

Ringling summary for Uganda, March 1997 to December 2001

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Introduction

This data is a summary of ringling effort aimed at Palaearctic migrants over four years from March 1997 until December 2001 on the Mweya Peninsula, Lake Edward, Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP), Uganda. The ringling year 2001 represents numbers from ringling sites in Kampala, Entebbe and a wader site at Kibimba rice scheme, Iganga province, southeast Uganda.

Ringling program at Mweya

In late March and early April 1996, a 2 week

feasibility study was undertaken to see what numbers of Palaearctic migrants could be caught on the Mweya Peninsula. It proved successful and I took up residence in Mweya full-time in March 1997.

Mistnetting was conducted on the Mweya Peninsula from dawn (06h00) until 10h00. A minimum of 80 to a maximum of 220 metres of mistnet was used, depending on available ringers. The habitat type was primarily a mixture of Sickie bush *Dichrostachys cinerea* and *Capparis tomentosa* thicket in an area well grazed by game: mainly hippo, elephant, waterbuck and

Table 1. Most frequently ringling birds ringling in Uganda, 1996–2001.

Species	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	0	115	326	185	626	5	1257
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	14	27	6	181	1151	1	1380
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	30	24	6	8	67	0	135
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	50	119	58	50	241	15	533
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	30	50	92	129	352	14	667
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	1	26	22	17	113	25	204
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	47	123	310	272	326	1	1079
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	7	32	6	0	26	51	122
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	0	2	0	0	9	6	17
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	5	26	8	3	14	11	67
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	0	1	1	0	2	10	14
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	36	32	0	0	101	64	233
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	1	2	0	0	0	30	33
Caspian Plover <i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	8	2	0	0	0	0	10
Ringling Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	0	2	0	0	4	33	39
Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2	0	0	0	12	9	23
Painted Snipe* <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	0	3	0	0	0	6	9
Collared (Redwinged) Pratincole* <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	0	17	1	0	90	0	108
Kittlitz's Plover* <i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	75	0	11	0	98	0	184
Total							6114

*Non-Palaearctic migrants

warthog. The ringing period was from mid-October until mid-May with the peak months being November and March.

The main species totals table shows the most common migrants caught at Mweya: 1996 represents the feasibility study (Table 1). The table does not show any strong constant effort bias as I was unable to ring regularly and numbers of birds ringed were often much higher during November–December when visiting ringers arrived in Uganda for the autumn period.

Other species of Palaearctic migrants caught were:

- 1 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*,
- 1 Hobby Falcon *Falco subbuteo*,
- 2 White-winged Terns *Chlidonias leucop-terus*,
- 1 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*,
- 2 Greenshanks *Tringa nebularia*,
- 1 Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*,
- 2 Turnstones *Arenaria interpres*,
- 5 Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii*,
- 1 Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*,
- 1 Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arun-dinaceus*,
- 1 Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*,
- 2 Whitethroats *Sylvia communis*,
- 4 Barred Warblers *Sylvia nisoria*,
- 6 Olivaceous Warblers *Hippolais pallida*,
- 1 Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*,
- 8 Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio*,
- 8 Spotted Flycatchers *Muscicapa striata*,
- 1 Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semi-torquata*,
- 1 Winchat *Saxicola rubetra*.

Nine Palaearctic species showed site fidelity, being retrapped in subsequent seasons (Table 2). Of four sites on the Peninsula up to 2 km apart, no Palaearctic species were retrapped at different sites. Adult Reed Warbler K28503, ringed on 27/05/1997 at QENP was retrapped at the same locality on 14/07/1997, i.e. it did not migrate to Europe. There was one foreign control: Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus C436*, was ringed in Sahalahti, Hame, Finland, as a pullus on 23/06/1996

and retrapped on 24/01/1999 at QENP, a distance of 7980 km. Eleven Afrotropical longevity records are given (Table 3).

Conclusion

A total of 10 014 birds of 275 species have been ringed to date from these sites in Uganda, 5822 of them Palaearctic migrants. Unfortunately only one foreign control has been made. In some years I received assistance from visiting UK ringers who helped boost ringed numbers of Palaearctic migrants. Most regular were Barry Williams, Chris Sharpe, Ian Kerton, Arron Sapsford, Andy Pierce, Clint Schipper (Australia), Francis Argyle, Steve Dodd, Billy Rutherford, Brian Manton, Paul Roper, Jason Bishop, Christer Hemborg (Sweden), Anders Oden (Sweden), and Staffan Ulfstrand (Sweden).

Table 2. Birds ringed and retrapped at the same locality, Uganda, 1996–2001.

Species	QENP Kampala	
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	3	4
Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	13	1
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	2	
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1	
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	3	
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	1	
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	1	
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	3	
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	1	
Kittlit's Plover* <i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	3	
Collared Pratincole* <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	2	

*Non-Palaearctic migrants

Table 3. Selected longevity records of Afrotropical birds, Uganda, 1996–2001.

Species	Ring	Age & sex	Date ringed	Date retrapped	Elapsed time	Locality
Spectacled Weaver <i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	A82789	Adult male	05/04/1996	29/10/2000	4y 6m 24d	QENP
Slender-billed Weaver <i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>	K26606	Full grown	10/04/1996	16/12/2000	4y 8m 7d	QENP
Grey-backed Camaroptera <i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	K26522	Full grown	10/04/1996	14/12/2000	4y 8m 5d	QENP
Angola Swallow <i>Hirundo angolensis</i>	K26034	Adult	31/03/1996	23/11/1999	3y 7m 23d	QENP
Lesser Striped Swallow <i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>	K26414	Adult	07/04/1996	10/12/2000	4y 8m 4d	QENP
Gabon (Mozambique) Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>	E2634	Adult male	07/03/1997	31/10/2000	3y 7m 25d	QENP
Pygmy Kingfisher <i>Ispidina picta</i>	E2642	Adult	09/03/1997	14/11/2000	3y 8m 7d	QENP
Coppery Sunbird <i>Nectarinia cuprea</i>	K28474	Adult male	06/05/1997	15/11/2000	3y 6m 11d	QENP
African Thrush <i>Turdus pelios</i>	A42323	Adult male	26/05/1997	15/11/2000	3y 5m 21d	QENP

Editor: Tables 2 and 3 have been shortened.

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