



Zululand Bird Ringing
With birds4africa
2018-2019

Birds4africa bird-ringing expedition to Richards Bay, Zululand, South Africa

Enjoy ringing an incredible variety of tropical African birds with Dieter. This ringing also contributes to long-term research on weavers and other birds, providing life-history data to aid the conservation of birds. Objectives of the ringing are to catch as many species as possible using mist-nets to study timing of breeding and moult, and for the enjoyment of the participants.

Location

This tour is in Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, in one of the richest avian diversity areas in South Africa, where bird ringing is permitted. Habitats include wetland, forest and garden. Dieter's ringing species list for these sites over the last few years is 84 species – the list below is sorted in descending order to show most caught species first.

The main site is at a large pan in Richards Bay, with several sites along the wooded edges of the pan. The pan is close to various accommodation options. Additional sites include some travel. Sites used on a particular excursion depend on local conditions at the time of the visit.

Logistics

All the logistics of the trip will be taken care of from arrival until your departure: transportation, accommodation, food, and provision of ringing equipment and ringing permits. Ringing equipment provided for use by participants includes nets and poles, tables and chairs, bird bags, rings and pliers, and measuring instruments (rulers, verniers, scales). You are welcome to bring any of your own ringing gear if you would like to. You will not, however, be permitted to use rings from other schemes (condition of SAFRING). Ringing data will be submitted to SAFRING, as required.

The general procedure is to ring in the mornings until lunch time.

Ringing expeditions are held year round, with fixed monthly trips but changes may be possible.

Temperatures are generally warm in Richards Bay.

Accommodation - Comfortable accommodation is available near the main ringing site.

Meals – Packed breakfast and drinks will be taken to the ringing site as nets will generally be put up before dawn to maximise catches. Lunches and suppers will usually be available at the accommodation or at nearby restaurants.

Medical - You need to ensure that you have medical insurance for the trip. Malaria occurs in Richards Bay so prophylactics should be obtained before arrival.

Ringling Team Leader - Dieter is one of the most experienced bird ringers in southern Africa, with experience in conducting bird ringing courses, having run SAFRING (bird ringing unit) for two decades, and achieving a PhD in ornithology based on moult patterns.

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Species ringed to date in the Richards Bay area

Number caught	SAFRING sp. no.	English	Latin
235	800	Yellow Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>
163	1172	Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops capensis</i>
92	792	Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
90	797	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
57	859	Yellow-eyed Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>
54	545	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
44	802	Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>
34	766	Olive Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia olivacea</i>
34	823	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>
25	843	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
24	791	Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
22	824	Red-backed Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>
21	442	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
19	579	Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
17	827	Green Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
16	649	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
15	666	Yellow Warbler	<i>Chloropeta natalensis</i>
14	493	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
14	606	African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
12	503	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>
11	784	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
10	604	Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
10	808	Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
9	319	Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
9	806	Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>
8	552	Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
8	774	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i>
8	804	Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
7	438	Golden-rumped Tinker Barbet	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
6	321	Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
6	642	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
6	645	Black-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>
6	833	African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
5	551	Sombre Bulbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
5	588	White-browed Robin	<i>Erythropygia leucophrys</i>
5	816	Fan-tailed Widow	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
4	627	Bleating Warbler	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
3	314	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
3	390	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
3	397	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
3	402	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>

Number caught	SAFRING sp. no.	English	Latin
3	655	Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
3	656	Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
2	387	Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
2	439	Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
2	441	Scalythroated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
2	576	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
2	609	Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
2	621	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
2	664	Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
2	665	Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>
2	686	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
2	709	Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
2	727	White Helmet-shrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
2	771	Collared Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes collaris</i>
2	799	Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
2	837	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
2	846	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
1	373	Fierynecked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
1	385	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
1	394	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
1	398	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
1	410	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
1	432	Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
1	433	White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>
1	440	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
1	447	Goldentailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
1	509	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
1	513	Black Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
1	521	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
1	581	Cape Robin	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
1	595	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
1	607	European Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
1	625	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
1	646	Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
1	654	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
1	712	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
1	717	Olive Bush Shrike	<i>Telophorus olivaceus</i>
1	719	Orange-breasted Bush Shrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
1	745	Redwinged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
1	805	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
1	842	Grey Waxbill	<i>Estrilda perreini</i>
1	863	Bully Canary	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>
1	4131	Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchelli</i>