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The Avian Demography Unit conducts the Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts in partnership with BirdLife South Africa

The Tony and Lisette Lewis
Foundation South Africa



COORDINATED AVIFAUNAL ROADCOUNTS (CAR)

Newsletter 20

June 2006

"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy"

John Sandhill, The Nature Conservancy, USA.

General

When I wrote the last newsletter, there was hope, but no certainty of a 20th – but thankfully CAR is still running, against all odds financially, and still growing with 17 routes counted in Gauteng!

I certainly appreciated the speed with which most roadcount forms were returned. This was particularly helpful, as I was able to check forms during the many power cuts down here earlier this year. When I suggested candle light suppers in the last newsletter, I did not realise that these would be the only option at times down here!

The summer count was certainly the count most affected by inclement weather in the last 13 years. Counts in a number of precincts were postponed due to heavy rains. The province that was most affected was the Free State and Brian Colahan spent all day phoning to re-schedule counts for about 100 routes! A big thank you to Brian and all Free State participants for re-arranging their lives to count a week later. Some precincts in the northeastern Cape and Mpumalanga were also re-scheduled. It was unfortunately impossible to count most of the Wakkerstroom routes, as heavy rains (1240 mm in January and February!) caused extensive damage to roads and bridges. There must have been many muddy cars returning home! I am grateful for your perseverance in completing CAR routes, I know some people had to travel extra km to reach the other side of flooded rivers.

There was yet another increase in the number of Blue Cranes in the Overberg and Swartland (see trends on website, click on Blue Crane in the table at foot of the CAR webpage). The Swartland precinct began with ten routes in July 1996, ten years ago. I looked back to Circular 1 to see that 46 Blue Cranes were counted that July and the following statement was made 'It will be very interesting to see the pattern that emerges after a few years of monitoring'. I attended the South African Working Group workshop at Potberg in May and was glad to be able to present the crane trends in a number of precincts. You will find these on our website, as well as a **map showing the extensive 'footprint' or rather 'tyre-tread' of CAR**, those grid cells that have CAR routes.

I received a data request for species on a route in the Overberg from Andrew Jenkins. This route criss-crosses an area for a proposed powerline between Riversdale and Swellendam. The fact that habitat is recorded during counts, was very helpful in explaining the results. So I do encourage you to keep recording habitat for all species.

Photographs of habitat

Thank you to those of you who have sent photographs of habitat along their routes. These will be particularly helpful in interpreting results and are a useful way of recording land use and changes in habitat. If you haven't sent photographs it is not too late! Please mark the date, route number and km (GPS coordinates too, if you have them) at which the photo was taken on the back of the photograph or if you send a digital photograph, do include these details in the file name e.g. OV15, 10km, 29-07-2006. This is optional!

Date of winter CAR count

The date set for the winter count is **Saturday, 29 July 2006**. 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 summer count will be on Saturday, 27 January 2007.

Count information

Thank you so much for remembering the new species codes for those birds that have had a name change. The same **CAR 11 roadcount form**, with the new species codes and a **CAR leaflet** are

enclosed. The leaflet is to hand out to farmers, who are sometimes justifiably concerned about strangers scanning their farmlands, or other interested people. Do read the Information Sheets prior to the count and take them with you, as well as your **route map**. It is important to take other people with you on a count; it helps to have more eyes. Also if you ever can't do a count, someone else knows your route.

Do continue to count oribi in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga counts as well as KZN, while scanning for CAR birds. Record the km as usual, write 'oribi' in the species column and the number of individuals in a group.

Please send in your data by the middle of September, but always **keep a copy yourself!**

Email addresses

I sent out an email to you all about the website report on the summer count and a number bounced back. If you didn't receive that email, do please send me your correct email address.

Project material on the website

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 the CAR webpage. Project material is available in Afrikaans as well. The **interim CAR summer count report** is also here, with photos.

Birds in Reserves Project database on website

Results from the Birds in Reserves project can now be accessed online. If you visit the website www.birds.sanbi.org you can get species lists for reserves, or reserves in which species have been reported etc. at the click of a mouse!

It will be a much more complex process to develop queries and place the CAR data online, but this is the plan in the future.

Updating the trends of all species

Amazingly it is now five years since the data used for the eight-year report was collected! We hope to put the updated trends for all species on the website by the end of this year. I am capturing the new routes, developed since 2001 (about 170!), onto GIS so that we can calculate the GIS length of each route (we need the GIS length to calculate birds/100 km).

I have **updated the trends** for some precincts where we do have GIS lengths. These are already on the CAR webpage (click on the following species in the table at the foot of the CAR webpage: Blue Crane, Grey Crowned Crane, Secretarybird, Denham's Bustard and White Stork).

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, the cost (including postage) is R150.

CAR support

Many thanks to the Amajuba Wildlife Centre, the Newcastle Branch of WESSA, for their generous donation of R5000. The support of other individuals, listed below, is also much appreciated.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the possibility of funding through collaborative research. I am delighted that the South African Crane Working Group, together with the Zoological Society of London, have been



Business and biodiversity

I recently attended the CAPE (Cape Action for People and the Environment) Conference, which focused on business and biodiversity. Businesses prioritising sustainable development gave presentations, amongst them many farmers.

Martin Hollands, of the Cambridge Centre for Conservation Policy, highlighted a change in attitude between business and conservation. Traditionally conservation happened in protected areas and business happened outside. But recently there has been the realisation that people and businesses depend on biodiversity. If biodiversity declines, then the ecosystem services provided by this diversity of interacting organisms and the environment flounder. Ecosystem services like clean air, water and fertile soil, regulation of climate, floods, disease and water purification no longer occur effectively and culturally our lives will be less rich. Businesses now need to turn to sustainable development, rather than short term gain. The businesses that are proving successful are those that are building in the cost of conserving biodiversity through environmentally friendly practices and management. The environment needs to be seen as part of the 'factory'. Society therefore needs to respond by supporting businesses that are operating sustainably.

The agricultural businesses represented at the conference highlighted the need for partnerships, the need to involve communities and improve livelihoods, to engage the power of the market. Independent Third Party Endorsement of sustainability, limited ecosystem impact and effective management is very valuable. Environmental certification is a 'gateway' to a crowded market. The consumer today is more concerned about ethics and purchasing to make a difference. Some businesses have been able to find a niche in the market for their products by exposing the consumer to the story of the product and the people and environment in which it is produced sustainably. But the point was also made that consumers won't compromise on quality and value. I was struck by a statement, made originally by Professor Samways of the University of Stellenbosch, that 'the battle for biodiversity will be won or lost on agricultural lands.' Especially as we live in a country ranked the third most diverse in the world where 80% of our land is farmland.

Brett Myrdal, of the Table Mountain National Park, a World Heritage Site, also pointed out that we need to look at who gains from growth in eco-tourism. Where possible, development should only occur on areas that

have been previously developed and social upliftment is most important.

Valli Moosa, Chairperson of the IUCN and former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, highlighted the phenomenal population growth in the last 50 years and the incredible pace of development. In the year 2000 the economy grew more than it did between 1800 and 1900. Global insecurity of oil is a huge challenge that has focused us on the environment. The time has come for a 'step-change', for payment for ecosystem services and payment by those who benefit from conservation of the environment.

In the 12th Annual Vision, published by Endangered Wildlife Trust and subtitled 'Business, Ecotourism and the Environment', Karin Ireton gives an encouraging review on how far South African businesses have come in conserving the environment. But she points out that if this progress is to continue then we need two things to cause a further 'step-change'. There must be 'market reward for innovation, efficiency and finding new directions. Reward from consumers, communities and authorities. If consumers aren't really interested in more sustainable products and lifestyles, the market signals won't reinforce company behaviour'. Secondly, there needs to be an ongoing programme to ensure that understanding of sustainable development stretches to even the smallest emerging business. 'Much of our economic growth will happen at small and medium-sized business level.'

A sobering thought is that providing adequate food, clean water and basic education for the world's poorest could all be achieved for less than people spend annually on makeup, ice cream and pet food! The linking of job creation and poverty relief to restoring biodiversity in degraded natural areas is something that has not been done on this scale anywhere else in the world (e.g. Working for Water, Working for Wetlands). South Africa has received international recognition for this innovation.

One presenter at the 'Fynbos Fynmense' part of the conference ended by saying that a visitor to their wild flower harvesting farm remarked that this was 'God's garden'. We each can play a role in nurturing this 'garden', whichever part of it we live in – especially by reducing, re-using and recycling – living sustainably in whatever way we can. As consumers we can choose products that have been produced in an environmentally friendly way.



awarded a Darwin Initiative grant for three years for a project entitled *Integrating Crane Conservation with Sustainable Habitat Utilisation*. CAR will receive some of this funding in return for access to the CAR crane data. As this will only be about a sixth of our budget, we are still in urgent need of funding.

I am waiting to hear whether other submitted proposals are accepted.

Thank you to those who have written articles about CAR. Yvonne Craig has continued to increase awareness of our large birds in *Our Times*, a local newspaper. Ken and Gertie Griffith's wrote a report about the Border counts in *Tiptol*. Barbi Forsyth described the Chrissiesmeer counts in their Bird Club newsletter, *Bokmakerie* and an article about CAR was included in *KZN Birds*.

Some of you may have seen the very brief snippet about CAR on 50/50 after the summer count. Thank you to Belinda Shaw, who applied for funding for this from 50/50. Belinda and her husband interviewed me and filmed part of a CAR count, but then had to edit it to two minutes! I was just sorry that more detail could not be included, but hopefully it did increase awareness of the project, these special birds and you special people!

Thank you for your donations!

Jean Spearpoint, John Carter and OV05 team, Fred Leask, Inés and Duncan Cooke.

Ringed birds

Ringed cranes were seen on OV04 and OV18. Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species all through the year and report details to SAFRING. For details, see the ADU website.

Pat Lowry reported the ring details of a White Stork found dead on a farm near Kokstad. This stork was 8536 km from where it was ringed in June 1999 near Puska, Croatia! Whenever you find a dead bird, do check for rings.

Ground Hornbill Working Group

Southern Ground Hornbills were not recorded on any of the CAR routes this last summer. John Broodryk, chairperson of BirdLife Lowveld, is investigating the possibility of CAR routes in the Kruger to cover savannah habitat. If you have friends in other parts of the savannah biome, do ask them to get in touch with me as I am keen to establish routes to monitor all the large birds.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, do send in any sightings at any time of year. LD van Essen writes a regular newsletter, see their website www.ewt.org.za.

Alan Kemp, who has spent many years studying the Southern Ground Hornbill, sent this report at the end of last year:

'The 4th International Hornbill Conference, held in South Africa went well, with about 85 delegates from 20 countries. While no African species appear endangered, the warning lights are on with declines reported for many species and areas. Asia is much worse off, given the extensive loss of forest habitats, intense population pressures (human), and the fragmentary nature of the forests and/or lands on which they still exist. For this reason the Asians are way ahead with innovative conservation activities, and we can learn much from their experiences and reactions.

'Our KZN workshop involved a week of intense interaction with private landowners, conservancies and official conservationists. Workshops were presented on how to age, sex and find nests of SGHs, linked wherever possible to field excursions to visit known habitats and nest sites. Our initial impression was of extensive areas of transformed land (mainly sugar and wood plantations, and residential development), with patches of good habitat remaining for SGHs in between or adjacent to these barren areas. All reported nests were sited in cliff holes, contrary to the mainly tree nesting habits of Limpopo SGHs. Of most concern is the apparent decline and/or disappearance of reports from northern KZN, definite in the Pongola-Itala Paulpietersburg area and probable in the Mkuzi-Umfolozi-Hluluwe area, that link to the disappearance from Swaziland and southern Mpumalanga – a possible rift between the northern and southern range of the species in South Africa.'

Thank you!

Thank you so much for counting, despite muddy roads in some areas. Deep thanks to Precinct Organisers, a number of whom had to re-schedule counts. Linda Tsipa has continued capturing all the data over many hours and saved me time editing the tables. Marja Wren-Sargent has typeset this newsletter in record time.

I wish you safe travelling: take care when stopping to count every 2 km, and I hope it won't be too freezing a winter count.

Donella Young, Project Coordinator

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:

Korhaans: Blue = UK

Karoo = KK

White-bellied = WBK

Black-bellied = BBK

Southern Black/Black = SBK

Northern Black/Whitequilled = NBK

Storks: Black = BS

White = WS

Abdim's = AS

Yellow-billed = YS

Cranes: Blue = BC

Grey Crowned = CC

Wattled Crane = WC

Southern Ground-Hornbill = GH

Southern Bald Ibis = BI

Spur-winged Goose = SG

Secretarybird = SEC

Black-headed Heron = BHH

Black Harrier = HAR

oribi = OR

Bustards: Kori = KB

Ludwig's = LB

Denham's/Stamley's = DB

Mistakes and misprints – help us find them!

Please check the figures given for your route in this newsletter against your records, and report any discrepancies. David Gaynor did find an error, so do check carefully!

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in Karoo

Route	km	ADU	Observer	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	UK	WS	Other species
NK011	20	1753	WSO Marais	4//3				3//			
NK012	20	1753	WSO Marais	4//							
NK013	20	1753	WSO Marais	6//			3//	5//			1SG
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	2//		1//	7//				
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock		2//	2//	1//			3//	
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	6//	8//		5//				1BHH
NK041	20	501	Francois Taljaard		2//						
NK042	20	501	Francois Taljaard	8//	1//		7//	2//			
NK044	20	501	Francois Taljaard	59//2			6//				
NK061	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen	7//2			2//				2SG
NK062	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen				3//		3//		
NK063	20	494	Fritz Battenhaussen	4//1							
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe	2//			6//				1BHH, 2SG
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe			1//	12//				
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe								
NK091	20	480	Peter Ferreira	2//		5//	9//				
NK092	20	480	Peter Ferreira	6//			7//				
NK093	20	480	Peter Ferreira	4//2				1//			
NK101	20	2105	HP Cronje			3//	8//		6//1		
NK102	20	2105	HP Cronje	2//		1//	11//				
NK103	20	2105	HP Cronje			3//	4//				2BHH, 331SG
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith						4//		
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith	2//							
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith								
NK151	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				42//	2//			2KB
NK152	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				12//				
NK153	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				10//				
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead				7//				6SG
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead				9//		3//		1BHH
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead	5//1		2//	2//	1//			
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson				39//				
NK222	20	105	Mark Anderson				16//				
NK223	19	105	Mark Anderson				14//				
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	1//	2//	26//	41//				1SG
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	1//		2//	21//	2//			1SG
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				15//				
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	6//	2//	2//	4//	2//			
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe								
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2//			2//				
Total	779			144	17	48	325	18	17	3	5BHH, 2KB, 344SG
Birds/100 km				18.5	2.2	6.2	41.7	2.3	2.2	0.4	

Karoo, Northern Cape

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

'On 28 January 2006, 22 people counted large terrestrial birds along thirty nine 20 km routes in the Northern Cape's eastern Karoo, as part of the 22nd Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey. Fewer people participated than during other recent surveys, which is unfortunate. A challenge for the organizers of CAR and especially the different precincts will be to keep the participants interested and motivated. It is only over the long-term that the project will provide useful data, so it is going to be a challenge to keep the participants enthusiastic during the coming years.'

'During the recent survey, 923 large terrestrial birds were counted (118.5 birds per 100 km). These were mainly Northern Black Korhaans (325 birds), Spur-winged Geese (344 birds) and Blue Cranes (144 birds). Northern Black Korhaans are particularly common in some areas and there is concern that the counting of these birds may distract the observer from observing and counting more important species, such as Ludwig's Bustards. Five Black-headed Herons and a remarkable 344 Spur-winged Geese were counted, species that are not always common in the Karoo. With the high rainfall and the inundation of many ephemeral wetlands, there was an influx of waterbirds into the eastern Karoo. Eleven Blue Crane chicks were counted, a lower number than during many of the previous summer's surveys. It is apparent that the cranes bred later during the 2005/6 summer, which was especially evident during the February 2006 ringing trip when several small chicks and still incubating adults were observed. During the ringing trip, in collaboration with the South African Crane Working Group, 49 Blue Crane chicks were caught and ringed, bringing the total number of birds ringed since 1997 in the Northern Cape's eastern Karoo to 369 individuals.'

Congratulations to Mark, who has just published a book on the birds of the Orange River and surrounding area. Thank you to Mark and Ronelle for their time and effort in coordinating these routes.

Number of birds counted in January census 2006 in Mpumalanga

Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SG	UK	WS	HG	Other species
MC01	73.4	2094	Bev Carstens		11//	36//		13//17			17//	2NBK
MC02	64	1338	Max Kaiser		16//2			13//	6//	3//	10//	3DB
MC03	56.5	1335, 1001	E Hodgkinson & R Richardson		13//	11//		24//		9//		
MC04	70.1	2095	Claire Eksteen		8//	27//		4//		29//	2//	
MC05	68.8	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth		4//	67//	2//	14//2		31//	46//	1SEC
MC06	34.6	1926	Alison Hanson		5//	10//2	4//	8//		12//		1SEC
MC07	78.6	1618, 1751	Craig & Karin Nelson		6//	14//		19//3		11//	39//	
MM01	54	1968	Brian & Margaret Taylor		1//							
MS01	56.8	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor		3//	7//	1//	20//				3OR
MS02	54	1725, 1726	Des & Ann des Brulais		1//	2//						1SEC
MS04	62.6	1927, 1928	John & Anita Meiring		2//			2//			1//1	
MS05	54.6	728, 1558	Anton & Tommie Linstrom	2//	3//		3//	24//			25//	
MS06	64	1178	Hendrik van Wyk	1//	2//	3//1		2//		1//		5DB
MS07	56.2	1109, 1246	Bryan & Alice Rowland		2//			2//			1//	3OR, 1WC
MS08	36	2009	Gavin Shaw					1//				
MS09	55	1727	Jim McLuskie		5//	4//	1//				9//	
MS13	58	724	Lientjie Cohen		1//			3//			25//	
MT01	85	1816, 1817	Colin & Naida Williams		6//			9//1	5//5		81//	31SS
MT02	67.4	1912, 1973	Kevin & Glynis Armitage		20//			9//	4//		29//	18SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		5//			4//			12//	4NBK, 3SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		3//			6//			35//1	7SS
MW03	14.2	2017, 2018	N Dennett & B Thome						6//	164//	3//	
MW06	56.3	2017, 2018	N Dennett & B Thome		4//	6//		3//			12//	
MW07	67	2002	David Whitehead		4//	28//		7//		138//		
MW10	53.3	2003	Ann Cleal					5//	19//	6//1	17	16//
Total	1412			3	127	218	16	197	33	415	365	8DB, 6NBK, 3SEC
Birds/100 km				0.2	9.0	16.4	1.1	14.0	2.3	29.4	25.9	69SS, 1WC, 6OR
MC - Chrissiesmeer precinct, MM - Middelburg precinct, MS - Steenkampsberg precinct, MT - Standerton precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct												

Mpumalanga

A reminder that there has been a request from the Oribi Working Group to include Oribi in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds. As it was only possible to count a few Wakkerstroom routes, the densities of Blue Korhaan, Grey Crowned Crane and Southern Bald Ibis were lower than they have been for a while for this province.

Steenkampsberg precinct

In this precinct the numbers were generally above average for a summer count. There was only one sighting of White Stork. Hendrik van Wyk recorded five Denham's Bustard on MS06, this is the highest total for 17 counts. On MS07 Bryan and Alice Rowland spotted one Wattled Crane. Of special interest were two Oribi sightings, each with three animals, including two juveniles.

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 Southern Bald Ibis, as well as for cranes and bustards.



The rather 'drowned' habitat at 51 km on MC04!
Photo by Claire Eksteen.

Middelburg precinct

I was glad to receive a count from Brian and Margaret Taylor. Unfortunately Pieter du Plessis is no longer able to coordinate these routes; thank you for your interest, Pieter.

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in Swartland								
Route	km	Adu No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	WS	Other spp.
SW01	75	1418, 1970	David McMillan & F Hellman	50/1/		21/1/		
SW02	76.3	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker	3/1/	3/1/			
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & Pat Waddell	13/1/1	5/1/			
SW04	68	12,861, 287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	2/2				
SW05	58.9	163, 1239	Keith & Rena Harrison	19/5/	1/1/			
SW06	75.2	1359	Reg le Roux	14/1/1	5/1/	9/1/	7/1/	
SW07	44.5	2076, 1122	Brigid de Kock & L Reynolds	72/2/4	6/1/			1SEC
SW08	65.7	1474, 497	Bruce MacKenzie	14/4/2	4/1/	56/1/		
SW09	60	1135, 1467	Jens & Diane Oelbüttel	33/6/	5/1/	52/1/		
SW10	64.8	2030, 687	Pieter Bruwer	5/1/		23/1/		
SW11	67.3	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	17/1/	4/1/	7/1/		1HAR
SW12	79.4	1552, 1553	Tielman & Alta Klynsmith			36/1/		
SW13	50.4	673, 674	Elna & Tertius Slabber	4/1/				
SW14	53	506, 1882	Riaan & Manke van der Walt	29/7/		32/40/	2/1/	
SW15	57	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, J & D Oelbüttel	43/6/1	4/1/	22/1/		
SW16	44	2051, 1191	Cheryl Seeley & Ian Milneham	14/3/		255/1/	1/1/	
Total	1003			378	37	555	10	1SEC, 1HAR
Birds/100 km				37.7	3.7	55.3	1.0	

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in Western Cape Precincts								
Route	km	Adu No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other spp.
WB01	29.5	343, 1101	Maria Andela & Annatjie Mocke			23/2/		5LB
WB03	58	1909, 1971	Stefan & Hannatjie Theron	6/2/	1/1/	8/1/		5LB, 100WS
WC01	43	1291	George Hattingh		5/1/			9DB, 1WS
WC02	55	1999, 2027	Elton le Roux, J Oransie & team	14/14/				
WU01	50	1392	J de Jaar	2/1/	2/1/			5DB, 12WS
WU02	57.9	539, 2062	Jonas Witbooi & Pat Nurse	71/1/	1/1/		49/1/	4DB
WU03	30.3	540	JP Esau		1/1/			
WU04	35	1606	Natalie Baker		5/1/		1/1/	12WS
WU05	70.2	297, 1520, 1521	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown & Barry	20/1/		1/1/		4DB, 1LB
WU06	14	1606	Natalie Baker		3/1/			
WU07	70	545, 543	Koos Maya & JD James	9/2/			23/1/	
WW01	61	2054	Margaret Kiely & team		10/2/		4/1/	39WS
Total	574			141	30	34	77	22DB, 11LB
Birds/100 km				24.6	5.2	5.9	13.4	164WS

WB - Beaufort West precinct, WC - Calitzdorp precinct, WU - Uniondale precinct, WW - Wilderness prec

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in Overberg										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG	WS
OV01	58	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	48/7/4	7/1/				13/1/	4/1/
OV02	67	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	27/4/	3/1/					1HAR
OV03	48.6	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	86/4/	1/1/	1/1/			70/1/	
OV04	26.8	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	99/8/4	2/1/				6/1/	
OV05	69.7	228, 1148	John Carter & Brian Dennis	123/17/	4/1/	8/1/	2/1/	3/1/	4/1/	1/1/
OV06	51	1655, 2110, 2112, 2113	Stuart & Ruth McLennan, J & M Jones	134/12/	9/1/	4/1/	2/1/	1/1/	2/1/	69/1/
OV07	68.1	496	Ken Price	126/16/2	11/1/				3/1/	
OV08	73.4	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	50/7/5	25/1/	1/1/			10/1/	169/1/
OV09	47	991, 2010	Donella Young, Linda Tsipa & Allert Bijleveld	270/16/9	10/1/			1/1/	67/1/	1HAR
OV10	56.1	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	39/2/4	2/1/					5/1/
OV11	62.2	244, 246	Pieter & Sheila Siebert & M Loubser	69/2/	9/1/	4/1/			2/1/	45/1/
OV12	57.1	215, 216, 1381	Heather Busby, D Woods & R Gilmour	68/9/1	2/1/	2/1/				21/1/
OV13	70	520, 229, 672, 671	Jill Mortimer, I Cooke, R Lind & A White	164/10/7	18/1/		2/1/		23/1/	21/1/
OV14	87	123, 1922	John Coats & M & H Aucamp	106/15/6	7/1/	2/1/	10/1/		1/1/	14/1/
OV15	59.8	1064, 1063, 2120	Max Ellwood & Petra Rigg	121/9/3	15/1/				10/1/	123/1/
OV16	61.7	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & W du Toit	140/10/2	14/1/		4/1/			9/1/
OV17	66	878	Lee Burman	123/8/4				1/1/	4/1/	2/1/
OV18	49.7	240, 1712	Wicus & Hanlie Leeuwener	228/28	7/1/			1/1/	60/1/	
OV19	62.3	219, 1213, 1632	Ronnie Crowther, E Stodel & C Wallace	36/4/4	8/1/	7/1/			9/1/	48/1/
OV20	58.6	1325, 1441, 1951, 1950	N & A Passmore, J Marusch & P Reynolds	25/1/	7/1/				12/1/	30/1/
OV21	63.9	1440, 1840, 1981	Alex & Nancy Swanepoel & M Vlok	42/6/	14/1/	8/1/			5/1/	3/1/
OV23	55.6	1062	Andrew Marshall	7/2/	16/5/	2/1/		2/1/		52/1/
OV24	57.5	1212, 1305	Gerald Swanepoel & Vicki Hudson	219/3/1	1/1/	15/1/			9/1/	20/1/
OV25	36	1777, 1778	Rae & Ann Gordon	53/2/2	8/1/				6/4/	15/1/
OV26	19.4	871	Jeffrey Arizon & 4 learners	65/6/3	2/1/					
OV27	67.6	2071	Buddy Mockford & team	72/5/	21/1/				13/1/	35/1/
OV28	41	1462, 1825	Tonia & Flip Schonken	8/1/	16/1/	4/1/				34/1/
OV29	26.3	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	4/1/	3/1/	1/1/				4/1/
OV33	60.6	1463	Frans de Graaff	23/1/	8/1/	2/1/		2/1/	23/1/	25/1/
Total	1628			2851	258	61	21	11	356	832
Birds/100 km				175.1	15.8	3.7	1.3	0.7	21.9	51.1
OV34	61	1550, 1551	Heyné & Sharon Brink	14/1/	15/1/	4/1/			7/1/	
OV35	23	1469	Avril Young	142/2/18	3/1/				14/1/	

Standerton precinct

These routes were counted two weeks late due to rain. Colin and Nalda Williams saw 30 Swainson's Spurfowl on their route, MT01. Kevin and Glynis Armitage remarked on the wide dispersal of birds following above average rainfall and the abundant vegetation reducing visibility.

Wakkerstroom precinct

As mentioned earlier it was only possible to count a few routes. Norman Dennett and Beverley Thorne saw the highest White Stork total (164) on a section of MW03 that they counted on the way to their route. MW05 has been changed and renumbered MW10. The reason for this change was that the Vlakplaats and Daggakraal communities have grown extensively and those parts of the route are now densely populated, making it dangerous to stop. The route has been changed to include similar habitat to the original MW05.

Chrissiesmeer precinct

Rain poured down the night before the count, but fortunately the weather was fine for the count, with a mild breeze that became quite a brisk wind by the time the count ended. White Storks and Southern Bald Ibis were recorded on most routes, with Barbi and Alan Forsyth recording 67 Southern Bald Ibis on MC05. Grey Crowned Cranes were recorded on two routes. It was impossible to count all of MC06 due to flooding. There were also flooded rivers on MC07 and Craig Nelson had to make a 66 km detour to get to the other side of a river!

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

Western Cape

Swartland precinct

The diversity of birds was very low in the Swartland, probably due to the drought conditions. This was best expressed by Elna Slabber, who coordinates the Swartland routes, 'dit is verskriklik droog, nêrens water wat loop of staan nie'. Elna noted that farmers were planting more pastures, medics, oats and lucerne on her route, but even in the irrigated lucerne there were no birds. However, the number of Blue Cranes is still on the increase and Elna said Swartlanders often mention how many cranes they have seen now. Cheryl Seeley and Ian Milneham counted 255 Spur-winged Geese on their new route, SW16. On SW15 large tracts of land had been burnt in the area due to veld fires. Koos de Goede's route was counted by Brigid de Kock and Linda Reynolds. They saw a group of 52 Blue Cranes around feed troughs.

Jan Hofmeyr recorded 430 White Storks on the pig farm on the CAR day. Ten White Storks were seen on CAR routes.

Beaufort West precinct

Maria Andela was only able to count half her route as a very muddy riverbed prevented further travel. Stefan Theron, who counts WB03, remarked that although the veld was green, they saw a disappointing number of birds and that this was probably due to dispersal of birds because of the widespread rains.

Little Karoo precinct

I haven't received the results yet.

Uniondale precinct

In this precinct White Storks were only present on two routes and Mike Euston-Brown expressed surprise that they didn't have any, especially after counting over 850 a few years ago. But they did record their first Ludwig's Bustard on WU05.

Natalie Baker, who coordinates these routes, highlighted the need to be careful in identifying Denham's and Ludwig's Bustard, as both species occur in this area. Information Sheet No. 3 focuses on distinguishing between these large bustards and is available at the foot of the CAR webpage, or contact me.

Margaret Kiely is the new route leader for the route along the Old Cape Road which was reced last July. Their count was more productive this summer and they recorded 39 White Storks.

Welcome to more of The Lakes Bird Club members who are helping in these counts.

Calitzdorp precinct

George Hattingh saw 9 Denham's Bustards on WC01 and the number of Blue Cranes on the new route, WC02 is encouraging.

Overberg precinct

A number of participants remarked on the dry conditions and that most dams were empty. Despite the very dry conditions, the density of Blue Cranes in the Overberg is still on the increase. There is concern that the Blue Cranes are competing with livestock for food at feeding troughs. The Overberg Crane Group is investigating the extent of loss to farmers.

John Coats and the Aucamp's recorded seven species, including two Southern Black Korhaans and 11 Karoo Korhaans. White Stork numbers were low, but this is not surprising given the dry conditions and good rains further north. Keith and Michelle Moodie saw the highest total of White Storks (169) and Black-headed Herons (25) on OV08. Gerald Swanepoel and Vicki Hudson saw 15 Denham's Bustard on OV24 and a Black Stork. Unfortunately Vicki is no longer the Overberg Field Worker, but we do wish her well in her new position in Cape Nature and will keep in touch. Mick D'Alton, who counts a CAR route regularly is now Chairperson of the Overberg Crane Group and a new field worker will be appointed soon. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work that Wicus Leeuwner has done over many years as Chairperson. Some Overberg participants gathered at the beautiful spot on the river on his farm after the count and I was glad of the opportunity to see you.

Héyne Brink and Andrew Jenkins ringed 4 Black Harrier chicks from one nest on 29 November. Héyne had spotted nesting activity.

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
EB01	63	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		6//		5//1				4//	2//	
EB02	75	1398	Keith Marshall		12//	3//	9//2			2//	2//	36//	
EB03	68	2119, 680	PJ Swift & Ian Field	1//	11//	28//				3//	5//	99//	
EB04	63	1568, 1567, 1584, 2073	Ken & B Monfoort, W Perks & D Nell		16//2	5//	1//				6//19//	19//	1HAR
EE01	37	1730	Helen Lechmere-Oertel			36//					3//	3//	
EE02	66.2	1967	John Filmer	3//	2//	10//					5//	53//	
EE06	67	2087	C van Rooyen			11//					10//	13//	
EE08	71	2098	Mark van Niekerk		18//	7//						33//	3UK
EE10	63	899	Kevin Meise		4//	2//				1//	6//		
EE11	55	1261	Mike Agenbag	1//	4//	79//2/2				1//	4//	2//	15BI
EE12	52	901	Jenni Brown			3//				1//	1//3//	14//	
EE17	32	1419	Mike & Jade Tegg		3//	32//					106//	1//	
EE18	43.8	1918, 1919	Les & Adrian Larter	34//	3//	10//	6//				41//12//	123//	4UK
EE19	84.6	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	19//6	3//4	2//3		3//		2//	20//5	36//	1HAR, 38UK
EE20	59.6	896	Fred Leask		8//	49//2				2//	3//	50//	
EE21	50	899	Kevin Meise		4//	4//2						11//	
EG02	50.8	565, 1530	Pat & M Huiley & L Mullins	2//				4//	2//				1BS
EG03	77.1	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonnevie, Jim & Eve Cambray	3//	2//			1//	4//	2//		298//	3KB
EG04	65	161	Adrian Craig							2//			
EH03	62.4	1771	Wendy Rosser	2//	4//		1//				3//	363//	
EH04	44.5	1132, 1767, 1766, 1976	David & Jill Tudhope & P & M Bosman		2//							117//	
EH05	40	1612, 1794, 301	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout & C Cook				5//				3//	9//	
EH06	57	312, 1772, 1773, 1977	Y Craig, M Keuleman, J Dale & D Ponti	6//2	11//		9//				10//	221//	1HAR
EK02	58.3	885, 1523	John Lardner-Burke & Alan Wilson	2//	3//						25//	29//	
EK04	60	884, 1525	Peter Metcalf & Tim Cockcroft		1//							5//	
EK05	62.5	886, 1528, 1527, 1526	M Turner, L Wood, J Roxburgh & L Knowles		13//		8//				10//	64//	
EM01	61.8	974, 2111	Bradley & Lee-Ann Gibbons	20//4			2//			1//			4KK, 11NBK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann	15//4				11//	11//	2//		12//	1BS, 6KB, 7KK
EP02	66.6	1570, 1621, 83	Hermann & Terry Hertel & Andy Nixon	4//	1//		8//	8//				64//	1KK
EP03	62	872	Denzil & Mattie Ward					3//	1//			4//	1KB
EP04	73.3	869, 271	Peter Hall & EH Sauer	2//	1//		1//	1//				67//	1KB, 5KK
EP06	53.3	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro		9//		3//1			16//	1077//	13NBK	
EP07	64	1475	Alan Collett							2//			1UK, 23WQK
EP08	111.4	270	Dave Brown				1//	2//	1//			62//	8KK
EP09	31	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro									564//	9NBK
EP10	43.7	1731	John Bowker	6//				11//		5//		46//	8KK, 50NBK, 1UK
EP11	48.1	1852, 195	Briar Wright & Phil Whittington	9//1	8//2		2//		1//	2//		127//	
EQ01	45.1	917, 1587	Fin Weakley & Ian McEwan			1//					23//		2BS
ES02	50	2063	Braam Basson	3//				7//		5//		1//	1KB, 8KK
ES04	46	1476, 1972	Judy & Zorb Caryer	34//	1//			2//		1//		153//	
ES05	90.1	1182, 2005, 915	Neil & Ros Turner & Andy & M Cheeseman	4//	1//		1//	1//		4//		202//	1BBK, 1KB
ES07	35.4	1826	Debbie Abrahamson	25//3	2//		1//			4//		46//	
ES08	80	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows	16//8				3//	8//	1//		69//	2KB
ES10	26	2044	Desmond & Martie Schroeder	90//5									7KB
EU01	69	1479	Emile Plumstead		12//		4//						
Total	2659			334	173	293	57	57	40	41	349	4095	1BBK,15BI,4BS,
Birds/100 km				12.6	6.5	11.0	2.1	2.1	1.5	1.5	13.1	154.0	3HAR,22KB,41KK,
													106NBK,47UK
EB - Border precinct, EE - Northeast Cape precinct, EG - Grahamstown precinct, EH - Humansdorp precinct, EK - Kenton precinct, EM - Middelburg precinct, EP - PE precinct (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), EQ - Queenstown precinct, ES - Somerset East precinct, EU - Umtata precinct													

Eastern Cape

A reminder that there has been a request from the Oribi Working Group to include Oribi in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds.

In the Border precinct there were again no Black-headed Herons in the usually thriving heronry in the Witch's Krantz near Berlin. On EB03 P. Swift and Ian Field recorded 28 Grey Crowned Cranes.

In the northeastern Cape most counts were re-scheduled due to rain on the CAR day. Mike Agenbag counted 15 Southern Bald Ibis on EE11. Les and Adrian Larter saw seven different species on their route, EE17. As usual EE19 had the highest number of Blue Korhaan. Fred Leask, who counts EE20 noted that many pine trees had been planted along his route having a definite impact on bird life. He also remarked that Working for Water were doing wonderful rehabilitation work on wetlands. The last sec-

tion of EE09 is no longer passable as the road is not maintained; as this section was more than 10% of the route this route has been re-numbered EE21.

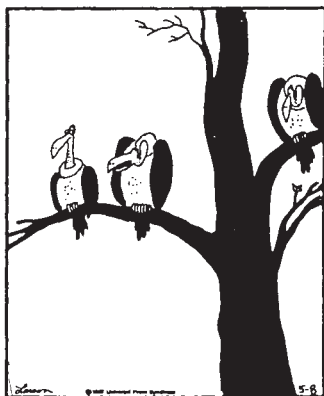
Bo Bonnevie saw seven different species on his route EG03, including 298 White Stork. In the Humansdorp precinct there was a noticeable drop in numbers from the last few summers, probably due to extensive fires in the area in November last year followed by a dry season. A strong wind on the Humansdorp plains during the count probably also affected numbers. There was not a single heron, or spoonbill at the heronry on EH06. This is the first time in any trip to that area in 10 years that this heronry has been empty. Thank you to Brent and Chantelle Cook, who provide a landrover for counting this route as part of their contribution to conservation. They run Thula Moya Nature reserve and The Dunes Guest Farm and Desmond

Ponti, one of the game rangers, drives and participates in the count. Wendy Rosser and her team recorded 363 White Storks on EH03.

On routes EP06 and EP09 in the Fish River Valley, there has been a significant change in crops again, due to the low mealie price. Last year there was about 70/30 maize, but this year 70/30 lucerne. Due to good rains the area was lush and the lucerne almost high enough to conceal storks! Ken and Jen Munro recorded high numbers, as in previous years when lucerne predominated; 1077 White Stork on EP06 and 564 on EP09.

Thank you to Fin Weakley, who has coordinated the Queenstown routes since their inception in July 1998. Gail McCann now coordinates these routes. Gail and Kate Webster did a recce for a new route.

Braam Basson saw six different species on his route ES02 including a Kori Bustard, five Secretarybirds and eight Karoo Korhaans. We have decided not to continue the route recce'd by Pat Palmer in July last year. Black Storks were recorded on four Eastern Cape routes. No oribi were observed.



"Douglas! Your shoulders aren't hunched!"

Free State

Brian D. Colahan, Principal Nature Conservation Scientist: Ornithology, Free State Tourism, Environment & Economic Affairs, reports:

'Reports on the morning of Friday 27th, of gravel roads which had been damaged by the recent heavy rains in the Free State, such that certain routes would not be accessible by car the next day, led to the surveys in all three precincts being postponed until the following Saturday. Despite this very inconvenient last-minute hitch, most CAR leaders were able to re-schedule. Over 107 routes (some results have yet to reach me) were surveyed (a few of them not completely, because of flooded sections) and 7013 km were covered, yielding 7083 birds. In the Northeastern Precinct (FN), 23 routes (1464 km, 1365 birds and 93.2 birds/100 km) were done, 20 (1269 km, 829 birds and 65.3 birds/100 km) in the Northwestern (FW) and 64 (4280 km, 4889 birds and 114.2 birds/100 km) in the Southern (FS). The overall density of 101.0 birds/100 km was less than that for the 2005 summer survey (114.6/100 km), when there were far more White Storks (733 and 2528, respectively).

'The Bald Ibis was the most abundant species recorded in FN (472, 32.2/100 km), followed by White Stork (275, 18.8/100 km); however, not one Abdim's Stork was seen. The 19 Denham's Bustard (along three routes, nine of them by Pietré Enslin's team on FN57), is by far the most ever seen in that precinct. The 140 Blue Cranes recorded (121 of them seen along FN52, by Martin & Melanie Potgieter) gave this precinct a density of 9.6/100 km, higher than that for FS (8.5/100 km).

'Both the migrant storks were recorded in FW, but all (72 White Storks and 55 Abdim's) were along FW36, surveyed by Johan Hardy's team. The most abundant species here was, as usual, the

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in southern Free State													
Route	km	Adu No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other species	
FS06	73	1059	Pierre de Villiers	10//			6//	6//					
FS07	60	1746	Angelo Nichas	4//		2//	22//			2//			
FS08	69.9	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer		5//	1//	14//			3//		1HAR	
FS09	62.5	24, 1996	Brian Colahan & Corlia Els	1//			37//			2//			
FS12	52	662	Herman Kleynhans	6//2	1//	7//	100//		6//	28//		2YS	
FS14	65.7	1203	Helena Vorster			1//	50//	1//	8//				
FS15	72	1056	PL Crouse				13//	3//					
FS17	74.5	1620	Dawie Kok				81//	2//	1//				
FS18	74.5	684	Louise Coetzee		1//		74//		2//	2//			
FS20	64.7	1432	Anne McLeod				102//	2//	1//			2AS	
FS21	59.3	682, 1223	Leon & C-A Barkhuizen	28//	3//		69//	4//					
FS23	77	683	Chris Botha	14//			5//			3//		2AS	
FS27	78.8	694	Erika Schulze	2//	3//		14//	2//	1//	2//		4WBK	
FS31	72.6	259	Johan van Niekerk	63//	4//		43//	1//	8//	8//			
FS35	78.5	1258	Hannes Blom	2//			74//		16//		10//	9AS	
FS40	69.8	2107	Cornelia Squirra				37//		16//		3//		
FS42	68.3	24	Brian Colahan			1//	60//		7//	7//			
FS43	78	1801	Christo de Meyer				170//		2//				
FS47	84	1055	Johan van den Berg		7//		59//	2//	6/6//		11//	350AS	
FS48	75	1808	Ockie Boshoff				48//	2//		2//			
FS50	77.6	1058	Frans Marais		1//		1//		10//	14//		2KK	
FS51	80	1262, 24	Janine Liefbrig & BD Colahan	3//			55//		13//	6//	1//		
FS52	72	1900	C Lotter				7//				3	1BS	
FS54	57.5	1262, 1818	J Liefbrig & E. Beemsteboer			2//	71//	1//	1//	5//	21//	1KB	
FS55	48	1995	J du Preez				75//	7//			116//	1AS, 1KB	
FS56	72	988, 2122	Fanie & Stephanus Buys				121//	7//	18//	12//	154//	264AS	
FS58	79	863	Pierre Nel				47//		1//			1HAR	
FS60	71	1152, 1289	Buks & Annatjie Roets				33//	4//	7//	5//	30//		
FS62	59	2049	JA Josling				12//		3//	1//			
FS65	83.5	24	Brian Colahan		2//		85//	1//	1//				
FS66	15.2	1399	Tom Mostert				5//			6//			
FS67	68.8	950	Daan Müller		3//		38//	1//		3//	1//		
FS68	64.7	1051, 1795	Werner & Jennefer Böing				43//		15//	2//			
FS70	60.6	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helène Bam		5//			3//	17//	18//			
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger	2//			3//	2//	2/3//				
FS79	54.9	1397	Dewald Liebenberg			1//	35//		2/1//				
FS82	42	1996, 24	Corlia & Brian Colahan		1//	2//	41//	1//					
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen				11//	2//		8//			
FS85	77	285	JB Cloete		4//		41//	2//	2//	2//			
FS91	58.8	641	Rick Nuttall	20//			144//	2//	16//	5/2//			
FS92	78	1201	Fritz Krohn		1//				9//	4//			
FS93	48	700	Johan Watson	6/1//	1//	2//	17//	4//	4//	9//			
FS94	69.9	1991	Boom Prinsloo		1//		11//						
FS95	85.3	821	Coenie Erasmus	4//			6//	2//			3//		
FS96	73	1896, 1897	Louis & Pat Fourie	1//	1//		1//	1//		3//	1//		
FS99	68	1057	L Goosen				42//	1//	9//		1//		
FS101	60.5	1046	Blackie de Swardt	2//		1//	1//	1//					
FS102	68.8	687	Riëtte Griesel	12//4		8//	20//	2//	14//	20//			
FS103	55	1052	Duart Hugo				41//		4//				
FS104	70.3	1395	Geoff Johnson		3//		42/1//	1//	19//	8/2//			
FS105	80.1	1996, 24	Corlia & Brian Colahan	49//3	1//	1//	21//	1//					
FS106	49.8	102	Dawie de Swardt & H Bester		1//		47//		6//				
FS107	72	1836, 1837	John & Dawnia Edgar		15//			2//	12/1//		15//	6BI	
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jennifer Lotter		7//				9//	3//			
FS110	55	1396	Jeremy Jones				84//	2//	1/11//	12//			
FS111	73.8	1724	Wolfe Wolfardt		5//		73//		1//	1//			
FS112	61	1747	Morné Pretorius		5//		73//		9//	5//			
FS113	90	1616	Danie Krynauw		2//		16//	2//	8//	8/2//			
FS114	71.3	1262, 684	J Liefbrig & Louise Coetzee				55//		4//		19//		
FS116	47	1799	Peter Divall		2//		58//	1//	3//	6//			
FS117	67.1	691	Willie Mostert				30//			3//			
FS118	68.9	24, 1996	Brian & Corlia Colahan	122//4		4//	34//	6//		4//			
FS119	74	1140, 1141	John & Jill Moffett		6//		59//		5//				
FS120	76	1889	JC Labuschagne		7//		51//		3//	4//			
Total	4280			362	101	33	2729	84	304	245	386	626AS, 6BI, 1BS,	
Birds/100 km				8.5	2.4	0.8	63.8	2.0	7.1	5.7	9.0	2HAR, 2KB, 2KK,	
												4WBK, 2YS	

Geoff Potter and Patsy Millin counting on FN39.
Photo by Peter Millin.



Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in north-eastern Free State												
Route	km	Adu No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other species
FN16	54.7	701	Theunis Bekker		6//	74//			8//	6//1	3//	
FN24	67	719, 720	Georg & Erla Wandrag		2//	10//			5//		9//	
FN26	65.2	606	Thomas Wessels		1//				10//			
FN28	54	1892, 1893	Otto & Marguerite Nel		2//	37//		1//	1//		101//	
FN29	67	721, 1219	Freda & John Whipp	6//	2//	78//			3//		9//	4DB
FN31	79	2109	R Dillon		7//	28//	10//	1//	8/1/		20//	2DB
FN32	48.4	1072	David Weaver	4//	2//	22//	14/1/	3//		2/1/	22//	
FN39	64.5	1433, 1810, 1470	Peter & P Millin & G Potter		1//							
FN40	66.6	2055, 2056	Hansie & Amie Joubert		1//					2//		
FN41	81.3	1045	GJ Vermeulen		4//	65//			8//	2//		11NBK
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		4//				3//	5//	2//	
FN44	68.2	714, 1811	Frik & Linda Oosthuysen		2//				20/1/			1YS
FN45	65.6	188	Hazel Vickery	5//	2//	8//			5//		27//	
FN46	64	718, 1813	Gerhard & E van Deventer		1//	37//			7//			
FN48	56	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		4//				4//			2NBK
FN49	47.4	944	Gert Maritz	2//	1//	23//	3//	2//	4//	3//	75//	
FN50	55.3	942	Pieter Koorhof	2//	3/1/	2//	4//		21//5			
FN51	63.8	1157, 1821	Frans & Lana du Plooy		4//				/2/			
FN52	59	2042, 2043	Melanie & Martin Potgieter	121//	45/2/	38//			35/19/	4//		
FN55	68.2	703	Nacelle Collins		1//	27//			5//		7//	
FN57	62.7	1932, 2014	P & FJ Enslin		3//	10//			2//	3/2		9DB
FN58	69	705	Paulus Fihlo		6//	13//			3//	6//		
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes		1//				1//	2//		82NBK
Total	1464			140	108	472	32	7	181	39	275	15DB, 95NBK,
Birds/100 km				9.6	7.4	32.2	2.2	0.5	12.4	2.7	18.8	1YS

Northern Black Korhaan (42.5/100 km), as it was in FS, but where the density for that species was the highest ever recorded there: 63.8/100 km! There were 23 routes with 50 or more of these birds, and Christo de Meyers's 170 along FS43 kept him busy for 6 hours. However, Fanie & Stefanus Buys (FS56) saw the most birds out of all the routes 576 (including 264 Abdim's Storks, 154 White Storks, and 121 Northern Black Korhaans), or 8 birds/km. A Kori Bustard was seen on each of two adjacent routes (and was therefore possibly the same bird), on FS54 (Janine Liefbrig & Elsa Beemsteboer) and FS55 (Johan du Preez). On FS27, Erika Schulze & Brenda Weyer saw the only White-bellied Korhaans, a group of four.'

Many thanks to Brian Colahan, particularly for all the phoning about re-scheduling.

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in north-western Free State												
Route	km	Adu No.	Observers	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other species				
FW08	65	1514	Pieter Terreblanche	1//	5//							
FW13	54.8	1515, 1903, 1162	J & R Potgieter & P van der Merwe	2//			1//					
FW16	39.1	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe		8//	2//						
FW18	48.5	1268	Herman Jordaan		63//		1//	2UK				
FW26	76.4	1174	Fanie Gouws		13//							
FW28	57.3	1162	Piet van der Merwe		16//							
FW31	66	1175	Cecil Whitfield	1//	19//		3//					
FW34	77.2	1163	Des Walker	5//	85//		2//					
FW36	83.2	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy	5//	50//		34//	55AS, 72WS				
FW39	49.6	2118	Hennie Pretorius		18//		1//					
FW42	68.4	1646	Andre Hoffmann	8//								
FW45	50.3	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan		11//		2//					
FW46	52.9	1624, 1990	Vella & Hilda van Niekerk Brink	1//	51//	1//	5//	7UK				
FW47	59.8	2108	Rodney Jacobs		17//			1UK				
FW51	79	1253	JJ den Houting	2//	68//			9UK				
FW52	53.4	1957	Rosemary Girard	3//	13//		3//					
FW53	89.9	1173, 1940	Chris & Matilda de Lange	12//	59//		8//					
FW55	62.5	1936, 1937	Andries & Leanda Nel	14/1/2	8//		7//					
FW56	62	1901, 1902	Stephen & Marietjie Hill									
FW57	74	1958	Joey Knoesen		22//							
Total	1269			72	539	3	69	55AS, 19UK				
Birds/100 km				5.7	42.5	0.2	5.4	72WS				

"The birds least likely to show the effects of these transformation are the small species which able to persist in small, fragmented remnants of undisturbed habitat. Conversely, the species most likely to show disrupted patterns of distribution are large species with large home ranges." The Atlas of Southern African Birds. 1997. Harrison, J.A., Allan, D.G., Underhill, L.G., Herremans, M., Tree, A.J., Parker, V. and Brown, C.J. (eds). Vol. 1, p. xcvi.

Gauteng

CAR has forged ahead in Gauteng where 17 routes were counted!

Craig Whittington-Jones, of Gauteng Nature Conservation, has been most efficient in setting up and organising the counting of so many new routes, with the help of Sean West. The routes have been grouped into six precincts. The large terrestrial bird species diversity is low in this province with mostly Northern Black Korhaan, Black-headed Heron, Helmeted Guineafowl and Spur-winged Goose being recorded. Habitat transformation has been extensive, so it is very important to keep track of bird numbers in this province. Rouxdene Deyssel saw two Yellow-billed Storks on their route in the Devon area. Six White Storks were seen on GH02. A single Blue Crane was recorded in this province, on a route near the World Heritage Site, Cradle of Humankind.

Thank you to Craig and Sean for the many hours involved in starting up CAR in Gauteng.



Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in Gauteng												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	SG	NBK	Other species					
GB01	17.8	931	Francois Wolfaardt	3//		3//	10HG					
GB02	30	931	Francois Wolfaardt				5HG					
GB03	56.8	2103	Samantha Braid	3//			1BI					
GB04	50	2102	Leon Labuschagne									
GB05	18.1	2104	Pieta Compaan									
GC01	14.7	2046	Willem de Lange			25//						
GC03	77.6	2046	Willem de Lange			20//						
GC04	72	613, 1538	C Whittington-Jones, L Randell	8//	5//	14//	24HG					
GC05	63	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	4/2/	8/4/	24//						
GD01	66	1987	Coral Birss	8//								
GD02	53	2045	Rouxdene Deyssel	3//			2YS					
GD03	36	1561	Sizakele Ndzhukula	3//			2SEC					
GH02	74.5	1561	Sizakele Ndzhukula	3//	20//		6WS					
GH03	55.2	2101	Hein Pienaar	3//	3//	9//						
GH04	68.9	1369	Lester Niss			5//	9HG					
GH05	58	2039, 2038	Johnny & Andra Hennop			5//						
GM01	50	2102	Leon Labuschagne									
GW01	52	2048	Gareth Eloff	1//			1SEC, 1BC					
GW02	50	2099	Piet Muller	1//								
Total	964			42	40	102	1BC, 1BI, 48HG.					
Birds/100 km				4.4	4.2	10.6	2SEC, 6WS, 2YS					
GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto,												
GW - World Heritage Site												

Number of birds counted in January 2006 census in KwaZulu-Natal													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
KC01	50.9	433	Malcolm Gemmell		11/3/	1//	14//	2//		2//	14//	64//	2BBK, 6OR
KD01	83	2084, 2085	Henry Bugden & S Burryman		3//		2//			3//	10//3	10//	1MS
KD02	63	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross		6//	31//				1//		24//	
KD03	74	807	Peter Dearlove & Tinkie Muller		4//							8//	
KD04	51	1255, 1745	Dennis & Sonja Holmes		2//						11//	9//	
KD05	52	677	Paul Garner		2//	6//			171//		4//	10//	
KD06	47.5	1755, 1709	Carol & Myles Ellerker	2//	2//								
KD07	70	909	Heino Wellmann							2//			2WBK
KD08	60	2083, 611, 1716, 1832	P Duval, M Post & T Roberts & sons	2//	3//			5//			7//	17//	1SS
KD10	26	611, 1832, 1833	Tony, Brenden & Curteis Roberts										
KD11	58	1716, 611, 1832, 2083	Margie Post, T & B Roberts & P Duval	2//	4//						5//		
KD12	58	611, 1832, 1833	Tony, Brenden & Curteis Roberts						48/25//		4//	13//	
KE03	62	744	Jeanette Wood										
KG02	53.2	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry	2//	8//		61//		3//		44//	29//	
KG04	73.8	627, 628	Bob & Judi Williams		3//		12//3	4//	23//	1//	42//8	29//	
KG05	55.3	629, 1134	Stooks Wilton & Stiggs Cathcart		4//		2//	2//	4//		41//	12//	
KG06	59.1	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter		3//		108//2	2//	2//	2//	48//1	65//	
KG07	50.4	630	Kobus Nel		19//		187//		12//	1//	124//	40//	
KG08	60.4	631, 2086	Mark & Cicely Meter	141//	9//				14//	1//	80//	47//	
KG09	11	427, 428	Bruce & Pat Whittle		5//		20//			2//	30//		23WC
KG10	36.3	1240, 1241	Ed & Myra Wells		3//		1//			2//		30//	1WNS
KG11	53.7	632, 633	Jimmy & Lorraine Scott		3//		13//		2//		18//	181//	
KL01	89.5	50, 1597, 142	Ken Gordon, K Immelman & N Smith	11//	3//	6//			39//	4//	13//1	73//	1SS, 2WC
KL02	87	610	Rod Dicks	1//					22//			5//	
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray & 8 learners		4//				10//5				
KM01	68.1	474, 1581	Shirley Bennett & Evelyn Hughes		3//	18//		1//	1//	2//	1//	69//	
KM02	66.2	498, 167	Margie Sleight & Pam Nicol	4//	17//		1//	1//	2//	1//	15//4	83//	
KM03	98.1	1904, 1905	Drummond & Gloria Densham		6//						1//	32//	
KM04	35	1719, 1720, 1610	Erwin & Helene Burmester & B Jones		22//2		1//	1//	7//	1//	5//1	61//	1OR
KM05	83.6	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernardine Turner		1//		4//1				3//	45//	1RNS
KM06	94.6	1885	Elizabeth Martens		8//						1//	64//	1OR
KM07	65.8	490, 1843	Kevin & Lindy McCann	2//1	5//	5//				1//	7//	170//	
KN01	65	927, 1756, 924	Johan & C de Villiers & H Berhrens		5//	31//		5//			5//	40//	
KN03	55.3	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		3//	8//	2//		3//	2//	4//	1//	1NS
KN04	47.5	925	Alan Schwikkard		3//2//				6//5		3//	97//	
KN05	41.2	1071	John Sharpe		3//					2//	3//	8//	5SS
KN06	52	2036, 2037	Klaus & Miemie Heyer	2//	10//	63//	5//				15//	1//	2SS
KO01	54.5	425, 1529, 1480, 1963	G & S Calverley, K Fourie & S Calitz	2//	3//					2//1			
KP01	62	2064	Simon Zwane		2//				2//	1//	5//	1//	
KP02	43.6	1792	Frik Lemmer		2//1						1//1	2//	
KU01	68	429	Chris Thomas	2//	2//		37//				9//	124//	1OR
KU02	68	1741	Carol Horne		7//		8//		6//		14//	267//	
KV01	82	1683	AP Keeve		1//		4//	1//			3//	41//	1BBK
KV02	60.4	2016, 2001	Paul & Ria Steffensen		3//					2//	1//1	38//	1SHF, 1SS
KV03	61.5	1566, 753	Darryl Baxter & Charles Cawood			6//			2//				2SS
KV04	34.6	1722, 1790, 1791	C Oberholster, A Steyn, D MacLennan	3//									
Total	2726			177	215	175	485	19	419	36	611	1810	3BBK, 1MS, 1NS, 1RNS,
Birds/100 km				6.5	7.9	6.4	17.8	0.7	15.4	1.3	22.4	66.4	1SHF, 10SS, 2WBK,
													1WC, 1WNS, 9OR

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

KwaZulu-Natal

As mentioned in the last newsletter, **some gamebirds have had their names changed**, so do refer to the list below while doing your count for the **new abbreviations**.

Visibility was restricted in KwaZulu-Natal by very tall grass and maize following a very wet summer. The Blue Crane numbers were higher than usual, Mark Meter recorded three large flocks (in total 141 birds) on his route, KG08, near Cedarville. Mark has counted this route since it began in July 1997 and has retired to Pietermaritzburg, he hopes to assist in the Midlands counts. In the East Griqualand precinct Bob and Judi Williams saw a pair of Grey Crowned Crane parents with three big chicks! They were able to confirm with the farmer that they were from the same parents, when checking on them at a later stage. Two Goliath Herons were seen on Kobus Nel's route, KG07, as well as 187 Grey Crowned Cranes. Ed and Myra Wells saw a Woolly-necked Stork on KG10. It was encouraging to see that there were many more Wattled Cranes (23) back on Pat and Bruce Whittle's route on the Dorning's farm.

Ken Gordon also recorded Wattled Cranes (2) on his route KL01. Rodney Dicks noted that his route, KL02 had changed in character, as most farmers now planted soya beans and not maize, he had a disappointing and very muddy count! In the Dundee precinct Heino Wellmann recorded two White-bellied Korhaans and a Marabou Stork on KD01. Tony and Val Cross saw 31 Southern Bald Ibis on KD02, as did Johan and Christine de Villiers on KN01. Johan and Christine remarked on the number of pans in the veld after excellent rains, attracting many waterbirds.

Alan and Bernardine Turner saw a Red-necked Spurrowl on their route, KM05. Carol Horne recorded 247 White Storks on KU02, the highest total in KZN. Chris Thomas remarked on the unusual sighting of European

Roller on both Underberg routes, Shirley Bennett and Evelyn Hughes also saw one on their Midlands route, KM01. No Southern Ground Hornbills were recorded in KZN on the CAR day, but Gavin Calverley saw three on his farm near Melmoth the day before the count.

Fewer oribi were recorded than usual, but their numbers would also have been affected by the tall, lush vegetation reducing visibility.

Do continue to count Oribi and use the following abbreviations for gamebirds: **HG** for Helmeted Guineafowl, **CF** for Crested Francolin, **SS** for Swainson's Spurrowl, **NS** for Natal Spurrowl, **RNS** for Red-necked Spurrowl, **RWF** for Red-winged Francolin, **GWF** for Grey-winged Francolin and **SHF** for Shelley's Francolin.

Thank you to Tim Wood for keeping an eye on CAR in KZN.

*"And, further,
it says for very
small birds
they're remarkable
strong!"*

