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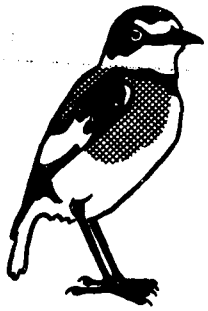

Lanioturdus torquatus
Drosselwürger

MITTEILUNGEN

ORNITHOLOGISCHE ARBEITSGRUPPE

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BREEDING OF THE BLACK EAGLE ON FARM ARIS, WINDHOEK DISTRICT

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Z U S A M M E N F A S S U N G

In seinem Bericht schreibt der Verfasser ueber seine Beobachtungen bei der Brut eines Paares von Kaffernadlern (Aquila verreauxi) am sogenannten Falkenstein, suedlich von Windhoek, auf der Farm Aris.

Es konnte weitgehende Uebereinstimmung mit Gargett (1972) in Bezug auf den Brutanteil der beiden Tiere festgestellt werden, wie es auch anhand einer Tabelle nachgewiesen wird. Von der Beobachtung ueber das Verhalten der beiden Alttiere beim Schluepfen eines Kuekens wechselt der Autor ueber zur Schilderung der Entwicklung des Nestlings vom Jahre 1973. Unter Beruecksichtigung des Koerpergewichtes wurde das annaehernde Alter des Nestlings bestimmt. Die daraus resultierenden Daten werden in einer Graphik veranschaulicht.

Entgegen den Beobachtungen von Gargett in den Matopos-Bergen konnte bei den hiesigen Adlern eine grosse Auswahl von Beutetieren registriert werden, die ebenfalls in einer Tabelle aufgefuehrt sind. In einer dritten Tabelle befasst sich der Autor mit dem interspezifischen Verhalten von Greifen nach einer Klassifikation von Gargett.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

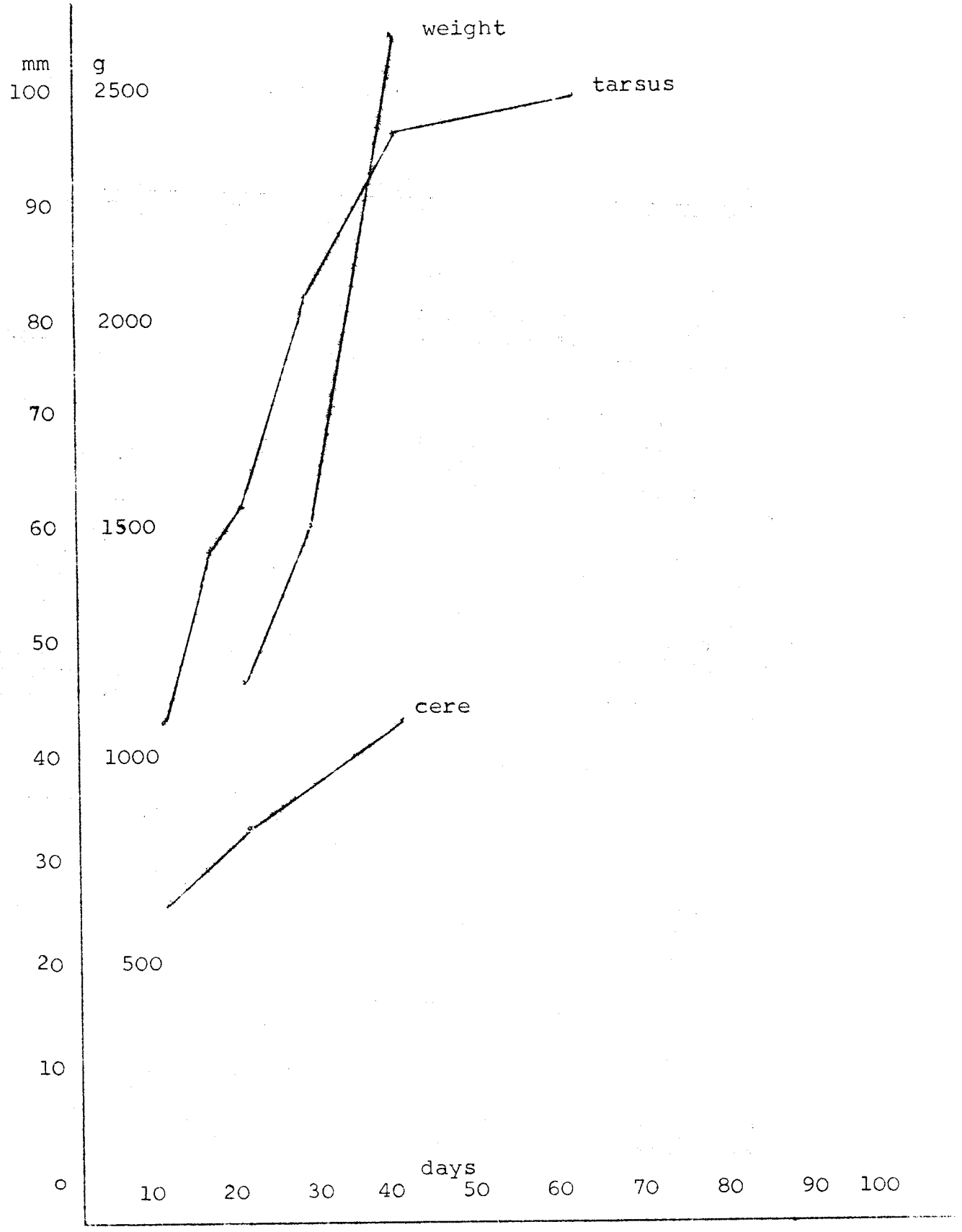
As of 1971 the breeding success of Black Eagles, Aquila verreauxi, on Farm Aris (22° 45'S 17° 2o'E) has been monitored. No data in the years preceding 1971 was available.

The nest is situated at 1725,2 m.a.s.l. c 6o m from the ground on the sheer north face of a granite inselberg variously known as Valkendrif, Valkenriffe, Falkenstein etc., about 2o km south of Windhoek. The nest is reliably reported (von Ludwiger pers. comm.) to be at least 19 years old.

1971 and 1972 were unsuccessful years, in both cases the nestlings disappeared when less than one week old. However, in 1972 it was possible to gather some data on incubation behaviour. 1973 was successful and the eaglet was ringed. It is reported (Ludwig and von Ludwiger pers. comm.) that the nest is in use this year (1974). No evidence is available to suggest that the same pair of birds used the nest in all the years under review.

(to be continued on page 3)

Figure 1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I N C U B A T I O N

On 17th April, 1972, a number of green Rhus lancea twigs had been added to the lining and on 7th May an egg was seen (von Ludwiger pers. comm.).

No visits were made to the nest during the incubation period and observations were made from a thicket of Tarchonanthus camphoratus about 3o m from the nest and at approximately the same height. All periods of observation were of 3 to 4 hours duration.

The single egg hatched on 17th June and was thus known to be in the nest for a period of 42 days, 3 days short of the known incubation period, so it is assumed that the egg could have been laid on 4th May.

Observations on the sharing of incubation compare favourably with those of Gargett (1972), in that the share of the male was minimal and that of the female maximal (Table 1). My observations showed that the male incubated chiefly between o9.oo and 14.oo hrs. (in relation to his share during the rest of the day) and these sessions on the nest decreased in length towards late afternoon. Since the male is known to feed the female during the incubation period (Gargett 1972) these times would suggest that the male foraged mainly during the late morning and late afternoon. Neither adult was observed bringing prey to the nest although on the day of hatching the remains of one Procavia capensis was seen on the nest. When the male arrived to assume incubation the female often flew off immediately in the direction from which the male had come. No prey was ever seen on surrounding rocks, although the existence of a "killing stone" was reported (von Ludwiger pers. comm.). The females shortest incubation sessions were around noon, when she spent much time soaring near the nest. The male was seldom on the nest at the time.

Table 1: Share of Incubation

Recorded Sessions of Incubation	Lengths of Incubation Sessions in Mins.			Total recorded Incubation Time in Mins.	% Share of recorded Incubation Time
	Mean	Max.	Min.		
4	36	95	1o	142	39,62
11	29	52	15	232	6o,38

On 17th June at 11.o5 hrs. the female was on the nest when she became restless and left. She circled for 25 mins. and then disappeared. The male arrived and began to "incubate". 15 mins. later the female returned. Then both left the nest. I climbed to a ledge c. 2o m above the nest and saw that the egg had hatched. The pair returned and the female began to brood the chick. The eggshell had disappeared 9o mins. later (Ginsberg & von Ludwiger pers. comm.). When the nest was visited on the 22nd of June it was empty.

D E V E L O P M E N T O F N E S T L I N G (1973)

By a comparison of body weight data with that recorded by Gargett (1972) it was possible to determine the approximate age of the 1973 nestling. The chick was thus thought to be about 1o days old

when first seen. At this stage it was covered with white down. The corpse of the second chick was on the nest. There was a difference of 17,7 mm in tarsal length and those of the living chick were 42 mm, indicating that the second chick had probably lived less than one week. Data collected during visits is summarised in Figure 1 (see page 2).

P R E Y

Contrary to figures collected in the Matopos (Gargett 1972) when all identified prey was either Procavia capensis or Dendrohyrax brucei, my observations show a greater variety of prey items.

Table 2: Prey found on nest (1973)

Species	Total	notes
Procavia capensis	7	mostly plucked hind-quarters
Xerus inauris	1	hindquarters
Suricata suricatta	1	"
Pronolagus caucinus	3	"

In 1971 two skulls were found wedged in a crack near the nest. They were of Cynictis penicillata and Xerus inauris. Remains of Procavia capensis (7 skulls) were also found in a similar situation near a Black Eagle nest on Farm Midgard (22° 06'S 17° 20'E) so the former is possibly a valid prey record.

I N T E R S P E C I F I C E N C O U N T E R S

In the following table Gargett's (1972) classification of parental reaction or non-reaction is used. Positive means that the pair drove off the intruder, neutral means no reaction by the parents and negative means that the parents were attacked by the intruders.

Table 3: Interspecific Encounters

Species	Reaction			Total
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	
Aegyptus tracheliotus	1	-	-	1
Falco tinnunculus	1	-	2	3
Elanus caeruleus	-	-	1	1
Meliërax musicus	1	-	-	1

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

My thanks are due to Mr D. Voigts for permission to work on Aris and to Messrs Ludwig, von Ludwiger and Ginsberg for their help.

R E F E R E N C E

Gargett, V 1972, Observations at a Black Eagle Nest in the Matopos, Rhodesia. - Ostrich 43; 77-108.