

Report on the 2000–2001 ringing year

H. Dieter Oschadleus

*Avian Demography Unit, Department of Statistical Sciences, UCT,
Rondebosch 7701; dieter@maths.uct.ac.za*

The period covered in this report is 1 July 2000–30 June 2001. The ringing effort in southern Africa has again increased, with a total of 82 792 birds ringed compared to 65 981 in the previous year (Table 1; *Safring News* 29: 90–92). The total was made up of 75 415 free-flying birds and 7377 nestlings. The high number of birds ringed is largely due to the 20 000 penguins ringed as a result of the *Treasure* oil spill. Again the quelea numbers are similar to the previous year's total. The number of species ringed was 554, one more than the previous year. These figures were compiled at the end of January instead of the usual December, meaning that the data is slightly more up to date than in previous years, although there are always a few ringers who submit data a few years late.

Most birds were ringed in the Western

Cape (Table 1), but the unusually high figure of 33 000 birds is due to the ringing of the 20 000 *Treasure* penguins. Ringers from outside the Western Cape helped ring these birds, as did Avian Demography Unit staff and local ringers (*Safring News* 29: 88–89). The data was all ascribed to SANCCOB, however, since the ringing took place there, putting them at the top of the list (Table 2). One new addition is Rita Covas who ringed nearly 1500 Sociable Weavers for her PhD thesis, which she has now completed. The Marine and Coastal Management team and Pete Bartlett from Ichaboe Island, Namibia, ringed seabirds. The other ringers in Table 2 are general mistnetters, although some of them also ring raptors with balchatri traps. Top ringers of nestling and free-flying raptors are listed (Tables 3a and b respectively).

Table 1. Geographical distribution of ringing effort in the 2000–2001 ringing year.

Province/ country	Number of ringers	Number of species ringed	Number of birds ringed	Average no. of birds per ringer
Western Cape	32	198	33 023	1032
Gauteng	33	294	17 299	524
Namibia	17	214	7337	432
Kwa-Zulu Natal	11	236	4049	368
Botswana	6	141	3810	635
Eastern Cape	15	150	3689	246
North West	5	137	2743	549
Northern Province	6	167	2537	423
Free State	8	137	2511	314
Northern Cape	5	50	2138	428
Mpumalanga	4	154	1997	499
Zimbabwe	6	176	1569	262
Swaziland	1	20	90	90
Totals	149	554	82 792	556

Table 2. Top 20 ringers and ringing groups in the 2000–2001 ringing year for all species.

Ringer	Province/ country	No. of birds
SANCCOB	Western Cape	20 318
Hennie de Klerk	Gauteng	2717
Bob Ellis	Western Cape	2525
Rihann Geyser	Gauteng	2127
Tim Osborne	Namibia	2107
Marine and Coastal Management	Western Cape	2038
Kobie Raijmakers	Gauteng	1761
Margaret McCall	Western Cape	1711
Riann Marais	Gauteng	1504
Rita Marais	North West	1497
Rita Covas	Northern Cape	1473
Hans Meevis	Botswana	1436
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	1401
Tony Tree	Eastern Cape	1391
Dawie Kleynhans	Free State	1287
Gerrie Grobler	Northern Province	1281
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga	1273
Peter Thornton	Gauteng	1176
Stephanie Tyler	Botswana	1143
Pete Bartlett	Namibia	1141

Table 3. Top ringers and ringing groups in the 2000–2001 ringing year for raptors.

a) Nestlings		
Ringer	Province/ country	No. of birds ringed
Abrie Maritz	Northern Cape	180
Mark Anderson	Northern Cape	78
Kevin Mitchell	Zimbabwe	64
Liz Komen	Namibia	58
Tim Osborne	Namibia	56
b) Free-flying raptors		
Ringer	Province/ country	No. of birds ringed
Francois Taljaard	Northern Cape	163
Liz Komen	Namibia	118
Abrie Maritz	Northern Cape	108
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga	90
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	81

Table 4. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2000–2001 ringing year: terrestrial species.

Rank	Species	Total ringed	Previous rank
1	Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	4912	3
2	Red Bishop <i>Euplectes orix</i>	4618	2
3	Redbilled Quelea <i>Quelea quelea</i>	4021	5
4	Cape White-eye <i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	2986	4
5	European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2941	1
6	Redheaded Finch <i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	2283	12
7	Cape Weaver <i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1997	6
8	Sociable Weaver <i>Philetairus socius</i>	1563	11
9	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1117	7
10	Blue Waxbill <i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	1082	9
11	Cape Sparrow <i>Passer melanurus</i>	924	8
12	African Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	800	10
13	Blackeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	712	14
14	Cape Robin <i>Cossypha caffra</i>	693	
15	House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	652	15
16	Common Waxbill <i>Estrilda astrild</i>	632	16
17	Bronze Mannikin <i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>	614	20
18	Olive Thrush <i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	593	18
19	South African Cliff Swallow <i>Hirundo spilodera</i>	591	
20	Redeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	567	

The European Swallow dropped in numbers and rank from the previous ringing year (Table 4). Unfortunately the swallows departed from the major roosts in Bloemfontein, Roodepoort and Middelburg early in 2001, resulting in a lower catch rate. Red-headed Finch moved high up the list due to

intensive ringing of this species by Dawie Kleynhans, Hennie de Klerk and Kobie Rajmaker in their gardens.

African Penguins lead the seabirds list (Table 5). Raptor nestlings and free-flying raptors are listed in tables 6a and 6b respectively.

Table 5. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2000–2001 ringing year: seabirds.

Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	African Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	21 020
2	Cape Gannet <i>Morus capensis</i>	2932
3	Swift Tern <i>Sterna bergii</i>	575
4	Antarctic Tern <i>Sterna vittata</i>	559
5	Kelp Gull <i>Larus dominicanus</i>	434
6	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	351
7	Hartlaub's Gull <i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	213
8	Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	182
9	Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	28
10	Cape Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	20

Table 6. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2000–2001 ringing year: raptors.

a) Raptor nestlings			b) Free-flying raptors		
Rank	Species	Total ringed	Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	Whitebacked Vulture <i>Gyps africanus</i>	150	1	Pale Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax canorus</i>	218
2	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	122	2	Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	101
3	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	63	3	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	100
4	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	42	4	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	92
5	Pale Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax canorus</i>	37	5	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	82
6	Black Harrier <i>Circus maurus</i>	35	6	Jackal Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	70
7	Secretarybird <i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	32	7	Blackshouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	68
8	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	31	8	Greater Kestrel <i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	56
9	Lappetfaced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	28	9	Pearlspotted Owl <i>Glaucidium perlatus</i>	41
10	Lizard Buzzard <i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	18	10	Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	26