

Animal Demography Unit

Department of Zoology
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701
South Africa
Phone: (021) 6504239,
(021) 6502423
Fax: (021) 6503434
www.adu.org.za
Donella.Young@uct.ac.za



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



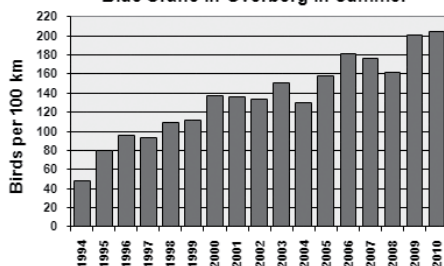
Newsletter 30, June 2011

General

It is the ADU's 20th anniversary this year and we are celebrating 20 years of citizen science! All of you participating in CAR have been wonderful citizen scientists contributing many hours of your birding skills and time driving along mostly gravel roads counting all the big birds that you see. We are only sorry that you couldn't all be at the Kirstenbosch gathering on 11 June – we live in too vast a country! It is always very meaningful to me to meet people who take part in CAR, especially as I know all your names from the roadcount forms. You can read about the gathering in the Latest News on the ADU website, in an article written by Les Underhill on 11–6–2011. There is also an article *“Western Cape Birding Forum congratulates the Animal Demography Unit on 20 years of outstanding research” on the same date that you will find interesting.*

When preparing my presentation for the ADU 20 Celebration I was impressed to realize that you have together counted 550 000 km over the last 18 years of CAR monitoring. This is an incredible achievement when you consider that there have been stops every 2 km along that vast distance and scans at each stop for CAR birds, not to mention the costs that you have covered yourselves! There are now 9358 roadcounts on the database and 130 800 lines of birds sightings in the database! This just highlights for me the staggering amount of data that can be collected when one combines the contributions of many citizen scientists! So a **HUGE THANK YOU** to you all! I have included a figure from the Blue Crane article that I have recently updated for submission to a journal, as an example of some of the results you have achieved:

Blue Crane in Overberg in summer



At the end of this year Les will be retiring as Director of the ADU. Les initiated the ADU as a research group managing the first Bird Atlas and SAFRING. Since then the different monitoring projects have been developed with James Harrison acting as Projects Manager until relatively recently. Les has supervised 19 completed PhDs and a few are in the “pipeline”, and many Master's graduates.

The future of the ADU is currently uncertain, but we are looking at various alternatives depending on the amount of funding that we are able to source. If you have any contacts in the corporate world whom we could approach please let me know. Mark Anderson, Director of BirdLife SA, our partner, has generously offered to assist in approaching motor vehicle and fuel companies for CAR.

Thankfully the weather was clear and most routes were passable on 29th January following all the rain up north. Thank you to those who had to drive extra km to get to the other side of flooded bridges. I know the Chrissiesmeer teams “sloshed over the roads”, but managed their highest total of big birds yet. Parts of the Eastern Cape were still very dry, but there had been good summer rains in the north-eastern region. The grass was very long in the grassland biome, making the sighting of birds difficult in parts. Rick Nuttall, who counts FS91 sent me a photo of sheep that had almost disappeared from sight! It was fortunately not as hot as predicted down here in the Western Cape. You should have received an email about the “thank you” article in the Latest News (click on “more” at the end of the current Latest News and scroll down to 4–2–2011) and the **interim website report on the summer count** at http://car.adu.org.za/news_summer_2011.php. If not please let me know so that I can add you to the CAR distribution list. Please do read these interim reports, as I am not able to repeat all the information in this newsletter.

Four new routes were explored for the January count; one by Alan Lee near Willowmore, another by Briar Wright in the Port Elizabeth precinct, another by Nicholas Theron near Hogsback and lastly one by Mpho Phiri, of the Mmabatho/Mafeking Bird Club, to the west of the town. Thank you to these route leaders, all new to CAR apart from Briar, for all their time in planning these routes. There are now three routes in the North West province and I hope there will soon be more!

Sally Hofmeyr is planning to finish her PhD thesis by the end of the year, and will be providing feedback to all the extra counters after she's finalised the analysis of the extra counts. She presented the population trend and habitat use results for the Fynbos biome at the Fynbos Forum, and there was a fair amount of interest in and concern about them from those who attended the talk.

Data Requests

In the April website report I mentioned three data requests that we responded to earlier this year.

In the last few months I have been curating the CAR database, catching up since the “too busy” years when we had Critical Ecosystem Partnership funding for the Big Birds on Farms project. I have also been sorting out route maps for Monique Boucher to capture onto GIS, so that Sally Hofmeyr could get accurate GIS route lengths for all her PhD calculations. I am very grateful to Monique for the many hours that she has spent capturing and checking route maps and to Sally for her help finalising the maps and to those of you who responded to queries.

This week Sally sent all three crane species' trends for the different precincts, using the Underhill Index, to Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) African Crane Conservation Programme for their Biodiversity Management Plans workshop in late July. René Navarro has just updated the summary data used for the queries that Hugues le Ray and Michael Brooks developed, so that this summary data is also available

for the workshop. Now that everything is up-to-date we will also be able to send data requested for the Free State's Biodiversity Conservation Plan by Brian Colahan and Nacelle Collins.

Date of Summer CAR Count

The next CAR count is on Saturday, 30 July 2011. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise. The next summer count will be on **Saturday, 28 January 2012!**

Citizen Science Biodiversity Week 23–31 July

This biodiversity week will form part of the ADU 20 celebrations and obviously as CAR participants you will be contributing, as the CAR count falls within this week. It will also involve all the ADU projects, from the birds to the butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, reptiles, trees and weavers, through the Virtual Museum. Refer to the ADU website for further details.

CAR Count Information

As mentioned in the last newsletter please be on the look out for **irrigation** and note this in the column “**relevant feature nearby**”. Also in dry, windy areas **windpumps** are often an attraction, so do record this too. Jacky Steytler-Lamer pointed out that windpump is far more accurate than windmill!

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 30 July 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 August, **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 notification of CAR count information by email! If you are willing to receive an email informing you of where to find the newsletters etc. online, please tick this on your roadcount form. **I don't send any attachments as too many of you are on farm lines!** This is saving us a considerable amount in postage.

Email addresses

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

RESULTS: MISTAKES & 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.

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. There was a major error in Newsletter 27 for KG04 that was missed. 1SBK should be 1DB. It is never too late to report mistakes, but the earlier the better!

SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS

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

Electronic Roadcount Form

Thank you to the many who took the time to fill in the electronic form after doing their count, this certainly helped speed up data capture. It is just very important that you **double check after transcribing the information from the hand-written copy to the Microsoft Word form.** This certainly facilitates checking that everything is filled in!

This Word version is at 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.

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 summer 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 or email list, please send me their contact details.

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

Last month I delivered the last 300 Afrikaans booklets to Jan Smit at the Department of Agriculture. Jan, who is the Landcare District Manager for the Swartland, had received a request for some booklets from a school and requested more for distribution to farmers.

We would value your assistance in letting as many farmers as possible know about this booklet to encourage the conservation of biodiversity on farms. It is available on our ADU website under Conservation Resources in both languages at a high and low resolution.

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!

Next week I will be attending the Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) Conference. The theme for this year is **Conservation & Agriculture – a common agenda**. As you probably remember it was through our partnership with CAPE that we were able to apply for the CEPF funding that enabled us to develop the Big Birds on Farms project.

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

We were very relieved to hear recently that the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is able to provide core funding through the Birds and Environmental Change Partnership for CAR this year! But there is a shortfall in the budget and as mentioned earlier CAR's future is uncertain.

Many thanks to the Somerset West and BirdLife Border Bird Club for regularly sending a welcome donation to CAR.

Thank you for drawing attention to birds through the articles you write in local newspapers or Bird Club newsletters. Bo Bonnevie, Adrian Craig and Lorraine Mullins wrote reports in the *Diaz Diary*. Barbi Forsyth, who coordinates the Chrissiesmeer routes, wrote an article about the follow-up Bird ID training workshop for farm workers in the area in *Bokmakierie*. There are more details about this and a Birding Awareness competition that was organised by Ursula Franke and Thandeka Khumalo, both of EWT's Crane Conservation Programme in the interim website report. Thank you to those of you who write about your CAR counts on the birdnets as well!

Virtual Museums (VM)

Thank you to those who are sending 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://itouchmap.com/latlong.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 start submitting tree photos 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 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.

Threatened species on the increase

The 2011 edition of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List for Birds records that 1253 bird species are threatened. This means that 13% of all surviving bird species are now threatened. Refer to the article <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/13668026> for further details and a stunning photo of the metre tall Great Indian Bustard that has just been declared

Critically Endangered. **Fifteen of the 36 species that are monitored by CAR are Red Data species.**

EWT-African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT-ACCP)

As mentioned earlier this EWT programme is responsible for developing Biodiversity Management Plans for each of the three crane species. The data you have collected will be used in developing these plans.

You can download this programme's newsletter, the *Grus Grapevine*, from the News section of their webpage or click on <https://www.ewt.org.za/WHATWEDO/OurProgrammes/AfricanCraneConservationProgramme/News.aspx>

Ringed birds

No colour ringed Blue Cranes were seen. **Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species at all times** and report details to SAFRING. If you have a telescope or digital camera these do help.

In the March edition of the *Grus Grapevine* (mentioned above) Tanya Smith wrote an informative article on crane ringing and reported a very important ring resighting. Recently a ring resighting was reported to the EWT-ACCP that was the first of its kind. A colour ringed Blue Crane was re-sighted in the Eastern Cape, west of Addo Elephant Nature Reserve. "Therefore the marking of this bird has allowed us to confirm movement of a Blue Crane that was raised in the wheat fields of the Overberg and as an adult has moved into an area with very different land use and cover in the Eastern Cape." To date the majority of ring resightings have indicated local movements. Nearly 1300 Cranes have been fitted with colour rings since 1986, with the majority of the birds being colour ringed since 1993. This ringing and resighting data is in the process of being analysed to answer key questions about South Africa's three crane species.

Reporting dead birds

Alison and Neville Passmore reported a dead White Stork on OV20 under telephone lines. John Carter reported a Blue Crane powerline mortality on OV05. According to a farmer he met the powerline is *en route* to a roosting site and the farmer would like it moved. It turns out that this powerline is being actively monitored by Jessica Shaw, a PhD student. Just a reminder to report all powerline collisions to



Powerline collision fatality. Photo: Alan Collett.

EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme and Eskom Strategic Partnership on 0860 111 535 or wep@ewt.org.za.

Southern Bald Ibis project

Kate Henderson (ibis@birdlife.org.za) would appreciate any sightings of Southern Bald Ibis and particularly nest sites in KwaZulu-Natal.

Southern Ground-Hornbills

No Ground-Hornbills were recorded this last count. Do send **any sightings of this threatened species at any time of year** to Scott Ronaldson on 013 7355550 or scottr@ewt.org.za. If possible please supply co-ordinates or the exact area.

ADU online Shop

There is an online shop on the ADU home page where you can order an ADU 20 T-shirt or a copy of *The Adventures of Peter the Penguin* (second edition). This book appeals to all ages.

Thank you!

I am very aware of the increased petrol costs for your counts – thank you so much for your dedication and generosity in contributing to the monitoring and conservation of these birds in this way. You are an incredible team of observers, many of you have counted your particular route regularly over a long period. This makes the CAR data so valuable as there

is consistency in observations and you are able to note any changes in habitat. Great thanks to all forty Precinct Organisers who keep in touch with you, gather all the forms and check for missing information saving us so much time.

Thank you to Denise Lesch for capturing all the roadcount forms and editing the tables in the midst of many other tasks. Apart from data capture Denise has taken on the financial management that Linda Tsipa did and for the last few weeks has covered for Sue Kuyper who has been on medical leave. Thank you to Marja Wren-Sargent for typesetting this newsletter.

Travel safely and keep warm!

Donella Young,
Project Coordinator

COUNT RESULTS SUMMER 2011

KwaZulu-Natal

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

It was wonderful to meet some of you at the BirdLife KZN Forum meeting at Umgeni Valley. I appreciated the opportunity to give feedback about the CAR project and also some highlights of the last 20 years of your contributions as citizen scientists. I was also glad to meet Alec Röhrs, as I had been so sad to hear from him early this year that Annemarie, his wife, had died. Annemarie had amazing enthusiasm for birds and initiated the KE routes in 1998. Over the years Annemarie has inspired many primary school children for birding and regularly took a group on CAR counts of KE01.

The low number of Denham's Bustards (6) was

most concerning. This is the lowest summer density (0.3 birds /100 km) since counts began in this province in 1997. The Secretarybird density was also the lowest yet at 0.4 birds/100 km. The grass was very tall, particularly in the Midlands precinct, which would have certainly affected the density but it has been tall in other years too.

White Storks were most numerous in the Newcastle precinct, but the highest total for a single route was recorded by Alan Geldart on KG08 (337). In the Midlands precinct John and Val Baxter wrote that the storks were possibly scarce as the pastures had already been mown and baled. Unusually the high-

est route total for Wattled Cranes was on a Midlands Route, KM01.

Malcolm Gemmell heard a Black-bellied Korhaan on his route KC01. There is an isolated patch of distribution of this species in this area. Tony and Val Cross saw two of this shy species on KD08.

Andre Bouwer noted that two new dams had been built on his route, KN03, at 20 km and 38 km. He will look out for any changes.

Thank you to Ntokozo Cele who is handing over the Paulpietersburg routes to Louis Lombard. Thank you to Louis, an Honorary Officer, for his willingness to assist.

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 his oversight of CAR in KZN.

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in KwaZulu-Natal													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
KC01	51.1	433	Malcolm Gemmell			27 8	3				11	96	1BBK
KD01	80	2084, 2085	Henery & Liz Bugden		10	2			8	2		20	
KD02	63	677	Paul & Carl Garner		15	8			1		2	38	
KD03	70.6	10921, 11338	Norman Leveridge & Laurie Chivers		9 1					1	6 4	5	
KD04	49.8	2352	Peter & Russell Smith		1				4 2			2	
KD05	43.2	1713	Elizabeth Durham		7		1		2	1			
KD06	53.02	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker		3						1	1	
KD07	72	909	Heino Wellmann		2								3WBK
KD08	61	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross		1	18			1	17			2BBK
KD09	59	2285, 1716	Lynne Ruddle & Margie Post		2	1				3			
KD10	28	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross		1		2 1				14 9		
KG02	52.7	1073, 2709, 2711	Pat Lowry, Dave & Margie Shaw	2	2		75	1			12	17	1OR
KG03	54	2703, 2701, 2705, 2707	Ingrid & K. Bryden, P & A Louwrens	3 1	9		12		4		14	19	
KG05	54.6	2308, 10747	John Shire & Ansell Matcher		21		9				32	13	3WC
KG06	58.6	623	Brian Byers		6		6			1	10	1	
KG08	61	2086	Allan Geldart	12	4				3		47	337	
KG10	45.2	2713	Jeremy Brownrigg		2		61				34	1	
KL01	74	11537, 808, 10029	Dave Marshall, T.Clarkson & P. Nelson		7		1		1		1	3	1BBK
KL11	34.4	814, 1792	Ann Gray & Frik Lemmer		3		1		4 5		2	1	
KM01	76.6	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernardine Turner	1	10	30	11		9		31	47	11WC
KM02	60.2	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter		4	70	2				3	34	2OR, 2WC
KM03	95	474	Shirley Bennett & team		1				2		11	12	
KM04	35	1581, 1290	Evelyn Hughes & Brian Ellison	2	6		4				9	65	
KM05	78	6121, 6413	John & Carmeline Curry		2		3					4	
KM06	90.9	1904, 1905	Drummond & Gloria Densham	6 4	2						15	74	
KM07	58.4	1799	Peter Dival		6	36			2		3 1		
KM08	60.1	2280	Diane Mason		8						51	55	4OR
KN01	62.6	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		2	8	2 3	1	16		2	4	2SS
KN03	54	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		1	33			3			32	1SS
KN04	49.5	925	Alan Schwikkard	1	6							241	
KN05	38.6	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		7					1	9	152	
KN06	54	2036	Klaus Heyer		4	20 4	8		9		2 1	13	1SS
KO01	52	425, 1529, 431, 1963	Gavin & S.Calverley, D.Leitch, S.Calitz		3				5 7	1		4	
KU01	70.4	2015, 740	Gayle & John Ellison	2	24 1 2	11	25				18	104	2OR
KU02	62.5	10451, 10491, 2350	Graham Kletz, R.Clark, B.Osborne		2		14	1	8		16	46	3WC
KV01	84	1683	AP Keeve		1	12	5	3			16	33	
KV03	63.1	815, 6415	Helena & Clive Mattison		1								
KV04	34.6	1722, 1790	Charl Oberholster & Arlene Steyn		1					2		1	
Total	2245			36	198	288	249	6	95	10	407	1475	4BBK, 9OR, 4SS, 3WBK, 19WC
Birds/100 km				1.6	8.8	12.8	11.1	0.3	4.2	0.4	18.1	65.7	
Precincts: KC - Creighton, KD - Dundee, KE - Escourt, KG - East Griqualand, KL - Ladysmith, KM - Midlands, KN - Newcastle, KO - Melmoth, KP - Paulpietersburg, KU - Underberg, KV - Vryheid.													



Frik Lemmer, (KZN Wildlife). Leigh Lemmer (educator) together with six learners from Winterton Primary School accompanied Ann Gray on KL11. The learners were Tiya Balakisten, Taryne Young, Abigail West, Emma Honiball, Brileigh Dicks and Eduard Niewenhuis. Photo: Ann Gray.



Number of birds counted in January 2011 census Gauteng									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other species	
GB01	20.2	613, 1764	Craig Whittington-Jones & S.West	11	7		4		
GB02	23.3	6345	Maroti Tau		12	1	1		
GB03	52.8	2135	Peter Huggins	1	22	14	14	50WS	
GB04	44	1814, 2793	Billy Malatji & R.Sekwele		4				
GB05	19	1764	Sean West						
GB06	45	1764	Sean West	2	14		1		
GB07	54	613, 1764, 3008	C.Whittington-Jones, S.West & I.Davidson	2	8		1	1AS,1SEC,3WS	
GC01	19	2046	Willem de Lange		2	30			
GC02	64.8	613, 3008, 11513	C.Whittington-Jones, I.Davidson & H.Nel	16	12	6	2		
GC03	73.4	2390, 1123	Johan de Jager & K. Richards		7	11			
GC04	74.9	613, 1538	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones	6	22	7	1		
GC05	63	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	1	30		5		
GD01	65	746	Andre Botha	30	23		1		
GD02	52	2166	Neville Cornish	1	4		2		
GD03	36	2672, 2833	Boet & Ann Holmes	4			2		
GD04	50	2338, 2434	Phuti Matlamela & L. Nevhutalu	11	10	2			
GD05	48.9	1126	Jon Smallie	12	17				
GH01	53.8	2045	Rouxdene Deyssel	1	17		1		
GH02	72.3	2226	Daniel Koen	7	2		1		
GH03	51	2101	Hein Pienaar	1	5	5	8		
GH04	50	2095	Claire & Pierre Eksteen	2	11		3		
GH05	57	2300	Obeid Katumba & team	3	2	1			
GM01	50	2287, 2374	Nico Grobler & Leon Lötter		2				
GM02	20	2102	Leon Labuschagne		5			1SEC	
GW01	52	2099	Piet Muller		38				
GW02	48	6343	Yvonne Pennington & team	2	15	1			
Total	1259			114	305	64	48	1AS, 2SEC,	
Birds/100 km				9.1	24.2	5.1	3.8	53WS	
GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site									

Gauteng

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG).



There were far fewer “other species” this last summer count than usual. The species diversity in this province is usually low, but not usually as low as this. The last count with such a low diversity was also after heavy rains (January 2008). So thank you to all observers for persevering despite not many sightings of large terrestrial birds.

Peter Huggins and team recorded 50 White Storks on GB03. The highest total of Northern Black Korhaans by far was on Willem de Lange and Paulos Mahlangu’s route, GC01.

Thank you to Craig for organising all these counts and to all his Gauteng Nature Conservation colleagues for their assistance with counts.

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.

Steenkampsberg precinct

It is encouraging that a breeding pair of Blue Cranes with two chicks was recorded on MS06. This route also had the highest species diversity in this precinct.

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

The road for route MM01 was in very poor condition due to all the mining activity in this region.

Standerton precinct

The numbers seemed to be down in this precinct, but possibly the birds were more dispersed after the heavy rains. Johan van Rensburg’s route, MT05, did have a high species diversity as is often the case.

Wakkerstroom precinct

It was a beautiful clear day in this precinct. The McAllister’s and Ann Cleal had a wonderful count of 11 different species on MW03. Sandy and Kevin Twomey recorded the highest total of Southern Bald Ibis in the precinct. Thank you to Judy-Lynn Wheeler for keeping copies of count forms, as the original counts got lost in the post!

Chrissiesmeer precinct

There were 550 White Storks on MC04. This is the highest count on any route in the country this last count. Ralph and Daphne Wordon and Jake Mulvaney also counted 37 Grey Crowned Cranes on this route which is remarkable for this area.

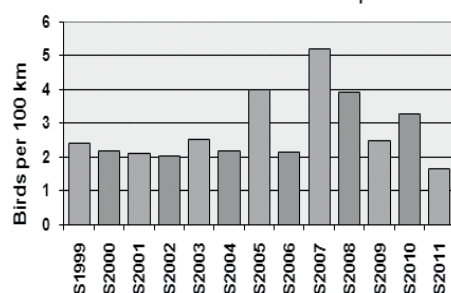
Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in Mpumalanga												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
MC02	62	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth		4				38		1	1DB, 5SEC
MC03	56.1	2256, 11771, 1369	Jean Thomas, B. Williams & L.Niss		15	22		2	38			
MC04	68.9	1368, 10961, 11989	Ralph & D. Wordon & J. Mulvaney		11		37		18		550	
MC05	68.8	1391, 1744	Phil & Lynn Silcock		7		2	21	11 2		10	
MC06	69	1337	Malcolm Henderson		4	35			14		8	3SEC
MC07	78.6	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth		13			16	6		27	
MM01	54	2290	Billy Smith		8			14	45 10			
MS04	64	2676, 732	Johan Engelbrecht & H. Geldenhuys									
MS05	54	728	Anton Linstrom	3	5		2		12		1	2SEC
MS06	52	1178	Hendrick van Wyk	3 2	14	19		2	12		7	1DB, 2OR
MS08	37.1	780	Hannes & Bevvie Marais	4				1				
MS09	54	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor		1			14	1			
MS14	54.5	2279	Ursula Franke & team		1	1			1			
MS15	51.5	724	Lientjie Cohen									
MT01	84	1817	Nalda Williams	2	2			45 2	1 1	6		5SS
MT02	64	10619, 6140	Robert van Bulderen & J. Snyman		10			24	8			1NBK, 12SS
MT03	34.5	1816	Colin Williams		3			1	5 3			4SS
MT04	35.3	1816	Colin Williams		2			18	12			3SS
MT05	66.4	2294	Johan van Rensburg		8	7		47 17	8	2		5GWF, 2NBK, 6ORF, 2SEC, 10SS
MW01	57	2480, 361	André Steenkamp & J-L Wheeler		6 8	28 2	1	20	1		12	
MW03	63	1867, 10721, 2003	John & Elize McAllister & A. Cleal	10 2	10	26	5	3	10	6	132	2BBK, 5DB, 4SEC
MW06	58.5	2199, 2018	Penny Fox & Beverley Thorne		6			5	9		27	
MW07	67.5	6407, 6358	John & Judy Ryder		5	38 3		3			20	
MW08	88.9	550, 2017	Brian Guerin & Norman Dennett	2	9	47		15	5 2		121	3SEC
MW09	87	6409, 6411	Sandy & Kevin Twomey		7	83			14		19	
MW10	53	2017, 550	Norman Dennett & Brian Guerin	2	3			14	9		39	
Total	1584			30	153	211	47	274	286	14	974	7DB, 2BBK, 2OR,
Birds/100 km				1.9	9.7	13.3	3.0	17.3	18.1	0.9	61.5	5GWF, 3NBK, 6ORF, 19SEC, 34SS
Precincts: MC - Chrissiesmeer, MM - Middelburg, MS - Steenkampsberg, MT - Standerton, MW - Wakkerstroom.												

Eastern Cape

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

Do read the highlights in the interim report mentioned under the General Section, as I am not able to repeat them all here.

Denham's Bustard in Eastern Cape



The Denham’s Bustard summer density was the lowest ever. What is very interesting is that apart from one higher count in summer 2005, the density was initially very stable, but then four years ago but it has declined since then (see histogram). It is also remarkable that the highest ever summer density in the Overberg for this species was also in summer 2007. The Ludwig’s Bustard density was also particularly high in the summers of 2005 and 2007, as well as 2001. Please note no allowance has been made for routes not counted.

The highest count of Grey Crowned Cranes (57) was on EB03, Graham Winch’s route. The highest count of White Storks (242) in the province was on EH03, counted by Chris and Valda Barrett and team. Patrick

Brett counted by far the most Ludwig’s Bustards (38) on EP01. EP07, counted by Michael Lord and his family, has often had the highest number of Northern Black Korhaan, while EE19, counted by Sandy Stretton has always had the highest count of Blue Korhaan. This last count EE19 was the only route to record Blue Korhaan. Sandy noted that the grass was very tall and none were seen between 29–30 km where they are always seen. The north-eastern region had received good summer rains, but the region down south where the EP and EH routes are was still extremely dry.

Sheila Bell-Cross noted a change in farming practice on EE22 where much more soya is now cultivated. Sheila also mentioned that the White Storks only arrived in the area on 27th January, whereas they usually arrive in December.

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
EB01	63.5	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith		5 1	17 3	2			2	1	11	
EB02	75	1398, 2408	Keith Marshall & Peter Mather-Pike		4	1	5				1		
EB03	67.3	115, 680, 2119, 1988	Graham Winch, I.Field, P.Swift & G.Branford	7	6	57					25	68	
EB04	63.1	1568, 1567, 1584	Ken & Barbara Monfoort, W.Perks & S.Smith	2	3	11 2					3	8	
EB05	33.1	195, 10913, 2736, 2734	Phil Whittington, L.Watkins, J & D.le Roux	2		2					3	15	
EB06	62.7	10251, 142, 6179, 6177	Michael Stanyon, N.Smith, O & G Tharratt		15	2					18	11	
EE01	37.5	1129	Adele Moore			4					1		
EE06	56	2281	Jacky Steytler Lamer	2	1	5					2	3	
EE10	63	899	Kevin Meise		3 1						2 1	40	1BS
EE12	55	901	Jenni Brown	10 2	3						1	18	
EE19	83.7	1130	Sandy Stretton	105 2 4	9 17	2 1		3			16	11	2BS,22UK
EE20	59.6	2281	Jacky Steytler Lamer			2						3	
EE22	14.9	2251, 2312	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Feely		2	2					9	22	
EE23	38	2044, 2180	Desmond & Martie Schroeder		1						13		10KB
EG02	52.5	1530	Lorraine Mullins	9	1				4			1	
EG03	76.1	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonnevie, Jim & Eve Cambray	6 3					14	2			
EG04	57	161, 10350	Adrian Craig & John Moore	9	4			2	2			9	
EG05	44.6	887	Nikki Köhly							2			
EH03	58	2289, 2398, 2400	Chris & Valda Barratt & C.Greathead	10 2	26		8				10	242	
EH04	44	1767, 1766, 2402	Jill Tudhope, Peter Bosman & Julia Thorpe		6						15	106	
EH05	38.5	1612, 1794, 301, 11507	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout, C & J Cook	4	1		1			1	1	1	1HAR
EH06	54.7	312, 2753, 2755, 2406	Y. Bosman, G & E Knight & M.Langlands	44	9		16				47	185	1HAR
EK02	42.8	885	John Lardner-Burke		4		2					22	1OR
EK04	56.5	2210, 2209	John Potter & Sheila Walsh				2				12		
EK05	62.5	1528, 1527, 131	Laurie Wood, J.Roxburgh & Dagmar Rampf				2				9	56	
EM01	62.1	974, 2111	Bradley & Lee-Ann Gibbons	8 2				4		2			7NBK
EM02	61	2304, 2436	Ron Blaker & Nikki Thomson	2									
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffman	14				38	12	6			3KB,12KK
EP02	65	83, 2581	Andrew Nixon & Corne Erasmus	28 1				8	7	4	1	17	3KB,1KK
EP03	61	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro					6	7				5KK
EP04	72	869, 11264	Peter Hall & Gordon Bain	1 1					3				14KK
EP06	56	10144, 595	David Smeda & John Webber	2					7			22	
EP07	72.4	2246, 6173, 6175	Michael & Dylan & Patrick Lord	4 1				9				55	6KB,89NBK
EP08	111	270, 10795, 10736	Dave Brown, Paddy Campbell & R.Zietsman	15 2 4				13	1		2	3	10KB,17KK
EP09	31	10144, 595	David Smeda & John Webber									53	
EP10	43	1731, 2265	John & Rolene Bowker	20				2		2	13		53NBK
EP12	39.2	1852, 10794	Briar Wright & Sigrid Kenyon		17		2				6	70	
ES02		2063	Braam Basson	3									
ES03	60	6394, 11755	Fiona Munro & Leone Fouche	2 1	1								8KK
ES04	46.7	1476, 1972	Judy & Zorb Caryer	5				1				1	
ES05	92	6396	Sophia du Toit	2 2					3	1		3	1KB
ES07	38.9	1965, 2005, 6167	Alison Brown, Ros Turner & Gill Farrell										
ES08	48	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows	5					4	2			
ES10	27	2291, 2496	Liz & Gerald Buisman	30 4								1	
ES11	38.5	2211, 2420	Greg Brown & Brendan Farrell	3					6				
Total	2458			385	139	111	40	86	70	24	192	1057	3BS, 2HAR, 33KB, 57KK, 1OR, 22UK, 149NBK
Birds/100 km				15.7	5.7	4.5	1.6	3.5	2.8	1.0	7.8	43.0	
EB - Border precinct, EE - Northeast Cape precinct, EG - Grahamstown precinct, EH - Humansdorp precinct, EK - Kentson precinct, EM - Middelburg precinct, EP - PE precinct (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), ES - Somerset East precinct													

Briar Wright noted that the White Storks were mostly in the vicinity of cattle and near water points on her new route, EP12. "Twenty-three European Rollers were seen all along the route – a real bonus!" EP11 has been discontinued. Jenny Roxburgh noted a definite decline in agriculture on EK05 possibly due to several consecutive years of drought.



Blue Cranes amongst cattle on EH03. Photo: Carolyn Greathead.



One consolation for the heat on EP08 was the discovery of this Karoo Korhaan nest. Photo: Paddy Campbell.



Sigrid, Russell and Fran surveying their new route EP12. Photo: Briar Wright.

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in Northern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	UK	WS	Other spp.		
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	3		10	11						
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock			1	6						
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	17 2			4	1				1BHH	
NK031	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson				10	1					
NK032	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	12 2			6						
NK033	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	2			16						
NK041	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt				6			4	4BHH,1BS,5KB,3SG		
NK042	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt	1			6	1					
NK044	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt	70	1		7						
NK091	20	480	Peter Ferreira	2	8 1	1	8				1BS,1KB		
NK092	20	480	Peter Ferreira	2		1	2			69			
NK093	20	480	Peter Ferreira				5				1SG		
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith	2									
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith		3		4	1					
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith										
NK181	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zyl	2	1		5	2			1BHH		
NK182	12.6	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zyl	2			8		1		1BHH		
NK221	20	2855, 6390	Isabelle & Jeanette du Preez	2		2	30				4KB,2SG		
NK222	20	2855, 6390	Isabelle & Jeanette du Preez			6	11						
NK223	20	2855, 6390	Isabelle & Jeanette du Preez				8						
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	6	2	4	42	4					
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	10 1		3	25						
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				14						
NK301	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	7			2				1AS,1KB,1SG		
NK302	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	6	3		1			1	1BHH,6DB,3KB		
NK391	20	2859	Neville Hoets				1				1BHH,2SG		
NK392	20	2859	Neville Hoets							4	2SG		
NK393	20	2859	Neville Hoets										
Total	553			147	22	29	238	10	1	78	9BHH,2BS,6DB,		
Birds/100 km				26.6	4.0	5.2	43.1	1.8	0.2	14.1	14KB,1AS,11SG		
NK461	20	10360	Marina Beal	49	2	20	2	1	2		4BHH,7BS,312SG		

32nd Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTSB), Northern Cape

It is a surprise to have another two Black Storks in this precinct and seven on Marina Beal's route on their farm. There were good summer rains in the Karoo which could account for this. This is only the second time this species has been recorded on these counts since July 2002.

There were 13 Black-Headed Herons, four of which were on Marina's farm. In past counts there have only been one or two of this species, apart from January 2006 when there were five. There was also a high rainfall in summer 2006.

The density of Kori Bustard was the highest yet, with the two previous highest densities being in winter 2000 and 2009.

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

Congratulations to Ronelle Visagie who received an Owl Award from BirdLife SA for her incredible contribution to the conservation of birds. Thank you to Ronelle and Christine Pienaar for organising these counts.



Western Cape

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in Swartland									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	WS	Other spp.	
SW01	74	1970	Fiona Hellmann	58 7 4	1				
SW02	76.9	503, 1077, 6403	Sean, Louise & Jack Tucker	30 3	1				
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgerd & Pat Waddell	3 1	4				
SW05	59	106, 11911	Mel Tripp & Charles Saunders	18 2	4	21			
SW06	74	1359, 10442, 11280	R.le Roux, H.Thompson & B.Patterson	28 3	3	19			
SW07	43	1122, 1366	Linda Reynolds & Lesley Teare	16 2	17	10			
SW08	65.2	1474	Bruce Mackenzie	7	3	95		2SEC	
SW09	59.7	2033	Jaco van Deventer	22 9	1	61			
SW10	64.3	2362, 2364	Donny & Hannali Malherbe	19 6	8	9 15			
SW11	69	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	10 2	2				
SW12	80.9	2207, 2208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	6	7	114		3SBK	
SW13	47.5	673, 674	Elna & Tertius Slabber	2	1	76			
SW14	50.4	506, 1882	Riaan & Marika van der Walt	16 6		5		1SEC	
SW15	63.5	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbüttel	61 6	12	73	4		
SW16	44	2051, 497	Cheryl Faull & Magda Schinkel	8 2 1		20			
SW17	55	2587	Clive Campbell-Smart	2	2	10		2SBK	
Total	990			360	65	528	4	5SBK,3SEC	
Birds/100 km				36.4	6.6	53.3	0.4		

Swartland precinct

Thankfully it was not as hot in this region as predicted. Angela, Jens and Diane Oelbüttel, who count a route near Tulbagh, recorded 67 Blue Cranes and five White Storks. The Blue Crane density was the third highest since counts began. Jan Hofmeyr reported three White Storks on the pig farm on 26th January. During most of the summer there had been none.

For the first time mealies were observed after 30 km on Elna Slabber's route, SW13. The mealies were under irrigation.

Overberg precinct

It was particularly dry in the Overberg following a hot summer. Most routes reported empty dams and rivers, apart from the Mossel Bay area where there had been good rains.

The density of Blue Cranes was lower than the last two summer counts, but still higher than any previous count. As Duncan and Inés pointed out in their summer report there were more juveniles than in the previous two summers. I was also struck by the significantly higher number of chicks on two routes, OV06 (21) and OV18 (14), while on all

other routes there were fewer than 10 chicks. A large portion of OV18 lies close to the Riviersonderend River. A number of participants remarked on the wide range in size of young cranes and the late breeding.

Ken Price recorded the highest number of White Storks (547) on OV07. Wicus Leeuwener saw a single Black Stork on his route, OV18. Andrew Marshall noted that there were no changes on OV23, apart from more pivot irrigation systems.

In the December 2009 Newsletter I included a staggering histogram showing the decline in the Southern Black Korhaan in this region. As in summer 2009, only two Southern Black Korhaan were recorded on the usual routes this last summer count. (OV34 is slightly different as it is mostly in De Hoop Nature Reserve which is why the results are always separate.) In April we spent a few days on a farm near De Mond Estuary which we have visited the last seven years. In the beginning when we drove through the farm Southern Black Korhaans flew up often. I was so surprised to see only one in April. Pieter Albertyn, who owns the farm and has participated in CAR for many years, confirms noticing this decline. A chapter of Sally's thesis is focussing on this species.

It is "the end of an era" for the OV12 team that has been counting this route since 1997. Heather Busby has been a very dedicated team leader who has planned trips to Cape Town in recent years since retiring to Knysna. Now that Dawn Woods, who has done CAR counts with Heather since 1994, has moved to Aberdeen, this team, including Gill Flemming and Rory Gilmour, is calling it a day! Thank you so much for counting so regularly! Pieter and Ann Albertyn, who have generously lent this team a wonderful farm cottage for the CAR weekend, are now taking over OV12 and friends of theirs (and ours!), Henry and Marion Naudé, are taking over their route OV10. Craig Thom and Bruce Squier, who have also counted regularly for many years are also "retiring" from their counts of OV09 and Ann Price, another CAR stalwart, will be taking over their route. Craig has also been involved in CAR since 1994 and been most supportive of the project. The Overberg counts are now two years shy of twenty years!

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in Overberg											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
OV01	54	229, 2311, 1063	Ines & Duncan Cooke & P.Rigg	90 12 3	17			1	23	21	
OV02	62.3	801, 802	Keith & Ann McAdam	114 17 4	12				59 12	289	
OV03	49.8	213, 214	Freya & Tom Brett	119 1				8			
OV04	27.5	213, 214	Freya & Tom Brett	34 2 5	1				11		
OV05	68.8	228, 6159, 1148, 649	John Carter, B.Boer, B.Dennis, T.Wienand	126 3	6	4	2	2		361	
OV06	52.7	1655, 2110	Stuart & Ruth McLennan	143 9 21	9	1	3	9	220		
OV07	65.4	496, 2184	Ken Price & Hester Snyman	104 10 2	5					547	
OV08	73.5	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	141 8	16	1	1	10	31	25BK	
OV09	46	1064	Max Ellwood	67 11 4	2				5 2	10	
OV10	54	56, 1585, 6331, 6333	Pieter & Ann Albertyn, H.&M. Naude	70 13 2	5 1				3 6	362	
OV11	60.8	245, 246, 6326	Sheila Siebert, M.Loubser & H.Keil	90 2	1	10			47		1HAR
OV12	57.3	215, 216, 1381, 1380	Heather Busby, Dawn Woods, Rory Gilmour & Gill Fleming	36 6 1	10	8			9		
OV13	70	520, 672, 671, 11821	Jill Mortimer, R.Lind, A.White & H.Wetmore	154 4 3	19 2 1	1	7			93	
OV14	88	123, 1922, 2492	John & O.Coats & Maureen Aucamp	89 23 1	9		2			217	
OV15	58	2112, 2113	John & Myra Jones	201 21 7	13 10					255	
OV16	62.2	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & W. du Toit	128 14 3	7	2		1	1	10	
OV17	62	878, 2440, 2442	Lee Burman & Mike & Helen MacNaught	102 1 4	11					33	
OV18	49.3	240	Wicus Leeuwener	207 14	6				19		1BS
OV19	67	219, 1213, 1632	Ronnie Crowther, E.Stodel, C.Wallace	67 14 5	4	3	1	1	25		
OV20	55	1325, 1441, 2344, 2342,2356, 2358	N & A.Passmore, B & E.Napier, S & A.Watermeyer	52 3	11					1	
OV21	64	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christina Terblanche	174 15 1	23				35	5	
OV22	56.8	1660	Sally Adam	45 7	21	2			12	57	
OV23	57	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall	4 2	13 5	1		2	6		
OV24	56.4	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	15	6	15		19			
OV26	19	871	Jeffrey Arizon	35 4							
OV27	67	2717	Aldo Pekeur	9 2	12 1			34	23		
OV28	35.2	2057, 6151	Bill & Alta Naude	1	1					1	
OV29	26.9	213, 214	Freya & Tom Brett	3				1			
OV33	62	1463, 6157	Frans & Stephanie de Graaff	152 2	4	3		30	48	1HAR	
OV36	44	1469	Avril Young	222 5 8	2	6		2	54		
OV37	34.5	1777, 1778, 2169	Rae & Ann Gordon & K.Winterton	127	1			1			
Total	1706				3220	267	57	16	6	359	1BS,2HAR,
Birds/100 km					188.7	15.6	3.3	0.9	0.4	21.0	156.4
OV34	59.8	1550, 636, 1211	Heyné Brink & Mick & June D'Alton		2	2					2HAR,25BK

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in other Western Cape precincts											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other spp.			
WB01	62	343, 2346, 2348, 1101	Maria Andela, A & M Oostenhuizen & A.Mocke			30			2KB,1LB		
WB03	58	1909, 2468	Stefan & Madeleine Theron	20		2			2LB,1NBK		
WC01	41.4	1291, 1989	George Hattingh & Terry Robertson		4				3LB		
WC02	55	2293	Mike Hewitt	2 1							
WK02	47.5	2139, 2314	Gillie & Jenny Schütte	4	1		3		26WS		
WK03	37.6	10729	Tineke & GJ Malan	8 2	4						
WK04	44.2	2138, 2574, 10859, 2182	Laurel Bloch, D.Maurer, S.Hofmeyer & M.Powell	13	3		4		25BK		
WK05	16.8	2138, 2574, 10859, 2182	Laurel Bloch, D.Maurer, S.Hofmeyer & M.Powell								
WK06	41.1	991, 2239	Donella Young & Robyn Kadis	33	2		101 10		15BK		
WU01	52.7	1392	Johnny de Jaar & team	5 1		2			2KB,4WS		
WU02	56.5	539	Jonas Witbooi & team	47			4		1DB,4LB		
WU03	51	540	Phillip Esau & team	4							
WU04	35	1606, 2156	Natalie Baker & Allistair Pietersen				22				
WU05	69.7	297, 1520	Mike & Gill Euston-Brown	54 1			8				
WU06	13	1606, 2156	Natalie Baker, Allistair Pietersen		2						
WU07	68	11543, 2299, 1899	John Rossouw, Rob & Richard James	6			3 2				
WU08	43.8	11617	Alan & Chris Lee	6		8			1KB,25BK		
WW02	74	1475	Alan Collett		6 1				11WS		
Total	867			207	23	42	157		1DB,5KB,10LB,		
Birds/100km				23.9	2.7	4.8	18.1		55BK,1NBK,41WS		
WB - Beaufort West precinct, WC - Calitzdorp precinct, WK - Little Karoo, WU - Uniondale precinct, WW - Wilderness											



OV20 was very dry. Photo: Alison Passmore.

On OV37 Rae and Ann Gordon noted that at 14.3 km there were new vineyards on the left hand side of road.

Many thanks to Duncan and Inés for all their assistance in coordinating the counts in this large precinct with so many crane sightings. **Please fax or post your form directly to Duncan and Inés Cooke:** 20 Oakbridge Village, Bizweni Avenue, Somerset West, 7130. Fax: 0865106470. Nandi Thobela is the new Overberg Crane Group field officer; her cell number is 071 4821873 if you have any queries about cranes.

Beaufort West precinct

It was incredibly hot on the CAR count day in this area.

Little Karoo precinct

The species diversity is low in this region. Thank you to all observers for stopping regularly despite few sightings.

Uniondale precinct

A big thank you to Natalie Baker, of Garden Route Conservation Services for her most efficient coordination of the Uniondale routes since 2003 and all the feedback she has given about the counts. Natalie is handing over the coordination of the Uniondale routes to Dr Alan Wheeler (CapeNature's Ecological Coordinator for the Karoo Area) as all these routes fall inside Dr Wheeler's area of operation. Natalie initiated involving members of the Lakes Bird Club to assist with these counts which has been most helpful.

As has most often been the case WU05 had the highest total of Blue Cranes followed by WU02. A new route, WU08 that fills a gap between these routes and an outlying EP route, was established by Alan Lee. I am glad that two Southern Black Korhaan were recorded on this route.

Calitzdorp precinct

There were very few sightings again on these two routes. I do appreciate all your efforts!



Free State

Brian Colahan, Principal Nature Conservation Scientist: Ornithology, Free State Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs, reports:

There was fortunately a break in the persistent mid-summer rains in the Free State at the end of January and most (103) of the routes in the three precincts were surveyed, though a few could be only partially covered. Damaged bridges and sections of roads meant that some routes could be completed only via long detours, while attempts to survey three of the routes were abandoned because of flooded roads – we are very grateful to everyone for their efforts.

A grand total of 6453 km were covered in the Free State, 1503 km in the North-eastern Precinct (FN), 837 km in the North-western (FW) and 4113 km in the Southern (FS). The total birds recorded (8275) gave the highest “density” (128/100 km) of birds so far recorded in this Province, but this figure was inflated by the 3025 White Storks seen along FS42, south-west of Jacobsdal. Without those birds there would have been fewer birds recorded (76/100 km) than in summer 2010 (113/100 km); this was due mainly to much lower Northern Black Korhaan totals for FW and FS, possibly because the lush grasslands made them more difficult to census. These conditions seem to have suited the Blue Cranes in FS and 23 chicks were spotted along eight of the routes. Of particular interest in this precinct were the nine Grey Crowned Cranes seen in the south-east, seven by Callie & Renett Bam (along FS73, N of Zastron), and another two by Hennie & Trix de Bruin (FS83, NW of Zastron).

Despite the fewer Northern Black Korhaans in the FW precinct, it was still the dominant species there, followed by the Spur-winged Goose. No Blue Korhaans were recorded and Tjaart Venter (FW62, just S of Koppies) spotted the only Secretarybird. Johan & Amelia Hardy (FW36, W of Welkom) saw

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
FS06	63.9	700	Johan Watson	106	1	12	60	5	7	7	6	5YS
FS07	62	6401	S.Tsangarakis, D.Kartsounis & N.Tarnanis	17			18				1	
FS09	61.8	24	Brian Colahan	9 1	1		49		1	2		
FS14	75.8	2249	Marietjie Jordaan	2			59	2				
FS17	79	24	Brian Colahan		1		70	2	7	7		1BS
FS18	72.5	684	Louise Coetzee	2			58		3			
FS19	89.2	2384, 2263	Pieter & Gela van Heerden				27		9	2	89	1BS
FS20	65.9	2171	Sandra Bishop		1	1	19		12		4	
FS21	60.1	682	Leon Barkhuizen		14		8		2		34	
FS27	78.4	694	Erika Schulze	2		12	16	1	3			1YS
FS29	20.1	822	Stephanie Gerber		1		12		4	4		
FS31	71.5	259	Johan van Niekerk		2		15			5		
FS35	74	1258	Hannes Blom		3		40		18	2		
FS42	67.6	24	Brian Colahan	8 1	2		81	4	7	3	3025	1AS
FS43	76	1801	Christo de Meyer				14	2				
FS48	80.9	1262, 2394	Janine Liefbrig & Sally Barnard		2		28		8		2	
FS50	78	1058	Frans Marais		1		3	1	4	8		
FS54	59	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig, Else Beemster-Boer	2			28		8	6	2	
FS55	50	1995	P.J. du Preez				55	1	19	5		1HAR
FS56	68.2	987	Jeanette Buys		3		88 8	1	11	5	46	155AS
FS58	79.2	863	Pierre Nel		1 1		11					
FS60	70	2260	Ilse van den Bergh			2	23	2	166	4	46	
FS62	60	2298	Lynden Lund	1			9		4			
FS65	79.6	864	Savvas Vrahimis				5		16		2	
FS66	52	1399	Tom Mostert		1		6	2	7			
FS67	71.9	24	Brian Colahan	1			43		7	11		
FS70	58	1150, 1151	Abrie & Hélène Bam		5	3		3		1		1HAR
FS73	68	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam		7	1		1		4 1		7CC
FS76	42	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen				1		3			
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger			1	6		1 3			
FS79	51	1397	Dewald Liebenberg				51		1	3		
FS81	78.9	24	Brian Colahan	7 1	3		35		14	4		
FS83	49.2	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin			3	4		3	1		2CC
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen		1							
FS85	81.4	285	Johan Cloete		7		3		6	2		
FS87	56	2368	Annalie v.d. Vyfer		2		20	2	10	12		1HAR
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie Geyer				33		29	7		
FS91	58.5	641	Rick Nuttall	2			24	4	3	4	2	
FS92	63.8	1201	Fritz Krohn						2	2		
FS93	47.8	700	Johan Watson	8 2	2	1	14		3	2		
FS94	73.1	24	Brian Colahan	2 1	1		57					
FS95	83.1	821	Coenie Erasmus	2			11	1				
FS96	74	2653, 2688	Bok & Annalie Cronje				3					
FS97	52.8	6381, 6383	Harold & Deidre Elsmere		13		1		3	5		
FS101	62.9	24	Brian Colahan	5 2	1	4	14	2		3		5YS
FS103	57.4	1052	Duart Hugo				8		2		44	
FS105	79.4	24	Brian Colahan	35 12			25		3			
FS106	52	102, 1946	Dawie de Swardt & Hennie Bester		4		4		1		3	
FS107	30	1836, 1837	John & Dawnia Edgar		10				2			
FS108	59	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jennifer Lotter		28		5		3	3		1BI
FS109	60	2150	Arnold van der Westhuizen		3		1		7 6			
FS110	63	2464	Dirk Bredenkamp				1	1	5	4		
FS111	75.7	691	Willie Mostert				10	1	1	4		1HAR
FS114	71.6	1574, 1804	Dennis & Anita Oliphant						4	4	1	14
FS115	71.1	2466	Tiger Muller				16		13 1 2			
FS116	46.7	6379, 6377	Louis & Lynn Goedhals				10		6			
FS117	67.7	691	Willie Mostert				52		1			
FS118	67	24	Brian Colahan	78 3		5	34	1	1	4		
FS119	69	1140, 1141	John & Jill Moffett		13		11		2	3		
FS120	75	1889	Johan Labuschagne		6		26		4	13	4	
FS121	58	2460, 2462	Niel & Linette Pienaar		1		8		17		9	
FS122	59	1057, 2378	Lourens & Istelle Goosen				6		10	3	28	
FS125	67.6	6375	Margie Pearce		2		3	3 2	1	3		
FS126	48.6	2670	Gottlieb Lubbe		1		1	1	7 4			
Total	4113			312	145	45	1341	49	507	160	3361	156AS, 1BI, 2BS, 4HAR, 9CC, 11YS
Birds/100 km				7.6	3.5	1.1	32.6	1.2	12.3	3.9	81.7	

Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in north-eastern Free State													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.	
FN16	53.5	701	Theunis Bekker		1	14	3		15				
FN25	68	1747	Morne Pretorius	1	7	2	1	9	2				
FN26	65	606	Thomas Wessels			2			7				
FN28	55	1892	Otto Nel	4	2	95	5	5	1		97	3DB	
FN31	76.7	2109	Rick Dillon	4	8	185	7		5		101	2NBK, 3DB	
FN32	50.8	1072	David Weaver		4	34	8	1	1		113		
FN35	55	946	Natie Wessels		6				1	2			
FN37	59.1	2042, 2043	Melanie & Martin Potgieter		10				11	3	5		2DB, 9NBK
FN39	60.9	2472, 2476, 2474	I. Kaiser, L. du Preez & D. Reed		10		2		6		4		
FN42	72	1517	Henk Venter		7	13		2	10		21		
FN44	60.8	2470	Marina Ferreira		5				1				
FN45	68.3	2204, 1739	M. Cunningham & K. Henderson		2	32			3	3	1		
FN46	36	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer		3	100			5	5	39		
FN48	56.7	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		1								
FN49	66	1747	Morne Pretorius		6	7	4		8	4			
FN50	56.4	942, 11493	Pieter Koorhof & Niel Botha		8	1			3	1			
FN51	62	2498	Ina van Rensburg		1								
FN52	71	717, 1844	Johan & JML Strauss	11	43	1			23	7			
FN55	65.8	703	Nacelle Collins	2	7	18					4		
FN57	61.7	1932	Pietre & Fred Enslin		2				8	2		2DB	
FN58	62	705	Paulus Fihlo		37				4		5		
FN59	40.6	1739, 2204	K. Henderson & M. Cunningham	7	5	8			1	4	3		
FN60	64	1505	Brian Barnes		6				2			59NBK	
FN62	68.2	11376	Adriana Barrett		6	7			5		1	2NBK	
FN63	47.5	2204, 6252, 6253	M. Cunningham, T. Msezane, C. Molokomme		8	20			1	3			
Total	1503			30	196	539	29	9	152	52	360	2NBK, 10DB,	
Birds/100 km				2.0	13.0	35.9	1.9	0.6	10.1	3.5	24.0	72NBK	

52 of the 53 White Storks in this precinct, and Gert & Elize Jordaan (FW45, SE of Hertzogville) saw the only Abdim's Storks (32) there.

There were no Abdim's Storks in the FN precinct, where the Southern Bald Ibis was once again dominant, with a density (36/100 km) similar to that recorded the previous summer, but with 70% of them recorded along just three of the 25 routes surveyed. It was pleasing to see that Denham's Bustard was spotted along four routes: three by Otto & Marguerite Nel along FN28 (E of Memel), two by Martin & Melanie Potgieter (FN37, NW of Bethlehem), two by Pietr  & Fred Enslin (FN57, W of Harrismith) and three by Rick Dillon's team (FN31, E of Harrismith). Pietr  and Fred noted that there was a hunter with five dogs at 33.5 km and three hunters with 11 dogs at 39.3 km on their route. Dogs are probably a serious problem for terrestrial birds in some parts of the Free State.

Thank you, Brian, for all your hard work coordinating over 100 CAR counts and also to your colleagues for the many routes they count!



Number of birds counted in January 2011 census in north-western Free State								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.
FW02	44	2274	Margaret Williams	2	9			
FW16	68.1	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe	5	5		1	1YS
FW18	42.4	1268	Herman Jordaan		27			
FW26	68	2396	Louis Botha		10			
FW28	50.4	1162	Piet v.d Merwe		7			
FW36	78.1	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy		4		88	52WS
FW42	64.7	1646	Andre Hoffmann	24	3		8	
FW43	65	2261	Chris Daphne	2	34		5	
FW45	50	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan		1		5	32AS
FW51	78.1	1253	Koos den Houting		36		4	
FW52	59	1957, 2201	R. Girard & M. Littlewood	6	8		3	
FW53	48	1173, 1940	Chris & Martina de Lange	5	34		6	1WS
FW61	60.1	10783	Alta Henning	1	57		2	
FW62	61.4	2262	Tjaart Venter	14	4	12	1	3
Total	837			63	247	1	125	32AS, 1YS
Birds/100 km				7.5	29.5	0.1	14.9	53WS



*Route WU04 showing over-grazed land in the southern Kammanassie area.
Photo: Natalie Baker.*



Blue Cranes at a wetland on SW02. Photo: Louise Tucker.