



Avian Demography Unit

Department of Statistical Sciences
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 South Africa
Phone: (021) 650-4239/650-2423
Fax: (021) 650-3434
www.aviandemographyunit.org
E-mail: donella@adu.uct.ac.za



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 13

December 2002

General

Firstly, thank you so much for braving the wild, wintry weather to do your CAR count in July. I know there were strong winds in many parts of the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Karoo and Free State. I am impressed by your commitment and perseverance, despite shaking binoculars at times! A comment on a form from the Eastern Cape was that "observers were almost blown off their feet!" For the first time I put a report on the winter count on the website in August (select *What is new*, then *CAR Winter 2002 count*). I will do the same after the summer count, so do send in any highlights that I can mention promptly, by e-mail or on your form. In the website report there are some unusual pictures of Crowned Cranes and a Secretarybird in the snow, as well as the incredible road conditions. These were sent in by Kevin Meise, courtesy of the *Barkly East Reporter*. Please note that the website can be accessed more easily using the above address. **My e-mail address has also changed.**

The summer count in January 2003 will be the 20th count in the Overberg! I am sure that when David Allan piloted this project in the Overberg in July 1993 he never envisaged it becoming a national project monitoring 21 species of large terrestrial birds. The July 2002 count involved 728 observers counting 329 routes covering 17 920 km!

I have enclosed the **CAR 9 roadcount form** and **Information Sheet No. 3 (updated)**. Your Precinct Organiser will contact you to confirm whether you are able to count your route on **Saturday, 25 January 2003**. Do check that you still have your **1:250 000 route map** and **Information Sheet No. 4**. Remember to fill in **habitat**, as some of you forgot this column in the last count. We can only capture one choice for wind, cloud cover, etc., so please circle the choice that describes the weather for **most** of the count. **Roadcount forms, all Information Sheets and the newsletter, are available on the website under *What is New* and *CAR PDF documents*.**

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.

I have not heard of difficulties with including the Black Harrier in the last count, so we will continue to count this species on an experimental and entirely voluntary basis. After the January count Andrew Jenkins will comment on the CAR results for this species.

Please do inform us of any address changes, especially as e-mail addresses seem to change frequently. If you are no longer involved in this project and do not wish to receive this newsletter, let us know so that we can reduce our mailing costs.

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

Date of summer CAR count

The date set for the summer count is **Saturday, 25 January 2003**. 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 winter count will be on Saturday, 26 July 2003.

Species to be counted

In addition to the usual species, the Black Harrier can be counted on a voluntary basis (use abbreviation **HAR**). 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.

Bustards

I have enclosed **Information Sheet No. 3 which gives guidelines in distinguishing between the three large bustards**. Stanley's and Ludwig's Bustard can be easily confused. Please take extra care in identifying these species, especially if you are in an area where their distributions overlap, i.e. Little Karoo, the inland parts of the Eastern Cape, and southern Free State. If you observe any of the bustards outside of their known ranges, e.g. a Kori Bustard in the Overberg, or a Stanley's Bustard in the Karoo, or a Ludwig's Bustard in KZN, please provide enough additional information about your sighting (on a separate piece of paper) to allow us to verify that you have identified the species correctly. If possible, a photograph is always very helpful. Please understand that documentation and verification is necessary in such cases because major changes in a species' known range, especially in the case of threatened species, have great scientific and conservation importance.

Black Harrier

Look out for coal-black birds with conspicuous white rump and wing patches and boldly barred tails. Typically, harriers are seen beating or quartering low and slow over suitable foraging habitat (which often includes road-verges). Should you require 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 or ajenkins@botzoo.uct.ac.za.

CAR support

We acknowledge, with thanks, support from BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), the Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation South Africa and Mazda Wildlife Fund. The Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation South Africa donated R57 000 to CAR, which has secured the future of the project for another year and is enormously appreciated. Alison Richardson received a Hero's award of R10 000 from her employer, Nedcor, for her work as a volunteer in the CAR project, and she donated her prize to the project. Alison initiated CAR in the Wakkerstroom area with Steven Evans (of BLSA's IBA programme), and she organises an interesting weekend of activities for Witwatersrand Bird Club members, centred around the CAR count.

Thank you to Elsabe Barlow for including a report on the Overberg winter count in the *Overberg Venster* and Lorraine Mollentze,



who regularly puts articles about counts in the *Barkly East Reporter*. Alison Richardson always submits a report on the Wakkerstroom count to *Bokmakerie*. Mark Anderson (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation), Brian Colahan (Free State Department of Tourism, Environment and Economic Affairs), Alison Richardson and David Gaynor send out an informative report to their participants as well.

CAR report

The eight-year report on CAR is being typeset by Kim Smith, assisted by Marja Wren-Sargent and Felicia Stoch, and will be published early next year. A sample of a species account is in the enclosed issue of Bird Numbers. The report will also have precinct accounts giving details of each precinct. The text describing the precinct has been written by Precinct Organisers, in conjunction with other people familiar with each region, and also includes a section highlighting the most important findings and information relevant to landowners. As the majority of the birds which CAR monitors occur mainly on private land, their conservation is largely in the hands of landowners. It is therefore heartening to see the concern and participation of many farmers in CAR.

This huge report is truly a team effort. Without your willingness and commitment to count regularly, there would be no information to analyse! Several experts have kindly contributed their expertise to the species and precinct accounts. I have greatly appreciated the enormous contribution made by my colleagues James Harrison and René Navarro.

Ringed cranes

There was an encouraging increase in the number of re-sightings of ringed Blue Cranes in the Overberg. Madelaine Loubser has sent in re-sightings from a flock of about 300 Blue Cranes which were seen about 5 km outside Bredasdorp for about six weeks. Wicus Leeuwner saw a crane which was ringed on his neighbour's farm in March 1994, during the winter count.

Do look out for colour-ringed cranes at all times of 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. Record any sightings in the section provided and put an asterisk beside the relevant line on the form.

Reminders

If a **new observer**, who plans to count regularly, assists you, please write his/her name, title and address on a separate piece of paper attached to your roadcount form so that they can be issued with an ADU number and added to the mailing list. Do enter your ADU Observer Number, and that of other regular CAR observers who assist you, on your roadcount form. Photocopy your roadcount forms before entrusting them to the postal system! It is vital to keep 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, HAR = Black Harrier.

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!

Eastern Cape

The precinct most affected by the wintry weather was the Northeastern Eastern Cape (EE routes). I am amazed by the perseverance of observers, considering the road conditions (see photos). Unfortunately EE13 was not counted due to the snow and consequent breakdown of telephone communications.

EE14 and EE15 were altered by Sandy Stretton who counts both routes, and renumbered EE18 and EE19 respectively. Routes EH01 and EH02 were also altered, due to the recurring problem of locked gates, making it impossible to complete these routes. The routes have been redesigned so that they cover much of the same area and renumbered EH05 and EH06 respectively.

The Crowned Crane numbers were again encouraging, with the largest flock being sighted on a dam near Maclear by Adelé Moore. David Jolliffe saw the most Blue Cranes on ES03 since this route's inception. Alan Collett remarked on seeing 18 Whitequilled Korhaan not more than 20 m apart, on EP10. Yvonne Craig, who counted EH06, saw the highest number of Blue Crane recorded yet on an Eastern Cape route (315), and the second highest number of Stanley's Bustard (34). Sonya Vorster was delighted by

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in Eastern Cape											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	LB	SB	SEC	SG	Other spp.
EB01	62.3	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		48/1/	2//		10//			
EB02	75.5	1398	Keith Marshall		8//						
EB03	64	115	Graham Winch		28//	60/2/			4//	2//	1HAR
EB04	62.1	1567, 1568	Barbara & Ken Monfoort		6//	35//		1//	1//		
EE01	36.7	1129	Adèle Moore		2//	204//				81//	1WS
EE02	66.5	1126	Jon Smallie		1//						
EE03	23.2	1266	Phyll Sephton		6//	130//			2//	1//	
EE05	65	896, 1430	Fred & Retha Leask		13//	15//				2//	3WS
EE06	67	1126	Jon Smallie		5//	56/1/			1//		
EE08	72.9	1126	Jon Smallie	12//	5//	54/1/			3//	1//	
EE10	63	899	Kevin Meise		6//	8/4/				1//	1HAR
EE11	54	1261	Mike Agenbag		4//	7//				1//	
EE12	52	901	Jenni Brown		2//	26//					1UK
EE17	43.8	1126	Jon Smallie	11//		8//					
EE18	41.7	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	2//	3//	4/2/			4//	258//	11UK
EE19	83	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton		3//				2//	21//	54UK
EG01	87	161	Adrian Craig								
EG02	51.7	565	Pat Hulley		1//				1//		
EG03	76.4	341	Bo Bonnevie		1//				1//		
EH03	56.6	937, 1641	Neil & Jill Stewart		9//			18//		15//	
EH04	44.5	1132	David Tudhope	2//	3//			3//		20//	
EH05	38	301, 1612	Charles & Jean Cook		3//					1//	
EH06	56.7	312	Yvonne Craig	315//	7//			34//		53//	1HAR
EK02	59	885	John Lardner-Burke		8/1/			1//	1//	3//	1WBK
EK04	58.8	884, 1523	Peter Metcalf & Allan Wilson		3//			8//		2//	
EK05	61.5	1527, 1528	Jenny Roxburgh & Laurie Wood		8//					21//	
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann				7//				4KB, 10KK
EP02	66	1570, 1621	Hermann & Terry Hertel	60//							
EP03	62	872	Denzil Ward						1//		1KB
EP04	68	869	Peter Hall								2KK
EP05	65	83	Andrew Nixon		1//						
EP06	53	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro	97/16/	4//		7//	4//		34//	6WBK, 1WQK
EP07	64	1475	Alan Collett				6//				2WQK
EP08	108.7	270	Dave Brown				11//				1HAR, 6KB, 3KK
EP09	28	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro								
EP10	46	1475	Alan Collett	1//			11//				25WQK
EQ01	56.8	1587, 917	Ian Mc Ewan & Fin Weakley		1//	2/2/			1//	16//	16UK, 1WS
EQ02	54	157, 930	Kate Webster & Don Field								11UK

(Continued on page 3)

a hunting Secretarybird, a 'CAR-lifer' on their route near Umtata. No Black Korhaan were recorded in the Eastern Cape precincts; this species was probably the most affected by the wind. However, the highest number of Blue Korhaans yet was recorded, but it must be noted that the majority of these birds (54) were on Sandy Stretton's route.

Thank you to Kevin Hendrikse, Chairman of BirdLife Eastern Cape, who has organized the counts in the EP precinct and is now handing over to Jen Munro.

Continued: Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in Eastern Cape											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	LB	SB	SEC	SG	Other spp.
ES02	38	1649	Godfrey Collett				6//		1//		3KB
ES03	56	873	David Jolliffe	56//							8KK
ES05	87	1181, 1182	Alec & Neil Turner	102//							4KB
EU01	65.8	1450	Sonja Vorster		4//			1//	1//		
Total	2515			675	195	623	48	80	24	533	4HAR,18KB,23KK
											7WBK,28WQK
											3WS,93UK
Birds/100 km				26.8	7.8	24.8	1.9	3.2	1.0	21.2	
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											

Western Cape

Overberg precinct

As the January count will be the 20th count in the Overberg, we will be celebrating this event at Wicus and Hanlie's farm. You are welcome to join us for a bring-and-braai or picnic; details are in the enclosed letter for Overberg observers. At about 3:15 pm I will be acknowledging all those who have taken part. If you are no longer counting regularly, but would like to join us, please phone me for details.

Strong winds were experienced in the Overberg following a huge storm in the early hours of Saturday morning. Wicus Leeuwner said he found most of the birds on his route sheltering in the valleys. Routes OV06 and OV11 were counted on Sunday owing to the weather, and route OV25 had to be shortened owing to impassable road conditions. I am glad that most of you managed to count on the Saturday.

Of the ten winter counts, the Blue Crane density this last July was the third lowest, but not significantly lower than the mean winter density of 235 birds per 100 km. Keith and Michelle Moodie saw a spectacular number of 645 Blue Cranes on their route near Heidelberg. Heather Busby and her team saw their highest total of Blue Cranes. David Whitelaw was delighted to see four Secretarybirds. Patrick Hurly saw a surprising 12 Karoo Korhaans, 5 Black Korhaans and 21 Stanley's Bustard on OV06. Sheila Siebert was surprised to see an African Jacana on OV11.

Tom and Freya Brett were distressed to see three Blue Cranes at a feedlot with leg injuries, probably caused by baling twine, and one crane unable to stand up. This was reported to Vicki Hudson, the Overberg Crane Group fieldworker.

On 9 July the Overberg Crane Group, together with farming communities, Engen and Open Africa, launched their second tourism route called the 'Southernmost Blue Crane Route', near Bredasdorp (www.africandream.org). It is hoped that the focus on Blue Cranes will also draw attention to the conservation of other species.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that one of the eight South African-born White Storks, fitted with solar-powered satellite transmitters, was still alive. This bird reached the Sinai Peninsula and then retraced its 'steps', returning to Sudan and

This Secretary bird was spotted in the Barkly East area, walking along a snowy road in search of food. (Courtesy Barkly East Reporter).



Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in Overberg										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SB	SEC	SG	Other spp.
OV01	58	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	218/3/	2//		1//		9//	3W S
OV02	70	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	18/3/	2//				10//4	
OV03	50.3	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	18//	5//				22//	
OV04	27.7	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	155/21/	3//				38//	10W S
OV05	70.6	228	John Carter	58//	1//	4//			18//	
OV06	52.2	619, 1655	Patrick Hurly & Stuart McLennan	63//	3//	12//	21//			5BK
OV07	68.6	496, 1083, 801, 802	Ken & Ann Price & McAdams	285/57/	4//				8//	
OV08	72.9	492, 1075	Keith & Michelle Moodie	626/19/	7//		6//	8//	4BK	
OV09	48	239	Bruce Squier	96//					6//	4W S
OV10	55.5	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	115//	1//				10//	
OV11	62.2	244, 245, 246	Pieter & Sheila Siebert & M Loubser	3//	2//		5//	2//	5//	
OV12	56.7	215, 216, 1381, 1507	Heather Busby & team	235//	3//		3//	1//	24//	
OV13	70.5	520, 229, 672, 671	Jill Mortimer, Inés, Rene & Anne	350/3/	6//		20//		21//	
OV14	92	164, 123	Sue Maré & John Coats	279//	1//		3//		6//	
OV15	62.9	255	Dave Whitelaw	59/1/	2//			4//	5//	3W S
OV16	61	249, 981, 1379	P van den Berg, W du Toit & L Fielies	365/3/	1//	12//	1//		3//	
OV17	59	878	Lee Burman	53/3/	1//				40//	
OV18	51	240	Wicus Leeuwner	157//	4//					
OV19	62	219, 1632	Ronnie Crowther & Christine Wallace	104//		3//			21//	
OV20	57.6	1441, 1325	Alison & Neville Passmore	172/4/					17//	1HAR
OV21	70.4	1600, 1601	Beaurich & Adele Groenewald	21//	5//				3//	
OV22	37.6	48	Mick Killeen	149//	4//		2//		4//	
OV23	55	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall		11/2/			2//	16//	
OV24	57.5	636, 1212	Mick D'Alton & G Swanepoel	2//	3//		14//		16//	
OV25	35	1469	Avril Young	2//			2//		4//	
OV26	19.7	871	Jeffrey Arizon & pupils	30//					17/2/	
OV27	68	1569	Augie Hess & Johnny Tierass	13//	3//			1//	43//	
OV28	39	1462	Tonia Schonken		2//					
OV29	27.4	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	2//	3//		1//		22//	
OV33	61	1463	Frans de Graaff	10/3/	3//		14//		6//	2HAR
Total	1679			3778	84	31	93	10	408	10BK,4HAR
										20W S
Birds/100 km				225.0	5.0	1.8	5.5	0.6	24.3	
OV34	60.9	1550, 1551, 1599	Heynè & Sharon Brink & P Botes				2//	2//		1BK, 1HAR

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in Swartland										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.			
SW01	75	681	Dirk du Toit	68//		168//				
SW02	75.9	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker		5//	20//				
SW03	44.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & P Waddell	2/1/	3//	12//	1BK			
SW04	64	1286	Philbert Melck	4//		11//				
SW05	59.9	163, 1239	Keith & Rena Harrison	39//	1//	126//	6BK			
SW06	75.4	1368	Ralph Wordon	7//	17//	116//				
SW07	43	477	Koos de Goede		5//	41//	2SEC			
SW08	72	1474	Bruce Mackenzie		2//	2//				
SW09	61	1135	Jens Oelbüttel	25//	3//	56//				
SW10	64.3	223	James Harrison	30//	1//	20//	1BK			
SW11	65.5	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	2//		5//	2BK, 1HAR			
SW12	80.2	106, 195	Mel Tripp, P Whittington	43//	1//	102//	20BK, 1HAR			
							2SEC			
SW13	49.2	673, 991	Elna Slabber, Donella Young	32//	2//	117//				
SW14	54	506	Riaan van der Walt	44//		45//				
Total	884			297	40	841	30BK,2HAR			
							4SEC			
Birds/100 km				33.6	4.5	95.1				

staying near the border with Ethiopia, among the tributaries of the Blue Nile, from early July until 18 October. Since then we have received no signals and this bird is presumed dead. If you would like to see the path followed by each of the eight storks, refer to our website, select *White Storks* and *Tracking 2002*. The number of storks over-wintering in the Overberg was the highest yet recorded (20).

Swartland precinct

I was most grateful to be in Ruth Pienaar's 4x4 for the winter count, as our route was along very minor farm roads and we had to ford a number of flooded drifts. Three Swartland routes were counted on Sunday, 28 July, owing to muddy roads following the huge storm in the early hours of Saturday. Sylvia Ledgard and Pat Waddell were unable to complete their route owing to flooded drifts.

However, the Blue Crane numbers were much the same as last winter. Tertius Slabber, who farms in the Swartland, remarked on noticing that the cranes are often in lupin fields. A similar number of Black Korhaans was counted, but most of them (20) were seen on Mel Tripp and Phil Whittington's route. Phil has counted this route for a number of years with Mel, prior to that they were regular Overberg observers. We wish Phil well as he moves to Port Elizabeth to start a Post-doc. He will continue to take part in the project there, in very different habitat.

Although no White Storks were recorded on the Swartland routes, Jan Hofmeyer, who does regular counts on a pig farm near Tygerberg Zoo, counted 138 birds the day before the CAR count! These are certainly opportunistic birds.

Beaufort West precinct

Unfortunately WB02 was not counted, as Japie Claassen has moved. We hope to find someone else to continue this route. Maria Andela again saw Kori Bustard.

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in other Western Cape precincts									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other spp.	
WB01	65	343	Maria Andela		1//	18//			2KB
WC01	66	1291	George Hattingh		5//			2//	
WK02	45	1003	Andrew Schofield	21//				35//	
WU01	50	1332	Kerry Hampson		2//			3//	
WU02	57	539	Jonas Witbooi	12//					12SB
WU03	32	1392	J de Jaar		1//				
WU05	70.3	297, 1520, 1521	Mike Euston-Brown	63//					3SB
Total	385			96	9	18	40		2KB,15SB
Birds/100 km				25	2.3	4.7	10		
WB - Beaufort West precinct, WC - Calitzdorp precinct,									
WK - Little Karoo precinct, WU - Uniondale precinct									

Little Karoo precinct

Andrew Schofield remarked that there was an increase in pastures and trees being planted on his route, WK02.

Uniondale precinct

The winter count took place on 4 August 2002, as a number of participants were involved in community activities on the 27 July. As this precinct is many miles from any other precinct, there was little danger of double counting. Jonas Witbooi saw 12 Stanley's Bustard on his route, this high number was last seen by Mike and Gill Euston-Brown in January 2000.

Gail Cleaver of Kammanasie Nature Reserve initiated CAR in this area and has organized counts since then. Gail is moving to the Overberg and Nigel Wessels, of Outeniqua Nature Reserve, will be coordinating counts. Nigel is familiar with the project, as he counted an Overberg route while working at Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve. His phone number is 044-8708323.

Karoo, Northern Cape

Mark Anderson reports:

The 15th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTBS) took place on 27 July 2002, with 32 people in 18 vehicles participating. During this survey 1551 large terrestrial birds (of 11 species) were counted along 1040 km of dusty Karoo roads (i.e. 149.1 birds per 100 km). The cold and windy weather did not deter observers. Even the usually wind-shy Whitequilled Korhaan were out in relatively large numbers, with 92 of these small bustards being seen or heard.

The most numerous bird seen was again the Blue Crane, with a whopping 1292 birds being counted (83% of all large terrestrial birds observed). As is typical during winter, the cranes were mainly in large flocks, with the average group size being 59.1 individuals. Large flocks were seen by Fritz Battenhausen, Diana Greathead, Nell Kingwill, John Bell and Pieter Louw, with particularly large flocks of 170, 239 and 300 Blue Cranes being counted by Fritz and John. Most large flocks were recorded in the Philipstown/Colesberg area and these birds seem to prefer this area's open habitat (i.e. the ecotone between the Nama Karoo and Grassland biomes).

Interestingly, 38 juvenile Blue Cranes were counted, a possible indication of good recruitment from the previous summer's breeding. These young birds join the large nomadic flocks during early winter, probably remaining with non-breeding birds until they reach breeding maturity a few years later. There are many unanswered questions about crane movements and biology, some of which will be addressed through the colour-ringing project.

During this winter's survey, only 67 Ludwig's Bustards were counted. The lower numbers of these birds can be expected as, during winter, they move to the more favourable winter-rainfall region (it was a particularly wet year in Namaqualand).

There is concern that observers may occasionally misidentify

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in Karoo										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	SEC	UK	WQK	Other spp.
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock		3//	1//				
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock		2//					
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	13//	5//					
NK031	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk			11//				
NK032	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk							
NK033	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk			5//			3//	
NK041	20	501	Francois Taljaard			12//				
NK042	20	501	Francois Taljaard			12//				
NK044	20	501	Francois Taljaard							
NK061	20	494	Fritz Battenhausen	200/4/						
NK062	20	494	Fritz Battenhausen	239//						
NK063	20	494	Fritz Battenhausen	4/2/						
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe							1BS, 6SG
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe						1//	
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe						1//	
NK081	20	500	Johannes Zwieggers						11//	
NK082	20	500	Johannes Zwieggers							
NK083	20	500	Johannes Zwieggers							
NK101	20	1086	Jannie Venter	16//	2//	2//				
NK102	20	1086	Jannie Venter				1//			
NK103	20	1086	Jannie Venter							2SG
NK111	20	1416	Kurt Krog						2//	1KB
NK112	20	1416	Kurt Krog						1//	
NK113	20	1416	Kurt Krog							
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith		2//					
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith							
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith							
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead						1//	
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead	124//				2//	3//	
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead				1//			1KB, 2SB
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						7//	
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						1//	
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						3//	1HAR
NK251	20	1642, 1648	Nell & Clive Kingwill		1//	6//				5KB
NK252	20	1642, 1648	Nell & Clive Kingwill	38/14/	7//	5//				2KB
NK261	20	1413	Nico Bezuidenhout				2//			
NK262	20	1413	Nico Bezuidenhout	2//			1//		2//	
NK263	20	1413	Nico Bezuidenhout				2//		2//	
NK341	20	668	John Bell	300//		4//		8//	2//	1BS, 3SG
NK342	20	668	John Bell			3//			3//	
NK343	20	668	John Bell	220//		2//				
NK351	20	488	Pieter Louw	32/4/	2//			2//	2//	

(Continued on page 5)

Ludwig's Bustard as Kori or Stanley's Bustard. It is difficult to correctly identify these three species, especially when they are not observed at close quarters. The Northern Cape's eastern Karoo is a marginal area for both the Kori Bustard (typically a Kalahari species) and Stanley's Bustard (typically a grassland species), therefore participants are urged to carefully examine these birds, note their distinguishing features (consult a good field guide and the enclosed Information Sheet No. 3) and, if possible, take photographs.

One Black Harrier was observed (by Ronelle Visagie) and participants are reminded to be on the look-out for this threatened and endemic raptor during future surveys.

The various participants, as well as the organizers, Ronelle Visagie and Donella Young, are thanked for contributing towards this bi-annual survey.

I appreciate Mark's important contribution towards this project and the way in which Ronelle Visagie keeps in touch with and encourages observers.

Mpumalanga

Steenkampsberg precinct

David Gaynor reports:

We counted six routes with routes MS06, MS07 and MS13 not being covered. Apart from Johan Koekemoer there were no new observers, although it was good to welcome back a few of the regulars who had missed the last few counts.

On our route, MS01, we were excited to obtain an excellent sighting of Black Harrier, the only one seen in the precinct. Route MS05 was the most productive of the day with 337 out of a total of 393 birds counted; this was the only route on which cranes were seen. Also of interest is the count of nine Secretarybirds, the highest number for this species in ten CAR counts.

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.

Middelburg precinct

David Gaynor reports:

Thank you to Casper Venter for counting two routes. This was sadly due to the sudden death of two Middelburg Bird Club stalwarts.

Spurwinged Geese featured strongly in the Middelburg counts, considerably exceeding numbers seen in the Steenkampsberg. This raises questions about the negative factors affecting this species in the Steenkampsberg area.

Free State

Rick Nuttall reports:

A total of 119 routes was surveyed (67 in the south (FS), 30 in the north-east (FN) and 22 in the north-west (FW) on Saturday 27 July 2002, covering a combined distance of 7733 km! A total of 234 participants counted 4642 large terrestrial birds. Of these, 2702 were counted in the FS, 1289 in the FN and 651 in the FW.

Of the total number of birds of these species seen, Spurwinged Goose (1494; 19.3 birds/100 km), Blue Crane (1349; 17.4 birds/100 km), Whitequilled Korhaan (628; 8.1 birds/100 km), Blackheaded Heron (347; 4.5 birds/100 km), Blue Korhaan (289; 3.7 birds/100 km), Crowned Crane (216; 2.8 birds/100 km) and Bald Ibis (111; 1.4 birds/100 km) were most frequently recorded.

In the FS, Blue Crane, Spurwinged Goose, Whitequilled Korhaan, Blue Korhaan and Blackheaded Heron dominated, while in the FN, Spurwinged Goose, Blue Crane, Blackheaded Heron and

Continued: Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in Karoo										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	SEC	UK	WQK	Other spp.
NK352	20	488	Pieter Louw	64/13/						
NK353	20	488	Pieter Louw	2/1/	3//			2//		
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe		5//					
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe		1//					
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe							
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)			2//	2//	1//	20//	
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)			1//		3//	30//	
NK451	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden		9//	4//				
NK452	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden							
NK453	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden							
Total	1040			1292	45	67	9	21	92	2BS,1HAR 9KB,2SB 11SG
Birds/100 km				124.2	4.3	6.4	0.9	2.0	8.8	

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in Mpumalanga										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SG	UK	Other spp.
MM01	60	91	Ken Hattingh		24//			170//		1WS
MM02	45	860	Casper Venter		5//			85//		28HG
MM03	41	860	Casper Venter					99//		
MS01	56.6	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor		1//			5//		1HAR, 2SEC
MS02	56.5	1109	Bryan Rowland							4SEC
MS04	63.5	1178	Hendrik van Wyk							60HG
MS05	56.9	728	Anton Linström		6//		23//	40//		266HG, 2SEC
MS06	66.8	1640	Toos Dijkzeyl		1//	3//				
MS09	55.7	1270	Peter Meiring		3//	8//		1//		1SEC
MW01	57	1555	Lia Steen		12//	9//				60HG
MW02	61	1639	Jack de Boer			57//		147//		46HG
MW03	68.6	1337, 1370	Malcolm & Sylvia Henderson	2//	2//		9//			213HG, 7SEC
MW04	65.1	1388, 1396	Janice Isom & Jeremy Jones			1//		1//		1SEC
MW05	66.1	1511	Barbi Forsyth		17//		2//	3//		116HG, 2SEC
MW06	58.3	1548	M Forbes			1//		1//	2//	
MW07	63.5	1618	Craig Nelson		15//	3//			10//	
Total	942			2	86	82	34	552	12	1HAR,789HG 19SEC,1WS
Birds/100 km				0.2	9.1	8.7	3.6	58.6	1.3	

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

Wakkerstroom precinct

Alison Richardson reports:

The popularity of the CAR counts is growing each year, and we had a full house in Wakkerstroom for the recent CAR count on 27 July 2002. Despite foreboding weather predictions, the weekend was incredibly warm. André Botha from BLSA spent some time with the team on Friday evening, and spoke about the importance of the Wakkerstroom area in terms of conservation initiatives. Strong winds hampered the sighting of the various species, the final tally of birds was therefore expectedly low. The Wattled Crane still eludes us, and has to date never been recorded along any of our routes: we live in anticipation! Malcolm and Sylvia Henderson saw an encouraging number of Secretarybirds. Once the count was completed, volunteers gathered at Mahem cottage for a braai, and 'prize giving' with corporate gifts generously donated by Nedbank.

Please continue to count Helmeted Guineafowl in this precinct and use the abbreviation HG.

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in northwestern Free State										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SEC	SG	WQK	Other spp.	
FW 08	56	1514	PAM Terreblanche	2//	2//	1//		4//		
FW 16	68	1172	PH Lubbe				45//	1//		
FW 18	52.1	1268	Herman Jordaan				2//	50//	1BS, 7UK	
FW 19	70	1160	FG Botha	1//	8//		83//	3//	4UK	
FW 20		1161	Gert Carstens		1//		4//	11//		
FW 26	76.4	1174	SA Gouws		3//	1//	67//	5//		
FW 28	60	1162	Piet van der Merwe					11//		
FW 29	63.6	1168	Gert Claassen	1//	1//		8//	6//		
FW 31	65.8	1175	Cecil Whitfield		2//	2//	47//	1//		
FW 34	77.7	1163	Des Walker		2//	2//	28//	53//		
FW 36	78.4	28	Johan Hardy		1//			10//		
FW 39	55	1166	Johan Grobler		7//			1//		
FW 40	66	1647	H Malan		3//				1UK	
FW 42	68.2	1646	Andre Hoffmann	1//	1//		3//	2//		
FW 43	67	1176	Robert Drewes							
FW 44	57	1176	Robert Drewes							
FW 45	51.5	1563	Gert Jordaan				3//	4//		
FW 46	52	1614	Gustav Pauw		3//	1//	3//	11//		
FW 47	60	831	Meyer de Kock		1//			9//		
FW 51	80.9	1253	JJ Den Houting	4//	1//			30//	5UK	
FW 52	55.6	1631	Tony Jones		21/10/	1//	27//	3//		
FW 53	60	1173	Chris de Lange		4//	2//	40//	4//		
Total	1095			7	71	12	324	219	1BS,17UK	
Birds/100 km				0.6	6.5	1.1	29.6	20.0		

Crowned Crane were dominant. In the FW, Spurwinged Goose, Whitequilled Korhaan and Black-headed Heron were most frequently recorded.

Many observers reported favourable conditions for the count, while for some others the winter 2002 count was the worst ever, with tall grass affecting visibility and wind and minimal calling activity hampering counting of korhaans with the aid of calls. The low numbers of Whitequilled Korhaans recorded (628) compared to previous winter counts (1136 in 2000; 1489 in 2001) bears testimony to the low numbers of birds heard calling – the main way of finding individuals of this species. Total Blue Korhaan numbers were also lower this year (289) than in previous winters (502 in 2000; 537 in 2001).

Numbers of Blue Cranes (1349) were higher than in July 2001 (1030) and 2000 (358). Of the 1068 seen in the FS, 449 were reported by Savvas Vrahimis (FS07), 192 by Pierre de Villiers (FS06), 137 by Chris Botha (FS23) and 108 by Brian Colahan (FS100). Paulus Fihlo (FN58) counted 154 of the FN's total of 274 Blue Cranes. Crowned Crane numbers reported during this count (216) were similar to last year's count. There was a marked drop in numbers of Ludwig's Bustards recorded this winter (70) compared to winter 2001 (187). Spurwinged Goose numbers (1494) were considerably higher than in 2001 (822). Only 111 Bald Ibises were counted this winter; this is considerably less than in the previous two winters (176 in 2001; 302 in 2000). Black Harriers were counted for the first time this winter, with a total of 20 birds recorded from the Free State precincts (9 in FS and 11 in FN). André Hoffmann, a new observer, saw a Secretarybird catch 3 snakes during a 20 minute tea break on FW42!

Thank you, Rick, for this report and Brian Colahan for organizing counts throughout the Free State. Brian coordinates a third of all CAR routes!



Winter CAR day 2002

And the wind blew constantly, freezing us through. But ready for action, we all set out. We knew what we had to do, we had no doubt. Eyes that were streaming, binoculars all wind-shook. But count birds we would, by hook or by crook. 6 Blackheaded Herons, 1 Secretarybird - And, my goodness, a Crowned Crane herd! Vic said 35 and who were we to argue? His eyes are the best, we all know that's true. Wait, could that far-off white blob be a Bustard? Yes, it's a Stanley. But that's all we mustered. No Spurwings, no Storks and the wrong kind of Harrier. And the Korhaans had gone somewhere else to find a wind barrier. So back to the farm for a braai and a beer. Thank goodness, the count's over for another year.

Barbara Monfoort, BirdLife Border, Eastern Cape.

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	SEC	SG	UK	WQK	Other spp.	
FS02	74.5	1046	Blackie de Swardt	8//		1//	2//		3//			
FS06	71	1059	P de Villiers	191/1/		14//	4//	6//		3//		
FS07	66.6	864	Sawas Vrahimis	449//		9//	2//		9//	9//		
FS08	69	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	4//	5//		4//	22//	2/1/	1//		
FS09	61.6	1143	Henriëtte Strauss						3//			
FS12	53.6	662	Herman Kleynhans	51//	1//	1//	2//	2//	24//	3//		
FS14	65.5	1203	Helena Vorster	2/1/	1//					3//		
FS15	80	1502, 1577	Christiaan & Hannie de Wit			4//				23//		
FS17	74.5	204	Johan Kok						8//	18//		
FS18	70.8	684	Louise Coetzee		2//		1//		3//	1//		
FS19	84.6	1155	Ronél du Preez		1//		2//			12//		
FS20	64.7	1432	Anne McLeod		3//		2//	1//	1//	12//		
FS21	59	682	Leon Barkhuizen		4//	2//	2//	13//		5//		
FS23	76	683	Chris Botha	136/1/		9//		3//	1//	3//		
FS27	80.4	694	Erika Schulze	30//	1//		1//		5//	2//		
FS29	63.1	822	Stephanie Gerber		2//		2//		2//			
FS31	76.5	259	Johan van Niekerk		3//	1//		18//	3//	2//	1HAR	
FS35	74	1258	Hannes Blom		1//			250//		2//	1HAR	
FS40	77	1257	Steven Squires							3//		
FS42	67	952	Kevin Preddy					22//		2//	2KK	
FS43	75	1052	Duart Hugo				4//			12//		
FS45	78	1394	Francois Breedt		1//			10//		8//		
FS47	84	1055	Johan van den Berg		1//			1//	5//	20//		
FS50	81.5	1058	Frans Marais									
FS51	79.6	1049	Thea du Plessis		1//			26//	10//			
FS52	79.1	599	Nick van der Walt		5//		1//	7//	9//		1HAR	
FS54	57.2	1262, 818	Janine Liefgriff, E Beemsteboer				1//			27//		
FS55	51.7	1147	JL Uys						2//	7//		
FS56	72	988, 987	Stephanus & Jeanette Buys				3//	1//	22//	68//	1HAR	
FS58	87	863	Pierre Nel				2//					
FS60	70	1152, 1289	Buks & Annatjie Roets	1//		10//	7//		3//	2//		
FS65	81	1200	Stephan Barnard							2//		
FS66	54	1399	T Mostert									
FS68	63.3	1051	WJ Böing					27//		5/2/		
FS69	80	1065	Deon du Plessis						23//	7//		
FS70	60.4	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helène Bam		6//		1//	1//	16//		1HAR	
FS77	54	1263, 1264	Henk & Laetitia van Vuuren		1//			103//			1HAR	
FS79	53.1	1397	Dewald Liebenberg							4//		
FS81	57	1269	AJ Bruwer		2//						1HAR	
FS82	73.8	24	Brian Colahan		1//				2//	35//		
FS83	47	1297	Johan Coertzen		1//							
FS84	51.1	1153	Schalk Burger					14//	11//			
FS85	78.4	285	JB Cloete		2//		3//	7//		4//		
FS86	65	1499	Thys Strydom				2//			9//		
FS87	58.2	1501, 1500	Wessel & Rina Bester					6//		3//	4KK	
FS88	63	1400	Ivan van Rooyen				1//	148//	3//	4//		
FS90	67.5	691	Willie Mostert						5//	4//	2KB	
FS91	56.7	641	Rick Nuttall		1//	1//	2//	17//		12//		
FS92	65.8	1201	CGF Krohn		1//		2//	8//	2/1/			
FS93	52.7	700	Johan Watson				2//		6//	1//		
FS94	70	1048	Samuel Pauw		7//		1//	4//	2//		1BS	
FS97	54	1574	Dennis Oliphant				1//	2//				
FS98	42.6	1056	PL Crouse							3//		
FS99	70.4	1057	LE Goosen	85//	4//			4//		10//		
FS100	57.8	24	Brian Colahan	108//		13//	4//		2//	5//	1BS	
FS101	70	687	Riëtte Griesel			6//						
FS102	70	686	Jan Griesel									
FS103	56	865	Stephan van der Walt		3//		1//	1//		8//		
FS104	55.9	1396	Jeremy Jones		2//		1//		13/1/	8//	2HAR	
FS106	52.7	1564	Hennie Butler		1//					4//		
FS107	73	1643	J Townsend		6//		1//					
FS108	61	1140, 1141	John & Jill Moffett		9//			43//			1BS	
FS110	56.5	1396	Jeremy Jones				4//		3//	2//		
FS111	74	931	Francois Wolfaardt					1//		1//		
FS113	89.9	1616	Danie Krynauw		2//		1//		24//	1//		
FS114	80	1645	Hannes du Toit		3//		1//	2//		2//		
FS115	78	1644	DJ Human				4//			3//		
Total	4518			1068	84	70	75	770	230	387	3BS,9HAR	
											2KB,6KK	
Birds/100 km				23.6	1.9	1.5	1.7	17.0	5.1	8.6		

Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in northern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.	
FN13	69.1	606	Thomas Wessels								1HAR	
FN16	54.7	701	Theunis Bekker	72//	6//	34//			67//	11//		
FN24	65	719	Georg Wandrag	21//	2//			1//				
FN26	69.2	974	Bradley Gibbons		3//			2//				
FN28	57.4	721, 1219	Freda & John Whipp		5//	2//	67//	1//		3//		
FN29	69.2	721	Freda Whipp			6//	2//	1//				
FN31	78	712	Frik Neethling	4//	5//		132//		53//			
FN32	52	1072	David Weaver		2//			4//				
FN33	50.3	1506	Gwen Hannay			8//						
FN35	55	946	TI Wessels		25//				70//			
FN37	54	708	Derick Labuschagne		4//							
FN39	64.6	1433	Peter Millin		10/1/				5//			
FN40	63.6	942	Pieter Koornhof		28/1/			1//	2//			
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		11//				1//	4//	1HAR	
FN43	61	706	Harry Illsley		6//	8//	4//		5//			
FN44	68.6	714	FP Oosthuysen		8//	10/3/			25/1/1/			
FN45	72.6	188, 945	H Vickery & M van Gelder		1//				4//	4/1/		
FN46	68	718	Gerhard van Deventer		4//				1//	4//		
FN47	55.1	709	MCB le Roux		3//				7/2/		2WQK	
FN48	58	605	Janet Lourens		7//			1//	1//	3//	2WBK	
FN49	48.1	944	Gert Maritz		2//		5//		4//	8//		
FN51	64.3	1157	FJJ du Plooy		7//							

(Continued on page 7)

KwaZulu-Natal

The Crowned Crane density was the second highest yet recorded. The winter counts of Helmeted Guineafowl are significantly higher than the summer counts, probably due to the reduced visibility of this species in summer when the grass is taller.

In the East Griqualand area, Bruce and Pat Whittle saw 21 Stanley's Bustards, the highest total for this species on a route in KwaZulu-Natal. Rod Dorning saw 18 Blue Cranes, 233 Crowned Cranes and 38 Wattled Cranes, the highest totals in the province for these three species in this count! This yet again highlights the importance of the wetland on Rod's farm. Ed and Myra Wells saw two Wattled Cranes and five Secretarybirds! In the Midlands, Margie Sleight saw 14 Wattled Cranes on KM01 and Pam Nicol reported meeting a farmer who remarked that a Ground Hornbill flew onto his farm that morning, a species not seen in that area for years! The number of over-wintering White Storks was strikingly higher than usual (58); usually numbers have varied between 0-19. It seems that more and more storks are over-wintering in South Africa - time will tell.

I would like to thank Bill and Leila Barnes, who have counted regularly since the project started in the Midlands and are no longer able to participate. I have appreciated Pat Whittle's work in establishing the East Griqualand precinct and organizing the counts. Pat and Bruce have had to move from their farm, so John and Val Baxter, who have usually counted with them, will take over the organization of this precinct. Tim Wood has continued to assist enormously by coordinating the CAR project in KwaZulu-Natal.

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 and **SHF** for Shelley's Francolin.

New developments

George Hattingh, who used to count in KwaZulu-Natal, was able to establish a new route near Calitzdorp. I hope to meet CAR observers in northern KwaZulu-Natal and attend the KZN BirdLife Clubs' Regional Projects Committee meeting in late February next year.

Reporting dead or injured birds

Vicki Hudson, the Overberg Crane Group field worker, has requested that all baling twine injuries be reported (phone 082 676 1734). Do remember to report any dead birds in suspicious circumstances to your local Nature Conservation Officer or the Poison Working Group (011-486 1157(o/h); cell: 082 446 8946), or Eskom (086 011 1535) if it is an obvious case of collision or electrocution. One dead crane was reported under powerlines on routes OV07 and SW14.

Thank you

I think when you see the eight-year report, you will realize the enormous value of having so many observant eyes and the importance of the information you collect. Thank you for sending in your forms promptly and for your costly petrol donation. A big thank you to all Precinct Organisers for all your time in organizing counts. Alison Cameron has captured the July count data efficiently and saved me

Continued: Number of birds counted in July 2002 census in northern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.	
FN52	71	717	JC Strauss	21//	14//	4//			108//			
FN53	62	1272	JC Koster		1//	14//						
FN54	65	1193	Astrid Jankielsohn		11//	8//		1//	1//			
FN55	61.6	703	Nacelle Collins	2//	4//	4//	6//	4//	21//			
FN57	67.2	1068	MA Roods		8//	3//						
FN58	72	705	Paulus Fihlo	154//	10//			1//	4//		1WS	
FN59	39.8	336	Louis Mileham		2//				1//			
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes		1//	7//			7//	4//	21WQK	
Total	1873			274	192	111	216	17	400	42	2HAR, 2WBK	
											23WQK, 1WS	
Birds/100 km				14.6	10.2	5.9	11.5	0.9	21.4	2.2		

Number of Birds counted in July 2002 census in KwaZulu-Natal												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SB	SEC	SG	Other spp.
KD01	82	929	Ray Hughes		5//		2//			1//	2//	
KD02	63	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross		1//	13//		60//			1//	
KD03	73	1255	Dennis Holmes		1//					1//		
KD04	52	346	Colin McKenzie			8//		255//			6//	
KD05	50.2	677	Paul Garner		1//			128//				2SF
KD06	50	611	Tony Roberts	14//	2//			5//			4//	
KD07	70	909	Heino Wellmann		1//	20//				2//		
KD08	63	807	Peter Dearlove		1//					2//		2WBK
KD10	26	806	Mark Durham					16//			5//	
KD11	58	611	Tony Roberts	2//	3//	1//		85//				2WBK, 1 SHF
KD12	62	1418	David McMillan		1//	1//		123/4//		1//	2//	
KE01	84.3	1602	Rose Laatz		6//							
KG02	53.5	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry		5//			51//	5//	2//	13//	
KG03	54	626	Malcolm Rivett		26//		69//				4//	
KG04	71.7	627, 628, 1536, 1537	Bob & Judi Williams, J & V Baxter		7//		6/1//	191//	2//	2//	19//	
KG05	56	1134, 1133	Stiggs & Lyn Cathcart		5//		3//	50//	1//		3//	
KG06	58.9	427, 428	Bruce & Pat Whittle		9/2//		12//	36//	21//	6//	20//	
KG07	46.4	630	Kobus Nel		16//		119//		5//	2//	473//	
KG08	61.8	631	Mark Meter		11//					2//	1//	
KG09	15.8	809	Rod Dorning	18//			233//		15//	2//	115//	38WC
KG10	36.3	1240, 1241	Ed & Myra Wells		2//		3//			6//	2//	2WC
KG11	53.4	632, 633	Jimmy & Lorraine Scott		14//		26/9//	73//		4//		1WC, 2WS
KL10	32.2	1504	Rob Collett					29//				141//
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray		5//					2//		3WS
KM01	73.6	498	Margie Sleight	2//	1//					2//	41//	14WC
KM02	65.3	474	Shirley Bennett	2//	1//	28//	68//					55//
KM03	98	491	Rob Melville		12//	5//	11//	58//				227//
KM04	32	1610	Betty Jones		1//			25//			25//	1RWF
KM05	78.7	167	Pamela Nicol		11//	5//	5/1//			1//	28//	4WC, 1WS
KM06	97.1	1581	Evelyn Hughes	1//	21//		31//	30//	2/1//	1//	27//	
KM07	68.5	490	Kevin McCann		2//	6//				2//	6//	
KM08	58	187	CC Pera		4//		5//			3//	1//	111//
KN01	71	1245	Sylva Francis		9//	8//				1//	2//	
KN03	55	1609	André Bouwer		3//					2//	2//	2WBK
KN04	48.5	925	Alan Schwikkard		43//	3//	2//			2//	160//	
KN05	48	1071	John Sharpe				21//					1SF
KN06	73	995	Gail McCann		1//	4//					5//	
KN07	95	927	Johan de Villiers		3//					1//		
KN08	80.5	997	Robert Stannard		3//	24//						
KO01	55.9	425, 1529	Gavin & Sandi Calverley		11//						5//	
KU01	68	429	Chris Thomas		21//	28//	32/1//	121//	1//	4//	18//	1HAR, 34WS
KU02	67.9	741, 1218	Richard & Bridget Robinson		31/1//		62//	50//	3//		48//	1HAR, 4WS
KV03	62	1566	Darryl Baxter		16//							2SF
Total	2604			39	347	175	701	1390	62	58	1562	2HAR, 1RWF
												12SF, 1SHF
												6WBK, 59WC
												58WS
Birds/100 km				1.5	13.3	6.7	26.9	53.4	2.4	2.2	60.0	

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 - Underberg precinct, KV - Vryheid precinct

time by editing the tables for this newsletter. Lindy Tomalin has continued to assist me voluntarily once a week with map work and other administrative tasks - I appreciate her support. Do phone me about any problems or errors in this newsletter: my phone number is 021-650 4239. I hope you have much more pleasant weather for the summer count!

Donella Young, Project Coordinator



Snowy road conditions on an EE route during the Winter 2002 count (Courtesy Barkly East Reporter)

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 ²	Close to ³	Activity ⁴	Side of road	Farm No.
	Begin at zero	Use abbreviations*	Age class ¹			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	392
	12.3	BHH	1	1		wetland				
	15.5	Start	backtrack } =10km							
	25.5	End	backtrack }							
	32.2-10	LB	1			veld		inactive	R	395
	36.2-10	SG	10		2	wetland				



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

