

the second time) in May 1979.

Two species were recorded on the farm for the first time in this period, a Stonechat Saxicola torquata during a cold spell in October 1978 and a Black Crow Corvus capensis in December. The first was probably a bird driven down by the weather from the Swartberge and the second a stray from the Karoo further north. Other seldom-recorded species included a Greenshank Tringa nebularia and a party of Karoo Green Warblers Eremomela gregalis.

BRIGHT - RINGED PULLI

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Recently I ringed some Dusky Flycatcher Muscicapa adusta pulli. After the chicks had been replaced in the nest, the adults continued with feeding. After a few feeding visits, one adult bird was observed to be pulling at a ring on a chick.

The rings being of a silver colour, resemble the faecal sacs and as a result the adult birds try to remove them. The parents tug so violently, that the chicks could be injured or even pulled right out of the nest.

I suggest that anybody ringing pulli with bright rings (stainless steel or aluminium), should blacken them first. If colour-ringing is being undertaken, combinations using bright colours such as white, light green, light blue and yellow, should be avoided, or the offending rings should be blackened. An indelible marker seems to be adequate for the purpose and will wear off shortly after the bird leaves the nest.