

COLOUR BANDS USED ON SEABIRDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, 1971-1984

I. P. NEWTON & J. COOPER

Received 2 May 1985, accepted 30 June 1985

INTRODUCTION

With the increasing use of colour bands to mark birds, the probability of more than one bander using the same colour code on the same species has increased. This problem has led to action being taken or planned by several bodies to coordinate colour banding (e.g. BIOMASS Working Party on Bird Ecology 1983, Myers *et al.* 1983, Townshend 1983). This report gives details of colour bands used on seabirds in southern Africa between 1971 and 1984 and complements similar data given for the Subantarctic and Antarctic by Cooper & Hatley (1985).

METHODS

Relevant information was requested from all persons known to have used colour bands on seabirds within southern Africa. Where colour-banding was carried out to mark individuals, only the colours used and not the individual codes are given (Table 1). Where a cohort (such as an annual age class) was banded with a specific colour code, that code is given. The codes used by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute on Cape Gannets *Sula capensis* and Cape Cormorants *Phalacrocorax capensis* read down the leg (e.g. the first colour listed was nearest the body). In nearly all cases (Swift Terns *Sterna bergii* banded in 1981 being an exception) a numbered metal band was placed on the opposite leg to that used for the colour bands. The "bands" used on Jackass Penguins *Spheniscus demersus* were actually flexible tags placed around the metal flipper band (Eggleton 1976, Cooper & Morant 1981).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During 1971-1984, nine species of seabirds were colour-banded in southern Africa (Table 1). Few colour-banding schemes are presently active and little overlap in colour codes has apparently occurred to date. Persons intending to commence colour-banding seabirds in southern Africa should first contact the South African Bird Ringing Unit (SARUING) to avoid overlapping of colour codes in the future.

TABLE 1

SCHEDULE OF COLOUR BANDS USED ON SEABIRDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, 1971-1984

Species	Age class	Locality	Position	Date	Colours used	No. per leg	Leg used	Type of ring	No. ringed	Bander
Jackass Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	Adults	Bird Island, Lambert's Bay	32 05S, 18 17E	1975	W,R,O,Y,G,PB,N	1	L & R (flipper)	see text	c. 50	Eggleton (1976)
	Chicks	Mercury Island	25 43S, 14 50E	1979/80	N B	2	R	Darvic coil	25	Sea Fisheries Research Institute
	"	"	"	1979/80	B N	2	R		80	(Kriel & O'Neil 1982)
	"	"	"	1980/81	Y N	2	R		320	
	Chicks	Ichaboe Island	26 17S, 14 56E	1979/80	Y B	2	R		10	
	"	"	"	1979/80	B Y	2	R		1 000	
	"	"	"	1980/81	Y Y	2	R		1 030	
	Chicks	Possession Island	27 01S, 15 12E	1979/80	G B	2	R		100	
	"	"	"	1979/80	B G	2	R		200	
	"	"	"	1980/81	Y G	2	R		300	
Adults	Bird Island, Lambert's Bay	32 05S, 18 17E	1979	B B	2	R		30		
Chicks	"	"	1979/80	B B	2	R		672		
"	"	"	1980/81	YB	3	R		322		
"	"	"	1980/81	Y B	2	R		80		
Adults	Malgas Island	33 03S, 17 55E	1979	R B	2	R		30		
Chicks	"	"	1979/80	R B	2	R		384		
"	"	"	1979/80	B R	2	R		602		
"	"	"	1980	B B	2	R		5		
Adults	"	"	1980/81	R	1	R		63		
Chicks	"	"	1980/81	Y R	2	R		1 003		
Adults & chicks	Bird Island, Algoa Bay	33 50S, 26 17E	1979/80	B W	2	R		548	A.L. Bachelors, Port Elizabeth Museum	
Chicks	"	"	1980/81	Y W	2	R		456		

"	"	"	1981/82	R W	2	R			
Adults	Bird Island, Lambert's Bay	32 05S, 18 17E	1981/82	W,R,Y,G,B,N	2	L	12	R.W. Abrams, FitzPatrick Institute	
Chicks	"	"	1981/82	W,R,Y G,B,N	1 1	L & R L & R	6	"	
Breeding adults	"	"	1983	W,Y,R,N	1	L & R	6	M. Hall, FitzPatrick Institute	
Chicks	St. Croix Island	33 48S, 25 46E	1983 1984	Y Y	1 1	L L	17 4	R.M. Randall, University of Port Elizabeth	
Breeding adults	Swakopmund Salt Works	22 36S, 14 31E	1973/74	W,R,G	1	R	25	Berry (1977)	
Chicks	"	"	1973/74	W,R,G	1	L & R	110	Berry (1976), H.H. Berry (in litt.)	
Chicks	Mercury Island	25 43S, 14 50E	1979/80 1979/80	BNN NNB	3 3	R R	60 20	Sea Fisheries Research Institute (Kriel & O'Neil 1982)	
Adults & Juveniles	Ichaboe Island	26 17S, 14 56E	1979/80	BYI	3	R	249		
Chicks	"	"	1979/80	BYI	3	R	374		
"	"	"	1980/81	YYY	3	R	573		
"	Penguin Island	26 37S, 15 09E	1979/80	BGY	3	R	500		
"	North Reef	26 49S, 15 08E	1979/80	BGG	3	R	300		
Chicks	Possession Island	27 01S, 15 12E	1979/80	BGG	3	R	172		
"	Bird Island, Lambert's Bay	32 05S, 18 17E	1979/80 1980/81	YBB YBB	3	R	110 117		
Chicks	"	"	1980/81	YRR	3	R	420		
"	Jutten Island	33 05S, 17 57E	1979/80 1980/81	BWR YWR	3 3	R R	173 478		
"	Vondeling Island	33 09S, 17 59E	1980/81	YBR	3	R	143		

"	Dassen Island	33 25S, 18 05E	1979/80	BYR	3	R	444
"	"	"	1980/81	YR	3	R	522
"	Seal Island	34 08S, 18 35E	1981/82	RYR	3	R	
"	"	"	1980/81	YWY	3	R	
"	Dyer Island	34 41S, 19 25E	1979/80	BW	3	R	1 000
"	"	"	1980/81	YW	3	R	2

Bank Cormorant <i>P. neglectus</i>	Breeding adults	33 25S, 18 05E	1971/72	W,R,O,Y, PG,PB,P (individually coded)	1	L or R	Celluloid coil	28	J. Cooper, FitzPatrick Institute
	Breeding adults	32 05S, 18 17E	1975/77	W,R,O,Y, PG,PB,N (individually coded)	2	L	Celluloid coil	34	
	Chicks	"	1977	Y	1		Celluloid coil	16	

Kelp Gull <i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Chicks	33 48S, 25 46E	1980	Y	1	L		15	R.M. Randall, Dept Zoology, University of Port Elizabeth
	"	"	1981	Y	1	L		35	
	"	"	1983	Y	1	L		30	
	"	"	1984	Y	1	L		5	
	Adults	"	1983	Y	1	R		37	
	"	"	1984	Y	1	R		26	
	Chicks	33 50S, 25 35E	1982	B	1	L		30	R.M. Randall & P. Martin, Dept. Zoology, University of Port Elizabeth
	"	"	1983	B	1	L		50	
	"	"	1984	B	1	L		41	
	Adults	"	1983	W,R,Y,PG,B,N (individually coded)	2	Both		33	
	"	"	1984	W,R,Y,PG,B,N (individually coded)		Both		39	
	"	33 50S, 26 17E	1983	W + others	1	L		<5	A.L. Batchelor Port Elizabeth Museum

Greyheaded Gull <i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	Chicks	33 50S, 25 35E	1982	B	1	L	Plastic coil	17	R.M. Randall, Dept. Zoology, University of Port Elizabeth
Hartlaub's Gull <i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	Chicks	33 48S, 18 23E	1972	B	1		Plastic coil	264	L.G. Underhill, Dept. Mathematical Statistics, University of Cape Town
	"	"	1974	N	1		Plastic	1 200	

"	"	"	"	1975	R	1	coil Plastic coil	693
"	"	"	"	1975	RW	2	Plastic coil	500
"	"	"	"	1976	G	1	Plastic coil	1 775
"	"	"	"	1980	W	1	Darvic coil	190
"	"	"	"	1981	W	1	Darvic coil	613
<hr/>								
Swift tern	Chicks	Marcus Island	33 02S, 17 58E	1979	R	1	Darvic coil	742
"	"	"	"	1982	W	1	"	J. Cooper, FitzPatrick Institute
"	"	"	"	1983	G	1	"	2 671
"	"	"	"	1984	N	1	"	1 120
"	"	Vondeling Island	33 09S, 17 59E	1981	B	1	"	2 206
"	"	"	"	1983	G	1	"	1 129
"	"	Jutten Island	33 05S, 17 57E	1980	Y	1	"	1 692
"	"	Malgas Island	33 03S, 17 55E	1980	Y	1	"	37
"	"	Robben Island	33 48S, 18 23E	1981	B/metal	1	"	222

W = white, R = red, O = orange, Y = yellow, G = green, PG = pale green, B = blue, PB = pale blue, P = purple,
N = black.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank A. Berruti, H.H. Berry, A.P. Martin, T.B. Oatley, B.M. Randall, R.M. Randall and L.G. Underhill for their help in compiling this report.

REFERENCES

- BERRY, H.H. 1976. Physiological and behavioural ecology of the Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*. *Madoqua* 9(4):5-55.
- BERRY, H.H. 1977. Seasonal fidelity of Cape Cormorants to nesting area. *Cormorant* 2:5-6.
- BIOMASS WORKING PARTY ON BIRD ECOLOGY 1983. Meeting of BIOMASS Working Party on Bird Ecology. *BIOMASS Rpt Ser.* 34:1-33.
- COOPER, J. & MORANT, P.D. 1981. The design of stainless steel flipper bands for penguins. *Ostrich* 52: 119-123.
- COOPER, J. & OATLEY, T.B. 1985. A first inventory of colour-banding projects in the Subantarctic and Antarctic, 1965-1984. *Cormorant* 13: 43-54.
- EGGLETON, P. 1976. Colour tags for penguins *SAFRING News* 5(1): 22-23.
- KRIEL, F. & O'NIEL, E. 1982. Production of colour PVC rings for the Cape Gannet and the Cape Cormorant. *SAFRING News* 11: 3-4.
- MARTIN, A.P. 1984. Colour-marking schemes in Algoa Bay. *SAFRING News* 13:55-57.
- MEYERS, J.P., MARON, J.C., ORTIZ, E., CASTRO, T.G., HOWE, V.M.A., MORRISON, R.I.G. & HARRINGTON, B.A. 1983. Rationale and suggestions for a hemispheric color-marking scheme for shorebirds: a way to avoid chaos. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 38: 30-32.
- TOWNSHEND, D.J. 1983. Important announcement: new regulations and arrangements for color-marking waders. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 38: 5-6.

I.P. Newton & J. Cooper, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.