

BULLY CANARIES RINGED IN LYDENBURG

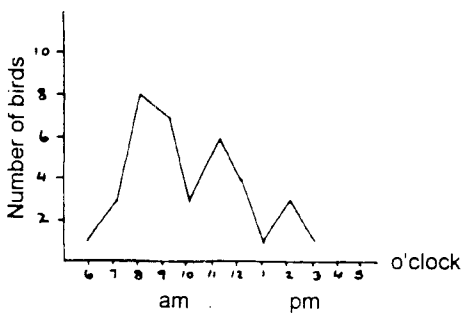
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The Bully Canary *Serinus sulphuratus* was first spotted in Lydenburg, at a bird table, in March 1989. I have been ringing these canaries in my garden from 1992 to 1994. Previously, I had reported this species as being a winter visitor to our town (Schoeman, 1990). However, further research shows that although it is concentrated in town between April and July, it has also been recorded there from February to October.

Of the 35 canaries ringed in my garden, 80% have been caught before noon and 20% after noon. Graph 1 depicts the number of birds ringed at a given hour. Bully Canaries have only been caught from May to September. Graph 2 depicts the number of birds ringed in a given month, as well as the percentage ringed each month.

Measurements taken of the Bully Canary differ from those stated in *Roberts' birds of southern Africa*. It would seem that the data in *Roberts' birds of southern Africa* was obtained in the south and southwestern Cape, Natal and Zimbabwe. The following



Graph 1. Number of birds ringed at a given hour.

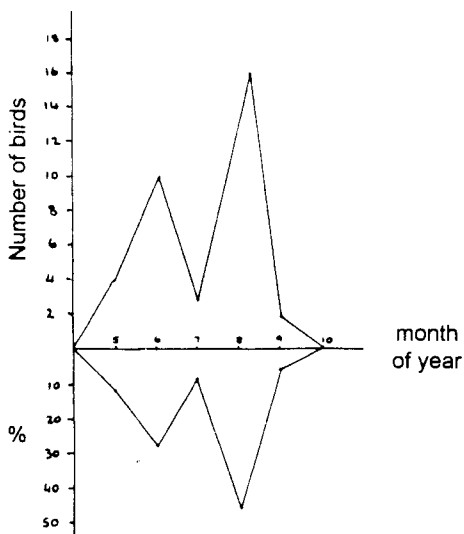
measurements were taken from 35 adults in Lydenburg (25°06'S, 30°28'E), Eastern Transvaal:

Total length:	150-172 mm
Head:	29,6-34 mm
Culmen:	15-22,2 mm
Tarsus:	17,1-22 mm
Wing:	67-85 mm
Tail:	53-77 mm
Weight:	21-29 mm

As yet no breeding activities have been observed in Lydenburg. Only one bird was found in moult in August 1994. During winter, Bully Canaries are attracted to good food sources and reliable water points. The latter are visited in the early morning to bath and drink.

REFERENCES

- MACLEAN, G.L. 1993. *Roberts' birds of southern Africa*. Cape Town: John Voelcker Bird Book Fund.
- SCHOEMAN, S. 1990. Bully Canaries in Lydenburg. *The Hornbill* 22: 21.



Graph 2. No. of birds ringed and ringing percentage for a given month.