

# Reports

## Report on the 2003-2004 ringing year

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The period covered in this report is from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. A total of 68502 birds was ringed in 20 countries or provinces (Table 1) compared to a higher 89689 in the previous year (see Table 7). There is a fair amount of fluctuation in ringing totals over the last 5 years (Table 7), probably mainly due to the number of penguins and quelea ringed, as mentioned in previous annual reports.

Most birds were ringed in the Western Cape, followed closely by Namibia (Table 1). Ringing records were received from several other African countries, namely Sao Tome, Equatorial Guinea, Zambia, Angola, Seychelles and Gabon. The top ringer is Ursula Franke (Table 2). Top raptor ring-

ers are Andrew Jenkins for nestlings and Tim Osborne with bal-chatrics (Table 3).

The number of species ringed was 654, much higher than any previous year, largely due to ringing activities north of southern Africa (Table 7). The top species are Masked Weaver, Red Bishop, Cape White-eye, Redbilled Quelea, and Cape Sparrow similar to previous years, but European Swallow has dropped to tenth place. Interesting is that White-throated Canary is on the top twenty list (Table 4).

As usual Cape Gannets lead the Seabirds list (Table 5). Barn Owl is the most ringed nestling raptor and Whitebacked Vulture is the most trapped raptor (Table 7).

**Table 1.** Locality breakdown of ringing 2003-4

Locality	Birds	Species	Ringer	Avg/Ringer
Western Cape	13,146	176	55	239
Namibia	12,319	288	28	440
Gauteng	11,037	211	48	230
Kwazulu-Natal	7,314	288	41	178
Limpopo	4,662	229	43	108
Free State	4,308	144	23	187
Mpumalanga	4,259	210	34	125
North West	4,170	188	30	139
Eastern Cape	2,641	142	22	120
Northern Cape	1,057	77	19	56
Zimbabwe	956	134	6	159
Malawi	802	105	4	201
Botswana	439	86	7	63
Sao Tome	339	23	1	339
Equatorial Guinea	302	30	1	302
Zambia	243	50	3	81
Angola	131	31	3	44
Seychelles	117	9	1	117
Swaziland	96	21	2	48
Gabon	89	24	1	89

**Table 2.** Top 20 ringers for 2003-4

Rank	Ident	Prov/Country	n
1	Ms U Franke	Namibia	3945
2	Mr D Heinrich	Namibia	2237
3	Miss ML Marais	North West	2235
4	Mrs MI McCall	Western Cape	1933
5	Mr JH Raijmakers	Gauteng	1755
6	Mr JMH Raijmakers	Gauteng	1626
7	Dr G Grieve	Gauteng	1455
8	Mr H De Klerk	Gauteng	1428
9	Mr T Osborne	Namibia	1379
10	Prof H Bouwman	North West	1360
11	Mr F Du Plooy	Free State	1324
12	Mr M Boorman	Namibia	1309
13	J Wakelin	Kwazulu-Natal	1268
14	Mr B Ellis	Western Cape	1225
15	Dr PB Taylor	Kwazulu-Natal	1154
16	Mr M Brown	Kwazulu-Natal	1122
17	Mr JF du Plooy	Gauteng	1118
18	Mr HD Oschadleus	Western Cape	1106
19	Mr A Schultz	Eastern Cape	1105
20	C De Kock	Gauteng	1084

**Table 3.** Top Raptor ringers 2003-4**Top 5 raptor (nestling)**

Ident	Prov/Country	n
Dr A Jenkins	Western Cape	77
Mr K Mitchell	Zimbabwe	57
Mr P Bridgeford	Namibia	54
Mr W Versfeld	Namibia	32
Mr D Heinrich	Namibia	20

**Top 5 raptor (free-flying)**

Ident	Prov/Country	n
Mr T Osborne	Namibia	191
Dr H (& Z) Bernitz	Mpumalanga	135
Mr Arie Williams	Gauteng	102
Mr M Wilson	Mpumalanga	75
J Wakelin	Kwazulu-Natal	71

**Table 4.** Top 20 ringed terrestrial birds 2003-4

Rank	Species	n	prev
1	Masked Weaver	5832	2
2	Red Bishop	5678	1
3	Cape White-eye	2530	5
4	Redbilled Quelea	2169	3
5	Cape Sparrow	1840	12
6	Cape Weaver	1623	6
7	African Marsh Warbler	1488	11
8	Laughing Dove	1378	10
9	Larklike Bunting	1304	
10	European Swallow	1225	4
11	Blackeyed Bulbul	1109	9
12	Sacred Ibis	1019	
13	Cape Robin	882	14
14	Common Waxbill	817	16
15	Whitethroated Canary	748	
16	Blue Waxbill	745	7
17	Redheaded Finch	735	8
18	Sociable Weaver	735	
19	Spottedbacked Weaver	604	18
20	Cape Reed Warbler	565	20

**Table 5.** Top 10 ringed seabirds 2003-4

Rank	Species	n	prev
1	Cape Gannet	1519	2
2	African Penguin	1364	
3	Kelp Gull	1230	5
4	Common Tern	1036	1
5	White Pelican	124	
6	Damara Tern	97	
7	Bank Cormorant	84	
8	Cape Cormorant	82	10
9	African Black Oystercatcher	65	
10	Black Tern	46	8

**Table 6.** top 10 Raptors for 2003-4

English	n
White-backed Vulture	391
Pale Chanting-Goshawk	242
Barn Owl	141
Common (Steppe) Buzzard	131
Rock Kestrel	108
Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite	96
Spotted Eagle-Owl	76
Cape Griffon (Vulture)	71
Jackal Buzzard	70
Lappet-faced Vulture	69

**Table 7.** 2003 Years summary

Year	Birds	Species	Active	New ringers
2003	68502	654	186	35
2002	89689	568	173	47
2001	69383	569	148	25
2000	82792	554	149	24