

In addition to Black Duck we have trapped 35 individual Giant Kingfishers Ceryle maxima. Most small birds get through the nets but doves tend to get badly tangled. Rivers, like marshes or reed beds, tend to be discrete habitats, so that it is possible to trap individuals repeatedly. The wealth of information that this can give you cannot be overemphasised.

RINGING RESEARCH INTO THE
BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE Elanus caeruleus

A subgroup of the recently-formed Transvaal Raptor Group has undertaken a specific ringing study of the Black-shouldered Kite (BSK) in the South-central Transvaal. Two recent recoveries (Witwatersrand - Cradock ; Warmbaths - Beira) have shown that the species is capable of long-distance movement. The study group will also gather the following data (anyone ringing BSK's is asked to do the same where possible):

- Basic NUBRA schedule data (Species, Robert's number, ring number, age, sex, mass, time, date, colour code, moult code, locality).
- Wing, tail, culmen, tarsus, tarsal diameter (widest midshaft and widest distal) all in mm.
- Wing surface area (cm²) - by marking wing outline on a flat sheet of paper and measuring later with a grid or a planimeter.
- Colour of soft parts (colour charts available): iris, bill, cere, tarsus and toe, claw.
- Weather conditions
- Trapping details (whether by net, bal-chatrri or other means.)
- Crop distension.
- Sexing: we know of NO way to sex BSK's, but are investigating this aspect.
- Blood smear) submitted to relevant laboratories (addresses
- Ectoparasites) supplied if requested).
- Moult data: wing and tail, use scoring system 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0. Body moult in regions. Categories: moulting; not moulting (either new or old).

The Transvaal Raptor Group uses a raptor details form which includes space for all the above topics - these will be supplied for use on BSK's if requested.

Any persons with enquiries, or with similar interests, please contact:

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