



## Avian Demography Unit

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The Avian Demography Unit is conducting the Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts in partnership with BirdLife South Africa.



The Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation South Africa



# COORDINATED AVIFAUNAL ROADCOUNTS (CAR)

## Newsletter 12

## June 2002

### General

I recently came across an article entitled *Birds on farms* which immediately attracted my attention as this is the title I envisaged for the eight-year CAR report. This fascinating article presents information for farmers who want to attract birds onto their farms. It contains the results of a five-year Birds on Farms survey conducted in Australia, which has led to the development of simple guidelines for attracting birds back to farms. Throughout the world there are many examples of the role played by birds and other indigenous wildlife in controlling agricultural pests. In order to sustain modern agriculture we need to ensure that biodiversity (the totality of plant and animal species) is maintained through sound ecological management so that we improve the natural resource base (including air, soil, water, plants and animals) on which agriculture depends.

Some of the guidelines mentioned were: maintain and if possible increase the amount of indigenous vegetation, keeping indigenous patches as large as possible and try to link them with strips of indigenous vegetation; allow fallen trees to break down naturally; maintain indigenous vegetation around water as far as possible; maintain natural pastures; and avoid heavy grazing.

A fruit farmer's wife from a farm near Worcester in the Western Cape has written an article in *Africa – Birds & Birding* 7(1) describing some of the measures which farmers on a small budget can and are taking to actively encourage biodiversity. For instance, pest-predator populations are maintained by encouraging the growth of a wide variety of food sources for different insects. The resulting balance of pest and predator populations means that the pest levels are kept low enough to make spraying with insecticides unnecessary. I have also included an article, written by John Donaldson, about a **Conservation Farming Project** being conducted in South Africa on sustainable farm management. As the majority of our large terrestrial birds are on farms, and many of you are farmers, I think this information may interest you and you can, I am sure, contribute to this project as you already employ bird-friendly management practices.

Windy conditions were experienced on the summer count in the Overberg, the Karoo and most of the Free State. Some of the Free State counts were delayed by rain, the northwestern precinct was the most affected. The first route in the North West province was counted by Poena Basson, a dairy farmer on the Harts River. On 26 January you collectively traveled 18 000 km while counting 339 routes – a big thank you to all 764 of you! I have calculated that your generous participation contributes about R100 000 per annum when one considers your transport, telephone and postage costs!

I have enclosed the **CAR 8 roadcount form**. Your Precinct Organiser will contact you to confirm whether you are able to count your route on **Saturday, 27 July 2002**. Do check that you still have your **1:250 000 route map** and **Information Sheet No. 4**. If you are forced to change your route in any way please first discuss this with your Precinct Organiser or myself.

In the event of a last minute change owing, for example, to a locked gate or flooded bridge, make a well-marked note on your roadcount form as well. If you ever have to travel your route in the 'wrong' direction, please also indicate this clearly.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there has been a request from Andrew Jenkins, of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, to include the **Black Harrier** in CAR counts. We did a trial count of this rare, low-flying raptor in the Western Cape in January. As there were no difficulties, we will continue counting this species in the Western Cape. The CAR Working Group has considered including this species **throughout the country** and decided to include it on an **experimental and entirely voluntary basis for a year**. Do be assured that we will not be adding other raptor species. We have only agreed to try counting this species, as it will be in view while scanning for large terrestrial birds. The count already requires much detail and we do not want to make it too complicated. Do give us feedback about how you find this and **refer to the section Black Harriers for further details**.

Please do inform us of any address changes, especially as e-mail addresses seem to change rather frequently. If you are no longer involved in this project and do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know. The newsletters are available on our website, as well as details about other projects.

**Key instructions for the count appear on the back page of this newsletter.**

### Date of winter CAR count

The date set for the winter count is **Saturday, 27 July 2002**. As usual make every effort to do the count on the specified date, starting 1–2 hours after sunrise. If for some last-minute, unavoidable reason you are unable to count on the specified date, please let your Precinct Organiser know and do it on the next possible day. The next summer count will be on Saturday, 25 January 2003.

### Species to be counted

In addition to the usual species the Black Harrier can be counted on a voluntary basis. Do check your regional section of the newsletter for any other details. **Remember that Korhaans should be counted both when seen and when heard. All other species should be recorded only when seen.**

### Black Harriers – use the abbreviation HAR

As part of a broader research initiative, students, staff and associates of the FitzPatrick Institute, UCT, have set out to clarify the effects of man-made environmental change on Black Harrier populations and habitats. They need to develop a much clearer picture of where the harriers occur in relation to vegetation and land-use types throughout their range. Look out for coal-black birds with conspicuous white rump and wing patches and boldly barred tails. Immatures pose a greater identification challenge, but they will settle for good survey data for adults only, if the young birds prove problematic. Typically, harriers are seen beating or quartering low and slow over suitable foraging habitat (which often includes



road-verges). Should you require any further information, or if you would like to participate in other aspects of the Black Harrier project, please contact Odette Curtis or Andrew Jenkins at the FitzPatrick Institute, UCT, Rondebosch 7701, tel. 021-6503299 or 083 5513341, or e-mail [ocurtis@botzoo.uct.ac.za](mailto:ocurtis@botzoo.uct.ac.za) or [ajenkins@botzoo.uct.ac.za](mailto:ajenkins@botzoo.uct.ac.za).

## Conservation Farming Project

Farmers play a very important role in the management of natural assets. More than 80% of South Africa's land is set aside for farming, and what happens on farmland affects the future of the country's plant and animal species, water resources, and soils. The move towards sustainable agricultural development means that farm production should not destroy these natural assets. But is it realistic to expect farmers to meet production needs and still protect a range of natural assets? In many cases, probably not, and in these instances the authorities may need to look at various incentives. However, farmers are an innovative community and many farmers have implemented land use and management practices that do meet conservation objectives. The Conservation Farming Project has been set up to identify these farms and evaluate the costs and benefits associated with implementing management practices that meet conservation objectives.

Most farmers are already familiar with the concept of conservation farming because the Soil Conservation Act of 1946 and later acts (1969, 1983) called for the application of conservation farming practices to prevent soil erosion. Healthy soil is one of the key benefits of healthy ecosystems. However, ecosystems provide many other services, such as clean water, efficient water capture, shelter, nutrient cycling, predator control, pest control, carbon sequestration, and maintenance of biodiversity. As a result, conservation farming should aim to conserve this wider range of services. Some farmers argue that this is possible and they can optimise production by reducing input costs and making better use of ecosystem services. Of course, nobody believes them and that is why the Conservation Farming Project was set up to determine whether there are successful models that can be more widely applied.

The Conservation Farming Project is run by the National Botanical Institute with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and support from the Mazda Wildlife Fund. The GEF is a fund for environmental projects and they are interested in South African farmers because farmers can help conserve plant and animal species that occur nowhere else on earth. In addition, farmers can help reduce the impacts of climate change by implementing land use practices that reduce the loss of carbon from soils. The Conservation Farming Project is assessing plant and animal diversity on farms, evaluating the benefits derived from various ecosystem services, measuring the loss of carbon from soils, determining the costs of implementing different farming practices, and looking at the social factors that influence land use.

We are concentrating initially on four areas with high levels of plant and animal species richness, i.e. the Bokkeveld Plateau in the Northern Cape, the Nama Karoo around Beaufort West, the Succulent Thicket vegetation around Kirkwood in the Eastern Cape, and the grasslands around Underberg in KwaZulu-Natal. However, we hope to extend the study and **would like to hear from other farmers who have implemented land use and farming practices that provide conservation benefits.** As we learn from our study sites, we are sharing our findings with farmers and agricultural extension officers and we will be developing information products next year. In the meantime, information can be obtained from our website.

For further information please contact: The project manager (Ingrid Nänni) or the scientific leader (John Donaldson) at the National Botanical Institute, Private Bag X7, Claremont 7735. Tel: (021) 799 8652, Fax: (021) 797 6903, e-mail: [nanni@nbict.nbi.ac.za](mailto:nanni@nbict.nbi.ac.za), web: <http://www.nbi.ac.za>.

## CAR support

We acknowledge, with thanks, support from BirdLife South Africa, the Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation South Africa and Mazda Wildlife Fund. The CAR project is still struggling to attract funding, but we hope that the eight-year report will convince potential sponsors of its value.

I would like to thank Alison Richardson for submitting a report of the Wakkerstroom count to *Bokmakerie*. Mark Anderson (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation), Brian Colahan (Free State Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism), Alison Richardson and David Gaynor I know always send out an informative report to their participants as well.

## CAR report

You will be glad to hear that the eight-year report on CAR is nearing completion and we plan to publish it by the end of the year. This report will include regional precinct descriptions and results. We have grouped some precincts together for analysis and description, after studying the distribution of the birds and vegetation types. The regional precinct descriptions have been written by Precinct Organisers, in conjunction with other people familiar with each region. Most species authors have written their texts for the species accounts. Each species account consists of density maps for summer and winter, a trend analysis for each regional precinct, a histogram showing the density per 100 km for each regional precinct and a histogram summarizing habitat use. In the next *Bird Numbers* we will include a sample species account.

This report will provide important information on these threatened species. This information will assist in the geographical prioritization of conservation action, the planning of effective conservation measures, as well as provide a tool for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of those measures. All this would not be possible if it were not for your regular roadcounts!

## Ringed cranes

Unfortunately there were very few re-sightings of colour-ringed cranes in January. However, there was very successful ringing this last summer, with 104 Blue Cranes being ringed in the Western Cape and 78 in the Karoo. Ringing cranes is certainly a task for the fleet-footed, as the young birds have to be cornered and caught on foot and by hand! **Do continue to keep a sharp lookout for colour-ringed cranes at all times of the year as well as during the CAR count.** Please note the following: the colour of the tall ring, the leg on which the tall ring is attached, the combination of short-ring colours (what colour over what colour), and the leg on which these short rings are attached. The right and left legs of the crane are decided as if you were the crane. Please record any sightings in the section provided and put an asterisk beside the relevant line on the form.

## Reminders

Please do enter your ADU Observer Number, and that of other regular CAR observers who assist you, on your roadcount form. **Make a copy** of your roadcount forms before entrusting them to the postal system! It is vital to retain a copy, as even faxes have sometimes not arrived.

## Results

In the tables three numbers may appear, e.g. 15/5/2 = 15 adults, 5 juveniles and 2 chicks, or two numbers, e.g. 20//1 = 20 adults, no juveniles and 1 chick, or one number, e.g. 13// = 13 adults, no juveniles or chicks.

The following abbreviations apply: BC = Blue Crane; CC = Crowned Crane; WC = Wattled Crane; KB = Kori Bustard; LB = Ludwig's Bustard; SB = Stanley's Bustard; BS = Black Stork; WS = White Stork; AS = Abdim's Stork; SEC = Secretarybird; BK = Black Korhaan; BBK = Blackbellied Korhaan; UK = Blue Korhaan; KK = Karoo Korhaan; WBK = Whitebellied Korhaan; WQK = Whitequilled Korhaan; GH = Ground Hornbill; BI = Bald Ibis; SG = Spurwinged Goose; BHH = Blackheaded Heron; YS = Yellowbilled Stork.

## Mistakes and misprints

Please carefully check the figures given for your route in this newsletter against your records, and report any discrepancies. This enables us to correct errors in the database. Mistakes do occur, so please help us to find them!

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BK	CC	LB	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
EB01	62.5	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		12/10/				5//		6/1/		1BS
EB02	75.4	1398	Keith Marshall		5/1/				1//		11//	5//	
EB03	64	115	Graham Winch	6//	11/1/	4//			5//	1//	2//	125//	
EB04	61.6	1567, 1568	Barbara & Ken Monfoort		9//		20//				4/3/	7//	
EE01	35.4	1129	Adèle Moore		1//		2//				1/1/	31//	
EE02	65	1126	Jon Smallie				46//						
EE03	19	1266	Phyll Sephton		7//	4//		4//			15/3/	19//	
EE05	76	896	Fred Leask				24//				6/1/	18//	
EE06	56	1613	Kevin Jolliffe		4//		11//		2//	2//	1//	30//	
EE08	71	1126	Jon Smallie				2//						
EE10	63	899	Kevin Meise									331//	
EE11	54	1261	Mike Agenbag	2//	1//		2/4/		1//		8//	13//	2UK
EE12	59.1	901	Jenni Brown	1//	1//					1//	1/3/	57//	
EE13	67.9	1067	Indwe High School		6//		53//				54/5/	292//	3BI
EE14	30.7	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	48/1/	6/2/		17//		2//	19//	10//	6UK	
EE15	83	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton		8//		19/1/	4//			12/2/	139//	19UK
EE17	45	1126	Jon Smallie & pupils		1//		9//					47//	
EG01	85	161	Adrian Craig	6//	1//	1//			3//			3//	
EG02	51.4	565	Pat Hulley	5//	2//	2//				3//			
EG03	77.1	341	Bo Bonnevie			1//		6//	3//			29//	2KB
EH01	29	312	Yvonne Craig	26/1/					3//		1//	3//	
EH02	64	1612	Abel Bezuidenhout	40//	16/1/				2//		15//	259//	
EH03	54.9	937, 301	Neil & Jill Stewart & Cooks	5//	3//						1//	689//	
EH04	44.5	1132	David Tudhope		4//							163//	
EK02	59.4	885	John Lardner-Burke	2//						2//		38//	
EK04	58.4	884	Peter Metcalf		1//				11//		7/3/	16//	
EK05	61.5	1527, 1528	Jenny Roxburgh		7//							84//	
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & D Hoffman	13/2/				10//	3//		126//		8KB, 7KK, 2WQK
EP02	66	1570	Hermann Hertel			4//		3//	3//	1//	131//	2KK	
EP03	62	869	Peter Hall	7//1/		3//		1//	1//		1//	3KK	
EP04	68	872	Denzil Ward	2//	1//	2//		4//			76/2/	2KB	
EP06	53.4	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro	2/1/	3//	3//		8//	5//		1014//	5WQK	
EP07	70	1475	Alan Collett	12//				1//			48//	42WQK	
EP08	103	270	Dave Brown	4/1/	1//	4//		5//	1//		3//	1KB, 8KK	
EP09	31	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro								52//		
EP10	43	1475	Alan Collett					9//	4//		3//	1KK, 16WQK	
EQ01	53.9	1587	Ian Mc Ewan		1//		2//		3//	23//	69//	10UK	
EQ02	54	930, 157	Don Field					2//		1//		5UK, 1WBK	
ES02	48.5	874	Joan Collett								15//		
ES03	56	873	David Jolliffe	2//			2//					1KB, 2KK	
ES05	88	1181, 1182	Alec & Neil Turner	2/1/					1//		36//	3KB	
ES06	54	875, 1414, 1415	N Willows & Hobsons				4//				1//	2KK	
EU01	65	1450	Sonja Vorster & team		8//		2//		3//				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2563</b>			<b>193</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>3985</b>	<b>3BI, 1BS, 14KB, 42UK, 1WBK, 65WQK, 25KK</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>155.5</b>	

EB - Border precinct, EE - Northeast Cape precinct, EG - Grahamstown precinct, EH - Humansdorp precinct, EK - Kenton precinct, EP - PE precinct (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), EQ - Queenstown precinct, ES - Somerset East precinct, EU - Umtata precinct

## Eastern Cape

Jon Smallie, Kwandwe East Cape Crane Project, has changed EE04, as it was often too wet and impassable in summer, and the new route is called EE17. Vincent Egan is no longer able to coordinate the Humansdorp routes. I would like to thank Vincent and Bronwyn for all their work in setting up routes in this area. Yvonne Craig has willingly taken over coordination of this precinct. There were problems with locked gates on two Humansdorp routes, but these are being altered for the next count, as this is an ongoing problem. David Jolliffe, who coordinates the Somerset East precinct, has just become a field worker for the South African Crane Working Group working on the Karoo Crane Conservation Project.

The Crowned Crane numbers were encouraging. Ken Griffith had the special sighting of a Black Stork, a species which has not been seen for a number of years, above Witches Krantz. The White Stork numbers were high in the Humansdorp precinct, particularly on EH03 (689). Stanley's Bustard numbers were lower than usual in this precinct and Yvonne commented on the unusually dry veld. Ken and Jen Munro remarked on the lower numbers of White Stork on EP06, due to the fact that the two large central pivot lands which usually had lucerne, now had maize. Farmers in this area with irrigation increased their maize cultivation due to the high maize prices and forfeited lucerne. It appeared that the number of storks in the area was similar to last year, but they were more spread out due to the crop change.

## Western Cape

### Overberg precinct

There were significantly more White Storks in the Overberg this last January (170 birds per 100 km) than in January 2001 (55.6 birds per 100 km). It seems that when conditions further north are less favourable, these opportunistic migrants travel further south. However the January 1999 count, when there was early unseasonal summer rain, still holds the record of 615 birds per 100 km. Eight South African-born White Storks were fitted with solar powered transmitters in December 2001, as part of the project being conducted by the Vogelwarte Radolfzell of the Max Planck Institute in Germany, BirdLife Belgium and the ADU. The path followed by these birds can be found on our website. One bird is still alive in central Egypt. Three birds reached Kenya, two northern Tanzania, one northern Zambia and one Botswana.

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in Overberg												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.	
OV01	66	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	107/5/3	3//				13//	44//	1HAR	
OV02	66.5	221, 223	Des & Mary Frylinck	52//	2//				17//	55//		
OV03	50.3	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	44/9/					3//	13//		
OV04	27.3	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	39/6/	1//				36//	110//		
OV05	68.9	228, 1064	John Carter & Brian Dennis	116/3/4	4//	7//	3//	1//	4//	39//		
OV06	50.5	619, 1122	Patrick Hurly & Linda Reynolds	61/2/	1//					74//		
OV07	71.2	496, 1083, 801, 802	Ken & Ann Price & McAdams	74/13/6	11/2/			1//	1//	429//	1BS	
OV08	75.1	492	Keith Moodie	56/8/	4//				1//		1BK	
OV09	48.7	991, 1305	Donella Young & Vicki Hudson	88/7/2	4//		2//	2//	11//	297//		
OV10	57	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	58/2/	1//			2//	27//	52//		
OV11	62.3	245, 246	Sheila Siebert & M Loubser	222/3/2	7//		11//	4//	8//	74//	7HAR	
OV12	56.6	215, 216, 1380, 1381	Heather Busby & team	55//4	8/3/	1//	12//		6//	103//		
OV13	70.6	520, 229, 672, 671	Jill Mortimer, Inés, Rene & Ann	159/11/4	29/10/		1//			89/1/	1BK	
OV14	92	164, 123	Sue Maré & John Coats	45/23/1	8//	2//	2/1/	1//	8//	50//	1BS	
OV15	62	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	110/4/	1//				3//	651//		
OV16	60.9	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & W du Toit	38/2/5	2//	5//2/				1//	2BK	
OV17	59	878	Lee Burman	107//6	8//				77//	47//		
OV18	50.2	240	Wicus Leeuwner	124//24	6//				15//	7//		
OV19	62.5	219, 1213	R Crowther, E Stodel & C Wallace	45//2		5//			10//	166//	3BK	
OV20	58.4	1441, 1325	Alison & Neville Passmore	20//						36//		
OV21	64	1076, 1600, 1600	Nelles Vintcent & Groenewalds	25/1/	10//		2//	4//	1//	24//	1HAR	
OV22	59.2	48	Mick Killeen		5//					96//		
OV23	57	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall		5/1/					52//		
OV24	57.5	636, 1211, 1212	Mick D'Alton & team	198//8	1//		23//		15//	17//		
OV25	58	1469, 1355	Avril Young & Gerda Hill	120/14/3	2/1/				17/5/	1//		
OV26	19.4	871	Jeffrey Arizon	37/4/							4HAR	
OV27	68	1569, 1293	Augie Hess & David Davids	6//	14//				3//	235//		
OV28	39	1462	Tonia Schonken		8//					68//		
OV29	27.3	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	2//	4//					60//		
OV33	61.2	1463	Frans de Graaff	18/1/	17//				13//	69//	2HAR	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1727</b>			<b>2218</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>2960</b>	<b>7BK, 2BS, 15HAR</b>	
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>128.5</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>171.4</b>		
OV34	60.9	1550, 1551, 1599	Heynè & Sharon Brink & P Botes					1//	1//		1BK, 1HAR	

The number of Blue Cranes per 100 km (128.5) was slightly, but not significantly, lower than last summer (136.2). The numbers of other species were also lower. It is possible that the count was affected by the strong wind that day. We all appreciated Wicus and Hanlie Leeuwner's generous hospitality after the count and were treated to some wonderful sightings of little birds (e.g. Sharp-billed Honeyguide) beside the river. I would like to thank Christine Lambrechts for being part of the team counting OV09 for many years. Christine is now coordinating the Ekangala Grassland Trust. A new route, OV34, was started in the test range area near De Hoop Nature Reserve, to give us information about birds in natural vegetation. For comparative purposes the results are not included in the Overberg totals.

### Swartland precinct

It is interesting to note that 46 White Storks were counted on two routes, whereas prior to this the maximum number counted was 5 in January 1999. We have noted a westward extension of this species' range in the Overberg (see *Bird Numbers* 10(1)), but this is the first count with more than the odd bird in the Swartland. Blue Crane numbers continue to increase slightly. Mel Tripp remarked that they saw more Blue Cranes on their route than ever before and saw their first Secretarybird since taking over the route in 1998. I look forward to meeting you at Elna and Tertius Slabber's farm after the winter count.

### Beaufort West precinct

I am delighted that Kori Bustard were sighted on both routes in this area. The Karoo Korhaan numbers continue to be high.

### Little Karoo precinct

Andrew Schofield recorded a number of White Storks on WK02. There is a possibility of more recce counts in this area.

### Uniondale precinct

The summer count took place on 2 February 2002, as a number of participants were involved in community activities on the 26 January. As this precinct is miles from any other precinct, there was no danger of double counting. Shelagh Peterson did another recce count, but unfortunately the results do not indicate the feasibility of a route near Plettenberg Bay. I have appreciated Shelagh's patience and willingness to explore this area.

Right: Uniondale CAR participants: Back: Mr & Mrs de Klerk, E. van Eck, K. Hamson, C. Meyer, B. Marriott, M. Coetzee. Front: J. de Jaar, J. Witbooi, S. Harmse, G. Cleaver. Absent: H. Jansen (took the photo)

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in Swartland									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.		
SW02	76	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker		8//	2//			
SW03	64.1	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & P. Waddell	5/2/1	5//	2//			
SW04	65	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	5//				2BK	
SW05	60	163, 1239	Keith & Rena Hamson	1//		21//		7BK	
SW06	75.4	1368, 1359	Ralph Wordon & R le Roux	15/3//	9//	42//		1HAR,30WS	
SW07	43	477, 1247	Koos & Ena de Goede	11/5//	7//	7//		16WS	
SW08	71.2	1474	Bruce MacKenzie	6//	5/1//	8/1//			
SW09	60	1135, 1467	Jens & Diane Oelbützel	25/4/6	4//	71//			
SW10	62.5	679	Marieke Bruwer	15//	4//				
SW11	65.4	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	4//		5//		2BK, 1HAR,	
								2SEC	
SW12	80.5	106, 195, 1552	Mel Tripp, Phil & Tilman	20//	1//	42/6//		3BK, 1SEC	
SW13	57.2	673, 674	Elna & Tertius Slabber	3/1//	1//	19//			
SW14	54	506	Riaan van der Walt	6/1//		12//		1SEC	
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>				<b>139</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>14BK,4SEC, 46WS,2HAR</b>	
<b>Birds/100 km</b>					<b>16.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>28.5</b>		

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in other Western Cape precincts									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	WS	Other spp.
WB01	63	343	Maria Andela			34//2			1KB,1LB,2SEC
WB02	73	39	Japie Claassen			11//			3KB
WK02	42.9	1003	Andrew Schofield	29//4	1//		8//	112//	
WU01	50	1332	Kerry Hampson	2/1//	1//				
WU02	54	539	Jonas Witbooi	14//	1//				
WU04	35.1	1392	J de Jaar	5//	1//				
WU05	72	297, 1520, 1521	Mike Euston-Brown	5/2//				74//	8SB
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>				<b>62</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>186</b> 4KB,1LB,8SB, 2SEC
<b>Birds/100 km</b>					<b>15.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>47.7</b>

WB - Beaufort West precinct, WK - Little Karoo precinct, WU - Uniondale precinct



Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in Karoo											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	SEC	UK	WQK	WS	Other spp.
NK011	20	507	Jan & Eva van Zijl	10//5							
NK012	20	507	Jan & Eva van Zijl								
NK013	20	507	Jan & Eva van Zijl	6/2/2							
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock		1//	4//	3//		1//		
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock				1//				
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	12//					1//		
NK031	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk			4//	1//				
NK032	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	5/2/2							3SB
NK033	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	2//							
NK041	20	501	Francois Taljaard	2//2		3//					
NK042	20	501	Francois Taljaard	2//2		7//	1//				
NK044	20	501	Francois Taljaard	11//4			2//		2//		
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe	2//1	2//				3//		1BHH
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe				2//		2//		72AS
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe				2//		1//		2SB
NK081	20	500	Johannes Zwieggers						2//		
NK082	20	500	Johannes Zwieggers						3//		
NK083	20	500	Johannes Zwieggers								
NK091	20	480	Peter Ferreira			13//	1//		2//	1//	
NK092	20	480	Peter Ferreira			8//	2//				
NK093	20	480	Peter Ferreira			2//	4//		1//		
NK101	20	1086	Jannie Venter	8/1/5				4//	3//	6//	
NK102	20	1086	Jannie Venter			3//			6//	2//	1BHH
NK103	20	1086	Jannie Venter								
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith			1//				7//	1BHH, 2SG
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith	2//		1//		3//		1//	
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith								
NK151	20	1489	Willem Zwieggers								3KB
NK152	20	1489	Willem Zwieggers								14AS, 1KB
NK153	20	1489	Willem Zwieggers								

(continued on page 5)

### Karoo, Northern Cape

Mark Anderson reports:

The 14th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTBS) took place on 26 January 2002, with 46 people in 25 vehicles participating. Over the 1435.5 km which were surveyed, 957 large terrestrial birds of 12 species were counted, i.e. 66.7 birds/100 km. The most numerous birds were Blue Cranes (304), White Storks (197), Abdim's Storks (142) and Ludwig's Bustards (128).

Only 69 Whitequilled Korhaans were counted (i.e. 4.8 birds/100 km), compared to 181 individuals (13.1 birds/100 km) during the July 2001 survey. Similar trends were observed during the previous two seasons. One wonders whether there are interesting seasonal movement patterns which we are not aware of? Alternatively, and more likely, the windy conditions of the two summer surveys influenced the results. Windy conditions possibly restrict the conspicuous and raucous territorial displays of the male birds.

During the recent survey, 31 Blue Crane pairs with chicks were recorded, with 49 chicks being counted. This is similar to the January 2002 survey and indicative of another year of successful breeding (and hopefully recruitment) of this species in the eastern Karoo. From December 2001 to February 2002, personnel from the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform,

Environment & Conservation, Kevin McCann (South African Crane Working Group) and Ronelle and Stoffel Visagie, colour-ringed 78 Blue Crane chicks, thus significantly exceeding our annual target of 50 birds! During the past six years we have colour-ringed 197 Blue Cranes in the eastern Karoo. Although we have had few re-sightings of ringed birds and few recoveries of dead, ringed birds, some interesting information has been obtained about mortality factors, dispersal from the breeding areas, and movements within our focal study area.

*I appreciate Mark Anderson's continued involvement in this project and Ronelle Visagie's efficient, voluntary assistance in coordinating the KLTBS.*

## Mpumalanga

Only one Bald Ibis was counted in the Steenkampsberg and Middelburg precincts, but the numbers were particularly high in the Wakkerstroom precinct. The White Stork numbers were also higher than in the previous two summer counts and most birds were again in the Wakkerstroom precinct.

### Steenkampsberg precinct

David Gaynor reports:

As far as the Steenkampsberg count went, our numbers of counters were down, and we were only able to count 5 routes. The number of birds counted was also low, with only Helmeted Guineafowl showing an increase on the 2001 summer count. Conditions were generally poor, with mist and drizzle, and stands of long grass along the roadside verges.

*Please continue to count Helmeted Guineafowl on the Steenkampsberg routes and use the abbreviation HG. Remember to fill in the details about activity and location (i.e. the last three columns) for Bald Ibis, as well as for cranes and bustards. This will add to the information being collected by the Escarpment Bird Club on Bald Ibis for the Important Bird Areas conservation project.*

### Middelburg precinct

David Gaynor reports:

There was also a drop in numbers of birds counted in this precinct, even though conditions were generally good. Casper Venter emphasized the difference between winter and summer conditions, not least of which are the seasonal changes in agriculture.

### Wakkerstroom precinct

Alison Richardson reports:

Despite the cold and wet weather, the Wakkerstroom CAR count was a great success. It was wonderful to see some of the regular volunteers again, and to welcome five new volunteers. The Wattled Crane is still eluding us, even though Andre Botha of BirdLife SA assured me that two pairs are breeding in the Wakkerstroom area. Our tally of White Storks was expectedly high.

*As there is growing concern about the dwindling numbers of Helmeted Guineafowl, this species will now also be counted in the Wakkerstroom precinct.*

## Free State

Rick Nuttall reports:

A total of 108 routes was surveyed (67 in the south (FS), 30 in the north-east (FN) and 11 in the north-west (FW)) on Saturday 26 January 2002, covering a combined distance of almost 7110 km. A total of 223 participants counted 7226 large terrestrial birds. Of these, 5137 were counted in the FS, 1771 in the FN and 318 in the FW.

Continued: Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in Karoo											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	SEC	UK	WQK	WS	Other spp.
NK171	20	667	Abie de Villiers	2/2/	2/1/				2/1/		
NK172	20	667	Abie de Villiers			5/1/			1/1/	4/1/	9AS
NK173	20	667	Abie de Villiers	24/1/	1/1/						
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead	3/1/	4/1/				1/1/		1BHH, 1KB
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead						1/1/		
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead								
NK211	20	1488	Johret Swiegers			2/1/	1/1/		2/1/		
NK212	20	1488	Johret Swiegers						6/1/		3KB
NK213	20	1488	Johret Swiegers		2/1/				8/1/		1KB, 1SB
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson		1/1/	1/1/			2/1/		
NK222	20	105	Mark Anderson	2/1/					2/1/		
NK223	15.2	105	Mark Anderson				1/1/				
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2/1/	5/3/						1KB
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2/1/	4/1/						
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						1/1/		
NK251	20	1487	Annatjie Reynolds								
NK252	20	1487	Annatjie Reynolds				1/1/				
NK253	20	1487	Annatjie Reynolds		4/1/	2/1/					
NK261	20	1413	Nico Bezuidenhout								1AS, 1KB
NK262	20	1413	Nico Bezuidenhout							8/1/	1AS
NK263	20	1413	Nico Bezuidenhout						3/1/	8/1/	43AS
NK311	20	1085	Grant Naude	19/2/	3/1/	8/1/	1/1/	3/1/			
NK312	20	1085	Grant Naude	8/1/	8/1/		1/1/	1/1/			
NK313	20	1085	Grant Naude	3/1/							
NK331	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	5/1/					1/1/	10/1/	5SG
NK332	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	4/1/	3/1/		5/1/	1/1/	2/1/		
NK333	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen		8/1/	1/1/				1/1/	
NK341	20	668	Johan Bell	2/1/					2/1/	1/1/	1BHH
NK351	20	488	Pieter Louw	4/1/	3/1/					5/1/	
NK352	20	488	Pieter Louw	1/1/	2/1/						
NK353	20	488	Pieter Louw	8/1/			2/1/	2/1/		6/1/	
NK361	20	1493, 1492	Van Zyl & Jolene Venter	6/1/	3/1/			2/1/		16/1/	
NK362	20	1493, 1492	Van Zyl & Jolene Venter			1/1/	1/1/		1/1/	73/1/	
NK363	20	1493, 1492	Van Zyl & Jolene Venter	11/2/	5/1/	6/1/		2/2/			
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2/1/2/	8/1/	5/1/					1BHH
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe						1/1/		
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2/1/					2/1/		
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)	6/2/	8/1/				2/1/		
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)	2/1/	1/1/		2/1/	2/1/			
NK451	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	2/1/		1/1/					
NK452	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	2/1/	2/1/						2AS
NK453	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	2/2/							
<b>Total</b>	<b>1435</b>			<b>304</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>142AS,7SG, 11KB,6SB, 6BHH</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>21.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>13.7</b>	

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in Mpumalanga											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
MM01	60	91	Ken Hattlingh		4/1/			7/1/			
MM02	45	1123	Koos Richards					2/1/			7HG
MM03	41	860	Casper Venter		3/1/			3/1/			8HG
MS01	56.6	725, 1109	Helen Gaynor & B Rowland		1/1/			1/1/			10HG
MS02	55.6	1557	Shawn Catterall		2/1/			4/1/			2HG
MS04	63.6	727, 1554	Frans & Ronel Krige		2/1/						32HG
MS05	56.4	728	Anton Linström	1/1/	2/1/			4/1/		33/1/	
MS06	64.4	1178, 1477	H van Wyk & R Steenkamp	1/1/	1/1/			3/1/		1/1/	10HG,1SEC
MW01	57	1511	Barbi Forsyth		15/1/	31/1/	2/1/	6/1/		110/1/	2SEC
MW02	61	1618	Craig Nelson		2/1/	2/1/		37/2/		8/1/	2BBK
MW03	66.8	128	JF Heywood	2/2/	12/1/	69/1/		10/2/	11/1/	19/1/	1SB, 1SEC
MW04	66.8	1001	Alison Richardson		8/1/	15/1/	2/1/	6/1/	2/1/	2/1/	
MW05	66.2	1508	Marion Wittstock		4/1/	72/2/		8/1/		32/1/	
MW06	58.7	1335	Elizabeth Hodgkinson		4/1/	4/1/	2/1/	6/1/	4/1/	11/1/	2SEC
MW07	62.6	1388	Janice Isom		11/1/	10/20/	24/1/	9/3/	5/1/	26/1/	
<b>Total</b>	<b>882</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>2BBK,69HG, 1SB,6SEC</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>0.6</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>54.1</b>	

MM - Middelburg precinct, MS - Steenkampsberg precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in northwestern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	WQK	Other spp.			
FW18	52	1268	Herman Jordaan			1/1/	24/1/	2UK			
FW22	49	1173	Chris de Lange		1/1/	8/1/	12/1/	20WS			
FW23	58.6	1254	Johan Bantjes		11/11/	3/1/	10/1/				
FW26	76.4	1174	SA Gouws		4/1/	2/1/	3/1/				
FW29	64	1168	Gert Claassen		7/1/	3/1/		34AS, 4YS			
FW34	76.5	1163	Des Walker		4/1/		32/1/				
FW43	67.4	1176	Robert Drewes				3/1/				
FW45	53.6	1563	Gert Jordaan		2/1/	11/1/	10/1/	8WS			
FW46	51.8	1614	Gustav Pauw	5/1/	1/1/		8/1/	1SB			
FW50	60.5	1516	GMM Alers								
FW51	80	1253	JJ den Houting		4/1/	8/1/	32/1/				
<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>34AS,1SB,2UK, 28WS,4YS</b>			
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>0.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>19.0</b>				

Of the **total** number of birds of these species seen, White Stork (2274; 32.0 birds/100km), Abdim's Stork (1267; 17.8 birds/100km), Spurwinged Goose (722; 10.2 birds/100km), Whitequilled Korhaan (713; 10.1 birds/100km), Blue Crane (710; 10.0 birds/100km), Blackheaded Heron (421; 5.9 birds/100km), Bald Ibis (401; 5.6 birds/100km) and Blue Korhaan (263; 3.7 birds/100km) were most frequently recorded. In the **FS**, White Stork, Abdim's Stork, Blue Crane, Whitequilled Korhaan, Spurwinged Goose, Blue Korhaan, and Ludwig's Bustard dominated, while in the **FN**, White Stork, Bald Ibis, Spurwinged Goose, Blackheaded Heron, Blue Crane and Crowned Crane were dominant. In the **FW**, Whitequilled Korhaan, Spurwinged Goose, Blackheaded Heron, Abdim's Stork and White Stork were most frequently recorded.

Following good summer rains, grass cover was good in many areas, with comparatively poor visibility resulting in the lower numbers of birds seen. Many participants again also commented that fewer birds were heard calling; this is probably the reason for the lower numbers of certain species reported (e.g. Whitequilled Korhaans (713)) compared to the previous two summer counts (990 in January 2001 and 2667 in January 2000).

Numbers of White Storks (2274), with 1800 counted in the FS and only 446 in the FN, were considerably higher than last summer (1154). Abdim's Stork numbers (1267) were also considerably higher than in 2001 (468), approaching the high total recorded in summer 2000 (2169). Good numbers of Abdim's Storks were reported by Janine Liefbrig (326; route FS54), Pierre de Villiers (323; route FS06) and the Buys family (191; route FS56). Numbers of Blue Cranes (710) were considerably higher than in January 2001 (234) and 2000 (146); of the 553 seen in the FS, 416 were reported by Brian Colahan from route FS100. There was also an increase in Crowned Crane numbers reported during this count (128) compared to January 2001 (57). Ludwig's Bustards were again present in comparatively good numbers (207), similar to those counted in January 2001 (201). Spurwinged Goose numbers (722) were considerably lower than in 2001 (1724); this is possibly a result of the good rains, with more standing water in dams available in January 2002, resulting in this species being more widely dispersed.

*There were rare sightings of two Marabou Storks, one on FN102 by Jan Griesel and one on FS55 by JL Uys. JC Strauss was also fortunate to see two Wattled Cranes on FN52. Thank you, Rick, for your report and Brian Colahan for continuing to organise counts throughout the Free State.*

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	SEC	SG	UK	WQK	WS	Other spp.
FS02	74.5	1046	Blackie de Swardt		2//						15//	
FS06	74	1059	P de Villiers	25/6/1	2//	30//	1//		2//	1//	289//	323AS
FS07	66.4	864	Sawas Vrahimis	7//	2//	13//			2//	4//	5//	
FS08	73.2	6, 1429	André Schlemmer		4//			4//		2//		3YS
FS09	61	1143	Henriëtte Strauss		4//			2//		2//		1YS
FS12	54	662	Herman Kleynhans	6//	3//	24//		11//	20//	9//	38//	9YS
FS14	66	1203	Helena Vorster		5//	15//	1//	1//	2//	10//	70//	5AS
FS15	80	1502	Christiaan de Wit	1//	2//	2//	3//			16//	2//	1AS
FS17	76.4	1620	Dawie Kok		2//		1//	1//		5//	65//	66AS
FS18	72	684	Louise Coetzee		4//			1//	8//	8//	4//	2YS
FS19	89	690	Lyzette Hoffman		5//			1//	6//		4//	
FS20	64.7	1432, 1626	A McLeod & M Venter		1//		2//	11//	1//	2//	4//	
FS21	59	682, 1223	Leon & C-A Barkhuizen		2//	1//	1//	18//		13//	76//	
FS23	77	683	Chris Botha	6//								
FS27	82	694	Erika Schulze		2//	2//			3//	2//	1//	
FS29	62.2	822	Stephanie Gerber		3//		1//		8//	4//		
FS31	76.8	259	Johan van Niekerk		2//			8//	1//			
FS35	73.5	1258	Hannes Blom		3//			32//	10//	9//		5YS
FS39	77	689	Ann Hiemstra		7//		5//	15//	6//	2//	31//	63AS
FS40	72.7	1257	Steven Squires		2//	1//		5//	3//	10//		33AS
FS42	66	952	Kevin Preddy			12//	5//	4//		7//	29//	65AS
FS43	76	1052	Duart Hugo				1//			24//	5//	
FS45	81.3	1622	D Jones							7//		
FS47	82	1055	Johan van den Berg				1//	1//		10//	15//	
FS48	82.4	1146	PJ Botha						5//	15//		
FS50	81.6	1058	Frans Marais		2//			32//				
FS54	57.2	1262	Janine Liefbrig		1//	8//		1//	6//	48//	11//	326AS
FS55	51.7	1147	JL Uys				2//		7//	22//	8//	89AS
FS56	72	988, 987	Stephanus & Jeanette Buys	9//			4//	17//	4//	43//	63//	191AS
FS58	84	863	Pierre Nel	1//	2//	3//		7//		9//		
FS60	74.4	24	Brian Colahan	2//	2//	15//		4//	7//	9//	3//	
FS62		1288	JM Jansen		1//				9//	3//		3YS
FS65	81	1200	Stephan Barnard				2//	4//		15//		
FS66	57	1399	T Mostert					3//		4//		
FS67	68.7	950	Daan Müller				1//		4//	1//		
FS69	76	1065	Deon du Plessis		3//	7//		1//	4//	10//		
FS70	60.3	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helene Bam		4//		2//		4//		1//	
FS76	48	1154	CJ Meyer					22//			1//	
FS77	54	1263, 1264	Henk & Laetitia van Vuuren		2//		3//	6//		8//	4//	
FS79	53.1	1397	Dewald Liebenberg		2//	7//		3//	2//	7//		
FS80	84.6	1617	Amo Greyling		3//			1//	3//			
FS81	58	1269	AJ Bruwer		3//	3//		10//	1//		7//	5BI
FS82	68.6	816	Rodney Adam	4//	1//	1//		1//	3//	8//		11AS
FS84	51.1	1153	Schalk Burger				1//		5//	1//		
FS85	78.5	285	JB Cloete		4//				3//	11//		
FS87	58.2	1501, 1500	Wessel Bester		5//							3KK
FS88	66	1400	Ivan van Rooyen		4//		1//	16//		3//	2//	
FS90	67.3	691	Willie Mostert		1//				3//	5//	3//	
FS91	56.5	641	Rick Nuttall		5//		5//	1//	2//	18//		
FS92	68.1	1201	CGF Krohn		2//				5//	2//		
FS93	52.6	700	Johan Watson	20//	4//	10//				5//	93//	
FS95	73.7	1199	Elbi Erasmus								7//	
FS96	78	1149	Phanus Zondagh		19//			12//	2//	15//	2//	
FS98	42	1056	PL Crouse	8//	1//		2//		3//		153//	
FS99	70	1057	LE Goosen		4//			7//	1//	12//	2//	
FS100	57.6	24	Brian Colahan	416//		8//	9//	26//		3//	663//	
FS101	69	687	Riëtte Griesel	6//	5//	10//	32//	7//		20//	11//	16//
FS102	69.8	686	Jan Griesel	5//	3//	7//	11//	2//		4//	9//	26//
FS103	57	865	Stephan van der Walt		3//		1//	15//	1//	19//	37//	
FS104	72.3	1395	Geoff Johnson		3//			13//	22//	22//		
FS105	83.2	696	Jeremy Staples		3//			1//			9//	
FS106	52.8	1564	Hennie Butler		2//			5//			14//	
FS108	61	1140, 1141	John Moffett		16//	1//		16//	3//		15//	1AS, 5BI
FS110	56.8	1396	Jeremy Jones					3//	1//	4//	15//	1//
FS111	74	931	Francois Wolfaardt					2//	1//	4//	14//	
FS113	91.4	1616	Danie Krynauw		3//	4//			1//	3//	3//	9YS
FS114	74	713	Francois Nieuwoudt									
<b>Total</b>	<b>4530</b>			<b>533</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>10BI, 3KK, 33YS 1174AS</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>11.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>39.7</b>	

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in northeastern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
FN13	69.1	606	Thomas Wessels		1//							
FN16	54	701	Theunis Bekker		10//	83//	4//		27//	5//	5//	
FN24	65	719	Georg Wandrag		3//	6//			14//		5//	
FN25	74.4	1615	Muller Oosthuizen		20//	5//			10//			
FN26	64	974	Bradley Gibbons	114//	4//	8//			11//		51//	
FN28	60.5	1575	Margaret Whipp		3//	23//			8		16	3SB
FN29	71	721, 1219	Freda & John Whipp			77//	3//	7//	2//	45//		
FN31	78	712	Frik Neethling		15//	9//	78//	1//	7//	77//	17AS	

(continued on page 7)



'It's his migration period.'

**KwaZulu-Natal**

Tim Wood continued discussions about new routes with the relevant Precinct Organisers in northern KwaZulu-Natal, on a recent trip to that area. There are 4 or 5 potential routes near Vryheid.

The Blue Crane numbers in January were encouraging. Marc Meter counted 35 birds on his route, KG08, the highest number on one route since Ken Gordon saw 42 on his route in July 1998. Sandi Calverley reports that there have been recent, new sightings of Blue Cranes in the Melmoth Conservancy. Crowned Crane numbers are also encouraging with 127 being recorded on Rod Dorning's route, KG09. Rod also counted the maximum number of Wattled Cranes (54) on his route. White Stork numbers were higher than in January 2000 (57.5 birds/100 km), but not as high as last January (99 birds/100 km). I would like to thank George Hattingh for coordinating the Escourt routes before moving to the Western Cape. Rose Laatz has kindly taken over from George, who has already done a recce route near Calitzdorp.

Please continue to count **gamebirds** in KwaZulu-Natal and use the abbreviations **HG** for Helmeted Guineafowl, **SF** for Swainson's Francolin, **NF** for Natal Francolin, **RWF** for Redwing Francolin, **GWF** for Greywinged Francolin.

*I do appreciate the way in which Tim Wood visits and keeps in touch with KZN Precinct Organisers.*

**Future developments**

In September an ADU trip is planned to the North West and Limpopo provinces to encourage participation in ADU projects. If you have any contacts in these areas do let me know.

**Reporting dead or injured birds**

Vicki Hudson, the Overberg Crane Group field worker, has requested that all baling twine injuries be reported (082 676 1734). Do remember to report any dead birds in suspicious circumstances to your local Nature Conservation Officer or the Poison Working Group (011) 4861157(o/h); cell: 082 4468946 (24-hour emergency), or Eskom (0860) 111535 if it is an obvious case of collision or electrocution.

**Thank you**

I really appreciated the promptness with which most of you returned your roadcount forms. With the petrol price continuing on its upward spiral, I am acutely aware of the costly contribution you make to the conservation of these threatened birds – thank you! A big thank you to all Precinct Organisers for all your time in ensuring that routes are counted regularly. Alison Cameron helped enormously by stepping in at the last minute to capture most of the January count data. Thank you to Mary Faragher, a UCT student, who captured the Karoo and some of the Western Cape data. There are now 3240 roadcounts on the database! I am very grateful to Lindy Tomalin who continues to help me voluntarily once a week with map work and other administrative tasks, especially as we are only able to employ someone to help with data capture. Do phone me about any problems or errors in this newsletter: my phone number is (021) 6504239. I hope you have a warmer winter count than last year!

*Donella Young, Project Coordinator*

Continued: Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in northeastern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
FN32	52.5	1072	David Weaver	4//	13//		10//	2//	1//	2//	51//	
FN33	51.3	1506	Gwen Hannay		1//	1//		2//				
FN35	57	946	Tl Wessels		4//				2//		2//	
FN37	51	708	Derick Labuschagne						5//			12AS,3WQK
FN39	65.3	1433	Peter Millin		4//	3//						28AS
FN41	59	1045	GJ Vermeulen		10//	12//			7//		1//	2WQK
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		5//	1//			7//			
FN43	60.8	706	Harry Illsley	2//	10//	29//	9//		25//		52//	
FN44	68.6	714	FP Oosthuysen		5//	14//	2//		11//	4//		
FN45	72.2	188, 945	H Vickery & M van Gelder		13//	27//			21//	2//	8//	3//
FN46	70	718	Gerhard van Deventer		3//				4//			
FN47	54	709	MCB le Roux		1//				1//			
FN48	58.3	605	Janet Lourens		3//				3//	7//		3WQK
FN49	48.1	944	Gert Maritz		4//	12//	19//		29//		36//	
FN50	39.8	942	Pieter Koomhof		8//	3//			2//		40//	
FN51	46	1157	FJJ du Plooy		4//							
FN52	65	717	JC Strauss	52//	20//	50//			41//	5//	48//	2WC
FN53	64	1272	JC Koster		3//	19//			1//	3//	71//	
FN54	62	1193	Astrid Jankielsohn		2//	6//		1//	1//			1SB,1WQK
FN55	61.6	703	Nacelle Collins		3//		5//		9//		6//	
FN58	69.2	705	Paulus Fihlo		11//				6//			
FN59	39.9	336	Louis Mileham		1//				5//	2//		
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes		5//				1//	2//		47WQK
<b>Total</b>	<b>1889</b>			<b>172</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>59AS,4SB,2WC,56WQK</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>9.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>23.6</b>	

Number of birds counted in January 2002 census in KwaZulu-Natal														
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.	
KC01	52	433	Malcolm Gemmill		6//		17//		4//	2//	25//	8//		
KD01	82	806	Mark Durham		7//	20//		15//	12//		6//	22//		
KD02	63	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross	2//	4//						16//	54//	1SF	
KD03	72	1255	Dennis Holmes		1//						8//			
KD04	51.6	346	Colin McKenzie					6//				4//		
KD05	50.2	677	Paul Garner		1//						3//	10//		
KD06	50.2	929	Ray Hughes	2//	3//		4//	5//			26//	71//		
KD07	70	909	Heino Wellmann		1//	7//						10//		
KD08	63	735	Tyrone Milne		3//			4//			30//	2//	2SF	
KD10	26	611	Tony Roberts		1//			3//	1//			5//		
KD11	55	611	Tony Roberts	3//	1//	6//						53//		
KE01	84.3	1602	Rose Laatz							1//		16//		
KE03	62	744	Jeanette Wood			2//					1//			
KG02	48.1	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry		7//		4//		8//		71//	58//		
KG03	53	626	Malcolm Rivett		12//	2//			1//		20//	89//		
KG04	73.8	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter		5//		6//				32//	93//		
KG05	54.6	629	'Stooks' Wilton		6//		32//				2//	15//		
KG06	58.9	427, 428	Bruce & Pat Whittle				5//	10//		2//	35//	12//	268//	9NF
KG07	49	630	Kobus Nel	1//	33//		1//				94//	62//		
KG08	59.8	631	Mark Meter	35//	3//		3//	8//	3//	1//	90//	134//	1WC	
KG09	15.8	809	Rod Dorning	11//	2//		12//		2//	2//	20//	51//	54WC	
KG10	36.3	1240, 1241	Ed & Myra Wells		3//		64//				1//	3//		
KG11	51.4	632, 633	Jimmy & Lorraine Scott		1//		20//	6//			23//	34//	1WC	
KL01	88	50	Ken Gordon	6//	1//	17//		30//	1//	3//	10//	68//		
KL10	32.2	1504	Rob Collett					9//			11//		7SF	
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray		16//						4//			
KM01	78	167	Pamela Nicol	22//	6//			4//	3//	1//	11//	96//	1NF, 3WC	
KM02	62.7	474	Shirley Bennett		6//	5//	4//				25//	128//		
KM03	98	491	Rob Melville	1//	3//			15//	6//	3//	14//	19//		
KM04	35	1610	B Jones									16//		
KM05	82.4	1581	Evelyn Hughes	2//	13//		2//	12//	18//	1//	3//	118//	4NF	
KM06	87	498	Margie Sleight		8//	15//					1//	131//		
KM07	69.2	490	Kevin McCann		1//	5//						10//		
KM08	54	187	CC Pera		2//			2//			1//	12//	1NF	
KN01	71	1503	Ryk Pepler		7//	47//			5//		6//	26//	1//	
KN03	55.2	1609	Andre Bouwer		10//	1//		7//	7//			5//		
KN04	53	925	Alan Schwikkard		5//	7//	2//				10//	10//	1//	1WBK
KN05	48	1071	John Sharpe								19//	12//	1BBK, 2SF	
KN06	73	995	Gail McCann		4//						14//	22//	1SF	
KN07	95	927	Johan de Villiers	4//	4//	1//	2//				11//	21//	4GWF	
KN08	80.5	997	Robert Stannard	6//						1//	5//	25//		
KO01	55.9	425, 1529	Gavin & Sandi Calverley		1//					4//		3//		
KU01	68	429	Chris Thomas		7//		4//	2//			18//	96//		
KU02	68	741, 1218	Richard & Bridget Robinson		5//		6//	1//	2//		29//	107//	2WC	
KV01	79.2	459	Duncan McKenzie	2//	3//	2//	3//	2//			15//	9//	1BBK, 1SF	
KV02	45	1387	Derek Engelbrecht			8//				1//	4//		2SF	
KV03	61.5	1566	Darryl Baxter		13//			2//				2//	1SF	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2856</b>			<b>98</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2BBK,4GWF,16SF,15NF,1WBK,61WC</b>	
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>3.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>69.7</b>		

KC - Creighton precinct, KD - Dundee precinct, KE - Escourt precinct, KG - East Griqualand precinct, KL - Ladysmith precinct, KM - Midlands precinct, KN - Newcastle precinct, KO - Melmoth precinct, KU - Uderberg precinct, KV - Vryheid precinct

# Important information about CAR counts

## Counting method

It is absolutely essential that the counting method is strictly adhered to so that statistically valid comparisons can be made between counts. Set your odometer to 0 at the start of your count and stop every 2 km since your last stop, unless it is not safe to stop. It is important to make maximum use of spots where there is visibility over a large area. If the visibility is poor after travelling 2 km, move on slightly to a spot with better visibility. It is also essential that you always travel along your route in the same direction, so that the left/right hand side of the road remains the same from count to count!

## Rating of count conditions

It is useful to have a rating of the overall conditions during a count. Please rate your count as **good, satisfactory or poor**. If visibility was good and there were no problems in covering the route, rate it 'good'. However if the grass was fairly long, but you feel you saw most of the birds present, rate it 'satisfactory'. But if the grass was very tall, or visibility was significantly reduced owing to mist, or you were unable to complete the route owing to an impassable road, rate it 'poor'. Also, you should still make a note describing any problems you had.

## Extra left-hand shaded column and km readings

The km readings are necessary to help get an exact location for important sightings; therefore they need to reflect the distance travelled along your fixed route. (Note that backtracks and detours do NOT form part of your route!) If you cannot set your odometer to 0, please use the extra left-hand shaded column for recording the odometer readings. Later you can fill in the corrected km readings, starting from zero, in the right-hand (white) km column. If you have to make any detours or backtracks, please also use the shaded column for your calculations to adjust all subsequent km readings. In other words, use the shaded column for rough work and the white column for your final figures, which are the ones which will be computerised. This saves us an enormous amount of time! One way of recording backtracks is shown below.

## Korhaans

Korhaans (i.e. only the small bustards, not the three large species) should be counted **both when seen and when heard**. A call heard from one particular direction should be counted as **one** individual bird. No effort need be expended in finding calling birds. **NB: THIS METHOD OF RECORDING APPLIES ONLY TO KORHAANS.**

It follows that you should do your best to learn the calls of the Korhaans in your area. Also take special care in making both visual and auditory identifications in areas where both the Whitequilled and Black occur (i.e. parts of the Eastern Cape), and where both the

Blue and Karoo occur (i.e. parts of the Free State).

Do remember that the Whitequilled Korhaan, also known as Whitewinged Black Korhaan, is now recognised as a separate species. If you are in the Free State or Karoo, then what the older fieldguides say is a 'Black Korhaan', is actually a Whitequilled Korhaan!

## Habitat

When a bird is flying; please put '**indeterminate**' for habitat. However, if a bird is only flying because it was disturbed, or because it is displaying, then record the habitat it took off from. Note that lucerne is recorded as '**pasture**'.

The habitat category '**crops**' has been divided into four sub-categories:

- cereal crops:** cereals such as wheat, maize, oats, rye and barley. (Abbreviate to '**cereal**'.)
- non-cereal crops:** non-cereal herbaceous crops such as lupins, canola and vegetables. (Abbreviate to '**non-cereal**'.)
- orchards:** cultivated fruit trees, vineyards, rooibos, *Opuntia* (prickly pear), cultivated rows of proteas, and any other crops where the structure of the crop is higher and/or woodier than that of the other non-cereal crops. (Abbreviate to '**orchard**'.)
- forestry plantations:** stands of planted pines, eucalyptus and wattles. (Abbreviate to '**plantation**'.)

Where possible observers should still specify the type of crop e.g. wheat or potatoes, if they are able to. This should be recorded, for example, '**cereal – wheat**'.

## Close to

This column is intended to provide us with additional information about habitat. Birds may be in a habitat because of a food or water source or some other important factor nearby. By 'close to' we mean within 100 m of the bird. You don't need to fill this in for every sighting, only if there is an additional important factor.

## Activity

Please record displaying birds as 'displaying' and don't include this activity with breeding.

## Finding farm numbers

You may find it helpful to mark a piece of string with 2-cm intervals (i.e. = 5 km) and use this to work out how far you are along your route on your 1:250 000 map, when finding the position and hence farm number for these species. Please take care not to confuse farm numbers with spot heights; refer to Information Sheet No. 4 if you are uncertain.

ALL SPECIES						ONLY 3 CRANES & 3 LARGE BUSTARDS				
Use this column for km calculations	Km	Species	Count			Habitat <sup>2</sup>	Close to <sup>3</sup>	Activity <sup>4</sup>	Side of road	Farm No.
	Begin at zero	Use abbreviations*	Age class <sup>1</sup>			Use abbreviations listed below	Use alternatives listed below	Use alternatives listed below	L or R	from 1:250 000 map
			A	J	C					
	6.1	BC	5			pasture	feedlot	feeding	L	342
	12.3	BHH	1	1		wetland				
	15.5		Start backtrack } -10km							
	25.5		End backtrack }							
	32.2-10	22.2 LB	1			veld		inactive	R	395
	36.2-10	26.2 SG	10		2	wetland				



**Do remember to fill in your ADU Observer number!  
Thank you!**

