

Animal Demography Unit

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SANBI

Biodiversity for Life



BirdLife
South Africa
Giving Conservation Wings

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

Newsletter 31, December 2011

Important information – from now on it will also be possible to submit CAR data electronically!

Please read this newsletter carefully! We would really appreciate it if you are able to submit your CAR data online. However, it is really important that you know that we can make a plan if you don't have access to the internet. Your time and birding skills are invaluable and your contribution to conservation by counting a CAR route is huge – so do please keep counting. Over the years a very dedicated team of CAR participants has been built up and we would like each of you to continue to be involved. The data is extremely valuable especially as most routes have been counted by the same person for a long period of time. The information is increasingly being used for the siting of roads, powerlines and wind farms. Your financial contribution to counting a route is most appreciated especially as the petrol price continues to climb. After the summer count we will reach the amazing milestone of 10 000 roadcounts!

If you are not able to submit your count information online, send your roadcount form to your Precinct Organiser (P Org) as usual – always keeping a copy yourself. Each P Org will identify one or more people in their precinct willing to assist with the data capture. Failing that they will send the roadcount forms down to the ADU.

Submission of data online

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to submit your data online, as this will save us the costs of data capture. It is especially important to refresh your memory of the habitat categories etc. by reading the Information Sheets 1 and 4 before your count, as you are entering the data yourself!

For any online submission of data to the ADU you will first need a password. Most of you already have an ADU No. and an email address.

To apply for a password:

1. Go to the CAR webpage and click on "Apply for password" in the left-hand menu.
2. Type in your email address and ADU number and then choose a password. (If you have forgotten your ADU number then check in the table for your CAR route in the CAR Newsletter, or email me.)
3. Click on "Send".
4. An email will be sent to you with a password confirmation link. Click on this link to activate your password.

Capturing your CAR count

Once you have an active password go to the MyBirdPatch webpage (click on *MyBirdPatch* in the left-hand menu on the ADU home webpage). We are using this webpage for capturing data online. It is important

to remember not to click the "Submit" button until after you have checked and edited your count. You won't be able to make any changes yourself once it is submitted and will have to email me to do any edits.

N.B. If you get interrupted while capturing, as long as you clicked on "save/next" after entering the count information you will be able to return to this count another time and continue. (The species information is automatically saved as you enter it!)

1. Enter your email address and password in the login section at the top right-hand side of MyBirdPatch webpage (your ADU number will automatically be filled in), tick the "Remember me" box (this will save your email address should you logout and then come back to the website later) and click on Login.
2. Click on the **CAR count** tab on the grey banner and select your route number from the drop-down box that appears when you click on the arrow.
3. Please enter the route information about your count which is at the top of your roadcount form in the section down the left-hand side first.
4. Click on "save/next". Then the section of the form where you fill in the species information will appear on the right!
5. Fill in this species information one line at a time. The table below will grow as you proceed, replicating your roadcount form. There are drop-down boxes that appear and you need to select the appropriate option. For crops you have the option of capturing as much detail as you can assess e.g. "crop – cereal – wheat", or just "crop" or "crop – cereal" etc. if this is not possible.
6. Please do check that you have entered everything correctly – it does help to print out the form and check it against your original roadcount form. You can edit any mistakes by typing the id number (found down the left-hand side of the species table) of that entry in the "record" box and re-entering that line which will then replace your mistake line. You need to enter all the information for that record again.

If you are having problems with the data capture do please email or phone (021-6504239) or send an email asking me to phone you!

New CAR participants or participants without an ADU number

If you assist on a route and do not have an ADU No. please register so that we can allocate one so that you will be acknowledged for any publications and receive the newsletters and CAR project material.

To register:

1. Go to the CAR webpage by clicking on car.adu.org.za or go to the ADU website adu.org.za and click on CAR in the left-hand menu.

2. Click on "Register" in the left-hand menu.
3. Type in your email and click on "Next".
4. If your email is not registered with the ADU then you will need to complete the form and click on "Register me".
5. Your registration will then be processed as soon as possible and you will be notified of your ADU number by Marja Wren-Sargent.
6. Once you receive an email welcoming you to the ADU, you will be able to login to MyBirdPatch to submit your CAR data.
7. **Note:** these login details can be used for other ADU projects.

Updating/editing your contact details

You can now update your personal information at any time to keep your details up to date, particularly your email address.

1. Login to MyBirdPatch (currently you can't login to the CAR webpage).
2. Once you have logged in, click on the "edit profile" link that appears at top right-hand corner just below the grey banner.
3. Check your details and make any changes. Use the "tab" key to move between fields and remember you need to enter your password in order to verify these changes. **Note:** you can also change your password here if you like.
4. Click on "Save changes".
5. These changes will be automatically updated on the ADU's system.

If you are entering CAR data for anyone not on the internet and would therefore like to register an observer under your email address please contact Marja at marja.wren-sargent@uct.ac.za as this has to be done manually.

ADU Fax Number CHANGE

Our new fax number in the Zoology Department is **021-6503301**. Please mark any faxes **attention Donella**.

July 2011 count

The July CAR count certainly was a wintry count with heavy snowfalls early in the week and in the Eastern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, followed by another cold front later in the week. Thankfully the weather cleared in most parts of the country and roads were passable enough for most routes to be counted on Saturday 30 July. However, the northeastern Eastern Cape routes and some of the Northern Free State routes had to be postponed. I especially appreciated the important role that local P Orgs play in these counts, as they were able to assess the conditions locally and keep in touch with participants.

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

Please let us know if you have an email address, but NO access to the internet.

To save costs in future we will need to email the link to the newsletter to all those who have an email address, unless you are for some reason unable to access the internet. So please do let me know if you still need me to post your newsletter although you do have an email address.

MISTAKES & MISPRINTS: LET'S SEARCH THEM OUT!

Please check the figures for your route in this newsletter against your original, 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.

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

to 2011-8-4) and the **interim website report on the winter count** at car.adu.org.za/news_winter_2011.php. If not please let me know so that I can add you to the CAR email distribution list. Please do read these interim reports, as I am not able to repeat all the information in this newsletter. I think the most unusual and exciting sighting this last count was a Wattled Crane with two chicks on KP01 near Paulpietersburg!

Two routes were counted in the North West province this last count. One new route, EM03, was established in July by Shaun and Agnes Peard, of the Border Bird Club, northeast of Hofmeyr.

Date of summer CAR count

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

CAR Count Information

It is really important to review the method of counting described in Information Sheet No. 1, as well as descriptions of the habitat categories described in Information Sheet No. 4 and local korhaan calls before each count. 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 14 Roadcount form** is enclosed. If you need more CAR leaflets please download these from the CAR webpage.

If you are **unable to count on 28 January do contact your P Org** 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 and capture it online or send it to your P Org as soon as possible.**

Project material on the website

If you are missing any project material you can download it from the CAR webpage, car.adu.org.za/.

CAR data summaries

Those of you on the CAR email distribution list will have received the email announcing that the data summaries can now be accessed online! In the left-hand menu of the CAR webpage you click on Data summaries. Then first select the type of summary, then select the precinct (cluster of routes in area). Each time you require a new summary you need to go back to select type of summary. The precincts are those described in the eight year CAR report, obviously with new routes or precincts included. However, you will note that the Overberg routes have been divided into three regions (OW (routes west of Breede River), OE (routes east of Breede River) and OP (routes on Agulhas Plain).

Please note that at this point these are **draft summaries**. We have made every attempt to find any errors, but please do let us know if you suspect any. Thank you to René Navarro, Michael Brooks and Hugues le Ray for all their work in developing these

summaries. Thanks also to Sally Hofmeyr, who has found some errors while working with the data for her PhD. At a later stage we plan to put up Sally's trends in numbers using the Underhill Index. Sally is writing up her research at the moment.

Data requests

We have just sent CAR data for the Humansdorp routes to Maggie Langlands who is submitting an appeal together with BirdLife SA to the siting of the proposed wind farms in this area where there are a number of Blue Cranes, Denham's Bustards and White-bellied Korhaans.

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

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.

Please encourage farmers to send in their responses to this booklet 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 honest responses for a report for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), finally completing the Big Birds on Farms project!

In June I attended the Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) Conference. The theme for this year was **Conservation & Agriculture – a common agenda** and it was very encouraging to see this partnership between agriculturalists and conservationists growing. It was through our partnership with CAPE that we were able to apply for the CEPF funding that enabled us to conduct the Big Birds on Farms project.

Move to Zoology Department

It is almost four years since the original Avian Demography Unit became the Animal Demography Unit and officially became part of the Zoology Department. But it was only recently, at the end of October, that we physically moved across the road into the Zoology Department. I am now sharing an office with Marja, so don't be puzzled if Marja sometimes answers the phone.

ADU 20th Anniversary Celebrations

We have organized gatherings of those who take part in ADU projects in different parts of the country to celebrate this milestone. You are an amazing team of citizen scientists and we have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and acknowledge you and give feedback. In Newsletter 30 I mentioned the gathering at Kirstenbosch in June. On 15 October there was a gathering of 70 people in Pretoria at the National Botanical

Gardens which you can read about under the Latest News on the ADU home page (scroll down, click on more and scroll down again to find the report dated 2011-10-22).

For those of you in KZN a gathering is scheduled for Saturday 11th February in Pietermaritzburg at the National Botanical Gardens. See the Latest News article on the ADU Home page dated 2011-11-29 for further details.

I was delighted to meet participants from the Lakes Bird Club and surrounds when I gave a presentation in Sedgefield in October while on holiday nearby. My husband and I also appreciated being invited to join this Club's mid-week outing on a wonderful property bordering Swartvlei. It was special to spend a night in Alan and Maré Collett's beautifully renovated guest cottage on Langvlei Dunes and meet them for the first time. I first met Alan's sister, Judy Caryer, a P Org, and their parents, Joan and Godfrey Collett, ten years ago in Graaff-Reinet. (It is a small world as their niece was bridesmaid at my son's wedding four years ago!) Chris and I also so enjoyed Mike and Gill Euston-Brown's generous hospitality over the weekend. Thank you to Natalie Baker for providing a data projector and initiating the involvement of this Bird Club in the Uniondale counts.

Citizen Science Biodiversity Weeks

Thank you so much all of you for participating in the winter Biodiversity Week by doing your CAR count and to those who ventured out on other ADU projects for the summer Biodiversity Week.

"Citizen Science: Building an Early Warning System for Biodiversity" at UCT Summer School

This course will be presented by ADU staff from 23-27 January. For further details about the programme and registration see the Department of Extra-mural Studies website www.ems.uct.ac.za/summer-school/science-conservation-medicine/citizen-science-building-an-early-warning-system-for-biodiversity

Agriculture, Climate Change and COP17

I first wrote about climate change, biodiversity and energy in Newsletter 19 six years ago – you may want to refer back to this article online. Climate change has become a familiar concept and South Africa is currently hosting COP17. You may find UCT's Energy, Environment and Climate Change (E2C2) group blogspot useful with news about COP17 www.erc.uct.ac.za/E2C2blog.htm and farmers will be interested in the following article on local farming and climate change www.thegreentimes.co.za/stories/farming/item/236-local-farmers-feeling-effects-of-climate-change





CAR support

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is making every effort to source funding for CAR for next year. I am now spending 20% of my time sourcing funding for CAR. There is a link in the left-hand menu of the ADU home page to make donations, so do please draw potential sponsors' attention to this.

Many thanks to the Somerset West and BirdLife Border Bird Club for regularly sending a welcome donation to CAR. I have just received Somerset West's donation for 2012! Thank you to Bo Bonnevie, Adrian Craig and Lorraine Mullins who wrote reports on their CAR counts in the *Diaz Diary*. Barbi Forsyth, of Wits Bird Club, wrote in *Bokmakierie* about the delight of children at iNyomani Primary School who received very welcome jerseys, beanies, socks, biscuits, peanut butter and other goodies on the Monday following the CAR count. Charmaine Uys (BirdLife South Africa) and Ursula Franke (South African Crane Conservation Programme) delivered these items generously donated by the Chrissiesmeer CAR count team. Thank you to those of you who write about your CAR counts on the birdnets as well!

EWT–African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT–ACCP)

At a workshop in June it was decided to compile one Biodiversity Management Plan for all three crane species. The data you have collected has been submitted for use in developing this plan.

You can download this programme's newsletter, the *Grus Grapevine*, from the News section of their webpage www.ewt.org.za

Ringed birds

Colour ringed Blue Cranes were seen on OV03 and OV19. **Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species at all times** and report details to SAF-RING. Do take a photo if possible.

Reporting dead birds

Kevin and Lesley Meise reported a dead Grey Crowned Crane below a powerline on EE10, which I reported. 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.

Southern Bald Ibis project

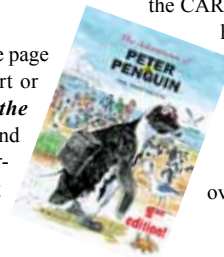
Kate Henderson (ibis@birdlife.org.za) would appreciate any sightings of Southern Bald Ibis and particularly nest sites in KwaZulu-Natal.

Southern Ground-Hornbills

No Ground-Hornbills were seen this last count. Do send **any sightings, with locality, at any time of year** to Scott Ronaldson on 013 7355550 or scottr@ewt.org.za.

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 second edition of *Peter the Penguin*. This book appeals to all ages and makes a wonderful Christmas present, particularly for a family to enjoy reading together.



Thank you!

We are most thankful for all your efforts in counting your CAR routes, often in challenging circumstances, and for your enormous contribution in time and petrol. With the wintry conditions I realized afresh the incredible difference the team of Precinct Organisers make in coordinating these counts – thank you for all the extra phone calls!

Inés Cooke had an amazing idea while ill recently and she and her group of friends who re-condition cards all year are going to fold this newsletter and "stuff" envelopes which will save Denise Lesch particularly much time.

I would particularly like to thank Denise for the many hours she has accurately and willingly captured the CAR data and edited tables. Sadly, we do not have enough funding to continue employing her. I shall miss her greatly!

Lastly, many thanks to Marja for creatively typesetting this longer than usual newsletter!

Enjoy time with friends and family over Christmas and travel safely!

Donella Young
Project Coordinator

COUNT RESULTS WINTER 2011

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

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

Marais for stopping and counting even though they saw no CAR birds. We appreciate all MS observers as you see so few birds compared to other precincts. Anton Linström and Tommie Steyn saw three Grey Crowned Cranes on MS05.

Middelburg precinct

Billy Smith decided to count another route, MM03, that hasn't been counted for a long time, as the road conditions on MM01 have deteriorated considerably due to mining.

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in Mpumalanga										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	HG	SG	UK	Other species
MC01	73.1	11989	Jake Mulvaney				39	5		2SEC
MC02	64.2	1511, 1750, 1118	Barbi & Alan Forsyth & V.Engelbrecht		1	5	111	110	5	1SEC
MC03	57.8	1369	Lester Niss		9	1	24	50		
MC04	70	1351	Murrie Slotar		1		28			1SEC
MC05	69	6624	Joan Strugnell		12	5	18	6		6NBK
MC06	70	2197, 1388	Mike Witcomb & Janice Isom		2		45		2	1SEC
MC07	78.6	1926	Alison Hanson		7	6		1		
MM03	45.1	2290	Billy Smith		6		36	46		
MS04	64	780	Hannes & Bevvie Marais							
MS05	54.3	728, 1558	Anton Linstrom & Tommie Steyn		1					2OR,3CC
MS06	52.6	1178	Hendrik van Wyk		4			73		1OR
MS08	38	1109	Bryan Rowland				5			
MS14	50.7	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor				5			
MS15	51.5	724	Lientjie Cohen				8		1	1SEC
MT01	84.2	1816	Colin Williams	233	5		51	6 4	8	2OR,12SS
MT02	64	10619, 6140	Robert van Bulderen & J.Snyman		13		199	9		2GOL,1NBK,14SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		7		88			4NBK,10SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		3	1	212	1		1OR,5SS
MT05	65.5	2294, 12093, 6618	J. van Rensburg, T & C Pretorius	20	11	13	195	7	19	18ORF,47SS
MW01	58	1867, 10721	John & Elize McAllister	2		11	162	2		2SEC,2CC
MW03	63.7	2196	Bronwen & Keith Davidson	2	1	2	127	3		1SEC
MW06	58.2	6358	Judith Ryder & Ann Cleal		17	43	81	7	4	2SEC,47CC
MW07	63	6409	Sandy & Kevin Twomey				38			
MW08	92.7	1409	John Burchmore & Ann Cleal	2	6	10	144	9		1SEC
MW09	87	550	Brian Guerin & Judy-Lyn Wheeler		25	31				6DB,2SEC
MW10	52.8	2199	Penny Fox & Beverley Thorne	2	6		86			2SEC
Total	1599			261	137	146	1684	340	38	52CC,6DB,2GOL,
Birds/100 km				16.3	8.6	9.1	105.3	21.3	2.4	6OR,11NBK,15SEC,
MC - Chrissiesmeer, MM - Middelburg, MS - Steenkampsberg, MT - Standerton, MW - Wakkerstroom 78SS,18ORF										

Standerton precinct

Colin Williams had an incredible total of 233 Blue Cranes on MT01. Johan van Rensburg recorded a temperature of -4°C at the start of his count!

Wakkerstroom precinct

There was heavy snow in this area five days before the count and on the count day MW07 still had a lot of snow and consequently few birds. Judy Ryder, Penny Burchmore and Ann Cleal saw 47 Grey Crowned Cranes, 4 Blue Korhaans and 43 Southern Bald Ibis on MW06.

Chrissiesmeer precinct

It was clear but cold in this precinct and bird numbers were low. Joan Strugnell and Rose and Kevin Fowler heard a Northern Black Korhaan at four different but consecutive stops on MC05. This species has been recorded on this route by Bill and Alta Naude and J Raubenheim in winter 2005 and Ralph and Daphne Wordon on MC06 in winter 2009. Doug Harebottle, Project Manager for SABAP2, would appreciate some atlas cards for this region, as this is just out of this species' normal range.

Free State

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in the southern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.
FS06	72.1	700	Johan Watson	270	3	13	5	1		5	
FS07	61	1746	Angelo Nichas	127			1	6 2	33 3	5	
FS08	68.1	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemmer	6 2	4		1	1	3	6	1HAR
FS09	61.9	24	Brian Colahan	9		8	12	4	3	17	
FS12	53	662	Herman Kleynhans	421	4	13	30	4	35	34	6YS
FS14	65.7	2249	Marietjie Jordaan			4	22				
FS15	75	1056	P.Crouse				13	2			
FS17	74.4	1620	Dawie Kok				12				1BS
FS18	70	684	Louise Coetzee	105	1		3		2	14	
FS19	89	2384, 2263	Peter & Gela van Heerden		3		20	6	18		2KK
FS20	67.8	2171	Sandra Bishop		4		2	3			
FS21	60	682	Leon Barkhuizen		2		5	3	359	4	
FS27	78.5	694	Erika Schulze	75 19		4	6			7	
FS35	74	1258	Hannes Blom		3		8	1	31	13	
FS42	67.8	24	Brian Colahan	48		6	8	3	10		
FS43	77	1801	Christo de Meyer				15				
FS45	80.6	2368, 1626	A. van der Vyfer & M.Venter	3	4		9	1	78	28	
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henriette van den Berg		1		5	5	23	2	1WS
FS48	75.5	2249	Marietjie Jordaan		1		57		30		
FS50	78	1058	Frans Marais		2	2			52	6	
FS51	78.9	24	Brian Colahan			26	2		8	6	
FS54	59.3	1262	Janine Liefbrig		4		31		4		
FS55	53.3	24	Brian Colahan				2	5			
FS56	68.5	988, 987	Fanie & Jeanette Buys		5		25	4	44	12	
FS58	79.2	863	Pierre Nel				10	1			
FS60	69.4	2260	Ilse van den Bergh	6			6	1	174	2	
FS62	62	2298, 6117	Lynden & Rosemary Lund			3	3			2	
FS65	77.6	864, 700	Savvas Vrahimis & J.Watson		1		29	8	240		
FS66	53	1399	Tom Mostert				9			4	
FS67	68.3	950	Daan Müller		2		2		58		
FS70	58.2	1150, 1151	Abrie & Heléne Bam		5		4	2	4	17	
FS73	67	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam		21				43	6	3WS
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger				3	1	12	7	
FS79	52	1397	Dewald Liebenberg			1	9			2	
FS82	70.8	6704	Gert Joubert				4				
FS83	49.3	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin		2		3	2	2		
FS84	53	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen				1	1		2	
FS85	81.5	285	Johan Cloete		4		5	1	8	5	
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie Geyer				5	1	23	7	
FS91	58.5	641	Rick Nuttall	32		8	13	7	2	4	
FS92	64	1201	Fritz Krohn		1				4 4	7	
FS93	48.3	700	Johan Watson					3		4	
FS94	73.9	24	Brian Colahan		2		3	1	1	6	
FS95	83.3	821	Coenie Erasmus	3			2				
FS96	79	2653, 2688	Bok & Annalie Cronje		1			3			2CC
FS97	53.5	6381, 6383	Harold & Deidré Elsmere		1	14 1	1	1		8	
FS101	62.8	24	Brian Colahan	121		7	5			6	
FS105	76.4	687	Riëtte Griesel	178		1	1			8	1BS
FS106	50.3	102, 1946	Dawie de Swardt & Hennie Bester		2		6		82	5	
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jennifer Lotter		23		5	2	6	3	27BI
FS110	64	2464	Dirk Bredenkamp				5			7	
FS111	75.3	691	Willie Mostert		1		4		2		
FS112	60.7	1262	Janine Liefbrig		4		12	2	7	4	1HAR
FS113	94.6	1616, 2366	Danie & Martie Krynauw		3		1	3	3	21	
FS115	74	2466	Tiger Muller		6		36	1	5		
FS116	47	6379, 6377	Louis & Lynn Goedhals			1	12		2		
FS117	67.6	691	Willie Mostert	1	2		7		5	2	
FS118	68.1	24	Brian Colahan	197	1	9	2		3	8	
FS119	74	1141, 1140	Jill & John Moffett		4		18				
FS121	57.6	1153, 2460, 2462	Schalk Burger, N & L.Pienaar				11		2		
FS122	58	1057, 2378	Lourens & Istelle Goosen		1		4		65	4	
FS123	61	683	Chris Botha	9			1				5KK
FS125	67.7	6375	M.Pearce		5		14			5 2	
Total	4230			1632	134	120	553	92	1483	316	27BI, 2BS,
Birds/100 km				38.6	3.2	2.8	13.1	2.2	35.1	7.5	2CC, 2HAR,
											7KK, 4WS, 6YS

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

Bad roads caused by heavy late summer rains in the Free State and widespread snow in the north-eastern Free State did not deter CAR route leaders and 97 routes (6362 km) were surveyed in the three Free State precincts for the 2011 winter counts. A grand total of 7429 birds gave a "density" of 117 birds/100 km, far higher than that for the previous winter, 84/100 km. However, like the 2011 summer count, this was largely due to an unusually high number of birds of one species along one route: the 1307 Spur-winged Geese counted by John and Amelia Hardy in the North-western precinct (FW, 15 routes and 958 km covered, with 233 birds/100 km), along FW36, W of Welkom. If these geese are excluded from the FW total, the Northern Black Korhaan would, as usual, have been the dominant species with 40.7/100 km. Koos and Louise den Houting again recorded the only Blue Cranes in FW, but only two birds, along FW51, E of Edenville.

David and Olivia Weaver in the North-eastern precinct (FN, 19 routes and 1176 km covered, with 70 birds/100 km) were pleased with the c.40% snow cover along FN32 (E of Harrismith, the last section of which now requires a 4x4 with good clearance!) because they spotted White-bellied Korhaans for the first time (nine in three groups), as well as two African Marsh Harriers. Another eight of those korhaans were spotted along three other FN routes, the snow and flattened grass probably making it difficult for these secretive birds to hide. Improved visibility might also be why Black-headed Heron was the dominant species (17.9/100 km) in FN, but where there were also far fewer Blue Cranes than the previous winter (10.0 vs. 27.3 /100 km, with 115 of the 118 total seen by Morné Pretorius along FN49, N of Memel) and also far fewer Grey Crowned Cranes (3.5 vs. 6.7 /100 km, with all 41 of them spotted by Rick Dillon's team along FN31, E of Harrismith).

The Blue Crane was again dominant in the Southern Free State precinct (FS, 63 routes and 4230 km covered, with 104 birds/100 km) and seven routes had more than 100 of these birds, with one of these (FS12, S of Jagersfontein, surveyed by Herman Kleynhans) yielding 421. Several people mentioned problems spotting Northern Black Korhaans in the long grass along their routes and the density was certainly far lower than that for the previous winter: 13.0 vs. 24.5 /100 km. It is pleasing to see that the Secretarybird seems to be doing well in this precinct with it present along 52% of the routes, and four or more birds reported for nine routes. The Southern Bald Ibis continues to hold on in the north-eastern corner of the precinct; Allen Jones and Jenny Lotter saw a flock of 27 along FS108, NE of Clocolan. (There are a few colonies of this ibis further S, between Ladybrand and Hobhouse, but it is five years since any of these birds have been reported from routes in that area.)

Many thanks to Brian for organising over 100 CAR counts and for all the checking of roadcount forms! Thank you to all your colleagues who count as well!

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in north-eastern Free State										
Route	km	ADU no.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.
FN16	53.5	701	Theunis Bekker	1	10	14		46	7	1BS
FN25	69	1747	Morné Pretorius	2	8	21	1	3	4	
FN28	62.9	1892, 1893	Otto Nel & Marguerite Nel		3	2		1	3	
FN31	78	2109	Rick Dillon		13	9	1	13	1 2	4ICC
FN32	51.6	1072	David Weaver		6 1					9WBK
FN35	50.5	946	Natie Wessels		8			4		
FN37	59.1	2043, 2042	Martin & Melanie Potgieter	15				5 4	6	5NBK
FN39	61	2472, 2476	Irmgard Kaiser & Leoné du Preez	18			3			
FN41	75.9	1045	G.J. Vermeulen	13	2	1			4	2NBK
FN46	64	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer	1	2			2	3	
FN48	56.6	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens	1				2		3NBK,1WBK
FN49	46	1747	Morne Pretorius	115	3	1		2	4	
FN50	53	942, 11493, 90044	Pieter Koornhof, N. & L. Botha	11	6			2		
FN51	62	2498	Ina van Rensburg	16				5		
FN52	71	717, 1844	Johan & J. Strauss	47 2	75	1		65	2	
FN55	65.7	703	Nacelle Collins							
FN58	64	705	Paulus Fihlo	10	15	2		13	6	
FN60	64	1505	Brian Barnes						2	50NBK
FN62	68.5	11376	Adriana Barrett		24	2		2		5NBK
Total	1176			118	210	149	9	169	44	1BS,65NBK,10WBK,41CC
Birds/100 km				10.0	17.9	12.7	0.8	14.4	3.7	



Alan Turner took this photo on KM04 in the Midlands.

Ann Gray was assisted on her count of KL11 by four Winterton Primary learners. Left to right: Tiya Balakisten, Pippa Zimmermann, Tessa Winter and Shaun Priest. Photo by Ann Gray.

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in north-western Free State									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.	
FW01	43.3	2274	Margaret Williams	5	9				
FW16	68.1	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe						
FW18	52.4	1268	Herman Jordaan	5	31		3		
FW26	64	2396	Louis Botha		24				
FW28	56	6695, 6697	Piet & Jenni van der Merwe		17				
FW34	77.5	1163	Des Walker	6	77	1			
FW36	78	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy	17	18		1307	4WS	
FW43	65	2261	Chris Daphne	4	42	2			
FW45	52.6	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan	2	1		8		
FW51	77.6	1253	Koos den Houting	2	55				12UK,2BC
FW52	58	2201	Mary Littlewood	12	1				
FW53	82	1173, 1940	Chris & Martina de Lange	6	20		4		
FW55	59	1890, 1891	Greg & Janine Goosen	12	18		374		
FW61	60.1	10783	Alta Henning	1	49				
FW62	60.1	2262	Tjaart Venter	20 20 9	26		1	4UK	
Total	954			121	388	3	1697	2BC,16UK,	
Birds/100km				12.7	40.7	0.3	177.9	4WS	



Gauteng

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG).

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in Gauteng									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other spp.	
GB01	20	2135	Peter Huggins	40	80				
GB02	30	6717	Jackson Kone			2			
GB03	53	2315	Peter Huggins	3	270				
GB04	44	1814, 2793	Billy Malatji & R.Sekwele		12				2SEC
GB05	19	2945	Riaan Marais		83 38	1			
GB06	45	1764	Sean West	3	74				
GB07	54	1764	Sean West						2SEC
GC01	19	2046	Willem de Lange		24	37			
GC02	64.6	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	12	275		110		
GC03	73.5	2390, 1123	Johan de Jager & Koos Richards		35	3			
GC04	61	613, 1538	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones	19	277	4	6		
GC05	62.5	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	1	153	2	4		
GD01	63.4	746	Andre Botha	28	108		3	6UK	
GD02	52	2166	Neville Cornish	2	25				
GD03	39.1	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	31 4	160		4	1SEC,10UK	
GD04	51	2338, 2434	Phuti Matlamela & L.Nevhutalu	7	41				
GD05	48.9	1126	Jon Smallie	4	3		2		
GD06	54	2254, 1782, 2256	Lance Robinson, G.Ortner & J.Thomas	20			3	1WS	
GH01	55.3	2045	Rouxdene Deyssel	13	57		1	1WS	
GH02	72.5	2226	Daniel Koen	17	75		334		
GH03	51	2101	Hein Pienaar		67	4			
GH04	46.9	2095	Claire Eksteen	5	32	3	2		
GH05	58	2300	Obeid Katumba			7			
GM01	50	2374	Leon Lötter		60				
GM02	22	2102	Leon Labuschagne		8				
GW01	52.4	2099	Piet Muller		28				
GW02	48	6343	Yvonne Pennington & team	4					3WBK
Total	1310			213	1985	63	469	5SEC,16UK,	
Birds/100 km				16.3	151.5	4.8	35.8	3WBK,2WS	

Twenty-five routes have been counted in this precinct for 11 counts now! This last count the highest number of Blue Korhaan were recorded (16), Craig Whittington-Jones saw 10 on his route GD03. Three White-bellied Korhaan were spotted on GW02 by Yvonne Pennington and her team: this is the highest total altogether so far in this province.

Thank you to Craig for ensuring that these routes are counted regularly and to all his Gauteng Nature Conservation colleagues for their assistance.



Maggie Langlands, Geoff Knight, Yvonne Bosman and mud-spattered car on EH06 (Note the wellies which were very necessary!) Photo by Erica Knight.

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

KwaZulu-Natal

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



It was cold on most routes in KwaZulu-Natal following heavy snowfalls five days earlier. The 19 over-wintering White Storks counted on KM08 by Di Mason must have regretted not migrating! Shirley Bennett, the Midlands P Org, arranged for people with 4x4s to count the routes with the most challenging conditions.

I was glad that both Paulpietersburg routes were counted again. Louis Lombard reported that KP02 no longer has suitable habitat for CAR birds and

is exploring a potential new route. The total number of Wattled Cranes seen in this precinct was the second highest, with 83 Wattled Crane recorded in January 2001. Evelyn Hughes and Janice Shipway counted the most of this species on any CAR route so far (44), the floating flock must have frequented KM01 on the CAR count day! In January this route also had the highest total of this species (11).

Ingrid Bryden, who counts KG03, noted that snow was still lying in shaded areas, streams were running strongly and water was lying in depressions in the veld. Firelines had been burnt, but little veld burning was done in the Griqualand area.

The Southern Bald Ibis density was the highest since counts of this species began in KZN in 1998. It is encouraging that the White-bellied Korhaan numbers were relatively high, but they are not of the order that they were in the winters of 1998 (27), 2000 (26) and 2004 (27). Niall Perrins, who has been raising funds for research on this declining grassland dependent species, has reached his target of seeing 800 species within this year!

Myles and Carol Ellerker only saw 19 Helmeted Guineafowl on KD06, but did see 10 oribi. There is rural habitation between 25 and 41 kms on this route.

I am glad that Ingrid and Mike Oates have taken on counting KE01, as Ingrid teaches at the same school as Annemarie Röhrs did, so it is wonderful that children from this school can continue to be involved in future.

Do continue to count Oribe (OR) and use the following abbreviations for gamebirds: **HG** for Helmeted Guineafowl, **CF** for Crested Francolin, **CQK** for Coqui 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.

I was glad to meet with Tim Wood recently when I went up to a school reunion. Tim's knowledge of the habitat and birds in KZN is amazing and apart from coordinating CAR effectively he does a huge amount of atlassing.

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in KwaZulu-Natal												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	Other species
KC01	54.1	433	Malcolm Gemmell		6	60	12 2	9		2	10	8OR
KD01	80	2085	Elizabeth Bugden		8	24			114		2	
KD02	63	677	Paul Garner	1	12	9		1	8	1		2WBK
KD03	70.5	10921, 11338	Norman Leveridge & Laurie Chivers		2					3		
KD04	48.1	2352, 2354	Peter & Joanne Smith		2	7			41	2	2	
KD06	53	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker						10			4OR
KD07	72	909	Heino Wellmann		1	4						
KD08	61	736, 2316	Tony & Val Cross		25					1		2WBK
KD09	58	2285, 2316	Lynne & Peter Ruddle		4	13					5	1WBK
KD10	28	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross		4	24					2	
KE01	85	6691, 6693	Ingrid & Mike Oates		1	4						
KG02	51.9	1073, 2709, 2711, 2715	Pat Lowry, D & M.Shaw & T.Stubbs	2	2		49 2				6	2WC
KG03	54	2703, 2701, 2705, 2707	Ingrid & K. Bryden, P & A.Lourens	2	6		139	5	157		21	1OR
KG05	54.3	629	'Stooks' Wilton				10	51	45	1	20	1GOL,2WC
KG06	58.8	623, 624	Brian & Greta Byers		1	11	51	1	20		4	
KG08	59.7	2086	Allan Geldart		4		2		26		18	
KG10	45.2	2713	Jeremy Brownrigg		2		45			2	74	5WC
KL11	34.4	814	A.Gray & 4 Winterton Primary learners		5	22			11			
KM01	72.2	1581, 993	Evelyn Hughes & Janice Shipway		33		94		85		30	5OR,44WC
KM02	66	167, 2162	Pamela Nicol & Dee Milstein		2		37	4	12			4OR,3WC
KM03	100	498	Margie Sleight		6			1			36	2SS
KM04	33.8	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernadine Turner		6	1 2	41	5	7		2	15OR,2WC
KM05	84.5	474, 1536, 1537	Shirley Bennett, John & Val Baxter		2	13		6			86	3OR,3WC
KM06	93	6121	John Curry		5	13	5	34			72	
KM07	58.3	1799	Peter Divall		2						2 2	
KM08	60.35	2280	Diane Mason		7	14	52				7	19WS
KN01	68	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		1	1				2		4WBK
KN03	54	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		11	13			175		2	
KN04	46.6	925	Alan Schwikkard		2	10						
KN05	38	1071, 927	John Sharpe & Johan de Villiers		7	17	41		98	2		1UK
KN06	54	2036, 2037, 1929	Klaus & Miemie Heyer & T.Botha		6	9	20		126	1		6WBK
KO01	52	425, 1529	Gavin & Sandi Calverley		2				4			
KP01	59.9	6434	Louis Lombard				6				59	3WC
KP02	42.9	6434	Louis Lombard		1 1							
KU01	68	2015, 740	Gayle & John Ellison	2	6	60	99	4	66 15		76	4OR,2WS
KU02	62.5	10451, 10491	Graham Kletz & Rosanne Clark		12 1	42	11	8	36		47	4OR
KV01	81	1683	AP Keeve		1	10	16	9			14	2WBK
KV02	60.8	2016, 2001	Paul & Ria Steffensen		1				25	3	3	3CQF,6SS,4WBK
KV03	63	815, 6415	Helena & Clive Mattison			6			10	2		
KV04	34.6	1722, 1790, 1791	C.Oberholster, A.Steyn & D. McLennan								12	
Total	2384			20	215	417	681	42	1091	26	602	3CQF, 1GOL, 48OR, 8SS, 1UK, 21WBK, 64WC, 19WS
Birds/100 km				0.8	9.0	17.5	28.6	1.8	45.8	1.1	25.2	

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

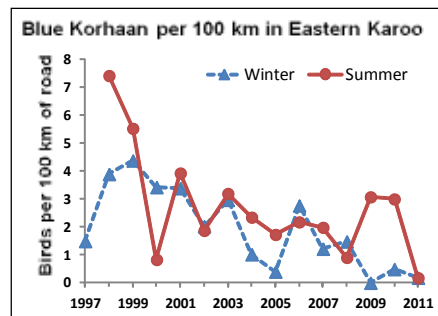
Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in Eastern Karoo, Northern Cape										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	Other spp.	
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	6						
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock							
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	25						
NK031	20	2259, 2165	Santa & Raymond Swenson	6			3	1		
NK032	20	2259, 2165	Santa & Raymond Swenson	2			1	1	8SG	
NK033	20	2259, 2165	Santa & Raymond Swenson	2			1			
NK041	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt			5	2		3KB,2SG	
NK042	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt	32			1		3KB	
NK044	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt	23	2		2 1		1KB,1SG	
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith	4						
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith							
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith							
NK181	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl			2				
NK182	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	4			4			
NK183	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl				1	1		
NK221	20	6390	Isabelle du Preez		4	5	2			
NK222	20	6390	Isabelle du Preez		2	2	4			
NK223	20	6390	Isabelle du Preez		2	2	5			
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2	2	12	1		4KB	
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie							
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie			3				
NK301	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	2	5				1BHH	
NK302	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	20					1	5KB
NK391	20	2859	Neville Hoets	2						1BHH
NK392	20	2859	Neville Hoets							
NK393	20	2859	Neville Hoets							
Total	520			230	21	36	34	4	2BHH,16KB, 11SG	
Birds/100 km				100	9.1	15.7	14.8	1.7		
NK461	20	10360	Marina Beal	1187	2				5BHH,3UK, 206SG	

33rd Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTBS), Northern Cape

The Kori Bustard density (3.5 birds/100 km) was even higher than the previous record this last summer (2.5 birds/100 km). You will notice I have recorded Marina Beal's new route separately as this route has extensive wetlands compared to the original KLTBS routes and this facilitates comparisons with earlier counts. Marina counted a phenomenal number of Blue Cranes (1187) on her route.

For a second time no Blue Korhaans were recorded on the original KLTBS routes. It is difficult to see this species in taller vegetation after good rains but nevertheless the histogram is concerning!

Please send your forms to Christine Pienaar at the address on the Roadcount Form. Thank you to Ronelle Visagie and Christine Pienaar for organising these counts.



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 2011 in Eastern Cape												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	Other species
EB01	63.5	174	Gertie Griffith		2	2	9				8	
EB03	67.3	115	Graham Winch		2	40 1	26			1	22	
EB04	56.1	1568, 1567, 1584	Ken & Barbara Monfoort & W.Perks	2			2 1				53	
EB05	32.5	195, 10913, 2734, 2736	Phil Whittington, L.Watkins, J & D le Roux	2	2	9						
EE02	59.8	1730, 1129	Helen Lechmere-Oertel & Adèle Moore	2	1	4				2		
EE06	52	2281	Jacky Steyler-Lamer		2	144 1						1WS
EE08	30		Sarone van Niekerk	2	5 1							
EE10	63	899, 6161	Kevin & Lesley Meise		1	9					10	
EE12	55	901	Jenni Brown	1		6					2	
EE17	42.4	1929	Theuns Botha			2				3	19	
EE19	84	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	13		2		4		1	31	42UK
EE20	51.8	2281	Jacky Steyler-Lamer & H van Niekerk									
EE22	16.7	2251, 2312	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Feely		9	23	2				2	
EE23	38	2044, 2180	Desmond & Martie Schroeder						5	2	4	
EG02	52.3	565, 1530	Pat Hulley & Lorraine Mullins	8	1		1	2	1	2	10	
EG03	76.1	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonnevie, Jim & Eve Cambray	4 2	1		4	3	9			
EG04	58	161	Adrian Craig	3	2				2			2KB
EH03	54	2289, 2398, 1772, 6509	Chris Barratt, V.Barratt, M & K.Keulemans	12	13		57				35	1HAR,21WS
EH04	44	1767, 1766, 6507	Jill Tudhope, P.Bosman & A.Andrews	32	3						1	
EH05	38.5	1612, 1794, 301, 11507	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout, C & J.Cook	20	6		13			1	13	
EH06	53.7	312, 2753, 2755, 2406	Y.Bosman, G & E. Knight & M.Langlands	71	12		34				14	5WBK
EK02	42.6	885, 2454	John Lardner-Burke & Brian Matthew		8		5 2					9OR
EK04	54	2210, 2209	John Potter & Sheila Walsh	3	40		15			2	17	
EK05	28	1528, 1527, 131	Laurie Wood, Jenny Roxburgh & D.Rampf		2		11			2	9	4WBK
EM01	62.1	974	Bradley Gibbons	5						1		4NBK
EM02	61	2304	Ron Blaker	121								
EM03	56	198	Shaun & Agnes Peard	105	2			8			13	5NBK,2UK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffman	34 16				37	2	2		12KB,21KK
EP02	65.5	83	Andrew Nixon	170				12	19			2KB,6KK
EP03	61	868, 1089	Ken & Jenny Munro	116				8				2KK
EP04	71.1	869	Peter Hall	60				10	6			4KB,24KK
EP06	56	10144, 595	David Smeda & John Webber	44	2				1			5UK
EP07	72.5	2246, 6173, 6175	Michael, Dylan & Patrick Lord									5KB,24NBK,9UK
EP08	111	270, 10795, 10736	Dave Brown, P.Campbell & R.Zietsman	74				19	1	3		9KB,15KK
EP09	31	10144	David Smeda & John Webber									1KB
EP10	40	1731	John & Rolene Bowker	50				1		1		3KK,14NBK
EP12	40.1	1852	Briar Wright & Sigrid Kenyon		15		2				36	
ES03	62	6394	Fiona Munro	18 12	1			6		3		6KK
ES04	46.7	1972	Zorb Caryer	206	2							
ES05	92	6396	Sophia du Toit	7						2		5KB
ES07	37.8	1965, 6167	Alison Brown, Ros Turner & G.Farrell	8								
ES08	50	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows	215				4	7	2		3KB
ES10	27	2291	Liz & Gerald Buisman	98								4KK
ES11	36.6	2211, 319	Greg Brown, B.Farrell & G.Brown	26								
Total	2367			1562	135	243	184	114	53	29	300	1HAR, 43KB, 47NBK, 58UK, 81KK, 9OR, 9WBK, 21WS
Birds/100 km				66.0	5.7	10.3	7.8	4.8	2.2	1.2	12.7	
EB - Border precinct, EE - Northeast Cape precinct, EG - Grahamstown precinct, EH - Humansdorp precinct, EK - Kenton precinct, EM - Middelburg precinct, EP - PE precinct (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), ES - Somerset East												

The Denham's Bustard density was close to the highest winter density of 8.1 birds per 100 km last July. The second highest Blue Crane density was also recorded this last count

Sandy Stretton noted that the following day he saw two Black Harriers, the first sighting in four years. This is now an uncommon sighting whereas this species used to be a common early spring/summer breeding migrant.

The roads were challenging in the Humansdorp area after heavy rains. EH03 had the amazing total of 57 Denham's Bustards and 21 White Storks as well as a Black Harrier. Graham Winch and his team counted by far the most Denham's Bustards on EB03 to date. EG05 has been discontinued as there is no longer access as part of this route is through a big five game reserve.

John Potter and Sheila Walsh encountered a very dangerous section on their route EK04 where road pipes were exposed and they had to turn back and complete the route backwards from the end. Laurie Wood had to abort EK05 at 28 km, as the road was washed away due to heavy rains. Patrick Brett counted by far the most Ludwig's Bustards (38) on EP01. On EP02 Andy Nixon and his team had high totals of Blue Cranes (170) and Southern Black Korhaans (19), as well as the delight of two Double-banded Coursers. Peter Hall, who together with his team counted 23 Karoo Korhaans on EP03, remarked that rivers were flowing strongly and dams which had been empty for years were fuller than he had ever seen them before. Michael Lord and his three sons found 9 Blue Korhaan on EP07 for the first time about 40-60 km south and southwest of where they usually see them on their farm.

Western Cape

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in Swartland							
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.
SW01	75	1970	Fiona Hellmann & E.de Villiers	141	2	190	
SW02	77.9	503, 1077, 6403	Sean, Louise & Jack Tucker			8	
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & Pat Waddell	54	7	63	
SW04	62	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	28 3		30	
SW05	59	106, 11090, 11911	Mel Tripp, S.Fogarty & S.Saunders	214	2 1	353	
SW06	74	1359, 10442	Reg le Roux & Helene Thompson	33	7	59	
SW07	44.2	1366, 11280, 578	L.Teare, B.Patterson & M.McCall	34	8	132	1SEC
SW08	65.2	1474	Bruce Mackenzie	2	2	7	
SW09	60.1	2033	Jaco & Hennis van Deventer	29	2	136	1WS
SW10	61.8	2362, 2364	Donny & Hannali Malherbe		9	39	1SBK
SW11	65.6	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	8	6	3	1HAR
SW12	81.2	2207, 2208	Nicholas & Erna Mostert	4	11	29	5SBK,4SEC
SW13	47.5	673	Elna Slabber & L.du Toit		2	103	
SW14	50.3	506, 838	Riaan van der Walt & M.Wheeler	108 1	3	116	2SEC
SW15	64	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbittel	40	11	9	
SW16	42.4	2051, 2200	Cheryl Faull & P.Mooney		1	18	
SW17	56.7	2587	C.Campbell-Smart & G.van Shalkwyk	2		50 3	2SBK,1SEC
Total	1051			701	74	1348	1HAR,8SEC
Birds/100km				66.7	7.0	128.3	8SBK,1WS

Swartland precinct

Mel Tripp, Charles Saunders and Simon Fogarty recorded the highest total of Blue Cranes in this area. On SW11 David and Anne Dixon saw the only Black Harrier. Nic and Erna Mostert recorded the highest number of Southern Black Korhaan for SW12 since July 2002! Angela, Jens and Diane Oelbittel found extensive roadworks on a large part of SW15 with heavy machines disturbing birds.

Jan Hofmeyr who checks the pig farm didn't find any White Storks on 29 July.



Overberg precinct

It was an incredibly still, clear day in the Overberg which probably accounted for more Southern Black Korhaans being heard than in the last three winters. When writing the page for the Biodiversity early warning systems booklet that I mentioned in the website report I was concerned to note that in earlier counts this species was recorded on a number of Overberg routes, but in the last six years this species has been seen on at most four routes of the thirty Overberg routes! The marked decline in korhaans in the Overberg and Swartland regions is thought to reflect a reduction in the amount or condition of renosterveld, a natural vegetation type which has undergone extensive transformation over the last 100 years. Korhaans rely on natural vegetation for protection, and avoid cultivated areas unless there is cover nearby.

Rains were relatively regular this last winter and as noted by Henry and Marion Naude many more

lands were planted with grain crops. Some people mentioned that the cranes were more concentrated on fallow lands as so many lands had taller than usual crops. Duncan and Inés Cooke mentioned in their earlier report that the concentration of Blue Cranes was highest in the area bounded by Bredasdorp, Napier, Rietpoel, Riviersonderend, Stormsvlei and Proteem. However, Keith and Michelle Moodie who have often had the highest count only saw 412 while cycling their route. They noted that there was not as much feeding of ostriches at feedlots due to the rain and more favourable feeding conditions. Christina and Wilson Terblanche had the highest count of Denham's Bustard which is most unusual for OV21. This is the highest total ever counted on this route since it began in 1994. At 51.6 km on this route the road was washed away necessitating a detour.

I have included a figure of the densities of Denham's Bustards in this region which highlights the difference in summer and winter densities. As for Blue

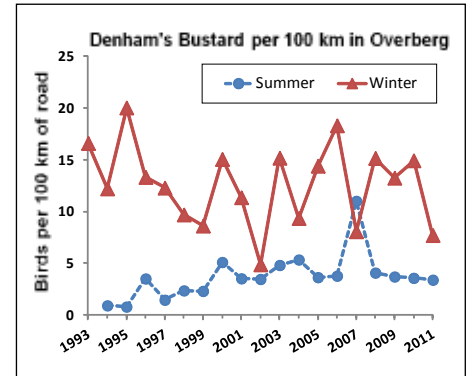
Cranes this appears to be due to differences in social behavior and hence visibility. This polygynous species occurs singly and in groups with the largest groups being formed in the non-breeding season. Wilson and Christine saw a group of 14 on OV21 this last count. I wondered about the high summer density in 2007 and in my notes on that count see that the summer rains were very regular until end of early January, when a hot dry period preceded the count.

A change was noted on OV13. There is a new large ostrich farm at 4 km with feedlots and therefore cranes were recorded here for the first time. Crop spraying caused disturbance on OV01 and OV14.

Please fax or post your form directly to Duncan and Inés Cooke if you are not able to capture the data online: 20 Oakbridge Village, Bizweni Avenue, Somerset West, 7130. Fax: 0865106470. Sadly, Nandi Thobela, the Western Cape Crane Field Officer has moved back to KZN where she is working for KZN Wildlife. Gretha Louw has spent time with Nandi this last month and can be contacted on 083 6596970 if you have any queries about cranes.

I so appreciate Duncan and Inés' time in coordinating the counts and checking forms for this large precinct.

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in Overberg										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG	Other spp.
OV01	54	229, 2311, 1063	Ines & Duncan Cooke & P.Rigg	79	5				58	
OV02	66.9	872	George Ward & H Riddering	29 7					10	
OV03	47.6	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	45	5	1			12	3WS
OV04	25.9	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	145 5	3 1				18	
OV05	66.8	228, 6159	John Carter, Basil Boer & team	301 4	7	1	5	4	41	
OV06	53	1655, 2110	Stuart & Ruth McLennan	201	3	13	16		31	
OV07	68.7	496, 2184	Ken Price & Hester Snyman	483 26	3	7			12	
OV08	74.3	492, 1075	Keith & Michelle Moodie	405 7	8	1			11	
OV09	46	1083, 801, 802	Anne Price, Keith & Ann McAdam	384	11				113 4	
OV10	56.5	6331, 6333	Henry & Marion Naude	414	6	12	2		87	
OV11	61.2	245, 246	Sheila Siebert, M.Loubser & team	57	3				37	
OV12	57	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	153	3				7	3WS
OV13	70.5	520, 672, 11821	Jill Mortimer, R.Lind & H.Wetmore	382 82	5	18	6 1		43	1BS,2SBK
OV14	89	123	John Coats & team	231	3	1	4		44 1	
OV15	58	2112, 2113	John & Myra Jones	121 3	4	20		2	39 7	
OV16	61.2	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & W.du Toit	314	8	11	9		17	
OV17	64.4	878, 2440, 2442	Lee Burman, M & H.McNaught	26	1	2		1	21	
OV18	48.9	240	Wicus Leeuwner & M de Kock	153 3				1	72	
OV19	62.5	219, 1213, 1632	R. Crowther, E.Stodel & C.Wallace	124	2	4	9		52	1SBK
OV20	52.6	2342, 2344	Bruce & Liz Napier	19	6			2	56	
OV21	65	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christine Terblanche	238 19	8	25		2	10	
OV22	56.8	1660	Sally Adam & Pam Eloff	396	12	4		2	10	
OV23	58	1062, 6732	Andrew & John Marshall	4	12	3			13	
OV24	62	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw		2				34	
OV26	19.2	871	Jeffrey Arizon & Andries Farao	2	4				29	
OV27	67	6491, 1999	M Groenewald, E. le Roux & team	6 1	4	2			20	
OV28	68	2057, 6151	Bill & Alta Naude	1	1					1WS
OV29	25.8	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	4 2	2				12	
OV33	62.5	1463, 6153, 6155, 6157	Frans & Christie de Graaff & family	11 1	4 1	4			5	
OV36	41	6636	Paul & Pauline Bramhall	210	1				31	
OV37	35	1777, 1778	Rae & Ann Gordon	24	2	2 1				
Total	1745			5122	139	132	52	14	957	1BS,3SBK,
Birds/100 km				293.5	8.0	7.6	3.0	0.8	54.8	7WS
OV34	61	1550, 1551, 636, 1211	Heyné & Sharon Brink, M & J.D'Alton	2	3				2	3HAR,7SBK



Beaufort West precinct

The Theron's Blue Crane count was even higher than last July (123) which was then the highest total so far in this precinct so far. Maria Andela's route, WB01, continues to hold the record for Karoo Korhaans.

Little Karoo precinct

The number of Southern Black Korhaans heard or seen was particularly high on routes in this precinct, probably due to the stillness of the day. On WK04 Mike Ford, Margaret Powell and Dieter Maurer noted that at 29 km the dam was the fullest ever seen. At 32.2 km a small area (1–2 hectares) that was veld had been ploughed and at 40.4 km fallow land had been ploughed. This team noted that every 2 km stop was always worth a look and listen! On WK06 at 25 km we noticed a new vineyard that was a pasture before.

Uniondale precinct

Mike and Gill Euston-Brown again had the highest Blue Crane count in the precinct and must have been glad to have Oliver Purcell and Heather Busby assisting them. There was a request from CapeNature to shorten WU07, so this route has been re-numbered WU09. It was wonderful to see that 5 children assisted 6 adults in counting this route.

As mentioned under **ADU 20th Anniversary Celebrations** I did so enjoy meeting a number of participants in Sedgfield in October – it makes such a difference to me to know more of the person behind the name I know from the forms!

Calitzdorp precinct

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

Number of birds counted in July 2011 census in smaller Western Cape precincts									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other spp.	
WB01	62	343, 1101	Maria Andela & Annatjie Mocke & team		1	34			2LB
WB03	58	1909, 2468, 1971	Stefan & M & H. Theron	134	1	22			1KB,7LB,1SBK
WC01	41.4	1291	George Hattingh			2			8SBK
WC02	56	2857, 2293	Carol & Mike Hewitt			2			
WK02	47.3	2139, 2314	Gillie & Jenny Schütte					3	1DB
WK03	35.1	10729, 6642	Tineke & Gawie Malan	4	1			1	1SBK
WK04	44.4	2138, 2140, 2182, 2574	L.Block, M.Ford, M.Powell & M.Dieter	2 18				1	6SBK
WK05	16.7	2138, 2140, 2182, 2574	L.Block, M.Ford, M.Powell & M.Dieter						
WK06	40.7	991, 2239, 6307	Donella Young & R.Kadis & J.Bolton	7	3			2	8SBK
WU01	49.5	540, 2062, 10154	Phillip Esau, Pat Nurse & G.Hanekom			2	10		3DB
WU03	53	1004	Alan Wheeler						
WU04	32	1392	Jan de Jaar & 7 Lakes' Bird Club members	3	5				
WU05	69.8	297, 1520, 215, 6559	M & G.Euston-Brown, H.Busby & O.Purcell	345 1	6		9		4DB
WU06	13	2179, 2156	Carlo van Tonder & Allistair Pietersen			3			
WU08	44.2	11617	Alan & Chris Lee	20 1		7			4SBK
WU09	54	11543, 545	John Rossouw & Koos Maya	6					2DB
WW02	58.1	1475	Alan Collett					7	5DB
Total	775				541	26	73	23	15DB,1KB,
Birds/100 km					69.8	3.4	9.4	3.0	9LB,24SBK