



Animal Demography Unit

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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 24

June 2008

General

I hope you have read the interim CAR summer count report (http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/car_s2008.htm). You will have seen the amazing photos showing that during this last summer count some participants met with high adventure or obstacles on their routes. Thank you for your perseverance and willingness to go many extra miles! In one case there is the story of travelling literally miles – a 110 km detour to complete a route! I would like to begin this newsletter with some encouraging words about the monitoring work that you do. Les Underhill, our Director, wrote the following in his first research report this year:

The proceedings of the International Ornithological Congress, held in Hamburg in August 2006, have appeared in the *Journal of Ornithology*. Professor Jeremy Greenwood, Director of the British Trust for Ornithology, gave a congress plenary entitled *Citizens, science and bird conservation*. He said good things about the ADU in the plenary, and these have been carried through to the published version:

There is little citizen ornithology in Africa, beset as the continent is with severe economic problems as well as the practical difficulties of tropical ornithology. Nonetheless, the remarkable Avian Demography Unit in South Africa (operating also in neighbouring states) shows what determined vision can produce, in terms of fine amateur–professional collaboration, even in countries wracked by political and economic upheavals. There is an active ringing scheme, the second atlas is about to start and there are programmes for monitoring wetlands, reserves and large birds in the wider countryside.

It is wonderful that there is this positive action because in the February 2008 SAEON (South African Environmental Observatory Network) newsletter Africa is described as the “worst victim” of climate change. Peter Luckey, equality management and climate change chief director of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism said that “Africa faces challenges of unequal access to resources, enhanced food insecurity and poor health-management systems. These stresses will be enhanced by climate variability and change, and will further enhance the vulnerabilities of many people in Africa”. He continued that a decline in agricultural yields was likely owing to drought and land degradations, especially in marginal areas. “Ecosystems in Africa are likely to experience major shifts and changes in species range and possible extinctions. What this means is that 25% to 40% of sub-Saharan species are at risk for extinction. The cost for adaptation will exceed 5% to 10% of gross domestic product.”

On a more hopeful note, those of you who receive *Africa – Birds & Birding* will have read of the incredible success of a collaborative project in the Northern Cape that was initiated by Mark Anderson, the Department of Tourism, Environment & Conservation’s ornithologist. Mark, as you know, coordinates the Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey contributing to CAR. I do suggest that you read this inspiring story of how together the Department of Tourism, Environment & Conservation, Ekapa Mining, Envirosec, and Kamfers Dam’s landowners, Herbert and Brenda Booth, constructed an island especially for Lesser Flamingos to breed at this dam outside Kimberley. Kamfers Dam supports the most important permanent population of Lesser Flamingos in southern Africa, usually numbering in excess of 25 000 individuals, but during recent months in excess of 50 000 birds. The dam is a Natural Heritage Site and an Important Bird Area.

It is estimated that between 8500 and 9000 chicks have hatched this year and there are hopes that this permanent wetland will become an annual breeding site for this threatened species.

I would like to again encourage you to

take youngsters with you on your CAR counts partly because they have keen eyesight, but also to involve them in an enjoyable activity contributing to conservation. In the photo below Michael and Lesley Lord’s sons enjoy searching east, west and north on EP07! I was encouraged to read in the CAPE (Cape Action for People and the Environment) newsletter that six hundred primary school learners from disadvantaged communities in Cape Town will attend SMART Living Camps at Camp Africa, the only accredited eco-centre in the Western Cape. According to Camp Director and Founder of Camp Africa Educational Camps, Terry Corr, these learners will attempt to find practical ways to reduce energy and water usage, cut down on waste and protect and restore degraded environments. They will also be introduced to organic food gardening, social issues including HIV/Aids and substance abuse will also be dealt with. Their vision is that participants will actively promote sustainable development in their homes, schools and communities.

I would like to welcome Sally Hofmeyr to the CAR team, as she has just started her PhD here at the ADU and will be working on the incredible CAR database that you have collected. Sally’s proposed title is *Conservation impacts of environmental change on populations of threatened large terrestrial bird species in South Africa, as indicated by public participation surveys*. The principal question that she will be seeking to answer is: What are the causes of observed population trends of selected threatened large terrestrial bird species in the areas covered by the Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR) project? Sally shares my office and so will answer the phone when I am not in the ADU.

I would also like to particularly welcome any new participants to the CAR project and encourage you to catch up with the project by referring to the CAR webpage (http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/p_car.htm). If you are keen to participate in any of the other ADU projects all the information is on the ADU website. You could try bird, reptile or butterfly atlasing or CWACing i.e. monitoring waterbirds!

Date of winter CAR count

The date set for the winter count is Saturday, **26 July 2008**. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise and do make every effort to 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 next year will be on Saturday, 31 January.

Count information

Thank you for checking your roadcount forms before sending them in, this has saved me much time as I had to follow up far fewer queries. The **CAR 13 Roadcount Form** and the **CAR leaflet** are enclosed. Please indicate on the form if you are willing to receive the newsletter and form as pdf documents by **email**, or download these from the website.

Quite a number of people seem to forget to fill in the time when their count ends or the date of the count. Please **keep checking** that all details are filled in and do make a conspicuous note if you can’t complete your route or have to do it in a different direction. Try to send in your form by **mid-September**, but always, always keep a copy yourself! It helps enormously if you send your form to your Precinct Organiser promptly, as they can check for missing information immediately.

If you know in advance that you will not be able to do your count on the set date, please let your Precinct Organiser know so that they can arrange for someone else to count your route on the correct date. For this reason it is important that you take others with you, so that someone else

Jason (11) looks west, Dylan (8) looks east and Patrick (4) looks north counting birds on EP07. Photo by Lesley Lord (who wrote “They love it!”).



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

Bustards: Kori = KB

Ludwig's = LB

Denham's/Stanley's = DB

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 Harrier = HAR

Black-headed Heron = BHH

Goliath Heron = GOL

Oribi = OR

Mistakes and misprints: search them out!

Please check the figures given for your route in this newsletter against your records, and report any discrepancies immediately.

is familiar with your route and can fill in for you.

Photographs of habitat

Please refer to Newsletter 22 as this section is unchanged.

Email addresses

It is even more important that you alert me to any changes in your email address, especially as some of you are receiving CAR information this way.

Project material on the website

If you are missing any project material you can download it from the foot of the CAR webpage. Project material is available in Afrikaans as well. The interim CAR summer count report (dated 16 April) is also here, with colour photos, as well as past newsletters.

Updating the trends of all species

Do visit the CAR webpage for trends in species, click on the species name in the table. Unfortunately, due to crises with the South African Reptile Conservation Assessment database and the demands of the virtual museums for this project and the butterfly atlas, René Navarro has not been able to put the software that Hugues developed on the web yet.

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 send me their contact details.

CAR Report

The eight-year CAR report is still available, the cost (including postage) is R150.

CAR support

A number of organisations support CAR by



their involvement in the project, while others support the project financially – these are listed at the foot of the CAR webpage. We really appreciate funding from the African Bird Club (ABC) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for the Big Birds on Farms project focusing on the Cape Floristic region (CFR). The ABC does not usually support a project more than once, but they made an exception this year as they felt CAR was such an important project. Thankfully we have received core funding from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) for this year. However, we do still have a shortfall in the budget.

We are most grateful for funding through the Darwin Initiative project 15/002 that we receive through our partnership with the South African Crane Working Group (SACWG) and the Zoological Society of London. Two Bird Clubs have been particularly consistent in supporting CAR financially. I would like to give special acknowledgement to BirdLife Border and the Somerset West Bird Club for their regular generous donations.

Descriptions of the three Grahamstown routes were written by Lorraine Mullins, Bo Bonnevie and Adrian Craig in *Diaz Diary*. Peter Millin wrote an interesting article, Birds in Distress, in the *Speckled Bean*. Barbi Forsyth wrote a report on the Chrissiesmeer count in *Bokmakierie*, as did Lauraine Leigh and Janice Isom giving accounts of different aspects of a very enjoyable weekend. If I have missed any other reports do let me know.

Thank you so much for your donations, they really help!

African Bird Club, BirdLife Border, Inés and Duncan Cooke, Somerset West Bird Club.

Big Birds on Farms project

James completed the draft of the summary chapter for the booklet for landowners in January and I circulated this draft for comment to the CAR

Working Group and others who have been involved with CAR and the workshop held last May. In March James completed the drafts of the eight species accounts and I circulated these to the CAR Working Group. Wicus Leeuwner has been most helpful in finding photographs to illustrate this booklet. However, to date I have not had success in sourcing funding for publication of this proposed booklet and poster, needless to say this has been time-consuming and frustrating! Please contact me immediately if you have any ideas of potential sponsors.

I had planned to conduct workshops for landowners and agricultural extension staff in May and June, but had to postpone these until July/August.

Twelfth Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC)

PAOC12 takes place in September, at Goudini Spa here in the Western Cape. I will be presenting a paper by James, René and myself in one of the two Symposia on “African birds in agricultural habitats” using the results from CAR counts that you have done. I do feel privileged in being able to present an overview of the project and some of the very interesting results and am very aware of your contributions – thank you! The website for the PAOC is <http://www.paoc12.org>. Birders with an interest in ornithological research will find the congress both accessible and interesting.

Ringed birds

A ringed Blue Crane was seen on OV18 by Wicus Leeuwner. Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species at all times and report details to SAFRING. Doug Harebottle and Res Altwegg, also here at ADU, are conducting a study on Hadedas Ibis here in the Cape; so watch for ringed Hadedas too. For further details, see the ADU website.

South African Crane Working Group www.ewt.org.za

Helen Prinsloo is the new SACWG Coordinator and I hope to meet her at the Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) in September. If any of you would like to receive the SACWG electronic newsletter do let me know and I can arrange that for you.

SACWG urgently need colour-ring re-sightings, so do keep an eye on those crane legs at all times of the year and if you have a telescope or digital camera these do help. We can learn so much from ring re-sightings about movement patterns and life history. If you have any information about roost sites let us know, as this would be most useful information.

Bronwyn Botha, the Western Cape SACWG field worker also requested that CAR participants report any powerline collisions.

Southern Bald Ibis project

This project is co-ordinated by Kate Henderson and run by BirdLife SA. I met Kate in February when she gave a seminar here at the ADU on her research. Kate has expressed that she is extremely grateful for the CAR data that I sent for their database. Kate would really appreciate any sightings of Southern Bald Ibis to be sent to her: ibis@birdlife.org.za. Also if any of you know of any breeding colonies PLEASE let Kate know as she is trying to do an overall census and will be counting at all colonies possible over this next breeding season. Kate may well enlist your help in counting breeding colonies, as it is not possible for her to cover all of them!

Ground Hornbills

Annemarie Röhrs and St Gregory Primary School learners had the excitement of seeing three Southern Ground Hornbills cross the road, when they took a wrong turning off their route, KE01, near Weenen.

There is no longer a Ground Hornbill Working Group and this research now falls under the Birds of Prey Working Group. Do send in any sightings at any time of year. Scott Ronaldson is now coordinating this work and can be contacted on 013 7355550 or scottr@ewt.org.za. You can email or sms any sightings of large birds seen in the Lowveld to Scott (082 7818783). If possible please supply co-ordinates or the exact area.

Thank you!

I don't know what to say about the petrol price anymore! But I do want to thank you so much for continuing to count despite the huge cost to yourselves. If you have to travel a long way to your route, you may want to consider trying to find someone nearer your route to come with you, so that they are familiar with the method and route to ensure continuity when you can't manage the cost anymore. Precinct Organisers – you are wonderful the way you make sure that counts happen, gather and check forms, encourage participants and answer my queries – thank you so much!! Denise Lesch has consistently worked at the huge task of data capture for this last count. Thank you to Linda Tsipa, for saving me time by editing the tables. Thank you to Marja Wren-Sargent for typesetting this newsletter so quickly, as it has been more rushed than usual. For this reason I do encourage you to read

the interim website report as well.

I am sorry I have not been able to keep in touch or complete tasks as planned, as I have had to take more leave than usual in the last few months. Apart from leave to move in February I took two weeks off in April while my brother was here from Oregon for my Dad's 80th birthday. Then I have taken leave recently to be with my family as the last four weeks have been very stressful since my youngest brother (who lives in Cape Town with a young family) discovered that he has advanced liver cancer. Life certainly has its challenges, with joy mingled with sorrow!

Kind regards to you all,
Donella Young,
Project Coordinator

Count Results Summer 2008

KwaZulu-Natal

There were very few White Storks in KwaZulu-Natal this last summer. The grass was tall in the East-Griqualand and Underberg precincts following good summer rains. Two route leaders remarked on the absence of Grey Crowned Cranes in East-Griqualand and the overall density was certainly at an all time low for summer. This is strange since the winter density last year was the second highest ever. As was the case last summer the number of Wattled Cranes recorded in this province was particularly low. The White Stork density was also at an all time low, probably partly due to the long grass, but conditions further north also affect numbers of this summer migrant. Bob Williams was correct in thinking that this was the first time that he had seen a Wattled Crane on his route, KG04.

Shirley Bennett remarked on the lack of birds in the Midlands, for no obvious reason. Pam Nicol thought the reason may be that much of the ground was very burnt in winter fires therefore very little insect food was available. Changes in land use were noted on sections of three Midlands routes. André and Hettie Bouwer noted that the section between 14–31 km on their route, KN03, is now forested.

I am delighted that Annemarie Röhrs, who initiated the Escourt routes in 1998 has been able to take over KE01, that Rose Laatz counted until the roads deteriorated so much that it was difficult for a normal car. Annemarie is now teaching at St Gregory's School, where Rose taught previously, so it is wonderful that this school can continue its involvement in CAR. They had the excitement of seeing three Southern Ground Hornbills cross the road, when they took a wrong turning off their route.

I was sorry to hear of Ken Gordon's sudden death last month. Ken has counted KL01 since it began in winter 1997 and has coordinated the Lady-smith precinct.

Do continue to count Oribi and use the following abbreviations for gamebirds: HG for Helmeted Guineafowl, CF for Crested Francolin, SS for Swainson's Spur-fowl, NS for Natal Spur-fowl, RNS for Red-necked Spur-fowl, 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.



Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in KwaZulu-Natal													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	WS	Other
KC01	51	433	Malcolm Gemmill		5/5/	19//	15//	1//			21/19/	13//	
KD01	83	2084, 2085	Henery & Elizabeth Bugden		8//				4//6			2//	
KD02	59	736, 1179	Tony & Vaal Cross	3//	2//	21//		1//			1//		
KD04	51	1255, 1745	Dennis & Sonja Holmes							2//	6//		2WBK
KD05	55	677	Paul Garner		3//				6//		9//		
KD06	51	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker		12//						1//		
KD08	62	1834	Peter Struweg		6//						1//		
KD12	63	2172	Jeff Hilliar		12//				7//		17//		2SS
KG02	53.4	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry		9//		12//	1//	11//		21//	3//	2WC
KG03	53.3	626	Malcolm Rivett	2//	5//		32//				16//	1//	
KG04	72.8	627	Bob Williams	3/2/	3//		2//	2//	10//		21/2/		1WC
KG05	55.1	1133, 629	Lyn Cathcart & Stooks Wilton		2//		6//				34//	1//	2HAR
KG06	58.2	623	Brian Byers		2//				2//	1//	18//		
KG07	47	630	Kobus Nel		2//		1//				27//12	14//	
KG08	60.5	2086, 2252	Allan Geldart & Noreen Geldart	8//	5//			1//		3//	62/10/		
KG09	9.2	427, 428	Bruce & Pat Whittle		5//		3//			2//	11//		
KG10	36.3	1240, 2141	Ed & Myra Wells		1//						7//		
KL03	63	1602	Rose Laatz		6//								
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray		3//				13/11/				
KM01	77	498, 1536, 1537	Margie Sleigh, John & Val Baxter		10/2/	44//			2//		5//	25//	3WC
KM02	68.4	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernardine Turner	2//	4//		4//				15/3/	11//	3OR
KM03	95.2	167, 1618	Pamela Nicol & Craig Nelson		5//		3//				3//	15//	
KM04	35	474	Shirley Bennett		3//		2//				8//		
KM05	80.9	1904, 1905	Drummond & Gloria Densham		14//		1//					6//	1RNS
KM06	91	1719, 1720	Erwin & Helene Burmester		5//						3//	24//	
KN01	67.5	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		5//				2//		5//		1SHF, 1SS, 1UK
KN03	53.9	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		6//	25//			6//4	1//	7//		
KN04	48	925	Alan Schwikkard		3//	3//					2//	8//	1SS
KN05	38.5	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		1//				9//		2//2		2NS
KN06	52.1	2036, 2037	Klaus & Miemie Heyer		3//	23/1/	4//		14//		4//		1SS, 2UK
KO01	56.7	425, 1529, 1963	Gavin & Sandy Calverley & S Calitz		3//			1//				2//	
KP01	62.7	1792	Frik Lemmer		6//						4//	3//	1SS
KU01	68	429, 2015	Chris Thomas & Gayle Ellison		6//	49//	26/2/	1//		1//	11/3/	53//	
KU02	66	1741	Carol Home		14//		37//	2/2/			18//	69//	
KV01	81	1683	AP Keeve		3//	12//	24//				21//		2WBK
KV02	60.6	2016, 2001	Paul & Ria Steffensen	6/2/	3//				9//	1//	1//		
KV03	61	1566	Darryl Baxter						2//		2//		
KV04	34.6	1790, 1722	Arlene Steyn & Charl Oberholster	2//									
Total	2216			30	192	197	174	12	118	11	437	248	2HAR, 2NS, 3OR, 1RNS, 6SS,
Birds/100 km				1.4	8.7	8.9	7.9	0.5	5.3	0.5	19.7	11.2	1SHF, 3UK, 4WBK, 6WC,
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													

Eastern Cape

A reminder to include Oribi in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds.

The White Stork density of 16.2 birds per 100 km was the lowest it has ever been in this province. It was half the density for last summer and has previously ranged from 75–292 birds/100 km.

Ken and Gertie Griffiths saw a pair of majestic Crowned Eagles and three ravens at Witches Krantz on EB01, and wondered if this perhaps explains why there is no longer a heronry or signs of other breeding there. Graham Winch saw a Maccoa Duck male on a dam on EB03, which is a rarity for the area. Les and Adrian Larter reported that the powerline responsible for a number of mortalities has at long last been marked by Eskom. Pat Hulley and family noted a salt pan on EG02 full of water for only the second time since the route started in 1998. On both occasions a pair of Blue Cranes has been present. Patrick Brett and Denise Hoffmann saw two White-bellied Korhaan on EP01 for the first time since the route started in 1998. It is interesting that two Black Storks were seen in the Somerset East precinct on ES03 and ES05, near Pearston. There have quite often been a few of this species in previous summer counts but this is the first time in this precinct. Alison Drennicki remarked that the veld was lush after fantastic rains and the grass so high that the chance of seeing korhaans was small.

Des and Martie Schroeder, who used to count ES10 but have now moved,

contacted me in January regarding setting up a new route near Lady Grey called EE23. They had noticed many Spur-winged Geese on a particular dam en route to Aliwal North, before the lucerne was baled. When I checked on google earth at the time, it was surprising what an extensive area was under lucerne.

In her report on the Humansdorp count Yvonne Craig wrote “EH05 found that birds were few and far between along the 10 to 20 km section as the road was under construction with huge piles of gravel covering one half of the road. They also had construction vehicles to contend with as they plied up and down creating an enormous amount of dust. No bustards were seen along this section possibly as a result of the noise and dusty conditions. The observers were covered in dust at each stop, endured a plague of ‘muggies’, and a water cart caught them unawares and sprayed them with water. All in a day’s fun!!!” There was major disappointment on EH06, as the last km was closed off as the farmer is about to develop his land into a golf estate. They did get permission to go over the last section and instead of pasture under the centre pivot there was a crop of maize. There were no cattle in sight, nor the usual cranes and storks!

Adrian Craig and his team had a long wait for mist to clear and then a disappointing count, but they did see a Black-crowned Tchagra. I would like to thank Tim Cockcroft for counting EK04 since it began, as he is no longer able to count.

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
EB01	63.5	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		5//	2//	9//				7//		
EB02	75	1398	Keith Marshall		12//	3//	5//				1//		
EB03	66.6	115, 680, 2119	Graham Winch, Ian Field & Peter Swift	3//	15//	29//					9//	8//	
EB04	62.1	1568, 1567, 1584, 2073	Ken & Barbara Monfoort, Wendy Perks & Dora Nell	2//	3//	3//	8//			3//	11//	1//	
EE01	36	1730, 1129	Helen Lechmere-Oertel & Adele Moore			4//						1//	
EE02	63.3	1129, 1730	Adèle Moore & Helen Lechmere-Oertel			5//					12//	37//	
EE06	60	2087	Corli van Rooyen			25//							
EE08	45	2098	Mark van Niekerk		4//	11//					2//		
EE10	63	899	Kevin Meise	2//	3//	2//					3//		
EE11	54	1261	Mike Agenbag	2//	4//	5//					5//		
EE12	52	901	Jenni Brown	1//	10//	20//				2//	1//	7//	
EE18	43.5	1918, 1919	Les & Adrian Larter	7//	7//	5//	8//				15//		1KB, 6UK
EE19	80	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	76//	9	4//	1//	5//		2//	28//		36UK
EE22	23.2	2251	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Feely		4//	35//				1//	14//	21//	
EE23	38	2044, 2180	Desmond & Martie Schroeder		2//	2//	3//			2//	31//	10//	
EG02	51.9	565, 1530	Pat Hulley & family, Lorraine Mullins	3//	3//			4//			2//		
EG03	77.4	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonneve, Jim & Eve Cambray	2//	3//		1//	8//				5//	
EG04	65	161, 2144	Adrian Craig & Jenny Gon		6//	3//		1//					
EH03	59	937, 1773	Neil Stewart & Jenny Dale	2//	5//	1//	38//					132//	
EH04	44	1767, 1766, 1796	Jill Tudhope, Peter & Madeline Bosman		4//						3//	32//	
EH05	40	1612, 1794, 301	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout, Chuck & Jean Cook	5//								2//	6WBK
EH06	58	312, 1974, 1975, 1770	Yvonne Craig, Allan & Marie Jones & Silvia Leslie	10//	4//	13//	2//	20//	1//	2//	21//	100//	
EK02	43.9	885, 1523	John Lardner-Burke & Alan Wilson		2//						1//	9//	
EK04	57.4	2210, 1525, 2209	John Potter, Tim Cockcroft & Sheila Walsh		3//		2//			2//	6//	6//	
EK05	62.5	1528, 1527	Laurie Wood & Jenny Roxburgh		5//		3//			3//	30//	2//	
EM01	62.1	974	Bradley Gibbons	22//									14NBK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann	26//	1//	10		19//	7//	2//			1KB, 2WBK
EP02	66	1570, 1621, 83	Hermann & Terry Hertel & Andy Nixon	14//				4//	19//	2//		13//	2KB
EP04	71.1	869, 518	Peter Hall & Jean Spearpoint	3//	2//			2//	8//	3//		4//	1KB, 5KK
EP06	53.5	2237	Michael Antrobus, L van den Berg & D Smeda	2//	1//				4//				
EP07	73.7	2245, 2246	Michael & Lesley Lord & family	3//			1//			2//	2//		37NBK
EP08	110.8	270	Dave Brown	2//	1//			1//				1//	1KB, 8KK
EP09	27.6	2237	Michael Antrobus, L van den Berg & D Smeda		1//								
EP10	43	1731, 2265	John & Rolene Bowker	18//	4//			16//	1//	2//	5//		6KK, 53NBK
EQ02	52.8	930, 917	Don Field & Fin Weakely		2//	4//			1//	1//			
ES02	45.7	2253	Roy Strath	4//	2//			5//		1//	1//		3KK
ES03	58.7	2147	Alison Drennicki						2//				1BS
ES04	47	1476, 1972	Judy & Zorb Caryer	23//				1//		2//			
ES05	88	915	Andrew Cheeseman		1//		1//	3//	1//				1BS, 2KB
ES07	35.3	1965, 1966	Alison & Bill Brown	3//	1//					1//			
ES08	48	875	Neville Willows	64//	4				8//				7KB
ES10	16	2040	Walter Murray & Paul Inman	27//	2								
ES11	36.9	2211	Greg Brown & Brendan Farrell	1//	4//				3//		13//		
Total	2395			366	136	157	94	62	69	34	237	390	2BS, 15KB, 22KK, 42UK, 104NBK, 8WBK
Birds/100 km				15.3	5.7	6.6	3.9	2.6	2.9	1.4	9.9	16.3	
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													



Justine Sharples checking the ‘chasm’ in their route, WU06, caused by floods at the end of last year. Photo by Natalie Baker.

Swartland precinct

It was a very hot day in the Swartland, Sean and Louise Tucker actually saw a pair of Blue Cranes wading in water! The density of Blue Cranes was very similar to last summer, while the density of Black-headed Herons was the second highest since counts began. On SW08 Bruce MacKenzie noticed that more and more vines are appearing on the eastern slopes of Koeberg, while Brigid de Kock remarked on the increase in vineyards on SW07. Both Brigid and Philbert Melck noted the absence of Spur-winged Geese on their routes, SW07 and SW04 respectively. David and Anne Dixon, who count SW11 saw a juvenile Maribou Stork eating a road kill beside the Britannia Bay road on their route, the day before the count.

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in Swartland							
Route	km	ADU no.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.
SW01	80	1970	Fiona Hellmann	16/2/	4/1/	14/4/	
SW02	76.9	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker	2/1/	1/1/	28/1/	
SW03	64	106, 1899	Mel Tripp & Felicity Ellmore	8/1/	11/1/		
SW04	63.6	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	6/2/			
SW05	60.9	163, 1239	Keith & Rena Harrison	8/3/2	1/1/	3/1/	
SW06	73.2	1359, 1565	Reg le Roux & Libby Kerr	42/1/4	2/1/	23/1/	
SW07	49.2	2076, 1122	Brigid de Kock & Linda Reynolds	18/2/3	11/1/		
SW08	71.5	1474, 2269	Bruce MacKenzie & Alan Clarke	20/1/2	8/1/	10/1/	
SW09	59	1135, 1467	Jens & Diane Oelbützel	18/2/1	8/1/	69/1/	
SW10	62.5	2030	Pieter Bruwer	11/1/		21/7/	1SBK, 2SEC
SW11	65.5	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon		1/1/		1HAR
SW12	80.6	2207, 2208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	22/1/		67/1/	1SBK, 3SEC
SW13	50.6	673, 674	Elna & Tertius Slabber	3/2/	2/1/	19/1/	
SW14	53.1	506, 1882	Riaan & Marika van der Walt	21/10/2	2/1/	34/1/	
SW15	58	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbützel	61/7/9	4/1/	25/1/	2HAR, 1SBK
SW16	44.1	2051	Cheryl Seeley	4/1/		38/4/	1SBK
Total	1013			314	55	676	3HAR,4SBK,
Birds/100 km				31.0	5.4	66.8	5SEC

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in Overberg											
Route	km	ADU no.	Observers	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
OV01	63	1418	David McMillan	118/11/9	13/1/			2/1/	65/6/	5/1/	
OV02	63.3	1083,801, 802	Anne Price & Keith & Ann McAdam	65/6/4	10/1/	2/1/			23/14/		
OV03	48.1	214	Freya Brett & Elzanne Burger	88/7/2	1/1/				3/1/		
OV04	26.6	214	Freya Brett & Elzanne Burger	15/1/2	8/1/					30/1/	
OV05	69.7	228, 227, 1148	John Carter, Ben, Brian & Basil	137/5/4	12/1/	1/1/	5/1/	2/1/		42/1/	1HAR
OV06	53	1655, 2110, 2112, 2113	Stuart & Ruth McLennan & J & M Jones	68/7/17	11/1/2	6/1/		1/1/	27/1/	349/1/	2HAR, 1SBK
OV07	68.1	496, 2184	Ken Price & Hester Snyman	106/7/2	7/1/			1/1/	5/1/	437/1/	
OV08	74.9	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	165/4/3	14/1/	1/1/			16/1/	106/1/	
OV09	46	234, 239	Craig Thom & Bruce Squire	185/10/7	6/1/	2/1/			100/1/	61/1/	
OV10	57	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	24/4/	3/1/				16/1/	278/1/	
OV11	48.7	245, 244, 246	Sheila & Peter Siebert & Madalene Loubser	113/3/2	3/1/				8/1/		2HAR
OV12	57.2	215, 216, 1380, 1381	Heather Busby, Dawn Woods, Rory & Gill	90/5/	12/1/	20/1/			101/1/		
OV13	70	520, 229, 671, 672	Jill Mortimer, Inés Cooke, A White & R Lind	209/3/9	41/1/	7/1/	4/1/		50/1/	36/1/	1SBK
OV14	87.7	123, 1922	John Coats & Maureen Aucamp	146/7/4	9/1/			1/1/		80/1/	
OV16	62	249	Pierre van den Berg & Willem du Toit	21/4/	1/1/					1/1/	1SBK
OV17	62	878	Lee Burman	72/2/2	5/2/			1/1/	58/1/	18/1/	
OV18	51.9	240, 1712	Wicus & Hanlie Leeuwner	130/8/5	17/1/			2/1/	102/1/		
OV19	63	1632	Christine Wallace	47/10/2	6/1/	3/1/					1SBK
OV20	55	1325, 1441	Neville & Alison Passmore	55/1/	11/1/				14/1/	35/1/	2HAR
OV21	65	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christina Terblanche	44/6/	33/1/	2/1/		2/1/	37/1/		
OV22	62.7	1660, 2267	Sally Adam & Margaret Machver	157/5/	12/1/				29/1/		
OV24	53.9	636, 1212	Mick & Caroline D'Alton & G Swanepoel	36/2/2	4/1/	13/1/		2/1/	13/1/		1HAR
OV26	19.2	871	Jeffrey Arizon, Sampie & Chester	26/4/4							
OV27	58	2071, 2072	Buddy, Jenny & Caroline Mockford	12/5/	6/1/	3/1/		2/1/	1/1/	1/1/	
OV28	36.7	1462, 1825	Tonia & Flip Schonken	12/8/1	1/1/			1/1/	7/1/		
OV29	26.7	991, 2174, 2175	Donella, Denise Lesch, D & B Henwood	13/2/	1/1/					4/1/	
OV33	60.8	1463	Frans de Graaff & family	8/1/2	13/1/			3/1/	62/1/		
OV36	40.1	1469	Avril Young	98/17/5	7/1/	3/1/			52/6/	1/1/	
OV37	34.5	1777, 1778, 2169	Rae & Ann Gordon & Ken Winterton	48/2/							
Total	1585			2552	272	64	10	20	815	1484	8HAR,4SBK
Birds/100 km				161.0	17.2	4.0	0.6	1.3	51.4	93.6	
OV34	61	1550, 1551	Heynè & Sharon Brink	9/1/		6/1/			13/1/		11HAR, 1SBK

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in other Western Cape precincts											
Route	km	ADU no.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other species			
WB01	62	343	Maria Andela, Marieta & Albert Oosthuizen			20/1/		1KB, 4LB			
WB03	58	1909	Stefan & Madeleine Theron	9/2/		1/1/		3SEC			
WC01	43	1291, 1989	George Hattingh & Terry Robertson	2/1/	1/1/						
WK03	36	2011, 2012, 1962	Ian & Jane Banks & Keith Poole	2/1/	4/1/						
WK04	44	2138, 2139, 2182, 2140	Laurel Bloch, Gilly Schütte, M Powell & M Ford	44/1/	6/1/			5HAR, 1SBK			
WK05	18	2138, 2139, 2182, 2140	Laurel Bloch, Gilly Schütte, M Powell & M Ford	3/1/							
WN01	48	2222	Timm Hoffman		1/1/						
WU01	50	1392, 2062	Johnny de Jaar, Pat Nurse & Lakes Bird Club birders	4/1/	1/1/						
WU02	58	539, 2271, 2272	Jonas Witbooi, Sue Brandt & John Bircher	120/1/			31/1/				
WU03	43	540	Phillip Esau & Lakes Bird Club birders		2/1/						
WU04	35	1606	Natalie Baker & Justine Sharples	9/1/	5/1/						
WU05	70	297, 1520, 1521	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown & Barry du Plessis	15/1/1	5/1/						
WU06	14	1606	Natalie Baker & Justine Sharples		1/1/		8/1/				
WU07	72	545, 1332, 2156	Koos Maya, K Hampson, A Pietersen & 13 learners	6/1/			6/1/	2HAR, 1SEC			
Total	650			217	26	21	45	7HAR,1KB,4LB,			
Birds/100 km				33.4	4.0	3.2	6.9	1SBK,4SEC			

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

Jan Hofmeyr recorded 305 White Storks on the pig farm on the CAR day.

Overberg precinct

In the Overberg exceptional early summer rains followed by fairly regular rain meant that there was more lucerne than usual and with re-growth the Overberg looked much greener than I have seen it in previous summers. There were consequently no feeding stations for livestock, points where Blue Cranes quite often gather in summer. On our route, OV29, we noticed a significant increase in irrigated maize cultivation and Inés Cooke remarked on the increase in maize seen on a previous trip down from George. The OV12 team noticed a wetland at 27.9 km that was not present before, where there were many species of waterbirds. Jeffrey Arizon noted many olives and vineyards on OV26 and also that on some small holdings where there were previously crane nests there were now houses! On OV24 Mick D'Alton had to leave out 2.5 km due to closure of the road and also backtrack 40 km.

The Spur-winged Geese and Secretarybird densities were at an all time high, but the White Stork density was amongst the lowest of summer densities.

I would like to thank Mick Killeen, who has counted OV22 for ten years and used to also count OV23, for his huge contribution to this project. Mick has been travelling a long way to his route, as he moved but continued counting. This is not proving feasible anymore. I would like to welcome Sally Adams and her team who are taking over OV22.

I have so appreciated the time that Inés and Duncan Cooke have saved me by co-ordinating this precinct and collecting and checking forms. They even wrote a report that you can read in the interim website report.

If you need to contact Bronwyn Botha, the Western Cape SACWG fieldworker, phone 082 3200911.

Beaufort West precinct

Maria Andela wrote that it was so hot by 10.30 that nothing except the heat haze moved!

Little Karoo precinct

Forty-four Blue Cranes were counted on WK04 in the Klein Karoo, a route between Montagu and the N1. About 10 ha of fynbos/renosterveld along this route had been cleared for farming activities. I would like to thank Andrew Schofield for initiating this precinct in 1999.

Uniondale precinct

Those counting in the Uniondale precinct had a complete contrast to the winter count – sweltering conditions compared to the freezing cold of winter with snow on mountain tops. Jonas Witbooi and his team saw 120 Blue Cranes on their route, WU02. I was glad to see that Koos Maya, Kerry Hampson and Alistair Petersen had thirteen children from Deneprag Primary School accompany them on WU07.

Heavy rain at the end of last year washed away a river crossing near the end of WU06 and Mike Euston-Brown, who always sends an interesting report, noted new dams on his route, WU05.

Calitzdorp precinct

George Hattingh and his team of three were very disappointed that they saw so few birds, but they did have the highlights of two Double-banded Coursers and a pair of Blue Cranes in the same spot as a few years ago.

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in Eastern Karoo											
Route	km	ADU no.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	UK	WS	Other species
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock		1//	2//	13//				
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock		1//		2//				
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	6/4/			9//				
NK031	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	2//			12//	1//		6//	
NK032	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	12//1/		5//	5//				
NK033	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	2//			3//				
NK061	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	183//1/		5//	1//	2//	1//	19//	3SG
NK062	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	21//	3//	3//				1//	
NK063	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	2//			1//			2//	
NK081	20	2070	Sandra Hedges			1//	15//	1//			
NK082	20	2070	Sandra Hedges				9//				
NK083	20	2070	Sandra Hedges				7//				
NK091	20	480	Peter Ferreira			3//	16//				
NK092	20	480	Peter Ferreira	2//1/			10//				8SG
NK093	20	480	Peter Ferreira	2//			7//				
NK101	20	2105	Heath Cronje	8//	3//		5//				
NK102	20	2105	Heath Cronje	4//			4//	2//			
NK103	22	2105	Heath Cronje				5//				277SG
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith	1//							
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith				4//	1//			
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith								
NK151	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				22//				2KB
NK152	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				5//				
NK153	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				2//				
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead				12//				
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead				9//				1SG
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead				1//				1BHH
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson		1//		34//				
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson				18//				
NK223	16.9	105	Mark Anderson				6//				
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	1//		2//	29//				
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2//2/		1//	16//				
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				5//				
NK331	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	2//	2//		18//		7//		5SG
NK332	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	6//2/			6//	2//			
NK333	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	2//			2//				1BHH, 10SG
NK351	20	1953	Erik Bättenhaussen	2//							
NK352	20	1953	Erik Bättenhaussen			1//					
NK353	20	1953	Erik Bättenhaussen		2//		1//				
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	5//	5//	2//	6//	2//			
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2//		1//	2//				
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	6//			1//				
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)	2//			30//	2//			
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)	2//2/			20//	1//		35//	5KB
Total	878.9			290	18	26	376	14	8	63	2BHH,7KB,
Birds/100 km				33.0	2.0	3.0	42.8	1.6	0.9	7.2	304SG

**25th Karoo
Large Terrestrial Bird Survey
(KLTVS), Northern Cape**

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

The 26th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTVS) was conducted on 26 January 2008. Fifteen participants drove along 44 twenty-kilometre routes, covering a total distance of 878.9 km. A total of 1105 large terrestrial birds were counted, i.e. 1.3 birds per 100 km. A large number of Blue Cranes (290), Spur-winged Geese (304) and Northern Black Korhaans (376) were observed. The presence of a fair number of White Storks (63) and Spur-winged Geese (304) is perhaps indicative of the exceptionally good conditions in the eastern Nama Karoo (after very good summer rains in some areas). There were surprisingly few Ludwig's Bustards, perhaps suggestive of generally good conditions across the region and the consequent dispersal of these bustards across a wide area. Only 13 Blue Crane chicks were observed and this could be because (a) breeding was generally late this year and (b) smaller chicks may have been hidden in the long grass. I'd like to thank all the participants, especially the stalwarts who have been involved with this project since its inception, and Ronelle Visagie for her immensely valuable coordinating role.

Thank you to Mark for this report and to Ronelle for ensuring that the routes are counted!

Mpumalanga

A reminder to count Oribi, while scanning for CAR birds.

The White Stork and Grey Crowned Crane densities were at an all time low in this province.

Steenkampsberg precinct

David Gaynor, the Precinct Organiser, wrote that 260 mm of rain had fallen over the last four weeks and the roads were extremely muddy and wet. Two routes were not counted due to road conditions and two had to be aborted due to impassable mud. As I mentioned earlier Ann and Des des Brulais and Neil Champion did a record backtrack of 110 km in order to complete their route when a fallen tree obstructed their path.

Thank you so much for your dedication in counting, especially since bird numbers and diversity are low.



The water nearly flowed into David Gaynor's "wellies" when he checked this water hazard for potholes on MS01. Photo by David Gaynor (Helen was driving!).

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in Mpumalanga												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK	WS	Other species
MC01	73.5	2255	Lilian Hadley		4//			10//	10//			2SEC
MC02	64.2	1511, 1750	Barbi & Allan Forsyth		19//	28//		6//	16//			
MC03	55.1	2256	Jeanne Thomas		16//			1//	17/2//		2//	
MC04	70.1	2197, 1388	Mike Witcomb & Janice Isom		7//			5//	20/3//		2//	1SEC
MC05	71	1985, 2058	Lauraine Leigh & Iris Hemmings		5/1/			8//				1WBK
MC06	68.3	2254	Lance Robinson		7//	138//		1//	2//			
MC07	75.3	2094	Bev Carstens		4//			11//	3/7//			
MM01	54	1968, 1969	Brian & Margaret Taylor		3//				12/1//			
MS01	51.1	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor		5//	40//			1//			2OR
MS02	55	1725, 1726, 1911	Des & Ann des Brulais & Neil Champion		1//			6//	1//			
MS04	11.6	2096, 2097	Trevor & Sharon Schaefer						1//			
MS05	9	1927	John Meiring		1//			2//	1//			
MS09	55.2	1727	Jim McLuskie		3//			15//			24//	
MS13	56.8	724	Lientjie Cohen		2//	7//		11//				
MT01	85	1816, 1817	Colin & Nalda Williams		22//			15//	4/4//	5//		6SS
MT02	64.7	1912	Kevin Armitage		12//			14//	6//			2SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		10//			14//	24/3//	2//		3NBK, 4SS
MT04	35.3	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		5//			8//				2SS
MW01	57	1867, 2003, 2018	John McAllister, Ann Cleal & B Thome	2//	11//	32/4//					25//	2SEC
MW03	66	361, 2004	Judy-Lynn Wheeler & Bob Traynor	8//	3//	85//	2//	11//	12/3//	3//		1BBK, 2DB
MW06	57.2	2196	Bronwen Davidson		5//	3//		4//	13//			
MW07	62.4	2199, 2162	Penny Fox & Dee Milstein	4//	2//	2//	4//	7//	3//		6//	1SEC
MW08	89.8	2018	Beverley Thome	1//	2//	20//		6//	5//		8//	7BBK, 3SEC
MW09	87	2003	Ann Cleal	2//	8/1/	40/7//	1//	9//6	16/3//			2DB
MW10	53	2160, 2017	Helen Whiteley & Norman Dennett		5//			14//	18//			
Total	1462			17	164	406	7	184	211	7	70	4DB,2OR,14SS,8BBK,
Birds/100 km				1.2	11.2	27.8	0.5	12.6	14.4	0.5	4.8	3NBK,9SEC,1WBK

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

Middelburg precinct

Brian and Sheila Taylor have been stalwarts counting the only surviving Middelburg route and are now leaving. However I am delighted that Billy Smith, Chairperson of Middelburg Bird Club, will continue counting this route as this area has seen a significant increase in mining activity, as have other areas in Mpumalanga. The extent of mining was obvious on their roadcount form as 'mining' was noted as the 'relevant feature nearby'! It is very important to monitor bird species in areas such as these where there is change in land use.

Standerton precinct

Roads were also bad due to continuous rain in the Standerton precinct and the grass was therefore also very tall. Colin Williams noted that the lower Swainson's Spur-fowl numbers on MT01 were probably due to the very tall grass. On MT03 Dries and Bonita Schoeman wrote that they would not have seen the two Northern Black Korhaan and Blue Korhaan if it were not that they were flushed by dogs.

Wakkerstroom precinct

Judy-Lynn Wheeler, the Precinct Organiser, wrote the following report:

Wakkerstroom CAR count went off without any major difficulties and for the first time in a long time we had great weather. We welcomed four new enthusiastic volunteers to CAR: Graham and Stella Mellor and John and Cher Chapple.

Despite favourable weather conditions on the day the results were some-



The mud on the De Berg road (MS05) proved too much for Gertrude, a venerable old landy! Photo by John Meiring.

what low for a summer count. Late spring rains delayed grass cutting and baling, so the grasses were tall. Another factor is that we are seeing greater areas under maize. We could however see a reverse scenario at the winter count with maize seed being the draw card! There is a noticeable increase in beef cattle on lands too. White Stork were few, as were Grey Crowned Crane. Spur-winged Geese were more widespread but not a single Blue Korhaan was seen or heard.

Generally, a great day was had by all. My sincere thanks to all the leaders/volunteers for making another CAR count happen."

Chrissiesmeer precinct

This precinct also experienced heavy rain prior to the count, tall grass and very few White Storks. No Grey Crowned Cranes were seen in this precinct and the species diversity was at an all time low. Lance Robinson saw 138 Southern Bald Ibis on his route MC06. As usual an interesting and enjoyable weekend was arranged by Barbi Forsyth and Lauraine Leigh, of Wits Bird Club.

Please continue to count Helmeted Guineafowl (HG) in this precinct.

Kruger precinct

Unfortunately these routes were not counted in January.

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in Gauteng									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other spp.	
GB01	20.5	931, 2183	Francois & Marianne Wolfaardt	12//		1//			
GB02	22	931, 2183	Francois & Marianne Wolfaardt		3//	2//			
GB03	50	2135	Peter Huggins	3//	6//		3//	1SEC	
GB04	45	1814	Billy Malatji		10//				
GB05	21.6	2104	Pieta Compaan		8//	1//			
GB06	50	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	2//	7//	2//		1HAR	
GB07	54	1764	Sean West		10//				
GC01	19	2046	Willem de Lange		7//	27//			
GC02	60	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	2//		7//			
GC03	82	2046	Willem De Lange		9//	21//			
GC04	73	613, 1538	C Whittington-Jones & L Randell	3//	1//	13//	3//		
GC05	62.9	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	2//		11//	1/2/		
GD01	62	77	Ian Smith	5//	35//		1//		
GD02	56	2166	Neville Cornish	5//	6//		3//		
GD03	32	2145	Diane Rose	1//	5//		1/3/		
GD04	52.9	2146	Frans Rossouw	3//	13//		2//		
GH01	46	2045, 1987	Rouxdene Deyssel & C Birss		21//		6//		
GH02	72.1	2226	Daniel Koen	5//	6//	2//	1//		
GH03	51.6	2101	Hein Pienaar	2//	3//	7//			
GH04	49	2257	Liesl Mostert	2//	17//17	14//	1//	1UK	
GH05	57.2	2226	Daniel Koen		12//	8//			
GM01	40	2102	Leon Labuschagne		14//	8//			
GM02	20	2102	Leon Labuschagne		1//				
GW01	54	2099	Piet Muller	4//					
GW02	48.5	2152	Mags Pillay	2//	3//	4//			
Total	1201			53	204	128	26	1UK,1HAR,	
Birds/100 km				4.4	17.0	10.7	2.2	1SEC	

Gauteng

I am very glad to see that these routes are regularly counted by the same people, as this really improves the quality of the data. The roads were obviously also a challenge. Diane Rose wrote that "The one pothole is so big you could probably bury a donkey in it standing up!"



Francois and Marianne Wolfaardt were unable to complete their route, GB02, due to the flooded Wilge River. They had to spend their lunch break digging their bakkie out of mud as a diff-lock has its limits! Peter Huggins saw the only Secretarybird on GB03. Liesl Mostert recorded a Blue Korhaan on GH04 and Craig Whittington-Jones a Black Harrier on GB06, these were the only additional CAR species other than Helmeted Guineafowl, Black-Headed Heron, Northern Black Korhaan and Spurwinged Goose. I really want to thank participants in this province for counting despite such low numbers of CAR species.

On GC05 John and Moira Randell saw about 1000 Black-winged Pratincoles at 28 km.

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG). Thank you to Craig for all his work organising these counts and for the shape files of all the Gauteng routes.

Free State

Birds counted in January 2008 census in north-western Free State									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other species
FW02	43.6	2270	Nigel Forbes		8//	22//	1//	5//	
FW13	56.4	1515	Johann Potgieter			8//			
FW16	68	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe			4//			
FW18	50.1	1268	Herman Jordaan			61//			1BS
FW26	76.4	1174	Fanie Gouws					2//	5SBK, 3WS
FW28	55.6	1162	Piet van der Merwe		2//	42//			
FW31	65.1	1175	Cecil Whitfield		2//	45//		6//	
FW34	77.5	1163	Des Walker		4//	76//	2//	15//	2UK, 1YS
FW36	82.6	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy		11//	48//		131//	62AS, 211WS
FW43	65.5	2261	Chris Daphne			26//		2//	
FW45	50.1	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan		2//	11//		13//	3WS
FW46	55.9	2262	Tjaart Venter		1//	20//		5//	
FW50	68.2	1938, 1939	Helm & Elizabeth Lekaota		1//	36//		13//	
FW51	79	1253	JJ den Houting	6//	1//	102//	1//	7//	10UK
FW52	56.9	1957	Rosemary Girard			16//		41//	
FW53	91	1173, 1940	Chris & Martina de Lange		3//	47//	1//	6//	9UK
FW55	63.3	1936, 1937	Andries & Leanda Nel		13//	2//		43//	8SBK
FW56	62.2	1901, 1902	Stephen & Marietjie Hill		2//	16//		2//	
FW57	67	1958	Joey Knoesen		1//	27//		6//	
FW58	63.6	2239	Robyn Kadis		8//	27//		3//	
FW59	61	2264	Kobus van Zyl		19//	46//		30//	303AS, 26WS
Total	1259			6	78	682	5	330	365AS,1BS,13SBK,
Birds/100 km				0.5	6.2	54.2	0.4	26.2	21UK,243WS,1YS

Generally good weather was experienced in all three Free State precincts for the 2008 summer CAR, when over 105 routes (I am expecting results for at least five more) were surveyed, and over 6992 km covered, with 1259 km in the North-western precinct (FW, 21 routes), 1126 km in the North-eastern (FN, 18 routes) and 4394 km in the Southern (FS, 66 routes). The FN precinct again had the lowest density of birds (57/100 km), with the Southern Bald Ibis (220 birds, or 20/100 km) the most abundant; 65 of these were seen along just one route (east of Memel) by Otto Nel, who also spotted three Denham's Bustards. The only Blue Cranes (4) in that precinct were recorded by Johan Strauss, on his route between Warden and Bethlehem. Very few storks were reported: only six White and one Abdim's.

In contrast, in the FW precinct 243 White Storks (211

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other species
FS06	76.2	700	Johan Watson	24/1	1/1	18/1	59/1	6/1	13/1	5/1		
FS07	61	1746	Angelo Nichas	7/1	2/1	1/1	14/1	3/1				1BS, 1KK
FS08	67.9	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	3/1	3/1	3/1	21/1	2/1	5/1	6/1		1HAR
FS09	58.3	24, 1996	Brian & Corlia Colahan	2/1	2/1		38/1	1/1	7/1	5/1		
FS12	56	662, 1180	Herman & Janet Kleynhans	4/1/2	4/1	9/1	90/1	6/1	30/1			1WNS
FS15	75.8	1056	PL Crouse				15/1	2/1				
FS17	73.9	1620	Dawie Kok		1/1		67/1	2/1	4/1	4/1		1BS
FS18	76.9	684	Louise Coetzee			1/1	87/1	1/1				
FS19	88	2263	Gela van Heerden				65/1	1/1	4/1			
FS20	64.7	1432, 2171	Anne McLeod & Sandra Bishop		8/1		83/1	1/1	6/1			
FS21	73.5	864	Sawas Vrahimis		2/1		35/1	2/1	10/1			
FS27	78.7	694	Erika Schulze		2/1		16/1	3/1	7/1			
FS29	61	822	Stephanie Gerber		5/1		36/1	3/1	25/1	5/1		
FS31	72.6	259	Johan van Niekerk		4/1		35/1	2/1	6/1			1BS
FS35	78.2	1258	Hannes Blom		1/1		46/1	1/1	90/1	7/1	3/1	10AS
FS40	71	2107	Cornelia Squirra				40/1	2/1	1/1		3/1	
FS43	78	1801	Christo de Meyer		1/1		102/1					
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henriette van den Berg				30/1		27/1			
FS48	75	1808	Ockie Boshoff		1/1/1		31/1	2/1		6/1		
FS50	78.2	1058	Frans Marais		3/1	6/1	2/1		11/1	7/1		2CC
FS51	74	24	Brian Colahan	2/1	1/1		46/1	2/1	2/1	18/1		1BS
FS54	59.3	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig & Else Beemster-Boer		4/1		51/1	1/1	15/1	2/1		1YS
FS56	71.2	988, 987	Stephanus & Jeanette Buys		6/1		91/1	6/1	18/1	14/1	6/1	527AS, 1HAR
FS58	78.7	863	Pierre Nel				96/1	2/1	5/1		10/1	
FS60	71.2	2260	Ilse Roets	5/1	1/1		19/1	1/1	7/1/1			1BS
FS62	58.8	2258	Carmel Rickard	2/1/1			43/1	7/1	2/1/1			1KK
FS65	81.9	864, 1210	Sawas & Sheila Vrahimis				51/1		81/1/1			
FS66	55	1399	Tom Mostert		2/1		22/1	1/1				
FS67	68.3	950	Daan Müller		3/1		23/1	4/1	10/1	3/1		
FS70	59.3	1150, 1151	Abrie & Heléne Bam		4/1				12/1/1	1/1	1/1	1BS
FS73	67.3	1723, 1805	Callie & Renette Bam		6/1				17/1	3/1	1/1	
FS76	42.4	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen		1/1	1/1	2/1	4/1	4/1	5/1		
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger				4/1		4/5/1	4/1		
FS79	50.8	1397	Dewald Liebenberg				72/1		4/1			
FS83	49.3	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin			4/1	7/1		16/1/1			
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen				3/1		1/1			
FS85	78.5	285	JB Cloete		7/1		28/1		7/1	5/1		
FS86	63.7	24	Brian Colahan		1/1		134/2		31/1	6/1		
FS87	56.5	24, 1262	Brian Colahan & Janine Liefbrig		1/1	4/1	14/1		4/1	8/1		
FS88	63	1949	Wimpie Geyer				45/1		36/1	14/1		
FS91	58.8	641	Rick Nuttall	4/2/1	1/1		118/1	2/1		2/1		
FS92	65	1201	Fritz Krohn						1/1			
FS93	47.6	700	Johan Watson		1/1	2/1	22/1	4/1	6/1	4/1		
FS94	68.7	24	Brian Colahan		3/1	1/1	90/1		2/1	2/1		
FS95	86	821	Coenie Erasmus	8/2/1	2/1		5/1	3/1	8/1			2AS
FS96	73.3	24	Brian Colahan		1/1	1/1			10/1	16/1		
FS97	53.8	1150, 1151	Abrie & Heléne Bam		8/1	2/1				1/1	1/1	29AS
FS101	60.3	1046	Blackie de Swardt	24/1				3/1	4/1			
FS103	58	1052	Duart Hugo				11/1		9/1			
FS104	73.6	1395	Geoff Johnson		3/1		49/1		17/1	18/1		
FS105	75.4	687	Riëtte Griesel	42/1/10	2/1		8/1	1/1		3/1		
FS106	50.5	102, 1946	Dawie de Swardt & Hennie Bester				28/1	5/1	2/1			
FS107	72	1836	John Edgar		2/1				4/1			
FS109	59.7	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen		2/1	1/1			2/1			1HAR
FS110	55	1396	Jeremy Jones				41/1		1/1	2/1		2YS
FS112	59	1747	Morné Pretorius				59/1	2/1	12/3/1	13/1		
FS113	96.6	1616	Danie Krynauw		1/1		5/1		6/1	20/2/1		1BS
FS114	73	689	Ann Hiemstra				40/1	1/1	2/1			
FS116	47	1799	Peter Divall				67/1		6/1	4/1		
FS117	66.8	691, 1996	Willie Mostert		1/1		39/1					
FS118	63	24, 1996	Brian Colahan	36/1/6			35/1	1/1	6/1	2/1	1/1	
FS119	74	1141, 1140	Jill & John Moffett		2/1		62/1		4/1			15AS
FS120	68.9	1889	JC Labuschagne		2/1		105/1		13/1	3/1		
FS121	57.2	24	Brian Colahan		2/1		91/1		1/1			
FS122	66	1057	Lourens Goosen		2/1	1/1	31/1		42/1			36AS
FS123	60	683	Chris Botha				2/1					
Total	4394			189	111	55	2573	61	690	267	54	619AS,7BS,2CC,3HAR,2KK,1WNS,3YS
Birds/100 km				4.3	2.5	1.3	58.6	1.4	15.7	6.1	1.2	

along Johan Hardy's route, W of Welkom) and 365 Abdim's Storks (303 along Kobus van Zyl's route, NW of Odendaalsrus), together with 682 Northern Black Korhaan (54/100 km) and 330 Spur-winged Geese, contributed to an overall density of 138 birds/100 km. As in the FN, the only Blue Cranes recorded (6) were along just one route, Koos den Houting's, S and E of Edenville.

The Northern Black Korhaan (2573, or 59/100 km, with 19 routes having over 50 each) was also dominant in the FS precinct (overall density of birds 104/100 km), but there were fewer White Storks (54). As in the FW, most of the Abdim's Storks (619) were found along just one route: 527 on Fanie Buys's, W of Bloemfontein. The 189 Blue Cranes (4/100 km) was more encouraging than the figures from the other two precincts; Carmel Rickard and Lynden Lund, doing a CAR (W of Smithfield) for the first time, were thrilled to see a pair with a chick, and chicks were recorded along another four routes. Frans Marais was equally excited to spot two Grey Crowned Cranes (the only ones in the FS precinct) along his route W of Wepener; he farms nearby and has never seen them in the area before. A first for CAR in the Free State was the Woolly-necked Stork seen by Herman and Janet Kleynhans towards the end of their route, S of Jagersfontein.

Many thanks to Brian Colahan for this report and for managing to keep track of so many routes!



Elton and Beverley le Roux, Lize Wolfaardt and Albert Bredehann who counted NA01 in the Augrabies Falls National Park. Photo: camera on timer!

Number of birds counted in January 2008 census in north-eastern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
FN16	57	1072	David Weaver		2/1	39/6/1			1/1	10/1		
FN26	65	606	Thomas Wessels						26/1			
FN28	55.7	1892	Otto Nel		2/1	65/1			1/1	2/1		3DB
FN31	79	2109	R Dillon		8/1	25/1			11/1/1	2/1/1	4/1	
FN32	51.4	701	Theunis Bekker		7/1	1/1	9/1	2/1	2/1		2/1	
FN35	55	946, 387	TI Wessels & Kobus le Roux		4/1							
FN37	59.4	2042, 2043	Melanie & Martin Potgieter		1/1							
FN39	62.2	1433	Peter & Patsy Millin		3/1				2/1			
FN40	66.4	2055, 2056	Hansie & Amie Joubert		2/1				2/1			3NBK
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		6/1					6/1		1AS
FN46	64	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer		9/1	31/1	1/1		8/6			
FN48	46	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		1/1					5/1		2WBK
FN50	56.3	942	Pieter Koornhof		9/1			1/1	5/1			1NBK
FN52	71	717	Johan Strauss	2/2/1	18/1	9/1			44/1/9			
FN55	68.7	703	Nacelle Collins		1/1	28/1	6/1		9/3/1			
FN57	62	1932	Pietre Enslin		7/1				1/1			
FN58	69.6	705	Paulus Fihlo		11/1	16/1		1/1	5/1	4/1		
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes		1/1				2/1			106NBK
Total	1126			4	91	220	16	4	138	30	6	1AS,3DB,110NBK,2WBK
Birds/100 km				0.4	8.1	19.5	1.4	0.4	12.3	2.7	0.5	



The Wilge River crossing on GB02 on 26 January 2008! Photo by Francois Wolfaardt.