This document explains column names for each sheet in the excel data file for the paper: “Fluff-thieving birds sabotage seed dispersal”. In this document, sheet names are in bold and have a brief description of the data and how they were used; columns names within each sheet (and a brief explanation) are directly below each sheet name.

**seeds in bird nests** (data show the number of *Eriocephalus* seeds found in nests of diverse species of birds breeding at Koeberg Nature Reserve and was used to generate Figure 4).

species = species of bird for which we dissected nest to count *Eriocephalus* seeds.

numb\_intact\_seeds = number of intact *Eriocephalus* seeds found in each nest.

**nest wall measures** (data for Karoo prinia nest-wall thickness used to generate Fig. S3).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

wall1 – wall10 = measures of nest-wall thickness that correspond to 10 evenly spaced locations around the nest illustrated in Fig. S3.

**first egg dates** (data used to generate time series plot of Karoo prinia first egg dates in Fig. 2).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

first\_egg\_date = date the first egg was laid in each nest.

julian\_date = date the first egg was laid in each nest using continuous numbers, where January 1st equals day 1.

**distance travelled observation** (data gathered from watching Karoo prinias gather *Eriocephalus* material then fly to their nest and was used to quantify effort prinias invest in gathering *Eriocephalus* material and to generate Fig. 3A).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

ave\_dist = distance (in meters) from the nest to the *Eriocephalus* plant from which prinias gathered material; these measures were averaged when we had multiple observations for each nest.

numb\_obs = number of observations for each nest.

stdev = standard deviation of distance travelled when we had 3 or more observations.

closest\_plant = distance (in meters) from the nest to the closest *Eriocephalus* plant.

stage = stage of nest (with eggs or building) when prinias were observed gathering *Eriocephalus* material.

**erio picks** (data used to quantify effort Karoo prinias invest in gathering *Eriocephalus* material and generate Fig. 3E).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

date = date we observed birds gathering *Eriocephalus* material.

julian\_date = date we observed birds gathering *Eriocephalus* material converted to continuous numbers, where January 1st equals day 1.

pick\_numb = the total number of times that a prinia picked at *Eriocephalus* material while perched in one bush during a single bout of material acquisition.

pick\_dur\_sec = the duration (in seconds) that prinias spend perched in *Eriocephalus* branches gathering fluff during a single bout of material acquisition.

**time building nest** (data used to quantify effort Karoo prinias invest in gathering *Eriocephalus* material and generate Fig. 3D).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

time\_building = total number of days spent building the nest, from the interval between the first signs of building (e.g., first blades of green grass found in bush) until the first egg date.

time\_adding\_erio = total number of days prinias spent adding *Eriocephalus* material to the nest prior to first egg date.

**numb seeds removed** (data used to assess ease of *Eriocephalus* seed removal through time and used to generate Fig. S2).

plant\_ID = unique letter for each plant.

numb\_seeds = number of seeds removed from each plant out of 100 seed removal attempts.

date = date of seed removal trial.

group = categorical variable for date of each trial.

**climate data** (environmental conditions at Koeberg Nature Reserve during the avian breeding season; all data come from the weather station at Koeberg Nature Reserve and were used to create Fig. S1).

month = month.

mean\_max\_temp = maximum temperature (in °C) for each month averaged from 2002-2012.

mean\_min\_temp = minimum temperature (in °C) for each month averaged from 2002-2012.

mean\_precip = precipitation (in mm) averaged from 1980-2013.

se\_precip = variability in precipitation measured as 1 SE.

**distance traveled dissections** (distance (in meters) from the nest to the closest *Eriocephalus* plant from each intact collected nest; these data were used to create Fig. 3B).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

closest\_erio = distance (in meters) from the nest to the closest *Eriocephalus* bush.

**erio seeds in prinia nest** (data used for analyses of the factors influencing the number of *Eriocephalus* seeds in Karoo prinia nests and to create Fig. S4).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

erio\_seeds = number of *Eriocephalus* seeds found in each prinia nest.

closest\_erio = distance (in meters) from the nest to the closest *Eriocephalus* bush.

julian\_1eggdate = date the first egg was laid in the nest using continuous day of year calendar, where January 1st equals day 1.

mintemp = minimum temperature (in °C) recorded on the first egg date; temperature data from Koeberg weather station.

days\_nest\_active = number of days between the first egg date until the nest became inactive (e.g., depredated, abandoned, fledged young).

bush\_spp\_cat = bush species in which prinias placed their nest.

nest\_height = height (in cm) above the ground that prinias placed their nest.

**erio fluff in prinia nest** (data used for analyses of the factors influencing the amount of *Eriocephalus* fluff in prinia nests; results from these analyses are summarized in Table S2 and Tables S3-S6 in ESM).

nest\_ID = unique number for each nest.

erio\_mass = mass (in g) of the total amount of *Eriocephalus* fluff in prinia nest.

erio\_mass\_hurdle.25g = measures of *Eriocephalus* mass binned into 0.25g categories for analyses using hurdle models.

ave\_erio\_depth = depth (in mm) of *Eriocephalus* material at the base of the nest.

ave\_erio\_depth\_hurdle.2mm = measures of *Eriocephalus* depth binned into 2mm categories for analyses using hurdle models

interior = fraction pale colored material (almost always *Eriocephalus* fluff) covering the interior of the nest.

JSU\_interior = transformed measures of the amount of *Eriocephalus* material on the nest interior using JMP’s Johnson SU transformation.

ave\_ext = percent of nest exterior covered by pale *Eriocephalus* material.

closest\_erio = distance (in meters) from the nest to the closest *Eriocephalus* bush

mintemp = minimum temperature recorded on first egg date; temperature data come from Koeberg weather station.

julian\_1eggdate = date the first egg was laid in nest using continuous day of year calendar, where January 1st equals day 1.

days\_nest\_active = number of days between the first egg date until the nest became inactive (e.g., depredated, abandoned, fledged young).

bush\_spp\_cat = bush species in which prinias placed their nest.

nest\_height = height (in cm) above the ground that prinias placed their nest.