

REPORTBACK ON THE BONAMANZI ANNIVERSARY RINGING WORKSHOP, 3-5 JULY 1998

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The 50th Anniversary Ringing Workshop held at Bonamanzi, KwaZulu-Natal, on 3-5 July 1998, was a great success.

Ringers were present from Cape Town, Swaziland, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Qwa Qwa and KwaZulu-Natal.

Some of the vital statistics were:

- Number of birds ringed: 150
- Number of species ringed: 38
- Number of species seen by the group on the weekend: 165

A number of the highlights were:

- the first record of Chorister Robin in Bonamanzi – this bird was promptly ringed!
- the seventh record of Greyheaded Shrike, also duly ringed.
- first record of Redbacked Mannikin, several of which were ringed during the workshop.
- two African Goshawks caught in mistnets at different sites by Geoff Lockwood.
- three African Jacanas, which were also caught and ringed.
- Pinkthroated Twinspots, two of which André Botha managed to ring.

The many interesting talks and presentations included a wide range of diverse topics. The following selection gives an indication:

- *Safring's New Computerised Database*, a look at the possibilities available in the information systems era, by Dieter Oschadleus.
- *Skull Pneumatisation of Passerines*, a scientific paper presented by Aldo Berruti.
- *White-eyes*, an overview by Adrian Craig.
- *Wits Bird Club and Ringing*, an introduction to this active club, by John Bunning.
- *Birds of Bonamanzi*, by Trevor Snyman, Natal Bird Club.
- *Ringing in the Cape*, a regional update by Les Underhill.
- *Sex for Ringers*, by the irrepressible Steven Piper.
- the after-dinner talk, also by Steven Piper, entitled *Fifty Years of Ringing Vulture*, marking an anniversary which coincided with Safring's own half-century. Both miles-stone were simultaneously commemorated by the publication of a *Review of Ringing Recoveries of Birds of Prey* (see page 40).

All in all, it was a most active weekend, and everyone present enjoyed themselves. Both the organisers and the participants are to be congratulated for their respective roles in making this event such a success.