

AMATEUR RINGING PROJECTS

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CAPE TOWN.

The introduction of the project ringing system for amateur ringers has been one of the major changes brought about by the Ringing Unit. The idea stemmed from two considerations - a) The inducing of amateur ringers to think in terms of specific problem - orientated research. Ringing is merely a scientific technique, a means to an end not an end in itself. Ringing serves very little purpose unless it is aimed at answering certain problems about a species. In recent years, many ringers have of their own accord moved away from haphazard ringing - the introduction of project-ringing will formalise this tendency. Furthermore ringers are now expected to produce progress reports at the end of each season. This will mean more effort to assess what each batch of data really means and whether further collection of the same data is justified. b) Money. Under the auspices of the S.A.O.S., the organisation was gradually being swamped by the large volume of incoming data and the overhead costs were growing. Now that the overheads have been absorbed by the Unit, and considerable financial support given to ringing, results must be produced. Costs must be kept down - hence the necessity to charge cost price for all rings. However the sponsors wish to support genuine research using the ringing technique - hence the introduction of the project system and free rings for approved projects.

The aim of this article is to give the details of all amateur projects registered to date. Not all projects listed have been awarded free rings. It is felt that such a list will be useful to ringers so that they know what work is going on, which ringers are working on the same species as they are and which, on related problems.

The project system is really a method of throwing the scientific ball back into the amateur ringers' court. It is now up to you to show that you can carry out meaningful research, however small the problem is, which you select. There is a lot of potential in the projects cited and in fact many of them have already been underway for a number of years. The Unit will do its best to help in working up the results and assessing directions of future research.

ROBERTS NO. RINGER
SPECIES.

PROJECT

-	Kestrels J. Ledger & Kite		Weight, moult, movement and populations of Greater (122), Rock(123) and Lesser (125) Kestrels and Black-shouldered Kites (130)
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-	Birds of Prey	H.P. & J.M. Mendelsohn	A study of movements and numbers of birds of prey in northern Transvaal - special study on Dickinson's Kestrel (121).
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230	Painted Snipe	A.J. Tree	Movements, ageing and sexing criteria.
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237	Kittlitz Plover	A.J. Tree	Movements and general physical data especially moult.
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238	Three - Banded Plover	A.J. Tree	As above
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251	Curlew Sandpiper	G. Underhill, L. Underhill, H. Pfister, M. Waltner, G. Wilson.	Weight fluctuations, moult cycle, sex differences, distribution and movement. Population size of the species in southern Africa.
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245	Knot	G. Wilson	Moult-cycle, changes in plumage, sex ratios, local movement, weight changes.
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255	Sanderling	L. & G. Underhill, M. Waltner, G. Wilson	Moult cycle, breeding plumage onset, local movements & weight fluctuations.
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256	Ruff	H. Pfister (C.B.C.)	Moult, Weight, local movements. Migration.
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		A.J. Tree (R.O.S.)	General Study - leg colour - ageing guides.
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275	Cape Dikkop	K. Edwards (E.C.W.B.S)	Seasonal movement, ageing and sexing methods, population size.
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288	Grey-Headed Gull	H.C. Hunter	Dispersal and longevity at Westdene, Benoni, Transvaal.
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289	Hartlaub Gull	Cape Bird Club (leader G. Underhill)	Dispersal and longevity of chicks from Robben Island, Table Bay, and from Schapen Island, Saldanha Bay.
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-	Waders	M. Schmitt, T. Archibald (Rand Water Group)	Weight and moult studies. Long distance and local movements and migrations of all waders on the Rand, Transvaal.
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-	Waders	G. Wilson (W. Cape Wader Grp)	as above for all waders in South-Western Cape.
-	Rails & Crakes	M. Schmitt	Moult, weight, breeding cycle, chick growth, ageing, sexing and migration of all Crakes and Rails in the Transvaal.
317	Laughing Dove	R. Harwin	Moult & weight. Homing ability of birds transported away from catching site.
		H. C. Hunter	Moult cycle, weight fluctuations and movement at Bryanston, Transvaal.
383	White-rumped Swift.	R. K. Schmidt	Migration and longevity. Faithfulness to nest site. Dispersal of juveniles.
384	Horus Swift	P. Steyn	Longevity and population structure. This study began in 1959.
371- 377	Nightjars	H. D. Jackson	Studies on the Life histories of nightjars.
493	European Swallow	A. D. S. Hewitt & S. Piper	Dispersal and analysis of moult, age and sex at Johannesburg roosts.
		H. P. Mendelsohn & R. Robinson.	As above but at Pretoria roosts. Occurrence of subspecies.
502	Greater striped swallow	R. K. Schmidt	Migrants - and longevity. Faithfulness to nest site, dispersal of juveniles.
504	Cliff Swallow	T. Archibald	Migration and return to breeding site.
509	African Sand Martin	G. Wilson	Study of colour phases. Moult cycle movements weight changes.
533	Arrow Marked Babbler	R. Harwin	Studies of flock composition and interchange of individuals, by colour-ringing.
589	Starred Robin	T. Oatley	Populations and breeding biology.
-	Cossyphas & Erythro pygias	T. Oatley	Seasonal movements and influxes into different habitats.

COMMUNITY STUDIES.

AREA	RINGER	PROJECT
Salisbury, Rhodesia.	R. Chenaux- Repond.	Movements of common garden birds.
Marandellas, Rhodesia	P. Ginn	Grassland birds at Peterhouse.
Pretoria, Transvaal	M. Johannis- meier.	Seasonal movements - populations on Univ. Expt. Farm.
Umtentweni River, Natal	P. La Hausse	Especially Yellow & Spotted-back Weavers.
Mtunzini, Zululand	W. Lawson	A forest area - study started in 1960.
Pretoria Transvaal	W. Lawson C. Roos R. Robinson	A thornveld area.
Durban North, Natal	W. Lawson (leader)	A suburban area.
Muruwati Farm Mazoe, Rhodesia	C. & A. J. Manson.	A study of species on a large farm.
Salisbury, Rhodesia	C. & A. J. Manson	A study of the effects of artificial feeding in a suburb.
Northern Transvaal.	H. P. Mendel- sohn.	Species distribution - training of young ringers.
Pretoria, Transvaal.	H. P. Mendel- sohn.	Populations on Univ. Expt. Farm.
Waterkloof, Pretoria, Transvaal.	R. Robinson	Populations of garden birds.
Bryanston, Transvaal.	R. Reed	Study of garden birds.
Pretoria, Transvaal	C. Roos	Study of garden birds.
Zimbabwe, Rhodesia.	C. Vernon	Species composition of garden.
Karoo Farm Cape.	J. M. Winter- bottom.	Population and general study in semi - arid area.

ROBERTS NO.	SPECIES.	RINGER	PROJECT
2	Jackass Penguin	J.Cooper (SANCCOB)	Population size, mortality and movement on Dassen and other off-shore islands.
43	White Pelican	J.Cooper et al. (SANCCOB)	Dispersal from Dassen colony: duration of juvenile plumage, longevity.
49	Bank Cormorant	J.Cooper (SANCCOB)	Populations, individual breeding season, mate fidelity movements and longevity.
81	Sacred Ibis	H.C.HUNTER (W.B.C.)	Post-nestling movement from Westdene, Benoni, Tvl. Longevity.
-	Egrets & Ibises	C.B.C. Proj. (G.Wilson-leader)	Dispersal of Little Egret (S.A.) Yellow-billed Egret (60) Cattle Egret (61), Sacred Ibis (81), Glossy Ibis (83) from Kersefontein colony, nr. Velddrif, Cape.
-	Egrets, Ibises, Herons, Cormorant	H.C.Hunter (W.B.C.)	Species above plus White-breasted Cormorant (47), Reed Cormorant (50), Grey Heron (54) Black-headed Heron (55), Squacco Heron (62) Black Heron (64), Night Heron (69), Spoonbill (85) - dispersal from Westdene, Benoni. Tvl.
-	Ducks & Geese	J.Speedie, H.C.Hunter (W.B.C.)	Movement and moult study of all waterfowl at Westdene, Benoni. Tvl.
106	Cape Vulture	M.Johannsmeyer. (N.T.O.S)	Dispersal of birds ringed as chicks mainly at Skeerpoort colony, Hartebeestepoort Dam, Tvl. Study started in 1961.
		J.Ledger, M. al. (W.B.C.)	as above but mainly at Roberts Farm, Schmitt, et Rustenburg and Ootsi, Botswana.
-	Vultures	P.Mundy (R.O.S.)	Comparative study of Cape (106), White-backed (107) Black (108) White-headed (109) and Hooded (110) Movements, longevity, behaviour. Mainly Wankie area.
133	Black Eagle	V.Gargett, V.Tuer et al. (R.O.S.)	Study of longevity, movements of chicks fledged in the Matopos, Bulawayo.
154	Steppe Buzzard	G.J.Broekhuysen.	Migration and ostreue in Western Cape.