

TRANSVAAL RAPTOR GROUP

A. C. Kemp,
Transvaal Museum,
PO Box 413,
Pretoria.

The Transvaal raptor group is a completely unconstituted gathering of persons with all forms of interest in raptors: biologists, conservationists, Falconers, artists, and especially ringers. It was formed to try and make the most efficient use of the effort being expended by standardising road count and specimen examination details, and by providing an occasional forum for exchange of information and ideas.

Individual or group initiatives are encouraged, such as the Vulture and Black-shouldered Kite groups, and people with special talents looking at marking methods, sexing methods such as logorotony and pelvic separation, trapping techniques and devices. Other interests range from the study of captive birds to the problems of raptor illustration.

The results from these studies include a paper in preparation on raptor weights, and field application of some of the techniques developed.

VULTURE STUDY GROUP

J. Ledger,
PO Box 1038,
Johannesburg,
2000.

The group was formed primarily to co-ordinate a subcontinental colour ringing programme on all five species of vultures. In this it has succeeded, and all operators in southern Africa have clearly defined procedures which they follow to prevent the possibility of duplications. The founders, and most active workers to date, are Peter Murdy and John Ledger, and a lot of their field experience has gone into the compilation of special forms for data collection, and into circulars giving suggested methods and procedures for processing vultures. This has helped to standardise the type of data being collected by other workers who may be handling vultures as part of different research projects: the anthrax research programme of Dr de Vos in the Kruger National Park is a case in point.

The special forms listed below are available to all workers on vultures. They are requested to lodge duplicate copies of their colour-ringing data with the convenor of the Vulture Study Group as a safe-guard against accidental loss.

1. Colonial Ringing Form (for Cape Vulture nestlings)
2. Colony Summary Form (used with above)
3. Colony Registration Form (Census of all Cape Vulture colonies)