

SOME INTERESTING RECAPTURES AT THE OLIEWENHUIS GARDENS, CENTRAL BLOEMFONTEIN

D H de Swardt

National Museum, P O Box 266, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300

Since August 1988 I have carried out some bird ringing at the Oliewenhuis Gardens (29°06'S, 26°13'E), central Bloemfontein (De Swardt 1992). The gardens are surrounded by natural vegetation, and typical tree species occurring in the area include *Buddleja saligna* and *Olea europa* subsp. *africana*. The koppie forms part of Grants Hill which is, like Naval Hill, one of the koppies with natural vegetation in the centre of the city. The gardens are situated in a city environment and both bush (see the explanation of "bush birds" in Fraser *et al.* 1991) and garden birds are common.

During the past four years nearly 400 birds have been ringed. Garden birds such as Cape White-eyes, Redeyed Bulbuls and Olive Thrushes are common and bush birds such as Karoo Robins, Titbblers, Redfaced Mousebirds and other species are also frequently captured. What about Longbilled Crombec, Lesser Honeyguide and Cardinal Woodpecker captured in the middle of town?

During the past four years 17 (4,2% of total ringed) significant recaptures have been made (Table I overleaf). A Blackchested Prinia, ringed during February 1989, was recaptured 36 months later in the gardens. A Layard's Titbabbler was recaptured 16 months later at the same net site in the gardens. The

species is not so common in Bloemfontein and this bird is possibly showing seasonal movement and fidelity to its winter site. The "oldest" bird to date is the Cape White-eye which was ringed on 3 September 1988 and was recaptured 44 months later in the same area.

Although most of the recaptures were made in the vicinity of the gardens, some birds have also been found to move into the surrounding suburban gardens and areas. A Titbabbler (AB 68751) ringed during September 1988 was found dead next to the road at Naval Hill (ca 2 km away) 11 months later. A Cape White-eye and a Redeyed Bulbul were also found dead in nearby gardens.

The ringing programme at Oliewenhuis is to continue as a long-term project, mainly to monitor birds' movements in the area. The few recoveries reported above show that there is some movement of the birds, mainly during the winter months.

REFERENCES

- DE SWARDT, D.H. 1992. Bird ringing at the Oliewenhuis gardens - an ongoing programme. *Mirafra* 9: 6-8.
- FRASER, M.W., UNDERHILL, G.D. & MCMAHON, L. 1991. Ringing bush birds in the south-western Cape. *Birding in Southern Africa* 43:98-102.

- o O o -

TABLE I

RECAPTURES AND RECOVERIES AT OLIEWENHUIS

RING NO	SPECIES	DATE RINGED	DATE RECAPTURED	TIME LAPSE (MONTHS)	STATUS
X 62154	CAPE WHITE-EYE	27.08.88	18.08.90	24	Recaptured
X 62165	CAPE WHITE-EYE	03.09.88	09.05.92	44	Recaptured
X 67219	CAPE WHITE-EYE	10.02.90	09.05.92	27	Recaptured
AB 70118	CAPE WHITE-EYE	06.05.89	31.10.90	18	Recaptured
X 67224	CAPE WHITE-EYE	10.02.90	10.07.91	18	Recaptured
X 62161	CAPE WHITE-EYE	03.09.88	18.01.91	17	Recovered
AB 68789	BLACK CHESTED PRINIA	25.02.89	04.02.92	36	Recaptured
AB 70116	LAYARD'S TITBABBLER	06.05.89	11.09.90	16	Recaptured
AB 68751	TITBABBLER	03.09.88	29.07.89	11	Recovered
AB 81145	TITBABBLER	11.09.90	09.05.92	20	Recaptured
AB 70112	TITBABBLER	05.05.89	13.06.92	38	Recaptured
BB 92890	REDEYED BULBUL	25.02.89	13.09.90	19	Recaptured
BB 92886	REDEYED BULBUL	23.02.89	13.11.89	9	Recovered
BB 92854	REDEYED BULBUL	27.08.88	24.05.89	9	Recovered
BB 97821	REDEYE BULBUL	10.02.90	09.05.92	27	Recaptured
D 18065	LAUGHING DOVE	10.02.90	03.10.90	9	Recovered
D 18072	LAUGHING DOVE	10.07.91	13.06.92	11	Recaptured