

Report on the 1999–2000 ringing year

H. Dieter Oschadleus

*Avian Demography Unit, Department of Statistical Sciences,
University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701;
email: dieter@maths.uct.ac.za*

The period covered in this report is from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. The ringing effort in southern Africa has decreased slightly, with a total of 65 981 birds ringed compared to 80 958 in the previous year (Table 1). The average number of ringed birds per ringer dropped from 604 in the 1998–1999 year to 426 in the 1999–2000 year and fewer quelea were ringed (as predicted in the previous report). The total consists of 57 726 free-flying birds and 8255 nestlings. The number of species ringed was 553. These figures are not absolutely accurate because they include schedules from earlier years and exclude schedules not submitted timeously, but this should not affect the totals very much.

As usual, the numbers of ringers per province/country, as well as the numbers of birds ringed per province/country, vary widely (Table 1). In the previous year there were three regions where there were no ringers and no birds were ringed; now there are three active ringers in the Northern Province, Zambia has submitted schedules for several years and is now up to date and in the Seychelles some seabirds were ringed.

The Marine and Coastal Management team heads the list for ringing the most birds (Table 2). The top individual ringer is Rick Nuttall. Top ringers of raptor nestlings and free-flying raptors are listed (Table 3).

The number of Redbilled Quelea ringed

Table 1. Geographical distribution of ringing effort in the 1999–2000 ringing year.

Province/ country	Number of ringers	Number of species ringed	Number of birds ringed	Average no. of birds per ringer
Western Cape	32	230	15 516	485
Gauteng	28	262	11 015	393
Free State	10	141	7102	710
Eastern Cape	15	171	6270	418
North West	9	190	5618	624
Namibia	13	199	4538	349
KwaZulu-Natal	18	207	4310	239
Botswana	6	127	2639	440
Mpumalanga	8	170	2322	290
Zambia	1	94	1927	1927
Northern Province	3	180	1796	599
Zimbabwe	5	157	1748	350
Northern Cape	3	29	448	149
Seychelles	1	4	438	438
Swaziland	1	39	155	155
Malawi	1	37	92	92
Antarctica	1	1	47	47
Totals	155	553	65 981	426

Table 2. Top 20 ringers or ringing groups in the 1999–2000 ringing year for ringers of all bird species.

Ringer	Province/ country	No. of birds ringed
Marine & Coastal Management	Western Cape	3058
Rick Nuttall	Free State	2790
Dries Nel	North West	2705
Frik Conradie	Free State	2517
Margaret McCall	Western Cape	2341
Bob Ellis	Western Cape	2312
Norbret Klages	Eastern Cape	2161
Pete Leonard	Zambia	1927
Gordon Scholtz	Western Cape	1887
David Johnson	KwaZulu-Natal	1636
Stephanie Tyler	Botswana	1445
Rita Marais	North West	1334
Rihann Geysler	Gauteng	1310
Gerrie Grobler	Northern Province	1150
Madeleen van Loggerenberg	Gauteng	1125
Willem de Klerk	Gauteng	1105
Kobie Raijmakers	Gauteng	1079
Dale Forbes	KwaZulu-Natal	1069
Dale Hanmer	Zimbabwe	1012
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga	977

Table 3. Top ringers of raptors in the 1999–2000 year.

Ringer	Province/ country	No. of birds ringed
(a) nestlings		
Abrie Maritz	Northern Cape	121
Steve Dell	North West	55
Tim & Laurel Osborne	Namibia	43
Peter Bridgeford	Namibia	39
Anthony van Zyl	Western Cape	25
(b) free-flying raptors		
Abrie Maritz	Northern Cape	181
John Moorcroft	Eastern Cape	97
Francois Taljaard	Northern Cape	80
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga	79
Manfred Schmitt	Gauteng	50

Table 4. The most frequently ringed birds for the 1999–2000 ringing year: terrestrial species.

Rank	Species	Total ringed	Previous rank
1	European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	5973	2
2	Red Bishop <i>Euplectes orix</i>	5673	3
3	Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	4644	4
4	Cape White-eye <i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	2888	5
5	Redbilled Quelea <i>Quelea quelea</i>	2531	1
6	Cape Weaver <i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1648	6
7	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1249	8
8	Cape Sparrow <i>Passer melanurus</i>	1089	10
9	Blue Waxbill <i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	1079	9
10	African Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	1010	7
11	Sociable Weaver <i>Philetairus socius</i>	931	13
12	Redheaded Finch <i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	828	
13	Whitewinged Widow <i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>	662	17
14	Blackeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	643	14
15	House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	640	11
16	Common Waxbill <i>Estrilda astrild</i>	611	12
17	Cape Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	597	16
18	Olive Thrush <i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	597	18
19	Southern Greyheaded Sparrow <i>Passer diffusus</i>	561	19
20	Bronze Mannikin <i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>	524	

Table 5. The most frequently ringed birds for the 1999–2000 ringing year: seabirds.

Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	Cape Gannet <i>Morus capensis</i>	4074
2	African Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	2427
3	Kelp Gull <i>Larus dominicanus</i>	782
4	Swift Tern <i>Sterna bergii</i>	566
5	Hartlaub's Gull <i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	404
6	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	402
7	Whitetailed Tropicbird <i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	364
8	Mediumbilled Prion <i>Pachyptila salvini</i>	305
9	Antarctic Tern <i>Sterna vittata</i>	253
10	Cape Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	120

Table 6. The most frequently ringed birds for the 1999–2000 ringing year.

Rank	Species	Total ringed
Free-flying birds of prey		
1	Pale Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax canorus</i>	319
2	Jackal Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	84
3	Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	69
4	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	55
5	Blackshouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	52
6	Greater Kestrel <i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	43
7	Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	42
8	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	41
9	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	35
10	Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	26

Birds of prey nestlings

1	Whitebacked Vulture <i>Gyps africanus</i>	131
2	Lappetfaced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	53
3	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	49
4	Pygmy Falcon <i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	31
5	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	28
6	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	21
7	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	15
8	Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	14
9	Secretarybird <i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	12
10	Pale Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax canorus</i>	11

dropped from 19 259 in the previous year to 2531 (Table 4), as a result of the lack of sponsorship of the Department of Agriculture. The next few species have moved up the ranks but there are no surprises.

Cape Gannets and African Penguins are still at the top of the Seabirds list as in the previous year (Table 5). Free-flying and nestling raptors are listed (Table 6).

