



Avian Demography Unit

Department of Statistical Sciences
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701 South Africa
Phone: (021) 6504239/6502423
Fax: (021) 6503434
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.



Mazda
Wildlife Fund
The Driving Force
Behind Conservation

The Tony and Lisette Lewis
Foundation South Africa



COORDINATED AVIFAUNAL ROADCOUNTS (CAR)

Newsletter 15

December 2003

General

This year is rushing to an end and it is amazing to be planning the summer count already.

In this newsletter there are photographs of two school groups that have been involved in CAR counts. I received a delightful letter from Rob Böhmke who takes a group of Indwe High School pupils on EE13. They either breakfast or lunch or camp at a river on his farm, part of which has been set aside as a sanctuary, 'before returning to reality and school'. I would like you to encourage schools to become involved in CAR, or ask school pupils to assist you on your route. I know bird clubs are concerned about their future, due to a lack of younger members. I do feel CAR provides an ideal opportunity for young people to experience birding, gain skills in scientific observation and recording, and enjoy themselves!

Thank you for counting your routes so regularly. I know it makes a huge difference to Precinct Organisers to have the same people counting most routes, and from a scientific point of view the data is more valuable as routes are counted in the same way each time. Generally, conditions were fine for the winter count, although very dry and cold in some areas.

Judging by the entries in the 'close to' column, this needs some clarification. Do please read the relevant section at the back of this newsletter. Birds may be in a habitat because of a food or water source or some other important factor nearby. You do not need to fill in this column unless there is something within about 100 m that may determine the birds' presence in that habitat. You don't need to put down 'road' for this column.

I have enclosed the **CAR 9 roadcount form** and, as usual, important points about CAR counts are included 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 contact you regarding counting on Saturday, 31 January 2004. 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 on the winter count, with photographs, under *What is new*. If you did not receive an email advising you about this report in September, please email me as I obviously don't have your **email address on my distribution list**. 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.

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 in any reports like the one just published. If your name did not appear in the report, we do

regret this; it means your ADU number did not appear on the roadcount form.

I have also enclosed a pamphlet for those of you within the Black Harrier's breeding range, to spread awareness about the Black Harrier project. **Our sincere thanks go to the Western Cape Raptor Research Programme** for contributing to the postage of this newsletter.



If you didn't receive a pamphlet and are interested in this project, please contact Andrew Jenkins (ajenkins@botzoo.uct.ac.za, 082 959 9238).

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 CAR, so that we can remove you from the mailing list and reduce costs. **A reminder to note my changed email address: donella@adu.uct.ac.za**

CAR Report

All regular route leaders should have received a copy of the eight-year report '*Big Birds on Farms: Mazda CAR Report 1993-2001*'. I hope you have enjoyed seeing your route fitting into the bigger picture of these magnificent birds. I have heard from Chris van Rooyen, of Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership, that he is finding the information most useful in preparing Environmental Impact Assessments for Eskom. David Gaynor also reported that the Bald Ibis species account was helpful at the recent Bald Ibis Action Plan workshop. Thank you for positive comments regarding the report.

We are grateful to Mazda Wildlife Fund for making it possible to send out one copy per route. If you would like to receive a copy of this report, or know of anyone who would find it useful, please contact the ADU or order through our web page. The cost (including postage) is R130.

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

Date of summer CAR count

The date set for the summer count is **Saturday, 31 January 2004**. 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 nearest possible day. The next winter count will be on Saturday, 31 July 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 **oribi**). Remember that **Korhaans should be counted both when seen and when heard**. All other species should be recorded only when seen. However, do take special care when identifying **Black and Whitequilled Korhaans in parts of the Eastern Cape**, or **Blue and Karoo Korhaans in the southern Free State**. Both species occur in these areas and are easily confused.

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 parts of their ranges.

Reminders

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. 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

I am pleased to report that we have been able to find R114 000 for CAR in the last few months. We are particularly grateful to the Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation South Africa who have sponsored CAR this year and agreed to meet a third of next year's budget. The response from bird clubs has been most encouraging and we are grateful to the Border, Cape, Somerset West, St Francis Bay, Tygerberg and Vryheid bird clubs for their contributions. The Sani Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, as well as the Dullstroom Flyfishers, have also sponsored routes in their areas.

Neil Smith, who is a regular CAR participant, made a determined effort to assist in sourcing funding for CAR and through a work contact was able to secure substantial funding from CHC Urethane Products (Pty) Ltd. Many thanks also to them. At this point **we still need R80 000 for next year**. If you are



aware of any potential sponsors, please let me know.

Thank you to Yvonne Craig for writing an article about the CAR report in her local paper and Alison Richardson for her report on the Wakkerstroom count in *Bokmakierie*. Mark Anderson (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation) put a striking photograph and article in the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* about the CAR report. A press release about the report, as well as the article on ten years of counting cranes in the Overberg, were published in *Promerops*, the Cape Bird Club newsletter, and the West Coast Bird Club newsletter. If there are other reports that I am unaware of, please send me a copy to include in the annual report.

Mpumalanga



Conditions were very dry in the Steenkampsberg and Wakkerstroom areas, where many of the dams and wetlands were empty.

Steenkampsberg precinct

David Gaynor, of Highlands Crane Group, reports:

'Of particular interest was the sighting of White Storks on MS09, unusual in winter and positively confirmed. Of concern was the low count of Spurwinged Geese, by far the lowest of 12 CAR counts. Drought? Hunting?'

Please continue to count Helmeted Guineafowl on the Steenkampsberg routes and use the abbreviation **HG**. Remember to fill in details about activity and location (i.e., the last three columns) for Bald Ibis, as well as for cranes and bustards.

Ringed cranes

You will find the *Top ten facts of birds ringed and recovered under What is new* fascinating reading and one of our CAR birds, a White Stork, features as the first ring recovery in South Africa – in Himeville, KZN, in January 1909! This bird was ringed in Hungary.

There were a few colour ring re-sightings: Tom and Freya Brett saw a ringed Blue Crane (OV03), Keith Moodie saw two (OV08), Sue Mare and John Coats saw three (OV14) and Brian Colahan saw one in the southern Free State (FS118), which had been ringed about 75 km away in the Northern Cape. A telescope does help to check colour combinations. The Overberg Crane Group would like to thank all CAR participants for the information you are collecting.

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.

The South African Crane Working Group has a website that you may like to visit: www.ewt.org.za/cranes

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!

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in Mpumalanga											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SG	UK	HG	Other spp.
MS01	56.7	726, 725, 724	David & Helen Gaynor, L Cohen		3//					10//	1SB, 2SEC
MS02	56.6	1725, 1726	Des & Ann des Brulais		1//	2//					1BBK, 1SEC
MS04	64	727, 1554	Frans & Ronel Krige		1//					119//	
MS05	55.5	728, 727	Anton Linström & Frans Krige		5//		5//	/2/		48//	
MS06	64.3	1259, 1260	Jeremy, Jill & Natasha Brown		2//					4//	
MS07	56.2	1109, 1246, 1759	B & A Rowland, T Pohlandt- Watson							30//	
MS08	37.5	1178, 1841	Hendrik & Letitia van Wyk								
MS09	55	1727, 1780, 1781	J McLuskie, L-J Theron, L Breebaart		1//	1//				30//	3WBK, 3WS
MS13	60.8	1640, 1309	Toos Dijkzeyl & Marius Kuipers		1//	17//					1SEC
MT01	91	1816, 1817	Colin & Nalda Williams	62//	5//	11//		52//	3//	32//	1SEC, 11SF
MW01	57	1001	Alison Richardson		9//	35//	4//			27//	
MW02	61	1555, 1377	Lia Steen & Koos van Dyk		2//	31//	1//			55//	1SEC
MW03	70	1369	Lester Niss		2//	2//				68//	
MW04	69	1548, 1818	Malcolm & Lorraine Forbes		4//	11//			4//	30//	1SEC, 9WBK
MW05	68.6	1729, 1819	Chris & Carol Cardwell		1//	11//			9//	50//	
MW06	57.2	1618, 1751	Craig & Karin Nelson		6//	13//	21//			121//	1BS, 1HAR, 3SEC
MW07	65.5	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth		2//	12//			3//	26//	2SEC
Total	1046			62	45	146	30	55	19	650	1BS, 1BBK, 1HAR, 1SB, 12SEC, 11SF, 12WBK, 3WS
Birds/100 km				5.9	4.3	14	2.9	5.3	1.8	62.1	
MS - Steenkampsberg precinct, MT - Standerton precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct											

Middelburg precinct

Unfortunately it is proving difficult to find someone to take over from Casper Venter, who initiated these routes and the Middelburg routes have not been counted this year. I hope they will be continued in the future.

Wakkerstroom precinct

Alison Richardson, of Wits Bird Club, reports:

'The actual Wakkerstroom wetland was almost completely dry, and many of the dams were mere mud patches: the lack of water affected the bird numbers dramatically. Alas, the Wattled Cranes

still elude us on our seven CAR routes.' As in the Steenkampsberg, the Spurwinged Goose numbers were very low. Malcolm and Lorraine Forbes saw 9 Whitebellied Korhaans on their route, MW04, but Hendrik and Letitia van Wyk only saw 4 bush pig (4 BP!).

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

Standerton precinct

Colin and Nalda Williams started a new route near Standerton on which 62 Blue Cranes were sighted, as well as seven other species including Bald Ibis and Blue Korhaan. They are hoping to involve other people in the project and add more routes.



Karoo, Northern Cape

Mark Anderson, Ornithologist, Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment & Conservation, reports:

'The 17th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTBS) took place on 26 July 2003. This project is now in its ninth year and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the participants, from the stalwarts who have been involved since July 1995 to those who have recently joined this bi-annual initiative. In summary, 38 people in 20 vehicles participated, travelling a distance of 1177 km. A total of 999 large terrestrial birds of eight species were recorded (84.9 birds/100 km; almost one large terrestrial bird/km). 173 Ludwig's Bustards were counted (14.7 birds/100 km) compared to 67 bustards during July 2002 (6.4 birds/100 km). These birds tend to frequent the winter rainfall region during the winter months, but the larger number recorded in the eastern Karoo this winter is surely indicative of the severe drought currently being experienced in Namaqualand.'

'Significantly fewer Blue Cranes were observed during July 2003 (618; 52.5 birds/100 km) compared to July 2002 (1292; 124.2 birds/100 km). The reason for the lower number is not clear, but could be because fewer large flocks were observed (the large flocks usually boost the total number). This July the largest flocks numbered 66, 71 and 73 individuals (with an average flock size of 13.7 birds) compared to the three largest flocks of 170, 239 and 300 individuals recorded during July 2002 (average flock size of 59.1 birds). Perhaps the eastern Karoo Blue Cranes were elsewhere this winter – perhaps in the Overberg. There is however no evidence to support the theory that Blue Cranes move between the different regions. Despite many observations of colour-ringed Blue Cranes in the Northern Cape's eastern Karoo (232 birds have been colour-ringed), the only observation of one of these marked birds in another region has been on Brian Colahan's route (FS118) about 75 km away.'

'Three Stanley's Bustards were observed by Diana Greathead in the Colesberg area. Although this species occurs only marginally in the eastern Karoo and we have rejected previous records, the fairly regular observations of this species by competent bird-watchers may mean that we need to reconsider some of those earlier records.'

'Finally, thanks again to all the participants for giving up a Saturday morning to count large terrestrial birds, to Ronelle Visagie for all her assistance with the day-to-day running of the project, and to Donella Young for the overall coordination of the CAR project.'

I do appreciate Mark and Ronelle's coordination of this project.

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in Karoo										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	SEC	UK	WQK	Other spp.
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	3//	4//	11//			1//	
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock		3//	1//				
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	32//	4//	2//			1//	
NK031	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	2//		1//				
NK032	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	173/3//		15//		4//	1//	
NK033	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	2//						
NK041	20	501	Francois Taljaard			8//	1//			
NK042	20	501	Francois Taljaard				1//		1//	
NK043	20	501	Francois Taljaard	2//		8//			1//	
NK061	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	58/2//	2//	2//		5//		
NK062	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	60/4//		4//		6//	2//	
NK063	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	2//		14//	3//			
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe			1//			1//	
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe				2//		4//	
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe						3//	
NK091	20	480	Peter Ferreira						5//	
NK092	20	480	Peter Ferreira		1//				1//	
NK093	20	480	Peter Ferreira						5//	
NK101	20	1086	Jannie Venter	3//					6//	
NK102	20	1086	Jannie Venter	2//					6//	
NK103	20	1086	Jannie Venter						1//	4SG
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith	66//				3//		
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith						1//	
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith							
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead	12//						1SB
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead	4//		2//			1//	2SB
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead					5//		
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson		5//	2//			1//	
NK222	20	105	Mark Anderson						1//	
NK223	20	105	Mark Anderson						2//	
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						5//	5SG
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie			4//			3//	
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						6//	
NK271	20	1814	MB Malatji						2//	
NK272	21	1814	MB Malatji						3//	
NK273	15	1814	MB Malatji							
NK311	20	1085	Grant Naude		2//	8//				
NK312	20	1085	Grant Naude	15/3//		7//		1//		
NK313	20	1085	Grant Naude					1//		4SG
NK341	20	668	John Bell					5//	2//	
NK342	20	668	John Bell	2//	2//					
NK343	20	668	John Bell	82//						
NK361	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter	4//	9//	9//				
NK362	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter			2//			1//	1SG
NK363	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter					1//	1//	
NK371	20	1491, 1815	Christiaan & M Venter					1//		
NK372	20	1491, 1815	Christiaan & M Venter		3//	4//		3//		
NK373	21	1491, 1815	Christiaan & M Venter		2//					
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	25//		11//		3//		
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe		1//	1//				
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2//	1//	6//			1//	
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)	2//		5//	1//		14//	
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)						14//	
NK441	20	1642	Nell Kingwill	6//		6//				
NK442	20	1642	Nell Kingwill	16//		8//				
NK443	20	1642	Nell Kingwill	24/4//		8//				
NK451	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden		9//	23//				
NK452	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	2//						
NK453	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden							
Total	1177			618	48	173	11	35	97	3SB,14SG
Birds/100 km				52.5	4.1	14.7	0.9	3.0	8.2	

Western Cape

Swartland precinct

Due to a severe drought in this area there were many patchy wheat fields, or even bare, unplanted fields. The Spurwinged Goose numbers were at an all time high, probably partly because they were more visible due to the reduced height of the wheat. Jens and Diane Oebüttel, as well as James and Francis Harrison, recorded the highest number of Blue Cranes ever seen on SW09 and SW10, respectively.

Although no over-wintering White Storks were recorded on Swartland routes, Jan Hofmeyer, who does regular counts on a pig farm near Tygerberg Zoo, counted 290 birds on the CAR day!

Overberg precinct

Patrick Hurly saw the highest total of Stanley's Bustard (49) on OV06 since counts began. John Carter and his Somerset West Bird Club team saw an amazing total of 26 Karoo Korhaans on OV05, the most ever recorded on an Overberg route. This total has been surpassed only by the Beaufort West route, on which 46 were recorded this last winter. Pierre van den Berg, Louis Fielies and Willem du Toit of Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve saw seven different CAR species, including 10 White Stork and 786 Blue Cranes, on OV16. Keith Moodie (OV08) and Sue Mare and John Coats (OV14) also had high totals of Blue Cranes, 714 and 561 respectively. All the routes with more than 300 Blue Cranes were west of the Swellendam-Bredasdorp road and south of the N2, an area that received better rains. The total number of Blue Cranes was the highest yet recorded. Sue and John also saw 5 Ludwig's Bustards on OV14, which is unusual. There were 12 Black Harriers on OV34, a route started by Heynè Brink that is largely through natural vegetation in the test range area of De Hoop Nature Reserve. Heather Busby reported seeing a Blackheaded Heron holding a rat in its bill and swallowing it in one gulp. Details about meeting on Wicus and Hanlie Leeuwner's farm are enclosed.

Beaufort West precinct

Route WB01 had its highest total of Karoo Korhaans (46) and Ludwig's Bustards (18) ever.

Little Karoo precinct

Gilly Schütte is planning a recce for a new route near Robertson.

Uniondale precinct

This area received good rains. Mike and Gill Euston-Brown and Barry du Plessis had an exciting count with 62 Stanley's Bustard, all along the first 40 km of dirt road, and 273 Blue Cranes! This total of Stanley's Bustards has been equalled only on OV13 in July 2000. This is the highest number of Blue Cranes ever seen on a route in this area. In a recent email, Peter Chadwick, the new Kammanasie Reserve Manager, remarked on the increase in cranes in this area.

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in Swartland							
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.
SW01	75	681	Dirk du Toit	2//		45//	1BK
SW02	76.4	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker		3//	59//	
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & Pat Waddell	67//	3//	49//	1BK
SW04	65	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	33//		41//	
SW05	63.5	991, 1216	Donella Young & Liz Turner	4//	2//	167/3//	
SW06	75.5	1368, 1565	Ralph Wordon & Libby Kerr	53//	10//	120//	
SW07	43	477	Koos de Goede	23/3//	5//	152//	
SW08	72	1474	Bruce MacKenzie	4//	2//	10//	1HAR
SW09	62.6	1135, 1467	Jens & Diane Oelbüttel	84/2//		170//	1BK, 2SEC
SW10	62.7	223, 1714	James & Francis Harrison	50//		79//	1BK, 1SEC
SW11	65.5	479	David Dixon		2//	5//	
SW12	77.9	1552, 1553	Tielman & Alta Klynsmith	2//	5//	14//	6BK, 2SEC
SW13	50.4	674, 673	Tertius & Elna Slabber	24//		175//	
SW14	54	506	Riaan van der Walt	23//	1//	124//	
Total	907			374	33	1213	10BK, 1HAR, 5SEC
Birds/100 km				41.2	3.6	133.7	

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in Overberg										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SB	SEC	SG	Other spp.
OV01	58	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	16/4//	1//				17//	
OV02	66	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	4//	3//		1//		5//	
OV03	48.9	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	42//	9//				40//	
OV04	27	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	157/28//	1//					1HAR
OV05	70.6	228, 1064, 1148, 227	John Carter, Max, Brian & Ben	130//	20//	26//	10/4//		5//	
OV06	52.6	619, 1655	Patrick Hurly & Stuart McLennan	53/4//	3//		49//		19//	1BK
OV07	69.6	801, 802	Keith & Ann McAdam	123/5//	16//				4//	
OV08	74.6	492	Keith Moodie	700/14//	11//		46//		11//	1BK
OV09	46	234	Craig Thom	165/1//	1//		3//		16//	
OV10	57	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	16//	1//				4//	
OV11	62.6	244, 245, 246	Pieter & Sheila Siebert, M Loubser	22//	8//				20/5//	
OV12	56	215, 216, 1380, 1838	Heather Busby, Dawn, Gillian & Wendy	121//	6//	2//	21//		25//	
OV13	70	520, 229, 672, 671	Jill Mortimer, Ines, René & Ann	386//	19//	2//	36//	4//	26//	2BK
OV14	92	164, 123	Sue Maré & John Coates	525/36//	2//	6//	10//		12//	2HAR, 5LB
OV15	54.5	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	224//	2//				4//	
OV16	61	249, 981, 1379	Pierre van den Berg, L Fielies, W du Toit	786//	25//	7//	19//	4//	4//	1BK, 10WS
OV17	59	878, 1839	Lee Burman & Annette Rabie	181//	1//		7//		59//	
OV18	47.5	240, 1712	Wicus & Hanlie Leeuwner	253//					8//	
OV19	62	219, 1213, 1632	Ronnie Crowther, E Stodel & C Wallace	25//		2/1//	1//		10//	
OV20	60	1325	Neville Passmore	303//	18//				25//	3BK
OV21	64	1440, 1840	Alex & Nancy Swanepoel & team	10//	7//		7//		22//	2HAR
OV22	60	48, 392	Mick Killeen & Joy von Korff	194//	10/1//		21//		4//	
OV23	56	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall	6//	33/1//				26/2//	
OV24	57.5	636, 1212	Mick D'Alton & Gerald Swanepoel		2//		8//		6//	
OV25	57	1469, 1777, 1778	Avril Young, Rae & Ann Gordon	18//	7//				34//	1HAR
OV26	19.4	871	Jeffrey Arizon & 4 Teslaarsdal learners	6//	1//				3//	2HAR
OV27	68	1786, 1569	Keith Spencer & Augie Hess & team	18//	2/1//		5/2//		104//	
OV28	39	1462, 1825	Tonia & Flip Schonken		6//				17//	
OV29	26.5	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	34/6//	1//				60//	
OV33	62	1463	Frans de Graaff & family	10//	10//		14//		12//	2HAR
Total	1704			4626	229	46	264	4	609	8BK, 10HAR, 5LB, 10WS
Birds/100 km				271.4	13.4	2.7	15.5	0.2	35.7	
OV34	60.9	1550, 1551, 1599	Heynè & Sharon Brink, Peet Botes		5//				1//	2BK, 12HAR

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in other Western Cape precincts									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other spp.	
WB01	64.5	343	Maria Andela			46//		18LB	
WC01	41	1291	George Hattlingh		11//		2//	6BK, 5SB	
WK01	45	1003	Andrew Schofield	46//				1SEC	
WU01	50	934, 1392	Peter Chadwick & Jan de Jaar	2//				7SB	
WU02	57	539, 1332	Jonas Witbooi & Kerry Hampson	5//			3//		
WU05	70.2	297, 1520, 1521	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown & Barry	273//			2//	62SB	
Total	328			326	11	46	7	6BK, 18LB, 74SB, 1SEC	
Birds/100 km				99.5	3.4	14.0	2.1		
WB - Beaufort West precinct, WC - Calitzdorp precinct, WK - Little Karoo precinct, WU - Uniondale precinct									

Indwe High School learners crossing the river after breakfast on their CAR day. Usually the water is crystal clear but there had just been a down-pour.



Eastern Cape

Helen Lechmere-Oertel, the new Educational Officer at North East Cape Forests, and Adèle Moore 'were madly excited to find two Wattled Cranes' on EE03. Jon Smallie, of East Cape Crane Project, South African Crane Working Group, thought this could be the pair from Rush Valley Pan (further up the mountains) that hadn't been sighted for months. The Kori Bustard numbers were the highest yet recorded. Sandy Stretton's route EE19 again had the highest number of Blue Korhaan (35) in the province. Sandy noted the dry conditions and that June and July had been the coldest since 1978 and 1987 respectively. Strangely, Bo Bonnevie and his team from Diaz Cross Bird Club, encountered "LOTS of traffic – *King Solomon's Mines* film crew, actors, horse-trailers, you name it!" on their route EG03, which is on one of the worst narrow roads I have been on. Graham Winch remarked on the lack of bustards and Secretarybirds on his route, EB01, possibly because of the long, very cold period in May/June when birds descend to coastal areas.

In the Humansdorp area there was some frustration that the crane numbers were lower on the count day. I know many of you experience this! However, observers on EH05 saw many more birds than ever before. Yvonne Craig had been wondering if it was worth continuing the route, but this count proved that it is worth persevering. "The birders were ecstatic about their count, especially the Whitebellied Korhaan(4) and Stanley's Bustard(24). They saw none at all last winter, when it was particularly dry." This area had received a fair amount of rain over the past few months.

Debbie Abrahamson, the Environmental Educational Officer for the Blue Crane Route Municipality, Somerset East, did a recce for a new route ES07. Dave Brown had to alter EP08 slightly due to a closed road. Do please take care in **distinguishing between Black and Whitequilled Korhaans.**

Free State

Brian Colahan, Ornithologist, Free State Department of Tourism, Environment and Economic Affairs, reports:

'Over 100 routes were surveyed in the three Free State precincts for the 2003 winter CAR (some route leaders have still to submit their forms), with good weather experienced along most of them. A total of 5491 birds was counted along the 6705 km covered, or 82 birds/100 km, which was substantially more than the figure for the 2002 winter count (60/100 km).'

'This was largely due to the 1758 Blue Cranes (1349 in 2002),

1077 Whitequilled Korhaans (629 in 2002) and 315 Bald Ibises (111 in 2002) recorded. Numbers were also up for the Blue Korhaan (456 vs 289), Ludwig's Bustard (139 vs 70), Stanley's Bustard (5 vs 0), Kori Bustard (7 vs 2), Wattled Crane (4 vs 0), and Black Stork (34 vs 4), but down for Secretarybird (64 vs 104), Crowned Crane (130 vs 216), Blackheaded Heron (141 vs 347), Spurwinged Goose (1345 vs 1494) and Black Harrier (5 vs 11).'

'Three of the Wattled Cranes were spotted along route FN52 (by JC & JML Strauss) in a nearly dry pan (together with 264 Blue

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in Eastern Cape												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BK	CC	LB	SB	SEC	SG	Other spp.
EB01	62.3	175, 174	Ken & Gertie Griffith		8//		2//		9//	2//		
EB02	73	1398	Keith Marshall		2//				2//		4//	
EB03	66.7	115	Graham Winch		7//		9/1/				1//	
EB04	62.1	1567, 1568	Barbara & Ken Monfoort		18//				2//	2//	5//	
EE01	38	1129, 1730	Adèle Moore & Helen Lechmere-Oertel				9/5/			2/1/		
EE02	73.8	1126	Jon Smallie		1//		6//		1//			
EE03	35	1730, 1129	Helen Lechmere-Oertel & Adèle Moore	1//	2/1//		135/5/		3//		6//	2WC
EE05	65	896, 1430	Fred & Retha Leask				29/1/					
EE06	67.6	1126	Jon Smallie		4//		21//			1//		
EE08	71.8	1126	Jon Smallie		8//		82//					
EE10	63	899	Kevin Meise							1//		
EE11	55	1261	Mike Agenbag		1//		12//					8BI
EE12	54	901	Jenni Brown				2/2//			1//		
EE13	64.7	1743, 1067	Rob Böhmke & 15 Indwe High learners	56//	1//						13//	5BI
EE17	39.4	1126	Jon Smallie		1//		1//					
EE18	41.9	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton				2//			8//		6UK
EE19	83.2	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton		4//		2/2//			1//	3//	35UK
EG01	84	161, 887	Adrian Craig & Nikki Köhly	42//	4//	1//		1//	9//			
EG02	53	565	Pat Hulley & family	8//		1//		7//		3//		
EG03	76.7	341, 1530	Bo Bonnevie & Lorraine Mullins		7//	3//				2//		2KB
EH03	59	313, 1772	Victor Craig & Maggie Keulemans	48//	9//				16//	1//	26//	1HAR
EH04	44.5	1132, 1767	David & Jill Tudhope		2//							11//
EH05	38	1612, 1794	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout						24//	1//	104//	4WBK
EH06	55.4	312, 1768, 1769	Yvonne Craig, Liz & Emyln Home	37//	10//	1//			32//		22//	1WBK
EK02	58.6	885, 1523	John Lardner-Burke & Alan Wilson		15//				1//		202//	4WBK
EK04	59.2	884, 1525	Peter Metcalf & T Cockcroft		11//				9//			1HAR
EK05	62.5	886, 1527, 1528	Maureen Turner, J Roxburgh & L Wood		17/1//				11//		45/2//	
EP01	74	1302	Kevin Hendrikse	88//	1//			13//				5KB, 9KK, 3WQK
EP03	61	872	Denzil Ward				1//					4KK
EP04	72.9	869, 271	Peter Hall & EH Sauer	2//	1//	1//		3//		2//	5//	13KK
EP06	53	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro	85/9//	5/1//				2//		6//	4WQK
EP07	74	1475	Alan Collett					4//				5UK, 27WQK
EP08	112.5	270	Dave Brown	87//				47//			1//	2KB, 14KK
EP09	31	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro		1//							
EP10	43	1731	John Bowker									4KK, 24WQK
EQ02	54.1	930, 1290	Don Field & Brian Ellison					2//		1//		5UK
ES02	48.5	873	David Jolliffe									3KK
ES03	61	873	David Jolliffe	26//								4KK
ES05	90.6	1182	Neil Turner	3//	1//				5//	1//	22//	24KB
ES07-r	88.2	1826	Debbie Abrahamson							1//	300//	2KB
EU01	65.8	1450, 1479	Sonja Vorster & Emile Plumstead		5//				4//	2//		
Total	2537			492	149	8	328	77	130	25	786	13BI, 2HAR, 35KB, 51KK, 51UK, 2WC, 9WBK, 58WQK
Birds/100 km				19.4	5.9	0.3	12.9	3.0	5.1	1.0	31.0	

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

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in northeastern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.	
FN13	69.3	606	Thomas Wessels		1//						1WQK	
FN16	54.7	701	Theunis Bekker	55//	1//	47//			16//	6/1//		
FN24	65	719	Georg Wandrag	2//	1//	2//		2//		3//		
FN26	66.4	974	Bradley Gibbons		1//	1//			3//			
FN29	68	721, 1219	Freda & John Whipp			12//				3//		
FN31	80	712, 1823	Frik & Griet Neethling	7//							1HAR	
FN32	52.6	1072	David Weaver		9//	50//		1//	3//	2//		
FN39	64.2	1433, 1810, 1470	Peter & Patsy Millin & G Potter	5//	7//			1//	2//			
FN40	65.7	942	Pieter Koonhof		12//	16//					1WQK	
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		3//	1//		2//		7//		
FN43	61.5	706, 1812	Harry & Christa Illsley		13//	9//		3//				
FN44	68.6	714, 1811	Frik & Linda Oosthuysen		12//	9//			29//	2//		
FN45	72.2	188, 945	Hazel Vickery & M van Gelder		1//	8//				3//	1WBK	
FN46	63	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer	2//					1//	6//		
FN48	58.2	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens								9WQK	
FN49	48.4	944	Gert Maritz			66//	86//			24//		
FN51	64.6	1157, 1821	Frans & Lana du Plooy		4//				21//			
FN52	70	717, 1844	JC & JML Strauss	264//	9//	9//			54/3//		3WC	
FN53	62	1272	JC Koster		3//	15/4//						
FN55	61.9	703	Nacelle Collins	42//	1//	53//	42//		16//	2//		
FN58	65	705	Paulus Fihlo				2//		1//		5SB	
FN59	39.9	336, 1822	Louis & Maureen Mileham		1//				2//		1HAR	
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes			6//		12//	10//		36WQK	
Total	1458			370	79	315	130	9	163	69	2HAR, 5SB, 1WBK 3WC, 47WQK	
Birds/100 km				25.4	5.4	21.6	8.9	0.6	11.2	4.7		

Cranes) in the wheat-growing region of the northeastern Free State, while the other was even further outside its usual Free State range, along FS104 in the eastern central Free State; it took off from near the road and flew over John and Dawnia Edgar's vehicle. The five Stanley's Bustards were all seen by Paulus Fihlo, along FN58 (just west of Harrismith), while Ronél du Preez and her team were enthralled by 30 of the Black Storks recorded, flying in a flock at the start of their route (FS19), just outside Petrusberg.'

Johan Cloete, who counts FS85, expressed concern about the large number of people with hunting dogs in the veld; he saw five hunting parties. Brian has asked that observers in the southeastern Free State check their korhaans carefully, as there may be some confusion between Karoo Korhaans and Blue Korhaans. Do confirm any Whitebellied Korhaan sightings as well.

I do appreciate Brian Colahan's hard work organizing so many routes and writing this report.

KwaZulu-Natal

In KZN conditions were windy in the Swartberg area. Jimmy and Lorraine Scott, who count KG11, remarked that the 7–8 month old Wattled Crane chick on Hebron farm was still with its parents, who were not showing any signs of breeding this winter. Ken Gordon, Neil Smith and Kevin Immelman saw the first Wattled Crane for route KL01. Ann Gray counted KL11 with six Grade 6 learners from Winterton Primary School, who appear in the accompanying photograph with their teacher, Trish Swanepoel. Crowned Crane numbers were the highest recorded since July 2001. Tony Roberts remarked on the dry, cold conditions and large areas of burnt land on his route KD11. A Yellowbilled Stork was recorded on the Behren's route, KN04. Ground Hornbills were seen on three routes. Gavin and Sandi Calverley's route, KO01, is the only route in KZN on which Ground Hornbills are sighted fairly regularly. If you see Ground Hornbills during the year, do let me know so that I can forward this information to the Ground Hornbill Research & Conservation Project.

Frik Lemmer, of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, started a new route in the Paulpietersburg area and is planning a recce for another route.

Thank you to KZN observers for including **oribi** (OR) in their counts. Thirty-two oribi were seen in total, with 13 observed on Midlands routes. While you are scanning for large terrestrial birds at each 2-km stop, please remember to 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. KZN Wildlife, who started the Oribi Working Group and are conducting research on this threatened species, will find this information useful.

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

Thank you to Tim Wood, of BirdLife Port Natal, who keeps 'his finger on the pulse' of CAR in KwaZulu-Natal.

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in southern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	SEC	SG	UK	WQK	Other spp.
FS02	73.2	1046	Blackie de Swardt	14//		3//	1//	2//	3//		
FS06	65	1059	P de Villiers	24//		10//			4//	7//	1KB
FS07	64.5	1746	Angelo Nichas	67//		8/2//			4//	4//	
FS08	69.4	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer		2//		1//			1//	1HAR
FS09	62.3	24	Brian Colahan						8//	3//	
FS12	64	1502, 1577	Christiaan & Hannie de Wit	29//	1//	10//		2//	15//	5//	
FS14	66	1262	Janine Lieftrig			3//			2//	10//	
FS15	87	1056	PL Crouse			18//				4//	
FS17	74	204, 1620	Johan & Dawie Kok						14//	44//	
FS19	84.6	1155	Ronél du Preez		2//			5//	10/1//	21//	30BS
FS20	64.7	1432, 1576	Anne McLeod & Lisa Joubert		1//		2//		3//	35//	
FS21	60.6	682	Leon Barkhuizen			8//	5//	17//		13//	
FS23	79	683	Chris Botha	203//14		1//		3//		5//	
FS27	83.3	694	Erika Schulze				1//		5//	3//	3BS, 1KK
FS29	62	822	Stephanie Gerber						3//	20//	
FS31	76.7	259	Johan van Niekerk						14//	2//	
FS35	75	1258	Hannes Blom					214//	12//	19//	
FS39	77	689	Ann Hiemstra						1//	7//	1KB
FS42	70	952	Kevin Preddy			2//	1//			1//	
FS43	76	1801, 1802	Christo & Mandi de Meyer		1//					20//	
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henriëtte van den Berg	11//	1//		2//	21//		36//	
FS48	75.7	1808	Ockie Boshoff				3//		6//	41//	
FS51	79.8	1049, 1796	Thea & Doep du Plessis			1//			13//	9/1//	
FS54	57.2	1262, 818	Janine Lieftrig & Elise Beemsterboer				1//	10//	12//	55//	
FS55	49.1	1147, 1803	Koos & Marianna Uys						8/2//	22//	
FS56	72	988, 987	Stephanus & Jeanette Buys				1//	31//	22//	72//	
FS58	79	863	Pierre Nel		2//		4//	3//		17//	
FS60	71.3	1152, 1289	Buks & Annatjie Roets	320//		6//		9//	4//	20/1//	1KK
FS65	80	1200	Stephan Barnard				1//			19//	2KB
FS66	55	1399, 1800	Tom & Sureka Mostert		1//		1//	2//		10//	
FS68	63.7	1051, 1795	Werner & Jennefer Böing					272//	5//	21//	
FS69	80	1065, 1421	Deon du Plessis & Michael la Grange		1//		1//		39//	5//	
FS70	60.7	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helène Bam				4//		18//	3//	2KB
FS73	66	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam						9//		1WS
FS77	54	1263, 1264	Henk & Laetitia van Vuuren		2//		1//			12//	1KB, 7KK
FS79	53	1397, 1757	Dewald & Patsy Liebenberg							18//	
FS80	84.6	1617, 1806	Amo & René Greyling				1//		4//	6//	
FS83	47	1297	Johan Coertzen								
FS85	77.5	285	JB Cloete		2//		1//	44//	7//	7//	1HAR
FS87	58.2	1501, 1500	Wessel & Rina Bester							15//	
FS88	60	1400	Ivan van Rooyen					48//	3//	10//	
FS91	56.1	641, 320	Rick Nuttall & Werner Sinclair		5//	4//	3//		9//	51//	
FS92	66	1201, 1797	Fritz & Jana Krohn		3//			2//	7//		
FS93	58.8	1799	Peter Dival		1//		2//		9//		1BS
FS97	56	1574, 1804	Dennis & Anita Oliphant				4//		8//	4//	
FS99	70.3	1057	Lourens Goosen	121//	4//			320//		9//	
FS101	63.5	24	Brian Colahan	214//	1//	14//		20//	2//		
FS102	69.5	687	Riëtte Griesel	4//	1//	10//	1//		9//	14//	
FS103	55.9	865	Stephan van der Walt		1//		1//			10//	
FS104	40	1836, 1837	John & Dawnia Edgar		2//			7//	3//		1KK, 1WC
FS108	61	1140, 1141, 129	John & Jill Moffet & Allen Jones		4//			2//			
FS110	49	1396	Jeremy Jones		3//			19//	21//	17//	
FS111	73.6	1724, 931	Wolfie & Francois Wolfaardt		1//				16//	20//	
FS112	60	1747	Morné Pretorius					15//	7//	27//	
FS113	87	1616	Danie Krynauw						8/2//	2//	
FS114	78	713	Francois Nieuwoudt				5//				
FS115	79	1644	Dawie Human		4//	2//				10//	
FS116	50	1645	Hannes du Toit		2//			1//	3//	18//	
FS117	67.2	691, 1807	Willie & Dawn Mostert						2//	8//	
FS118	72.3	24	Brian Colahan	367//		39//	3//		5//	6//	
Total	4055			1388	48	139	53	1069	377	805	34BS, 2HAR, 7KB, 10KK, 1WC, 1WS
Birds/100 km				34.2	1.2	3.4	1.3	26.4	9.3	19.9	

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in northwestern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	SEC	SG	WQK	Other spp.			
FW08	55	1514	PieterTerreblanche				6//				
FW13	58.8	1515, 1162	Johann Potgieter & Piet van der Merwe	1//							
FW16	68.8	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe				1//	2//			
FW18	51	1268	Herman Jordaan					38//			
FW19	70	1160	FG Botha		1//		17//	1HAR			
FW26	76.4	1174	Fanie Gouws					15//			
FW28	55	1162	Piet van der Merwe					6//			
FW29	64	1168	Gert Claassen	1//			3//				
FW31	66.2	1175	Cecil Whitfield	2//				17//			
FW34	76.5	1163	Des Walker		6//		93//	57//			
FW36	78.2	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy			1//		8//	6UK		
FW39	60	1166	Johan Grobler					2//			
FW43	66	1176	Robert Drewes					2//			
FW44	58	1176	Robert Drewes								
FW45	51.7	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan	1//		2//	8//				
FW51	81.2	1253	JJ den Houting	1//	1//		39//	4UK			
FW52	59	1631, 1827	Tony & Eileen Jones	1//				1//			
FW53	96	1173	Chris de Lange					9//			
Total	1192					14	2	113	225	1HAR, 10UK	
Birds/100 km						1.2	0.2	9.5	18.9		

Number of birds counted in July 2003 census in KwaZulu-Natal												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SB	SEC	SG	Other spp.
KC01	50.2	433	Malcolm Gemmill		1/4/		6/4/	32//	6//		1//	3OR, 4RWF
KD01	82	1829	FJ Cloete		1//		2//	12//				2WBK
KD02	63	1255, 1745	Dennis Holmes & Sonja Holmes		1//	9//		82//		2//	3//	
KD03	74	1830	T Muller		1//			10//		2//		1OR, 6WBK
KD04	51	611, 1831, 1832, 1833	Tony Roberts & family					187//				
KD05	52	677, 1711	Paul & Bev Garner		2//	7//		151//		1//		4SF
KD06	51	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker		1//	2//						
KD07	70	909, 1835	Heino & Zelda Wellmann			5//					2//	1BBK
KD08	63	1834	Peter Stroeweg		3//						5//	
KD10	26	806, 1713	Mark & Elisabeth Durham									
KD11	52	611	Tony Roberts		1//			20//		1//		
KD12	60	611, 1833, 1832	Tony, Brenden & Curteis Roberts									
KE01	112	1602	Rose Laatz		2//	9//				2//		
KG02	55.3	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry	1//	4//		97//	5//	3//		85//	1HAR
KG03	53	626, 1779	Malcolm & Sarah Rivett		6//		74//			1//	3//	
KG04	72.4	627, 628, 427, 428	Bob & Judi Williams, Bruce & Pat Whittle		2//		3//	55//	1//	2//	4//	
KG05	56.2	1134	Stiggs Cathcart		2//		62//	82//		2//	10//	
KG06	58.1	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter		3//	5//		97//		1//	3//	
KG07	49	630	Kobus Nel				29//				378//	
KG08	61.3	631	Mark Meter		4//						5//	
KG09	15	809	Rod Doming	10//	3//		368//		8//	2//	164//	35WC
KG10	36.3	1240, 1241	Ed & Myra Wells									
KG11	53.7	632, 633	Jimmy & Lorraine Scott		4//		44/1/	38//		1//		2OR, 3WC
KL01	86.4	50, 142, 1597	Ken Gordon, Neil Smith, Kevin Immelman	28//	8//		4/1/	179//	1//	4//	7//	3OR, 1WC
KL02	135	808	Tony Clarkson	2//	6//	6//	4//	65//				4GH, 14SF, 2SHF
KL10	33.2	1504	Rob Collett			10//		118//			43//	1BBK
KL11	34	814, 452	Ann Gray, Trish Swanepoel & 6 learners	17//	3//					1//		
KM01	77.2	498	Margie Sleigh		13/1/		2//	18//		2//	3//	4WC
KM02	66.2	474	Shirley Bennett		16//	4//	5//			1//		7OR
KM03	98	491	Rob Melville		36//		2//	95//		1//	137//	2OR, 2RWF
KM04	35	1610, 333	Betty Jones & Lu Haines		3//			17//				3OR
KM05	84	1719, 1720	Erwin & Helene Burmester		13//		5//	8//	2//	2//	7//	1OR, 6WC
KM06	94.1	1581, 1842	Evelyn & Derek Hughes	2/1/	9//		44//	21//		1//	18//	1GH, 2NF, 1RNF, 2WC
KM07	69.2	490, 1843	Kevin & Lindy McCann		1//	4//			2//		3//	
KM08	58	187, 1828	Monte & Eunice Pera		19//	2//	11//				546//	3OR
KN01	61.6	1793	Rieta Pienaar					22//			8//	4SF
KN03	54.8	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer					8//				
KN04	50.2	924, 1789	Herman & Dawn Behrens		5//	10/2/				1//	4//	1YS
KN05	48	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		2//	22//		16//			355//	2SF
KN06	73	1717, 1718	Nic & Ann van Helsdingen			2//		18//		2//		
KN07	95	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		1//	7//						1BS
KN08	80.6	997	Robert Stannard		2//				1//			
KO01	55.9	425, 1529	Gavin & Sandi Calverley									5GH
KP01	64.2	1792	Frik Lemmer		12//	5//	1//	9//		4//	104//	
KU01	68	429, 155	Chris Thomas & Brian Murray		11//	27//	12//	19//	7//	2//	18//	2OR
KU02	68	741, 1218	Richard & Bridget Robinson		15//		4//		10/3/		17//	5OR
KV01	81.4	1683	AP Keeve		20//	6//				1//	5//	5WBK
KV02	60.1	1732	Tom Mills		1//			10//		2//	1//	7CF
KV03	61.5	1566	Darryl Baxter		3//	11//						1SF
KV04	28.9	1790, 1791, 1722	A Steyn, D MacLennan, C Oberholster			2//						
Total	3138			44	259	160	882	1297	44	41	1939	1BS, 2BBK, 7CF, 10GH, 1HAR 2NF, 32OR, 1RNF, 6RWF, 25SF 2SHF, 13WBK, 51WC, 1YS
Birds/100 km				1.4	8.3	5.1	28.1	41.3	1.4	1.31	61.8	
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, KP - Paulpietersburg precinct, KU - Underberg precinct, KV - Vryheid precinct												

Right: Trish Swanepoel and Winterton Primary School Grade 6 learners, counting on Ann Gray's route, KL11.



New developments

Recce routes are being conducted near Standerton, Devon, Somerset East, Paulpietersburg and in the Klein Karoo. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife are also investigating the possibility of new routes in northern KZN.

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. Alison and Neville Passmore reported a dead Blue Crane under a powerline on OV20. On OV04 Tom and Freya Brett saw a Blue Crane with an amputated foot, probably due to baling twine. Vicki Hudson, the Overberg Crane Group field worker, has requested that all baling twine injuries be reported (phone 082 676 1734).

Thank you

Thank you for your commitment to this project, your skills and generosity in time and petrol. Your contribution of more than

R100 000 in this way, makes CAR more financially sustainable. I do hope it will continue for many years. I am particularly grateful to all Precinct Organisers for the vital link you have with route leaders and your skills in coordination and encouragement. I also appreciate Linda Tsipa's accurate capture of the winter count data and help with the tables.

Phone or email me about any problems or errors in this newsletter. All the best for the summer count!

*Donella Young,
Project Coordinator*

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!**

