

THE MASS OF BIRDS COLLECTED AT TWO TRANSVAAL FISH HATCHERIES

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The following mass data are from birds collected at the Provincial Fisheries Institute, Lydenburg, 25°07'S, 30°27'E, and the Lowveld Fisheries Research Station, Marble Hall, 24°52'S, 29°21'E, between March 1963 and January 1975. I wish to thank Dr E.J. Kruger for access to the file containing these data and to all the officials who collected the information.

The data are presented as follows: Unless otherwise stated all masses are from adults. Individual masses of four or fewer birds are given with the mean in parenthesis. With five or more masses the total measured is given with the range, and the mean plus standard deviation in parenthesis. Where sexes were distinguished this is shown. All birds were measured to the nearest gram.

Dabchick Podiceps ruficollis:

♂ 145

♀ 152

White-breasted Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo:

♂♂, 1871, 1891, 2183, 2337, (2070)

♀, 1797

Reed Cormorant Phalacrocorax africanus:

15 ♂♂, 400-593 (516 ± 61,2)

15 ♀♀, 418-584 (512 ± 53,0)

Darter Anhinga rufa:

♀ 1191

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea:

18 ♂♂, 991-1663 (1339 ± 180,7)

7 ♀♀, 1120-1528 (1322 ± 144,9)

9 unsexed 1243-1720 (1433 ± 214,6)

Black-headed Heron Ardea melanocephala:

♂♂, 1245, 1400, 1471, (1372)

♀, 1272

♀, juvenile 960

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea:

♀: 875

Little Egret Egretta garzetta:

Unsexed, 499

Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides:

♀, 284

Hamerkop Scopus umbretta:

24 ♂♂, 381-672 (538 \pm 64,3)

20 ♀♀, 421-537 (473 \pm 31,6)

Sacred Ibis Ihneskiornis aethiopicus:

♂♂, 859, 1535, 1697, (1364)

♀♀: 1305, 1700, 1740, (1582)

Grey-headed gull Larus cirrocephalus:

Unsexed, 314

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis:

♀♀, 85, 100, (93)

♀♀, juvenile 78, 86, (82)

Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima:

9 ♂♂, 309-389 (348 \pm 26,1)

10 ♀♀, 329-375 (328 \pm 41,3)

Half-collared Kingfisher Alcedo semitorquata:

♂ 42

Malachite Kingfisher Corythornis cristatus:

Unsexed, 17