

# Reports

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## **Wakkerstroom National Ringing Training Course, 1–8 December 2001**

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This event was held for the second time at BirdLife South Africa's Wetland Centre at Wakkerstroom, Mpumulanga, and was as successful as the previous one held here (December 2000) and the first one held at Witsand Nature Reserve in the Northern Cape (March 2000). The course was attended by 35 participants, including ringers and trainees, coming from as far as Zimbabwe and Germany, as well as from different parts of South Africa. Every morning attendees left at around 4 am to put up mistnets for the morning session. Ringing occurred at the BirdLife South Africa wetland, forest and scrub areas on nearby farms, at bridges within 10 km or so where Cliff Swallows breed, and at a Bald Ibis colony 40 km north of Wakkerstroom. Cliff Swallow colonies around Wakkerstroom were enthusiastically tackled again, with many being retrapped during the ringing sessions exactly one year ago. Dries Nel again led an outing to ring Bald Ibis chicks with metal and colour rings. Birders and ringers in KwaZulu-Natal and

Mpumulanga are requested to look out for these colour ringed birds and to report any sightings to SAFRING. Pied Starlings around the BirdLife homestead at Wakkerstroom have also been colour ringed by Steven Piper.

A total of 1523 birds was ringed, compared to nearly 1800 in 2000 at Wakkerstroom (Table 1, overleaf). The effort and specific sites varied in the 2 years. The number of ringers and trainees was 35 in 2001 instead of nearly 60 of 2000, thus resulting in a lower total number of birds ringed. The top five birds ringed in both years were the same, i.e. Red Bishop, Cliff Swallow, Masked Weaver, African Marsh Warbler and Cape White-eye, in descending order. The numbers of these five species were higher in 2000, except for the African Marsh Warbler because of Kobie Raijmaker's superb efforts at targeting warblers more effectively in 2001.

If you are interested in attending a ringing workshop, watch our web page for details ([www.aviandemographyunit.org.za](http://www.aviandemographyunit.org.za)).

**Table 1.** Numbers of birds ringed during the 2001 Ringing Training Course compared to numbers ringed during the 2000 Course.

SAFRING no.	Species	'01	'00	SAFRING no.	Species	'01	'00
82	Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus calvus</i>	5	5	510	Banded Martin <i>Riparia cincta</i>	2	4
84	Hadeda Ibis <i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>		1	517	Forktailed Drongo <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		2
96	Yellowbilled Duck <i>Anas undulata</i>	1		521	Blackheaded Oriole <i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	1	1
99	Hottentot Teal <i>Anas hottentota</i>	1		527	Southern Black Tit <i>Parus niger</i>	2	
130	Blackshouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		1	542	Bush Blackcap <i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>		11 20
152	Jackal Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	1		545	Blackeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		14 27
154	Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	2	551	Sombre Bulbul <i>Andropadus importunus</i>		2
189	Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	4	4	552	Kurrichane Thrush <i>Turdus libonyana</i>		1
247	Wattled Plover <i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		1	553	Olive Thrush <i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	9	17
316	Cape Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	1	2	569	Buffstreaked Chat <i>Oenanthe bifasciata</i>		1
317	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	4	3	573	Mocking Chat <i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>		1
322	Cinnamon Dove <i>Aplopelia larvata</i>	2	3	575	Anteating Chat <i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>		5 1
343	Redchested Cuckoo <i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	1		576	Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>	3	
344	Black Cuckoo <i>Cuculus clamosus</i>		2	578	Chorister Robin <i>Cossypha dichroa</i>	11	5
351	Klaas's Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	1		581	Cape Robin <i>Cossypha caffra</i>	33	55
352	Diederik Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	2		589	Starred Robin <i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>	5	26
367	Cape Eagle Owl <i>Bubo capensis</i>		2	595	Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	2	1
368	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>		4	599	Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		5 10
383	Whiterumped Swift <i>Apus caffer</i>	10	17	604	Cape Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>		18 13
385	Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>	1	2	606	African Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>		132 84
390	Speckled Mousebird <i>Colius striatus</i>	11	6	607	European Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>		3
395	Giant Kingfisher <i>Ceryle maxima</i>	2		608	European Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		4 2
397	Malachite Kingfisher <i>Alcedo cristata</i>	5	4	609	African Sedge Warbler <i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>		39 24
431	Blackcollared Barbet <i>Lybius torquatus</i>	4	10	610	Barratt's Warbler <i>Bradypterus barratti</i>		7
440	Greater Honeyguide <i>Indicator indicator</i>	1		618	Grassbird <i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>	4	1
442	Lesser Honeyguide <i>Indicator minor</i>	1		622	Barthroated Apalis <i>Apalis thoracica</i>	9	14
443	Sharpbilled Honeyguide <i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>	1	3	627	Bleating Warbler <i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>		1
445	Ground Woodpecker <i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>		1	629	Fantailed Cisticola <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	26
450	Cardinal Woodpecker <i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>		2	634	Ayres' Cisticola <i>Cisticola ayresii</i>	1	3
452	Olive Woodpecker <i>Mesopicos griseocephalus</i>	3	2	635	Palecrowned Cisticola <i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>		2 9
453	Redthroated Wryneck <i>Jynx ruficollis</i>	1		637	Neddicky <i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>	1	1
474	Spikeheeled Lark <i>Chersomanes albobfasciata</i>		1	642	Rattling Cisticola <i>Cisticola chiniana</i>		1
493	European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	18	1	646	Levaillant's Cisticola <i>Cisticola tinniens</i>		28 13
495	Whitethroated Swallow <i>Hirundo albigularis</i>		18 10	648	Lazy Cisticola <i>Cisticola aberrans</i>	2	3
502	Greater Striped Swallow <i>Hirundo cucullata</i>	4	5				
504	South African Cliff Swallow <i>Hirundo spilodera</i>		196 305				
506	Rock Martin <i>Hirundo fuligula</i>	2					
508	Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	2					

Table 1. continued.

SAFRING no.	Species	'01	'00	SAFRING no.	Species	'01	'00
1049	Drakensberg Prinia <i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>	3	8	751	Malachite Sunbird <i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	8	2
655	Dusky Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	1		758	Greater Doublecollared Sunbird <i>Nectarinia afra</i>	2	8
665	Fiscal Flycatcher <i>Sigelus silens</i>	1	2	760	Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird <i>Nectarinia chalybea</i>	6	9
666	Yellow Warbler <i>Chloropeta natalensis</i>	5	3	772	Black Sunbird <i>Nectarinia amethystina</i>		4
671	Yellowthroated Warbler <i>Phylloscopus ruficapillus</i>	2	7	775	Cape White-eye <i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	54	68
672	Cape Batis <i>Batis capensis</i>	9	10	787	Southern Greyheaded Sparrow <i>Passer diffusus</i>	4	1
682	Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	7	9	788	Yellowthroated Sparrow <i>Petronia superciliaris</i>	1	1
686	Cape Wagtail <i>Motacilla capensis</i>	2		799	Cape Weaver <i>Ploceus capensis</i>	48	43
688	Longtailed Wagtail <i>Motacilla clara</i>	2		803	Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	149	110
692	Grassveld Pipit <i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	1	2	805	Redbilled Quelea <i>Quelea quelea</i>		12
701	Yellowbreasted Pipit <i>Hemimacronyx chloris</i>		3	808	Red Bishop <i>Euplectes orix</i>	422	550
703	Orangethroated Longclaw <i>Macronyx capensis</i>	2	2	812	Golden Bishop <i>Euplectes afer</i>	5	19
707	Fiscal Shrike <i>Lanius collaris</i>	5	12	813	Redcollared Widow <i>Euplectes ardens</i>	6	11
708	Redbacked Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	1		816	Redshouldered Widow <i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	49	18
709	Southern Boubou <i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	1	3	818	Longtailed Widow <i>Euplectes progne</i>	46	28
712	Puffback <i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	1		833	Bluebilled Firefinch <i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	1	2
717	Olive Bush Shrike <i>Telophorus olivaceus</i>	3	1	843	Common Waxbill <i>Estrilda astrild</i>	12	23
722	Bokmakierie <i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	1	2	846	Pintailed Whydah <i>Vidua macroura</i>	3	4
734	Indian Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	1		854	Cuckoo Finch <i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>		1
735	Wattled Starling <i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	1		857	Cape Canary <i>Serinus canicollis</i>	6	8
736	Plumcoloured Starling <i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		3	858	Forest Canary <i>Serinus scotops</i>	2	7
745	Redwinged Starling <i>Onychognathus morio</i>	1		859	Yelloweyed Canary <i>Serinus mozambicus</i>		2
746	Pied Starling <i>Spreo bicolor</i>	6	16	874	Goldenbreasted Bunting <i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>		3
				<b>Total ringed</b>		<b>1523</b>	<b>1795</b>

