

REPORT ON THE KLAARSTOOM PROJECT, 1974-75

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The Klaarstroom project is a community study of the birds on the farm "Tabakland", Cape Province. It has been described earlier in SAFRING 2(2):9-11. Owing to my absence in Australia, no ringing was done until December, 1974. Thereafter, monthly visits were made. The total number of birds ringed was 296, of 34 species. The most numerous species were: Cape Sparrow, Passer melanurus (63), Masked Weaver Ploceus velatus (48) and Cape White-eye Zosterops pallidus (45). The total for no other species exceeded 20 (see Table 1 for a complete list). The number of recaptures was 37.

RECAPTURES AS PERCENTAGE OF BIRDS CAUGHT

| Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 10 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 33 | 50 | 33 | 26 | 17 | 22 | 8 |

Notable among these were a Cape White-eye ringed in 1971 and two Cape White-eyes and a Cape Robin ringed in 1972. Analysis of controls over the period 1972-75 (and omitting the first year of ringing, 1971, when controls would naturally be few) shows that among the birds caught the biggest proportion of those already ringed is in winter (June-September). This is also the period when fewest birds are caught. The inference from this is that there is an influx to the population in summer, partly due to the results of breeding and partly due to the results of immigration; but by the onset of winter, the immigrants have left and the surplus yearlings are dead or dispersed, so that, at this season, a high percentage of the population consists of resident birds.

Evidence of movement comes also from analyses of the ringing totals for two pairs of congeneric species. In the weavers, Masked and Cape, both of which breed on the farm, the latter outnumbered the former by about three to two from July to November; but during the rest of the year, the ratio is five Masked to two Cape. This strongly suggests that at the close of the breeding season, many Cape Weavers move away.

The other pair of species analysed is the Speckled Mousebird, Colius striatus and the White-backed Mousebird Colius colius (the Red-faced Mousebird Urocolius indicus has never been caught and is less numerous and irregular in occurrence.). Both have been recorded for every month of the year and the White-backed Mousebird has been netted in every month except July. The ratio between the two is two White-backed to one Speckled, but, unlike the weavers,

the seasonal pattern is much the same in both, 67% of White-backed and 50% of Speckled having been caught in the months December-February. This is the period when the cultivated fruit is ripe and it appears that many of the birds disperse elsewhere at other times.

TABLE I
Species Ringed and Recaptured, 1974-75

| Species | | Ringed | Recaptured |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Turtle Dove | <u>Streptopelia capicola</u> | 2 | - |
| Laughing Dove | <u>Stigmatopelia senegalensis</u> | 3 | 1 |
| Speckled Mousebird | <u>Colius striatus</u> | 8 | - |
| White-backed Mousebird | <u>Colius colius</u> | 14 | 2 |
| Malachite Kingfisher | <u>Corythornis cristata</u> | 1 | - |
| Cape Bulbul | <u>Pycnonotus capensis</u> | 4 | - |
| Olive Thrush | <u>Turdus olivaceus</u> | 3 | - |
| Cape Robin | <u>Cossypha caffra</u> | 14 | 3 |
| Willow Warbler | <u>Phylloscopus trochilus</u> | 1 | - |
| African Marsh Warbler | <u>Acrocephalus baeticatus</u> | 1 | - |
| Crombec | <u>Sylvietta rufescens</u> | 1 | - |
| Le Vaillant's Cisticola | <u>Cisticola tinniens</u> | 1 | - |
| Karoo Prinia | <u>Prinia maculosa</u> | 9 | 1 |
| Namaqua Prinia | <u>Burnesia substriata</u> | 4 | 1 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | <u>Muscicapa striata</u> | 1 | 1 |
| Tit-babbler | <u>Parisoma subcaeruleum</u> | 6 | 1 |
| Fiscal Flycatcher | <u>Sigelus silens</u> | 3 | - |
| Fairy Flycatcher | <u>Stenostira scita</u> | 2 | - |
| Cape Wagtail | <u>Motacilla capensis</u> | 2 | - |
| Fiscal Shrike | <u>Lanius collaris</u> | 2 | 1 |
| Rokmakierie | <u>Telophorus zeylonus</u> | 2 | - |
| Red-winged Starling | <u>Oxychoznathus morio</u> | 2 | - |
| Pied Starling | <u>Spreo bicolor</u> | 3 | 1 |
| Malachite Sunbird | <u>Nectarinia famosa</u> | 1 | - |
| L. Double-collar Sunbird | <u>Cinnyris chalybeus</u> | 1 | - |
| Cape White-eye | <u>Zosterops pallidus</u> | 45 | 6 |
| Cape Sparrow | <u>Passer melanurus</u> | 63 | 10 |
| Cape Weaver | <u>Ploceus capensis</u> | 20 | 3 |
| Masked Weaver | <u>Ploceus velatus</u> | 48 | 6 |
| Common Waxbill | <u>Estrilda astrild</u> | 7 | - |
| Cape Canary | <u>Serinus canicollis</u> | 1 | - |
| White-throated Seed-eater | <u>Crotophaga alboocularis</u> | 12 | - |
| Streaky-headed Seed-eater | <u>Poliospiza gularis</u> | 2 | - |
| Cape Bunting | <u>Fringillaria capensis</u> | 5 | - |