

Avian Demography Unit

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

The Tony and Lisette Lewis
Foundation South Africa



COORDINATED AVIFAUNAL ROADCOUNTS (CAR)

Newsletter 18

June 2005

General

I am writing this newsletter feeling encouraged after attending the CAPE (Cape Action for People and the Environment) conference at Kirstenbosch last week. A wide range of projects was presented involving various communities in actively conserving their environment. I was delighted that some CAR participants were able to assist in a presentation on ADU projects involving volunteers, focusing on CAR. Learners from Teslaarsdal Primary School made a magnificent two-dimensional car with opening doors. Pieter Albertyn and Dawn Woods (who have done many Overberg counts) and Tony Rhaines and Jacobus Nel (Teslaarsdal Grade 7s) enacted what happens at each 2 km stop. The ADU received an award from CAPE "for mobilizing community participation in long-term bird monitoring." In an overview of monitoring the abundance of bird populations in North America, Jonathan Bart includes a section on 'Citizen Science', which highlights the important role played by volunteers (*Auk* 122(1): 15–25). **So to all of you observers out there, whether you be a farmer, bird club member, nature conservationist, school learner or nature lover – a big thank you for all your time, petrol and energy in counting regularly.**

In May I was invited to give three presentations at the South African Crane Group Workshop. As a result of all your counts I was able to present a number of histograms showing trends in crane numbers and the scientific value of CAR was acknowledged. SACWG is celebrating 10 years of crane conservation work!

The CAR project continues to grow and reach milestones! A new precinct was counted in the Chrissiesmeer area in Mpumalanga by the adventurous Wits Bird Club and the Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey completed their 20th count! Altogether 20 129 White Storks were counted on CAR routes this last summer!

However, the future of the project is in the balance as we have been unable to source regular funding to cover the costs of coordination, data capture and analysis and project material here at the Avian Demography Unit (read further under **CAR support**).

Email addresses

I am struggling to keep my distribution list up to date: email addresses change too frequently! I sent out an email informing you all about the website report on the summer count and a number bounced back. If you didn't receive that email, or whenever your email changes, do please let me know!

Updated trends and project material on the website

At a planning meeting that James and I held earlier this year we prioritized the need to update trends regularly. The ADU website, created by Rene Navarro is very user-friendly. The home page www.aviandemographyunit.org now has a CAR 'button'

which you click to find the CAR webpage, then scroll down to the table of species counted and click on Blue Crane, Crowned Crane and White Stork for updated trends. If you are missing any project material such as **Information Sheets**, or need extra **CAR leaflets** to hand out these can be **downloaded from a list**



at the foot of this CAR webpage. The interim CAR summer count report is also here, or on the 'What is new' page.

Count information

There are no changes to any of the project material. I have enclosed a **CAR 10 roadcount form** and a **CAR leaflet**. The leaflet is particularly helpful for farmers who are sometimes justifiably concerned

about strangers scanning their farmlands. Do be careful not to trespass.

Thank you for completing the route description form in January; the information about any changes on your route, particularly in land use, is particularly valuable. Do remember to notify us of any significant changes on a route at any time. Also thank you to those of you who remembered to send in a photocopy of your route map. **If you forgot to send in either of these**, please do after this coming count. The route description form can be obtained from your Precinct Organiser, or downloaded from the website.

Remember that it is not necessary to fill in the 'Relevant features nearby' column for every sighting, only if you feel a particular feature has attracted the bird(s).

I do encourage you to check through the Information Sheets prior to the count and don't forget to take them with you, as well as your **route map**. Forms are available in Afrikaans as well.

Linda Tsipa, who meticulously does all the data capture, asks that you check that you have filled in all the information at the top of the CAR roadcount form and habitat for all species. Could you please send in all your data by the middle of September, as it takes a while to curate. Do always keep a copy yourself!

Date of winter CAR count

The date set for the winter count is **Saturday, 30 July 2005**. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise and make every effort to do the count on this specified date. If for some last-minute, unavoidable reason you are unable to count on this date, please let your Precinct Organiser know and do it on the nearest possible day. The next summer count will be on Saturday, 28 January 2006.

ADU observer numbers and mailing list

If those who assist you regularly would like to receive an ADU number and be on the mailing list, do include their name, title, initials and postal and email address details on a separate piece of paper.

CAR Report

The eight-year CAR report is still available, do contact the ADU or order through our web page. The cost (including postage) is R150.

CAR support

As I mentioned earlier we have not been able to find a sponsor for CAR. BirdLife South Africa is helping by approaching some corporates on our behalf, but as yet nothing definite has materialized. If you have any contacts in companies, do let me know. The value of this database



increases with every count, as one can see the trends becoming clearer over time. We are monitoring many threatened species over a large area. I do hope and pray that funding will be forthcoming soon!

I am most grateful to the stalwart bird clubs of Somerset West, St Francis Bay and Tygerberg for their donations, as well as Dullstroom Flyfishers. Tony Clarkson also generously donated the proceeds of a talk he gave in Winterton, during National Bird Week, to the ADU.

Thank you to Barbi Forsyth, Alison Richardson, Adrian Craig, Pat Hulley and Lorraine Mullins for reports on their counts in their respective Bird Club newsletters and I appreciated the opportunity to submit reports in the Cape Bird Club and Tygerberg Bird Club newsletters. David Weaver submitted an article in a tourism magazine. As a result of an article on CAR in a local newspaper, *Our Times*, a farmer, a keen conservationist, contacted Yvonne Craig of St Francis Bay. Subsequently members of the bird club visited his farm and he requested a talk at a farmers' meeting in the area on protecting birds. Adri Barkhuysen, Field Biologist of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, gave a brief introductory talk on birds in a farming environment, in which he advocated bird-friendly cattle dips that enable birds like oxpeckers to survive and expand their distribution. This illustrates how articles in local newspapers can be effective in increasing awareness and lead to further steps in conservation. I did appreciate Fiona Hellman phoning for information about the Blue Crane for an article that she submitted in Afrikaans for *The Swartlander* during National Bird Week. Koos de Goede's photograph of a Blue Crane flock taken during the last winter count made the front page. Thank you to Don Pinnock, who has included an article on CAR in this July's *Getaway* and to Erina Botha for an article in *Die Buite Burger*. If there are other reports that I am unaware of, please send me a copy to include in the annual report.

Oribi Working Group – thanks and request

Athol Marchant, KZN Wildlife Ecologist and Co-ordinator of the EWT Oribi Working Group, sends "a big thank you to all those who have taken the time to record oribi during the CAR counts – the information is invaluable and most appreciated. Oribi are also a flagship species for our threatened grasslands."

Athol has requested that **oribi also be included in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga counts, while scanning for CAR birds.** Record the km as usual, write 'oribi' in the species column and the number of individuals in a group.

Ringed cranes

Ringed cranes were seen on OV12, OV13, OV35 and NK044. Do look out for **colour-ringed cranes at all times of year**, as well as during the CAR count.

Dead bustards alert!

Callan Cohen, of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, is studying the relationships among the bustard family and how they can be used as living clues to Africa's past climatic history. He is looking for small muscle samples from bustards that are found dead, either on the side of the road or below powerlines. If you do find a dead bustard or korhaan, he'd be most grateful if you could first photograph the bustard and then cut out a tiny piece of breast muscle, about the size of a big pea, and freeze it until Callan can send you a small vial of ethanol in which to store it. Please contact Callan on 083 256 0491 or callan@birdingarica.com for more information.

Dead birds reported

A White Stork was found electrocuted under a high voltage pylon on OV19.

Ground Hornbill Working Group

In February I was given the opportunity to attend the Ground Hornbill Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop (PHVA) at the South African Wildlife College near Hoedspruit. There are fewer than 1500 Ground Hornbills left in South Africa. They are particularly threatened as a result of habitat loss and because on average only one chick fledges every 9 years per breeding pair due to the species' complex breeding biology. This species

is a cooperative breeder, living in groups with a dominant alpha male and female who breed, and a number of juveniles. Reminded me a bit of our human nuclear families! This workshop evaluated the current status of the Southern Ground Hornbill and identified major threats and conservation priorities for the species and its habitat within South Africa.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet people working in conservation from all over South Africa, particularly from the northern provinces. I presented an illustrated talk about CAR one evening and a number of people went home with CAR Information Sheets and maps. Hopefully you will soon be able to read about routes starting in the threatened savanna biome! If you know birders in the savanna areas who may like to set up CAR routes, do let me know.

Do send in details of Ground Hornbill sightings at any time of year.

BirdLife South Africa Eagle Award to ADU

At a BirdLife function in Johannesburg in May, James Harrison received an Eagle Award on behalf of the ADU. I think it was very appropriate that James could attend, as he has been involved in managing all the projects involving volunteers since their inception. The award was given with the following citation:

"The Avian Demography Unit under leadership of Professor Les Underhill and ably assisted by a host of capable staff, have partnered BirdLife South Africa in many projects. We thank Donella Young for the endless hours spent with members co-ordinating the CAR project. Dieter Oschadleus, manager of SAFRING, who has taught many a BirdLife member their ringing skills, while James Harrison is the unsung hero of the South African Bird Atlas Project. Doug Harebottle has done for CWAC what Donella has done for CAR. We thank the ADU for their enormous scientific input into the collection of bird data and look forward to many successful joint projects in the future."

We do thank BirdLife for acknowledging our work in this way. Our work is made possible by the dedication, generosity and experience of many bird club members and made enjoyable by their willingness and boundless enthusiasm!

Thank you

I would particularly like to thank James Harrison for his wisdom, encouragement and experience as CAR Project Manager. Sadly due to a lack of funding, James will not be able to continue managing CAR. I do hope this will just be temporary, as I really value his input and support and appreciate discussing queries. James' editing has also been very astute and I have learnt an enormous amount.

A big thank you to you all for counting regularly and bearing the rising petrol costs! The monetary value of your contribution is conservatively estimated at 1.3 million rand per year (9000 hours of skilled fieldwork, 150 000 km of travelling, plus postage, telephone, etc). It costs less than one-sixth of this to drive the project at the ADU. It will be nigh impossible to rebuild the network of people and routes, and with the huge volume of important data already electronically curated (5200 routes since 1993), it seems unthinkable to stop CAR now. All that the Precinct Organisers do is vital to the functioning of CAR – many thanks!

Linda Tsipa has spent many hours capturing all the data and she has edited these tables; thank you, Linda for the care you take in your work. Marja Wren-Sargent has again willingly and creatively typeset this newsletter.

Enjoy the winter count and travel safely on wintry, bumpy roads!

*Donella Young,
Project Coordinator*

Mistakes and misprints – help us find them!

Please carefully check the figures given for your route in this newsletter against your records, and report any discrepancies so that we can correct the database. There were two errors in tables in Newsletter 17: EH02 should read EH03, and KG04 counted by the Cathcarts should read KG05!

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/Grey Crowned Crane	WC = Wattled Crane	
KB = Kori Bustard	LB = Ludwig's Bustard	SB = Stanley's/Denham's Bustard	
BS = Black Stork	WS = White Stork	AS = Abdim's Stork	
BK = Black/Southern Black Korhaan	BBK = Blackbellied Korhaan	UK = Blue Korhaan	KK = Karoo Korhaan
WBK = Whitebellied Korhaan	WQK = Whitequilled/Northern Black Korhaan		
GH = Ground Hornbill	BI = Bald/Southern Bald Ibis	SG = Spurwinged Goose	SEC = Secretarybird
BHH = Blackheaded Heron	YS = Yellowbilled Stork	HAR = Black Harrier	OR = oribi

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in the southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	SEC	SG	UK	WQK	WS	Other spp.
FS06	69	1059	Pierre de Villiers	23/2/		7//	1//		4//	3//		
FS07	62.5	1746	Angelo Nichas	6//		11//		4//	3//	11//		
FS08	60.7	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	10//	2//		1//			8//		1HAR
FS09	62.4	24, 1996	Brian Colahan & C.A. Els	6//1	4//			31//	13//	23//		
FS12	55.4	662, 1180	Herman & Janet Kleynhans	12/4/2	1//	14//	4//		22//	33//		
FS14	65.7	1203	Helena Vorster	2//	1//	2//				17//		
FS15	70.6	1056	PL Crouse				4//	1//		8//		
FS17	74.9	1620	Dawie Kok					1//	6//	46//		
FS18	74.6	684	Louise Coetzee	2/2/			1//	18//		54//		
FS19	84.6	1155	Ronél du Preez		2//		2//	4//		61//		
FS20	64.7	1432	Anne McLeod		1//		3//	12//		68//		
FS21	65.2	682	Leon Barkhuizen			1//	8//	9//		89//	43//	
FS22	84.6	1155	Ronél du Preez		2//		2//	5//		59/1/		
FS23	77	683	Chris Botha	8/1/	1//		2//		1//			
FS27	78.4	694	Erika Schulze		2//	2//		2//	1//			
FS29	61	822	Stephanie Gerber					3//		23//		
FS31	71.5	259	Johan van Niekerk				2//	3//	9//	22//		
FS35	78.5	1258	Hannes Blom					20//		70//	15//	3YS
FS39	72	689	Ann Hiemstra	4//2	4//			4//		21//	4//	6AS
FS40	73.4	1257	Steven Squires				2//			55//		
FS42	70	952	Kevin Preddy				2//	3//		11//		
FS43	79	1801	Christo de Meyer					2//		110//		
FS47	84	1055	Johan van den Berg		1//			5//	5//	49//		
FS48	75	1808	Ockie Boshoff		1//		4//	2//		68//	3//	
FS50	78.3	1058	Frans Marais		5//	1//	1//	8//	22//		10//	
FS51	62.1	1262, 24	Janine Liefbrig & Brian Colahan	6//4		1//	1//	8//	11//	27//	55//	
FS54	57.6	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig & E Beemster-Boer		2//	3//		1//	7//	80//	20//	14AS
FS55	48	1995	J. du Preez			12//	3//		4//	64//	166//	204AS, 1HAR
FS56	71.8	987, 988	Jeanette & Stephanus Buys		7//	2//	2//	5//	1//	96//	277//	321AS
FS58	79.3	863	Pierre Nel		1//					66//	38//	1HAR, 1KB
FS60	72	1152, 1289	Buks & Annatjie Roets	8//		1//				21//		2KK
FS65	83.8	1996	C.A. Els		2//		2//	38//	4//	130//	26//	1BS
FS66	55	1399	Tom Mostert					1//		37//		
FS67	68.5	950	Daan Müller		2//			15/4/	5//	13//		
FS68	63.9	1051, 1795	Werner & Jennefer Böing					10//	2//	22//		
FS69	76	1065	Deon du Plessis		1//	3//	2//	1//	10//	7//	13//	
FS70	60.8	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helène Bam			2//	1//	5//	1//	2//		
FS73	71	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam									
FS77	54	1263, 1364	Henk & Laetitia van Vuuren		2//					9//	200//	7AS, 3YS
FS79	55.9	1397	Dewald Liebenberg			5//	1//			30//		
FS84	52	1297	Johan Coertzen									
FS85	80.2	285	JB Cloete		7//			13//	2//	24//	2//	9BI, 1HAR
FS86	65.8	1499	Thys Strydom		1//		1//	1//		39//	70//	2YS
FS87	58.2	1501, 1500	Wessel & Rina Bester						11//			
FS88	63	1949	Wimpie Geyer		3//		2//	58//	10//	62//		
FS91	59.3	641	Rick Nuttall	2//	7//		3//	13//	8//	108//	10//	1AS
FS92	67.7	1201	Fritz Krohn					4//				1BS
FS93	52	1799	Peter Divall	2/2/	2//		3//		1//	1//		
FS94	70.6	1991, 1992	Boom & Thinus Prinsloo			2//			3//	5//		
FS95	78.8	700	Johan Watson	2//		4//	2//		4//	12//	33//	33AS
FS99	67	1057	Laurens Goosen						1//	41//	9//	
FS102	75.5	687	Riëtte Griesel	4//2	1//	3//	2//		8//	9//		
FS103	55	1052	Duart Hugo		1//			3//		41//		
FS104	70.3	1395	Geoff Johnson		1//		1//	20//	20//	54//	342//	
FS105	72.9	864	Sawas Vrahimis	12//					6//	2//		
FS106	48	102, 1946	Dawie de Swardt & Hennie Bester		1//			12//		41//	33//	
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jennifer Lotter			13//		1//	9//	2//	8//	44//
FS110	56	1396	Jeremy Jones		1//			15//	3//	60//		
FS111	73.6	1724	Wolffie Wolfaardt						9//	72//		
FS112	60	1747	Morné Pretorius		2//			15//	19//	97//		
FS113	89	1616	Danie Krynaauw		1//		1//		2/1/	6//		
FS116	54	1645	Hannes du Toit			1//			3//	20//		
FS117	66.3	691, 1807	Willie & Dawn Mostert							18//		
FS118	69.4	24	Brian Colahan	43/1/				13//	5//	6//		1KK
FS119	75	11,401,141	John & Jill Moffett		4//			3//	1//	85//		
FS120	76.2	1889	JC Labuschagne		3//			6//	5//	112/1/	1//	1YS
FS121	58	1048	Samuel Pauw							4//		1HAR
Total	4546			175	98	76	70	408	257	2442	1414	586AS,9BI,3KK,9YS
Birds/100 km				3.8	2.2	1.7	1.5	9.0	5.7	53.7	31.1	2BS,5HAR,1KB

Free State

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

'One hundred and fourteen routes were surveyed in the three Free State precincts for the 2005 summer CAR, 24 in the Northeastern precinct, 23 in the Northwestern and 67 in the Southern, covering a grand total of 7550.5 km. Conditions were generally satisfactory for the 234 observers who recorded 8655 birds (114.6/100 km), with 1797 (119.3/100 km) in the northeast, 1303 (86.99/100 km) in the northwest and 5555 (122.3/100 km) in the south. The generally good rains in the Northeastern precinct resulted in conditions favourable for White Storks (848) and Bald Ibises (518), the dominant species in that precinct (76 % of the total); however, only 12 Abdim's Storks were seen there. Conditions were more attractive for that stork in the Northwestern precinct, where 97 were recorded (but only 266 White Storks); the Whitequilled Korhaan was once again dominant there (708 birds, 54 % of the total). While 1414 White Storks were counted in the Southern precinct, this was 31.1 birds/100 km, compared with 53.6 in the northeast; a fair number of Abdim's Storks (586) were also seen, but both species tended to be very localized: 1517 (76 %) of these two storks were seen along just four routes. This was a reflection of the very patchy rains that fell in this precinct, resulting in very variable veld conditions, even along individual routes. For example, Leon Barkhuizen (FS21, SW of Petrusburg) saw a record number of birds for his route (150, including 89 Whitequilled Korhaans and eight Secretarybirds), but most were along the mid-third of his route which was lush compared with the rest of it. However, the rainfall elsewhere in the precinct was obviously sufficient to provide good grass cover for the Whitequilled Korhaan – a record 2442 were counted (53.7/100 km).'

Thank you to Brian for organizing many routes in the Free State and for compiling this report.

Allen Jones and Jennifer Lotter (FS108) remarked on the bird activity at pans on 'organic farms', in comparison with other farm pans/dams. On FN48 Janet & Koos Lourens noted that more people are farming with game or investing in infrastructure for extensive cattle farming.

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in north-western Free State										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SEC	SG	WQK	WS	Other spp.
FW13	55.7	1515, 1162	J Potgieter & P van der Merwe	7//			1//	2//		
FW16	67	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe	2//				14//		
FW18	50.2	1268	Heriman Jordaan					81//		
FW19	70	1160	FG Botha	5//		9//	16//	1//	1HAR	
FW26	76.4	1174	Fanie Gouws					14//	12//	
FW28	56.1	1162	Piet van der Merwe	8//		7//	20//			
FW29	63.6	1168	Gert Claassen			2//	4//	124//	15AS	
FW31	69.6	1175	Cecil Whitfield	2//			22//			
FW34	74.5	1163	Des Walker	4//		42//	106//		3UK	
FW36	78.5	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy	2//		22//	61//	15//	9AS	
FW39	57.4	1166	Johan Grobler				13//			
FW42	68.3	1646	Andre Hoffmann	3//		3//	15//	79//	43AS	
FW43	66.6	1176	Robert Drewes				13//			
FW45	51.8	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan			8//	19//	4//		
FW46	53	1624, 1990	Vella & Hilda van Niekerk Brink	2//	1//	3//	64//	11//	4UK	
FW50	75.4	1938, 1939	Helmi & Elizabeth Lekaota			2//	5//	10//	30AS	
FW51	79	1253	JJ den Houting	2//	1//		105//		2UK	
FW52	53	1957	Rosemary Girard	29//	7//	3//	16//	2//		
FW53	81.5	1173	Chris de Lange	4//		2//	56//			
FW54	51.3	1176	Robert Drewes				7//			
FW55	67.3	1936, 1937	Andries & Leanda Nel	15//	5//	3//	3//	18//		
FW56	61.5	1901, 1902	Stephen & Marietjie Hill	4//			8//			
FW57	70.1	1958	Joey Knoesen	1//			39//			
Total	1498			5	103	2	112	708	266	97AS,1HAR
Birds/100 km				0.3	6.88	0.1	7.48	47.27	47.3	9UK

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in north-eastern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
FN16	52.4	701	Theunis Bekker	19//	3//	58//			13//	5//	50//	4AS
FN24	65	719, 720	Georg & Eria Wandrag			28//			2//		10//	
FN25	79.9	974	Bradley Gibbons	2//	4//	22//			9//		10//	
FN26	66.9	974	Bradley Gibbons		4//				6//		13//	
FN29	67	721, 1219	Freda & John Whipp		1//	33//	4//		5//		11//	
FN32	51.9	1072, 1932	David Weaver & Petri Enslin	3//	8//		10//		2//		174//	1SB
FN35	55	946	Ti Wessels		1//				3//		19//	
FN39	67.5	1470, 1433	Geoff Potter & Peter Millin		1//				4//		7//	7AS
FN40	74.8	831	Meyer de Kock		5//				12//		24//	5WQK
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		4//	1//			2//		39//	
FN43	60.1	706, 1812	Harry & Christa Illsley	4//	13//	38//	1//		8//		57//	
FN44	71.9	714	Frik Oosthuysen		1//	13//	1//		3//		6//	
FN45	72.5	188, 945	Hazel Vickery & M van Gelder		2//	44//	3//		8//		17//	1AS
FN46	63	718, 1813	Gerhard & E van Deventer		4//	52//			4//			
FN48	56.8	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		2//	15//		3//	13//			2WQK
FN49	48	944	Gert Maritz		5//		2//		9//		203//	
FN50	55.3	942	Pieter Koomhof	1//	9//	64//			8//		23//	
FN51	68.1	1157, 1821	Frans & Lana du Plooy		6//				6//			
FN53	61	1272	JC Koster	2//	2//	12//	2//		2//		4//	
FN55	61.9	703	Nacelle Collins	1//	4//	67//	6//		7//		160//	
FN57	62	1932, 2014	P & JF Enslin		3//				4//		21//	
FN58	69	705	Paulus Fihlo		9//				7//		3//	
FN59	39.9	336, 1822	Louis & Maureen Mileham		1//	58//			1//			
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes						3//	3//		103WQK
Total	1507			32	95	518	29	3	136	13	848	12AS,1SB, 110WQK
Birds/100 km				2.1	6.3	34.4	1.9	0.2	9	0.9	56.3	110WQK

KwaZulu-Natal

The grass was long following good summer rains, restricting visibility in some areas. This certainly affected bird numbers with the lowest Bald Ibis, Helmeted Guinea fowl, Stanley's Bustard, Secretarybird and Spurwinged Goose totals being recorded. However, the highest White Stork count (6432) by far was recorded. The previous highest total was 2966 in January 2001. Ken Gordon, Neil Smith and Kevin Immelman counted 1606 White Storks on their route north of Ladysmith, a record for a KZN route! There are a number of ephemeral wetlands on KL01 which had water. Kevin McCann recorded 502 White Stork on his route, KM07, northeast of Mooi River. The previous highest White Stork count in KZN was last summer on KO01 (598).

Frik Lemmer, of KZN Wildlife expressed concern about the absence of Secretarybirds for the last two counts on KP01, a species which is common in their area.

Alan and Bernadine Turner counted 43 Crowned Cranes on their route KM03, near Midmar Dam. Fewer Crowned Cranes were counted in the Swartberg region than usual. On KU01 Chris Thomas noted that more ground is planted to conifers, about 23–25 km. Carol Horne and the Colliers saw two Wattled Cranes on KU02.

I am delighted that Rose Laatz was able to take learners from St Gregory's Primary School on her route, KE01. I have included an extract from her email.

Thank you to BirdLife Trogans for exploring two new routes in southern KZN; further explorations are necessary.

Only 4 oribi were recorded this count. Do continue to count

oribi, record the km as usual, write 'oribi' in the species column and the number of individuals in a group. Do remember to count **gamebirds in KZN** and use the abbreviations **HG** for Helmeted Guinea fowl, **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, for continuing to encourage CAR Precinct Organisers in KZN.

Email extract about St Gregory's first Bird Club outing:

"I am writing to tell you that I have started a bird club at the tiny private school where I teach in Estcourt. Saturday was the first outing!!

"We set off with three cars. We had three teachers, two parents and eleven learners. The white storks were in abundance as you will see on my return. The two blue crane were a wonderful bonus. We paused in awe at the spurwinged geese, they are so huge. Everyone enjoyed themselves, I am keen to see how many of the learners really become keen.

"I am now going to teach the learners how to identify the birds in their gardens. We have a bird club wall at school with posters and snippets."

Number of birds counted in January census 2005 in KwaZulu-Natal													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
KCO1	50	433	Malcolm Gemmill		1//	10//	1//		2//		8//	47//	1BBK
KD01	82	1829	FJ Cloete									55//	
KD02	63	1255, 1745	Dennis & Sonja Holmes	2//						2//	1//	91//	
KD03	75	1830	T Müller		4//						1//	4//	2SF
KD04	51	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross		3//				1//		80//	2BBK	
KD05	52	677, 1711	Paul & Bev Garner	2//						3//	46//		
KD06	51.2	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker	2//	2//					5//	50//	3WBK	
KD07	71	909, 1835	Heino & Zeldia Wellmann	2//							60//		
KD10	30	611, 1832, 1833, 1716	Tony Roberts								20//		
KD11	58	611, 1832, 1833, 1716	Tony, Brenden & Curtis Roberts & M Post	2//	3//	6//				3//	2//		
KD12	58	611, 1832, 1833	Tony, Brenden & Curtis Roberts	1//				9//	24//		1//	26//	
KE01	78	1602, 2013	R Laatz, E Buccerri & 11 St Gregory pupils	2//	1//	30//				1//	1//	174//	
KG03	54	626	Malcolm & Helen Rivett		5//		4//				6//	94//	
KG04	73.2	627, 628	Bob & Judi Williams	2//	1//	13//	2//	3//	5//	5//	63//	1BS	
KG05	53.3	629	'Stooks' Wilton		1//		6//	3//	2//		8//	32//	
KG06	60.8	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter				38//	4//	1//		15//	237//	
KG07	50	631	Mark Meter		7//			4//			8//	95//	
KG08	63.6	630	Kobus Nel	20//	3//		58//		2//		7//	111//	10WC
KG09	18.7	428, 427	Pat & Bruce Whittle		7//		19//				25//	4//	2WC
KG10	36.3	1240, 1241	Ed & Myra Wells		3//		14//				4//	34//	3WC
KG11	53.7	632	Jimmy Scott		6//		39//	3//			5//	195//	4WC
KL01	88.5	50, 142, 1597	Ken Gordon, Neil Smith, Kevin Immelman	4//	3//		2//	8//			10//	1606//	2SF
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray		5//							7//	
KM01	77.4	498, 1719, 1720	Margie Sleigh, H & I Burmeister		5//		1//	7//			5//	259//	7WC
KM02	65.5	474	Shirley Bennett & friends		8//	1//	11//		2//		32//	333//	3WC
KM03	102	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernadine Turner		28//		43//		1//	1//	14//	34//	
KM04	34	1885	Elizabeth & Mary-Anne Martens		1//							176//	
KM05	83.7	1581, 1904	Evelyn Hughes & Drummond Densham		2//		2//		1//	7//	379//	2OR, 2WC	
KM06	88.6	167, 1610	Pamela Nicol & Betty Jones		5//	10//		6//	7//		17//	479//	4WC
KM07	65.3	490, 1843	Kevin & Lindy McCann	2//	3//	17//				3//	10//	500//	3WC
KM08	58	187, 1828	Monte & Eunice Pera	10//	1//		15//	2//			5//	61//	
KN01	67.8	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		5//	6//		2//				37//	
KN03	55.4	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		2//	15//					4//	62//	1NF
KN04	48	925	Alan Schwikkard		6//		2//			2//	1//	30//	
KN05	41.2	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		3//	5//					1//	266//	
KO01	53.4	425, 1529, 1963, 1480	Gavin & Sandi Calverley & team		1//							52//	3CF
KP01	65	1792	Frik Lemmer & friends		6//	2//	2//				7//	25//	2BBK
KU01	68	429, 1961, 2015	Chris Thomas, Alan Abrey & G Ellison		3//		27//		8//		3//	138//	
KU02	68	1741	Carol Horne & P & I Collier	2//	1//		2//				9//	219//	2OR, 2WC
KV01	82.8	1683	AP Keeve		4//		4//				4//	63//	1WBK
KV02	60.5	2016, 2001	Paul & Ria Steffensen		3//			1//			2//	235//	
KV03	61.5	1566	Darryl Baxter		1//			1//				7//	3SF
KV04	34.6	1790, 1791, 1722	Arlene Steyn, David & Charl										3BBK
Total	2586			56	159	94	312	84	21	13	241	6432	1BS,8BBK, 3CF,1NF,4OR, 7SF,40WC,4WBK
Birds/100 km				2.2	6.1	3.6	12.1	3.2	0.8	0.5	9.3	248.7	110WQK

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

Western Cape

Swartland precinct

The drought in the Swartland has continued. The Oelbüttel's started a new route, SW15, near Tulbagh on which they counted 40 Blue Cranes. Early in June they counted this route for interest and saw 120! Comparing the birds/100 km (excluding this route), with last January, the numbers were not as high, probably due to the severe drought in this region. The increase in juvenile Blue Cranes is of significant interest. This summer double the number of juveniles (39) were counted compared to last summer. The number has increased from 12 in 1999, when we first started distinguishing age classes, to 19 in 2004.

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in Swartland									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	WS	Other spp.	
SW01	75	1418, 1970	David McMillan & Fiona Hellman	37/6/	3//	1//		1BK, 2SEC	
SW02	76	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker						
SW03	64	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & Pat Waddell	17/4/	3//			2BK	
SW04	66	1286	Philbert Melck	4//		1//			
SW05	60	163, 1239	Keith & Rena Harrison	2//	1//	9//			
SW06	78	1368, 1359, 1565	Ralph Wordon, R le Roux & L Kerr	49/1/	9//	14/3	12//		
SW07	43	477	Koos de Goede	24/9/	3//	7//			
SW08	65	1474, 106	Bruce MacKenzie & Mel Tripp	30/6/1	22//	60//		2SEC	
SW09	62	1135, 1467	Jens & Diane Oelbüttel	42/10/	2//	11//	1//	3BS	
SW10	64	223	James Harrison	9/1/		4//			
SW11	66	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	1//	1//				
SW12	79	1552, 1553	Tielman & Alta Klynsmith	2//		30//			
SW13	49	673	Elna Slabber	27//	3//	8//			
SW14	53	506, 1882	Riaan & Marika van der Walt	6/2					
SW15	58	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbüttel	30/7/3	1//	4//	3//	2SEC	
Total	959			330	48	152	16	3BK, 3BS,	
Birds/100 km				34.4	5.0	15.9	1.7	6SEC	

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in Overberg											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
OV01	58	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	9/3/	3//				1//	55//	
OV02	73	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	37/2/	5//					61//	
OV03	48.6	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	90/1/5	2//			2//	22//	61//	
OV04	26.8	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	21/1/	8//				72//	361//	
OV05	69.6	228, 1148, 649	John Carter, Brian, Tony & Basil	147/13/	8//	1//		3//	8//	338//	1HAR
OV06	52.7	619, 1655	Patrick Hurly & Stuart McLennan	68/11/4	18//		1//	4/1/	3//	93//	1HAR
OV07	64.7	496, 1083, 801, 802	Ken & Anne Price, K. & A. McAdam	189/18/2	53/9/2	2//			18//	840//	2BS
OV08	73.9	492	Keith Moodie	129/14/	29//		3//			765//	1BK
OV09	44.5	991, 2010, 2011, 2012	Donella Young, Linda Tsipa, I & J Banks	118/10/	10/1/			3//	4/4/	262//	1HAR
OV10	54.6	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	63//	4/1/				1//	294//	
OV11	62.2	246, 245	Shiela Siebert, M Loubser & friend	100/2/	11//		15//		130//		1 HAR
OV12	57.3	215, 216, 1380, 1381	Heather Busby, Dawn, Gill & Rory	75/8/1	14//		5//		35//		
OV13	70.7	520, 229, 671, 672	Jill Mortimer, I. Cooke, R. Lind, A. White	247/18/5	35//	8//	17//		24//	27//	
OV14	89	123, 1922	John Coats & Maureen Aucamp	58/16/3	10/1/	3/3/		2/1/1	2//	28//	
OV15	57.2	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	98/5/6	13//	1//			25//	525//	
OV16	61.8	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg, W. du Toit & team	82/10/	18/3/	4/1/			3//	944//	2BK
OV17	66	878	Lee Burman	54/5/	6//		7//	1//	4//	1//	
OV18	49.2	240, 1712	Wicus & Hanlie Leeuwner	145/2/3	5//				57//	100//	
OV19	63	219, 1213, 1632	Ronnie Crowther, E. Stodel & C. Wallace	31/8/					18/2/	355/2/	1HAR
OV20	53.4	1325, 1441	Neville & Alison Passmore	69/3/	9//		1//		32//	283//	2BK
OV21	63.9	1440, 1840, 1981, 1982	Alex & Nancy Swanepoel & team	321//	17//		2//		51//	110//	3HAR
OV22	60	48	Mick Killeen	2//						163//	
OV23	55.6	1062	Andrew Marshall	6/2/	20/28/				10//	113//	
OV24	57.5	636, 1211	Mick & June D'Alton	106/8	10//		8//	2//	173//		
OV25	34	878	Lee Burman	41/2/3	2//			1//			
OV26	19.3	871	Jeffrey Arizon & 4 Teslaarsdal learners	53/3/					4//		
OV27	70	1942, 1569	Louis Witbooi & August Hess	3/4/	12//			1//	21//	144//	
OV28	41	1462, 1825	Tonia & Flip Schonken	4/4/	11/1/				8//	44//	
OV29	26.4	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	8//	14//				16//	2//	
OV33	61.2	1463	Frans de Graaff & family	15/2/	8//		10//		20/3/	79//	
Total	1685			2586	401	23	69	22	771	6050	5BK, 2BS,
Birds/100 km				153.5	23.8	1.4	4.1	1.3	45.8	359.0	2HAR
OV34	61	1550, 1551	Heynè & Sharon Brink	6//	5//			2//			6HAR
OV35	29.4	1469	Avril Young	66/13/3	2//		2//				

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in Western Cape precincts									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other	
WB01	64.5	343	Maria Andela			18/1/		1LB	
WB03	58	1909, 1971	Stefan & Hannatjie Theron	24//		8//		1BK, 1BS, 15LB	
WC01	41	1291, 1989	George Hattingh & Terry Robinson	2//				3BK, 12SB, 42WS	
WK02	44.9	1003	Andrew Schofield	25//	1//		37//	98WS	
WU01	51	934, 1606	Peter Chadwick & Natalie Baker	3//1/		3//		1BK, 4LB, 10SB	
WU02	57	539, 1392	Jonas Witbooi & J. de Jaar	34//1/	2//		8//	11SB	
WU03	48	934, 1606	Peter Chadwick & Natalie Baker		3//			36WS	
WU04	35	539, 1392	Jonas Witbooi & J. de Jaar		3//		9//	6WS	
WU05	70	297, 1520, 1521	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown & Barry	58//				1SB, 25WS	
WU06	13	539, 1392	Jonas Witbooi & J. de Jaar		4//		7//	9WS	
WU07	70	545	Koos Maya	9//					
Total	552			155	15	30	61	5BK, 1BS, 20LB,	
Birds/100 km				28.1	2.7	5.4	11.0	36SB, 211WS	

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

On SW03 Sylvia Ledgard remarked that vineyards are extending on the first section of the route up to Darling. From the Soutdam sign to the end of route there is wheat and livestock and most Blue Crane are seen on this section. Jens and Diane Oelbüttel saw three Black Stork on their route SW09. Jan Hofmeyr recorded 336 White Storks on the pig farm on the CAR day. Thirteen White Storks were seen on Swartland routes. Interestingly, White Storks have been recorded on the last few Swartland counts, whereas on earlier counts none were seen.

Overberg precinct

We had a glorious day for the summer count, and on some routes there were many White Storks. Pierre van den Berg and his team from Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve counted 944 on their route, OV16. Do refer to the website report on the summer count for further details about the high White Stork numbers. There was an abundance of the Common Garden Cricket, *Gryllus bimaculatus*, in the Overberg following the summer rains and volunteer wheat was also evident. A number of people remarked on the increase in canola, lucerne and cattle farming. The Blue Crane numbers were at their highest yet for a summer count. Jill Mortimer and her team recorded 270 Blue Cranes on OV13, while Alex & Nancy Swanepoel and the Conservation Management students who assisted saw 321, the highest number ever on OV21. There are usually less than 100 cranes on OV21, but this last summer there were two large flocks (110 and 182). Alex could not see any reason why they were congregated together. Interestingly, the last high total on OV21 (119) was in January 1999, also after good summer rains.

The Price's and McAdam's recorded 53 Blackheaded Herons on OV07, as well as two Black Stork and many White Stork (840). The density of Blackheaded Herons was the highest ever, with numbers more than double those of last summer. There are Secretarybird nests on OV06 and OV14. Patrick Hurly and Stuart McLennan saw a Barn Owl with magnificent plumage, which was either sick or slightly injured as it did not fly far. They saw a Fish Eagle for the first time on their route, OV06.

A big thank you to Wicus and Hanlie Leeuwner for welcoming us on their farm for lunch beside the river after the count. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to catch up with people and for Linda Tsipa, who does all the data capture, to put faces to the names she knows so well from the forms. I was delighted that Linda could experience her first CAR count (below) and that my parents were able to come too, as they introduced me to the wonders of the outdoors and birding.



Beaufort West precinct

Maria Andela saw one Ludwig's Bustard and 19 Karoo Korhaans, while the Theron's saw a Black Stork in addition to the usual species on WB03.

Little Karoo precinct

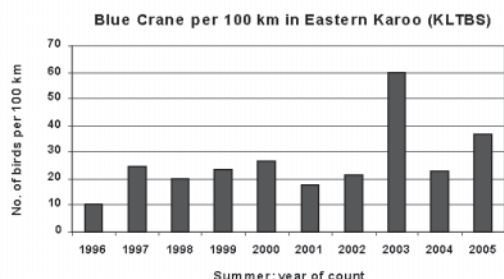
Surprisingly, the highest White Stork count in the smaller Western Cape precincts was 98 on Andrew Schofield's route, WK02.

Uniondale precinct

Stanley's/Denham's Bustard often seem to be present on these routes. A new route, WU07, which Elton le Roux reced last year was counted by Koos Maya of Onteniqua Reserve.

Calitzdorp precinct

Elton has also done a recce for a route near Vanwyksdorp recently. George Hattingh saw 12 Stanley's Bustard on WC01.



Transect NK01 was very green in summer 2003 after good rains. An unusual 384 Blue Cranes were counted, 169 of these were on a pan.

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in Karoo											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	SEC	UK	WQK	WS	Other spp.
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	2//			1//		2//		
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock	2//	1//	1//	1//		1//		
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	17//					3//		
NK031	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	2//	1//		2//		1//	2//	
NK032	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	11//4			1//				
NK033	20	1196, 1197	Maxie & Johan Jonk	2//					1//		
NK041	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard			3//			1//		
NK042	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard			4//	2//			11//	
NK044	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard	41/2/		1//				1//	
NK061	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen			2//			4//	23//	
NK062	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen				2//	2//	8//	1//	
NK063	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen	2//	2//				1//	1//	3SG
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe						1//		
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe						8//	8//	
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe								
NK111	20	1954	JP du Plessis	1/1/							
NK112	20	1954	JP du Plessis								
NK113	20	1954	JP du Plessis								
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith		4//						1SG
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith	2//		2//	2//	3//	3//		
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith								
NK151	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe		1//				20//		
NK152	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe						1//		
NK153	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe						2//		
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead	2//	2//		3//	2/4/	3//		
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead	4//	5//			2//	6//		
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead	9//					1//		
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson		6//				9//		
NK222	20	105	Mark Anderson						5//		
NK223	18	105	Mark Anderson	2//					2//		
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	4//	5//	7//			32//		
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2//		2//	2//		6//		
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie						4//		
NK301	20	1494	Amie Venter	2//		2//	2//		4//		
NK302	20	1494	Amie Venter	91//3		2//	1//				
NK311	20	1085	Grant Naude	33//5		1//			3//		
NK312	20	1085	Grant Naude	8//		2//			1//	5//	
NK313	20	1085	Grant Naude	7//		1//			1//	25//	
NK351	20	1953	Eric Battenhaussen	6/1/2						19//	
NK352	20	1953	Eric Battenhaussen		1//				2//		
NK353	20	1953	Eric Battenhaussen	2//							
NK361	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter			2//				67//	
NK362	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter	75//2					5//	157//	2SG
NK363	20	1492, 1493	Jolene & Van Zyl Venter	5//		3//					1SG
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2//	8//				3//		
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe			1//					
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2//					1//		
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)			2//			26//		3SG
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)			17//	2//	2//	18//	1//	
NK451	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	10/1/	3//	2//			4//		
NK452	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	1//							
NK453	20	1490	Madeleine van Heerden	2/2/		1//					
Total	1038			374	42	55	21	18	190	321	10 SG
Birds/100 km				36.0	4.0	5.3	2.0	1.7	18.3	30.9	

Karoo, Northern Cape

Mark Anderson, Ornithologist, Department of Tourism, Environment & Conservation, Northern Cape reports:

'During ideal conditions on 29 January 2005, 32 people in 18 vehicles counted large terrestrial birds along 1038 km in the Northern Cape's eastern Karoo. This was the 20th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTBS), so we have now been conducting the survey for 10 years!

'During this survey 1031 large terrestrial birds were seen, approximately one bird per km. The most numerous were Blue Cranes (374), White Storks (321) and White-quilled Korhaans (190).

'It has been pleasing to see White Storks in the eastern Karoo once again, with their presence being indicative of good rains and abundant insect food. Jolene and Van Zyl Venter counted 224 White Storks along two of their three transects. The numbers of storks subsequently increased and during the week of 14-18 February, it was estimated that several thousand birds were foraging between De Aar and Hanover, with the largest numbers being recorded in the Hanover area.

'Twenty-three young Blue Cranes were observed along routes surveyed by Maxie and Johan Jonk, Francois and Hester Taljaard, J.P. du Plessis, Amie Venter, Grant Naude, Eric Battenhaussen, Jolene and Van Zyl Venter and Madeleine van Heerden. During a subsequent field trip to the area, we managed to colour-ring 40 chicks, bringing the total of ringed birds to 316. Interesting, too, was the observation of six ringed adults, which provided valuable information on the movements of Blue Cranes in the eastern Karoo. During their survey, Francois and Hester Taljaard managed to observe, amongst a flock of 35 Blue Cranes, a ringed adult crane along their third transect.

'The only unusual species was a single Black Harrier quartering above the karoo veldt just after the end of my second transect. This rare, endemic raptor is known to disperse from its fynbos breeding grounds into the Karoo, especially during late-summer and early-winter.

'Once again, thanks to all the participants for their contributions. An early morning start in the Karoo is always a memorable experience and I find that I am continually distracted by the Karoo's magnificent bird life, including the many larks, pipits, cisticolas, warblers and other birds that are unique to this area.

'During the evening prior to the next survey, i.e. on Friday 29 July, we are planning to hold a function in De Aar, where we will present beautiful Crane Custodian Boards to eastern Karoo farmers. Jon Smallie, Endangered Wildlife Trust, will present a talk on cranes and powerlines and show some of Chris van Rooyen's magnificent photographs of Karoo birds. We also plan to invite a few dignitaries, including MEC Pieter Saaman. All KLTBS participants and other crane custodians, will in due course be invited to attend.

'The KLTBS is very capably organized by Ronelle Visagie and I am extremely grateful for her kind assistance.

Congratulations on achieving a milestone count! Thank you to Mark and Ronelle for their efficient coordination and to you all for counting regularly.

Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BK	CC	LB	SB	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
EB01	64.3	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith	2/2/	1//		3//		2//	11//	5//		
EB03	68	1988	G Branford & friends		14//		6/1/		2//	1//	8//	181//	
EB04	73.7	1567, 1568, 1584	Barbara & Ken Monfoort, Wendy Perks		2//				3//	1//	2//	129/2//	
EE01	38	1129, 1730	Adele Moore & Helen Lechmere-Oertel							1//	1//	55//	
EE02	65	1967	John Filmer				8/1/				3//	41//	
EE03	24.7	2008	Carole & Malcolm Sephton & J. Feely		6//		12//				16//	59//	
EE12	51.7	901	Jenni Brown	2//	2//		2//			1//	1//	24//	
EE13	59.3	1743, 1067	Robert Böhmke & Indwe High School		7//		8//					40//	1BI, 4KB
EE17	21	1730	Helen Lechmere-Oertel		3//						6//	63//	
EE18	41.2	1918, 1919	Les & Adrian Larter	36/4/	2//		3//		5//	2//	26/5/	213//	
EE19	84.6	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	60//	7//6		2/2/	13//			21//	492//	35UK
EE20	47.6	896, 1430	Fred & Retha Leask		1//		9/1/2				2/5	38//	2WC
EG01	84.5	161, 887	Adrian Craig & N. Kohly		8//	2//			2//			37//	
EG02	52.1	565	Pat Hulley & family	2//	1//	1//			3//			5//	
EG03	76.9	341, 1530	Bo Bonnevie & L. Mullins	4//	1//	9//						31//	
EH03	57	313, 1773	Victor Craig & Jenny Dale	2//	3//				6//		18//	449//	
EH04	44.5	1132, 1766	David Tudhope & Pete Bosman		14//							107//	
EH05	39	1612, 301	Abel Bezuidenhout & C. Cook	16/2/	1/1/				11//	3//	4/4/	12//	2WBK
EH06	56.9	312, 1770, 1975, 1974	Yvonne Craig, S. Leslie, A. & M. Jones	151/2/	34//				29//		179//	500//	1HAR, 2WBK
EK02	58.6	885, 1523	John Lardner-Burke & Alan Wilson		1//				3/1/		10/3/	32//	
EK04	59.3	884, 1525	Peter Metcalf & Tim Cockcroft		1//				6//	2//	6//	41//	
EG05	62.5	886, 1528, 1527	Maureen Turner, L. Wood & J. Roxburgh		12//				6//		25//	156//	
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann	7/2/		4//		5//		1//		110//	2KB, 1KK
EP02	66.6	1570, 1621	Hermann & Terry Hertel	18//		7//		33//				18//	
EP03	61	872	Denzil Ward	10/2/2		3//		4//					
EP04	73.3	869	Peter Hall	2//		3/2/		1//		1//		7//	5KK
EP06	53	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro		3//	3//		5//	3//			203//	10WQK
EP07	73	1475	Alan Collett	4//				18//			1//	18//	1BS, 1UK, 31WQK
EP08	109.2	270	Dave Brown	1//	2//			2//				54//	8KK
EP09	31	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro									161//	
EP10	42	1731	John Bowker	3//				15//	4//	6//	19//	6KK, 2UK, 51WQK	
EP11	51.7	1852, 195	Briar Wright & Phil Whittington	2//	28/3/	4//				3//		589//	1HAR
EQ02	55	930, 1290	Don Field & Brian Ellison	2//	1//		2//	4//			2//	24//	3UK
ES04	45.4	1476, 1972	Judy & Zorb Caryer	4//1								51//	
ES05	9.7	1152, 2005, 1965, 1966	Neil & Ros Turner, Alison & Bill Brown		1//					4//		44/5/	1BK
ES07	35.3	1826	Debbie Abrahamson	7/4/	2//				1//	8//		77//	
ES08	82	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows	104/2/		6//		3//				117//	4KB, 2KK
EU01	65	1479	Emile Plumstead		11//		4//		4/1/			41//	
Total	2158			462	179	44	148	103	86	34	365	4250	1BI,1BS,1BK
Birds/100 km				21.4	8.3	2.0	6.9	4.8	4.0	1.6	16.9	197.0	2HAR,10KB,20KK
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													
41UK,2WC,4WBK,92WQK													

Eastern Cape

There has been a request from the Oribi Working Group to include oribi in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds.

On some routes in the Eastern Cape the long grass following good rains restricted visibility. Generally the number of White Storks seems patchy. However, this certainly is the highest total of White Storks (4240) on a CAR count in this province. Briar Wright and Phil Whittington recorded 589 on EP11, a new route near Addo! On EB01 White Storks were seen after none had been seen for some years, and there were 181 on EB03. Mealie fields have been replaced by cultivated forage for cattle on EB03. An important consequence of a change in habitat was noted on EH06. The veld along the St Francis Bay/Humansdorp road was ploughed up a few years ago and wheat and pasture planted. Since then bustards have not been seen as regularly as before. Good rains in the Humansdorp precinct created large pools of water and many more Spurwinged Goose were seen as well as high numbers of White Storks.

In the Kenton precinct John Lardner-Burke noted that game farms have developed from farmland on EK02. On EK04 Peter Metcalf remarked on the dense bush that is encroaching on the roadside hampering the view.

The highest Lubwig's Bustard total on an Eastern Cape route was 33 on Herman & Terry Hertel's route, EP02. Not many Kori Bustard were recorded, only 10 altogether.

Two recce routes were done in the Somerset East precinct. One by Judy and Zorb Caryer, in an area suggested by Joan Collett

which certainly looks viable, but we just need to sort out the configuration. Another was counted by Braam Basson, of Nature Conservation, which was not very satisfactory. But Braam is going to take over ES02 and may start a route in the reserve outside Graaff-Reinet that only has historically present animals, apart from cheetah. On the new ES08 route Neville Willows counted 4 Kori Bustard and 106 Blue Cranes; on the recce count last July 264 Blue Cranes were recorded! Thank you to Pat Palmer and the Graaff-Reinet Bird Club for gathering so that Michael Brooks and I could give you feedback about the ADU projects, on our return from the SACWG workshop.

Emile Plumstead recorded a breeding pair of Crowned Cranes with one egg in a nest in a small wetland on EU01, near Umtata. Fred and Retha Leask had the highlight of two Wattled Crane on EE20, while Indwe High School recorded a lone Bald Ibis, four Kori Bustard, as well as other species on EE13.

I am grateful to those who have a number of 'fruitless' stops as far as large terrestrial birds are concerned and bump over bad roads, as on the EG routes, counted by Diaz Cross Bird Club members. The absence of birds is also important information. On EG03 Lorraine Mullins noted a section had changed to game farming.

Thank you to Helen Lechmere-Oertel, who has coordinated the EE routes recently and welcome to Mark van Niekerk, of SACWG, who will continue organizing these counts. Bradley Gibbons, who is also a SACWG Field Officer, has recently moved to Middelburg and will be working in the Karoo region. Bradley is checking a new route.

Gauteng

Two routes were counted in Gauteng; one led by Craig Whittington-Jones near Devon (24 White Stork, 30 Blackheaded Heron and 4 Spurwinged Geese) and the other led by Coral Birss in Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve (3 Whitequilled Korhaan and 3 Blackheaded Heron). Craig has just done a recce for another route near Bronkhorstspuit.



Number of birds counted in January 2005 census in Mpumalanga													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SG	UK	WS	HG	Other species	
MC01	61.6	1338	Max Kaiser		8//	22//2		11/2/6	6//		16//		
MC02	63.9	1639, 1926	Jack de Boer & Alison Hanson		5//	73//		17/2/		24//	17//		
MC03	57.2	1913, 1985	Rob & Lauraine Leigh		2/1/	82//		13//		63//			
MC04	68.9	1618, 1751	Craig & Karin Nelson		15//			10//		212//	1//		
MC05	68.8	1391, 1744	Philip & Lynn Silcock		4//			12//		24//	24//		
MC06	69	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth		11//	5//	1//	7//		15//	3//		
MS01	56.8	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor					7//		20//	3//		
MS02	54	1725, 1726, 1911	Des & A des Brulais, N Champion		1//					21//	8//	1BBK	
MS04	63.7	1109	Bryan Rowland		1//					3//			
MS05	56.2	728, 1558	Anton Linström & Tommie Steyn	4//	2//		5//	10/1/		3//	5//	1SB, 2SEC	
MS09	55.4	1727	Jim McLuskie			13//		5//		7//	6//		
MS13	59.7	724	Lientjie Cohen		7/2/	1//		3//			9/10/		
MT01	85	1816, 1817	Colin & RONALDA Williams		3//			1//	2//		12//2	9SF	
MT02	62.3	1912, 1973	Kevin & Glynis Armitage		9//			5//	5//	1//	13//	7SF, 2WQK, 1YS	
MW01	57	361	Judy-Lynn Wheeler		3//	22//	2//	3//			55//		
MW02	58	2017, 2018	Norman Dennett & Beverley Thorne		2//		3//	27//		10//			
MW03	69	2003	Ann Cleal	5/1/	5//	10/5/	2//			283//	5//	2WBK, 4WQK	
MW04	73.1	2002	David Whitehead		1//	47//				63//	7//		
MW05	66.5	2004	Bob Traynor					1//		34//		2SEC	
MW06	58.5	1867	John McAllister		6//	53/5/	18//	52//	3//	115//		3SEC	
MW07	64.2	1001, 1337, 1370	Alison Richardson, M & S Henderson		3//	57/8/		2/1/	3//	18//	6//	2SB, 3SEC	
Total	1329				10	91	405	31	198	19	971	147	1BBK, 3SB, 16SF, 10SEC,
Birds/100 km					0.8	6.8	30.5	2.3	14.9	1.4	73.1	11.1	2WBK, 6WQK, 1YS

MC - Chrissiesmeer precinct, MS - Steenkampsberg precinct, MT - Standerton precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct

Mpumalanga

There has been a request from the Oribi Working Group to include oribi in counts in this province, while scanning for CAR birds.

Steenkampsberg precinct

David Gaynor reports that the count was about average for the precinct, both in species observed and in numbers. The dedication of regular counters is commendable as CAR counts require much effort and not many 'CAR' birds are seen. The des Brulais' and Neil Champion were fortunate to see a Blackbellied Korhaan on MS02. Gavin Shaw has recently moved to Dullstroom as SACWG Field Officer in the Mpumalanga area.

Do continue to count **Helmeted Guineafowl** on these routes, using the abbreviation **HG**, and also fill in **activity and location (i.e., the last three columns)** for **Bald Ibis**, as well as for cranes and bustards.

Middelburg precinct

Pieter du Plessis was not able to recce any new routes, but routes MM01–MM03 were counted. Unfortunately I have not received the data yet.

Wakkerstroom precinct

The summer count, organized by Judy-Lynn Wheeler for the first time, went smoothly in a very green Wakkerstroom landscape.

Alison Richardson and a group from Wits Bird Club traveled out to join the Wakkerstroom Bird Club volunteers.

Ann Cleal recorded a ringed Bald Ibis on MW03, this bird had traveled 11 km from the farm on which it was ringed in October 2004. Ann also saw the highest number of White Storks (283) in this precinct, as well as two Whitebellied Korhaan.

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

Standerton precinct

Swainson's Francolin were recorded on both routes and Kevin and Glynis Armitage saw a single Yellowbilled Stork. Two recce routes were also counted in this area by the Schoeman family.

Chrissiesmeer precinct

It is wonderful to be reporting on a CAR count in this area for the first time! I know Barbi Forsyth spent a restless night before the count! The rain was pouring down... "after all the planning and preparing of new routes and gathering volunteers with the promise of 'beautiful countryside, wide open vistas, rolling grasslands that went as far as the horizon'"! Barbi delayed the start, then fortunately the rain eased and visibility improved by the minute! The Bald Ibis numbers were encouraging (184) and six Blue Korhaan were recorded by Max Kaiser.

Well done to all those involved in planning this new precinct in this Important Bird Area.

Recipe for balm for a city soul

Roll out lush green corduroy fields,
 Dot with golden sheep and bronze cows.
 Warm under a still winter sun.
 Lace with way-side flowers,
 Spread with hundreds of birds.
 Sprinkle with thousands of butterflies,
 Ice with sparkling dew.
 Fold in mauve mountains,
 Drip in honey mongooses
 Decorate with sun-drenched aloes.
 Melt in caramel vleis and rivers
 Blend in laughter and shared secrets.
 Top with good food and wine,
 Round off with a cosy fire,
 Share with special friends old and new.

by Dawn Woods