

YELLOWBELLIED BULBUL *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Ring 4-23807, was ringed on 30 June 1973 at Buzi Farm, Chipinge, Zimbabwe, by I.A.W. Macdonald and C.J. Vernon in the homestead garden. It was then an adult with a mass of 50,0 g. Sometime during 1985 and prior to 12 October, which was the date when Mrs Jo Scott of Buzi Farm, Box 21, Chipinge, wrote giving the information, the bird lost its ring while being released from under netting covering a strawberry bed in the farm garden. The bird had thus lived for at least 12 years as an adult; for to be of adult age in June 1973, the bird must have been reared the previous breeding season of September to November. This exceeds the longevity record of ten years and nine months for this species given by Walter Lawson (1973, Safring News 2 (1): 12-13).

C. Vernon, East London Museum, P.O. Box 11021, SOUTHERNWOOD, 5213

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RING 'FIT' ON BLACKBREASTED SNAKE EAGLE

The ring size prescribed for the Blackbreasted Snake Eagle in the most recent SAFRING Guide To Ring Sizes is 16,0 mm. Since February 1985 I have ringed 28 full-grown individuals and have always considered the 16,0 mm ring a loose fit. On one occasion I used a 12,5 mm ring. On most of the birds I measured tarsus diameter and found it to be generally in the range of 12,0 mm - 13,5 mm; consequently the 16,0 mm ring is a loose fit. To date I have succeeded in retrapping two birds, both after the duration of 12 months. On one, the ring was very much in the condition it was when originally fitted, but the other had been opened up considerably, the butt joint of the ring was agape by about 6,0 mm and there is little doubt in my mind that the bird was entirely responsible for the opening of the ring. Obviously any pressure exerted by the eagle to remove the ring would be against the tarsus, consequently there was considerable abrasion on the tarsal scales coinciding with what I considered to be the position the ring would be in while being attacked by the eagle.

I now overlap 16,0 mm rings on all Blackbreasted Snake Eagles to obtain as close a fit as possible while leaving the ring free enough to move on the tarsus. No doubt the eagle's ability to attack and remove (?) a ring is enhanced by the amount of bill it can get between the ring and its tarsus.

J.E. Robson. 49 Curvy Road, Blairgowrie, RANDBURG, 2194