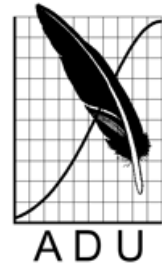




## Protocol

### Grootvaly Bird Ringing Centre



#### Background

The Grootvaly Bird Ringing Centre was established by the Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Conservation Trust as well as the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The centre will be managed by the Trust in co-operation with BirdLife South Africa and the Animal Demography Unit.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Grootvaly Ringing Centre is to collect avian data to monitor bird movements and numbers within the Blesbokspruit Important Bird Area. All qualified ringers are invited to use the facilities to ring and to educate the general public about ringing and bird conservation in general.

#### Ringing Protocol

The protocol to be followed when ringing is the same as prescribed by SAFRING (see <http://safring.adu.org.za>). Only ringers registered with SAFRING may undertake ringing sessions here (but may be assisted by trainees). If birds are to be fitted with colour rings, SAFRING as well as BirdLife South Africa must be advised of such a project (see heading "Data" below).

#### Permits

All ringers must have SAFRING and Gauteng Provincial Government ringing permits. The ringer must have these permits with him or her while ringing at the station.

#### Permission to ring

Permission to ring and arrangements to obtain the key to the venue must be obtained during office hours from the manager of the centre Mike Hood, at least 7 days before the planned ringing outing. He can be contacted at 082-391-6304 or emailed at [sherwood@yebo.co.za](mailto:sherwood@yebo.co.za). Please note that as the amount of ringing needs to be carefully managed permission to ring might be declined. It is therefore advisable to make arrangements far in advance. The manager has the right to limit the number of ringers during a ringing session.

#### Data

All data collected at the ringing centre must be submitted to SAFRING as per the normal protocols. In addition all data must be submitted to Ernst Retief from BirdLife South Africa in MS Excel format within 21 days of the date of ringing. The data must be emailed to [ernst.retief@birdlife.org.za](mailto:ernst.retief@birdlife.org.za). The data will be used during the IBA assessment processes. It must be noted that no ringer will be allowed to ring at the centre if his/her data are not submitted as described above. No exceptions will be allowed. Ringers that do not take care of the facilities will not be allowed to use the Ringing Centre. Ernst Retief will provide a summary of the data to the Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Conservation Trust as required.

When submitting data use the location reference: "Grootvaly Bird Ringing Centre", and use the appropriate coordinates (not the centre's coordinates, but the coordinates of the centre of the mistnets).

## Accommodation

Two rooms with 4 bunk beds as well as toilet and bathroom facilities (for males and females) are available. There are also a kitchen and large hall. The facilities can be used at no cost. People using the facilities are requested to please keep the facilities clean and leave it at the same condition as it was found. No bedding is provided – ringers must bring their own bedding.

Please note that electricity is available but not reliable.

No camping is allowed without the permission of the manager and will only be allowed on special occasions.

## Ringling Equipment

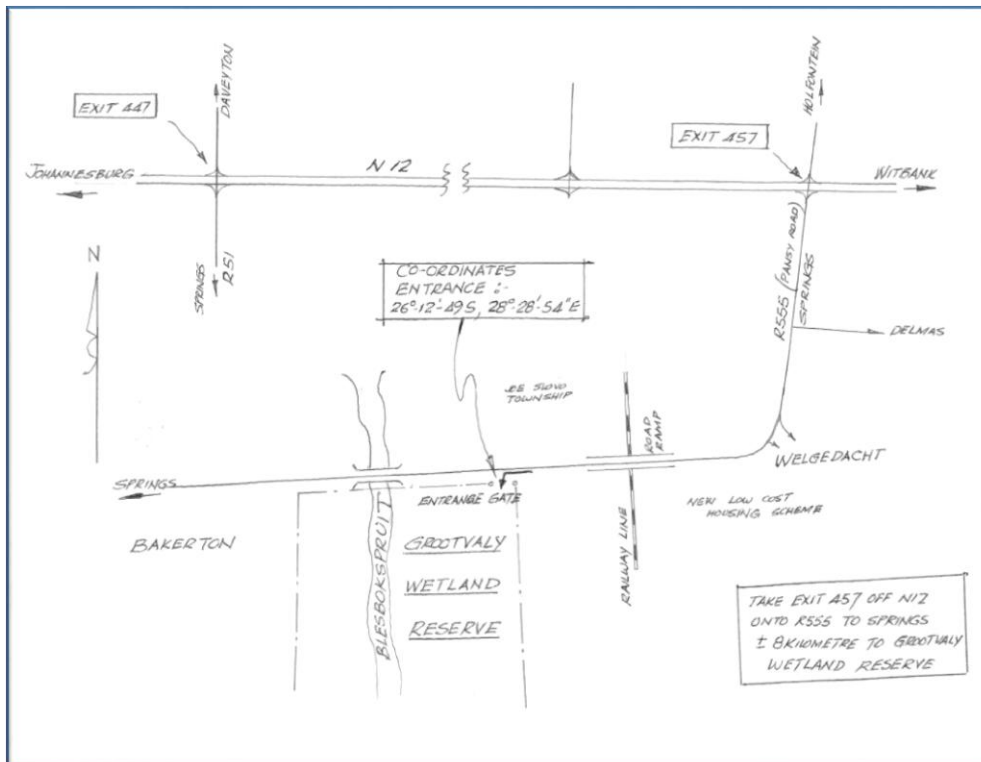
No ringing equipment is provided at the centre. Ringers are therefore responsible for their own nets, rings and other ringing equipment. A ringing room is available. Ringers are also welcome to ring in the lapa area if they wish to do so.

In future walk-in traps for waterbirds will be made available. Please contact the manager about the use of these traps.

## Security

Although security should not be a problem care should be taken and normal security precautions should be taken at the site. The ringing centre does not take any responsibility for goods stolen or any injuries that might happen during the use of the ringing centre.

## Directions



## Contacts

Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Conservation Trust (Stan Madden - [stmadden@telkomsa.net](mailto:stmadden@telkomsa.net))

BirdLife South Africa (Ernst Retief – [ernst.retief@birdlife.org.za](mailto:ernst.retief@birdlife.org.za))

Animal Demography Unit (Dieter Oschadleus - [Dieter.Oschadleus@uct.ac.za](mailto:Dieter.Oschadleus@uct.ac.za))