

Biodiversity Observations

http://bo.adu.org.za



An electronic journal published by the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town

The scope of Biodiversity Observations consists of papers describing observations about biodiversity in general, including animals, plants, algae and fungi. This includes observations of behaviour, breeding and flowering patterns, distributions and range extensions, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and colouration/plumage variations. Biotic interactions such as pollination, fruit dispersal, herbivory and predation fall within the scope, as well as the use of indigenous and exotic species by humans. Observations of naturalised plants and animals will also be considered. Biodiversity Observations will also publish a variety of other interesting or relevant biodiversity material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, book reviews and any other appropriate material. Further details and guidelines to authors are on this website.

Lead Editor: Arnold van der Westhuizen – Paper Editor: Les G Underhill

REPORT ON THE 2014 RINGING YEAR

Dane M. Paijmans and H. Dieter Oschadleus

Recommended citation format: **Paijmans DM, Oschadleus HD** 2016. Report on the 2014 ringing year. Biodiversity Observations 7.63: 1–11.

URL: http://bo.adu.org.za/content.php?id=256

Published online: 2 September 2016

11 October 2016 – Table 2 updated

- ISSN 2219-0341 -



AFRING NEWS

REPORT ON THE 2014 RINGING YEAR

Dane M. Paijmans* & H. Dieter Oschadleus

SAFRING, Animal Demography Unit, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7701, South Africa

* Corresponding author: d.paijmans@gmail.com

Following from the 47th summary of ringing effort for the years July 2006 to end of 2013 (Paijmans & Oschadleus 2015), the SAFRING database has grown to 2,412,294 records. Throughout the 2014 ringing year upgrades were underway to improve both the website and database which resulted in reduced functionality over this time.

Ringing papers

Even with this additional development work being undertaken a number of very interesting research articles have been published utilising the ringing data collected as well as an MSc project (Table 1). There have also been many popular articles published (within the bird newsletters, magazines, and online) as well as nine new articles in Afring News volume 43.

Ringing effort

The 2014 ringing year (1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014) was a moderately successful one because SAFRING received 63,825 records (56,331 birds ringed; 7,093 recaptured; 401 recoveries records) of 692 species (Figure 1). Although this is the lowest number of ringing records we received since 1998, the recapture rate was excellent and the recovery rate was nearly double that of the last few years.



Figure 1. Trend in ringing effort over fifteen years from 2000 to 2014.

The effort from ringers has been well distributed across southern Africa (Figure 2), with most records (ringing, retrap, recovery) originating from the South African provinces and Namibia (Table 2). The South African province to produce the most records was the Western Cape (9,377 records), and KwaZulu-Natal had the most species ringed (320 species).

In previous summaries we have listed the top ringing groups and ringers separately as it was an unfair comparison. For this summary however this was unnecessary as SAFRING has started issuing species specific licences that allow for individuals within groups to control their own data. This allows for more precise data handling and means that in most cases records are assigned to individuals, and there are only a few cases of ringing groups still obtaining high



numbers (eg. Department of Environmental Affairs, the oceanic islands and SANCCOB).



Figure 2. Distribution of ringing effort across southern Africa per each quarter degree grid cell within southern Africa in the 2014 ringing period. The colour coding of the grid cell indicates numbers of birds ringed in it

During 2014, 96 active registered ringers/groups ringed over 100 birds and 11 of these ringed more than 1,000 birds (Table 3). Most of these ringers ringed a variety of species and were distributed across southern Africa. The top ringer, Dr Ursula Franke, ringed the most birds by far (6,133 birds), while the person who ringed the most species was Dr Barry Taylor from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (245 species) (Table 4).



Figure 3. Positions at which birds with SAFRING rings were retrapped/recovered/resignted around the world, for the 2014 ringing year.

In total, 692 species were ringed or reported in 2014 but most records involved the top 50 species. These were predominantly terrestrial birds as this is where most ringers are present, however, due to substantial research being done on oceanic islands, there were also many records originating from island research sites (Tables 5, 7, 10).

Of the 7,093 retrap records processed over this period a large portion (~18%) were received from Gough Island (Table 6). This is



due to the substantial colour ringing effort being undertaken there and because these birds are easily resignted when nesting.

Because it is not always possible for registered ringers to locate or process a dead ringed bird, we have to rely quite heavily on general public for our recovery records. For 2014 we had a vast improvement over previous years with members of the public contributing 134 recovery records (Table 9). These records were received from various locations around the continent of Africa and beyond (Figure 3). The species with the most recoveries were the Sociable Weaver, Kelp Gull, Swift Tern and Cape Gannet (Table 10). This is primarily due to the fact that studies involved in the ringing of these species focus on the juveniles which have a lower survival rate than adults. These high number of sea bird recoveries also is partly accounted by the large number of birds found dead on beaches (Table 11).

Acknowledgements

We at SAFRING really appreciate all the effort of ringers and the general public (the latter in reporting recoveries), and would like to thank everyone that has taken part in ringing and resighting in Southern Africa. SAFRING is sponsored by the South African National Biodiversity Institute, and the Namibian Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism. The University of Cape Town provides accommodation and services.

Reference

Paijmans DM, Oschadleus HD 2015 Bird ringing report for July 2006 to December 2013. Afring News 44: 11–15. Available online at http://safring.adu.org.za/papers/afring_44_11.pdf

Table 1. Scientific publications produced utilising records within the SAFRING database for the year 2014

	Reviewed Papers	
Authors	Title	Journal (Vol. pages)
Beauchamp G	Do avian cooperative	Proceedings of the Royal
	breeders live longer?	Society B (281 20140844)
Bonnevie BT	Variations in moult,	Ostrich (85 161-170)
	morphology, movement	
	and survival rates of the	
	Sombre Greenbul	
	Andropadus importunus	
	within southern Africa	
Bonnevie BT, Craig AJFK	Primary wing-moult in	EMU (114 371-378)
	relation to body-mass,	
	wing-length and latitude	
	in four insectivorous	
	passerines from southern	
	Africa	
Collingham YC, Huntley B,	Prediction of mean adult	Ibis (156 741-754)
Altwegg R, Barnard P,	survival rates of southern	
Beveridge OS, Gregory	African birds from	
RD, Mason LR,	demographic and	
Oschadleus HD, Simmons	ecological covariates	
RE, Willis SG, Green RE		
Craig AJFK, Bonnevie BT,	Primary wing-moult and	Ostrich (85 171-175)
Hulley PE, Underhill GD	site fidelity in South African mousebirds	
Dualauranth CD. Altrucas D	(Coliidae)	Andrey (102,21,20)
Duckworth GD, Altwegg R	Environmental Drivers of an Urban Hadeda Ibis	Ardea (102 21-29)
	Population	
	Fupulation	



Jansen DYM, Abadi R, Harebottle D, Altwegg R	Does seasonality drive spatial patterns in demography? Variation	Ecology and Evolution (4 889-898)	Table 2.Regionawith over 100 record		ort in the 2	2014 ringing	g year (a	ll regions
	in survival in African reedwarblers <i>Acrocep</i> <i>halus baeticatus</i> across southern Africa does not		Region	Number of Ringers	Number of Species	Number of Birds	% of Total Birds	% of Total Species
	reflect globalpatterns		Namibia	33	220	11331	18.9	29.4
Lee ATK, Barnard P,	Aspects of the ecology	African Zoology (49 295-	Western Cape	85	171	9377	15.7	22.8
Cherry MI	and morphology of the	300)	Kwa-Zulu Natal	43	320	9257	15.5	42.7
	protea seedeater,		Gauteng	51	209	8813	14.7	27.9
	<i>Crithagra leucopterus,</i> a little-known Fynbos		Northern Prov.	54	263	4111	6.9	35.1
	endemic		Eastern Cape	25	157	2743	4.6	21
Remisiewicz M, Tree AJ,	Geographical Patterns in	Ardea (102 31-46)	Northern Cape	19	84	2621	4.4	11.2
Underhill LG,	Primary Moult and Body		Seychelles	5	20	2113	3.5	2.7
Nowakowski JK	Mass of Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> in		Zambia	3	66	1894	3.2	8.8
	Southern Africa		Mpumalanga	33	176	1627	2.7	23.5
Academic Theses			North West	38	135	1342	2.2	18
Author	Title	Institution	Free State	17	92	1067	1.8	12.3
Calder JL	Weaving through the	MSc Thesis, University of	Oceanic Islands	3	7	473	0.8	0.9
	matrix: investigating the influence of urban land use on weaver bird	of urban land South Africa	Republic of the Congo	1	65	363	0.6	8.7
	movements into and out		Angola	1	48	330	0.6	6.4
	of Cape Town wetlands		Sao Tome	1	29	328	0.5	3.9
			Botswana	2	39	174	0.3	5.2
			United Arab Emirates	1	15	159	0.3	2

Table 3. Top 20 ringers/groups in the 2014 ringing year: Total numbers of birds ringed

Birds 6,133 1,828 1,820 1,645 1,615
1,828 1,820 1,645
1,820 1,645
1,645
1,615
1,263
1,259
1,045
1,042
1,029
1,007
991
942
932
924
881
838
818
818
777

Table 4. Top 20 ringers/groups in the 2014 ringing year: Totalnumber of species ringed

	i opecice inigea	
Ringer	Name	Species
1060	Dr Barry Taylor	245
1240	Dr Ursula Franke	208
1096	Mr Malcolm Wilson	164
162	Mr Kobie Raijmakers	149
1633	Mr Ryno Kemp	140
573	Mr Dirk Heinrich	129
1607	Mr James Rawdon	128
1540	Mrs Karin Nelson	125
1340	Mr Colin Williams	122
1282	Mr Tony Raijmakers	119
1245	Prof Derek Engelbrecht	116
1042	Dr Pieter Van Eeden	109
1105	Mr Joseph Heymans	108
1512	Mr Gert J Opperman	107
10007	Mrs Elba Swart	104
13476	Mrs Paula Steyn	104
1627	Mr Tjebbe Witteveen	100
1360	Mr Gerrie Jansen van Rensburg	98
1422	Mr Jim McLuskie	98
1601	Mr Eben Muller	98

Table 5. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2014 I	ringing year

	Species	Count
Terrestrial	Southern Masked-Weaver	4,083
	Lark-like Bunting	3,163
	Barn (European) Swallow	2,717
	Southern Red (Red) Bishop	2,399
	Cape White-eye (split)	1,784
	Red-billed Quelea	1,594
	Sociable (Social) Weaver	1,175
	Cape Sparrow	1,027
	Dark-capped (Black-eyed) Bulbul	1,013
	Common Waxbill	842
	Laughing (Palm) Dove	779
	Cape Weaver	764
	Blue Waxbill	717
	Village (Spotted-backed) Weaver	708
	Lesser Noddy	646
Marine	Cape Gannet	1,176
	Swift (Great Crested) Tern	579
	White-tailed Tropicbird	370
	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	342
	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	324
	Yellow-nosed Mollymawk (Albatross)	232
	Black Tern	175
	Hartlaub's Gull	159
	White-fronted Plover	141
	Kelp Gull	129
Raptors	Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	208
	Lappet-faced Vulture	127
	Steppe (Common) Buzzard	122
	Barn Owl	103
	Jackal Buzzard	92

Table 6. Top 20 ringers/groups in the 2014 ringing year: Numbers of	of
birds retrapped	

Ringer	Name	Region	Birds
904	Gough Island	aq	1,318
1007	Rita Covas	NC	500
1444	Dr Andy Young	NC	385
1476	Mr Neil Thomson	na	377
1531	Ms Gudrun Middendorff	na	272
1060	Dr Barry Taylor	KZ	261
1240	Dr Ursula Franke	na	259
1540	Mrs Karin Nelson	KZ	252
280	Mr Anthony Tree	EC	230
0	Member of the public		204
32	Dr. HD Oschadleus	WC	179
1577	Dr Alan Lee	WC	134
1030	Mr Peter Dearlove	KZ	107
1586	Mrs Sue Schultz	WC	94
1125	Liz Komen	na	87
180	Mr Hein Bantjes	GP	81
1096	Mr Malcolm Wilson	GP	78
1089	Dr Mark Brown	WC	69
1607	Mr James Rawdon	KZ	69



 Table 7. The most frequently retrapped/resignted birds for the 2014
 ringing year

	Species	Count
Terrestrial	Sociable (Social) Weaver	586
	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	467
	Southern Masked-Weaver	332
	Cape White-eye (split)	234
	Southern Red (Red) Bishop	230
	Black-throated Canary	197
	Cape Robin-Chat	185
	Lesser Swamp- (Cape Reed) Warbler	106
	Laughing (Palm) Dove	105
	Cape Weaver	98
	African Reed-Warbler	89
	Amethyst (Black) Sunbird	87
	Le Vaillant's (Tinkling) Cisticola	79
	Dark-capped (Black-eyed) Bulbul	79
	Blue Waxbill	79
Marine	Tristan Albatross	617
	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	438
	Southern Giant-Petrel	170
	Great Shearwater	97
	Roseate Tern	62
	White-tailed Tropicbird	26
	Swift (Great Crested) Tern	25
	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	10
	Subantarctic Skua (incl. Southern & Brown)	7
	Kelp Gull	7
Raptor	White-backed Vulture	91
	Cape Vulture (Griffon)	84
	Pygmy Falcon	52
	African Crowned (Crowned) Eagle	28
	Lappet-faced Vulture	27

Table 8. Conditions of retrap/resighting for the 2014 ringing year Condition Grand To		
No other information	6,814	
Sighting: of colour ringed bird	151	
Sighting: of patagial tags	91	
Sighting: ring number read in field	40	
Controlled: and released	g	
Caught: and released	6	
Caught: flew into shop/house, released	4	
Sick or Injured: taken to rehabilitation centre	3	
Alive: no other information	3	

Table 9. Top 20 ringers/groups in the 2014 ringing year: Numbers of bbirds recovered

Ringer	Name	Region	Birds
1007	Rita Covas	NC	150
0	Member of the public		134
1623	Ms Minke Witteveen	WC	27
13779	Mr David Gaglio	WC	13
12834	Ms Stacey Leigh Webb	EC	8
1272	ADU non ringer		6
12956	Mr Rowen van Eeden	NP	5
1540	Mrs Karin Nelson	KZ	4
14752	Lindy Jane Thompson	KZ	3
1033	Ms Ronelle Visagie	NC	3
904	Gough Island	aq	3
43	Dr Robert Thomson	NC	3
1619	Shane McPherson	KZ	2
1577	Dr Alan Lee	WC	2
1567	Ms Lorinda Hart	KZ	2
1531	Ms Gudrun Middendorff	na	2
1476	Mr Neil Thomson	na	2
1439	Mrs Ann Koeslag	WC	2
1125	Liz Komen	na	2
1121	Mr Frik du Plooy	GP	2

Table 10. The most frequently recovered species for the 2014ringing year

	Species	Count
Terrestrial	Sociable (Social) Weaver	150
	Southern Red (Red) Bishop	8
	Egyptian Goose	5
	Dark-capped (Black-eyed) Bulbul	5
	Cape Robin-Chat	5
	Southern Masked-Weaver	5
	Laughing (Palm) Dove	4
	Crested Barbet	3
	Kurrichane Thrush	3
	Cape Sparrow	3
	Village (Spotted-backed) Weaver	3
	Red-headed Finch	3
	Blue Waxbill	3 3
	Karoo Thrush (split)	3
	Hadeda Ibis	2
Marine	Kelp Gull	41
	Swift (Great Crested) Tern	17
	Cape Gannet	15
	Common Tern	8
	Hartlaub's Gull	3
	Tristan Albatross	3
	Cape Cormorant	2
	Light-mantled Albatross (Mollymawk)	2
	Southern Giant-Petrel	1
	European Storm-Petrel	1
Raptor	Barn Owl	7
	Martial Eagle	5
	Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	4
	Steppe (Common) Buzzard	3
	Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)	3

Teble 11 Courses of bird montality for the 2011 ringing	
Table 11. Causes of bird mortality for the 2014 ringing	vear

Tuble III Cadooc of bird montality for the 2011 might you	
Condition	Total
No other information	268
Carcass: found beached, cause of death unknown	23
Died: cause of death unknown	15
Collision: with a window	12
Killed or attacked by: domestic cat	11
Carcass: dead less than one week, cause of death unknown	10
Died: electrocuted	9
Collision: with motor vehicle (or found next to road)	7
Collision: with a fence, line or wire	6
Sick or injured: subsequently died	5
Died: drowned	5
Killed or attacked by: domestic dog	4
Shot: no reason given	3
Sick or Injured: no other information	3
Died: of natural cause	3

			for the 2014 ringing year
1011301			us stolidus) Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record	0	Portugal Bird Centre
	2006-08-16	0412S5539E	Seychelles
	Retrap record		Ms L Hart
	2014-08-10	0421S5538E	Seychelles
1084595	Sandwich Terr	n (Sterna sandvie	
	Ringing record	1 to 2 year	Dutch Bird Ringing Centre
	1997-08-05	5317N0508E	Netherlands
	Retrap record	Adult plumage	Unknown
	2014-06-05	5432N0830E	Germany
13234163		-Petrel (Macron	
	Ringing record		Austr. Bird & Bat Scheme
	2011-01-16	5430S15855E	Australia
	Retrap record		Unknown
	2014-01-14	3408S1824E	Western Cape
13236355		-Petrel (Macron	
	Ringing record		Austr. Bird & Bat Scheme
	2012-01-12	5430S15855E	Australia
	Recovery	Adult plumage	Unknown, xx
	2014-05-24	3427S2051E	Western Cape
133220783		erna paradisaea	
	Ringing record		USA Bird Banding Laboratory
	2011-06-20	4355N6845W	United States
	Recovery	Adult plumage	Unknown
	2014-05-03	2909S3008E	Kwa-Zulu Natal
		Albatross (<i>Thala</i>	
1425876	melanophris)		Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		Unknown
	2007-11-02	5400S3803W	Oceanic Island
	Retrap record		Unknown
	2014-05-07	2836S1432E	Ocean off SA Coast
		m-Petrel (<i>Hydro</i>	
2669653	pelagicus)		Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		British Trust for Ornithology
	2012-07-26	5921N0226W	Great Britan
	Recovery	Adult plumage	Unknown
	2014-07-21	5901N0233W	United Kingdom

3T436	White Stork (C	ciconia ciconia)	Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		Helgoland Ringing Centre
	2014-06-24	5401N0922E	Germany
	Retrap record	1/2 to 1 year	Mr W Nese
	2014-12-22	2542S2757E	Gauteng
4594400	Common Tern	(Sterna hirundo)	Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record	Immature	Swedish Bird Ringing Centre
	2011-08-24	5612N1624E	Sweden
	Recovery	0 to 1/2 year	Swedish Bird Ringing Centre
	2014-03-26	3247S1808E	Western Cape
7E3492	Barn (Europea	n) Swallow (Hiru	ndo rustica) Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre
	2013-08-29	4654N1751E	Hungary
	Retrap record	2 to 3 year	Unknowr
	2014-01-09	1501S2807E	Zambia
AT055395		(Sterna hirundo)) Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		Finnish Bird Ringing Centre
	1980-07-13	6144N2654E	Finlanc
	Retrap record	Adult plumage	Mr M Boormar
	2014-03-09	2258S1426E	Namibia
AT143408		(Sterna hirundo)	
	Ringing record		Finnish Bird Ringing Centre
	2013-07-12	6014N2340E	Finlanc
	Retrap record		Mr M Boormar
	2014-01-29	2235S1432E	Namibia
AT160040		(Sterna hirundo)	
	Ringing record		Finnish Bird Ringing Centre
	2007-07-30	6122N2816E	Finlanc
	Recovery	Adult plumage	SANCCOE
	2014-03-23	3245S1810E	Western Cape
AT215737		(Sterna hirundo)	
	Ringing record		Finnish Bird Ringing Centre
	2007-07-10	6105N2807E	Finlanc
		Adult plumage	Mr M Boormar
	2014-01-29	2235S1432E	Namibia

AT241410	Common Tern	(Sterna hirundo)	Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record	Juvenile	Finnish Bird Ringing Centre
	2013-07-29	5958N2434E	Finland
	Retrap record	Adult plumage	SANCCOB
	2014-03-23	3248S1811E	Western Cape
AT55395	Common Tern	(Sterna hirundo)	Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		Finnish Bird Ringing Centre
	1980-07-13	6144N2654E	Finland
	Retrap record		Mr M Boorman
	2014-03-09	2258S1426E	Namibia
		Albatross (Thalas	
CF37212	melanophris)		Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		French Bird Ringing Centre
	1998-01-01	4921S7047E	Oceanic Island
	Retrap record		Unknown
	2014-06-01	14112S3843E	Oceanic Island
_		Albatross (<i>Thalas</i> :	
CF40639	melanophris)		Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record		French Bird Ringing Centre
	2005-11-04	4921S7047E	Oceanic Island
	Retrap record		Unknown
	2014-06-01	14118S3841E	Oceanic Island
DD76892		(Sterna sandvice	
	Ringing record		British Trust for Ornithology
	2013-07-12	5536N0140W	Great Britain
	Retrap record	1 to 2 year	Unknown
	2014-06-29	2236S1431E	Namibia
DD92425		(Sterna sandvice	,
	Ringing record	5	British Trust for Ornithology
	2013-07-17	5536N0140W	Great Britain
	Retrap record	1 to 2 year	British Trust for Ornithology
	2014-06-29	2236S1431E	Namibia

DZ25706 Whitechinned Petrel (pre-split) (Procellaria Sex: Unknown

	aequinoctialis			
	Ringing record	Adult plumage	French Bird	Ringing Centre
	2013-11-29	4923S6955E		Oceanic Island
	Recovery	Adult plumage		Unknown
	2014-05-14	2251S1304E		Oceanic Island
GG8536	Steppe (Comm	on) Buzzard (E	Buteo buteo)	Sex: Unknown
	Ringing record	2 to 3 year	Israel Bird	Ringing Centre
	2012-05-12	3136N3453E		Israel
	Recovery	Older		Unknown
	2014-09-15	2302S2930E		Limpopo
PL00680	Sandwich Terr	n (Sterna sandv	ricensis)	Sex: Unknown
PL00680			ricensis) Institute for Orni	Sex: Unknown
PL00680				Sex: Unknown
PL00680	Ringing record	Nestling/Pulli 5421N1857E		Sex: Unknown ithology, Poland
PL00680	Ringing record 2013-07-21	Nestling/Pulli 5421N1857E		Sex: Unknown ithology, Poland Poland
PL00680 Z330138	Ringing record 2013-07-21 Retrap record 2014-06-24	Nestling/Pulli 5421N1857E 1/2 to 1 year	Institute for Orn	Sex: Unknown ithology, Poland Poland Mr M Boorman
	Ringing record 2013-07-21 Retrap record 2014-06-24	Nestling/Pulli 5421N1857E 1/2 to 1 year 2236S1432E	Institute for Orn	Sex: Unknown ithology, Poland Poland Mr M Boorman Namibia
	Ringing record 2013-07-21 Retrap record 2014-06-24 Barn (Europea	Nestling/Pulli 5421N1857E 1/2 to 1 year 2236S1432E n) Swallow (<i>Hi</i>	Institute for Orni	Sex: Unknown ithology, Poland Poland Mr M Boorman Namibia
	Ringing record 2013-07-21 Retrap record 2014-06-24 Barn (Europea #N/A	Nestling/Pulli 5421N1857E 1/2 to 1 year 2236S1432E n) Swallow (Hin #N/A #N/A	Institute for Orni r undo rustica) #N/A #N/A	Sex: Unknown ithology, Poland Poland Mr M Boorman Namibia