

Newsletter 29, December 2010

General

You are a wonderful team of observers! There was a marked decrease in the number of queries that Denise and I found in checking and capturing your data from the winter count! Thank you so much for checking your Information Sheets carefully and for using the correct abbreviations. A big thank you to the Precinct Organisers too, for following up queries before the forms came down to us!

The CAR project has now been running for seventeen years and I would like to encourage you as citizen scientists. On the BBC's webpage <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10206710> there was an article entitled *Citizen science 'can safeguard birds' future* about an international study that suggests that encouraging people to record everyday sightings of common bird species could help limit future extinctions. It concludes that large, long-running records are needed to show how numbers and distribution change over time. The main author said millions of people enjoyed birdwatching, and data collected could be vital for professional scientists in the future. They found that data from the past 30 years or so has been heavily biased towards threatened species and areas of high biodiversity, such as protected areas like national parks. So I know you may sometimes tire of counting the more common species, but they are just as important especially as a decrease in their numbers can go almost unnoticed. The decline by 90% in Blue Crane numbers in the grassland biome went almost unnoticed and the crash in the Helmeted Guineafowl numbers in KwaZulu-Natal was unexpected.

Interestingly in the following article <http://www.sciencedirect.com/news/10110343-new-research-identifies-the-plight-farmland-birds.html> on a study at the University of Bristol it looks as if the farmland birds that are poorer parents and less "brainy" are faring worse than other farmland species. Generally farmland birds are undergoing dramatic decline across the world.

In July Evelyn Hughes, who counts a KZN Midlands route, contacted me regarding data for the Wattle Crane, due to the plans to put huge powerlines through Karkloof. Fortunately I could send her an article I wrote using Sally Hofmeyr's trends from the data that you have collected that was in *Grus Grapevine* last September.

I hope you received the email about the **interim website report on the winter count** at http://car.adu.org.za/news_winter_2010.php. If not please let me know so that I can add you to the CAR distribution list.

This last winter was surprisingly warm, maybe not so surprising given climate change! Counting conditions throughout the country were mostly fine, but some routes in the Overberg were very windy and early in the day Wakkerstroom was cold and misty. The drought in parts of the Eastern Cape still lingers on. There were more sightings of over-wintering White Storks than usual, with this species recorded in 14 precincts.

There were three new routes this last count: one in the Swartland, initiated by Clive and Veronica Campbell-Smart, one in the Grahamstown area started by Nikki Köhly and one pioneered in the North West Province by Nedick Bila, Ornithologist for this province. Thank you for all your time in setting up these routes.

Date of summer CAR count

The next CAR count is on **Saturday, 29 January 2011**. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise. The next winter count will be on Saturday, 30 July 2011.

Farmer's booklets *Farming for the future: farming sustainably with nature & Boer vir die toekoms: boer volhoubaar met die natuur*

These booklets have at last been printed and are being distributed widely. Thank you to all who have contributed to the booklets and those who have assisted in distributing it. I have copied extracts from the interim report below for those not on the internet.

Les Underhill announced the publication of this booklet on 19–8–2010 in the Latest News on the ADU website (scroll down the Latest News and click on "more" to find this). **You can download your own copy** in a high or low resolution, in Afrikaans or English, by clicking on **Conservation Resources** in the left hand menu on the ADU website homepage.

There have been very positive responses to these booklets. It is great that the team of Precinct Organisers has been able to spread the word about the booklets "far and wide" – to farmers, conservancies, schools, bird clubs, libraries, even the Robertson Show! I have posted more booklets to a number of Precinct Organisers and others on request.

In August my husband, Chris, and I took 3000 booklets down to Hennis Germishuys, the Landcare District Manager for the Overberg based in Bredasdorp, for distribution to farmers and young people at Landcare camps. We are particularly thankful to Landcare who sponsored the publication of the first 3000 booklets, distributed many booklets at the Agri Megaweek and now continue to distribute them through their established networks. James Harrison and I were invited to the Agri Megaweek in mid-September where the booklet was launched and I gave a presentation about the booklet in Afrikaans. In September Chris and I delivered 1500 booklets to Jan Smit at the Department of Agriculture. Jan is the Landcare District Manager for the Swartland and is distributing these booklets to farmers and Extension Officers in this region.

Please encourage farmers who have read the booklet to send in their responses by completing

the multiple choice-style questionnaire that can be found on the CAR webpage, under Booklet Questionnaire in the left hand side "menu". This questionnaire is available in Afrikaans and English. I need these honest responses to write a report for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), finally completing the Big Birds on Farms project!

We would value your assistance in letting as many farmers as possible know about this booklet to encourage the conservation of biodiversity on farms. I do have some copies left, mainly in Afrikaans, so do contact me if you can distribute them.

CAR Count Information

I have noticed that more of you have been putting "pivots" or "irrigation" down in the "relevant feature nearby". **This is an important feature and so I would like to ask you all to be on the look-out for irrigation and to note this.** Also in dry windy areas windmills are often an attraction so do record this too.

It is really important to check the method of counting described in Information Sheet No. 1, as well as the habitat categories described in Information Sheet No. 4 and local korhaan calls before each count. Take care to use the abbreviations at the foot of the roadcount form for the habitat categories and species. If a bird is flying, record the habitat as "indeterminate", unless you disturbed it in which case write down the habitat that it took off from. The **CAR 13 Roadcount form** is enclosed. If you need more CAR leaflets please download these from the CAR webpage.

If you are **unable to count on 29 January then do contact your Precinct Organiser (PO)** well in advance so that they can find someone else to do your route on the correct date. **Immediately after your count please check your Roadcount form carefully to make sure that all the details are filled in.** Please send in your form during February, **but always keep a copy yourself.** It helps enormously if you send your **form to your PO promptly**, as they can check for missing information immediately saving us an enormous amount of time.

Thank you to the many who have chosen to receive their count information by email!

Electronic Roadcount Form

There is now a Word version of this form, click on http://www.adu.org.za/docs/car_roadcount_2010.doc. You may have to click on Forms, then Roadcount Form and select to save it first. If you prefer to fill in this form electronically after a count this is now an option. It is just very important that you **double-check after transcribing the information from the hand-written copy to the Word form.** This certainly

Email addresses

Please alert me to any email address changes, especially as many of you are receiving CAR count information via email now.

RESULTS: MISTAKES & MISPRINTS: LET'S SEARCH THEM OUT! & SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

is one way of checking that everything is filled in! Denise finds these typed forms quick to capture as sometimes the hand-writing needs deciphering! Thank you to Francois Wolfaardt who developed the Word version.

Project material on the website

If you are missing any project material you can download it from the CAR webpage, <http://car.adu.org.za/> The interim CAR winter count report is also here, under 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, please send me their contact details.

CAR Report

The eight-year CAR report is still available, the cost 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

Thank you to the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), for core funding through the Birds and Environmental Change Partnership. Without this CAR would stall to a quick halt! There is actually a big shortfall in the budget, as we are no longer receiving funding from the CEPF and the Darwin Initiative.

A huge thank you to the Somerset West and BirdLife Border Bird Club for regularly sending a welcome donation to CAR. I would also like to thank Deon Coetzee for his generous donation, Deon popped in to our home in Villiersdorp just after I had written the last newsletter!

Thank you for drawing attention to our birds through the articles you write in local newspapers or Bird Club newsletters. Kevin and Lesley Meise put an article on the winter count in the *Barkly East Reporter* in July and published an article I wrote in the *Agricultural Supplement* to this newspaper in August. Adrian Craig and Lorraine Mullins wrote reports in

the *Diaz Diary*. Yvonne Craig wrote *Hits and misses on the Humansdorp 'CAR' routes* in the *Bee-eater*. In the *BirdLife Eastern Cape* magazine Paddy Campbell wrote about the January count in the Aberdeen district and Andy Nixon wrote about his winter count. Paddy mentioned that a farmer, who always goes out of his way to greet them, mentioned that he had decided not to fix a concrete water storage dam at a windmill, as he had seen several large mountain tortoises feeding on the green grass around the leaking wall.

Thank you to those of you who write about your CAR counts on the birdnets as well!

Farm workers' Bird ID workshop

My heart was so warmed and encouraged to read of a workshop that Barbi Forsyth (who is Chrissiesmeer PO), Aretha Strydom (who farms in the area) and Ursula Franke (Regional Coordinator of the Highveld Grassland Crane Conservation Programme) organised for farm workers in the Chrissiesmeer area in October. These three formed an amazing team. Barbi prepared a presentation, "practised scratching like a Guinea fowl and walking like a Secretarybird" and also gathered binoculars and field guides from members of the Wits Bird Club. Aretha gathered the people and prepared the sustenance and Ursula talked about cranes as well as owls and brought Thandeka Khumalo, who works with her and was a "gift" as a fantastic translator!

Barbi wrote: "In total there were 24 participants. They ranged in age from 10 to ±65 years. Most of them couldn't read or write, but the majority knew numbers, so that is how we identified the birds – by Roberts' number.

What gems they turned out to be. I cannot describe the looks on their faces as they got their binoculars or when they realised that the field guides were THEIRS.

My absolute BEST for the whole weekend was driving home on Sunday morning. On the back of a bakkie was Tulisa – gazing over the veld with HIS (DONATED) binoculars. I have a photo and will never forget it."

Virtual Museums (VM)

Thank you to those of you who have ventured into contributing your digital photos to our Virtual Museums. There are now VMs for dragonflies, butterflies, weaver nests, frogs, reptiles and mammals. Go to the ADU home page and click on Virtual Museum in the left hand menu or just click on <http://vmus.adu.org.za> Use the left hand menu to select the project and register. **If you don't know the coordinates for your photo sightings** then go to [http://touchmap.com/lat-](http://touchmap.com/lat-long.html)

[long.html](http://touchmap.com/lat-long.html), and zoom in to the right spot. Click on the spot and a blue marker appears, click on the marker and you will get the coordinates!

Virtual Tree Herbarium!

You will also find the new Virtual Tree Herbarium (ViTH) that René Navarro has set up on <http://vmus.adu.org.za>. So you can now submit photographs of trees as well!

Latest News

Do bookmark the *Latest News* section on the ADU home page. There is a brief report on this page the week after each CAR count. The winter report was in the *Latest News* on 5 August. The Atlas website <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/> also has a *Latest News* section, as well as draft range-change maps showing comparisons between SABAP1 and SABAP2 data.

Wind farms and large terrestrial birds

Yet another potential threat to our big birds? We do need to be vigilant and proactive in this regard as many proposals for wind farms are now out there. In August BirdLife SA (BLSA) and EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme held an informative workshop at SANBI which Doug Harebottle and I attended from the ADU. The aim of this workshop was to gather together the various conservation organisations and representatives from the wind energy field to work out ways of reducing the impact of wind farms on birds. The main outcome was a proposal to produce a map of areas where there would be the least impact on large birds that, due to their size and weight, are the most vulnerable to collision with wind turbines. This is a challenging development – as conservationists we are in favour of increasing the use of renewable energy, but the threat to our birdlife needs to be minimised. A "Birds and Wind Energy Specialist Group" and a wider "Birds and Wind Energy Forum" has been established by BLSA and EWT to focus on sensitivity mapping and the development of best practice guidelines, both for wind farm developments and Environmental Impact Assessments. EWT is planning a Wildlife and Energy Conference in March next year.

Ornithological Observations (OO) – see <http://oo.adu.org.za>

OO is a semi-scientific e-journal that is a joint initiative of BirdLife South Africa and the Animal Demography Unit, and Arnold van der Westhuizen is the editor. Those short papers will find a home here. There are already a number of interesting articles e.g. Interactions between African Openbills and Spotted Thick-Knees http://oo.adu.org.za/pdf/OO_2010_01_055-056.pdf

Ringed birds

Ringed Blue Cranes were seen on OV13 and 14. **Do look out for colour-ringed cranes and other ringed species at all times** and report details to SAFRING. If you have a telescope or digital camera these do help.



Farm workers experiencing the delight of their own (donated) binoculars. Photo by Ursula Franke.

Dead birds reported

A Secretarybird was a powerline casualty on FS66. Just a reminder to report all powerline collisions to EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme and Eskom Strategic Partnership on 0860 111 535 or wep@ewt.org.za. A dead Blue Crane was reported near a small dam on OV37.

International Crane Foundation (ICF)– Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Partnership for African Cranes www.ewt.org.za

In September I attended the combined annual meeting for EWT's African Crane Conservation Programme and Threatened Grassland Species Programme in Kasoega in the Eastern Cape. I gave two presentations entitled: *Population trends and habitat use of cranes and other large bird species in South African grasslands and agricultural landscapes* and *Oribi data collected by CAR from 2003–2010*. While there I also gave a presentation to the Diaz Cross Bird Club in Kanton-on-Sea one evening, as the workshops were at Kasoega nearby. It was wonderful to see participants and meet Jenny Roxburgh, the Kanton PO, for the first time.

Thank you very much to the Overberg Crane Group (OCG) who paid for transport to Kasoega. The OCG now has a new website: www.bluecrane.org.za

Ongoing monitoring and other ADU projects can complete the picture

At the workshop in Kasoega Craig Whittington-Jones asked an astute question following my presentation.

I later referred to James Harrison, who was the Project Manager for the first Bird Atlas (SABAP1), about the date that the Atlas data collection ended and we were able to tentatively piece together an answer. But this has highlighted the need for ongoing monitoring and how the different ADU projects can also add to or confirm information.

Craig pointed out that the draft comparison map of SABAP1 and SABAP2 distributions for the Helmeted Guineafowl presented showed a decline in reporting rate in KZN, but the CAR data showed a stable trend in the population in the southern KZN precinct. So when did the decline in KZN happen? The cut-off point for the Atlas was 1991 and I was asked by AGREED to start monitoring the game bird numbers in 1998 due to concern about the numbers. So the decline probably happened some time in the nineties. I think that we humans probably only notice a decline once it is quite marked – so by 1998 when AGREED requested the monitoring it would have been more obvious. This is why Les was always disappointed that the first Atlas could not continue and he is very keen that the current one does continue!

Southern Bald Ibis project

Kate Henderson (ibis@birdlife.org.za) would appreciate any sightings of Southern Bald Ibis.

Southern Ground-Hornbills

Ten Ground Hornbills were recorded on CAR routes in January. Do send any sightings of this threatened species at any time of year to Scott Ronaldson on

013 7355550 or scott@ewt.org.za. If possible please supply co-ordinates or the exact area.

Thank you!

You are amazing the way you keep on counting despite the petrol costs and wear and tear on your vehicles! Thank you so much for your huge contribution to the conservation of these birds, for completing your routes despite the challenges! I appreciate the time you take to write notes about interesting sightings or changes in habitat. The team of forty Precinct Organisers is incredible in reminding and encouraging you, gathering all the forms and checking for missing information.

Sally Hofmeyr and I would like to extend great thanks to the thirteen teams who have done extra counts for Sally's research that will maximise the use of all the information you are collecting. On 5 August, under the *Latest News*, you can read about some of Sally's work.

Denise Lesch has been fantastic in capturing all the Roadcount forms and editing the tables for this newsletter. Thank you to Marja Wren-Sargent for typesetting this newsletter inbetween many other tasks.

Next year the ADU will be 20 years old! We are thinking of ways to celebrate this milestone.

Wishing you special time with friends and family and a joyful Christmas! Travel safely and good health in the coming year.

Donella Young
Project Coordinator

COUNT RESULTS WINTER 2010

Mpumalanga



A reminder to count Helmeted Guineafowl (HG) on these routes, and also Oribi, while scanning for CAR birds. Please remember to record habitat as for bird species.



Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in Mpumalanga											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK	Other species
MC01	75	2197, 1388	Mike Witcomb & Janice Isom		8//	1//		90//	1//	4//	
MC02	63.6	10857, 11079	A Featherstone & F Kanichowsky		1/1/	28//		160//	19//		
MC03	55.8	1368, 10961	Ralph & Daphne Wordon		13//		1//	36//	67//		1SEC,10WS
MC04	68.9	1555, 2255	Lia Steen & Lilian Hadley		9//	1//	2//	22//	12//		4SEC
MC05	68.8	1391, 1744	Philip & Lynn Silcock		1//			68//	71/		1SEC,1WS
MC06	69	1511, 1750, 11188	Barbi & A Forsyth, V Engelbrecht		6//	53//		11//	18//		2SEC,3WBK
MS04	63.4	730	Mervyn & Tracy Lötter		2//			17//			1WS
MS05	55	728, 1558	Anton Linstrom & Tommie Steyn		3//	6//	3//	46//			
MS06	53.3	1178	Hendrik van Wyk		1/1/				1//		2OR
MS09	59.1	2279, 6138	Ursula Franke & Hessel Turkstra		1//		2//	16//			
MS14	54	1109, 2328	Bryan Rowland & Erwin Leibnitz		2//			71//	1//		4OR
MS15	51.7	724	Lientjie Cohen			5//					
MT01	85	1816, 1817	Colin & Ronald Williams	38//	15/1/	3//		74//	1//	11//	44SS
MT02	64	10619, 6140	Robert & Kleintjie van Bulderen		30//	2//		308//	20//		5NBK,1NS,27SS,3WS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman					91//	6//		2NBK,19SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		4//	4//		229//	17//		1SS
MT05	66.7	2294	Johan van Rensburg	252//	6//	19//	2//	227//	18//	3//	2GWF,1NBK,4ORF,26SS
MW01	57	1409, 2003	John Burchmore & Ann Cleal	4/1/	9/3/	54/2/		32//	8//		3SEC,1WC
MW03	63.3	1867, 10721	John & Elize McAllister	10//	8//	2/	2//	229//	6//	6//	4SEC
MW06	58.5	2196, 2163	Bronwen & Keith Davidson		2//	49//	3//		3//		2SEC
MW07	62.8	2199, 361	Penny Fox & Judy-Lynn Wheeler	4//	8/1/	11//		214//	3//	17//	2SEC
MW08	90	2480	André Steenkamp			25//		103//	2//		2DB,2SEC
MW09	86.4	361, 2003	Judy-Lynn Wheeler & Ann Cleal	2//	31/1/	43/1/	4//	19//	25//	7//	4SEC
MW10	50.7	2017, 550	Norman Dennett & Brian Guerin	2//	1//			113//			
Total	1493			313	169	309	19	2176	236	48	2DB,2GWF,8NBK,1NS, 17SS,15WS,25SEC,6OR, 4ORF,3WBK,1WC
Birds/100 km				21.0	11.3	20.7	1.3	145.7	15.8	3.2	

Precinct: MC- Chrissiesmeer, MM- Middelburg, MS- Steenkampsberg, MT- Standerton, MW- Wakkerstroom

Steenkampsberg precinct

Mervyn and Tracy Lötter saw a White Stork on MS04. Ursula Franke and Hessel Turkstra recorded two Grey Crowned Cranes on MS09. Six Oribi were seen on these routes.

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

This route was counted, but is being re-sent as it was lost en route!

Standerton precinct

More Helmeted Guineafowl (929) and Swainson's Spurfowl (97) were recorded in this precinct than ever before in the last seven years of monitoring in this precinct! Johan van Rensburg and Andre Graham had an amazing total of 252 Blue Cranes with 186 in one flock on MT05, near Standerton.

Wakkerstroom precinct

Conditions were misty and visibility was poor early in morning, so the rating of conditions was satisfactory for most routes. However the highest total of Helmeted Guineafowl (710) and Secretarybirds (17) since monitoring began was also recorded in this precinct. Southern

Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in southern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.
FS06	77	24	Brian Colahan	203//		32//	20//		2//	8//	
FS07	61.6	1746	Angelo Nichas	113//	1//	16//	12//		1//	2//	
FS08	68	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	1/1//		2//	2//		2//		
FS14	76	2249	Marietjie Jordaan			1//	57//	2//			
FS17	76.4	1620	Dawie Kok				26//		1//	8//	
FS18	74	684	Louise Coetzee				18//	2//		7//	
FS19	89.4	2384, 2263	Pieter & Gela van Heerden				61//	1//	5//		
FS20	67.8	2171, 2394	Sandra Bishop & Sally Barnard		1//		49//	3//	6//	3//	
FS21	61	682	Leon Barkhuizen		1//		18//	2//	105//		
FS27	78.2	694	Erika Schulze	6//	1//	4//	4//				
FS35	74	1258	Hannes Blom		1//		19//		6//	16//	
FS42	67.6	24	Brian Colahan	6//		13//	36//		3//	1//	
FS43	82.9	24	Brian Colahan		2//		31//	2//			
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henrietta v den Berg				11//	1//			
FS50	78.2	1058	Frans Marais				5//		3//	11//	
FS51	78.7	24	Brian Colahan	13//		5//	6//		9//	56//	
FS52	71	2482	Cobus Jansen van Rensburg				14//	4//	30//		3WS
FS54	59.4	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig		1//		46//		2//	15//	
FS55	48	1995	J du Preez				8//	1//		17//	
FS56	70.6	2122, 987	Fanie & Jeanette Buys	2//			78//		3//	6//	
FS58	79	863	Pierre Nel				4//				
FS60	74	2260	Ilse van den Bergh	414//		4//	16//		26//		
FS62	60	2298, 6117	Lynden & Rosemary Lund		2//		8//			1//	
FS65	79.9	864	Savvas Vrahimis				2//	1//	2//		
FS66	51.9	1399	Tom Mostert				6//				
FS67	68.4	950	Daan Müller				5//			7//	
FS68	68.9	24	Brian Colahan		5//		54//	2//	3//		1HAR
FS69	80	1065	Deon du Plessis		2//		5//	3//		15//	
FS70	57.8	1150, 1151	Abrie & Hélène Bam					2//	3//	3//	
FS73	67	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam		1//			2//	6//	5/1	
FS76	42	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen	2//							
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger						2//	10//	
FS79	51	1397	Dewald Liebenberg				21//		2//		
FS80	89.2	24	Brian Colahan			1//			10//	19//	
FS83	49.2	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin		2//		2//			5//	1BS
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen				2//				
FS87	55.9	2368	Annalie van de Vyfer		1//		1//		3//	12//	
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie Geyer		2//		35//		30//	16//	
FS91	59.5	641	Rick Nuttall		2//		46//	1//	1//	4//	
FS92	63.8	1201	Fritz Krohn		2//		2//	1//	3//		
FS93	47.1	700	Johan Watson			7//	7//	2//		9//	2WS
FS94	73	24	Brian Colahan			1//	8//			6//	
FS96	74	2653, 2688	Bok & Annalie Cronjé		2//		3//				
FS103	57.6	1052	Duart Hugo				15//				
FS104	73	1395	Geoff Johnson		2//		38//		47//	29//	
FS105	76.4	687	Riëtte Griesel	2//		8//	2//				
FS106	50.3	1946	Hennie Bester				35//	2//	2//		
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jennifer Lotter		5//		13//	4//	10//	3//	9BI
FS109	59.6	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen					2//		19//	
FS110	64	2464	Dirk Bredenkamp		1//		2//			6//	
FS111	75.5	691	Willie Mostert				6//				1HAR
FS112	61.6	1262	Janine Liefbrig		1//		20//	3//	16//	17//	
FS113	92.2	1616, 2366	Danie & Martie Krynauw		2/1//			6//	2//	19//	
FS114	75.1	1574, 1804	Dennis & Anita Oliphant				9//	2//		1/2//	
FS117	67.4	691	Willie Mostert				19//			4//	
FS118	67.2	24	Brian Colahan	337//		5//	11//	2//		9//	
FS119	74	1141, 1140	Jill & John Moffett		4//		31//				
FS120	75	1889	Johan Labuschagne		6//		57//	3//	4//	26//	1BS
FS121	58	2460, 2462	Niël & Linette Pienaar				5//				
FS122	61.8	1057	Lourens Goosen		2//		5//			3//	
FS123	61	683	Chris Botha	267//		2//	5//				
FS126	47.4	2670	Gottlieb Lubbe		1//						
Total	4160			1367	54	101	1021	56	350	401	2BS,2HAR
Birds/100 km				32.9	1.3	2.4	24.5	1.3	8.4	9.6	9BI,5WS

Bald Ibis were seen on all routes except MW10, with the highest count on MW01. A single Wattled Crane was recorded on MW01 by John Birchmore and Ann Cleal. The road on this route was unsafe due to mega heavy coal trucks and consequently a destroyed road surface! On MW09 the township has increased significantly as have the open cast coal mine areas.

Chrissiesmeer precinct

The Southern Bald Ibis, Secretarybird, White Stork and Helmeted Guineafowl numbers were higher than in any previous winter counts during the six years of monitoring. There were ten over-wintering White Storks on MC03!

So the Helmeted Guineafowl density was at an all time high this last winter in this province.

Free State

Apart from some early morning mist along some of the North-eastern Free State precinct (FN) routes, conditions were good for the 2010 winter CARs in the Free State Province when 101 routes were surveyed, covering 6617 kilometres. Fifteen (961 km) of these were in the North-western precinct (FW), 24 (1496 km) in the FN and 62 (4160 km) in the Southern precinct (FS). There was a much higher “density” of birds (84/100 km) than for the previous winter (62 birds/100 km), and it is pleasing to report that this was largely due to the large flocks of Blue Cranes in the FN and FS, and which made it the dominant species in the Free State, with 27/100 km. The next most abundant species was the Northern Black Korhaan (23/100 km), which was dominant in the FW (43/100 km), and where no Blue Cranes were recorded. The FW also had the highest density of overwintering White Storks (0.8/100 km), but with all 55 recorded by Rosemary Girard and Margaret Williams along FW02 (SW of Deneysville) with most of them foraging in burnt veld. (They were also pleased to see five Marsh Owls along their route.)

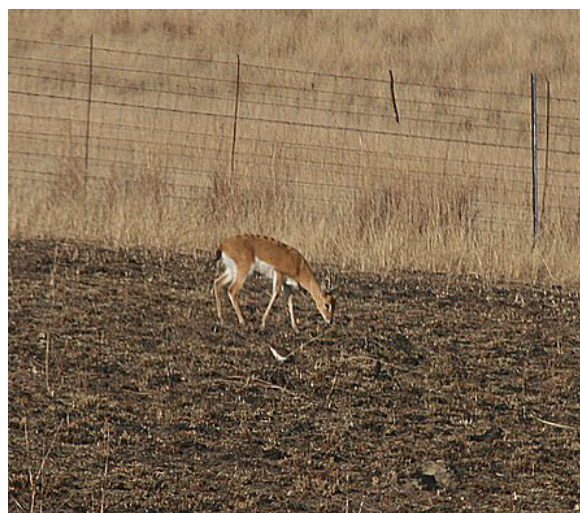
Burnt grasslands were unfortunately probably also the reason for the Black-headed Heron (11/100 km) being the third most abundant bird in the FN, after Blue Crane (27/100 km) and Spur-winged Goose (18/100 km). Eighty-nine percent of the Blue Cranes there were along just two routes, Gert Maritz’s (FN49) W of Memel and Rick Dillon’s (FN31) E of Harrismith; Rick also saw 95 of the 100 Grey Crowned Cranes recorded in that precinct. Bald Ibis numbers (9.8/100 km) were down compared with those for 2009 winter surveys (21.0/100 km).

Five flocks greater than 100 accounted for 98% of the FS Blue Cranes, with 414 of these counted by Ilse van den Bergh along FS60 (NW of Luckhoff), including a flock of 410 in the stubble of harvested maize. Unfortunately, Ludwig’s Bustard numbers were down (2.4/100 km) compared with the previous winter (4.1/100 km), and with 47% of them along just two routes: FS06 (NNW of Philippolis) surveyed by me, and FS07 just to the E of it and surveyed by Angelo Nichas’s team.

Many thanks to Brian Colahan for this report and for coordinating three large precincts! Brian spent an hour looking for a detour to get around a small bridge that had been washed away, and then did some “road building” to get through the river next to the remains of the bridge!



Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in north-eastern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.
FN16	56.9	1072	David Weaver	2//	1//	19/1//					
FN25	69	1747	Morne Pretorius		8//			2//	18//	9//	
FN26	65	606	Thomas Wessels	25//	1//	60//			69//		
FN28	56	1892, 1893	Otto & Marguerite Nel	6//	4//	2//		3//		6//	
FN31	76.4	2109	Rick Dillon	177//	6//	3//	95//		2//		
FN32	51.5	6125, 6127	Jean & Alan Short		4//			2//			
FN36	48	2488	Div Bosman						4//		1NBK
FN37	59.1	2042, 2043	Melanie & Martin Potgieter		12//				14//	4//	13NBK
FN39	60.9	2472	Irmgard Kaiser		17//				8//		
FN41	77.4	1045	GJ Vermeulen		11//	2//		2//	1//	14//	4NBK
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		19//			2//	6//	25//	
FN43	59.5	706, 1812	Harry & Christa Illsley		14//	20//	3//	4//		4//	
FN44	66.7	2470	Marina Ferreira		1/1//				9//		1BS,2WS
FN46	63.4	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer		1//	7//				4//	
FN48	56.5	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		2//			1//	1//		3NBK,3WBK
FN49	47	944, 6169	Gert & Cilna Maritz	195//		1//	2//		84//	8//	
FN50	55.8	942, 11493	Pieter Koornhof & N Botha		11//	3//			3//		
FN51	65	2498	Ina van Rensburg		3//			1//			
FN52	71	717, 1844	Johan & JML Strauss	2/1//	16//	14//		1//	38//	7//	
FN54	63	2204	M Cunningham, K Khoza & M Taioe		7//	3//			6/1//		
FN57	62.4	1932	Pietré Enslin			7//		3//			
FN58	64	705	Paulus Fihlo		17//	4//		2//		13//	
FN60	65	1505	Brian Barnes		1//					4//	61NBK
FN62	65.6	11376	Adriana Barrett		9//						5NBK
Total	1496			408	166	146	100	23	264	98	1BS,87NBK,3WBK,2WS
Birds/100 km				27.3	11.1	9.8	6.7	1.5	17.6	6.6	



Above: Oribi on KM03 Midlands route. Photo: Evelyn Hughes.

Below: This change in land use to a vineyard was noted on KL11. Do remember to record any changes in land use on your route. Photo: Ann Gray.

Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in north-western Free State								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.
FW02	43.3	1957, 2274	Rosemary Girard & M Williams	4//	23//	4//	2//	55WS
FW18	51.2	1268	Herman Jordaan		29//			
FW34	77.1	1163	Des Walker	3//	65//		4//	
FW36	76.8	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy	5//	12//	2//	143//	
FW43	65.1	2261	Chris Daphne	9/1/	33/1/			
FW45	50.3	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan		8//			
FW51	78.2	1253	Koos den Houting	1//	58//	2//	6//	10UK
FW52	55	2201, 2275	Mary Littlewood & Nigel Forbes	9/2/	3//	2//	2//	
FW53	89.3	1173, 1940	Chris & Martina de Lange		30//			
FW55	58.2	1890, 1891	Greg & Janine Goosen	21//	9//		158//	
FW56	62.2	1901, 1902	Stephen & Marietjie Hill		6//			
FW58	67.5	2122	Stefaans Buys		53//		2//	6UK
FW60	64.9	1497	Vlam Els	3//	2//		3//	
FW61	60.2	10783	Alta Henning	1//	53//		1//	2UK
FW62	61.5	2262	Tjaart Venter	17/2/10	27//		15//	2UK
Total	961			88	412	10	336	20UK,
Birds/100 km				9.2	42.9	1.0	35.0	55WS



KwaZulu-Natal

A reminder to include Oribi in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds. Please remember to record habitat as for bird species.



An exciting sighting of five Southern Ground Horn-bills, three adults with two juveniles, was reported by Rod Dicks, who counts KL02. Annetmarie and Alec Röhrs reported that practically no birds were seen in the informal settlement areas on KE01 which were very over grazed and barren.

John and Marilyn Shire and Tim and Carol Blore saw all 3 crane species on KG05, including 13 Wattled Cranes. In recent years more Wattled Cranes have been seen on KG05, whereas in the initial counts in this area KG09 had the highest numbers of Wattled Cranes on Ferneley Vlei. I was very glad to meet Pat Lowry for the first time in Kasoega: having seen his name on CAR forms since the January 1998 count! Brian Byers, who coordinates these routes, remarked on the decline in Spur-winged Geese after checking back through the counts of the last 13 years. Brian wrote: "This was confirmed by those attending a recent birding meeting, somebody even had to cancel a shoot on the Cedarville Flats, which is renowned for its water birds."

Malcolm Gemmell remarked that Denham's Bustards were adapting well to using the periphery of centre-pivot rye grass and most of the 17 oribi recorded were under the centre-pivots. The Creighton Valley was experiencing semi-drought conditions and all available veld had been baled for livestock feed.

It was very dry in the Midlands. Shirley Bennett and her team counted 42 Black-headed Herons on KM03.

The Southern Bald Ibis density was the second highest it has ever been in KZN: in January 2003 it was 11.2 birds/100 km. What is interesting is that in 2003 the majority of these birds were in the Newcastle precinct and this species was recorded on 12 routes (of 50 routes) in KZN, while this last count the majority were in the Dundee precinct and this species was much more widely spread being recorded on 20 routes (of 36 routes).

White-bellied Korhaan were counted on three Dundee routes with 12 of this shy species altogether in this precinct. The number altogether counted was the fourth highest since counts began. I am really glad that Ntokozo Cele, who has taken over from Frik Lemmer, is continuing the counts of KP01.

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

Thank you to Tim Wood for "steering" CAR in KZN.



Winterton Primary educator, Libby Irons, with learners Tiya Balakisten, Mabahle Mabaso, Tina Mostert and Eduard Niewenhuis counting on the KL11 in KZN. Photo: Ann Gray.

Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in KwaZulu-Natal												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	Other species
KC01	52	433	Malcolm Gemmell		1//	1/1/	29//	11//			38//	3GH,17OR
KD03	70.3	10921	Norman Leveridge			2/3/					23//	3WBK
KD04	48	2352, 2354	Peter & Joanne Smith		1//	5//						
KD06	49.2	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker			3//					13//	8OR,4WBK
KD07	71	909	Heino Wellmann			7//						1BS,3WBK
KD09	59	2285, 2316	Lynne & Peter Ruddle		4//	42//		2//			1//	5WBK
KD10	28	736, 1179, 1650	Tony & Val Cross & D Stewart		3//	1//			140//	2//	12//	1SS
KE01	89.3	675	Annemarie & A Rohrs, 4 learners		3//	13//			209//			
KG02	54.2	1073, 2709, 2711	Pat Lowry, D & M Shaw	4//	4//		39//	7//			10//	
KG03	54	626	Malcolm Rivett	5//	3//		69//	4//	60//		10//	
KG04	72	627, 2430	Bob Williams & Keith Todd		3//		2//	2//	140//		1//	
KG05	54.5	2308, 2309	John & Marilyn Shire & Blore's	16//		2//	23//		47//		25//	13WC
KG06	58.9	623, 624	Brian & Gretta Byers		2//	31//	72//				1//	
KG08	55.6	2086	Allan Geldart				4//			2//	50//	
KG10	43.8	2713	Jerome Brownrigg		2//		72//			1//	10//	
KL02	104	610	Rod Dicks & Derek Goosen	6//	8//	8/1/	2//				10//	5GH,4WBK
KL11	34.4	814	Ann Gray, L Irons & 4 learners		2//	15//					3//	
KM01	78.6	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernadine Turner		18/1/		5//	1//	108//		30//	18OR,4WS
KM02	70.3	1537, 1536	Val & John Baxter		11//		1//				11//	
KM03	102	474, 1581	Shirley Bennett & Evelyn Hughes		42//		3//		97//	2//	85//	1OR,10RNS
KM04	35.3	498	Margie Sleigh	2//	6//				20//		14//	5OR
KM05	73	6121	J & C Curry			10//	4//				118//	3RWF,2WC
KM06	89.3	1904, 1905	Drummond & Gloria Densham	6//	10//		10//			1//	19//	8OR
KM07	58.4	167, 1799	Pamela Nicol & Peter Divall		2//	5//	2//		14//			2OR
KM08	60.2	2280	Diane Mason		1//		81//				76//	7OR,3WS
KN01	62.5	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers			8//			36//			2SS,4WBK
KN03	54.2	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		17//	10//			30//			
KN04	49	925	Alan Schwikkard		8//				23//	1//		
KN05	38.5	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		3//	21//	3//	2//				2BBK,5SS
KN06	52.5	1929	Theuns Botha		15//		4//		172//	3//		1HAR,3RWF,2SS
KO01	52	425, 1529	Gavin & Sandi Calverley		1//				2//			
KP01	60.1	6119	Ntokozo Cele		1/2/							
KU01	68	2015, 740	Gayle & John Ellison	5//	3//	28//	91/2/	13//	42//		17//	2OR,2WC,2WS
KU02	62.5	10451, 10535	Graham Kletz, Bill & Alta Small	4//	18//	7//		6//			17//	4WC
KV01	87	1683	A P Keeve		2//		5//	4//			30//	
KV04	34.6	1722, 1790	Charl Oberholster & Arlene Steyn			7//						
Total	2186			48	197	231	523	52	1140	12	624	2BBK,10RNS, 6RWF,23WBK, 21WC,9WS,1BS, 8GH,1HAR,68OR
Birds/100 km				2.2	9.0	10.6	23.9	2.4	52.1	0.5	28.5	
Precincts: KC - Creighton, KD - Dundee, KE - Escourt, KG - East Griqualand, KL - Ladysmith, KM - Midlands												
KN - Newcastle, KO - Melmoth, KP - Paulpietersburg, KU - Underberg, KV - Vryheid												



31st Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTVS), Northern Cape



It is just wonderful the way this precinct has recovered so that 32 routes were counted this last winter. Thank you to Ronelle Visagie and Christine Pienaar for reviving interest in these counts.

It is really important to take care in distinguishing between the Denham's/Stanley's Bustard (veldpou) and Ludwig's Bustard, as these two similar species can occur in this area – check Information Sheet No. 3 <http://www.adu.org.za/docs/carinfo3.pdf> for differences that help in distinguishing these species. Please let me know if there are any errors in this newsletter.

Marina Beal saw 1373 Blue Cranes on her 20 km transect through their farm, Zoet- vlei. For comparative purposes with previous years I have excluded this route from the KLTVS totals.

The Blue Korhaan density is concerning as it is amongst the lowest ever. But the Ludwig's Bustard density was the second highest due to 100 recorded on Kobus de Villiers' second transect on his farm of natural veld. Lourens and Irma de Jager had the unusual sighting of three Abdim's Stork on NK30.

Please send your forms to Christine Pienaar at the address on the Roadcount Form.

Thank you to Ronelle Visagie and Christine Pienaar for reviving interest in these counts.



The new powerline near the end of Ronelle Visagie's NK233 route in the Eastern Karoo.
Photo Ronelle Visagie.

Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in Northern Cape										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	UK	Other spp.
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	4//						
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock							
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	59//	2//	9//				1BHH
NK031	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson				1//			
NK032	15	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	10//			4//			6DB
NK033	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	2//						
NK041	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team		6//	1//	3//		2//	2DB,3KB
NK042	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team	18//	1//		2//			7KB
NK044	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team	51//				3//		
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe			8//	7//			3SG
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe			19//	18//			
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe							
NK091	20	480	Peter Ferreira		4/1/			1//		
NK092	20	480	Peter Ferreira			10//				
NK093	20	480	Peter Ferreira			3//	1//	1//		
NK181	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	4//					1//	
NK182	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	34//			4//			2DB
NK183	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	9//		3//				
NK221	20	2855	I J du Preez	2//	4//	3//	6//			
NK222	20	2855	I J du Preez		5//		1//			
NK223	20	2855	I J du Preez			2//	8//			
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie			5//	3//			
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				4//			
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				4//			
NK301	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	4//	1//		1//			2AS,1DB
NK302	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	2//			2//			1AS,15DB
NK391	20	2859	Neville Woods							3SG
NK392	21	2859	Neville Woods	23//						
NK393	20	2859	Neville Woods							
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers	2/2/		38//	6//	1//		1KB
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers			100//	23//			
Total	616			226	24	201	98	6	3	3AS,1BHH,26DB, 11KB,6SG
Birds/100 km				36.7	3.9	32.6	15.9	1.0	0.5	
NK461	20	10360	Marina Beal	1370/3/	6//	1//		1//	1//	257SG

Western Cape



Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in Swartland							
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.
SW01	75	1970	Fiona Hellmann	95/12/	1//	197/4/	1SBK
SW02	81.8	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker	2//	1//	49//	
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgerd & Pat Waddell	36//	6//	85//	2SEC
SW04	63	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	11//		4//	
SW05	60	106, 1899	Mel Tripp & Felicity Ellmore	12//		157//	2WS
SW06	73	1359, 11280	Reg le Roux & Beverley Paterson	28//	3//	94//	
SW08	65	1474, 2269	Bruce Mackenzie & Alan Clarke	13//	6/2/	17//	2WS
SW09	60.6	2033	Jaco van Deventer	137//	3//	74//	
SW10	64	2362, 11739	Donny Malherbe & Bongani Zungi	24//	7//	49//	2WS
SW11	65.9	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	6//	5//	3//	
SW12	80.9	2207, 2208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	35/7/		30//	1SBK, 1SEC
SW13	50.1	673	Elna & Anna-Mari Slabber		3//	71//	1SBK
SW14	50	506, 838	Riaan v d Walt & Marius Wheeler	19//	3//	91//	1SEC
SW15	64	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbüttel	8//	4//	1//	1HAR
SW16	42.3	2051, 619	Cheryl Seeley & Patrick Hurly	3//		23//	
SW17	53.1	2587, 2585	Clive & Veronica Campbell-Smart		3//	15//	3SBK
Total	1012			442	47	964	1HAR, 4SEC
Birds/100 km				43.7	4.6	95.2	6SBK, 6WS

Swartland precinct

The Blue Crane density was lower than it has been the last six winters. Fiona Hellmann, who counts SW01, wrote “*For the first time in a very, very long time I heard Southern Black Korhaan in a patch of indigenous vegetation.*” Unusually there were over-wintering White Storks on three routes, SW05, SW08 and SW10. Angela, Jens and Diane Oelbüttel saw the only Black Harrier on a Swartland route. Otherwise the Oelbüttel’s count was disappointing, it followed two weeks of intensive crop spraying and the wheat was exceptionally tall. Jaco van Deventer saw a flock of 116 Blue Cranes displaying and dancing in a field of lupins. Jan Hofmeyr reported that no White Storks have been seen at the pig farm for the last five months.

Overberg precinct

There was a gale force wind in the western part of the Overberg and bird numbers were low in this area.

The cyclists, Keith and Michelle Moodie, again had the highest total for Blue Cranes on their route OV08. On OV06 Stuart, Ruth and Cathe McLennan saw a Blue Crane with blue baling twine wrapped around its legs. It could still stand, hobble and

fly. The need to remove baling twine from fields was highlighted in the farmer’s booklet. The OV12 team reported an unusual sighting of a half-grown Blue Crane chick. Pieter Albertyn noted that more grain had been planted on OV10 and so there were fewer cranes. A number of routes noted more grain planted than usual. More sheep were seen on OV02 and OV05 than usual. OV17 has probably seen the most change in land use in recent years. Lee Burman reported that the first 5 km are now largely vineyards and canola. Also the development around Fishhaven and Onrus has been extensive and the Hemel-en-Aarde valley is now farmed with the veld on the 30–50 km section being transformed to vineyards, orchards and invaded by alien vegetation.

The Spur-winged Goose density has been higher the last four winters than any winter before that. One Ludwig’s Bustard and a single Kori Bustard were recorded on OV20, it is notable that these species are usually only recorded in this region in the drier seasons. Four White Storks were on OV17 at the rubbish dump, as well as 200+ Great White Pelicans, this group makes a daily trip from Bot River vle. Surprisingly few Black-headed Herons were counted. The last time that the density was of this order was for the winter 2001, summer and winter 2002 counts.

Many thanks to Duncan and Inés for their report and for the huge amount of time they save me by organising these counts and checking the long forms.

Please fax or post your form directly to Duncan and Inés Cooke: 20 Oakbridge Village, Bizweni Avenue, Somerset West, 7130. Fax: 0865106470. The lotto funding awarded to the Western Cape Crane Conservation Programme has at last come through and the field worker post is being advertised. Phone 082 3200911

for any emergencies regarding cranes as Mick D’Alton, Chairperson, is on stand-by.

Beaufort West precinct

Stefan and Madeleine Theron’s Blue Crane count was the highest ever in this precinct.

Little Karoo precinct

More Blue Cranes were seen on routes WK03 and 04 than ever before. What was interesting was that on Adrius Rabie’s route 30 juveniles were recorded.

Uniondale precinct

Seven different species were recorded on WU02, including all three of the large bustards. The highest number of Karoo Korhaans in this precinct since July 2006 was recorded. Mike Euston-Brown and his team saw more Denham’s Bustards than they have since their amazing count of 62 in July 2003.

Calitzdorp precinct

Numbers were low in this precinct.

Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in Overberg										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG	Other species
OV01	54	229, 2311, 1063	Ines & Duncan Cooke & P Rigg	124//	6//				71//	
OV02	63.3	1083, 801, 802	Anne Price, Keith & Ann McAdam	137//	2//	3//			46/2/	
OV03	48.2	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	37/2/					21//	
OV04	26.4	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	157/2/	3//				50//	
OV05	69.2	228, 649, 6159	John Carter, T Wienand, B Boer & D Rizzo	296/2/	1//	9//	9//		74//	
OV06	53	1655, 2110	Stuart & Ruth McLennan	217//	2//	25//	10//		15//	1HAR, 4SBK
OV07	68.7	496, 2184	Ken Price & Hester Snyman	292/7/	6//	10//	7//		36//	
OV08	74.9	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	1335/20/	3//	4/1/			23//	
OV09	44	234, 239	Craig Thom & Bruce Squier	264//	1//	5//			119//	
OV10	54.9	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	50//	5//	21//	2//		49//	
OV11	60.9	245, 246	Sheila Siebert & Madelene Loubser	43/12/	2//	14//		2//	22//	1SBK
OV12	57.3	215, 216, 1381	Heather Busby, D Woods & R Gilmore	156/1/	3//	18//			19//	
OV13	68.3	520, 671, 672	Jill Mortimer, Ann White & Rene Lind	590/22/	3//	30/1/	8//		52//	
OV14	87	1632	Christine Wallace & Brian Bothma	220//		9//	5//		25//	
OV15	58	2112, 2113	John & Myra Jones	318//	10//	13//	2//	1//	56//	
OV16	62	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & Willem du Toit	331//	1//	19//			27//	
OV17	62.5	878, 2440, 2442	Lee Burman, M & H MacNaught	100//		3//			13//	4WS
OV18	49.9	240	Wicus Leeuwener, C & D Bredenkamp	219//	3//				138//	
OV19	62.2	219, 1213	Ronnie Crowther, E Stodel & P Pistorius	13//		6//	1//		38//	1SBK
OV20	55	1325, 1441, 2344, 2342, 2356, 2358	N & A Passmore, L & B Napier, S & A Watermeyer	168/1/	1//	5//	3//		126/1/	1KB, 1LB
OV21	64	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christina Terblanche	47/8/	1//	14//			22//	
OV22	56.9	1660	Sally Adam & Pam Eloff	265//	3//	4//			33//	
OV24	62	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	7//		2//	8/8/		23/1/	
OV26	20	871	Jeffrey Arizon & Andrew Farao	2//					33//	
OV27	67	1999, 2717, 2745	Elton le Roux, Aldo Pekeur & M Raselabe	2//	4//	2//			33//	
OV28	38.6	2057, 6151	Bill & Alta Naude	6//	2//				16//	
OV29	25.9	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	4//	1//				9//	
OV33	59	1463, 6153	Frans, Christie and Paul de Graaff	18/2/	3//	16//		4//	7//	
OV36	44	1469	Avril Young	265//					55//	1HAR
OV37	34.6	1777, 1778, 2169, 2170	Rae & Ann Gordon, K & O Winterton	4//		1//			15//	
Total	1652			5644	69	251	47	7	1270	2HAR, 1KB, 1LB,
Birds/100 km				341.7	4.2	15.2	2.8	0.4	76.9	6SBK, 4WS
OV34	61	636, 1211	Mick, June & Heather D’Alton	2//		5//				5HAR, 5SBK

Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in other Western Cape precincts								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other species
WB01	61	343, 2346, 2348, 1101	M Andela, M & A Oosthuizen, A Mocke			35//1		3KB, 2LB
WB03	59	1909, 2468	Stefan & Madeleine Theron	123//		17//		2NBK
WC01	41.4	1291, 1989	George Hattingh & Terry Robertson		3//			1LB, 1SBK
WC02	56	2293, 2857	Carol & Mike Hewitt	6//			2//	
WK02	47.6	2139, 2314	Gillie & Jenny Schütte	2//	1//		1//	
WK03	36.8	2292, 10729, 10863	Adrius Rabie, T Malan & S-M Burger	13/30/			18//	1SBK
WK04	44.2	2140, 2182, 2574	Mike Ford, Margaret Powell & D Maurer	98//			42//	1HAR
WK05	17	2140, 2182, 2574	Mike Ford, Margaret Powell & D Maurer					
WK06	40.9	991, 2239, 11747	Donella Young, Robyn & Adel Kadis		3//		1//	2SBK
WU01	49.5	2062	Pat Nurse & Sandy Howell	4//		1//		5LB, 1SBK
WU02	58.3	1392, 11372	Johnny de Jaar & Robert Smith	106//	1//		3//	6DB, 6KB, 2LB, 1SBK
WU03	49.1	2062	Pat Nurse & Sandy Howell			8//		
WU04	35	2156	Allistair Pietersen & Jason Peach		1//			
WU05	70	297, 1520	Mike & Gill & Kim Euston-Brown	236//			8//	16DB, 1SBK
WU06	13	2156	Allistair Pietersen & Jason Peach					
WU07	68	2299, 545	Bob James, Koos Maya & Team	9//			1//	4DB, 3SBK
WW02	60	1475	Alan Collett		1//			
Total	807			627	10	62	76	26DB, 1HAR, 9KB,
Birds/100 km				77.7	1.2	7.7	9.4	10LB, 2NBK, 10SBK
WB - Beaufort West precinct, WC - Calitzdorp precinct, WK - Little Karoo, WU - Uniodale precinct, WW - Wilderness								

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



Eastern Cape

A reminder to include Oribi in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds. Please remember to record habitat as for bird species.



Number of birds counted in July 2010 census in Eastern Cape												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	Other species
EB01	63.5	175, 174	Ken & Gertie Griffith & team		10//		8//					2GH
EB03	67.7	115, 680, 2119, 1988	Graham Winch, I Field, P Swift, G Branford		2//	47/8//	15//				2//	
EB04	63	1567, 1568, 1584, 2073	Ken & Barbara Monfoort, W Perks & D Nell		10//	25//	12//					
EB05	32.6	195, 10913, 2736, 2734	Phil Whittington, Liz Watkins, D & J le Roux			4//					4//	
EB06	62.3	10251, 142, 6177, 6179	Michael Stanyon, N Smith, O & G Tharratt		11//	6//						
EE10	63	899, 6161	Kevin & Lesley Meise		6//	39/1//				2//		4BI,3UK
EE11	55	1261	Mike Agenbag & family & C Lombaard		2//	12/2//					48//	8BI
EE12	51	901	Jenni Brown		1//	2/1//						3UK
EE19	83.8	1130	Sandy Stretton	68//		2/2//		3//				48UK
EE23	42	2044, 2180	Des & Martie Schroeder							3//	20//	
EG02	52.5	1530	Lorraine Mullins & team							1//		
EG03	14	341, 2081	Bo Bonnevie & Jim Cambray						5//			1KB
EG04	58	161, 2144	Adrian Craig, Jenny Gon & Arthur Webb					2//		1//		
EG05	44.6	887	Nikki Köhly & team						4//			
EH03	53.2	2289, 2398, 1772	Chris & Valda Barratt & M Keulemans	4//	18//		59//				50//	
EH04	44	1767, 1766, 2402	Jill Tudhope, Peter Bosman & J Thorpe	63//	2//		4//				6//	
EH05	38.5	1612, 1794, 301, 11507	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout, C & J Cook		9//		24//					8WBK
EH06	54.69	312, 2753, 2755	Yvonne Craig, Geoff & Erica Knight	15/2//	9//		39//				1//	3WBK
EK02	42.8	885, 2454	John Lardner-Burke & Brian Matthew		3//		1//			3//		
EK04	55.6	2210, 2209	John Potter & Sheila Walsh		4//							1WS
EK05	62.5	1528, 1527	Laurie Wood & Jenny Roxburgh		2//		2//					
EM01	62.1	974, 6163	Bradley & Janine Gibbons	2//				2//				5NBK,2UK
EM02	61	2304, 2436	Ron Blaker & Nikki Thomson	2//								
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffman					21//	5//			1HAR,6KB,8KK
EP02	65	83, 2581, 2583	Andrew Nixon, C Erasmus & M Potgieter	431//		1//		14//	9//			8KK
EP03	61	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro					32//	1//	2//	2//	
EP04	70.8	869, 11264	Peter Hall & Gordon Bain	1//				9//	4//	1//		28KK
EP06	55	10144	David Smeda & John Webber	46//				35//				
EP07	72.7	2246	Michael, Dylan & Patrick Lord	7//			1//	5//		2//		21NBK
EP08	110.8	270, 10795, 10736	Dave Brown, P Campbell & R Zietsman	9//				45//	5//	5//		19KK
EP09	31	10144	David Smeda & John Webber									
EP10	40	1731, 2265	John & Rolene Bowker	58//				2//				9KK,11NBK
EP11	49.7	1852, 10794	Briar Wright & Sigrid Kenyon		11//		5//				2//	
ES03	58.6	2147, 6165	Alison & Chris Drewnicki	4/2//				28//	3//	2//		3KK
ES04	47	1476	Judy Caryer	40/1//								
ES07	33.1	2005, 2420, 6167	Ros Turner & Brendan & Gill Farrell	2//				15//	2//			2KB
ES08	50	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows					3//		1//		8KB,3KK
ES10	27	2496, 4031	Gerald Buisman & Lee Visser	376//								
ES11	38.5	2211, 2212	Greg & Fiona Brown	39//			1//		1//			
Total	2112			1172	100	152	171	216	39	23	135	12BI,2GH,1HAR,
Birds/100 km				55.5	4.7	7.2	8.1	10.2	1.8	1.1	6.4	17KB,78KK,
Precincts: EB - Border, EE - Northeast Cape, EG - Grahamstown, EH - Humansdorp, EK - Kenton,												37NBK,56UK,
EM - Middelburg, EP - Port Elizabeth (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), ES - Somerset East												11WBK,1WS

A highlight for Ken and Gertie Griffiths was seeing two Southern Ground Hornbills for the first time on EB01, a fitting “re-ward” for their 25th CAR count! Graham Winch, who counts EB03, noted that they used to see Black Harriers regularly, about one sighting a count, but for at least the last five years none have been recorded. But on EP01 Patrick Brett recorded the first Black Harrier seen in eleven years! Andrew Nixon and his team saw one out-of-range Grey Crowned Crane in a flock of 130 Blue Cranes on EP02; there were 421 Blue Cranes on this route altogether! I was delighted that EP03 was counted for the first time in a while. Ken and Jen Munro, who used to count EP06 and 09 regularly, have taken on this route. Dave Brown, Paddy Campbell and Ross Zietsman saw 45 Ludwig’s Bustard on EP08.

Parts of the Eastern Cape were still very dry. John Potter remarked that it was the driest he had ever seen his route, EK04. A notable change on his route has been the development of a log mill at 10 km and trees have been removed all along the route, letting bush grow. Five new small dams have been built as well. On EK02 game farms have been developed and gum trees removed, but wattles are returning. When I gave the talk at Kenton a farmer’s wife mentioned that the control of exotic vegetation in the Eastern Cape is receiving very little attention.

On the Humansdorp routes there were strong winds early in the day, as well as hazy conditions, but this improved. Valda Barratt reported that they had fantastic sightings of a Black Harrier hunting on EH03. She says “the record number of 59 Denham’s Bustards was great but heaven knows if their numbers will remain as high

with wind farms to be erected in the area.” A fire had ravaged the fynbos and Protea fields near the Mpofu Dam Treatment Works on this route. Abel Bezuidenhout reported that the most exciting experience on EH05 was seeing a group of White-bellied Korhaan calling on the ground and then flying off emitting a different call when taking to the air. Yvonne Craig pointed out the grave concern about the number of wind farms proposed for this area.

Kevin and Lesley Meise saw four Southern Bald Ibis on their route EE10 and on EE11 the Agenbags saw twelve! I am still waiting for some of the EE routes.

Gauteng



Thank you to Johan de Jager, of the West Rand Bird Club, for introducing six new people to the CAR project. Craig Whittington-Jones noted that a section on GC04 (16–30 km) was not counted and has been removed from the route due to construction of a massive slimes dam and also expansion of an informal settlement that is a problem from habitat transformation and safety point of view. The remainder of the deleted section is dense bush and not worth counting. Also GH03 is now 3.5 km shorter and ends at the intersection of R42. I was amazed that 810 HG were seen on GC03.

Many thanks to Francois Wolfaardt, who is “retiring” from CAR, after many counts in this province and previously in the Free State. Francois has spent many lunch breaks digging his bakkie out of the mud on his Gauteng route!

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG). Thank you to Craig for organising all these counts.

Number of birds counted in July 2010 census Gauteng								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other spp.
GB01	20.3	931	Francois Wolfaardt	45//	87//		1//	
GB02	30.4	931	Francois Wolfaardt		34//			
GB03	52	2135	Peter Huggins	8/2/	32//			
GB04	44	1814, 2793	Billy Malatji & Ramogale Sekwele		19//			
GB05	20.5	2286, 614, 2372, 11055	L Muller, R Geysler, J West & M van Schalkwyk	6//	90//	3//		1SEC
GB06	46	1764	Sean West	2//	191//			
GB07	54	613, 1764	Craig Whittington-Jones & Sean West		7//			2BC,2SEC
GC01	19	2046	Willem de Lange		82//	23//		
GC02	64.8	613, 3008	Craig Whittington-Jones & Ian Davidson	2//	526//	3//	150//	2SEC,2WS
GC03	73.5	2390, 1377, 2141	Johan de Jager, Koos van Dyk, Peter Greaves	1//	197//	10//		2SEC
GC04	60.6	613, 1538	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones	11//	810//	6//		4SEC
GC05	62.8	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	5//	17//	7//	23//	
GD01	65	746	Andre Botha	48//	118//		16//	
GD02	52	2166	Neville Cornish	6//	14//			
GD03	35.7	2672, 2672, 2833	Boet & Ann Holmes	5/2/	25//		2//	4SEC
GD04	52	2338, 2434	Phuti Matlamela & Livhuwani Nevhutalu	9//	9/11/			
GD05	48.9	1126, 2975	Jon Smallie & Brenda Daly	12/4//	3//			2SEC,1WS
GH01	53.8	2045	Rouxdene Deyssel	8//	108//	3//	1//	28WS
GH02	78.1	2226	Daniel Koen	17/9/	24/3/	1//	18//	18WS
GH03	51.2	2101	Hein Pienaar	2//	79//	7//		
GH04	50	2095	Claire & Pierre Eksteen	4/1/	18//	4//	3//	
GH05	57	2300	Obeid Katumba & Andries Mphuti	4//	66//	2//		
GM01	50	2287, 2374	Nico Grobler, Leon Lötter	2//	139//			
GM02	23	2102	Leon Labuschagne		51//			1SEC
GW01	52	2099	Piet Muller, T & R de Jongh		152//			2BS
GW02	49	2254, 1926	Lance Robinson & Alison Hanson	6/2/	382//	1//		2SEC
Total	1266			223	3294	70	214	2BC,20SEC,
Birds/100 km				17.6	260.3	5.5	16.9	2BS,49WS
GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site								