

PRESENT:-

Janine & Greg Goosen (Birdlife SA), Margie & Martin Rutsch, Penny & Marcus Dekenah, Thea Jansen van Vuuren, Sylvia & Peet Rebel, Jean Carey, Dick Prinsen, Wico Kriel, Warren Tyler (& dog) & Marie de la Rey. (2+12 =14).

AREA FOR RINGING :-

Between Glover & Zambesi, almost in the middle on the South side.

Janine and Greg started putting the nets up at about 4:40am, but not to their full extent as there were still bats flying around.

Soon after 5:30 the first birds were caught.



According to bird ringing regulations, signs need to be put up. This male Southern Masked Weaver was in a serious tangle. Janine managed to get him unhooked with her patient and gentle touch!



A good catch was this Green (Red-billed) Wood-hoopoe with his special smell – like baked cookies. Each bird is placed in a separate bag. It is dark inside and the birds are quite calm and safe there.



First the little bird gets taken out of the bag gently but firmly. The ring size gets selected and recorded, and fixed to the right leg. It must be loose enough to slide up and down but not so much that it could slip off over the wrist or up past the elbow.



The beak is measured and the primaries checked and counted. The condition of the feathers can indicate how old the bird is. They sometimes have a gap in as if a part of the feather has been eaten. This could indicate a fight or some other physical activity. While Janine was busy processing this Green Wood-hoopoe, his mates were calling him constantly!



Undignified way of recording the weight! REALLY!

The length of the "Tarsus" (distance between ankle & knee) is also recorded.



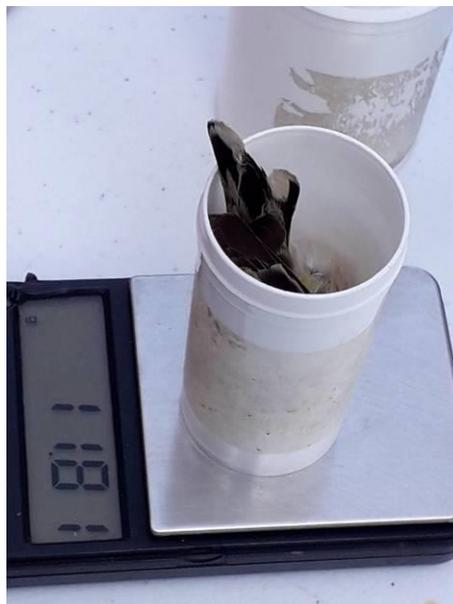
Only when you see these every day birds up close, can you appreciate their beautiful colours!

Male Cape Sparrow, Male Southern Masked Weaver, Karoo Thrush.



Left:-Young male Southern masked Weaver – you can just see the black feathers coming through?

Below Left : Grey Headed Sparrow. See the yellow gape?



Left:- Not sure who landed upside down here?



Two very special little birds! The Black-throated Canary and the female White-winged Widowbird!!! Just look at the chequered pattern on her shoulders! Beautiful and something you would never see through binoculars!



The female Red Bishop had a lovely pink "Brood patch". This is a patch on birds' tummies that have no feathers, to be able to apply the right warmth for the eggs to hatch. Isn't nature just wonderful??



And finally, here is our beautiful Doringkloof Spruit.

A little gem of nature right in our midst, where humans are going about their busy demanding lives, rushing children around to and from their activities, and birds are going about their business, collecting food and water for their young in this wetland.....

We will do another bird ringing in the winter. Hopefully we can catch some of the birds that have already been ringed.

Bird ringing and counting is a good indication of the health of a WETLAND. When birds start decreasing we will know the Wetland is changing. Janine has to send all her data to Cape Town University where the records are kept at SAFRING. Anybody doing a thesis can then go and recover data there.

Thank you Janine for teaching us so much!

Marie de la Rey (Chairman: FoDS)