

Report on funds used from the African Bird Club Conservation Fund

Title: Movements of passerines on the Cape Peninsula, South Africa

Aims

The aim of this study was to study the dispersal of the Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*, particularly chicks, and wetland passerines on the Cape Peninsula, Cape Town, South Africa.

Introduction

Birds were ringed at a network of mostly wetland sites on the Cape Peninsula, using the methods as described in the project proposal. The focus was on the Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*, which has expanded its range into the Western Cape over the last century, even though adults do not show large movements. During Phase 1 (August to December 2009), Southern Masked Weaver chicks were ringed during the breeding season; chicks of other species, particularly Cape Weavers *P. capensis*, were also ringed, although search effort for nests of other species was limited. Phase 2 (January to December 2010) consisted of weekly mist-netting to recapture as many chicks as possible and to study movements of immature and adult birds on the Cape Peninsula.

The study site remained as described in the project proposal except that it turned out not to be practical to ring Cape Weavers on Robben Island.

Training

There was a strong focus on training, education and public awareness during ringing sessions and some photos may be viewed at ringing galleries (<http://weavers.adu.org.za/ring2009gall.htm>, <http://weavers.adu.org.za/ring2010gall.php>). Many people came to help at different sessions and these are acknowledged near the end of two web pages: http://weavers.adu.org.za/ring_dis.php and http://weavers.adu.org.za/ring_dis2.php.

Many of these people will not train to become ringers, but through wanting to help and/or watch, they received a greater awareness of ringing and research. In particular, a student, William Wyness, was trained to ring weaver chicks while I was on leave. People that were trained in mist netting were Sally Hofmeyr who qualified in March 2010. Carol Milan trained to a point where she will qualify during early 2011. Barry and Sue Schultz started training more recently although they had attended many sessions to help casually.

People that passed by the ringing stations in public areas were educated about bird ringing and related environmental issues. There was monthly ringing at Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary on a Saturday morning, a site that is visited by large numbers of people. Ringing monthly at this site is designed to demonstrate birds and ringing activities to the general public.

Ringling statistics

A few ringing statistics are provided here. A total of 613 chicks were ringed. 297 Southern Masked Weaver chicks were ringed and 29 recaptured, 170 Cape Weaver chicks were ringed and 9 recaptured, and 146 chicks of other species were ringed and 19 recaptured. Thus recapture rates of birds ringed as chicks was low, as was to be expected. The Southern

Masked Weaver chicks moved an average of 1.0 km (range 0-5.1 km) and the Cape Weaver chicks moved an average of 4.6 km (range 0-14.3 km).

A few mist-netting sessions were held in 2009 but the main mist-netting effort was in 2010. From 1 August 2009 to 31 January 2010 a total of 3962 birds (non chicks) were ringed and 715 birds (22%) were recaptured. The recapture rate was high, particularly for the weavers. A list of species captured on the Cape Peninsula during 2010 is provided here: <http://weavers.adu.org.za/ring2010.php>. To date, five of these ringed birds were found dead by the general public (including one that had been ringed as a chick).

Finances

The total funding requested was £770 (R10150.00) and £500 (R6315.80) was received. The funds received from the African Bird Club Conservation Fund were essentially used during Phase 1 which consisted of ringing chicks and limited mist-netting (Aug-Dec 2009). The balance of the funds needed for petrol and rings in 2010 was obtained from the Cape Tercentenary Foundation. The table below shows how the funds from the African Bird Club Conservation Fund were spent.

Item	Budget	Received	Spent
	£770	£500	
Petrol	7500		3485
Petrol for assistants			943
Rings	1800		1183
Folding ladder	650		600
Rubber boat	200		106
TOTAL	10150	6316	6317

Publications

Detailed analyses will be submitted for publication during 2011 and once published, copies of the papers will be sent to the African Bird Club Conservation Fund. An article will also be submitted to the African Bird Club Bulletin. One article published in 2010 is attached: Oschadleus HD, 2010. Champion chicks - where do they go? *Promerops* 281:12-13

H. Dieter Oschadleus



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Southern Masked Weaver – recent fledgling, adult male, adult female