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The Animal 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 25

December 2008

General

I am not really sure how to start this newsletter as this year of such great change personally and globally rushes to an end. I know one of the changes that must be affecting you all so much is the huge increase in petrol that means that you are all giving a substantial donation to conservation by continuing your CAR roadcount. We do appreciate this greatly! There are some accounts of the 'extra mile' you stretched to in the website report, http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/car_w2008.htm. Fortunately the winter count was on a beautiful day throughout the country. It struck me when I typed Newsletter 25 that this is quite a milestone newsletter, especially as the counts began before the newsletters and the original Overberg observers have completed 31 counts! Quite an achievement!

I hope you received the email about the website report on the winter count. René Navarro set up a listserver for me that made the process of sending an email out to you all much more efficient. If you didn't receive that email please let me know so that I can include your address.

I have been reading a book lent to me written by Barbara Kingsolver called *Animal, vegetable, miracle* in which a family decides to focus their year on growing their own food, or sourcing it locally in an effort to save fuel costs personally, but also to reduce the energy costs of all they use or buy. The book is very readable and informative and I would encourage you to borrow it too, or buy it and circulate it. In this year of great loss I have found it wonderful to be able to grow vegetables again and therapeutic to be in my garden and see growth and beauty. (Sadly my youngest brother lost his courageous struggle against cancer early in July, it was advanced when discovered and kept advancing at a phenomenal rate. A close, long-standing friend also died recently after struggling with a brain tumour over the last year.)

Living on a river this year has made me very disturbed about the amount of litter despite the fact that we are a short distance from the dam up in the mountains behind the village. In caring for our beautiful land and waters and conserving energy there are a few helpful reminders in the adjacent box.

Sally Hofmeyer, who is doing her PhD on the CAR data, has moved offices so if you phone me at UCT, do leave a message and I will get back to you. I work from home in Villiersdorp on a Monday, Tuesday am and Friday, but will phone in to check for messages.

Welcome to all new participants in CAR. You can discover some background about 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.

I encourage you all to try bird, reptile or butterfly atlasing or CWAC-ing i.e. monitoring waterbirds! Maybe consider counting a pentad for the bird atlas for an hour before starting your CAR route and completing it after your count. Just please make sure you begin your CAR route about an hour after sunrise. Or if there are enough people in your car some could focus on atlasing if your route is mostly in one pentad.

I am glad Magdalena Remisiewicz, a post-doctoral researcher here from Poland, was able to count a route in the North West province near Barberspan that a farmer initiated a while ago, but hasn't been able to count. Timm Hoffmann and Elton le Roux also counted their out-lying routes in the Northern Cape.

Date of summer CAR count

The date for the summer count is as late as it can get, on **Saturday, 31 January 2009**. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise and do make every effort to count on this specified date. If for some

- 👍 **Use reusable shopping bags:** By using bags made of cloth instead of plastic, you can save approximately 6 bags per week.
- 👍 **Be aware of packaging, buy products with minimal packaging:** Avoid polystyrene-based packaging or unnecessary double packaging.
- 👍 Purchase products **packaged in recyclable materials**, e.g. paper bags and cardboard boxes.
- 👍 Where possible buy **locally grown and produced foods, this reduces energy costs (fuel in transport) and means that your local community benefits.**
- 👍 **Support organic agriculture, but also be aware of the carbon footprint of what you eat.**
- 👍 Help protect our **marine resources** by sms-ing the name of the fish you are about to buy to 079 499 8795. A sms will be sent back to you to inform you about the conservation status of the fish. (Visit www.wwf.org.za/sassi for more information.)
- 👍 **Save energy by:**
 - Unplugging your kitchen appliances when not in use. Even when turned off, some appliances still use energy. In fact, the energy used to keep display clocks lit and memory chips working accounts for 5% of total domestic energy consumption and spews 18 million tons of carbon into the atmosphere every year!
 - Only run your washing machine/dishwasher when there's a full load – and use the energy-saving setting.
- 👍 **Recycle at home:** Many schools raise funds through collecting glass, paper, plastic and tin so do find one near you or a recycling depot. Polystyrene-based packaging can go to a local soup kitchen or crèche who can reuse it. I hope you are making compost from your organic waste.
- 👍 **Conserve water:** Collect the running water, while waiting for it to warm, for watering your plants. You can also switch off the shower water while soaping yourself.

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 winter count next year will be on Saturday, 25 July.

Count information

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. The **CAR leaflet** helps explain the project to any passing concerned farmers.

Do check your form carefully making sure that all the 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. There seem to have been more routes than usual with different route lengths to normal. I realize that using a different vehicle can vary your route length as odometers vary. But if your route length is different because you had to alter your route for some reason e.g., because of a flooded river – please send an explanatory note.

It seems that there were more routes without any sightings of CAR target species this last count. I know this is very discouraging for you, but it is still very important information.

Try to send in your form by **mid-March, but always, always keep a copy yourself!** Inevitably a few forms go astray in the post or fax! It helps enormously



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.

if you send your form to your Precinct Organiser promptly, as they can check for missing information immediately. This saves me a huge amount of time in following up queries.

If you know in advance that you will not be able to 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 is familiar with your route.

CAR logo

Apparently the CAR project is the only ADU project that does not have its own logo! So it is time for us to remedy this, so please would you help by nurturing your creative thoughts and skills to develop a suitable logo for CAR. We would like to give a prize to the designer of the selected logo. For those of you who participate in CWAC I will be running this in a similar way to their recent search for a CWAC logo; thank you to Marius Wheeler, who coordinates CWAC, for the ground work.

The logo can be designed digitally or by hand. It may be in colour, or plain black and white. There are no restrictions, but do keep the following in mind:

- ✧ A simple design is usually most effective
- ✧ The design must be well-suited for colour and black and white printing
- ✧ It must be relevant to CAR
- ✧ Ensure that the logo is well defined and of high quality
- ✧ It should be well balanced and scalable
- ✧ It must be easily recognisable
- ✧ It must be unique.

The successful designer will be able to choose two ADU publications as a prize for their effort. This competition is open to anyone and entries will be accepted until 31 March 2009. Please post or email them to me. A selection of the most suitable will be made and then the best logo chosen by an independent panel. I am looking forward to seeing your contributions!

Photographs of habitat

Please refer to the previous newsletter 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, http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/p_car.htm Project material is available in Afrikaans as well. The **interim CAR winter count report** (dated 29 October 2008) 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. The population trends for the bird species counted in the Overberg, Swartland, Little Karoo and Humansdorp areas were updated on the website in October (click on Blue Crane, Black-headed Heron, Denham's Bustard, Karoo Korhaan, Secretarybird, Southern Black Korhaan, Spur-winged Goose and White Stork in the table near the foot of CAR webpage). Michael Brooks has made significant progress with putting the software that Hugues Leray developed on the web.

Unfortunately, René Navarro's time has continued to be dominated by the atlas projects, so René still needs to sort out the summary data for this software.

Data requests

The data for the Humansdorp routes was supplied to Tanya Smith, of the South African Crane Working Group, for an Environmental Impact Assessment for a power line planned through that region. The data for the routes that Mark van Niekerk co-ordinated in the northeastern Eastern Cape was also sent to Mark. An updated version of the CAR database was sent to Richard Pettifor for the Darwin Initiative project 15/002.

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 or email 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

We have really appreciated funding from the African Bird Club (ABC) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). Thankfully we are receiving core funding from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). We are also 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. There is however, still a shortfall in the budget.

Thank you to the many organisations that support CAR by their involvement in the project, or that support the project financially – these are listed at the foot of the CAR webpage.

Barbi Forsyth wrote a comprehensive report on the 8th Chrissiesmeer count in *Bokmakierie*, with a graph comparing sightings over the last four years. Lorraine Mullins and Adrian Craig wrote reports on their counts in the *Diaz Diary*. Do look out for an article on White Storks that Mark Anderson wrote for the *Go* and *Weg* magazines for their February 2009 issue. Mark regularly writes for their Top Spot column. I would also like to mention an article that I missed written by Paddy Campbell in the *BirdLife Eastern Cape* magazine in May about "A hot CAR count at Aberdeen". Dave Brown, the route leader for this route, EP08, has travelled almost four hours every six months to count this route that he started in July 1998! If I have missed any other reports do let me know.

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

Piet Nel, Deon Coetzee

Big Birds on Farms project

As I have taken unexpected leave during this year, I applied for an extension for this project. I am very thankful that we were granted an extension until April next year, as unfortunately I was only able to focus on essential CAR project coordination during May–July. In October I completed a progress report and updated budget for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund who have supported this project.

I received the wonderful photos for illustrating the booklet and presentations from Wicus Leeuwner in August. James has implemented the edits to the main part of the booklet and is currently finalizing



the species accounts. I have organized dates for the presentations in the Overberg and Swartland and some are still being confirmed. This week I have a meeting at Elsenburg, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture regarding being involved in the training of Agricultural Extension Officers as I would like to be able to discuss the twelve measures that are recommended in the booklet for landowners. James and I are submitting yet another application for funding for publishing this booklet. **Please contact me immediately if you have any ideas of potential sponsors.**

Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC)

Early in September the ADU was involved in hosting the Pan-African Ornithological Congress 12 (PAOC) in the Western Cape. This Congress takes place once every four years and this is the first time I have been able to attend as it was an hour away. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet people working in the ornithological field from South Africa, Africa and further afield. There were a number of people from Europe and other countries who are currently conducting research in Africa.

I appreciated being able to present an overview of CAR and some interesting population trends and habitat information. I have just completed the paper, *Big Birds on South African Farms*, for the Proceedings of the conference. **Thank you for all the hours in the car and regular stops to get out and scan for these big birds, as without your contributions this data would not exist! The database now contains the phenomenal total of 7590 roadcounts!**

Ringed birds

Ringed Blue Cranes was seen on OV12 and SW01. Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species at all times and report details to SAFRING. I am aware that a review of all the ringing information sent in by CAR participants is long over-due and will endeavour to do this in the next newsletter.

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

I was glad to have the opportunity of meeting Helen Prinsloo, the new SACWG Coordinator, and Ursula Franke, the new Regional Coordinator for Mpumalanga at the PAOC. I also appreciated catching up with other SACWG Regional Coordinators and meeting people involved in crane conservation further north in Africa. 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. If you have any information about roost sites let us know, as this is most useful information.

Southern Bald Ibis project

This project is co-ordinated by Kate Henderson and funded by BirdLife SA. Kate would appreciate any sightings of Southern Bald Ibis being sent to her at ibis@birdlife.org.za. Also if any of you know of any breeding colonies PLEASE let Kate know as she is continuing the overall census next year. Des Schroeder, who counts EE23, recorded seven Southern Bald Ibis in Lady Grey in the north-eastern Eastern Cape this year which he reported to Kate.

Southern Ground Hornbills

Sandi and Gavin Calverley and Sally Calitz were the only team to see three adult Southern Ground Hornbills and a juvenile, actually when they were on their way home from counting their CAR route near Babanango in KZN.

Do send in **any sightings of this threatened species at any time of year** to Scott Ronaldson on 013 7355550 or scottr@ewt.org.za You can email or sms any sightings of large birds seen in the Lowveld to Scott (0827818783). If possible please supply co-ordinates or the exact area.

Thank you!

Thank you very much for all your time, effort and on-going, ever increasing financial contribution to CAR! If you have to travel a long way to your route, you may want to consider finding 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.

In the run-up to the last count, when I took time off to share in caring for my brother and his family, I was acutely aware of the enormous role that Precinct Organisers play. Thank you for all the phoning, reminders regarding outstanding forms or missing information on forms and general encouragement that you give to observers.

I have appreciated the way in which Denise Lesch has steadily worked through capturing the roadcount forms as I have checked them. A vital part of this process is checking the captured data and I appreciate Denise's accuracy and thorough checking. Thank you again to Linda Tsipa, for saving me time by editing the tables for the newsletter. Marja Wren-Sargent has also typeset this newsletter in record time and been very supportive.

I am sad to report that three Precinct Organisers died during this last year. I mentioned Ken Gordon in the last newsletter. I heard about Maureen Turner losing a long struggle with cancer in June; there is a special obituary in the Diaz Diary, the Diaz Cross Bird Club newsletter, ending with the fact that "She will always be remembered for her lovely nature and her own love of nature." Maureen co-ordinated the Kenton-on-Sea counts from their inception. Then this week I heard from Tim Wood that Darryl Baxter, a vet who has organised the Vryheid counts, was killed in a helicopter crash.

This year has been hectic and stressed, with living in an old Victorian home while renovations happen around us, in the midst of great loss. So I am sorry I have not kept in touch as often as I would like or kept up with all that CAR involves; especially as I have taken more leave than usual during the year. It is hard to lose a second brother, to be alongside his young family, my parents and journey with my friend's family – but I am more aware of the special gifts of family and friends, of our new home and garden, of health and the beauty of our land. As we celebrate hope at this time of year I often think of a verse I discovered recently that resonates so much with me at the moment:

Celebrate life in the midst, in the middle,
in the muddle!

In the next weeks and year I hope your times with family and friends are deeply blessed and travel safely!

*Greetings and Kind regards to you all,
Donella Young, Project Coordinator*

Count Results Winter 2008

Eastern Cape

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

In the Border precinct Peter Swift, Vic Biggs and Alan Thompson were surprised to see 20 Denham's Bustards together, but none were displaying. On EH06, in the Humansdorp area, Yvonne Craig and her team saw 40 Denham's Bustards and 4 White-bellied Korhaans. EH03 observers saw their first Kori Bustard for this area, an unusual record. Yvonne noted that the veld was very dry on all EH routes as no rain had fallen for the past month. Many of the usual little wetlands and ponds had dried up. This may explain the presence of Kori Bustard.

Phil Whittington, who is now Ornithologist at the East London Museum, has initiated yet another CAR route, EB05. Sheila Bell-Cross and Jim Feely saw 225 Grey Crowned Cranes on route EE22, the highest total in the north-eastern Eastern Cape precinct. Hope and Sandy Stretton, who count EE19, noted the absence of Blue Cranes since May and very few Black-headed Herons during the winter.

The number of Karoo Korhaans (96) was the second highest total since counts began in July 1998; in July 2006 103 were counted.

Ron Blaker, who was introduced to the CAR project by Bradley Gibbons, a SACWG Regional Coordinator, did a recce of a route in the Middelberg district. On EP01 Pat Brett and Denise Hoffmann saw four Kori Bustards and 37 Ludwig's Bustards. There was a large gathering of 18 of the Ludwig's Bustards feeding in the veld, but they couldn't see what the food source was. Conditions in the Somerset East precinct were very dry. Neville Willows noted that they had had no rain for four months and July had been the driest month of the year over a period of 100 years.



A welcome tea break en route on the EH06 route (l to r) back: Marié and Allan Jones, Front: Joan Barnes and Sylvia Leslie. Photo by Yvonne Craig.

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in Eastern Cape												
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	Other species
EB01	63.5	175	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		14//	2//						1HAR
EB03	66.4	2119	Peter Swift	2//	7//	9//	20//			1//	4//	
EB04	63.2	1568, 1567, 1584, 2073	Ken & B Monfoort, W Perks & D Nell		23//		1//			2//	1//	
EB05	32.3	195	Phil Whittington		2//	9//					12//	
EE01	54	2281	Jacky Steyler Lamer			1//	2//			2//	1//	
EE02	63.3	1730, 1129	Helen Lechmere-Oertel & Adele Moore									
EE06	66.3	2087	Corii van Rooyen									
EE08	73	1929	Theuns Botha		10//	6//				1//	10//	
EE10	63	899	Kevin Meise		2//	4//						2BI
EE11	53	1261	Mike Agenbag	3//	2//	68//				1//		
EE12	52	901	Jenni Brown		3//	16//						
EE17	39	2236	Tanya Smith		3//	50//						
EE18	43.6	1918, 1919	Les & Adrian Larter			26//				4//	19//	
EE19	82.2	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton			2//		4//		2//		1HAR, 42UK
EE20	69	1730	Helen Lechmere-Oertel			195//						
EE22	16.8	2251, 2312	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Feely		2//	225//					8//	
EE23	38	2044, 2180	Desmond & Martie Schroeder									
EG02	52.7	565, 1530, 2144	Pat Hulley, Lorraine Mullins & J Gon		3//							
EG03	76	341, 2082	Bo Bonnevie & Eve Cambay					3//	3//			
EG04	60	161, 887	Adrian Craig & Nikki Köhly			14//					5//	1KB
EH03	55.3	2289	Chris Barratt	12//	22//		17//				119//	1KB
EH04	44	1767, 1766	Jill Tudhope & Peter Bosman		8//		14//					
EH05	39	1612, 1794, 301	Abel & H Bezuidenhout & C & J Cook	6//	1//		8//				5//	2WBK
EH06	56.3	312, 1975, 1974, 1770	Yvonne Craig, Al & M Jones & S Leslie	38//	20//	1//	40//			1//	47//	4WBK
EK02	42.8	885	John Lardner-Burke		13//					1//	4//	2OR
EK04	56.3	2210, 2209, 1525	John Potter, S Walsh & Tim Cockcroft		4//		1//					2OR
EK05	62.5	1528, 1527	Laurie Wood & Jenny Roxburgh		24//		19//					
EM01	62.2	974, 2111	Bradley & Lee-Ann Gibbons	56//						2//		6NBK, 3UK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann	1//				37//	8//			4KB, 16KK
EP02	66	83	Andrew Nixon	57//				2//	6//			5KB
EP04	70	869	Peter Hall	2//				8//	3//	1//		2KB, 11KK
EP06	52.7	2237	Michael Antrobus	227//				12//	6//			
EP07	73.3	2245, 2246	Lesley & Michael Lord & family					5//				3KK, 3NBK, 1UK
EP08	111	270	Dave Brown	6//				14//	1//			38KK, 2KB
EP09	27	2237	Michael Antrobus									
EP10	42.3	1731, 2265	John & Rolene Bowker									5KK, 14NBK
EP11	48.7	1852	Briar Wright		7//						3//	
EQ01	44.6	995	Gail McCann		1//						40//	2UK
EQ02	53	930	Don Field		2//							8UK
ES03	58.7	2302, 2303	Morven & Fiona Munro				7//					1KB, 15KK, 2NBK
ES04	47	1476, 1972	Judy & Zorb Caryer	39//	1//			4//				2UK
ES05	87	915	Andrew Cheeseman			1//	1//					
ES07	41.6	1965	Alison Brown									
ES08	52	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows	53//					1//			1KB, 8KK
ES10	26	2291	Liz van Wijk	15//						1//		
ES11	38	2211, 2005	Greg Brown & Ros Turner					1//				1HAR
Total	2558			518	191	681	130	90	28	19	278	2BI, 2HAR, 17KB, 96KK,
Birds/100 km				20.2	7.5	26.6	5.1	3.5	1.1	0.7	10.9	25NBK, 40OR, 58UK

EB - Border precinct, EE - Northeast Cape precinct, EG - Grahamstown precinct, EH - Humansdorp precinct, EK - Kentson precinct
EM - Middelburg precinct, EP - PE precinct (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), EQ - Queenstown precinct, ES - Somerset East precinct

Mpumalanga

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in Mpumalanga												
Route	km	Adu no.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK		Other species
MC01	78	1555	Lia Steen		7//	2//		42//	2//	7//		
MC02	62.1	1391, 1744, 2058	Philip & L Silcock & I Hemmings		5//			10//	7//			9OR
MC03	56	2255	Lilian Hadley						6//			
MC04	68.5	1369	Lester Niss	1//	1//				2//			1OR
MC05	68.8	2256	Jeanne Thomas	6//			3//			3//		2SEC
MC06	69.1	1985	Lauraine Leigh	1//	12//					4//		
MC07	77.1	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth	4//	7//		21//	8//				1SEC
MM01	54.3	2290	Billy Smith	7//			196//	401//	11//			
MS01	50.7	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor	1//			3//		1//			1HAR
MS02	56.3	2282	Kobus Davel	2//	1//			96//				3OR
MS04	63.8	1927, 1928	John Meiring									
MS05	56	728	Anton Linström	1//	1//	2//	38//	2//				4OR
MS06	63.3	1178	Hendrik van Wyk				4//		2//			
MS07	56	1109	Bryan Rowland					90//				3DB
MS08	36.4	2279	Ursula Franke									
MS09	55	1727	Jim McLuskie					86//	1//			
MS13	56.7	724	Lientjie Cohen		1//	4//		46//				
MT01	84.7	1816, 1817	Colin & Nalda Williams	178//	2//		3//	54//	31//	10//	3//	9SS
MT02	63.2	1912	Kevin Armitage		63//			489//	46//			4NBK, 20SS
MT03	34.5	1986	Dries Schoeman	2//				29//	6//			4SS
MT04	35.3	1986	Dries Schoeman	6//				122//				
MT05	67	2294	Johan van Rensburg	113//	3//	61//		108//	6//			
MW01	81	2017, 361	Norman Dennett & J-L Wheeler	3//	26//			102//				4SEC
MW03	63.2	1867, 2003	John McAllister & Ann Cleal	62//	1//		80//	53//	31//	1//		2WC
MW06	58.7	2305	Patrick Shamley	6//		76//	80//		5//			17DB
MW07	66	2160, 2238	Helen & Richard Whiteley	1//	20//			177//	2//			2DB, 1SEC
MW08	90	2004, 2018	Bob Traynor & Beverley		3//	36//		23//				2SEC
MW09	84	2003, 2199	Ann Cleal & Penny Fox	2//	7//	20//	79//		8//			1SEC
MW10	50	2199, 2162	Penny Fox & D Milstein		2//	23//	2//	12//	46//			
Total	1806			361	129	291	253	1697	708	18	22DB, 17OR, 33SS, 2WC	
Birds/100 km				20.0	7.1	16.1	14.0	94.0	39.2	1.0	1HAR, 4NBK, 11SEC	

MC - Chrissiesmeer precinct, MK - Kruger, MM - Middelburg precinct, MS - Steenkampsberg precinct, MT - Standerton precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct

A reminder to count Helmeted Guineafowl (HG) on these routes, and also Oribi, while scanning for CAR birds.

Steenkampsberg precinct: David Gaynor reported that “Unfortunately, the sightings did not live up to the conditions for counting. With the exception of a record count of 356 Helmeted Guineafowl, a sighting of 3 Denham’s Bustards, and 7 Oribi, our best to date, the pickings were slim indeed. All other target species counts were below average, or zero, and MS04 and MS08 drew complete blanks.” Eleven years of monitoring have been completed now – thank you so much for your dedication in counting, especially since bird numbers and diversity are low.

Do fill in activity and location (i.e., the last two columns) for Southern Bald Ibis, as well as for cranes and bustards.

Middelburg precinct

Billy Smith wrote that along approximately 60% of MM01 there are mining activities and conveyer belts on the left hand side.

Standerton precinct

Johan and Lillian van Rensburg saw 113 Blue Cranes and 61 Bald Ibises on a new route, MT05. Colin and Nalda Williams had the highlight of counting 178 Blue Cranes on MT01. There were 489 Helmeted Guineafowl on Kevin Armitage's route, MT02!

Wakkerstroom precinct

Judy-Lynn Wheeler, the Precinct Organiser, wrote that they had a warm day,

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in Swartland							
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other species
SW01	75	1970	Fiona Hellmann	176/4/	4//	66//	1SEC
SW02	78.5	503, 1077	Sean, Louise & Jack Tucker	4//		33//	
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & Pat Waddell	137/10/	2//1/	43//	
SW04	63	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck			3//	
SW05	60.3	991, 2175	D Young & B Henwood	546/1/	2//	139//	
SW06	73	1359	Reg le Roux	4//	7//	163//	
SW07	49	2076, 1122, 2315	B de Kock, L Reynolds & Kevin	87/4/	5//	124//	
SW08	71.5	1474	Bruce MacKenzie	2//	3//	9//	
SW09	60.8	2033	Jaco van Deventer & family	83//	1//	197//	
SW10	62	2030	Pieter Bruwer	50//	10//	81//	1BS, 1SBK, 1SEC
SW11	64.2	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon		8//	17//	2SBK
SW12	80.8	2207, 2208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	44//		148//	3SBK
SW13	50.1	673, 674	Elna & Tertius Slabber	8//	1//	16//	1BS, 2SBK, 2SEC
SW14	52.2	506, 2033	R van der Walt & J van Deventer	27//	2//	107//	
SW15	64	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbützel	89//	3/11/	17//	1HAR
SW16	42.3	2051, 1191	Cheryl Seeley & Ian Mileham	2//1/		81//	
Total	1010			1279	60	1245	2BS, 1HAR, 3SEC
Birds/100 km				126.6	5.9	123.2	8SBK

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in Overberg										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SG	Other spp.	
OV01	56	229, 2311, 1063	Inés & Duncan Cooke & Petra Rigg	147/4/	8//			16//	1HAR	
OV02	63	1083, 801, 802	Anne Price, Keith and Ann McAdam	135//	8//	2//		42/3/		
OV03	48.2	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	92/3/	1//			41//	3WS	
OV04	26.5	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	145/13/	5//	2//		16//		
OV05	69.5	228, 227, 1148	John Carter, Ben, Brian, & Basil	295/16/	24//	19//	19//	3//	58//	1HAR
OV06	50.7	1655, 2110	Stuart & Ruth McLennan	190//	13//	46//	7//		44//	
OV07	68.2	496, 2184	Ken Price & Hester Snyman	270/8/	19//	20//	5/1/	2//	28//	
OV08	74.8	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	1116/53/	11//	3//		2//	36//	1SBK
OV09	45.8	234, 239	Craig & Sarah Thom & Bruce Squier	352//	2//			1//	94//	
OV10	56	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	111//	4//				7//	
OV11	60.9	245, 244, 246	Sheila & Peter Siebert, M Loubser	7//	2//	6//			26//	
OV12	57.2	215, 216, 1380, 1381	Heather Busby, Dawn, Rory & Gill	232//	3//	18//			13//	
OV13	70	520, 671, 672	Jill Mortimer, Ann, Rene & Heide	478/17/	30//	31//	22//	1//	41//	1BS, 2SBK
OV14	90	123, 1922	John & O Coats, M & H Aucamp	399/27/	4//	4//			709//	
OV15	59.4	2112, 2113	John & Myra Jones	293/43/	18//	11//	8//	2//	47//	
OV16	61	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & Willem du Toit	443//	14//	19//	4//		15/1/	
OV17	62	878	Lee Burman & team	114//	9//	7//			46//	1HAR
OV18	50	240, 1712	Wicus & Hanlie Leeuwner	248//	5//	4//			45//	
OV19	62.4	219, 1213	Ronnie Crowther & Estelle Stodel	193//	4/1/	5//			41//	
OV20	55.1	1325, 1441	Neville & Alison Passmore	131/4/	15//	11//			36//	
OV21	64.5	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christina Terblanche	23//	18//	11//		1//	34//	2LB
OV22	56.5	1660	Sally Adam & team	398//	16/1/	2//		1//	74//	
OV23	58.7	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall	2//	21//	2//			43//	
OV24	57.7	636, 1211, 1212	Mick & June D'Alton, G Swanepoel	8//	6//	6//		2//	59//	
OV26	19.8	871	Jeffrey Arizon	7//	1//				10//	
OV27	68	2071, 2072	Buddy & Jenny Mockford	9//	12//	3//			32//	
OV28	20.8	1462, 1825	Tonia & Flip Schonken	2//	1//	4//			11//	
OV29	26	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	4/1/	2//			2//	1//	
OV33	61	1463	Frans de Craaff & family	7//1/	4//	2//			15//	
OV36	40	1469	Avril Young & team	99/2/	3//	11//			25//	
OV37	34.5	1777, 1778, 1269, 2170	Rae & Ann Gordon & Wintertons	2//		10//			7//	
Total	1694			6208	285	259	66	19	1716	1BS, 3HAR, 2LB,
Birds/100 km				366.4	16.8	15.3	3.9	1.1	101.3	3SBK, 3WS
OV34	61	1550, 1551	Heynè & Sharon Brink			10//		2//	25//	6HAR, 1SBK

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in Western Cape small precincts								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other species
WB01	62	343, 1101	Maria Andela & Annatjie Mocke			50/2/		1BS, 1LB
WB03	58	1909	Stefan Theron	41//		28//		
WC01	41	1291	George Hattingh		1//			
WC02	45	2293	Mike & Carol Hewitt & Conservancy		3//		1/1/	
WK02	47	2139, 2314	Gillie & Jenny Schütte	18//	2//		1//	
WK03	24	2292, 2313	Adrius & Karin Rabe	2//	1//		17//	
WK04	44	2138, 2140, 2182	Laurel Bloch, Mike Ford & M Powell	72//	1//		10//	1HAR
WK05	17	2138, 2140, 2182	Laurel Bloch, Mike Ford & M Powell		1//			
WU01	50	2062	Pat Nurse		1//	4//		
WU02	56	2062	Pat Nurse	28//	1//		2//	10DB, 8LB
WU03	51	540, 2062	JP & A Esau & J de Jaar		4//			2SBK
WU04	34	1606	Natalie Baker & Barend le Roux					
WU05	70	297, 1332, 2156	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown & B du Plessis	233/6/1	6//			1DB
WU06	13	1606	Natalie Baker & Barend le Roux					
WU07	68	2299, 1332, 2156	B James, K Hampson, A Petersen & pupil	6//	1//		1//	
Total	681			407	22	84	32	1BS, 10DB, 1HAR,
Birds/100 km				59.8	3.2	12.3	4.7	9LB, 2SBK
WB - Beaufort West precinct, WC - Calitzdorp precinct, WK - Little Karoo, WU - Uniondale precinct								

no breeze, a cloudless sky and high enthusiasm. Highlights were two Watted Cranes on MW03 and a gathering of 17 Denham's Bustards on MW06. A total of 1091 birds were recorded spread over 10 species.

Chrissiesmeer precinct

The 8th count in this area went very smoothly in perfect weather. On three routes Wits Bird Club members spoke to farmers whom they met and found the CAR leaflet very helpful to explain what they were counting. Barbi Forsyth, the Precinct Organiser, wrote "Pieter Strydom, our host at Miss Chrissies, commented that local farmers have become far more aware of the environment and of our birds, especially after the support offered over the mining battle." One farmer was so enthusiastic that Barbi is going to ask if he would join them in January. Barbi noted a "steady decline in Spur-winged Geese, Helmeted Guineafowl and Black-headed Heron" and also Bald Ibis since 2006. Phil and Lynn Silcock and Iris Hemmings saw 9 Oribi on MC02.

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

Kruger precinct

Unfortunately these routes were not counted as so few CAR birds are recorded.

Western Cape

Swartland precinct

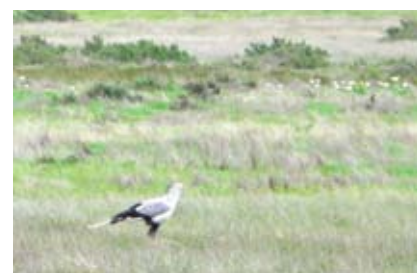
This region experienced good winter rains and there was more water than usual lying in the lands. The highest density of Blue Cranes (140/100km) was recorded to date. Denise Henwood and I were amazed to count 546 Blue Cranes on SW05, most of them gathered in 4 flocks quite close to each other.

Fiona Hellman had an eventful day with a ringed Blue Crane, over hundred Blue Cranes in a lupin field, a Secretarybird and an injured bat eared fox. Sean Tucker's route, SW02, has had further habitat changes with the first part being cleared for development. This, together with the past increase in vineyards; crop spraying and extensive road works on the R311 while counting resulted in very little birdlife.

Jan Hofmeyr saw 4 White Storks on the pig farm.

Overberg precinct

The Overberg was very green after good winter rains and there were many more sightings of Karoo Korhaan than usual. The Karoo Korhaan density was three times as high as the previous highest density of 4.7 birds/100 km. The density of Denham's Bustards is always higher in winter than in summer, but was particularly high this last winter as well. Avril Young and Rae and Ann Gordon and who count OV36 and OV37 respectively saw more Denham's Bustard than usual. On OV06 Stuart McLennan and his daughter, Ruth, and Mark Berning saw 46 Denham's Bustards! Keith and Michele Moodie made an impressive effort saving petrol by cycling their 75 km route, while recording over 1100 Blue Cranes. The next highest total was counted by Jill Mortimer and her team on OV13.



Secretarybird striding out near the Swartland wind turbines. Photo by Jill Vickerman.

Craig Thom and his daughter, Sarah, and Bruce Squier had the highlights of seeing a Secretarybird and a Booted Eagle on a hare, both close to road. John Coats, his wife and the Aucamps saw 700 Spur-winged Geese in stubble. There was also the unusual sighting by Wilson and Christina Terblanche of two Ludwig's Bustards on OV21. About 6 km of the OV28 route was impassable as a bridge was washed away and probably won't be replaced, necessitating a long backtrack. Frans de Graaff noted that part of his route,

OV33, has become game reserve this last year.

Andrew and Lynne Marshall saw a dead Black-headed Heron in a tree, with fishing line tangled around its legs that were caught in the branches. This reminds us of the dangers of string, fishing line, baling twine, plastic bags etc. to birds and also other animals.

I have so appreciated Duncan and Ines Cooke's efficient coordination of this precinct. Please remember to fax or post your form directly to them:

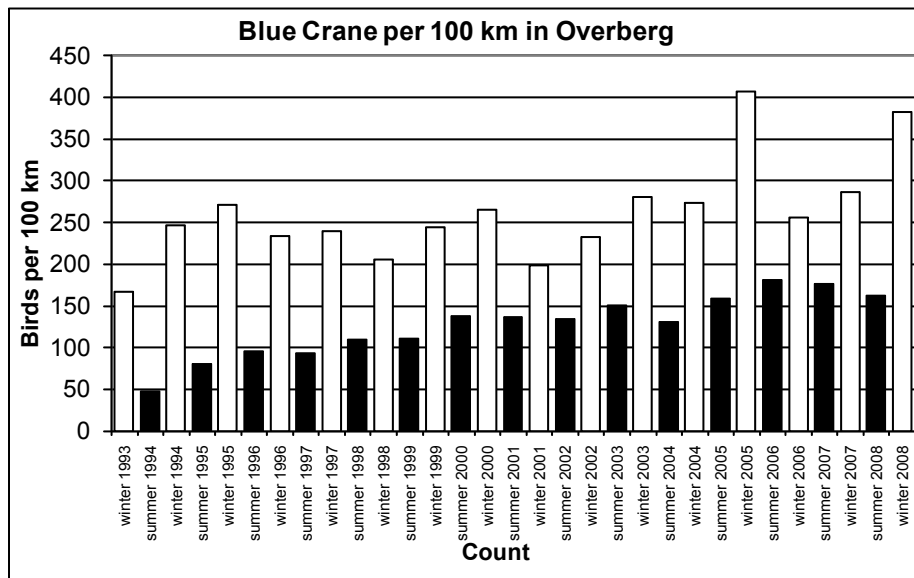
20 Oakbridge Village, Bizweni Avenue, Somerset West, 7130. Fax: 0865106470. If you need to contact Bronwyn Botha, the SACWG Regional Coordinator, please phone 082 3200911.

Beaufort West precinct

This seems to have been a good year for Karoo Korhaans, as Maria Andela and Stefan and Hannetjie Theron recorded their highest totals ever on WB01 (52) and WB03 (28). A Black Stork was seen on WB01 and Annatjie Mocke, who assists Maria in counting, noted that it is often seen along the river on their route.

Little Karoo precinct

Laurel Bloch and her team of observers were very distressed to find two Verreaux's Eagles on WK04. This incident was reported to Cape Nature immediately as the birds appeared poisoned. Thank you to Piet Nel and Adrius and Karen Rabie for filling in on two WK routes, and Laurel who is now coordinating this precinct. A big thank you to Andrew Schofield for initiating counts in this region and counting WK02 for many years.



Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in Gauteng								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other species
GB01	20.2	931, 2183	Francois & Marianne Wolfaardt	28//	57//	7//		3BC, 2BI
GB02	30	931, 2183	Francois & Marianne Wolfaardt			2//		
GB03	52	2135	Peter Huggins	1//	232//			
GB04	44.9	1814	Billy Malatji		90//			
GB05	19.3	2286, 614	Lourens Muller & Rihan Geysler		12//	5//		
GB06	46	1764	Sean West	4//	62//			
GB07	54	1764	Sean West				18//	
GC01	19	2046	Willem de Lange		41//	14//		
GC02	64.4	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	3//	188//		160//	
GC03	81	2046	Willem de Lange		85//	11//		
GC04	74	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	181//	124//	7//	13//	2SEC, 3UK
GC05	62.8	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	1//	94//	10//		
GD01	64	77	Ian Smith	17//	178//		11//	2SEC
GD02	55.5	613, 2288	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones	12//	90//	1//		1HAR, 3SEC
GD03	32	2145	Diane Rose	2//	60//		1//	56BC
GD04	52.9	2146	Frans Rossouw	5//				
GH01	54.4	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	2//	274//	13//		1UK
GH02	72.4	2226	Daniel Koen	5//	53//		10//	
GH03	51.5	2101	Hein Pienaar		7//	6//		
GH04	46.9	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	7//	19//	8//		
GH05	56	2300	Obeid Katuma		8//	6//		2SEC
GM01	50	2287	Nico Grobler		72//	3//		
GM02	20	2102	Leon Labuschagne		78//1			
GW01	53.6	2099	Piet Muller		39//			
GW02	48	2152	Mags Pillay		27//			
Total	1225			268	1891	93	213	59BC, 2BI, 1HAR,
Birds/100 km				21.9	154.4	7.6	17.4	9SEC, 4UK

GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site

Uniondale precinct

Thank you to Pat Nurse, Sandy Howell and Ina Engelbrecht for doing two long routes, as the usual Cape Nature vehicles were needed due to a fire burning in the Kammanassie Nature Reserve. Natalie Baker, of Cape Nature who coordinates this precinct, was very disappointed that they didn't see a single target species. But they rightly realized that this absence still contributes important information to the project. Mike and Gill Euston-Brown and Barry du Plessis were surprised to see a White-bellied Sunbird on their route, WU05, and saw 240 Blue Cranes! Bob James, Kerry Hampson and Alistair Petersen noted that for the past two roadcounts they have not seen any Northern Black Korhaan in the area around the junction of the R328 to Volmoed on WU07. They have always seen many of this species here, but they thought that maybe their absence is due to those lands now being grazed by ostriches.

Calitzdorp precinct

Theresa van der Westhuizen, of Cape Nature, has been able to arrange for members of the Rooiberg South Side Conservancy to continue the route that Elton le Roux initiated.

Gauteng

In Gauteng Craig Whittington-Jones recorded the all time record total of 181 Black-headed Herons on GC04, a hundred of which were in a burnt field. Diane Rose recorded 56 Blue Cranes on her route, GD03, near Devon and Francois and Marianne Wolfaardt saw three on GB01. Obeid Katumba and Humbulani Ishisikule were pleased to see a Marsh Owl on GH05. Blue Korhaan were also recorded on two Gauteng routes.

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guinea-fowl (HG). Thank you to Craig for organising these counts.



Free State

It was a pleasant, sunny winter's day for most people who surveyed routes in the three Free State CAR precincts, and this is probably why the 80 birds/100 km recorded overall was far greater than the density recorded the previous winter (66/100 km), when there were strong winds and fires in the northeast. The results for 96 routes (covering 6249 km) have so far been received, 19 (1192 km, 43 birds/100 km) in the North-eastern precinct

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in north-western Free State									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.
FW02	43.3	1957, 2274	Rosemary Girard & M Williams		2//	36//	2//	148//	
FW13	58.7	1515, 1903	Johann & Rosa-Marie Potgieter			9//	2//	3//	
FW16	68	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe			2//			
FW18	50	1268	Herman Jordaan			55//			
FW26	76.4	1174	Fanie Gouws			7//		10//	
FW28	56.3	1162	Piet van der Merwe			12//			
FW36	83.2	28	Johan Hardy			31//		4//	
FW43	65.5	2261	Chris Daphne		3//	26//		1//	
FW45	50.2	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan			9//		1//	
FW46	55	2262	Tjaart Venter		1//	12//		5//	2UK
FW50	68	1938, 1939	Helm & Elizabeth Lekaota		1//	31//	1//	44//	
FW51	79	1253	JJ den Houting		1//	80//		3//	11UK
FW52	60	2201	Mary Littlewood	73//	8//	10//	2//		
FW53	90.8	1173, 1940	Chris de Lange		6//	39//		100//	
FW55	62.3	1936, 1937	Andries & Leanda Nel		1//	8//2	1//	1//	
FW56	62.1	1901, 1902	Stephen & Marietjie Hill			16//			
FW57	74	1958	Joey Knoesen			33//			
Total	1103			73	23	430	8	320	13UK
Birds/100 km				6.6	2.1	38.1	0.7	29.0	

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in southern Free State											
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.
FS06	72	700	Johan Watson	168//		30//	15//			11//	
FS08	67.4	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	6//			10//		2//	3//	
FS09	58.3	24	Brian Colahan	6//		12//	20//		31//	25//	2KK
FS15	75	1056	PL Crouse			5//	12//				
FS17	74	1620	Dawie Kok	3//			62//	1//	2//	9//	
FS18	73.7	684	Louise Coetzee			2//	46//		12//	13//	
FS19	88	2263	Gela van Heerden				53//	1//		2//	
FS20	64.7	1432, 2171	Anne McLeod & Sandra Bishop				69//	2//			
FS21	62.6	864	Sawas Vrahimis				17//				
FS27	78.6	694	Erika Schulze	32/2//		13//	2//		5//	8//	
FS29	61	822	Stephanie Gerber				15//	2//	19//	13//	
FS31	71.9	259	Johan van Niekerk	77//			11//			25//	
FS35	73.8	1258	Hannes Blom				40//	2//	167//	11//	
FS40	73.3	2107	Comelia Squirra				8//				
FS43	78	1801	Christo de Meyer				58//	1//			
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henriette van den Berg		2//		23//	1//	39//		
FS48	75	1808	Ockie Boshoff				77//	1//		1//	
FS50	78	1058	Frans Marais				2//		22//	28//	2CC
FS54	59.3	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig & E Beemster-Boer	2//			72//			19//	
FS55	56.4	24	Brian Colahan				40//			5//	
FS56	71.2	987, 988	Jeanette & Fanie Buys				118//		6//	23//	
FS58	80.2	863	Pierre Nel				22//	1//	1//		
FS60	71.2	2260	Ilse Roets	203//			12//		14//		
FS62	58	2298	Lynden Lund				7//	2//		2//	
FS65	82	864	Sawas Vrahimis				20//	2//			
FS66	55.6	1399	Tom Mostert		1//	2//	17//			3//	2SBK
FS67	68.4	950	Daan Müller		1//		4//		6//	4//	
FS68	66.4	1051	Werner Böing		1//		20/4//	3//		4/2//	3KB
FS70	59.5	1150, 1151	Abrie & Heléne Bam		3//	2//		1//	1//	42//	
FS73	69.1	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam		1//		7//		1//		
FS76	42.5	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen								
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger			4//	2/2//		5//		
FS79	51	1397	Dewald Liebenberg				24//				
FS83	49.3	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin				6//				
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan Coertzen				10//			2//	
FS85	78.7	285	JB Cloete		2//		12//		5//	4//	
FS86	63.7	24	Brian Colahan				181//		43//	15//	
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie Geyer		2//		27//		6//	11//	
FS91	59	641	Rick Nuttall				113//	2//	2//	7//	
FS92	65.5	1201	Fritz Krohn		1//			2//		3//	
FS93	49.2	700	Johan Watson			28/3//	12//	2//		4//	
FS97	57	1574	Dennis Oliphant				9//	4//	3//	10//	
FS103	55.2	2296, 2297	Eric & Magda Schroeder				15//				
FS106	50.3	1946	Hennie Bester		2//		38//		12//		
FS107	72	1836	John Edgar			3//			1//		
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jennifer Lotter		6//		8//		12//	6//	4BI
FS109	59.9	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen	4//	1//					2//	
FS110	63	1747	Morné Pretorius		1//		7//		1/3//	7//	
FS111	73.9	24	Brian Colahan				38//	2//			
FS112	60	1747	Morné Pretorius		2//		44//		5//	16//	
FS113	94.2	1616	Danie Krynanuw		2//		11//	2//	4//	42//	
FS114	73.8	1262, 684	Janine Liefbrig & Louise Coetzee				37//	4//		6//	
FS116	47	1799	Peter Divall				32//			10//	
FS117	66.8	691	Willie Mostert				11//			13//	
FS118	63.1	24	Brian Colahan	237//		1//	9//	1//		4//	
FS119	74	1140	John & Jill Moffett		1//		57//			3//	
FS120	68.9	1889	JC Labuschagne		2//		38//	1//		18//	
FS121	57.1	24	Brian Colahan		1//		53//			2//	
FS122	62	1057	Lourens Goosen				17//	1//			
FS123	60	683	Chris Botha	108//			2//	2//	8//		
Total	3951			848	35	102	1698	43	438	438	2CC, 4BI, 2KK,
Birds/100km				21.5	0.9	2.6	43.0	1.1	11.1	11.1	3KB, 2SBK

(FN), 17 (1106 km, 77 birds/100 km) in the North-western (FW) and 60 (3951 km, 91 birds/100 km) in the Southern (FS).

The Spur-winged Goose (18/100 km) and Bald Ibis (11/100 km) were dominant in the FN, where only three Blue Cranes were seen (by Paulus Fihlo and Japie Herbst, W of Harrismith), and only five Crowned Cranes (by Pietré and Fred Enslin), also W of Harrismith. (Flocks (or, the same flock?) of over 300 Blue Cranes were reported from that precinct a few months earlier, between Bethlehem and Harrismith, Bethlehem and Warden, and N of Memel.)

The Northern Black Korhaan continues to do well in the FW and was the dominant species (38/100 km), followed by Spur-winged Goose (29/100 km). Seventy-three Blue Cranes were recorded in this precinct, but all of them along one route, between Deneysville and Heilbron, by Mary Littlewood and Uli Borngraber.

The FS was also dominated by Northern Black Korhaan (43/100 km) sightings, but followed by Blue Cranes (22/100 km) – there were over 200 of these along two routes, and over 100 along another two, all down in the south-western corner. Frans Marais's team again saw the only Grey Crowned Cranes in this precinct, two W of Wepener, while Werner Böing and Chris Louw spotted the only Kori Bustards, three at the end of their route SW of Bloemfontein.

Many thanks to Brian Colahan for this report and for organising all these counts!



Leoni du Preez (left) and Irmgard Kaiser (right), who assisted counting FN39. Photo by Peter Millin.

Northern Cape

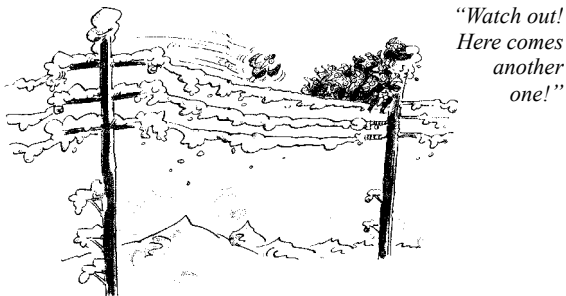
27th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLBTBS)

The KLBTBS did take place successfully, thank you for sending all your forms through to Mark or Ronelle. Due to unforeseen circumstances Mark has not been able to access his office, so we will include a longer report once the data becomes available and is captured. Mark Anderson is now Director of BirdLife, as many of you know.

Thank you to Mark and Ronelle for organising these counts!

New Northern Cape routes

Elton le Roux recorded 2 Karoo Korhaan, 2 Ludwig's Bustard and 11 Northern Black Korhaan on the route in Augrabies Falls National Park. Timm Hoffmann saw only one Black-headed Heron on his route near Garies.



Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in north-eastern Free State											
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.	
FN16	54.7	701	Theunis Bekker	9//	33//			60//	12//		
FN25	71	719	Georg & Erla Wandrag								
FN26	65	606	Thomas Wessels					1//			
FN28	56.6	1892, 1893	Otto & Marguerite Nel		11//				4//		
FN32	52.4	1072	David Weaver	5//	7//		2//		5//		
FN35	55	946	TI Wessels	1//				5//			
FN37	59.4	2043, 2042	Martin & Melanie Potgieter	5/1//				4/1//			
FN39	62.4	1433, 1810	Peter & Pasty Millin	3//	2//			28//		2BS, 1NBK	
FN40	66.4	2055, 2056	Hansie & Amie Joubert	3//	1//				3//		
FN41	81.9	1045	GJ Vermeulen	4//	21//			3//		3NBK	
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter	5//	10//			8//	15//		
FN46	64	718, 1813	Gerhard & E van Deventer		7//		1//				
FN48	46	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens	1//						4NBK, 2WBK	
FN50	55.4	942	Pieter Koomhof	5//	15//			11//			
FN52	71	717	Johan Strauss	13//	6//			17//			
FN55	69	703	Nacelle Collins					1//			
FN57	62.6	1932, 2014	Pietre & Fred Enslin	2//	10//	2/3//		63//	2/1//	5WBK	
FN58	63	705	Paulus Fihlo	18//				1//	5//	3BC	
FN60	65	1505	Brian Barnes	1//						33NBK	
Total	1192			76	123	5	3	203	47	3BC, 2BS,	
Birds/100km				6.4	10.3	0.4	0.3	17.0	3.9	41NBK, 7WBK	

Only 13 Wattled Cranes were recorded during the CAR counts in KZN. Malcolm Gemmill saw 14 Oribi on KC01, all in pairs as well as 42 Southern Bald Ibis. The density of Southern Bald Ibis overall was the second highest recorded, in January 2003 11.2 birds were seen per 100 km.

On KE01 there has been a change in habitat, as many farms have apparently been ex-propriated or abandoned, and the human population density has increased significantly, especially in the eastern section. The veld is now overgrazed or bare with much evidence of erosion. The decrease in numbers and species diversity on counts is reflecting these changes. Frik Lemmer reported that many areas were burnt on KP01.

The Midlands routes were dry and dusty and fewer birds were recorded than usual. There was a fishing competition on dams on KM01 and 02, with many people and cars! I am glad that Di Mason has been able to take over KM08, as Monte and Eunice Pera are no longer able to count this route. Carol Horne and her team saw five Red-billed Hoopoes on their Underberg route, KU02, a very unusual sighting for this area. As usual Ann Gray took Winterton Primary School learners to assist in her count and Siemon von Lengeling, Chase Smythe, Wilri Genis and Kristen Kritzingner (see photo) each received a certificate at school for participating! I thought this was a special idea of Ann's.

Thank you to Ed and Myra Wells who have counted KG10 since they initiated this route around Franklin Vlei in January 2000. Ed and Myra are now moving. I am grateful to Peter Nelson for agreeing to organise the Ladysmith counts.

Do continue to count Oribi(OR) and use the following abbreviations



Siemon von Lengeling, Chase Smythe, Wilri Genis and Kristin Kritzingner, of Winterton Primary School, helping count KL11. Photo by Ann Gray.

for gamebirds: **HG** for Helmeted Guineafowl, **CF** for Crested Francolin, **SS** for Swainson's Spurfowl, **NS** for Natal Spurfowl, **RNS** for Red-necked Spurfowl, **RWF** for Red-winged Francolin, **GWF** for Grey-winged Francolin and **SHF** for Shelley's Francolin.

A big thank you to Tim Wood for making a special trip up to northern KZN to visit the Precinct Organisers and encourage atlasers, as well as keeping a finger on the pulse of CAR in KZN.

Number of birds counted in July 2008 census in KwaZulu-Natal												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	Other species
KC01	49	433	Malcolm Gemmill		4/2/	42/1	44/3/	3/1/		2/1/	216/1/	14OR
KD01	80	2084, 2085, 1716	Henery & Elizabeth Bugden & M Post		12/1/	3/1/			41/1/	3/1/		
KD02	59	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross	2/1/	2/1/	2/1/						
KD03	74	2285	Lynne Ruddle									
KD04	52	1255, 1745	Dennis & Sonja Holmes						2/1/		16/1/	
KD05	55	677	Paul Garner		2/1/						21/1/	
KD06	51	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker	3/1/		8/1/			180/1/		12/1/	2WBK
KD07	72	909, 1835	Heino & Zeldi Wellmann		1/1/	16/1/			19/1/			
KD08	62	1834	Peter Struweg		3/1/						3/1/	
KD09	63	2172	Jeff Hilliar		3/1/							3UK
KD10	25.3	2285	Lynne Ruddle		4/1/							
KE01	98	675	Annemarie Röhrs		2/1/							
KE03	62	744	Jeanette Wood									
KG02	53.4	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry		2/1/		29/1/	6/1/	96/1/	1/1/	24/1/	2WC
KG03	54	626	Malcolm Rivett	15/1/	2/1/		107/1/	1/1/			37/1/	
KG04	73	627	Bob Williams				6/1/	1/1/	102/1/	1/1/	4/1/	
KG05	54.4	629, 2308, 2309, 2310	Stooks' Wilton, J & M Schire, S Sargent	12/1/	7/1/		34/1/	5/1/	27/1/	1/1/	16/1/	4WC
KG06	58	623	Brian Byers			38/1/	6/1/				9/1/	
KG07	45.9	630	Kobus Nel				76/1/				74/1/	
KG08	57.9	2086	Allan Geldart		4/1/				14/1/		14/1/	
KG09	11	427, 428	Bruce & Pat Whittle	4/1/	1/1/		5/1/	3/1/		1/1/	14/1/	
KG10	36.3	1240	Ed & Myra Wells		4/1/		57/1/			2/1/		
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray & Winterton Primary learners		8/1/	3/1/			6/4/			
KM01	83	498	Margie Sleigh		19/1/	1/1/			13/1/		15/1/	5OR, 2WC
KM02	69.9	474, 2307	Shirley Bennett & Sally Hoffmeyr		4/1/	71/1/	4/1/		55/1/		2/3/	2OR, 2WC
KM03	99	1719, 1720	Erwin & Helene Burmester		6/1/		2/1/		12/1/		24/1/	1OR
KM04	35	167, 1751	Pamela Nicol & Karin Nelson		5/1/		5/1/			1/1/	14/3/	4OR
KM05	81	1904, 1905	Drummond & Gloria Densham								2/1/	2OR, 1WC
KM06	92.1	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernadine Turner	2/1/	26/3/						9/1/	
KM07	55.8	1581	Evelyn Hughes		1/1/	1/1/			11/1/			
KM08	59.8	2280	Di Mason		20/1/			1/1/			4/1/	8OR
KN01	63	927	Johan de Villiers	2/1/							10/1/	
KN03	54	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer			1/1/			162/1/		2/1/	2NS
KN04	45	925	Alan Schwikkard		6/1/	11/1/					2/1/	
KN05	38.5	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		2/1/	9/1/		1/1/	48/1/	3/1/	1/1/	3BBK
KN06	52.1	2036, 2037	Klaus & Miemie Heyer		1/1/	2/1/	5/1/		77/1/		15/1/	12SS
KO01	56.7	425, 1529, 1963	Gavin & Sandi Calverley & Sally Calitz		1/1/						1/1/	
KP01	62.5	1792	Frik Lemmer	2/1/	15/1/	9/1/	3/1/	1/1/	6/1/	1/1/	7/1/	
KU01	68	429, 2015	Chris Thomas & Gayle Ellison	2/1/	20/1/	24/1/	47/1/	9/1/	12/1/	1/1/	10/1/	2WC
KU02	66	1741	Carol Horne		8/1/	1/1/	7/1/	3/1/	39/1/	4/1/	110/1/	
KV01	84	1683	AP Keeve		3/1/	17/1/		4/1/			70/1/	2WBK
KV02	60.4	2016, 2001	Paul & Ria Steffensen						22/1/	3/1/	4/1/	5SS, 1WBK
KV03	61	1566	Darryl Baxter		8/1/				63/1/		1/1/	1SS
KV04	34.6	1790, 1722	Arlene Steyn & Charl Oberholster							6/1/		
Total	2602			45	211	259	440	38	1009	33	768	3BBK, 2NS, 18SS, 36OR, 13WC, 5WBK
Birds/100 km				1.7	8.1	10.0	16.9	1.5	38.8	1.3	29.5	

KC - Creighton precinct, KD - Dundee precinct, KE - Escourt precinct, KG - East Giqualand precinct, KL - Ladysmith precinct, KM - Midlands precinct, KN - Newcastle precinct, KO - Melmoth precinct, KP - Paulpietersburg precinct, KU - Underberg precinct, KV - Vryheid precinct