



Operation Oxpecker

Operation Oxpecker is aimed at preserving the existing populations of Red-billed Oxpeckers *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* on privately and state owned land in South Africa. It also aims at expanding these populations into other areas where Oxpeckers use to occur before the introductions of Oxpecker incompatible ectoparasiticides.

Oxpeckers and starlings are highly sensitive to organophosphates. Products that contain organophosphates should thus be avoided in areas that are inhabited by Oxpeckers.



Pyrethroids, amidines and certain macrocyclic lactones are far less toxic to birds. Mixing of home made acaricides (tick control agents) is the major reason for parasites developing resistance to animal dips. Home mixing, apart from being an illegal practice (Act 36 of 1947), also contributes to the escalating prices of animal dips, as new products have to be developed at great costs.



The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Operation Oxpecker project recommends that NO products other than those specifically manufactured as animal dips be used for the control of ectoparasites.

If you have Oxpeckers in your area, please make sure that you only use Oxpecker compatible products. Look out for labels like these or ask your local co-ops for advice.



Operation Oxpecker relocates birds from areas where they are abundant to areas within their historic range where they have become locally extinct, mainly as a result of the use of incompatible ectoparasiticides. Birds that are relocated are all fitted with metal numbered rings and colour rings. These individually identify the birds and tell us from which areas the birds originated. We would appreciate information on any birds seen with rings in your area, so that we can monitor how well the birds are doing.



For more information or to report sightings of birds in the Karoo area please contact:

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This project is proudly sponsored by: