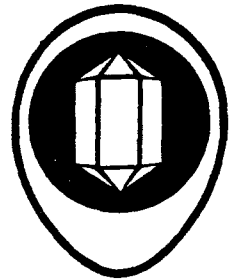


Lanioturdus torquatus
Drosselwürger

MITTEILUNGEN

ORNITHOLOGISCHE ARBEITSGRUPPE



SCHRIFTLÉITUNG: POSTFACH 67, WINDHOEK, S.W.A.

Nr. 11/12,

16. Jahrgang

März 1981

TURNSTONE RINGING IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Since the 1976/1977 summer some thousand Turnstones have been ringed along the coast between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. These birds have been caught using a cannon net set to fire over favoured Turnstone feeding sites, usually rotting kelp. To date thirty-four local retraps have been made, i.e. birds recaptured at or near the place of ringing. From these birds it is evident that Turnstones like most waders and other migrants exhibit a high degree of 'Winterortstreue'. The maximum distance moved by any local retrap has been 20km. There is also an indication of flock fidelity in that three birds caught together on 13 March 1977 were recaptured together on 13 December 1978, 640 days later. Another two birds, also initially caught on 13 March 1977, were recaptured on 30 March 1980, 1113 days later. These five retraps were all made in exactly the same place as where the birds were originally ringed.

The exact breeding grounds of the Turnstones that winter along our coast are not known and continued ringing may bring sufficient foreign recoveries to throw some light on the origin of our birds. So far we have not caught any foreign ringed Turnstones but some of the birds ringed along our coast have been recovered from abroad:

The first of these was a bird ringed at Rand Rifles on 31.3.1977 and recovered near Libreville in Gabon on the 16.09.1978. This is a distance of 3598 km after 17 months. As this bird was ringed as an adult and the recovery made in September it is fairly safe to assume that it was migrating southwards down the west African coast from its northern breeding grounds.

The second recovery was of a bird ringed just south of Swakopmund on 14.01.1977 and recovered in January 1979 in the Po Delta near Ravenna, Italy. A distance of 7523 km in 23 months. This bird was older than one year when ringed and if the theory of 'Winterortstreue' holds it should have been back on its wintering grounds by January 1979.

The third bird was ringed on 22.12.1978 near Swakopmund and recovered on 10.10.80 at Ruzizi in Burundi. This locality is at the northern end of Lake Tanganyika. Judging from the date of recovery this was also a bird shot during its southward migration.

The most recent foreign recovery is of a sub-adult bird ringed on 03.01.1977 and recovered on 23.08.1980 at Baku on the western shore of the Caspian Sea in the USSR. Again this appears to be a bird on its southward migration.

No firm conclusions can be drawn from the recovery of only four birds but it appears that there are possibly two migration routes involved. One along the west coast, either around the bulge or across the Sahara, which would explain the Libreville and Ravenna recoveries. The other up the rift valley thence to the Black and Caspian Sea region and so on to the breeding grounds. This latter route was proposed by Elliott et. al. (1976) for the Curlew Sandpiper. The Ruzizi and Baku recoveries fit this route very well.

It is clear that much more ringing will have to be done before a clear picture emerges. Perhaps OAG members in Swakopmund would like to try their hand at mist netting waders on the beach. It can be done on evenings when a high tide just after sunset forces the birds from the rocks onto the beach. Besides Turnstones we have caught godwits, Grey plover, Sanderlings, Knot, and many Curlew Sandpiper. One Curlew Sandpiper even had a Belgian ring and some of our Curlew Sandpipers and Sanderlings have been recovered abroad. But they are another story.

C.F. Clinning.

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Kurzmeldung: Paradiesschnäpper R 682 (Terpsiphone viridis)

Dieser Vogel besuchte zu mehreren Paaren im Januar bis März 1980 Klein-Windhoek. Zu dieser Zeit wurden noch keine Bruten festgestellt. Am 1.1.1981 und im Februar fanden die Paradiesschnäpper sich wieder ein.

Beobachtungsgebiet: Klein-Windhoek, Steinstrasse bis de-Jager Strasse, Entfernung ungefähr 3 km. Farm Ongeama und Farm Frauenstein melden ebenfalls diesen schönen **Paradiesschnäpper**. Auch in der Beethoven-Strasse, Windhoek, wurden Beobachtungen gemacht.

Hier nun ein Bericht über einen Brutnachweis, der von Herrn H. Finkeldey, de-Jager-Strasse, Windhoek, gemacht wurde.

In der Regenzeit 1979/80 habe ich das erste Mal bewusst ein Paradiesschnäpper Pärchen (R 682) (Terpsiphone viridis) beobachten können. In diesem Jahre werden es gleich einige, und ein Vogel baute ein Nest auf einem Ast über unserem Fischteich.