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



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Wildlife Fund
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Foundation South Africa



COORDINATED AVIFAUNAL ROADCOUNTS (CAR)

Newsletter 14

June 2003

CAR Report

I am delighted that the eight-year report, *Big birds on farms: Mazda CAR report 1993–2001*, is finally complete and at the printers! This 208-page report has been a remarkable team effort involving numerous observers collecting the information, 38 authors and 5 editors, as well as the skills of those involved in data capture, cartography, illustration and DTP. Kim Smith was creative and conscientious in her task of typesetting and I am sure you will appreciate Maxie Jonk's illustrations. René Navarro had the enormous task of developing programmes to summarise the data and produce the graphics. I have greatly appreciated the support of colleagues, as well as the experience and editorial skill that James Harrison, who manages this project, gave at all the stages of producing this report. A huge thank you to the other editors and authors who gave freely of their time and expertise. Lindy Tomalin worked voluntarily for many hours plotting routes and checking GIS maps. Members of 64 governmental and non-governmental organisations, including bird clubs, have been involved in CAR. I hope that you, as observers, enjoy seeing the larger picture of our large terrestrial birds and realise the enormous conservation value of your regular roadcounts. We, at the ADU, would like to sincerely thank you by giving a copy of this report to each route leader and author. If you are not a route leader and would like to receive a copy of this report, or know of someone else who needs it, please contact the ADU or order through our web page. The cost (including postage) will be R65.00 until 15 August and R130.00 thereafter. There is an article on the report in the latest *Africa – Birds & Birding* 8(3).

The report has been dedicated to farmers and all who work on farms because of the responsibility they carry in conserving biodiversity. Many farmers take part in CAR (about 50% of the counts are done by farmers) and make a vital contribution to the conservation of these birds by using bird-friendly management practices. There are sections in the report that give guidelines for landowners wanting to conserve these threatened species. In the overview chapter, James highlighted 10 measures:

- 1) Adopt mixed farming strategies.
- 2) Use poisons responsibly.
- 3) Monitor overhead utility cables and other potentially dangerous structures.
- 4) Protect natural veld.
- 5) Create habitat corridors.
- 6) Protect wetlands.
- 7) Protect breeding sites.
- 8) Control dogs and cats.
- 9) Educate farm workers.
- 10) Collaborate with others.

General

I have enclosed the **CAR 9 roadcount form** and included important points about CAR counts at the end of this newsletter. Take this newsletter with you on the count, as well as Information Sheets 1 and 4 and your route map. Your Precinct Organiser will confirm

with you whether you are able to count your route on **Saturday, 26 July 2003**. Do get out of your car at each 2 km stop and scan around carefully in all directions with your binoculars, as this is when most sightings are made. Remember to fill in habitat and the last three columns in the case of cranes and bustards – some of you forgot this in the last count. **Information Sheets and the newsletter are available on the website** under *Research* and *CAR*, and the **roadcount form** is available under *What is new* and *CAR PDF* documents. There is also a report, with photographs, entitled *Ten years of counting cranes in the Overberg* under *What is new*. Unfortunately I was unable to write a general report after the summer count, as I was completing the eight-year report. If you do not have access to the web, contact me for any information you require. Your Precinct Organiser has extra copies of Information Sheets 1 and 4.

There is now space for the names of observers on the roadcount form. If those who assist you regularly would like to receive an ADU number and be on the mailing list, include their name, title, initials and postal and email address details on a separate piece of paper. This enables us to then include their ADU number when data is captured, so that they can be acknowledged.

If your name does not appear in the report, we do regret this, it was not left out intentionally. Please ensure that we have your details and that your route leader enters your ADU number and name on the roadcount form. If you are willing to download the newsletter and roadcount form from the website, please inform me by email as this saves costs in printing and postage. Let us know if you are no longer involved in this project, so that we can reduce costs.

I am keen to encourage more schools to participate in this project, as I think this provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to be outdoors, gaining skills in scientific observation and recording, and building an appreciation of their environment. In January, I counted with Jeffrey Arizon, Principal of Teslaarsdal Primary School, and five of his Grade 7s. Their sharp eyes and interest impressed me. They regularly count a shorter route designed for this school. Do encourage schools to become involved in CAR by contacting me, or ask school pupils to assist you on your route.

Trip to KwaZulu-Natal

Earlier this year I appreciated being flown up to the BirdLife KwaZulu-Natal Forum meeting. This is a gathering of chairpersons of the KZN Bird Clubs, as well as representatives of BirdLife, KZN Wildlife and the various projects in which bird clubs are involved. I would encourage other provinces to consider this type of joint meeting to discuss, coordinate and promote the growth of projects that members take part in. I presented feedback on the various ADU projects and enjoyed meeting Precinct Organisers and participants from Vryheid and Melmoth. I was glad to meet participants in Howick and Dundee where I showed slides on ADU projects. Tony Roberts, of KZN Wildlife, showed me sections of some Dundee routes, which was helpful.

Key instructions for the count appear at the end of this newsletter.



Date of winter CAR count

The date set for the winter count is **Saturday, 26 July 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 soonest possible day. The next summer count will be on Saturday, 31 January 2004.

Species to be counted

In addition to the usual species, the Black Harrier can be counted on a voluntary basis (use abbreviation **HAR**). Check your regional section of the newsletter for other details (KZN observers see the note about Oriibi). Remember that Korhaans should be counted both when seen and when heard. All other species should be recorded only when seen.

Out-of-range birds

If you observe any birds outside of their known ranges, e.g., a Kori Bustard in the Overberg, or a Stanley's Bustard in the Karoo, 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 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. This is particularly important for species that are easily confused, such as Stanley's and Ludwig's bustards and the Black Korhaan and Whitequilled Korhaan, which overlap in part of their range.

Reminders

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. When rain or mist obscures visibility, try to wait for it to lift before continuing your count. If the weather does not lift later in the day, it is preferable to count the following day. But if you have travelled a long way and it is not possible to count the following day, then continue the count. If you were unable to do a count for any reason, report this to your Precinct Organiser **as soon as possible**, in case someone else can do it. It is important that all routes within a precinct are counted on the same day if at all possible.

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.

Enter your **ADU Observer Number**, and that of other regular CAR observers who assist you, on your roadcount form. Always keep a copy of your roadcount form, as even faxes have sometimes not arrived.

CAR support

We acknowledge, with thanks, support from BirdLife South Africa (BLSA), the Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation South Africa and Mazda Wildlife Fund. The Mazda Wildlife Fund generously provided funding for the publication of the eight-year report. From the end of this year, funds will be at an end and CAR needs to find a sponsor to ensure that it continues. We hope the report will convince potential sponsors of CAR's value to conservation. In the next few months we will be focusing on fundraising; if you are aware of any potential sponsors, please us know.

Thank you to Lorraine Mullins for writing a report on their summer count in the *Diaz Diary*, Alison Richardson for her report on the Wakkerstroom count in *Bokmakierie*, and Patrick Brett for his report in *The Bee-eater*. 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. If there are other reports which I am unaware of, please send me a copy to include in the annual report.

CAR counts of Black Harriers: so far so good!

Andrew Jenkins reports back:

'After an initial count in Western Cape precincts (in summer 2002), Black Harrier CAR counts went national in 2002/2003, and the recent summer count completes the first year of data collection.'

'So far the overall picture more or less confirms our expectations, in terms of the number, distribution and seasonality of harrier sightings across the country (Fig. 1). The total number of birds seen (55 in nearly 35 000 km) is a little lower than we'd hoped, but perhaps more will be seen in future counts as observers 'get their eyes in'. Given the relatively low densities of harriers in most areas, it isn't really possible at this stage to read too much into the results – real patterns will only emerge after another couple of years of counts. However, it seems clear already that the core Black Harrier areas, throughout the year, are in the Eastern and Western Cape, particularly in the Overberg and Swartland, with much lower numbers in the grasslands of KZN and Mpumalanga. The number of records from Northeastern Free State is quite surprising, and may be indicative of a significant resident population of harriers in this area.'

'Off-season migration or nomadism by at least a section of the Black Harrier population has long been suspected but is poorly understood. While the timing of the CAR counts is not ideal to accurately reflect seasonal movements by Black Harriers (with a breeding season that extends from July–August to December–January), the present data suggest winter influxes to the Northern Cape (birds moving north from the southwestern Cape?) and the southern Free State (birds moving north from the Eastern Cape and/or birds moving south from the northeastern Free State?).'

'Generally, inclusion of the Black Harrier as a CAR species seems likely to prove highly informative over time, particularly as a means of determining areas and habitats most crucial to the conservation of this rare endemic species. If possible, do include juveniles in the appropriate column, but "If in doubt, leave it out!".'

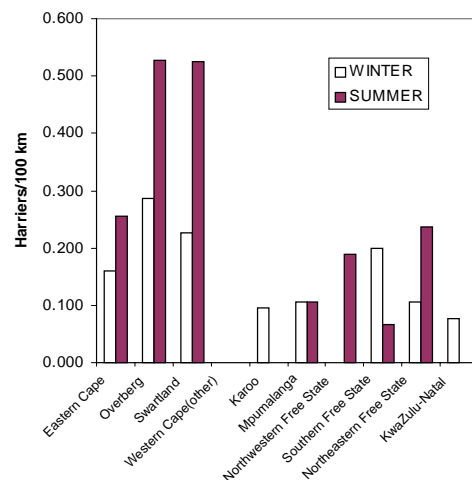


Fig. 1.
Density of Black Harriers in CAR precincts in 2002/2003.

'Our thanks to Donella Young and the ADU for their hard work in providing central coordination for the counts, and collating and dispensing the harrier data. If you would like further information on the nature and objectives of the Black Harrier Project, or would like to assist in any way with field data collection, please contact me or Odette Curtis (cell: 083 551 3341; email: ocurtis@botzoo.uct.ac.za).'

*Andrew Jenkins, Western Cape Raptor Research Programme,
Percy FitzPatrick Institute, UCT. (cell: 082 959 9238
ajenkins@botzoo.uct.ac.za;)*

Ringed cranes

There was only one colour ring re-sighting by Tom and Freya Brett during the summer count, and not all the rings were visible. If you have a telescope, use this when observing Blue Cranes to help check the colour combinations. The Overberg Crane Group would like to thank all CAR participants for the information you are collecting. At a recent meeting I heard that CAR has provided about 20% of their re-sightings. In the last newsletter I forgot to mention Phil

Whittington's important re-sighting of a Blue Crane in the Swartland in August 2002, which was ringed as a nestling near Caledon in January 1998.

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.

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.

Eastern Cape

The Blue Crane numbers were the highest yet recorded on a summer count, with Sandy and Hope Stretton's routes accounting for the highest totals. The Crowned Crane numbers were again encouraging. Robert Böhmke and Indwe High School pupils saw 15 Bald Ibis on EE13, the highest total on any Eastern Cape route since July 2001 when Kevin Meise saw 9 on EE10. Bald Ibis were not recorded in this area during the atlas period. EE13 also had the high-

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!

est number of Crowned Cranes and Spurwinged Geese. Sonja Vorster's route recorded 3 Ground Hornbill, a Red Data species, on EU01 near Umtata. I am keen to establish new routes in the former Transkei, so do contact me if you know people interested in counting in this region where we know very little about the numbers of birds.

I would like to thank Joan and Godfrey Collett, Ralph and June Hobson and Neville Willows for counting routes since July 1998, as they are no longer able to participate.

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BK	CC	LB	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
EB01	62.7	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		4//		1//		2//				
EB02	53	1398	Keith Marshall		5//							1//	
EB03	64	115	Graham Winch		17//		15//			3//	38//	112//	
EB04	64.5	1567, 1568, 1584	Barbara & Ken Monfoort & W Perks	3//	10//		9/1/		5/1/		18//	1//	
EE01	38.9	1129, 1730	Adèle Moore & Helen Lechmere		4//		20//		1//		9//	20//	
EE03	42	1129, 1730	Adèle Moore & Helen Lechmere		14/1/		24/2/		4/3/		13//	56//	
EE06	66.4	1126	Jon Smallie		3//							12//	
EE08	72.4	1126	Jon Smallie	4//	1//		24//				3//	1//	
EE11	54	1261	Mike Agenbag		7//		70//					99//	
EE12	51	901	Jenni Brown	1//	3//		11/				6//	81//	
EE13	64.3	1067, 1743	Indwe High School & Robert Böhmke	1//	15//		44//		2//		109//	54//	15BI
EE17	43.1	1126	Jon Smallie				6//				2//	2//	
EE18	41	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	84//	2//		17//			4//	12//		1HAR, 4UK
EE19	84	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	119//2	11//6		10//	3//			46//	4//	22UK
EG01	84	161	Adrian Craig		1//	4//				2//			
EG02	52.2	565, 887	Pat Hulley & Nikki Köhly	6//	2//					1//			
EG03	76.7	341, 1530	Bo Bonnevie & Lorraine Mullins	1//	1//	1//				2//		200//	
EH03	54	313	Victor Craig		4//				2//		37//	287//	
EH04	44.5	1132	David Tudhope		4//							153//	
EH05	38	1612, 301	Abel Bezuidenhout & C & J Cook	3/2/	1//				3//		4//	6//	
EH06	56.7	312	Yvonne Craig		12//	27/3/			12//		77//	519//	
EK02	59.9	885, 1526	John Lardner-Burke & Lorraine Knowles		5//				2//		2//	17//	
EK04	59	884, 1523, 1525	Peter Metcalf, A Wilson & T Cockcroft		7/3/				5//	1//		13//	2HAR, 1WBK
EK05	62.5	886, 1527, 1528	Maureen Turner, J Roxburgh & L Wood		16//				10//		76//	38//	1HAR
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann	65/3/		2//		15//		3//		148//	11KK
EP02	66	1570, 1621	Hermann & Terry Hertel	2//		5/1/				1//		24//	8KB
EP03	61	872	Denzil Ward	4/2/		1//		2//				131//	1KB, 3KK
EP04	74	869, 271	Peter Hall & EH Sauer			2//		2//				55//	2HAR, 1KB, 2KK
EP06	53	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro		4//			8//				594//	4KK, 10WQK
EP07	76	1475	Alan Collett					4//		6//	57//	4//	35WQK
EP08	101.2	270, 518	Dave Brown & Jean Spearpoint	2//		3//		7//		5//		6//	5KB, 10KK
EP09	31	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro					1//				661//	2WQK
EP10	47	1731, 1475	John Bowker & Alan Collett	13//				23//		3//		95//	19WQK
EQ01	57	917, 1587	Fin Weakley & Ian McEwan				6//2			1//	1//	7//	13UK
EQ02	55.6	930, 1290	Don Field & Brian Ellison		1//				5/1/				7UK
ES02	48.5	874, 1649	Joan & Godfrey Collett		1//								
ES03	61	873	David Jolliffe										2KK
ES05	88	1181, 1182	Alec & Neil Turner	1//	1//	1//		4//				2//	1KB
EU01	65.8	1450	Sonja Vorster			4//		2//		1//			3GH
Total	2348			330	181	20	254	69	59	32	510	3403	15BI, 3GH, 6HAR, 16KB, 32KK, 46UK, 1WBK, 66WQK
Birds/100 km				14.1	7.7	0.9	10.8	2.9	2.5	1.4	21.7	144.9	

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

Western Cape

Overberg precinct

After the summer count, about 35 people gathered on Wicus and Hanlie Leeuwener's farm to celebrate the 20th count! Thank you to Wicus and Hanlie for their warm hospitality and to those who made a special effort to attend. It is incredible that information about 46 400 Blue Cranes and over 200 Stanley's Bustards has been recorded over this period – see the website report for further details. Des and Mary Frylinck have participated in all 20 counts! Details about gathering at Dassiesfontein after the count are enclosed.

The Blue Crane density was the highest yet recorded on a summer count – a fitting milestone! The White Stork numbers were relatively low. Alison and Neville Passmore had an unusual sighting of 3 Ludwig's Bustards. Heather Busby and her team saw 24 Stanley's Bustards!

Numbers of birds counted in January 2003 census in Overberg											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
OV01	58	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	107/4/5	3//				4//	262//	
OV02	66	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	88/3/1	9//				8//	113//	
OV03	48.7	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	70/2/	8//				6//	22//	
OV04	26.9	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	28/6/2	2//		2//		5//	109//	
OV05	69.8	228, 1064, 1148, 227	John Carter, Max, Brian & Ben	173/10/	2//	4//	2//		2//		
OV06	52.4	619, 1655, 497	Patrick Hurly, Stuart & Magda	69/10/	2//						5BK
OV07	67.7	496, 1083	Ken & Ann Price	89/12/2	8//	2//	2//		30//	3//	
OV08	73	492, 1075	Keith & Michelle Moodie	122/5/	1//	1//	6//		1//		2BK
OV09	46	239	Bruce Squier	81//							
OV10	57	56, 1585	Peter & Ann Albertyn	64//	1/1//				5//	147//	
OV11	63.6	246, 1393	Madelaine Loubser & Anne Gray	102//	6//		5//			101//	
OV12	56.9	215, 216, 1380, 1381	H Busby, Dawn, Gillian & Rory	84/11/1	3//		24//	2//	36//	29//	
OV13	70.5	520, 672, 671	Jill Mortimer, René & Ann	161/6/8	4/4//	3/1//					4BK
OV14	93	164, 123	Sue Maré & John Coats	144/8/4	1//	4//	6//			2//	
OV15	64	255	Dave Whitelaw	80/2/7	7//			1//		34//	
OV16	65	249, 981, 1379	Pierre van den Berg, Louis & Willem	61/2//	1//	9/2//					2BK
OV17	59	878	Lee Burman	54/4/8	5//					27//	
OV18	50	240, 1712	Wicus & Hanlie Leeuwener	202/3/6	4//				9//	10//	1HAR
OV19	61.6	219, 1213, 1632	Ronnie Crowther, Estelle & Christine	112/3/1		3//			2//	8//	1BK
OV20	58.1	1441, 1325	Alison & Neville Passmore	33/1/2					7//	2//	1BK, 3LB
OV21	68.8	1600, 1601	Beaurich & Adèle Groenewald	83/4//	11//		16//	1//	1//	22//	
OV22	49.7	48, 392	Mick Killeen & Joy von Korff	34/2//	6//		2//	1//		25//	2BS
OV23	56.6	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall	3/1//	31/13//			1//		26//	
OV24	57.5	636, 1211, 1212	Mick & June D'Alton & G Swanepoel	31//4	6//		9//	2//	7//	66//	2BK
OV25	58	1469	Avril Young	97/7/3	7//				11//	10//	
OV26	19.4	871, 991	J Arizon, Chris, Donella & 5 pupils	33/3/2	6/1//		2//			4//	1HAR
OV28	39	1462	Tonia Schonken	3//	4//			2//		51//	
OV29	26.3	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	8/3//	1//					91//	
OV33	61	1463	Frans de Graaff	91/11//	11//		4//	1//	45//	133//	
Total	1644			2486	169	29	80	11	179	1297	17BK, 2BS, 2HAR, 3LB
Birds/100 km				151.3	10.3	1.8	4.9	0.7	10.9	78.9	
OV34	60.9	1550	Heynè Brink	4//	1//		4//		1//		7HAR

Swartland precinct

The Blue Crane density was also the highest recorded on a summer count, with more than 20 cranes being sighted on each of 5 routes. There were 28.3 birds/100 km, compared with 16.7 birds/100 km in summer 2002. Keith and Rena Harrison saw two nesting pairs on their route, Sylvia Ledgard remarked on the number of breeding pairs and 14 of the 38 cranes which Koos de Goede saw were chicks or juveniles.

Although 41 White Storks were recorded on Swartland routes, Jan Hofmeyer, who does regular counts on a pig farm near Tygerberg Zoo, counted 1310 birds on the CAR day! These are certainly opportunistic birds. I look forward to seeing you at Elna and Tertius Slabber's farm after the count.

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in Swartland											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.				
SW01	77	106, 1216	Mel Tripp & Liz Turner	24//	5//	12//	1HAR				
SW03	63.9	574, 1276	Sylvia Ledgard & Brenda Anderson	31/4/4	11/1//		2BK				
SW05	59.7	163, 1239	Keith & Rena Harrison	11/1//	2//	62//	1BK				
SW06	75.4	1368, 1565, 1366	Ralph Wordon, L Kerr & L Teare	35/7//	5//	53//	18WS				
SW07	43	477, 1362	Koos de Goede & Pat McGuinness	24/3/11	8//	2//	1HAR, 1WS				
SW08	72	1474	Bruce MacKenzie	5//	6/1//		1SEC				
SW09	61	1135	Jens Oelbützel	23/2/2	13//	36//	3BS, 22WS				
SW10	64	223, 1714	James & Francis Harrison	13//2		8/2//	1BK, 1SEC				
SW11	65.6	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	1//	1//		2HAR				
SW12	77.7	1552, 1553	Tielman & Alta Klynsmith	3//	1//	100//	5BK				
SW13	48.7	674, 673	Tertius & Elna Slabber	3//	2//	27//	1BS				
SW14	54	506	Riaan van der Walt	4/3//	4//	7//					
Total	762			216	60	309	9BK, 4BS, 4HAR, 2SEC, 41WS				
Birds/100 km				28.3	7.9	40.6					

Beaufort West precinct

Route WB01 continues to produce a higher number of Karoo Korhaans than any other route.

Little Karoo precinct

There were many White Storks on route WK02 this last summer.

Uniondale precinct

Route WU01 recorded the highest number of Black Korhaans in this precinct since counts began. Nigel Wessels is hoping to start another route in this important area. Thank you to Nigel who coordinated the summer count and welcome to Peter Chadwick, the new Kammanasie Reserve Manager who will now coordinate this precinct.

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in other Western Cape precincts											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	WS	Other spp.		
WB01	65	343, 1101	Maria Andela & Annatjie Mocke			25//			1KB, 2LB		
WC01	59.3	1291	George Hattingh		3//			146//	12SB		
WK02	45	1003	Andrew Schofield	18/3//	4//				103//		
WU01	50	1392, 1332	J de Jaar, Kerry Hamson & team		5//		3//	36//	8BK, 2LB, 2SEC		
WU02	58	539	Jonas Witbooi	9//	1//				6SB		
WU05	70.2	297, 1520, 1521	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown & Barry	12/2//	1//			91//	4SB		
Total	347.5			44	14	25	3	340	9BK, 1KB, 4LB, 22SB, 2SEC		
Birds/100 km				12.7	4.0	7.2	0.9	97.8			
WB - Beaufort West precinct, WC - Calitzdorp precinct, WK - Little Karoo precinct, WU - Uniondale precinct											

Mpumalanga

Steenkampsberg precinct

David Gaynor reports:

'We had a good turnout of observers and were able to count all 9 routes. Three new crews have been recruited and seem keen to become regulars. We had an introductory briefing for newcomers on Friday evening that went very well. The count itself was less satisfactory in terms of bird numbers, with only the White Stork being up on average. Of interest, was Frans Krige's sighting of 13 Abdim's Storks, a first for the precinct. Of concern is the contin-

ued lack of critical species, the cranes and bustards.'

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

A big thank you to Casper Venter, who has efficiently organised counts in this precinct and is now retiring. Unfortunately, the Middelburg routes were not counted in January, but I hope they will be continued in the future.

Wakkerstroom precinct

Alison Richardson, of Wits Bird Club, reports:

'I am delighted to advise that Barbi Forsyth and Mariaan Ahlers have agreed to assist me with managing CAR; I am really looking forward to working with them in future. One of the big tasks for us

in 2003 is to start involving the Wakkerstroom community in what we are doing, as they can best utilise the information that we gather on our counts every six months.'

The Bald Ibis numbers were certainly encouraging. Please continue to count Helmeted Guineafowl in this precinct and use the abbreviation HG.

Karoo, Northern Cape

Mark Anderson reports:

'Twenty-one participants participated in the 16th bi-annual Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey. With mild weather and only a breeze blowing, the participants expected a good count. By mid-morning, 1220 kms had been driven and a total of 1399 large terrestrial birds had been counted, approximately 1.2 birds/km. Blue Cranes were the most numerous species, with 730 individuals counted, most of which (447) were counted on Fritz Battenhaussen's route. This highlights the importance of extensive coverage, because without Fritz' contribution, the final tally for this species would have been far lower. Only 28 immature Blue Cranes were observed, indicating fewer breeding attempts, which is almost certainly indicative of the unfavourable conditions in the Karoo this summer. With very low rainfall experienced over most parts, there would have been fewer insects (and other food) available for these birds. Also, fewer Blue Cranes chicks were ringed this summer: 18 in comparison to 79 during the previous year, with the majority of the ringing being done by Ronelle Visagie and Lorette Luscombe. Large numbers of White Stork (181), Ludwig's Bustards (179) and Whitequilled Korhaans (151) were observed. The stork observations were surprising because this species seldom ventures into the Karoo when conditions are dry.'

Remember to record the time at the start and end of each transect. Thank you to Mark and Ronelle Visagie for all their time on this project.

KwaZulu-Natal

The Bald Ibis density was the highest yet recorded in this province, with most of the birds being on Newcastle routes, while Chris Thomas recorded more birds than ever before on KU01. A Wattled Crane was recorded on a Newcastle route for the first time. The Wattled Crane numbers were the lowest recorded on a summer count, and the Helmeted Guineafowl numbers were also particularly low. The Blackbellied Korhaan count was the highest ever – Malcolm Gemmell saw 5 on his route, KC01.

Sadly, Bill and Leila Barnes both passed away in the last year (they counted KM06). I remember them from when Bill was warden at Giants' Castle – their contribution to conservation was enormous. Kevin McCann wrote recently: 'In terms of crane conservation, Bill stands out as one of the pioneers of Wattled Crane conservation in KwaZulu-Natal. Without Bill's intimate knowledge of

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in Mpumalanga											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
MS01	56.7	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor		1//	16//		2//		3//	1SEC
MS02	56.8	1725, 1726	Des & Ann Desbrulais								3HG, 2SB
MS04	64	727, 1752	Frans & PF Krieger		1//						13AS, 16HG
MS05	56.5	728, 1034	Anton Linström & Frik Bronkhorst		6//	5.5		12/8//		27//	12HG, 1SEC
MS06	64.3	1259, 1260	Jeremy & Jill Brown		2//	3//				13/2//	1HAR, 1HG
MS07	56	1109, 1246	Bryan & Alice Rowland								
MS08	35	1557, 1178	Shawn Catterall & H van Wyk	2/1//	1//					18//	1SEC
MS09	56.1	1727	Jim McLuskie		3/4//	15//		2/1//			12HG
MS13	57.4	1728	Paul Clarke		1//			2/1//			
MW01	57	1618, 1751	Craig & Karin Nelson		36//		2//	36//		73//	1HG, 1SEC, 2WBK
MW02	61	1335	Elizabeth Hodgkinson		5//	27//	7//	19//			1BBK, 4HG
MW03	65.9	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth	10//	13//	74//		16/2//	5//	143//	25HG, 2SB, 3SEC
MW04	69	1391, 1744	Philip & Lynn Silcock		5//	111//	6//	19//		311//	
MW05	70	1337, 1370	Malcolm & Sylvia Henderson		6/2//	70//		6//		57//	13HG
MW06	60.6	1729	Chris Cardwell	2//	5//	72//	18//	21/8//	7//	96//	2BBK, 23HG
MW07	63.5	1548	Malcolm Forbes		18//	6/1//		2/2//	2//		31HG
Total	950			15	109	395	33	159	14	743	13AS, 3BBK, 1HAR, 141HG, 4SB, 7SEC, 2WBK
Birds/100 km				1.6	11.5	41.6	3.5	16.7	1.5	78.2	

MS - Steenkampsberg precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct

Number of bird counted in January 2003 census in Karoo											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	SEC	WQK	WS	Other spp.	
NK011	20	1753	W S O Marais	4//2	3//	1//				10SG	
NK012	20	1753	W S O Marais	2//		2//			1//		
NK013	20	1753	W S O Marais	6//		3//			6//	1//	
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	13//	2//	5//			1//		
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock	2//		3//			1//		
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	19//		7//				1//	
NK031	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	8//	1//	1//			1//		
NK032	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	4//	1//						
NK033	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	2//							
NK041	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard	2//	3//	1//			2//		
NK042	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard	14//		9//			1//		
NK043	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard	17//	1//	10//			1//		
NK061	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen	384/12//	6//	20//	2/1//	2//		16//	
NK062	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen	46//							
NK063	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen	5//		8//	1//				
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe	2/2//					6//		
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe						13//		
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe					2//			
NK101	20	1086	Jannie Venter							1AS	
NK102	20	1086	Jannie Venter			2//	1//			1//	
NK103	20	1086	Jannie Venter					2/1//			
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith	2//			1//	4//			
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith	4/2//		3//		4//	1//	1BHH	
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith								
NK151	20	1489	Willem Zwieggers						8//		
NK152	20	1489	Willem Zwieggers						4//		
NK153	20	1489	Willem Zwieggers						1//		
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead	17//				3/1//	1//		
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead					2/1//	4//		
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead	2//				2//		2SB	
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson		2//				8//		
NK222	20	105	Mark Anderson		2//	4//			7//		
NK223	20	105	Mark Anderson								
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	4/1//	4//	7//			21//		
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2//	2//	3//			6//		
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						7//		
NK271	20	1578	Retha Kruger								
NK272	20	1578	Retha Kruger	1//					2//	2//	
NK273	20	1578	Retha Kruger							29SG	
NK301	20	1494	Amie Venter	2//	2//	3//	2//	2//	3//	2BHH, 1SG	
NK302	20	1494	Amie Venter	44//		6//					
NK331	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen					7//	4//	1BHH	
NK332	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	2/1//		5//				1BHH	
NK333	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	2/2//				3//			
NK351	20	488	Pieter Louw	6//		2//	4//		1//		
NK352	20	488	Pieter Louw		2//	1//			5//		
NK353	20	488	Pieter Louw	3//			1//				
NK361	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter	21//	7//	22//				27//	
NK362	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter			1//				133//	
NK363	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter	4//		13//				1SG	
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe		2//	3//			2//		
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe			1//					
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	3//		2//			2//		
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)	2//		5//	1//		6//		
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)			1//	1//	3//	18//		
NK441	20	1642	Nell Kingwill	8//		3//					
NK442	20	1642	Nell Kingwill	12//	2//					4KB	
NK443	20	1642	Nell Kingwill	28/6//		4//				4KB	
NK451	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	1//	1//	18//	1//		7//		
NK452	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden								
NK453	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	2//							
Total	1220			730	43	179	16	39	151	181	1AS, 5BHH, 8KB, 2SB, 45SG,
Birds/100 km				59.8	3.5	14.7	1.3	3.2	12.4	14.8	

the cranes, and his fantastic rapport with the farmers, crane conservation in Kwa-Zulu-Natal would not be at the level it is today.'

While you are scanning for large terrestrial birds at each 2-km stop, please also record any **Oribi** seen. Record the km as usual, write 'Oribi' in the species column and the number of individuals in a group. You do not need to distinguish sex or age. We felt this would be manageable, since you are scanning anyway, but let me know if you have any problems. KZN Wildlife, who started the Oribi Working Group and are conducting research on this threatened species, will find this information very useful.

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.

Free State

Brian Colahan reports:

'Most of the 240 people who counted 6770 birds in the Free State during the 2003 summer CAR reported conditions to be good or satisfactory. They surveyed 109 routes covering a total of 7252 km, with 16 routes in the northwestern precinct (FW), 27 in the northeastern precinct (FN) and 66 in the southern precinct (FS). Just three species made up 66% of the total: 1643 White Storks, 1504 Whitequilled Korhaans and 1 356 Spurwinged Geese. FN yielded 121.0 birds/100 km (with 54.8 White Storks/100 km dominating), FS 89.5 birds/100 km (23.1 Whitequilled Korhaans and 18.7 Spurwinged Geese/100 km), and FW 55.1 birds/100 km (34.8 White-quilled Korhaans/100 km).'

'The following Vulnerable Red Data species were recorded (with 2002 summer figures for comparison): 461 (710) Blue Cranes, 358 (401) Bald Ibises, 138 (207) Ludwig's Bustards, 6 (0) Kori Bustards and 1 (0) Whitebellied Korhaan, together with 5 Near-threatened species: 270 (263) Blue Korhaans, 86 (73) Secretarybirds, 5 (0) Black Storks, 3 (37) Yellowbellied Storks and 9 (not counted) Black Harriers.'

'Some of the larger species totals reported: 358 White Storks (Frik Neethling's team, east of Harrismith), 4 Stanley's Bustards (Harry Illsley's team, south of

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in KwaZulu-Natal													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
KC01	51	433	Malcolm Gemmell		15//	4//	9//			2//	14//	15//	5BBK
KD01	82	929, 1715	Ray & Lia Hughes		6//	13//		2//			7//	1//	
KD02	63	1255, 1745	Dennis & Sonja Holmes			7//				3//		58//	
KD03	51	806, 1713	Mark & Elizabeth Durham		3//						2//	12//	
KD04	52	346	Colin McKenzie										
KD05	52	677, 1711	Paul & Bev Garner		1//					1//		105//	
KD06	50	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker	2//	3//							21//	2WBK
KD07	70	909	Heino Wellmann		2//						2//	15//	1SF
KD08	69	807	Peter Dearlove		1//								1BBK
KD10	30	611	Tony Roberts		2//		2//	2//			9//		
KD11	58	611	Tony Roberts	2//	3//							37//	
KD12	63	1418, 1716	David McMillan & Margie Post		9//			32//2				37//	5SF
KG02	53.5	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry		7//		1//	16//		2//	39//	32//	
KG03	54	626	Malcolm Rivett		8//		25//		2//		37//	111//	
KG04	73.6	627, 628	Bob & Judi Williams		13//		5//	4//	4//		8//4	29//	
KG05	64.2	1133, 629	Lyn Cathcart & Stooks Wilton		7//		47//				12//	30//	
KG06	59.5	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter		17//		10//1		2//		34//2	42//	
KG07	49	630	Kobus Nel	4//	24//1		54//				62//	45//	
KG08	62	631	Mark Meter	23//	11//		6//			1//	87//	32//	1BS
KG09	15.5	809	Rod Dornig		8//	4//	33//		3//	2//	101//		25WC
KG10	36.3	1240, 1241	Ed & Myra Wells		4//		60//				2//	49//	
KG11	54.5	632, 633	Jimmy & Lorraine Scott		17//1		97//	8//			33//	51//	
KL01	86.1	50, 1596, 1597	Ken Gordon, L & K Immelman		5//		7//5	20//	3//	4//	6//	108//	1NF, 3SF, 1UK, 3WBK
KL02	94	142	Neil Smith	4//	29//		3//			1//		4//	3WBK
KL10	32.2	1504	Rob Collett					22//			10//		1BBK
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray		3//		2//				7//		
KM01	75.3	167, 1719, 1720	Pamela Nicol, E & H Burmester	3//	9//	2//				1//	54//		2WC
KM02	71.8	474	Shirley Bennett & team	2//	3//						7//	107//	
KM04	35	1610	Betty Jones		1//						5//	18//	
KM05	80.9	474, 167, 333	Shirley Bennett, P Nicol & LU Haines		4//		3//2			9//	99//		1RWF, 1SF, 3WC
KM06	92.4	1581	Evelyn Hughes	3//	6//	16//	3//				8//	116//	1NF
KM07	68.9	490	Kevin McCann		1//						2//	7//	
KM08	58	187	CC Pera	6//	3//		4//1	3//			40//	28//	1NF
KN01	66	1717, 1718	Nic & Ann van Helsdingen		2//	5//		1//			7//3	127//	
KN03	55	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		8//3	47//	1//	5//	3//	4//	6//	14//	
KN04	48	925	Alan Schwickard	1//	2//	20//	1//				1//2		2WBK
KN05	48	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		9//	1//	4//	5//			18//	19//	2BBK, 4SF
KN07	95	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		3//1	67//	1//			3//	7//	37//	
KN08	80.6	997, 1710	Robert & Annette Stannard	2//2	1//	66//		2//	3//1	4//	7//	93//	1WC
KO01	55.9	1529, 425, 431, 1480	S & G Calverley, D Leitch & K Fourie		1//			2//		2//1		44//	2GH, 2SHF
KU01	68	429	Chris Thomas		19//	59//	11//	1//	4//	1//	2//	158//	
KU02	68	1218	Bridget & Richard Robinson	1//1	6//		11//		1//		49//	278//	2WC
KV01	74.7	1683	AP Keeve		2//1		10//2	1//	3//		14//	8//	
KV02	56.2	1732	Tom Mills		4//		4//			1//			1BBK, 1SF
KV03	61.5	1566	Darryl Baxter		3//			5//		2//	1//	17//	6SF
KV04	28.9	1722	Charl Oberholster						2//	3//			4WBK
Total	2748			64	290	307	424	146	32	37	680	2058	10 BBK, 1BS, 2GH, 3NF, 1RWF, 2SHF, 21SF, 1UK, 14WBK, 33WC
Birds/100 km				2.3	10.6	11.2	15.4	5.3	1.2	1.3	24.7	74.9	

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

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in northeastern Free State													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.	
FN13	69.3	606	Thomas Wessels		2//								3HAR
FN16	54.7	701	Theunis Bekker		3//	57//	2//		38//	3//	124//		
FN26	65.9	974	Bradley Gibbons	3//1	8//	12//		3//	15//8				
FN28	60.5	1575	Margaret Whipp		2//	51//	5//				50//		
FN29	67.7	721, 1219	Freda & John Whipp		5//	30//	2//		10//		16//		
FN31	78	712	Frik Neethling	33//	18//	5//	13//1	1//	4//		358//		29AS
FN32	52	1072, 1748	David Weaver & Colleen Nozak		9//		25//		3//1	2//	123//		
FN33	51.1	1506	Gwen Hannay		4//								1AS
FN35	57.5	946	TI Wessels		6//				1//				
FN37	55	708	Derick Labuschagne		6//				44//				5WQK
FN39	67.1	1470	Geoff Potter		4//	17//			21//				4AS
FN40	66.1	942	Pieter Koorhof		17//	6//		1//	5//				1HAR
FN41	80.6	1045	GJ Vermeulen		15//3	14//			3//		1//		5WQK
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		9//	8//			3//	4//	96//		21AS
FN43	61	706	Harry Illsley	1//	12//	52//	6//		9//		90//		1BS, 4SB
FN44	68.6	714	FP Oosthuysen		4//				33//7				
FN45	72.5	188, 945	Hazel Vickery & Mike van Gelder	5//	7//1	10//2			37//	6//	35//		2AS
FN46	69.4	718	Gerhard van Deventer		3//	17//			1//				
FN48	58.3	605	Janet Lourens		4//				5//				1WBK, 6WQK
FN49	48.4	944	Gert Maritz		8//	15//	4//	1//	21//				
FN51	64.4	1157	FJJ du Plooy		6//	1//			3//				
FN53	62	1272	JC Koster	2//2	4//	21//			4//				
FN54	65	1193	Astrid Jankielsohn		5//				2//	4//			
FN55	61.9	703	Nacelle Collins	4//	6//				10//		36//		
FN58	62.7	705	Paulus Fihlo	21//	10//	19//			36//				
FN59	39.9	336	Louis Mileham		2//	21//			6//3				
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes		2//				5//	1//			82WQK, 1YS
Total	1697			72	185	358	58	8	351	16	929	57AS, 1BS, 4HAR, 4SB, 1WBK, 98WQK, 1YS	
Birds/100 km				4.2	10.9	21.1	3.4	0.5	20.7	0.9	54.8		

Memel), 3 Black Harriers (Tommy Wessel's team, southwest of Vrede), 88 Whitequilled Korhaans and 2 Kori Bustards (Koo's den Houting, south of Edenville), 270 Abdim's Storks and 89 Whitequilled Korhaans (Fanie & Jeanette Buys, south of Dealesville), and 153 Blue Cranes (Pierre de Villiers, north of Philippolis).'

A big thank you to Rick Nuttall who wrote the report for this newsletter in the past and to Brian Colahan for organizing so many routes and writing this report.

New developments

Recce routes are being conducted near Standerton, Somerset East and Uniondale. BirdLife Sisonke and the Vryheid Bird Club are also investigating the possibility of new routes.

Reporting dead or injured birds

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: 082 446 8946), or Eskom (086 011 1535), if it is an obvious case of collision or electrocution. The D'Altons and Gerald Swanepoel (OV24) saw a White Stork under a powerline with a broken wing. Pierre van den Berg reported a dead Blue Crane next to a fence on OV16. On OV21, the Groenwals saw a Blue Crane crippled by orange baling twine around both legs. Vicki Hudson, the Overberg Crane Group field worker, has requested that all baling twine injuries be reported (phone 082 676 1734). One of the manufacturers has now put a warning on their label: 'Discarded packaging material and twine can result in damage to equipment, ingestion by livestock, and injury to wildlife and birds, particularly the Blue Crane, our national bird. Please ensure that all twine and packaging material is collected and burnt or recycled in your own interest.'

Thank you

Thank you for counting regularly and for your donations in time and petrol. A big thank you to all Precinct Organisers for all your time in organising counts. Liz Turner captured the summer count data efficiently and edited the tables for this newsletter.

Phone me about any problems or errors in this newsletter: my phone number is 021-6504239. I hope you enjoy the winter count!

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	SEC	SG	UK	WQK	WS	Other spp.
FS02	74.9	1046	Blackie de Swardt	8//	2//	2//				1//		
FS06	74	1059	P de Villiers	153/4/		3//	2//		4//	6//		
FS07	64.4	1746	Angelo Nichas			10//	2//	18//		14//		1KK
FS08	70	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	19//	8//			29//		5//	117//	1HAR
FS09	63	1143	Henriëtte Strauss		1//				4//	4//		
FS12	54.9	662, 1180	Herman & Janet Kleynhans	10/3/	3//	12//	2//	2//	13//	16//		1BS, 4YS
FS14	67	1203	Helena Vorster		3//	6//	2//			10//		1KB
FS15	80	1502, 1577	Christiaan & Hannie de Wit	1//			4//	8//		11//		
FS17	75.2	204	Johan Kok		1//		1//	13//	8//	37//		
FS18	72	684	Louise Coetzee		3//			6//	2//	44//		
FS19	84.6	1155	Ronél du Preez	1//	3//		2//	43/4	5//	23//		
FS20	64.7	1432	Anne McLeod		2//		2//	18//		21//		
FS21	59	682	Leon Barkhuizen		1//		3//	1//		39//		
FS23	76	683	Chris Botha	6/1/1		1//			4//	4//		
FS27	82	694	Erika Schulze	2//	1//	2//		25/21/	7//	5//		2SB
FS29	61	822	Stephanie Gerber							13/1/		
FS31	76.4	259	Johan van Niekerk		3//		2//	1//	19//	12//		
FS35	78	1258	Hannes Blom		3//			52//	3//	22//		
FS39	77	689	Ann Hiemstra		2//				5//	8//		
FS40	76	1257	Steven Squires	2//	4//		1//			15//		
FS42	71	952	Kevin Preddy			7//	5//	3//		7//		
FS43	76.1	1052	Duart Hugo				1//			33//		
FS45	74	1394	Francois Breedt		1//			8//		9//		
FS47	86	1055	Johan van den Berg		4//		1//	67/6/	2//	34//		
FS50	81.5	1058	Frans Marais		3//			4//	2//			2KK
FS51	79.4	1049	Thea du Plessis	4//	12//	5//	2//	8//		2//		3BS, 1YS
FS52	78.3	599	Nick van der Walt		2//		1//	3//	10//	7//		
FS54	57.3	1262, 818	Janine Lieffrig & E Beemsteboer	1//	4//	1//	6//	10//	54//	42//		
FS55	51.7	1147	JL Uys				1//		5//	25//	52//	
FS56	72	988, 987	Stephanus & Jeanette Buys		4//	3//	2//	8//	23//	89//	62//	270AS
FS58	84	863	Pierre Nel		1//	1//	3//			31//		15AS, 1KB
FS60	70.4	1152, 1289	Buks & Annatjie Roets	4//		13//	1//	1//	10//	24//		1AS, 2KB, 2YS
FS65	80	1200	Stephan Barnard				1//			15//		1KB
FS67	67.7	950	Daan Müller	2/2/	3//			188/1/	6//	13//	1//	
FS68	63.4	1051	WJ Böing				1//	17//		2//		
FS70	60.5	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helène Bam		9//	1//	8//		12//		34//	
FS77	54	1263, 1264	Henk & Laetitia van Vuuren		5//	4//	3//	17//			200//	1KK
FS79	54.8	1397, 1757	Dewald & Patsy Liebenberg		2//			41//	3//	22//		
FS81	58	1269	AJ Bruwer		2//	3//		8//			9//	
FS82	72.9	864	Sawas Vrahimis		3//	1//	1//			8//		
FS83	47	1297	Johan Coertzen		5//				3//			
FS85	78	285	JB Cloete		8//			12//	2//	23//		
FS86	65	1499	Thys Strydom				2//	2//		10//		7AS
FS87	58.2	1501, 1500	Wessel & Rina Bester		2//	1//		2//				6KK
FS88	60	1400	Ivan van Rooyen		1//	1//		15/20/		12//		
FS91	56.9	641	Rick Nuttall	18//	11//		5//	32//	5//	49//		
FS92	68.1	1201, 1723	CGF Krohn & Callie Bam				2//		6//			
FS93	52.6	700	Johan Watson		2//	35//	2//	6//	3//	3//	1//	
FS94	69.8	1048	Samuel Pauw		8//		1//		4//	4//		
FS98	42.1	1056	PL Crouse	4//	2//					3//		1HAR
FS99	70.2	1057	Lourens Goosen			1//		10//		30//		
FS100	58.1	24	Brian Colahan	106//1	1//	7//	7//	4//	8//	2//	1//	
FS101	63.1	24	Brian Colahan	15//		5//		5//	2//		2//	
FS102	69.8	686, 687	Jan & Riëtte Griesel	10//		8//			9//	11//		
FS103	55.9	865	Stephan van der Walt				1//			36//		
FS104	73	1395	Geoff Johnson		1//			28//	8//	13//		
FS105	82	696	Jeremy Staples		2//		1//			3//		
FS108	61	1140, 1141, 129	John & Jill Moffett & Allen Jones	19//				21/17/	3//		188//	92AS, 1HAR
FS110	57.4	1396	Jeremy Jones		2//		1//	7/2/		21//		
FS111	74.9	1724	Wolffie Wolfaardt		1//		2//		7//	38//		
FS112	60	1747	Morné Pretorius		4//			2//	11//	37//		
FS113	90	1616	Danie Krynnauw		3/1/				13/4	6//		1BS, 1YS
FS114	79	713	Francois Nieuwoudt				2//			1//		
FS115	67.3	1644	Dawie Human	10//	1//		1//	20//		11//		
FS116	48	1645	Hannes du Toit		2//		1//	11//	3//	26//		
FS117	66.7	691	Willie Mostert		2//		1//		2//	14//		3YS
Total	4497			387	168	138	84	843	250	1038	710	385AS, 5BS, 3HAR, 5KB, 10KK, 2SB, 11YS
Birds/100 km				8.6	3.7	3.1	1.9	18.7	5.6	23.1	15.8	

Number of birds counted in January 2003 census in northwestern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SEC	SG	WQK	WS	Other spp.		
FW13	54.3	1515	Johann Potgieter				21//					
FW16	68.8	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe		4//		6//	13//				
FW18	52.2	1268	Herman Jordaan		4//			80//		1HAR		
FW26	76.4	1174	SA Gouws		2//		7//	14//				
FW28	55.4	1162	Piet van der Merwe		2//			15//				
FW29	64	1168	Gert Claassen		2//		5//	1//		1HAR, 2YS		
FW34	78	1163	Des Walker		11//		70//	65//				
FW35	55	1165	Debbie Yeats		5/2/			10//		4WS		
FW36	78	28	Johan Hardy		4//			25//				
FW40	62	1647	H Malan					3//				
FW43	67	1176	Robert Drewes					2//				
FW44	57	1176	Robert Drewes									
FW45	51.5	1563	Gert Jordaan				4//	4//				
FW47	60	831	Meyer de Kock			2//		13//				
FW51	82.1	1253	JJ den Houting	2//	3//			37//	88//		2KB, 4UK	
FW53	96	1173	Chris de Lange		1//			12//	35//			
Total	1058			2	40	2	162	368	2HAR, 2KB, 4UK, 4WS, 2YS			
Birds/100 km				0.2	3.8	0.2	15.3	34.8				

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	BH	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!

