

## Animal Demography Unit

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**Giving Conservation Wings**  
The Animal Demography Unit conducts the  
Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts in partnership with  
BirdLife South Africa



## Newsletter 27

COORDINATED  
AVIFAUNAL  
ROADCOUNTS



December 2009

### General

Thank you very much for braving the cold of winter to count your CAR route on 25 July. In the CAR winter count website report I mentioned that Stefan and Madeleine Theron recorded  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  as they began their count near Beaufort West, this was also the temperature at about 7 am on some Free State routes and I even had photographic proof of this from Callie and Renett Bam who sent me a photo of their dashboard! Sandy and Hope Stretton recorded the coldest temperature of  $-10.4^{\circ}$  at 8 am! There was heavy snow on the mountains in the Eastern Cape and some KD routes were snowy. Fortunately the weather was clear throughout the country.

We really appreciated the many completed Route Description Forms submitted, as these are particularly useful in interpreting the CAR results. It is also most helpful that so many of you have counted the same route regularly over a long period, so that any changes in land use or other factors could be noted. I have included these changes in the various precinct accounts.

More milestone counts were completed. The Swartland routes have been monitored for fifteen years and the Uniondale and Wakkerstroom precincts for ten years now. The Calitzdorp precinct has completed 15 counts and the Chrissiesmeer precinct 10 counts (five years)!

I hope you received the email about the website report on the winter count. If not, email me so that I can include you on the distribution list. The website report is written about two months after each count and can be found on the ADU webpage: click on CAR, then Newsletters.

### CAR birds in environmental change booklet

Data from two of the species you count (Blue Crane and Southern Black Korhaan), together with other monitoring data, has been used to produce a very readable, informative booklet that is being distributed at the United Nations Convention on Climate Change this month in Copenhagen. This booklet, entitled *Birds and Environmental Change: building an early warning system in South Africa*, is the product of collaboration between the South African National

Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) with financial support from the Danish Government. So a big thank you for your part in collecting this long term monitoring data enabling the building of this early warning system for impacts on biodiversity. Do look at this colourful booklet:

[http://adu.org.za/docs/climate\\_change\\_booklet.pdf](http://adu.org.za/docs/climate_change_booklet.pdf).  
Bird photos by Wicus Leeuwener and Mark Anderson, as well as Ann Gray's photo of teachers and learners of Winterton Primary School counting KE01, also enhance this booklet.

### Count information

As usual do check that you are familiar with the method of counting described in Information Sheet No. 1, the habitat categories described in Information Sheet No. 4 and korhaan calls in your region before you count. The **CAR 13 Roadcount form** and another **Route description Form** are enclosed. I know many of you filled in the Route Description form in winter, but please fill it in again now so that we have the **agricultural information for both seasons**. **You don't need to repeat the route directions**, but the agricultural information and any changes are most important. Many thanks!

If you will not be available to count on 30 January, please let your Precinct Organiser know so that they can arrange for someone else to count your route. **Do check your Roadcount form carefully making sure that all the details are filled in.** Please send in your form by **mid-March, but always keep a copy yourself!** Unfortunately forms do go astray in the post or via fax. **Please indicate if you are willing to receive the newsletter and form as pdf documents by email**, or download these from the website. It helps enormously if you send your **form to your Precinct Organiser promptly**, as they can check for missing information immediately and phone you while the count is fresh in your memory.

### Biodiversity loss

"The world will miss its agreed targets to stem biodiversity loss by 2010." This was the awful picture painted at the Second Diversitas Open Science Conference that gathered 600 scientists from around the world in Cape Town recently. The 2010 goal was set at the 6th Conference of Parties to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity, back in April 2003, when some 123 world ministers committed to achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010."

"We are losing species 100 times faster than new ones are being generated," reported Dr Bob Scholes, ecologist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. "Nowhere is this loss more telling than in the world's oceans... What's troubling is that marine ecosystems are disappearing faster than any other ecosystem on the planet, even rainforests."

"There are lots of people working very hard to obtain information that's relevant to solving the problems, and there are lots of people starting or trying to start different initiatives to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss," says Professor Graeme Cumming, who holds the UCT Pasvolsky Chair of Conservation Biology. "The big question, really, is whether that all feeds into policy at the governmental level,

and ultimately into action." (Extracts from report on UCT website)

### Biodiversity in southern Africa

Our country has the third highest biodiversity in the world! Areas with an enormous variety of plants and animals that are threatened with extinction are called Biodiversity hotspots. Twenty-five hotspots have been identified in the world and three occur in southern Africa. We were able to get funding for the Big Birds on Farms project as the Cape Floristic Region is one of these hotspots with over 9000 plant species. The Succulent Karoo and the Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany corridor are also biodiversity hotspots.

An economic impact of loss in biodiversity will certainly be a decrease in income through tourism, apart from the loss through struggling ecosystem services. At present tourism contributes 10% of the GDP.

### Challenging times ahead

As Dr Marco Lambertini, CEO of BirdLife International pointed out in *World Birdwatch* in March this year, a huge crisis can force us to abandon past patterns and stimulate innovative approaches. I certainly hope that a more compassionate society will emerge from the global economic crisis and that despite biodiversity loss advancing in this time of crisis the resources for conservation will be forthcoming as the importance of sustainable living is prioritized. I found the following thoughts written by Mark Swilling on the Sustainability Institute website encouraging for us Africans:

If we can all take into account "the intimate connections between economic development and natural resources, then Africa may have a chance of correctly interpreting the problems it faces and responding accordingly. If this does not happen, then global warming, oil peak, resource depletion, soil degradation, water scarcities and food shortages will obliterate the grandest visions of economic modernization. Africa has advantages for leap-frogging into a more sustainable world..." We have "large primary resources, relatively small populations, extensive available land, extra-ordinary human capacity for survival and cooperation, and the absence of the kinds of massive urban infrastructures that other countries have invested in for more than a century... Africa could lead by exploiting the current global ecological-economic crisis to put in place a new way that builds on Africa's innate capacity to innovate under the most trying circumstances."

Some sobering facts are that 40% of the world's energy is consumed by buildings (construction and operation). In Gauteng about 25% of waste is construction related. Cities account for 80% of the world's carbon emissions, consume 75% of the world's energy, however only 50% of the world's population live in cities and cities cover less than 1% of the world's surface!

Birds and Environmental Change:  
building an  
early warning system in South Africa



# RESULTS

## MISTAKES AND MISPRINTS: LET'S SEARCH THEM OUT!

Please check the figures given for your route in this newsletter against your records, and report any discrepancies immediately. Thank you so much for corrections to the following routes: EH06: addition of 1 juvenile BHH; OV09: were 19 juvenile BC; EB02: replace with 7CC, 2DB, 3SEC, 6SG, 35WS. Errors on forms were EP01: BI were in fact BC; KG03: BS were BC.

## - SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS - SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS -

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:

Southern Ground-Hornbill = GH	<b>Korhaans:</b> Blue = UK	<b>Storks:</b> Black = BS
Southern Bald Ibis = BI	Karoo = KK	White = WS
Spur-winged Goose = SG	White-bellied = WBK	Abdim's = AS
Secretarybird = SEC	Black-bellied = BBK	Yellow-billed = YS
Black Harrier = HAR	Southern Black/Black = SBK	Marabou = MS
Black-headed Heron = BHH	Northern Black/Whitequilled = NBK	
Goliath Heron = GOL		
<b>Bustards:</b> Kori = KB, Ludwig's = LB, Denham's/Stansley's = DB		
<b>Cranes:</b> Blue = BC, Grey Crowned = CC, Wattled Crane = WC		Oribi = OR

Please use the **abbreviations for habitat categories** given at the foot of the CAR form and explained in Information Sheet no. 4.

So we need to strive for sustainable development, as described in the Brundlandt report developed by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Two proposals for wind farms in the Caledon and Cookhouse areas are incentives to use renewable energy. The information you collect will be useful in the planning and siting of such initiatives.

### International Year of Biodiversity

So, not surprisingly, the United Nations have declared next year an International Year of Biodiversity. In the first issue of the new magazine *Environment*, published by seven leading non-governmental organisations, the role of Eco-Schools and Sustain-Ed (for adults) is highlighted. "Eco-schools have involved a minimum of 89 184 learners and 2787 teachers over 5 years... A winning concept!" (Dr Eureka Rosenberg)

We have developed a pamphlet aimed at young people to encourage their use of the ADU website for school projects and/or involvement in ADU projects <http://adu.org.za/docs/adu.pamphlet.pdf>.

### Date of summer CAR count

**Saturday, 30 January 2009 is the next CAR counting day.** Start your count 1-2 hours after sunrise. If for some last-minute, unavoidable reason you are unable to count on this date, please let your Precinct Organiser know so that someone else can do it if you are not able to shortly after the count date. The winter count will be on **Saturday, 31 July**.

### CAR logo

At long last we have a CAR logo! Thank you so much to those who sent in their creative ideas and all those who responded to my email sent out to the CAR distribution list and rated the five best logos. The choice was very clear, especially as the two top logos by far were designed by the same person and were very similar. I would like to congratulate Charl Oberholster, who counts KV04, for our stunning logo. Charl will be choosing two ADU publications as a prize!



### Email addresses

It is very important that you alert me to any email address changes, especially as many of you are receiving CAR count information via email now.

### Project material on the website

If you are missing any project material you can download it from the CAR webpage, <http://aduserver2.uct.ac.za/car/httpdocs/index.php>. Project material is available in Afrikaans as well. The **interim CAR winter count report** is also here, with colour photos, as well as past **newsletters**.

### 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. If you are a new route leader or Precinct Organiser and do not have a copy please email me for your free copy.

### CAR support

My final report to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was accepted and we have received the last instalment. We are most grateful for this funding that has taken CAR a huge step forward. Thank you to SANBI for core funding through the Birds and Environmental Change Partnership, which sustains CAR. However, there is still a shortfall in the budget.

I really appreciate the articles that you write in local newspapers or Bird Club newsletters increasing awareness of our birds. Somehow I missed an article by Duncan and Inés Cooke in *The Batis*, the Somerset West Bird Club magazine, on the summer count. Pat and Mary Hulley and Lorraine Mullins began their report in the *Diaz Diary* with "It was a shock to climb out of the car for the first time into the biting breeze; little wonder, for the entire Winterberg-Amathole range was coated in snow." I wrote an article entitled "Fifteen years of CAR counting in the Swartland!" for *The Kite*, the Tygerberg Bird Club newsletter, to mark this achievement. A similar article appeared in *Promerops*, the Cape Bird Club newsletter. An article I wrote also appeared in the September issue of the *Grus Grapevine*, the newsletter of the International Crane Foundation/Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership for African Cranes. It was very interesting to note that the trends for the Blue Cranes and Grey Crowned Cranes in the southern KwaZulu-Natal precinct are very similar; both of these species forage extensively

in agricultural lands and it appears that similar factors are affecting their populations.

Yvonne Craig wrote two informative articles about CAR for *The Times*, and also submitted an article on Sally Hofmeyr's visit to St Francis Bay to the BirdLife Eastern Cape magazine. I was very glad that Sally was able to give a presentation on CAR to the enthusiastic group of birders who count these Humansdorp routes. This precinct, consisting of four routes, is currently being counted four times a year!

In July Sally also gave a presentation to the CAR participants in Underberg at a WESSA gathering and did a number of counts of KU01 on consecutive days. In early November Sally did consecutive counts of FS42 and gave a presentation about CAR to people in Kimberley. This was particularly to encourage new people to possibly help with the Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey.

### Big Birds on Farms project

As mentioned earlier this project is complete, and the booklet for farmers encouraging the conservation of biodiversity will be published next year.

### Ringed birds

Ringed Blue Cranes were seen on OV12 and EE08. **Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species at all times** and report details to SAFRING. Ken Price reported a Blue Crane that was ringed early in 2005 and was re-sighted 65 km from where it was ringed.

### International Crane Foundation (ICF)/ Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Partnership for African Cranes [www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za)

The Darwin Initiative project 15/002, "Integrating Crane Conservation with Sustainable Habitat Utilisation", was completed this year and a Forward Strategy has been developed. If any of you would



The Humansdorp CAR observers, who are doing extra counts, and Sally Hofmeyr (left, front row). Photo: Yvonne Craig.

like to receive the *Grus Grapevine*, this organization's electronic newsletter, do let me know.

**The urgent need for colour-ring re-sightings continues**, 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.

### Southern Bald Ibis project

Kate Henderson would appreciate any sightings of Southern Bald Ibis being sent to her at [ibis@birdlife.org.za](mailto:ibis@birdlife.org.za). The sighting I mentioned on EP01 in the last newsletter was an error in species code on the CAR form, which highlights the importance of checking forms carefully.

### Southern Ground Hornbills

No Ground Hornbills were recorded on CAR routes in July. Do send **any sightings of this threatened species at any time of year** to Scott Ronaldson on

013 7355550 or [scottr@ewt.org.za](mailto:scottr@ewt.org.za) and if possible please supply co-ordinates or the exact area.

### Thank you!

After this last winter count I put a brief note "Thank you note" under the section "Latest News" on our ADU website. Thank you so much for all the time and skills counting your CAR routes and especially for bearing the transport costs! The Precinct Organisers have again transformed the task of gathering all the information in and following up regarding queries on CAR forms.

Huge thanks to those of you who are doing additional counts, so that Sally Hofmeyr can make maximum use of all the information collected over so many years. In the Overberg eight routes are being counted more frequently, while some routes are being counted monthly! It is wonderful that Sally has started a newsletter to these CAR people who

are literally going the extra miles! Currently Sally is working on a paper summarising the Southern Black Korhaan results.

Denise Lesch has continued cheerfully capturing all the Roadcount forms and thank you to Linda Tsipa, for showing Denise how to edit the tables for the newsletter as well. Marja Wren-Sargent has typeset this newsletter in a short time as I lost much time at the end of November when my laptop suffered severe, multiple viral infections and had to be re-formatted! Thankfully no documents, data or emails were lost!

Enjoy spending time with friends and family in special places, hopefully outdoors, over this festive season – may you know many blessings in the coming year.

Kind regards to you all and travel safely.

*Donella Young, Project Coordinator*

## COUNT RESULTS WINTER 2009

### Eastern Cape

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

Parts of the Eastern Cape, particularly the ES routes in the Somerset-East/Graaff-Reinet area were very drought stricken, while further north some EB and

EE routes had snow to contend with. On Graham's Winch's route, EB03, there was snow for 26 km and they actually saw a Secretarybird that seemed to be

feeding in the snow!

A decrease in maize planting on EB03 was noted due to the prolonged dry period. Kevin Meise, who counts EE10 remarked on the change to less ploughing and more permanent pasture due to fuel costs. In the same precinct Jim Feely reported the introduction of soya in place of potatoes or cabbage, but fortunately no new land had been ploughed. There has been a change from crops to dairy along Paradise road on EH06 and Yvonne Craig reported that large flocks of cranes disappeared from 43–49 km. On EP06 and EP09 more veld had been converted to lucerne production. Yvonne Craig wrote about the following interesting change. "What we have noticed over the past few years in the Humansdorp precinct is that the numbers of birds are increasing where centre point irrigation is used, especially in the Gamtoos River Valley area, and are decreasing in other parts. Route EH04 is finding more birds than when they first started counting 10 years ago. The two Humansdorp plains routes are decreasing, especially when it comes to Spur-winged Goose."

The Blue Crane numbers were the third highest since counts began in 1998 in this province. On EH05, near Humansdorp, Abel and Hanny Bezuidenhout and Jean Cook saw six White-bellied Korhaan. Bo Bonnevie and Jim and Eve Cambray saw all three bustards on their route, EG03. John and Rolene Bowker's route, EP10, had the highest total of Northern Black Korhaan as usual.

Sadly, Sheila Bell-Cross and Jim Feely who counted EE22, reported three dead Grey Crowned Cranes killed by a 20kv powerline with flappers at a small dam.

Thankfully, Alison Brown has found someone to continue route, ES05. I am sorry I forgot to acknowledge Mark van Niekerk's coordination of the EE routes for three and half years and thank Tanya Smith, who is now EWT's Regional Coordinator in this area, for willingly taking over.

Number of birds counted in July census 2009 in Eastern Cape												
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.
EB01	63.5	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		11//	9//	9//					
EB02	75	1398	Keith Marshall		7//	9//	2//			1//	5//	
EB03	67.7	115, 2119, 10032	Graham Winch, Peter Swift & Ian Field		4//	63//	9//			2//	2//	
EB04	63.1	1567, 1568, 1584	Barbara & Ken Monfoort & Wendy Perks		9//	6//	4//			2//		
EB05	33	195	Phil Whittington		1//	9/1/	3//					2OR
EE01	45	2281	Jacky Lamer Steytler		3//	13//	7//				51//	
EE02	59	1129, 1730	Adèle Moore & Helen Lechmere-Oertel									
EE06	52	2424,	Brenda Davidson		15//		1//			2//	3//	
EE08	69.8	2236	Tanya Smith	114/11/	7//	45/3/				1//	2/4/	
EE10	63	899	Kevin, Lesley & Stacey Meise		2//	8/2/				2//		5BS
EE12	50	901	Jenni Brown			2/1/						3UK
EE17	42.2	1929	Theuns Botha	70//	2//	5//	4//			1//	1//	
EE18	43.5	1918, 1919	Les & Adrian Larter			37//	2//				12//	6UK
EE19	83.7	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton			2/2/		2//			3//	69UK
EE20	44	1730	Helen Lechmere-Oertel			200//					7//	2WC
EE22	24.6	2251, 2312	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Freely		1//	125//	2//				3//	
EE23	42	2044, 2297	Desmond & M Schroeder		1//					1//	7//	
EG02	54.2	565, 1530	Pat Hulley & Lorraine Mullins						1//	1//	1//	2WBK
EG03	78	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonnevie & Jim & Eve Cambray		1//		2//	8//	9//	5//		1KB
EG04	59.2	161, 2144	Adrian Craig & Jenny Gon		3//			1//				
EH03	53.2	2289, 2398, 2400, 2406	C & V Barratt , C Greathead & M Langlands	8//	11/1/		16//				16//	
EH04	44	1767, 1766, 2402	Jill Tudhope, Peter Bosman & J Thorpe	63//	5//					2//		
EH05	38.5	1612, 1794	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout & Jean Cook	6//	3//		7//				5//	6WBK
EH06	54.6	312, 2404	Yvonne Craig & Sheila Freercks	23/1/	4/1/		51//			1//	2//	
EK02	41	1523, 2454	Allan Wilson & Brian Matthew		5//		1//					
EK04	57.3	2210, 2209, 1525	John Potter, Sheila Walsh & Tim Cockcroft				2//					1OR
EK05	62.5	1528, 1526	Laurie Wood & Lorraine Knowles		2//		4//			2//		
EM01	62	9,742,111	Bradley & Lee-Ann Gibbons	2//						2//		8NBK
EM02	61	2304, 2494	Ron Blaker & Nikki Thomson	2//	1//							1KK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann	6//				24//	3//	1//		10KB, 13KK
EP02	65.8	83	Andrew Nixon & team	147//				2//	13//			1KB, 14KK
EP04	69.7	869	Peter Hall	4//				8//	3//	3//		9KK
EP06	56	2237, 10144	Michael Antrobus & David Smeda		8//				2//			2KB, 5UK
EP08	111	270, 10795, 10736	Dave Brown, P Campbell & R Zietsman	6//					1//			3KB, 13KK
EP09	31	2237, 10144	Michael Antrobus & David Smeda						1//			
EP10	42	1731, 2265	John & Rolene Bowker	36//				1//				10KK, 21NBK
EP11	49	1852, 10794	Briar Wright & Sigred Kenyon		8//		2//			2//		
ES02	38	2063	Braam Basson									1KK
ES03	57.8	2147, 2302	Alison Drewnicki & Morven Munro					3//	3//			16KK
ES04	46.6	1476, 874	Judy Caryer & Joan Collett	54//								
ES07	38	1965, 2005	Alison Brown & Ros Turner									
ES08	52	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows						1//			2KB, 8KK
ES10	28	2291, 2496	Liz & Gerald Buisman	122//								1KK
ES11	40	2211, 2420	Greg Brown & Brendan Farrell	4//					2//			
Total	2385			679	116	542	128	49	39	31	124	5BS,19KB, 86KK,29NBK,
Birds/100km				28.5	4.9	22.7	5.4	2.1	1.6	1.3	5.2	3OR,83UK, 8WBK,2WC
EB - Border precinct, EE - Northeast Cape precinct, EG - Grahamstown precinct, EH - Humansdorp precinct, EK - Kenton precinct, EM - Middelburg precinct, EP - PE precinct (Aberdeen & Steytleville districts), ES - Somerset East precinct												



## Free State

For the winter count 7332 km were covered in the three Free State precincts, with 113 routes surveyed, 69 (4555 km) in the Southern precinct (FS), 23 (1419 km) in the North-eastern (FN) and 21 (1358 km) in the Northwestern (FW). The weather was generally good, though several route leaders reported sub-zero temperatures at the start of their routes, with Willie Mostert's  $-8.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  (south of Edenburg) the lowest! The 4576 birds counted gives a "density" of 62 birds/100 km, far lower than that for the previous winter (80/100 km). This was largely due to far fewer Northern Black Korhaans being recorded in the FS, 24/100 km, compared with

43/100 km in 2008. It was, however, still the dominant species in that precinct, with six routes yielding over 50 of them. Next was the Blue Crane (17/100 km), but with 434 (56%) of them along just one route, FS118 in the Philippolis district. Third most abundant was the Blue Korhaan (10/100 km), with Herman Kleynhans's route (FS12, south of Jagersfontein) once again producing the highest total, 40. Chris Botha (FS123) reported the only Karoo Korhaans, four, north of Gariep Dam, and Allen Jones and Jennifer Lotter (FS108) the only Southern Bald Ibises in the FS, three, north-east of Clocolan.

Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in southern Free State											
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.
FS07	66.8	24	Brian Colahan	33//		10//	6//			4//	
FS08	68	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	1//		2//					1HAR
FS09	61.4	24	Brian Colahan	7//		3//	12//	2//		3//	
FS12	56	662	Herman Kleynhans	95//	2//	23//	31//	4//		40//	
FS14	76.2	2249	Marietjie Jordaan			2//	36//				
FS17	74.2	1620	Dawie Kok				23//			8//	
FS18	74.4	684	Louise Coetzee	61//			16//			6//	
FS19	89	2263, 2384	Gela & Pieter van Heerden				40//	1//			
FS20	65.2	2171, 2394	Sandra Bishop & Sally Barnard		1//		25//				
FS21	60.1	682	Leon Barkhuizen		2//		10//	2//			
FS27	80.8	24	Brian Colahan	79//		6//	9//			18//	
FS29	61.5	822	Stephanie Gerber				4//	1//		6//	
FS31	71.6	259	Johan van Niekerk		1//	14//	8//		30//	12//	
FS35	73.9	1258	Hannes Blom				13//	3//	14//	2//	
FS42	67.1	24, 1262	Brian Colahan & Janine Liefbrig	31//	1//		40//	1//		2//	
FS43	78	1801	Christo de Meyer				35//	2//			
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henriette van den Berg				22//	1//	27//		
FS48	75	1808	Ockie Boshoff				51//	2//		3//	
FS50	78	1058	Frans Marais				3//	3//	55//	20//	
FS52	69.5	2482, 2484	Cobus & Rina Jansen van Rensburg				14//	2//	68//	8//	
FS54	59.3	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig & E Beemster-Boer		1//		60//	1//		5//	
FS55	50	10520	PJ du Preez				17//	1//			
FS56	71.4	987, 988	Jeanette & Fanie Buys		2//		51//	2//		21//	
FS58	79.3	863	Pierre Nel		7//		16//				
FS60	74.4	2260	Ilse van den Bergh				5//	1//	13//		
FS62	58	2298	Lynden Lund				10//			18//	
FS66	53	1399	Tom Mostert		1//		3//				
FS67	68.2	950	Daan Müller				9//		1//	11//	
FS69	76	1065	Deon du Plessis	4//	1//	1//			1//	16//	
FS70	59.4	1150, 1151	Abrie & Heléne Bam			8//	22//	2//		10//	
FS73	71	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam		1//					2//	
FS76	42.5	2150, 10833	A v.d. Westhuizen & V Oosthuizen						1//	2//	
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger		1//	5//	2//	1//		15/4//	
FS79	51.8	1397	Dewald Liebenberg				9//				
FS80	89	24	Brian Colahan							14//	
FS81	57.6	2478	Dreyer van Niekerk		2//		15//				1HAR
FS83	49.4	2214, 2215	Hennie de Bruin				2//	2//			
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen				22//	3//			
FS85	81.5	285	JB Cloete		2//		6//	2//	12//	19//	
FS87	55.4	2368	Annalie van der Vyfer			1//	1//			30//	
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie Geyer				12//		16//	4//	
FS91	59.3	641	Rick Nuttall		3//	9//	54//	1//		4//	
FS92	63.5	1201	Fritz Krohn		3//			4//			
FS93	49.6	24	Brian Colahan		1//	1//	6//	3//		24//	
FS96	74.6	1150, 1151	Abrie & Heléne Bam		2//		3//	2//			
FS97	56.7	2478	Dreyer van Niekerk				2//			8//	
FS101	60.8	1046	Blackie de Swardt	21//	2//	1//		3//			
FS103	57.6	1052	Duart Hugo				15//				
FS104	72.8	1395	Geoff Johnson		1//		22//	2//	26//	21//	
FS105	71	687	Riëtte Griesel				3//			4//	
FS106	50	102, 1946	Dawie de Swardt & Hennie Bester				21//	2//			
FS107	72	1836, 1837	John & Dawnia Edgar		3//						
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jennifer Lotter		2//		10//		84//	4//	3BI
FS109	60	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen	7//			1//			5//	2HAR
FS110	66	2464	Dirk Bredenkamp		1//		10//	2//		3//	
FS111	76.5	691	Willie Mostert				8//			1//	1HAR
FS112	61.6	1262, 684	Janine Liefbrig & L Coetzee				55//	3//		10//	
FS113	95	1616, 2366	Danie & Martie Krynaauw		4//		3//	2//	1//	24/3//	
FS114	71.3	1574, 1804	Dennis & Anita Oliphant				4//	2//			
FS115	72	2466	Tiger Muller		2//		25//				
FS116	47	1799	Peter Divall		1//		19//		1//	6//	
FS117	67.8	691	Willie Mostert				9//	1//		4//	
FS118	67.7	24	Brian Colahan	434//		1//	15//	4//		13//	
FS119	74	1140, 1141	John & Jill Moffett		2//		37//				
FS120	75	1889	Johan Labuschagne		5//		72//	1//		3//	
FS121	58.7	2460, 2462	Niël & Linette Pienaar		1//		7//	2//			
FS122	61.5	1057, 2378	Lourens & Istelle Goosen		4//		11//			3//	
FS123	61	683	Chris Botha	4//	1//	1//					4KK
FS126	47	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam					2//		3//	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4555</b>			<b>777</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1074</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>3BI, 5HAR,</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>17.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>4KK</b>



Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in north-eastern Free State												
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.	
FN16	52.7	701	Theunis Bekker		5//	21//			6//	13//		
FN26	65	606	Thomas Wessels		5//				4//			
FN 25	68	1747	Morné Pretorius		2//	18//			54/2//	14//	1HAR	
FN28	56	1892, 1893	Otto & Marguerite Nel	6//	1//	3//	3//	2//		9//	2DB	
FN31	78	2109	Rick Dillon	142//	7//	9//			1//	4//		
FN35	55	946	Natie Wessels		2//							
FN36	57	2488	Div Bosman	2//		4//		1//			1NBK	
FN37	59	2042, 2043	Melanie & Martin Potgieter		5/1//	1//			13//		2NBK	
FN39	62.8	2472, 1433, 1810, 2476	Irmgard Kaiser & team		7/1//			2//				
FN40	66.3	2055, 2056	Hansie & Amie Joubert		1//	1//		1/1//	4//		1NBK	
FN41	50.1	1045	Kobus Vermeulen		1//					16//	4NBK	
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		10//	1//			3//	17//		
FN44	69.3	2470	Marina Ferreira		1//			3//	11//			
FN46	63	718, 1813	Gerhard & Evan Deventer					2//	2//	3//		
FN48	46	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		1//			1//	2//		2NBK	
FN49	47.1	944	Gert Maritz				76//			24//		
FN50	56.5	942	Pieter Koornhof		15//				3/1//	2/2//	2BS	
FN51	66	2498, 11376	Ina van Rensburg & A Barrett		7//	8//						
FN52	70	717	Johan Strauss		11//	3//			8//	1//	1WS	
FN55	69.3	703	Nacelle Collins	51//	4//	9//			42//			
FN57	62.9	1932	Pietré Enslin		5//	1//		2//	5/2//	5//		
FN58	64	705	Paulus Fihlo		16//	2//				6//		
FN60	64	1505	Brian Barnes							5//	41NBK	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1419</b>			<b>201</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>2BS,2DB,1HAR</b>	
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>14.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>51NBK,1WS</b>	

Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in north-western Free State										
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	
FW02	43.3	1957	Rosemary Girard		5//	26//	1/2//	71//	1//	
FW13	57.6	1515	Johann Potgieter		2//	9//				
FW16	68.1	1172, 1749	Pieter & Christine Lubbe							
FW18	50.3	1268	Herman Jordaan			23//				
FW26	72	2396	Louis Botha			40//				
FW28	54.7	1162	Piet van der Merwe		1//	13//				
FW29	63.9	1168	Gert Claassen		5//	3//		1//		
FW34	77.1	1163	Des Walker		5//	85//	1//			
FW36	82.7	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy		8//	17//		85//		
FW43	65.7	2261	Chris Daphne		12//	26//		8//		
FW45	50.3	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan			9//				
FW46	58	2262	Tjaart Venter			16//			3//	
FW50	68.3	1938, 1939	Helm & Elizabeth Lekaota		3//	20//		3//		
FW51	78.7	1253	Koos den Houting	97//	1//	53//		3//	5//	
FW52	56.7	2201	Mary Littlewood		6//	4//				
FW53	90	1173	CJ de Lange			14//		20//		
FW54	54	2376	Chris Botha			6//				
FW56	61.9	1901, 1902	Stephen & Margaret Hill		5//	4//		1//		
FW57	77	1958	Joey Knoesen			34//				
FW58	67.5	2122	Stefaans Buys			52//	1//	2//	6//	
FW61	60.5	10783	Alta Henning		1//	50//		1//		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1358</b>			<b>97</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>7.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	

Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in Northern Cape										
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	Other spp	
NK031	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	13//			10//	2//	2KB	
NK032	20	2259, 2165	Raymond & Santa Swenson	48//		20//	3//	3//	1BHH, 2KB	
NK033	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	13//			2//			
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead				1//			
NK182	18	1579	Diana Greathead	2//			1//	2//	5SG	
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead				2//			
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie		2//	2//	3//			
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				4//	3//		
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				8//			
Total	178			76	2	22	34	10		
Birds/100km				42.7	1.1	12.4	19.1	5.6	1BHH,4KB,	
NA01	46	2320	Marco Heimstadt		4//	2//			5SG,3KB	
NA - Augrabies, NK - Eastern Karoo										

The Northern Black Korhaan was again the dominant species in the FW (37/100 km), at nearly the same density recorded the previous winter (38/100 km); four routes had 50 or more of these. Des Walker (FW34) counted 85 along his route, west of Kroonstad. Spur-winged Goose was the next most abundant (14/100 km), and then the Blue Crane (7/100 km), but with all of them in one flock of 97 recorded by Koos den Houting (FW51), north-east of Edenville.

Although the Blue Crane was dominant in the FN (14/100 km), they were recorded along only four routes, with 96% of them along just two: Rick Dillon (FN31) counted 142 east of Harrismith and Nacelle Collins (FN55) 51 south of that town. The 79 Grey Crowned Cranes were restricted to just two routes, with 76 of them seen by Gert and Cilna Maritz (FN49), west of Memel. Just south of that village, Otto and Marguerite Nel (FN28) saw two Denham's Bustards, the only ones recorded in the Free State.

Many thanks to Brian Colahan for this report and for coordinating these precincts!

*I noted on Brian Barnes' Route Description form for FN60 that more sunflowers were being planted in place of wheat and he remarked that the Northern Black Korhaan were concentrated in the veld areas. Jill Moffett also remarked that where electrified game fencing, for many lion, had been erected on FS119 the numbers of Northern Black Korhaan were reduced. Ina van Rensburg, counting FN51 noticed that more lands were not cultivated due to the economy and that there was a gradual shift from mixed farming to beef cattle.*

## 29th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTS), Northern Cape



I feel very concerned about this precinct, as only a few routes were counted in July. The booklet on Birds and Environmental Change that I mentioned earlier highlights just how important this monitoring data is, as Mark Anderson and Res Altwegg have been able to show on p. 3. This is also the only survey of these special birds that range in relatively untransformed farm lands in the Northern Cape. The Northern Cape Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation are also keen that this survey continues, but unfortunately no-one has been appointed in Mark's position yet. I was glad that Sally Hofmeyr was able to meet with Peter Ferriera and Ronelle Visagie in November and we will hopefully be able to follow up some of their suggestions to continue this survey.

Raymond and Santa Swenson's second transect was very productive in terms of numbers and diversity.

*Thank you so much for counting and to Ronelle for continuing to organise these counts.*

## Western Cape

### Swartland precinct

Congratulations to all of you for continuing this precinct that has been monitored for fifteen years now! Looking back in the database I see that Riaan van der Walt began counting in 1996 and David and Ann Dixon, Sean and Louise Tucker and Sylvia Ledgard are also very long-standing Swartland observers. Thank you to Elna Slabber who has been the Precinct Organiser. When Wendy Hitchcock and James Harrison initiated these routes in 1995 it took a lot of foresight as Blue Crane numbers as well as species diversity were very low. This region has been

farmed far longer than anywhere else in South Africa. From the accompanying histogram you can see CAR has been able to document an incredible increase in the density of our national bird.

It was certainly very cold driving out to the Swartland with frost in the low-lying areas. The Blue Crane density was the highest yet, with 110 more birds than last winter. Sylvia Ledgard and Pat Waddell recorded the highest number (385) ever on their route SW03. The Black-headed Heron density was also the highest so far, probably partly due to the fact that heronry's were recorded on two routes.

Seven Secretarybirds were counted altogether, more than there have been before in this precinct. The Spur-winged Goose density was the second highest recorded. Jan Hofmeyr didn't see a single White Stork at the pig farm.

Sean Tucker recorded that there was a housing development at the beginning of SW02 and there were vineyards until 13 km. Sylvia Ledgard has noted the increase in vineyards on SW03 for a number of years and vineyards have also increased on SW06.

### Overberg precinct

The Overberg count was conducted in perfect weather. The Blue Crane density was the third highest and as has frequently been the case, OV08, counted by Keith Moodie, had the highest total (1149). Avril Young explained that her route OV36 has pasture in a wide, sheltered valley with streams and dams, as well as

six sheep feedlots. This explains the large number of Blue Cranes (403) on this relatively short route.

Three routes (OV05, 06 and 07), all in close proximity to Proteem, had high numbers of Denham's Bustards as well as OV12 on the Agulhas Plain. Frans de Graaff's route OV33, also had an unusually high number of Denham's Bustards (19). Frans noted that cattle farming had increased on his route, as well as game farming with the restoration of natural veld. The increase in natural veld may have contributed to the higher number of Denham's Bustards.

Jeffery Arizon noted that much of the wheat farming on his route, OV26, had been replaced with olives or vineyards or divided into smallholdings and B&Bs. On OV12 more canola was planted than wheat this year and there were also more beehives. More canola was also seen on OV19. There was an increase in crop cultivation on OV14, probably due to more irrigation. The number of vineyards increased on OV37 and a new olive grove had recently been planted. Fewer ostrich feedlots were noted on OV06 and there seemed to be fewer ostriches in area of OV22 and more sheep and cattle. Jill Mortimer and her team couldn't understand why there were so few birds on most of their route, OV13. Something seemed to be wrong. They could occasionally smell chemicals and wondered about aerial spraying.

I have included a histogram showing the decline in numbers of Southern Black Korhaan. This figure and an informative account are in the Environmental booklet mentioned on page 1.

Many thanks to Duncan and Inés Cooke for coordinating this large 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 Western Cape Crane Conservation Regional Coordinator, please phone 082 3200911.

### Beaufort West precinct

Stefan Theron reported that there were many hunters and bakkies in the veld which could have affected their count.

### Little Karoo precinct

Laurel Bloch noted that there was new corn cultivation between 10.4 and 11.3 km along WK04. Also while doing an extra count on 20 September they saw a male Southern Black Korhaan at 36.4 km, in exactly the same place as the two males were seen during the winter count.

### Uniondale precinct

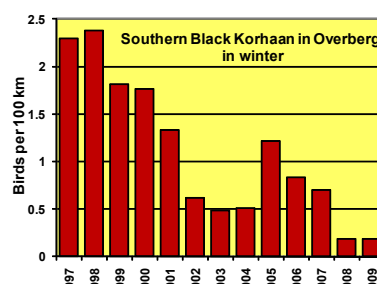
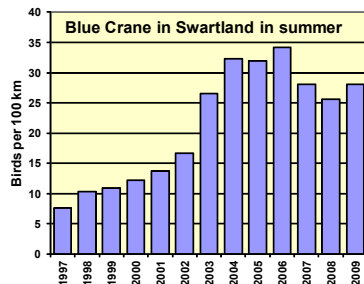
Gail Cleaver of CapeNature, who initiated these CAR routes, will be glad to hear that monitoring has continued for ten years now. Thankfully Natalie Baker, also of CapeNature, continued the enthusiasm for counting these routes with the assistance of CapeNature rangers and members of the Lakes Bird Club. Natalie has first hand experience of the fact that some routes sometimes have no birds, but this is still very valuable information!

There was heavy snow on the Kammanassie and Swartberg mountains and dams were full. Jan Makampies, Bob James and Kerry Hampson enjoyed taking 13 learners from Denneprag and Brandwacht Primary School. Mike and Gill Euston-Brown recorded the highest total (195) of Blue Cranes in this precinct. Alan Collett had a record count of six Denham's Bustard near Wilderness on WW02.

*I was glad to see about six nest boxes for raptors along our route SW05 in the Swartland. Photo: Belinda Henwood.*



Number of Birds counted in July 2009 census in Swartland							
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.
SW01	75.5	1970	Fiona Hellmann & Loni Drager	76//	1//	56//	
SW02	77.7	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker	1//	3//	47//	
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & Pat Waddell	383/2/	12//	163//	1SEC
SW04	62	1286	Philbert Melck	312//		8//	1SEC
SW05	60.3	991, 2175, 2268	D Young, B Henwood & D Lesch	123/1/	2/2/	218//	
SW06	74	1359, 10442	Reg le Roux & Helene Thompson	75//	6//	101//	
SW07	46.4	2315, 1122	K Drummond-Hay & L Reynolds	72//	17//	160//	
SW08	65	1474	Bruce Mackenzie, P & L Sumner	4//	9//	38/3/	1SEC
SW09	60.7	2033	Jaco & Marlene van Deventer		2//	79/1/	
SW10	65.6	2456, 2458	Jan & Madelaine Coetzee	2//		34//	
SW11	67	479, 1081	David & Ann Dixon		6//	8//	2SEC
SW12	80.8	2207, 2208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	24//		35//	1SBK
SW13	48.6	673	Elna Slabber, L & P Loots	190//		115//	
SW14	51.8	506, 1882	Riaan & Marika van der Walt	45//	1//	124//	2SEC
SW15	65	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbüttel	79//	3//16/	9//	1KK
SW16	43.4	2051, 619	Cheryl Seeley & Patrick Hurly		8/1/	43//	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1008</b>		<b>1389</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1242</b>	<b>1KK, 1SBK,</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>137.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>123.3</b>	<b>7SEC</b>



Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in Overberg									
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG
OV01	54	229, 2311, 1063	Inés & Duncan Cooke & Petra Rigg	89/4/	9//			2//	126//
OV02	62.6	1083, 802, 801	Anne Price, Ann & Keith McAdam	25/3/	3//				65//
OV03	49.7	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	41//	2//	4//			19//
OV04	27	213, 215	Tom & Freya Brett	102/4/	4//				22//
OV05	69.5	228, 649, 1148	John Carter, Brian Dennis, T Wienand & B Boer	238/13/	8//	40//	10//	1//	57//
OV06	52.1	1655, 2110	Stuart, Ruth & Catharine McLennan & H Baas	285//	6//	34//	16//	2//	24//
OV07	68.4	496, 2184	Ken Price & Hester Snyman	352/9/	8//	29//	4//	4//	15//
OV08	68.5	492	Keith Moodie	1112/37/	3//	6//			33//
OV09	47.5	239, 2438	Bruce Squier & Jessica Shaw	697//	4//				88//
OV10	57	56	Pieter Albertyn, Harry & Dorinda Moore	116//	8//			1//	41//
OV11	60.8	245, 244, 246	Sheila & Pieter Siebert & Madelane Loubser	4//	7//	2//			2//
OV12	57.5	216, 1380, 1381, 217, 218	Dawn Woods, R Gilmore, G Fleming, H & M Mauve	156/1/	4//	30//			87//
OV13	69.6	520, 672	Jill Mortimer, Rene Lind & Heide Wetmore	415/11/	7//	4//	8/2/		29//
OV14	91	123, 2492, 1922	John & O Coats & Maureen Aucamp	315/7/	1//		3//		19//
OV15	58	2112, 2113, 10791	John & M Jones & Stuart Shearer	303//	10//	8//	2//		61//
OV16	62.1	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & Willem du Toit	517/4/	3/2/	9//	6//		1//
OV17	60.1	2440, 2442	Mike & Helen MacNaught	99//	1//	5//			31//
OV18	49.4	240, 10056	Wicus Leeuwener & Kina Joubert	189//	4//				20//
OV19	62.7	219, 1632, 1213	Ronnie Crowther, E Stodel, C Wallace & P Pistorius	29//	4//	11//	11//		70//
OV20	55	1325, 1441, 2342, 2344, 2356, 2358	N & A Passmore, S & A Watermeyer, L & B Napier	104//	11//	3//			72//
OV21	63	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christina Terblanche	10/1/	8//	23//			47//
OV22	56.5	1660	Sally Adam, Joy & Paul Crane & Pam Eloff	323//	10//	5//		2//	20//
OV23	56.1	1062	Andrew & John Marshall	2//	7/4/				17//
OV24	56.4	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	2//	4//	2//		2//	27//
OV26	19.8	871	Jeffrey Arizon & 3 learners	10/1/	4//				9//
OV27	66	1999	Elton le Roux & team	19//	8//				46/1/1
OV28	38.6	2057	Bill Naude & Helen Cartwright	9/1/	4//				4//
OV29	26.8	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	33/4/	1//				1//
OV33	61	1463	Frans de Graaff	28/2/	6//	19//			18//
OV36	44	1469, 1355	Avril Young & Gerda Hill	403//	3/1/	3//			31//
OV37	34.5	1777, 1778, 2169	Rae & A Gordon & K Winterton						3//
<b>Total</b>		<b>1705</b>		<b>6129</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1107</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>359.4</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	
OV34	61	1550, 1551, 1366, 11238	Heyné & Sharon Brink & Lesley Teare & D Andrag		3//	6//		2//	3HAR, 2SBK

Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in other Western Cape Precincts									
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other species	
WB01	62	343, 2067, 2346	M Andela, M.v.d. Merwe & M Oosthuizen			29/2/		2LB	
WB03	58	1909, 2468	Stefan & Madeleine Theron	22//		6//		3KB, 2SBK, 2SEC	
WC01	41	1291, 1989, 10431	George Hattingh, T Robertson & C McLarty				2//	2DB, 7SBK	
WC02	56	2293,	Mike Hewitt	2//	1//			2SEC	
WK02	48	2139, 2314	Gillie & Jenny Schütte	3//	2//		2//		
WK03	20	2292, 2313	Adrius & Karen Rabie	8//	2//		1//		
WK04	44	2138, 2182, 2140	Laurel Bloch, Mike Ford & M Powell	37//	3/1/		5//	1BS, 1HAR, 3SBK	
WK05	17	2138, 2182, 2140	L Bloch, M Ford & Margaret Powell						
WU01	50	2062	Pat Nurse	5//		4//		1SBK	
WU02	58	539, 10154	Jonas Witbooi & Gail Hannakom	39//	1//		2//	8DB	
WU03	51	1392	Johnny de Jaar	1//	3//				
WU04	35	1606, 2156, 2179	Natalie Baker, A Pietersen & C van Tonder		1//				
WU05	70	297, 1520	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown	197//	3//		2//	14DB	
WU06	13	1606, 2156, 2179	Natalie Baker, A Pietersen & C van Tonder		1//		13//		
WU07	70	2173, 1332, 2299	J Makampies, K Hampson, B James & 13 learners	20//	1//		4//	1LB, 1SBK	
WW02	58	1475	Alan Collett		5//			6DB	
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>			<b>334</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1BS, 30DB, 1HAR, 3KB,</b>	
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>44.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3LB, 4SEC, 14SBK</b>	

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



Bob James, Kerry Hampson and 13 learners from Denneprag and Brandwacht Primary Schools who accompanied Jan Makampies in counting WU07. Photo: Jan Makampies.

## Calitzdorp precinct

Fifteen counts have been conducted in this precinct, consisting of two routes. George Hattingh, who used to count in KZN, initiated WC01 when he moved to

this area. Members of the Ruitersbos Conservancy are counting the second route that was set up by Elton le Roux, then of CapeNature.

George noted that there were roadworks on the first 7 km of WC01 causing a disturbance for birds.

## Mpumalanga

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

## Steenkampsberg precinct

I am delighted that Ursula Franke is willing to coordinate the Steenkampsberg precinct counts and that she and David and Helen Gaynor have been able to re-configure four routes (MS01, 02, 07 and 13) into two new routes, leaving out the busy or impassable sections of road on the original routes. These routes are being re-numbered MS14 and MS15. Ursula is also doing recces of three potentially new routes. So this precinct will continue!

Unfortunately only three routes were actually counted in July. "Remote" coordination proved rather difficult from Cape Town and a burst water pipe prevented MS08 being counted! John and Anita Meiring saw a pair of Secretarybirds on MS04 for the first time.

*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

Thankfully Billy Smith is still monitoring this area despite the ever-increasing mining activity. The area close to Arnot power station was previously an excellent birding area.

## Standerton precinct

Colin and Nalda Williams saw 75 Blue Cranes on MT01. Johan and Lilian van Rensburg saw 50 of this species, as well as 288 Helmeted Guineafowl, 105 Southern Bald Ibis and 42 Swainson's Spurfowl and six other CAR species!

## Wakkerstroom precinct

This precinct, in a very important grassland region, has now been monitored for ten years! Steven Evans and Alison Richardson, of Wits Bird Club, initiated these routes which were initially counted by Wits Bird Club members. Alison and Barbi Forsyth arranged many happy weekends of birding for Wits members, until 2005 when they were able to hand over coordination to Judy-Lynn Wheeler and start the Chrissiesmeer precinct. Judy-Lynn has organised the last 10 counts involving people living in the area. Some of the counts have been rather complicated by weather and road conditions!

Judy-Lynn Wheeler wrote "We welcome this year two new team members – Andre Steenkamp, Manager of the BirdLife Center and Sandy McKenna-Twamey. Delighted to have you both on board."

"Wakkerstroom, this year, experienced an extremely cold winter with nightly temperatures well below zero – a few nights at –9°C and a wicked –15°C, twice! On the day teams set out in seriously chilly conditions but by mid morning were enjoying moderate sunshine, clear skies and gentle breezes." A total of 920 birds were counted of nine different species.

## Chrissiesmeer precinct

This precinct has now completed ten CAR counts! A big thank you to Barbi and Alan Forsyth for initiating these routes and also to Lauraine Leigh, who assists in organising a wonderful weekend away for members of the Wits Bird Club. Recently the CAR team have begun atlassing in this area on Sunday, following the CAR count, and are covering some untouched pentads!

Sadly no cranes were seen in July on CAR routes. But Southern Bald Ibis were recorded on three routes and the total of Helmeted Guineafowl (391) was the highest yet.

Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in Mpumalanga											
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK	Other species
MC01	74.5	1926, 10857	Alison Hanson & A Featherstone		7//	30//		167//	1//	14//	3SEC
MC02	64.2	2410, 2412	Jack & Carol Purchase		2//			50//			1DB, 2OR
MC03	56.8	2197, 1388	Mike Witcomb & Janice Isom		7//			46//	119//		
MC04	67.9	1985	Lauraine Leigh		2//			60//	8//		
MC05	68.8	2255	Lilian Hadley		2//	7//		30//			2SEC
MC06	69	1368, 10961	Ralph & Daphne Wordon		1/4/	9//				5//	1NBK
MC07	77.1	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth		9//			38//	5/1/		
MM01	54	2290	Bill Smith		18//			8//	125//		
MS04	63	1927, 1928	John & Anita Meiring								2SEC
MS05	53.6	728, 1558	Anton Linstrom & Tommie Steyn	2//	3//	3//	4//	20//	8//		
MS06	53.4	1178	Hendrik van Wyk		2//						
MT01	85	1816, 1817	Colin & RONALDA Williams	75//	5//			3//	16//	6//	24SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		4//			7//	1//		4NBK, 15SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman					60//			2SS
MT05	66.7	2294	Johan van Rensburg	50//	7//	105//		288//	12/1/	16//	4GWF, 4NBK, 17ORF, 42SS
MW01	58	2480, 550	André Steenkamp & Brian Guerin	2//	2//	13//					
MW03	65	2017, 550	Norman Dennett & Brian Guerin	38//			2//	139//	6//	7//	
MW06	60	2199, 2162	Penny Fox & Dee Milstein		1//	2//	20//		7//	7/1/	1SEC
MW07	63.4	2196, 2163	Bronwen & Keith Davidson		1//			131//			4SEC
MW08	84	1867, 10721	John & Elize McAllister	2//	13//	22//	2//	217//	16//		
MW09	88	2003	Ann Cleal	10//	10//	12//	115//	30//	53//		1DB
MW10	52.5	2018	Beverley Thorne		2/1/			30//			
Total	1396			179	103	203	143	1324	379	56	2DB,4GWF,9NBK,2OR,
Birds/100 km				12.8	7.4	14.5	10.2	94.8	27.1	4.0	17ORF,12SEC,83SS
MC - Chrissiesmeer precinct, MK - Kruger, MM - Middelburg precinct, MS - Steenkampsberg precinct,											
MT - Standerton precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct											

MC - Chrissiesmeer precinct, MK - Kruger, MM - Middelburg precinct, MS - Steenkampsberg precinct,

MT - Standerton precinct, MW - Wakkerstroom precinct



## KwaZulu-Natal

Despite the cold in some parts of KZN the highest density of Grey Crowned Cranes and Denham's Bustards ever was recorded. Last winter the density of Grey Crowned Cranes was at an all time low, so it is encouraging to see this density. This highlights the fact that trends in density for the season in which a species flocks can give a misleading impression.

The Dundee precinct was particularly cold and Val Cross reported that "Our count was not very productive due to ice cold conditions. The day was beautiful, however, after a freezing week and even snow in some areas . . ."

There were certainly more over-wintering White Storks (63) than ever before, the only previous winter count with numbers anywhere near this was in 2002 (58).

Important changes were noted on route description forms from the KG, KN, KO and KU precincts. In the north changes were mostly an increase in rural population density (KD12) or maize (KN01) or plantations (KN03), while in the south farming was either more intensive (KG04 & KG10), or arable lands were now fallow (KG08) or used for subsistence farming (KG05).

Evelyn Hughes, Janice Shipway and Keith Graham saw one Black-bellied

Korhaan on KM03, Malcolm Gemmell also saw one on his route, KC01. Malcolm also counted 27 oribi between 20 and 22 km!

Graham Kletz, who is doing many extra counts, has kindly offered to coordinate the Underberg routes. Many thanks to Gayle Ellison, who stepped in when Chris Thomas moved.

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

*Thank you to Tim Wood for keeping in touch with Precinct Organisers in KZN.*



Brilliant Mdzibuko, Edward Niewenhuis and Tina Mostert, who assisted Ann Gray counting KL11 in KwaZulu-Natal. Photo: Ann Gray.

Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in KwaZulu-Natal												
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	Other species
KC01	50.3	433, 10688	Malcolm Gemmell & Alison Lettenga		7//	12//	55//	9//			178//	1BBK, 30OR
KD01	80	2084, 2085	Henry & Elizabeth Bugden		8/1/		4//		56//			1OR
KD02	63	677	Paul Garner		5//	12//		3//	46//	2//		2CF, 2SHF
KD03	72	10921	Norman Leveridge		1//	38/11/				1//	5/5/	
KD04	47.9	2352, 2354	Peter & Jo-Anne Smith									
KD05	49.8	1255, 1745	Dennis & Sonja Holmes		1//				60//			
KD06	47.2	1709, 1755, 1179	Myles & Carol Ellerker & Val Cross		1//	5//			50//			3OR, 3WBK
KD07	72	909, 1835	Heino & Zeldia Wellmann									
KD08	58	1834	Peter Struweg								3//	
KD10	28	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross		4//	11//	2//		127//	1//	3//	
KD12	58.3	2285, 2316	Lynne & Peter Ruddle						2//			
KE01	74.6	675	Annemarie Rohrs & learners		1/1/							45WS
KG02	54	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry	2//	5//		98//	7//	162//		37//	
KG03	54	626	Malcolm Rivett	4//	3//		23//	19//	94//		45//	
KG04	73.1	627, 2430	Bob Williams & Keith Todd				12//		43/15/		12//	1SBK
KG05	54.4	629, 2308, 2309	Stooks Wilton, John & Marilyn Shire		11//	2//	100//		50//		102//	
KG07	47.2	630	Kobus Nel		1//		264//	7//		2//	89//	
KG08	58.6	2086	Allan Geldart		3//							5GWF
KG09	11.3	427, 428	Bruce & Pat Whittle	21//	1//		72//	1//			9//	
KG10	44	623, 1073	Brian Byers & Pat Lowry		4//		196//	6//		2//	40//	3OR, 4WC
KL11	40	814	Ann Gray & 3 Winterton learners		5//							5WS
KM01	82.2	1904, 1905	Drummond & Gloria Densham	2//	5//		7//				4//	1WC
KM02	67	167	Pamela Nicol		36//	21//	2//	1//	28//	2//	16//	8OR
KM03	101	1581, 993	Evelyn Hughes & Janice Shipway	1//	14//		57//			3//	34//	1BBK, 1GOL, 4OR, 9RNS, 2WC
KM04	35	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernadine Turner		6//		3//		34//		22//	
KM05	74	1719, 1920	Erwin & Helene Burmester		2//	15//	2/1/				7//	
KM06	90	2360, 11056	Selven Nyker & Robert Moore		17/2/		12//	1//		3//	16//	3OR
KM07	58.8	498	Margie Sleight		2//							1SS
KM08	59.8	2280	Diane Mason		18//		2//				5//	7OR, 13WS
KN01	62.5	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		4//	23//			20//			
KN03	54	1609, 1754	André & Hettie Bouwer		1//	7//			12//		9//	2OR
KN04	47.5	925	Alan Schwikkard		7//	2//			57//			
KN05	38.5	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe			5//			21//			
KN06	53	1929, 1930	Theuns & Lerouxna Botha		2//		13//		144//		9//	5SS
KO01	56.7	425, 1529	Gavin & Sandy Calverley		1//					2//		
KU01	68	2015, 740	Gayle & John Ellison		27//	22//	27//	2//	49//	1//	2//	5OR, 2WC
KU02	62.5	10451, 10491	Graham Kletz & R Clark & S Hofmeyr		10/1/		6//			2//	118//	7OR, 3WC
KV01	81	1683	AP Keeve		4//	18//	33//	3//			38//	
KV02	60.4	2016, 2001	Paul & Ria Steffensen		1//	2//		3//	44//	2//		2SS
KV04	34.6	1722	Charl & Noreen Oberholster							2//		1BS
Total	2324			30	222	206	991	64	1112	25	809	2BBK, 1BS, 2CF, 1GOL, 73OR,
Birds/100 km				1.3	9.6	8.9	42.6	2.8	47.8	1.1	34.8	2SHF, 8SS, 9RNS, 12WC, 63WS
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												
KD09	58.3	2285, 2316	Lynne & Peter Ruddle						2//			

Number of birds counted in July 2009 census in Gauteng								
Route	Km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other species
GB01	20.3	931	Francois Wolfaardt	52//	31//			2BC, 10BI
GB02	30.4	931	Francois Wolfaardt			2//		
GB03	52.5	2135	Peter Huggins	11//	465//	2//		
GB04	44	1814	Billy Malatji					
GB05	20.1		L Muller, M van Schalkwyk & J West	2//	50//	7//		1SEC
GB06	45	1764	Sean West	11//	135//			
GB07	58	2414, 2416	Natasha & Pieter Saunders	1//				
GC01	19	2046	Willem de Lange		3/4/	17//		
GC02	64.4	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	4//	335//		2//	2SEC, 1WS
GC03	73.5	2486	Mike Fullerton		89//	17//		
GC04	72.5	613, 1538	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones	5//	2//	3//	2//	
GC05	67.4	613, 1538	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones		168//		5//	
GD01	64.4	746	Andre Botha	30/6/	57/53/		22/3/	1SEC, 5UK
GD02	52.1	2166	Neville Cornish	3//	82//		43//	
GD03	32	2145	Diane Rose	14//1	115//			18BK, 16BC, 2SEC
GD04	52.9	2146	Frans Rossouw	3//				2SEC
GD05	49.3	1126, 2418	Jon & Kim Smallie	18//	21//			4BC, 2SEC
GH01	54.7	2045	Rouxdene Deyssel	20//	101//	1//		
GH02	72.1	2226	Daniel Koen	1//	54/10/		14//	
GH03	51	2101	Hein Pienaar	2//	96//	2//		
GH04	47	2338, 2434	Phuti Matlamela & L Nevhutalu					
GH05	56	2300	Obeid Katumba		1//	3//		
GM01	50	2287, 2374	Nico Grobler & Leon Lötter		191//			
GM02	22	2102	Leon Labuschagne		52//			1SEC
GW01	53.4	2099	Piet Muller		77//			
GW02	48.5	2152, 10281, 2432	Mags Pillay, A Paton & M Motswane	1//	32//			
Total	1272			185	2224	54	91	22BC,18BK,10BI
Birds/100 km				14.5	174.8	4.2	7.2	11SEC,5UK,1WS
GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site								



## Gauteng

The number of Helmeted Guineafowl on these routes was encouraging, the density (174.8/100 km) being the highest recorded to date in this province. Peter Huggins saw 465 on GB03 and Craig Whittington-Jones counted 335 on GC02. There were also more Secretarybirds (11) than ever before. Diane Rose saw a Black-bellied Korhaan, an out-of-range sighting!

*Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG). Thank you to Craig for maintaining enthusiasm amongst observers on these counts where not many sightings are made.*

