

# Reports

---

## Report on the 1998–1999 ringing year

**H.D. Oschadleus**

*SAFRING, Avian Demography Unit, Dept Statistical Sciences,  
University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7701*

The period covered in this report is from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. In spite of high ring costs, the ringing effort in southern Africa has been sustained, with a total of 80 958 birds ringed (Table 1). This was made up of 74 048 free-flying birds and 6910 nestlings. The previous ringing year had a total of 79 977. These figures are not accurate because they include rings from earlier years and exclude rings not submitted timeously, but this should not affect the totals by much.

There are wide differences in distribution of ringers and birds ringed in the different countries and provinces of South Africa (Table 1). The high number of birds ringed in Mauritius covers the ringing period under review as well as several previous years. In last year's report Dries Nel was inadvertently assigned to Free State province instead of North West Province which means that Table 1 in *Safring News* 27: 21–25 needs to be adjusted.

The top ringer is again Gerrie Grobler (Table 2). Sea Fisheries Research Institute has the new name of Marine & Coastal Management. Carl Jones of Mauritius is not in-

cluded in Table 2 since a large number of his birds were ringed in previous years. His rings are, however, reflected in the annual totals in Table 1. Top ringers of nestling and free-flying raptors are listed (Table 2b and 2c respectively).

The Redbilled Quelea is again the most ringed species, owing to the sponsorship of the Department of Agriculture (Table 3a). Unfortunately this funding has ceased, so it is unlikely that this bird will be ringed in such large numbers in the new ringing year. It is satisfying to see that the European Swallow has moved up in the rankings, owing to interest in the EURING Swallow Project. Sociable Weaver has entered the top 20 list while Levaillant's Cisticola has moved off.

Cape Gannets and African Penguins still lead the seabirds list (Table 3b). Free-flying and nestling raptors have many rearrangements in terms of numbers ringed (Tables 3c and 3d respectively). This is due to relatively smaller numbers being ringed than passerines, and greater changes are expected depending on the individual ringers' interest and effort.



**Table 1.** Geographical distribution of ringing effort in the 1998–1999 ringing year.

Province or country	Ringers	No. of spp. ringed	No. of birds ringed	Average birds per ringer
Free State	12	239	16 932	1 411
Western Cape	33	164	13 105	397
North West Province	5	123	12 365	2 473
Gauteng	24	250	9 667	403
Eastern Cape	14	159	9 164	655
Namibia	11	184	4 469	406
Botswana	3	137	3 893	1 298
KwaZulu-Natal	11	144	2 869	261
Mpumalanga	6	211	2 488	415
Mauritius	1	20	2 259	2 259
Zimbabwe	5	177	2 178	436
Antarctica	2	6	829	415
Malawi	2	65	364	182
Northern Cape	4	38	321	80
Swaziland	1	28	55	55
Totals	134	536	80958	604

**Table 2.** Top 20 ringers or ringing groups in the 1998–1999 ringing year.

Ringer	Province or country	No. of birds ringed
<b>a) Ringers of all species</b>		
Gerrie Grobler	Free State	8 767
Dries Nel	North West Province	5 833
Philip Coetzee	Free State	3 850
Sam De Beer	North West Province	3 783
Pat Hulley	Eastern Cape	3 081
Rita Marais	North West Province	2 555
Margaret McCall	Western Cape	2 409
Tony Tree	Eastern Cape	2 315
Gordon Scholtz	Western Cape	2 120
Bob Ellis	Western Cape	1 932
David Philip	Botswana	1 908
Rick Nuttall	Free State	1 748
Marine & Coastal Management	Western Cape	1 732
Stephanie Tyler	Botswana	1 710
Andrew Tucker	Gauteng	1 600
Dale Hanmer	Zimbabwe	1 531
Norbert Klages	Eastern Cape	1 491
SANCCOB	Western Cape	1 460
Dave Johnson	KwaZulu Natal	1 430
Rihaan Geysler	Gauteng	1 369
<b>(b) Ringers of raptor nestlings</b>		
Carl Jones	Mauritius	292
Abrie Maritz	Northern Cape	96
Tim & Laurel Osborne	Namibia	46

Mark Anderson	Northern Cape	44
Peter Bridgeford	Namibia	38
<b>c) Ringers of free-flying raptors</b>		
Herman & Zephne Bernitz	Mpumalanga	128
John Moorcroft	Eastern Cape	90
Abrie Maritz	Northern Cape	64
Bernd Brell	Namibia	43
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	32

**Table 3.** The most ringed birds for the 1998–1999 ringing year, by bird category.

Rank	Species	Scientific	Total ringed	Previous rank
<b>(a) Terrestrial species</b>				
1	Redbilled Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	19 259	1
2	European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	4 953	5
3	Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	4 858	2
4	Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	4 464	3
5	Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	2 631	4
6	Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1 739	6
7	African Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	1 080	10
8	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1 049	9
9	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	995	8
10	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	948	7
11	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	922	13
12	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	779	12
13	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	695	–
14	Blackeyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	680	11
15	Spottedbacked Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	645	14
16	Cape Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	611	18
17	Whitewinged Widow	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>	605	16
18	Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	600	17
19	Southern Greyheaded Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	578	19
20	Cape Robin	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	544	20
<b>(b) Seabirds</b>				
1	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	3 652	
2	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	2 195	
3	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	943	
4	Round Island Petrel	<i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i>	833	
5	Lesser Noddy	<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>	776	
6	Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	687	
7	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	640	
8	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	291	
9	Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	290	
10	Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	199	
<b>(c) Free-flying birds of prey</b>				
1	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	177	
2	Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	52	
3	Blackshouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	48	

Mark Anderson	Northern Cape	44
Peter Bridgeford	Namibia	38
<b>c) Ringers of free-flying raptors</b>		
Herman & Zephne Bernitz	Mpumalanga	128
John Moorcroft	Eastern Cape	90
Abrie Maritz	Northern Cape	64
Bernd Brell	Namibia	43
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	32

**Table 3.** The most ringed birds for the 1998–1999 ringing year, by bird category.

Rank	Species	Scientific	Total ringed	Previous rank
<b>(a) Terrestrial species</b>				
1	Redbilled Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	19 259	1
2	European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	4 953	5
3	Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	4 858	2
4	Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	4 464	3
5	Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	2 631	4
6	Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1 739	6
7	African Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	1 080	10
8	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1 049	9
9	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	995	8
10	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	948	7
11	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	922	13
12	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	779	12
13	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	695	–
14	Blackeyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	680	11
15	Spottedbacked Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	645	14
16	Cape Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	611	18
17	Whitewinged Widow	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>	605	16
18	Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	600	17
19	Southern Greyheaded Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	578	19
20	Cape Robin	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	544	20
<b>(b) Seabirds</b>				
1	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	3 652	
2	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	2 195	
3	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	943	
4	Round Island Petrel	<i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i>	833	
5	Lesser Noddy	<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>	776	
6	Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	687	
7	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	640	
8	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	291	
9	Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	290	
10	Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	199	
<b>(c) Free-flying birds of prey</b>				
1	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	177	
2	Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	52	
3	Blackshouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	48	

4	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	48
5	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	43
6	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	40
7	Mauritius Kestrel	<i>Falco punctatus</i>	29
8	Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	29
9	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	25
10	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	16
<b>(d) Nestling birds of prey</b>			
1	Mauritius Kestrel	<i>Falco punctatus</i>	292
2	Whitebacked Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	104
3	Lappetfaced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	55
4	Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	31
5	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	21
6	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	20
7	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	18
8	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	12
9	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	11
10	Rednecked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	8



## Announcement

### XXIII International Ornithological Congress

*Beijing, China, 11–17 August 2002*

**Honorary President:** Professor Ernst Sutter, Switzerland

**President:** Professor Walter Bock, USA

**Vice-President:** Professor Jacques Blondel, France

**General information:** email [infocenter@ioc.org.cn](mailto:infocenter@ioc.org.cn)

**Internet:** <http://www.ioc.org.cn>

**Home page:** <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/IOC/>

**Scientific Program:** Chair, Scientific Program Committee: Dr Fernando Spina

Inquiries about the scientific program and suggestions for the general program, plenary lectures and symposia, should be sent to Dr Spina at:

Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica,  
Via Ca' Fornacetta 9, I-40064 Ozzano  
Emilia (BO), Italy. Ph +39-051-65-12-  
111; Fax +39-051-79-66-28;  
email [infsioc@iperbole.bologna.it](mailto:infsioc@iperbole.bologna.it).

The scientific program of the congress is expected to include Plenary Lectures, Sym-

posia, Contributed papers (in the form of Oral presentations and Poster papers) and Round Table Discussions.

Interested ornithologists are invited submit proposals for symposia and plenary speakers by April 2000. Contributed papers and RTDs will be called for subsequently.

The XXIII Congress is the first ever held in Asia. The SPC is thus particularly interested in high-standard proposals concerned with the contribution of Ornithology to biological conservation and wildlife management.