill	6	1 248
9	Laughing Dove	10	1 054
10	African Marsh Warbler	7	1 016
11	Blackeyed Bulbul	13	745
12	Common Waxbill	12	737
13	House Sparrow	16	698
14	Spottedbacked Weaver	17	683
15	Levaillant's Cisticola	20	673
16	Whitewinged Widow	15	610
17	Olive Thrush	14	609
18	Cape Reed Warbler	-	571
19	Greyheaded Sparrow	-	534
20	Cape Robin	19	525
Seabirds			
Current Rank	Species	Previous Rank	Total
1	Cape Gannet	1	4 077
2	African Penguin	3	1 456
3	Kelp Gull	2	1 247
4	Swift Tern	4	585
5	Cape Cormorant	5	448

Table 4. Top 10 free-flying birds of prey ringed in the 1997-1998 ringing year.

Species		Total	Ringers
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	232	12
Blackshouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	163	16
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	126	12
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	120	14
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	67	7
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	43	1
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	41	11
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	20	8
Little Banded Goshawk	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	19	7
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>	13	10

Table 5. Top 10 nestling birds of prey ringed in the 1997-1998 ringing year.

Species		Total	Ringers
Whitebacked Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	120	4
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	44	1
Lappetfaced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	14	3
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	11	1
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	10	2
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	10	3
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	9	2
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	3	1
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	1
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	3	1

Table 6. Top raptor ringers in the 1997-1998 ringing year.

All species, free flying		All species, nestlings	
Marc Herremans	374	Abrie Maritz	68
Herman & Zephne' Bernitz	82	PFAIO (Andrew Jenkins)	44
John Moorcroft	69	Mark Anderson	43
Abrie Maritz	66	Steve Dell	36
Albert Schultz	45	Brian Colahan	15

Table 7. Most frequently recovered species in the 1997-1998 ringing year.

Rank	Species		Previous	Total
1	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	1	105
2	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	10	58
3	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	2	53
4	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	-	46
5	Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	4	20
6	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	17	14
7	Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	8	12
8	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	13	12
9	Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	14	12
10	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	-	11
11	Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	6	10
12	Redwinged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	22	9
13	Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	3	9
14	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	7	8
15	Whitebreasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	11	7
16	Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	-	7
17	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	15	7
18	European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	-	7
19	Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	-	6
20	Whiterumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	-	6
21	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	-	6
22	Spottedbacked Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	-	6
23	Redbilled Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	9	6

