

Reports

Wakkerstroom Ringing Training Course

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During the first week of December 2000 the second national training workshop was held at the BirdLife Centre at Wakkerstroom. About 60 people attended. About half of the people were ringers and the other half were trainees. Some 1800 birds of about 100 species were ringed (Table 1). The structure of the course was similar to the course held at Witsand Nature Reserve (March 2000); in addition the theoretical aspects of bird-ringing were presented to the trainees over lunch times. These comprehensive lectures were based on the

newly produced Ringer's Manual.

Bird-ringing sites included the wetland where hundreds of Red Bishops *Euplectes orix* and various warbler species were captured. Ringers and trainees were introduced to the art of catching Cliff Swallows *Hirundo spilodera* at several bridge colonies. One method, requiring much coordination, involves dropping nets from the top of the larger bridges (Fig. 1). Dries Nel's technique involves putting a mistnet diagonally under the bridge colony where it is mostly shaded.

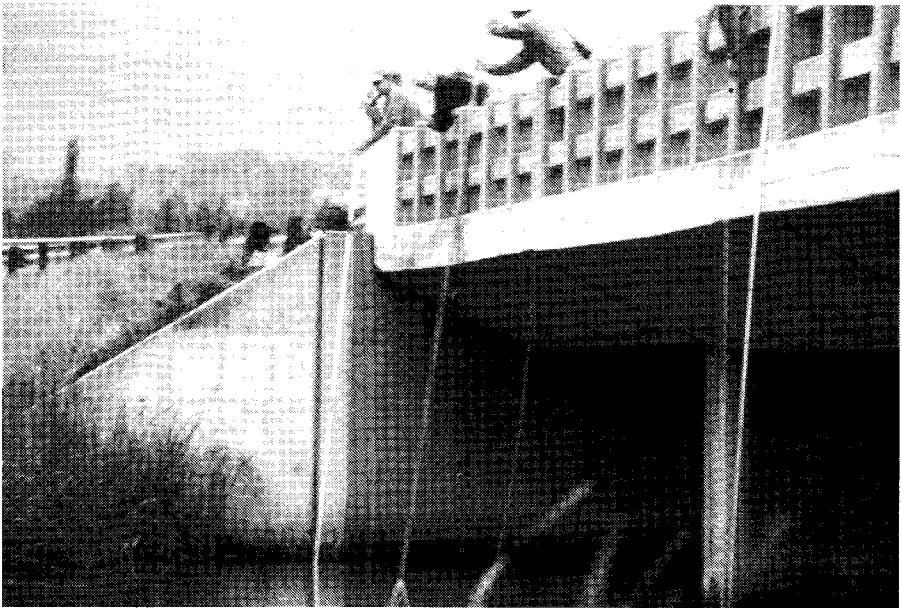


Fig 1. Dropping mistnets over the side of the Amersfoort bridge at Wakkerstroom to trap Cliff Swallows. (Photograph by H.D. Oschadleus.)

A highlight of the week for many ringers and trainees was the opportunity to ring in the remnant forest patches on nearby farms, where interesting species like Starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* and Bush Blackcap *Lioptilus nigricapillus* were handled. Spring-

traps were seen in abundance! (See article in this issue.) A similar course will be held at the same place and at about the same time in 2001: see page 100 of this issue for all the details.

Table 1. List and numbers of birds ringed in the Wakkerstroom area during the training course, 3–10 December 2000 (about 1% of data not available at time of going to press).

SAFRING no.	Species	No. ringed	SAFRING no.	Species	No. ringed
82	Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus calvus</i>	5	553	Olive Thrush <i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	17
84	Hadedda Ibis <i>Bosrychia hagedash</i>	1	569	Buffstreaked Chat <i>Oenanthe bifasciata</i>	1
130	Blackshouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1	575	Anteater Chat	
154	Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	2		<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	1
189	Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	4	578	Chorister Robin <i>Cossypha dichroa</i>	5
247	Wattled Plover <i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	1	581	Cape Robin <i>Cossypha caffra</i>	55
316	Cape Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	2	589	Starred Robin <i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>	26
317	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	3	595	Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	1
322	Cinnamon Dove <i>Aplopelia larvata</i>	3	599	Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	10
343	Redchested Cuckoo <i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	1	604	Cape Reed Warbler	
344	Black Cuckoo <i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	2		<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	13
367	Cape Eagle Owl <i>Bubo capensis</i>	2	606	African Marsh Warbler	
368	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	4		<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	84
383	Whiterumped Swift <i>Apus caffer</i>	17	607	European Marsh Warbler	
385	Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>	2		<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	3
390	Speckled Mousebird <i>Colius striatus</i>	6	608	European Sedge Warbler	
397	Malachite Kingfisher <i>Alcedo cristata</i>	4		<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2
431	Blackcollared Barbet <i>Lybius torquatus</i>	10	609	African Sedge Warbler	
443	Sharpbilled Honeyguide			<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>	24
	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>	3	610	Barratt's Warbler <i>Bradypterus barratti</i>	7
450	Cardinal Woodpecker		618	Grassbird <i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>	1
	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	2	622	Barthroated Apalis <i>Apalis thoracica</i>	14
452	Olive Woodpecker		629	Fantailed Cisticola <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	26
	<i>Mesopicos griseocephalus</i>	2	634	Ayres' Cisticola <i>Cisticola ayresii</i>	3
453	Redthroated Wryneck <i>Jynx ruficollis</i>	1	635	Palecrowned Cisticola	
474	Spikeheeled Lark			<i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>	9
	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	1	637	Neddicky <i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>	1
493	European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1	642	Rattling Cisticola <i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	1
495	Whitethroated Swallow		646	Levaillant's Cisticola <i>Cisticola tinniensis</i>	13
	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	10	648	Lazy Cisticola <i>Cisticola aberrans</i>	3
502	Greater Striped Swallow <i>Hirundo cucullata</i>	5	1049	Drakensberg Prinia <i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>	8
504	South African Cliff Swallow		665	Fiscal Flycatcher <i>Sigelus silens</i>	2
	<i>Hirundo spilodera</i>	305	666	Yellow Warbler <i>Chloropeta natalensis</i>	3
510	Banded Martin <i>Riparia cincta</i>	4	671	Yellowthroated Warbler	
517	Forktailed Drongo <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	2		<i>Phylloscopus ruficapillus</i>	7
521	Blackheaded Oriole <i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	1	672	Cape Batis <i>Batis capensis</i>	10
542	Bush Blackcap <i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>	20	682	Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	9
545	Blackeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	27	692	Grassveld Pipit <i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	2
551	Sombre Bulbul <i>Andropadus importunus</i>	2	701	Yellowbreasted Pipit	
552	Kurrichane Thrush <i>Turdus libonyana</i>	1		<i>Hemimacronyx chloris</i>	3

Table 1 continued.

SAFRING no.	Species	No. ringed	SAFRING no.	Species	No. ringed
703	Orangethroated Longclaw <i>Macronyx capensis</i>	2	788	Yellowthroated Sparrow <i>Petronia supercilialis</i>	1
707	Fiscal Shrike <i>Lanius collaris</i>	12	799	Cape Weaver <i>Ploceus capensis</i>	43
709	Southern Boubou <i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	3	803	Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	110
717	Olive Bush Shrike <i>Telophorus olivaceus</i>	1	805	Redbilled Quelea <i>Quelea quelea</i>	12
722	Bokmakierie <i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	2	808	Red Bishop <i>Euplectes orix</i>	550
734	Indian Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	1	812	Golden Bishop <i>Euplectes afer</i>	19
735	Wattled Starling <i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	1	813	Redcollared Widow <i>Euplectes ardens</i>	11
736	Plumcoloured Starling <i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	3	816	Redshouldered Widow <i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	18
746	Pied Starling <i>Spreo bicolor</i>	16	818	Longtailed Widow <i>Euplectes progne</i>	28
751	Malachite Sunbird <i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	2	833	Bluebilled Firefinch <i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	2
758	Greater Doublecollared Sunbird <i>Nectarinia afra</i>	8	843	Common Waxbill <i>Estrilda astrild</i>	23
760	Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird <i>Nectarinia chalybea</i>	9	846	Pintailed Whydah <i>Vidua macroura</i>	4
772	Black Sunbird <i>Nectarinia amethystina</i>	4	857	Cape Canary <i>Serinus canicollis</i>	8
775	Cape White-eye <i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	68	858	Forest Canary <i>Serinus scotops</i>	7
787	Southern Greyheaded Sparrow <i>Passer diffusus</i>	1	859	Yelloweyed Canary <i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	2
			874	Goldenbreasted Bunting <i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	3

TALKS GIVEN AT THE WAKKERSTROOM WORKSHOP

Steven Piper - Welcome address

Andre Botha – Introduction to Wakkerstroom

Kobie Raijmaker – Identifying warblers

Keith Barnes – Taking blood samples

Barry Taylor – Trapping methods for flufftails and crakes

Christian Boix – Studying hornbills in Namibia

Keith Barnes – Important Bird Areas project

Dries Nel – Bald Ibis colour ringing project

Kobie Raijmaker – Recording moult in birds

Rihann Geyer – Identifying weavers, widows and bishops

Muchane Muchai – Trapping grassland birds

Kevin McCann – Crane ringing and projects

Steven Piper – Morphometrics of Longtailed Wagtails in different regions