

larder". Studying the captive birds and intently watching wild ones for this behaviour, I cannot agree with the idea put forward – that the bird stores food, by impaling it on thorns, barbed wire etc., in times of plenty to return to eat it later when food is not available! Nor can I subscribe to the argument put to me by one "professional" (whether in jest or not – I'm not sure!) that the male bird impales food items around his territory to advertise to passing females what a "good" territory he has and what a good provider he will be! The birds I have studied use the thorn/barb as an extra foot – impaling the grasshopper or whatever, on it so that it can better pull off a morsel to eat. I have, especially in the captive birds, *never* seen a bird come back to eat any remains of food left impaled on a spike earlier!

Acknowledgements

I have to thank the staff, especially of the "Bird Section", of the Transvaal Museum for helping organise the availability of the skins and making available to me a space and

equipment to work with to record the data.

I have to offer my sincere thanks to the personnel of the various museums for making the material available to me and allowing me to handle some of their very valuable collections. I am deeply indebted to the late Mr Peter Rohloff who helped and assisted with much of the data recording. I am indebted to the following for professional help and assistance: Dr Alan Kemp, Dr Tony Harris, Dr Tim Crowe and Dr Fred Grimes. Thanks also to the Witwatersrand Bird Club who partly financed my ringing activities at the Melville Koppies Nature Reserve, Johannesburg. Last but by no means least a big thanks to all the bird ringers who allowed me to use their ringing data for this study.

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Report

Report on the 2004–2005 ringing year

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The period covered in this report is from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. A total of 66 649 birds was ringed (Table 1) compared to 68 502 in the previous year (see Table 7). The number of birds ringed annually has

fluctuated around the eight-year mean of 75 488 over the last eight years (Table 7, Fig. 1). The rest of the tables are presented as in the previous annual ringing report.

Table 1. Ringing totals per region, 2004–2005.

Locality	Birds ringed	Spp.	Ringers	Mean/ringer	Locality	Birds ringed	Spp.	Ringers	Mean/ringer
Namibia	14 202	267	20	736	Northern Cape	1935	90	13	163
Gauteng	12 347	220	36	366	Madagascar	311	33	1	311
Western Cape	9395	173	33	326	Zambia	276	95	2	142
KwaZulu-Natal	8678	291	30	332	Swaziland	104	21	3	35
Limpopo	4617	266	32	154	At sea	103	7	3	54
Free State	3797	146	21	188	Malawi	46	6	1	49
North West	3534	163	21	178	Uganda	46	15	1	46
Eastern Cape	2746	123	18	175	Zimbabwe	35	9	1	45
Mpumalanga	2420	217	31	84	Seychelles	9	4	1	36
Botswana	2046	144	10	216	Mozambique	2	2	1	2

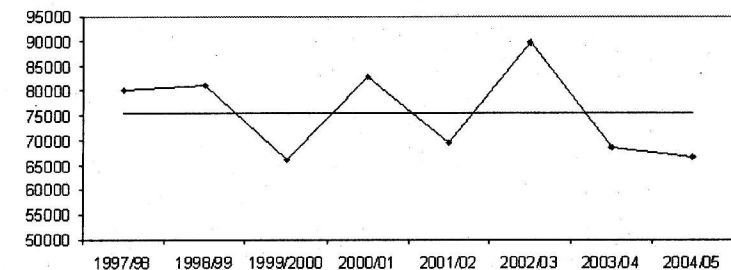


Fig. 1. Number of birds ringed annually over eight years, compared to the mean of the eight years.

Table 2. Top 20 ringers for 2004–2005.

Rank	Ringer(s)	Region	Number of birds ringed
1	Ms U Franke	Namibia	4699
2	Mr JMH Raijmakers	Gauteng	3518
3	Dr PB Taylor	KwaZulu-Natal	3363
4	Miss ML Marais	North West	2897
5	Mr D Heinrich	Namibia	2779
6	Mr T Osborne	Namibia	2457
7	Mrs MI McCall	Western Cape	2109
8	Mr AJ Tree	Eastern Cape	1831
9	Mr H De Klerk	Gauteng	1649
10	Mr JH Raijmakers	Gauteng	1642
11	Mr & Mrs M Potgieter	Free State	1626
12	Mr M Boorman	Namibia	1618
13	Mr M Brown	KwaZulu-Natal	1234
14	Mr G Scholtz	Western Cape	1168
15	Mr D van Stuyvenberg	Gauteng	1042
16	Mrs K van Stuyvenberg	Gauteng	1042
17	Mr M Ford	Western Cape	1018
18	Mr C Symes	KwaZulu-Natal	1007
19	Mrs K Dixon	Gauteng	989
20	Mr W Versfeld	Namibia	934

Table 3. Top raptor ringers.

Ringer	Region	No. of birds ringed	Ringer	Region	No. of birds ringed
Nestlings			Adult birds		
Mr W Versfeld	Namibia	71	Mr M Wilson	Mpumulanga	118
Mr P Bridgeford	Namibia	27	Mr Arie Williams	Gauteng	91
Dr A Monadjem	Swaziland	24	Ms R Visagie	Western Cape	72
Mr D Heinrich	Namibia	14	Mr D van Stuyvenberg	Gauteng	72
Mr T Osborne	Namibia	13	Mrs K van Stuyvenberg	Gauteng	72

Table 4. Top 20 terrestrial birds ringed 2004–2005.

Species	Birds ringed	Species	Birds ringed
803 Southern Masked-Weaver	5955	1172 Cape White-eye (split)	1176
805 Red-billed Quelea	3148	544 African Red-eyed Bulbul	1154
808 Southern Red Bishop	2762	783 Sociable Weaver	932
775 Cape White-eye (pre-split)	2112	830 Green-winged Pytilia	905
820 Red-headed Finch	1993	780 White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	901
493 Barn Swallow	1494	545 Dark-capped Bulbul	885
786 Cape Sparrow	1435	871 Lark-like Bunting	803
799 Cape Weaver	1312	581 Cape Robin-Chat	753
317 Laughing Dove	1230	843 Common Waxbill	746
839 Blue Waxbill	1186	606 African Reed-Warbler	693

Table 5. Top ten ringed seabirds, 2004–2005.

Species	Species	Scientific name	No. of birds ringed
291	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2675
287	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	959
10	Yellow-nosed Mollymawk	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	294
903	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	121
292	Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>	120
288	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	106
51	Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	102
42	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	58
298	Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	40
293	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	37

Table 6. Top ten raptors ringed, 2004–2005.

Species	Species	Scientific name	No. of birds ringed
165	Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	330
107	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	149
154	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	121
368	Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	88
108	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	65
359	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	65
152	Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	53
122	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	52
146	Black-chested Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	41
130	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	36

Table 7. Comparison of annual totals over eight years.

	Active ringers	New ringers	Birds ringed	Species ringed	No. of recoveries	No. of retraps
1997/1998	127	?	79 977	504	571	660
1998/1999	134	27	80 958	536	517	504
1999/2000	155	34	65 981	553	441	3278
2000/2001	149	24	82 792	554	294	3914
2001/2002	148	25	69 383	569	359	6272
2002/2003	173	47	89 689	568	510	6213
2003/2004	186	35	68 502	654	410	8019
2004/2005	134	19	66 649	651	296	5976