



# Newsletter 32, June 2012

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** to the many who submitted your CAR data electronically! **I really appreciate your patience and perseverance and would like to encourage those who didn't succeed to try again now that the initial "starter" problems with the online data capture are sorted out. I have included tips for the data capture below.** There is **important NEW information about counts** in this Newsletter and findings from Sally Homeyr's PhD – so please keep reading!

The CAR project now has its own Latest News section on the CAR webpage <http://car.adu.org.za/>, as well as a Facebook group <http://www.facebook.com/groups/103532956456685/> So now the time has come when I will have to venture into Facebook! This will be a place where you can share your CAR experiences. Scroll down the Latest News to find an article about our Director, Les Underhill receiving the Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship Award! As well as articles Les wrote about the Blue Crane and Abdim's Stork.

Do check your count capture carefully, check your totals against the totals in these tables, this is really useful in finding mistakes. **Please continue to submit a copy of your roadcount form** by email or by post to your Precinct Organiser (always keeping a copy yourself!). I did not make this clear last count, but having a copy of your original roadcount form always helps when there are any queries. A number of you didn't submit a copy, so please send it with your winter count.

**We do have a willing team of volunteers who will capture your data if you are not able to. I have so appreciated the willingness of many Precinct Organisers (P Org) or participants to capture data on someone else's behalf.**

**Thank you to the whole CAR team for counting and together driving such a huge network of routes.** Just over **10 000 roadcounts** have been completed, a vast amount of valuable information about these threatened species! The January count marked the **30th count for the Southern and North-eastern Free State and a number of KwaZulu-Natal precincts!** So now there are **four provinces** in which **15 or more years of monitoring** have been completed!!

## Record side of road for ALL CAR SPECIES

Problems with the **data capture?** Please email me to phone you or phone 021-6504239.

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

**Email address changes** Our online data capture system recognises you by your email address so please alert us to any changes; see the section about updating your details. Do also let me know so that I can update the CAR email distribution lists.

This was approved a while ago by the CAR working Group, but not implemented due to the extra costs in data capture. Now that you are voluntarily capturing the data please would you record side of road for all species. With all the developments in the GIS field this will enable us to analyse the habitat data more effectively in future. A number of you have been recording this information anyway.

## Record side of road and activity for Southern Black Korhaan

There has been a marked decline in this species in the Overberg and Swartland precincts. Sally recommended in her PhD thesis that we record side of road and activity in all regions where this species occurs. As this species can be recorded on call alone, there is an **additional category for activity of 'calling' to only be used for the korhaans** when they are not visible.

## Recording km on your count and online for your route

It is a long while since I have mentioned km in a Newsletter, but now that many of you are capturing your own data I have realised that a few reminders are necessary.

**Route km:** The left hand side of the data capture card now has all five fields for km that are on the upper section of your roadcount form. Unfortunately there was some confusion (for me and for you!) when the route length field was not present online, so this is rectified. The route length (backtracks and detours do not form part of your route) needs to be accurate as this is used in data analyses.

If you do have a detour on your route please read the section **Extra left-hand shaded column and km readings in Information Sheet No. 1.** It is vital that you record the km at the start and end of any detour and adjust your km following a detour, so that the correct km reading for each sighting is captured. All the CAR routes are on GIS, so that GPS co-ordinates can then be calculated for each sighting. This information is invaluable for EIAs and other data requests.

## Record three small mammals in Western Cape

CapeNature has requested that CAR monitor three species of small antelope in the Western Cape to provide information regarding the setting of hunting regulations. As we have successfully included Oribi in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and KZN counts and these species are easily visible while scanning for CAR birds the CAR Working Group has agreed.

Therefore please count **Grey Rhebok, Cape Grysbok and Steenbok** recording all details as for CAR species. You can capture the data on the **Mammals** tab (between the Bird and Observers tab).

## Tips for capture of data online

1. The biggest hurdle for data capture seems to be obtaining a **password** so that you can login to the MyBirdPatch webpage and then see the CAR tab to click taking you to the CAR Managing Submissions page. So below are the instructions for this:
  - a) Go to the CAR webpage and click on "**Apply for password**" in the left hand menu.
  - b) 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 this Newsletter, or email me.)
  - c) Click on 'Send'.
  - d) Wait for an email that will automatically be sent to you with a password confirmation link. Click on this link to activate your password.

2. If you have forgotten your password (which happens to us all sometimes!) then click on "**Forgotten password?**" at the top of the MyBirdPatch webpage.
  3. Once you have an active password click on MyBirdPatch in the left hand menu on the ADU home webpage. Enter your email address and password in the login section at the top (your ADU number will automatically be filled in).
  4. Click on the CAR tab on the grey banner, this will take you to a page headed **Manage your CAR submissions.** Click on the pink **Add new card** button on the right hand side. On the page headed **Add a new CAR survey to the system** select your route number from the drop down box that appears when you click on the arrow. Remember to **edit the Survey date** to the correct date that you did your count on, as the computer automatically enters the current date. Then continue following the online instructions. It does help to print these instructions, as they disappear once you have filled in the route information down the left hand side and clicked on Save. The **number of observers includes the route leader.**
  5. **Species information section doesn't appear after clicking on 'Save'?** This may be because of a) below or your browser, in which case try b):
    - a) If there was a problem with the information that you entered e.g. km too long – then a message appears in **red writing at the top of the instructions.** If you are sure the km are correct then you can tick the box that appears just below the km and click on 'Save' again.
    - b) If there is no red message then click on the CAR tab again, find your route listed under 'Cards pending submission', click on the blue 'Edit' button at the end of the line and your data capture card will appear.
  6. Please do check that you have entered everything correctly! Check each line as it appears below after clicking on 'Add a species'. It also helps to print out the form once complete and check it against your original roadcount form. There is a **table of species totals beneath the species information** to assist in checking for errors. You can edit any mistakes while capturing, or by clicking on CAR tab and finding your route under 'Cards pending submission'. Click on the blue button at the end of the line to edit.
  7. Once all is correct click on 'Done'! This should take you to the **Manage your CAR submissions page**, but for some browsers this doesn't happen in which case click on the CAR tab to take you there and check that your count is safely under **Cards pending submission.** Then you really are done, but please send a copy of your roadcount form to your P Org!
- N.B.** If you are interrupted while capturing, as long as you have clicked on the 'Save' after entering the count information you will be able to return to this count later by finding it under 'Cards pending submission'. (The species information is automatically saved as you enter it.)

# Mistakes & misprints – search them out!

Please check the route length and species totals for your route against your original, and report any discrepancies immediately.

## Species Abbreviations

In the tables, three numbers may appear, e.g., 15|5|2 = 15 adults, 5 juveniles and 2 chicks; or two numbers, e.g., 20|1 = 20 adults, no juveniles and 1 chick; or one number, e.g., 13|| = 13 adults, no juveniles or chicks.

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

If everything is not working as it should, then just save and come back to it another time, as occasionally there may be server or network problems.

**When you enter CAR data for anyone else** please email Marja, at [marja.wren-sargent@uct.ac.za](mailto:marja.wren-sargent@uct.ac.za), who will manually register an additional observer under your email address.

### Date of winter CAR count

**The next count is on Saturday, 28 July 2012.** Start your count 1-2 hours after sunrise. The next summer count will be on **Saturday, 26 January 2013!** As I am writing this newsletter it is raining and raining, so I hope that this will not be the case on 28 July!

### CAR Winter Count Information

Please re-read Information Sheet No. 1, as well as the habitat category descriptions in Information Sheet No. 4 and remind yourselves of the 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 15 Roadcount form** is enclosed, you will notice Marja has moved the **side of road column as this now applies to all species.**

If you can't count on 28 July 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 that all the details are filled in and capture your count online and/or send it to your P Org as soon as possible.**

### New CAR participants or participants without an ADU No.

If you do not have an ADU No. please register so that you receive newsletters and CAR project material and can be acknowledged in publications. Go to the CAR webpage <http://car.adu.org.za> or the ADU website and click on CAR in the left hand menu. Click on 'Register' in the left hand menu. For further help check in Newsletter 31.

### Updating/editing your contact details

Remember to keep your contact information up to date, **particularly your email address.** Please follow the guidelines on p. 1 of Newsletter 31.

### January 2012 count

The weather for the January CAR count was fine throughout the country and thankfully there were no heavy rains preceding the count in the summer rainfall areas. The **interim website report on the summer count** can be found at [http://car.adu.org.za/news\\_summer\\_2012.php](http://car.adu.org.za/news_summer_2012.php)

Two routes were counted in the North West province. In January only one new route, KP03, was established by Louis Lombard in the Paulpietersburg precinct.

### Findings from Sally Hofmeyr's PhD on CAR

"After nearly four years of working on my PhD I finally submitted my thesis in February this year. Although I am still awaiting the examiners' reports, I can share my main findings with you. But first, a HUGE thank you to all the wonderful CAR counters (and SABAP participants) who provided the reams and reams of data I used! We have learned some incredibly valuable things from all these data.

The most important and worrying results were those concerning the Southern Black Korhaan (SBK). This species declined from around 3 birds per 100 km in the late 1990s to 0.5 or fewer in 2010 in both the Swartland and Overberg precincts. In the Eastern Cape Karoo region the species declined until about 2002–2003, and then began to increase in numbers again. A surprisingly high proportion of birds (around 70%) were seen in transformed habitats (mainly pastures, crop fields and stubble fields) in the Overberg, and to a lesser extent in the Swartland, but habitat selection analysis showed that the birds still prefer natural habitat where it's available. The SABAP data shows that the SBK declined significantly in most of its Western Cape range, that it increased in a very small part of its Eastern Cape range (which coincides with many of the CAR Eastern Cape Karoo routes), and that it probably declined in most of the rest of its range. Based on these analyses I have recommended that the species is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. The main reasons for the decline are probably habitat loss, climate change and possibly increased predation by predators whose populations are increasing, such as the Pied Crow. We would never have detected this decline as soon as we have had it not been for all the incredibly valuable CAR data that have been collected from within this species' range. (We didn't even think of looking at the SABAP data for this species until we'd noticed what the CAR data looked like!)

The Blue Crane population in the Western Cape has increased steadily since the CAR project began, and is another amazing and important story to emerge from the CAR data. I developed a national population index using CAR data and SABAP data. This suggested that the Blue Crane population (in the parts of the species' range that are monitored by the CAR project) has roughly trebled since the project began. This is despite the fact that the population in the Grassland biome, the former core of the range, has not increased and has in fact probably decreased significantly in much of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), the north-eastern Free State and in Gauteng. Summer habitat selection is mainly for natural habitats, except in the Western Cape, northern Free State, southern KZN and coastal Eastern Cape. The use of transformed habitats in the Western Cape is predictably the highest, and no more than 5% of birds are seen in natural veld in these precincts. In winter, however,

most birds are seen in transformed habitats; the only precincts in which more than half of the birds were in natural veld were the Eastern Karoo (NK routes) and Southern Free State.

The Denham's Bustard population appears to be increasing in parts of the Overberg and the southern and coastal Eastern Cape, but in parts of KZN, especially, it is declining. It has also adapted to using transformed habitats in parts of the Western and Eastern Cape, but in most of the rest of its range it mainly sticks to natural veld. Since this habitat is becoming scarcer and scarcer throughout its range, this is not good news. Another factor of great concern is powerlines, as this species is particularly vulnerable to powerline collisions. (Powerline markers seem to have some effect for Blue Cranes, but unfortunately not for bustards, probably due to differences in the way they see.) I overlaid a map of the Denham's Bustard's range with a map of powerlines in South Africa, and the parts of the range where the population is declining most severely coincide remarkably well with the regions which have the highest densities of high voltage powerlines.

The other three korhaans I focused on - Northern Black (NBK), Karoo (KK) and Blue (UK) all appear to be stable or increasing overall, at the moment. The CAR data mostly suggests that all three species have stable populations, although the proportion of the KK's and NBK's populations that are covered by the CAR project is rather small. SABAP data suggests that the NBK is increasing throughout much of the eastern half of its range, except in Limpopo, and, surprisingly, that the UK population is stable or increasing throughout much of its range. The only real problem area for the UK is the far eastern Free State / north-western KZN. The range of the KK is not well enough covered by SABAP2 yet to draw any strong conclusions. All of these species tend to prefer natural habitats, except for the KK in the Western Cape, where they show a preference for transformed habitats.

The extra CAR counts done by myself and some CAR participants enabled me to examine the reliability of count data for a wide range of CAR species, under different conditions. They showed that behaviour and abundance both affect the reliability of totals; flocking behaviour reduces reliability, and greater abundance increases it, in general. Some species, however, are reliably counted even at low densities (e.g. SBK), because they are relatively sedentary, while others are not (e.g. Secretarybirds), because they move around so much. These are all valuable findings which will help enormously in the future interpretation of CAR count totals. Someday I hope to be able to conduct some more extra CAR counts, to increase the applicability of this analysis.

While conducting my fieldwork I had the pleasure of staying with many different CAR participants and farmers: Yvonne Craig and Peter Bosman in

St Francis Bay; Rosanne and Michael Clark and in Himeville; Ian Conroy and Steven Squires in Jacobsdal; John and Una Coates in Swellendam; Fiona and Les Hellmann in Riebeeck Kasteel; Pieter and Ann Albertyn in Napier, and Laurel Bloch in Montagu. I also met many other CAR participants, and of course it goes without saying that they are all excellent people! I owe a huge debt of gratitude, also, to all the dedicated “extra CAR counters” – those tireless volunteers who contributed yet more of their time and petrol to counting our precious birds. Chief among them is the indefatigable Graham Kletz, who completed at least 27 extra counts, including one stretch of eight days in a row!”

Thank you Sally for all your hard work on the CAR birds!

### Project material on the website

You can download this from the CAR webpage, <http://car.adu.org.za/>.

### CAR data summaries

Click on Data summaries in the left hand menu of the CAR webpage. For further information about these draft summaries refer to pg 2 of Newsletter 31.

### Special Watch on four CAR birds

There is a Special Watch on the Southern Bald Ibis, Southern Ground-Hornbill, Secretarybird and White-bellied Korhaan. You can enter your sightings online for these four species at any time of year as this information will greatly assist those who are conducting focused studies on these species. The Special Watch link is in yellow writing in the Menu section with a black background on <http://sabap2.adu.org.za>

### Data requests

In February I sent the CAR results from the Overberg and Swartland to Kevin Shaw, Ornithologist for CapeNature, who was writing the avifauna chapter for the Western Cape State of Biodiversity Report.

### Information helpful to farmers

In the interim report on the summer count I included

a number of links to articles that I felt would be of interest to farmers.

### 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*.

### CAR support

We are most thankful that the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is providing core funding for CAR for this year. I am still trying to source funding for the shortfall, I submitted a proposal recently that was unfortunately unsuccessful. There is now a link in the left hand menu of the ADU home page to make donations online, so do please draw potential sponsors attention to this. All donations are tax deductible, it is important to specify ‘other’ and ‘CAR, ADU’ as recipient and let me know.

Thank you to Paddy Campbell for writing about the 2011 “Winter ‘CAR’ count and more” in BirdLife Eastern Cape’s magazine, which I didn’t see while writing the last newsletter. Their ‘more’ was eight ‘full protocol’ atlas pentads in two days prior to the count! I appreciate Charné Kemp writing an article on these counts in the *Volksblad*. Thank you to those who have written about CAR counts on the birdnets as well!

### EWT–African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT–ACCP)

This programme’s newsletter, the *Grus Grapevine*, is in the News section of their webpage <https://www.ewt.org.za>

### Ringed birds

A colour ringed Blue Crane was seen on OV04. Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species at all times and report details to SAFRING. A photo really helps.

### Reporting dead birds

Please report all powerline collisions to EWT’s Wildlife and Energy Programme on 0860 111 535 or [wep@ewt.org.za](mailto:wep@ewt.org.za).

### Southern Bald Ibis project

Kate Henderson ([ibis@birdlife.org.za](mailto:ibis@birdlife.org.za)) would appreciate any sightings of Southern Bald Ibis and particularly nest sites in KZN.

### Southern Ground-Hornbills

Please send any sightings, with locality, at any time of year to Scott Ronaldson on 013 7355550 or [scottr@ewt.org.za](mailto:scottr@ewt.org.za).

### Thank you!

I have so appreciated your commitment to CAR counts despite the costs of petrol and your willingness to capture routes online. The team of four who have captured data sent to the ADU has been amazing! Huge thanks go to Yvonne Bosman (née Craig), Irmgard Kaiser, Anne McLeod and Ruth Knight. They have enjoyed imagining the birds as they enter the data!

To all participants and especially Precinct Organisers grateful thanks for all that you do to keep CAR running – your role has grown with online data capture and you have managed the “shift in gear” extremely well.

Inés Cooke has again arranged for a group of friends to fold this newsletter which helps me enormously. Many more of you will be reading this online, thank you!

Thank you very much to Michael Brooks and René Navarro for their developments of the software. I appreciated Linah Maqashu, and ADU intern, stepping in to edit the tables as I no longer have Denise’s help. Lastly, many thanks to Marja, for typesetting this newsletter as efficiently as usual!

Warm regards to you all and travel safely,



Donella Young,  
Project Coordinator

## Count Results Summer 2012

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in Gauteng								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other spp.
GB01	20	12647	Awie Coetzee & Willem Grobbelaar	9	37	6	1	
GB02	30	1764	Sean West			1		
GB03	51.6	2315	Michael Drummond-Hay & 3 Friends	8	16	1		
GB04	45	1814, 2793	Billy Malatji & R Sekewele		4			2BC
GB05	26	2945	Riaan Marais		1	1		
GB06	46	2374	Leon & Lucia Lotter					
GB07	54	1764	Sean West					
GC01	19	2046	Willem de Lange			40		
GC02	64.7	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	3	53	8	14	1HAR,27WS
GC03	73.4	2390, 1123	Johan De Jager, K Richards & Piet		15	23		
GC04	62.4	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	5	30	7	3	
GC05	62.5	1651	John & Moira Randell	5	40	2	14 4	
GD01	65	746	Andre Botha	34	50		9	7UK
GD02	52	2166	Neville Cornish	2	25			
GD03	36	2672, 2833	Boet & Ann Holmes	3	2		7	
GD04	52	2338, 2434	P Matlamela, L Nevhutalu & L Lumalisile	18	11			
GD05	52.4	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	30	32		4	1HAR,2SEC,9UK
GH01	55.3	2045	Rouxdene Deyse, N & E Horn	3	54		1	
GH02	71.6	2226	Daniel Koen	11	8		15	
GH03	52	2101	Hein Pienaar		2	6		
GH04	47.3	2095	Claire Laura & Pierre Eksteen	5	2			
GH05	59	2300	O Katumba, R Maluleke, Maki & Makotso			2		
GM01	40	2102	Leon Labuschagne				1	2SEC
GM02	21	2102	Leon Labuschagne		13			
GW01	51.2	1764	Sean West		3			1WBK
GW02	48	6343	Yvonne Pennington, H Marshall, M Roper, R Rode	2				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1257</b>			<b>138</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2BC,2HAR,4SEC,16UK,1WBK,27WS</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>11.0</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	
GB - Bronkhorstspruit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site								

### Gauteng

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG).

There is a possibility that Craig will contact you regarding starting the counts in this province a bit earlier in order to pick up the korhaans calling. He just needs to check this out, so wait to hear from him.

Willem de Lange certainly seems to have a route attractive to Northern Black Korhaan, as GC01 always seems to have the highest totals by far. The Blue Korhaan total equalled the winter count of 16, the highest total yet.

I am glad to hear from Craig that both the East Rand and West Rand Bird Clubs have indicated that they may be able to take over additional routes which certainly helps in filling the gaps.

Thank you to Craig for all his organisation of these counts.



Blue Cranes in indigenous vegetation on NK04.  
Photo: Tjaart van der Walt.

## Mpumalanga & North West

*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 location and activity for Southern Bald Ibis, as well as for cranes and bustards.

I was delighted that two Wattled Cranes were recorded by Ursula Franke and Gordon Neubert on MS08 as this species has not been seen on a CAR count in this precinct since January 2004! Hendrik van Wyk's total of 10 Blue Cranes, including four juveniles, was amazing, as

this is the highest total on a single route since counts began in 1998!

It is great to see Southern Bald ibis on all the routes counted.

### Middelburg precinct

Thank you to Billy Smith for continuing monitoring in this area where there is much mining.

### Standerton precinct

Johan van Rensburg had the highest count of Black-headed Heron (30) ever on MT05. It is encouraging to see that Swainson's Spurfowl is regularly seen on these routes.

### Wakkerstroom precinct

It was incredible to see that 47 Grey Crowned Cranes were recorded on MW06, Judy Ryder's route – this is the highest total in summer since counts began in this area. It is also encouraging to see that Secretarybirds were recorded on all Wakkerstroom routes except one. Thank you to Judy-Lynn Wheeler for posting me the roadcount forms twice as the first batch went astray.

### Chrissiesmeer precinct

Due to last minute cancellations it was not possible to count all these routes, especially as the Wits Bird Club members travel such a long way for the CAR count. Raymond and Mark Dumbleton, who are new to CAR, recorded the highest totals for Black-headed Heron and Southern Bald Ibis since counts began in January 2005. Thank you to Barbi Forsyth for all her careful organisation for these CAR weekends.

### North West

HR01 was initiated by a dairy farmer in the Barberspan area in 2001, it is wonderful that Magda Remisiewicz inspired this team of Barberspan rangers to continue this route. Nedick Bila, Ornithologist for North West, initiated HW01 near Wolmerstad in 2010.

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in Mpumalanga											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	WS	Other spp.
MC01	73.5	2197, 1388	Mike Witcomb & Janine Isom		21			8	15 16		
MC02	64.2	1555, 2094	Lia Steen, B Carstens & 2 Friends		3	2 1		2	13 4		1DB,2WBK
MC03	56.1	6758, 6760	Raymond & Mark Dumbleton		35	97			59	54	2SEC
MC04	68.9	1511, 1750, 1118	Barbi & Alan Forsyth, V Engelbrecht		6		4	3	69	25	
MM03	44	2290	Billy Smith		15		1	21	37		
MS04	64.2	780	Hannes Marais	4	4	22			4		2SEC
MS05	54.1	728, 1558	Anton Linstrom & Tommie Steyn		8	9			14 6		1SEC
MS06	54.3	1178	Hendrik van Wyk	6 4	7	17 4		12 2	5	15	1SEC
MS08	37	2279, 6773	Ursula Franke & Gordon Neubert		3	55 2					2WC
MS14	54.9	730, 6767, 459, 6769	Mervyn & T Lotter, D & L McKenzie		3	7		3			
MS15	54.4	2279	Ursula Franke & JP Engelbrecht		1						
MT01	84	1816	Colin Williams & Colin Munroe	1	5			24	2  5		8SS
MT02	64	1816	Colin Williams		14	2		30	14		7NBK,4SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		7			34	2		4NBK,11SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		2			19	6		1SS
MT05	65.8	2294, 6618, 12093	Johan van Rensburg, C & T Pretorius		30	24	1	53	9		7NBK,7SS,7UK
MW01	58	1867, 10721	John & Elize McAllister	2		11	2	162	2		2SEC
MW03	68.7	2196, 2163	Bronwen & Keith Davidson	2	1	2		127	3		1SEC
MW06	58.2	6358, 2003	Judy Ryder, Ann Cleal & P		17	43	47	81	7		2SEC,4UK
MW07	63	6409	Sandy & Kevin Twoney					58			
MW08	92.7	1409, 2003	John Burchmore & Ann Cleal	2	6	10		144	9		1SEC
MW09	87	550, 361	Brian Guerin & Judy-Lynn Wheeler		25	31					6DB,2SEC
MW10	52.8	2199, 2018	Penny Fox & Beverley Thorne	2	6			86			2SEC
<b>Total</b>	<b>1391</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7DB,19SS,</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>1.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>18NBK,16SEC,</b>
MC - Chrissiesmeer, MM - Middelburg, MS - Steenkampsberg, MT - Standerton, MW - Wakkerstroom precincts											
<b>7UK,2WBK,2WC</b>											

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in North West province					
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	NBK	Other spp.
HR01	44	12021, 12023, 10809, 10807	Kelebogile Moeti, D. Moruapheko, A. Mvundle, A. Koloti	26	18BHH,1SEC,1SG
HW01	60	10751	Magezi Bila	1	



### 34th Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTSB), Northern Cape

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in Eastern Karoo										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	WS	Other species
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	6	1	5	3			
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock	2	6	1	2	1		
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	16 1 3		11	1			
NK031	20	2259, 2165	Santa & Raymond Swenson	6	6		6			3DB
NK032	20	2259, 2165	Santa & Raymond Swenson	25		2	7	2		12KB
NK033	20	2259, 2165	Santa & Raymond Swenson	6			8	2		
NK041	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt, Masa, Jeandre, Leslie, Basie, Bradley & Sheldon	7				1		1BHH,2KB,1SG
NK042	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team	5	2		6		1	
NK044	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team	148	9	4	6	1	1	2DB,4KB,3UK
NK141	20	499, 6756	Henri & Anna Smith	12	2	10				6SG
NK142	20	499, 6756	Henri & Anna Smith	3		6	1			
NK143	20	499, 6756	Henri & Anna Smith							
NK181	20	2660	Margaret Van Zijl	22		9				1KB,3SG
NK182	20	2660	Margaret Van Zijl	6 2			3			
NK183	20	2660	Margaret Van Zijl	12		1				11SG
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie, A & Charné Kemp	4	2	3	17		9	3SG
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie, A & Charné Kemp			2 2	7			
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie, A & Charné Kemp							
NK301	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma De Jager				6			3BHH
NK302	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma De Jager	6			1	2		2KB
NK331	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	1			2			8BHH,3SG,4UK
NK332	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	8 1 2		1	2			
NK333	20	1194	Chris van Rooyen	4 2						2BHH,6SG,5UK
NK391	20	2859	Neville Hoets							1BHH
NK392	20	2859	Neville Hoets							1BHH
NK393	20	2859	Neville Hoets							
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>			<b>310</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16BHH,5DB,21KB,</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>59.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>33SG,12UK</b>
NK461	20.6	10360	Marina Beal	73 3	1		2	1	23	2BHH,5BS,1HAR,466SG

Tjaart's team of enthusiastic observers: behind: Bradley and Jeandre, front: Leslie, Sheldon, Musawenkosi and Basie. Photo: Tjaart van der Walt.

The Blue Crane density (67.4/100km) was the highest summer density so far, mainly due to a few larger groups on Tjaart van der Walt's route NK044. It is wonderful to see young people assisting in CAR. They had amazing sightings on their third transect spotting all three large bustards, three Blue Korhaans and recording ten species! Marina Beal also recorded ten species, but as NK461 surrounds a large wetland this is not so surprising. The Kori Bustard numbers were half what they were the last two counts.

Chris van Rooyen, who counted NK33 noted that due to tall grass, the Korhaans were not easily spooked making them difficult to spot. "We have had 3 excellent rain seasons, with the result that our rivers are running and our dams are full. Birdlife has subsequently become more prolific. We are spotting species not supposed to be found in our area (Pigmy Kingfisher, Fish Eagle, Swainsons Franklin)".

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

Thank you to Christine Pienaar and Ronelle Visagie for gathering all the counts. Many thanks to Ronelle for capturing the majority of these routes, especially as there are three transects to each NK route!



## Free State

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in north-western Free State									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.	
FW16	68.1	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe	6	7			1YS	
FW18	50.5	1268	Herman Jordaan		31		1		
FW26	64	2396	Louis Botha		20			2BC	
FW28	34	6695	Piet van der Merwe	3	11		12		
FW34	77.5	1163	Des Walker	4	42		30		
FW36	78.6	28	Johan Hardy	3	9	1	314	5AS,4WS	
FW42	67.4	1646	Andre, D & A Hoffmann	18	4				
FW43	64.7	2261	Chris Daphne	3	30		8		
FW45	52.2	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan	2	1	1	96		
FW51	77	1253	Koos den Houting	2	52			4UK	
FW52	58	2201, 1957	Mary Littlewood & R Girard	3	3				
FW55	59	1890, 1891	Greg & Janine Goosen	13	5	2	10 33	1YS	
FW61	60.1	10783	Alta Henning	3	53		2	5UK	
FW62	58.5	2262	Tjaart Venter	23	55	2	17	2UK	
<b>Total</b>	<b>870</b>			<b>89</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>5AS,2BC,</b>	
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>10.2</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>2YS,4WS,</b>	
								<b>11UK</b>	

### The January count marked the 30th count for the Southern and North-eastern Free State routes! Congratulations on achieving this milestone!

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

"The La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific that re-emerged in August 2011 led to forecasts of above-average rainfall for the 2011/12 summer in South Africa, but which never materialised and we had below-average rainfall instead. While this meant that most of the Free Staters surveying the 89 CAR routes (covering 5721 km) for the 2012 summer count didn't have to battle with impassable roads this summer, many were disappointed by the low number of birds they saw. There was a grand total of 5365 birds (94/100 km) recorded, compared with 8275 (128 birds/100 km) the previous summer, with the biggest difference being in the total White Storks seen: 203 this summer and 3025 the previous one. Also down substantially were Grey Crowned Crane (23 compared with 145 for summer 2011), Northern Black Korhaan (1164 vs. 1660) and Southern Bald Ibis (331 vs. 540). However, Blue Crane numbers were up (654 vs. 342), as were Spur-winged Goose (1 989 vs. 784); the last was the dominant species in the Province, no doubt because there was still much water in farm dams

and pans, from all the rain the previous season. It was also the dominant species in the North-western Precinct (60.1/100 km), though more than half of these were recorded along just one route, Johan and Amelia Hardy's, W of Welkom. The only migrant storks (four White and five Abdim's) in that precinct were also recorded along their route, while Louis and Nonnie Botha saw the only (two) Blue Cranes, E of Viljoenskroon.

Although there were far fewer Southern Bald Ibis in the North-eastern Precinct than in the previous summer, it was again the dominant species there (26.8/100 km), followed by Blue Crane 21.5/100 km), though 250 (94%) of these were spotted by Paulus Philo just W of Harrismith, all in one flock. Otto and Marguerite Nel spotted the only Denham's Bustard, E of Memel, and Janet and Koos Lourens the only (four) White-bellied Korhaans, N of Reitz.

The Spur-winged Goose was also the most abundant bird in the Southern Free State Precinct (35.5/100 km) followed by Northern Black Korhaan (21.4/100 km). The "density" of the last was half that of the 2011 summer count, with the poor rains no doubt affecting the breeding of the birds and which would have meant that there were fewer males calling and displaying. Although most of the Blue Cranes recorded in this precinct were in flocks W of Philippolis, 14 breeding pairs were also spotted, accompanied by 20 young. The Secretarybird continues to do well in the southern Free State (2.4/100 km); they were recorded along 34 (62%) of the routes, with seven on four of them and eight on another."

Many thanks to Brian for writing this report while on leave and for organising over 100 CAR counts. Thank you for checking all the roadcount forms and capturing many as well.



Deirdre Colahan learning early from her Dad.  
Photo: Brian Colahan.

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in southern Free State													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.	
FS06	72.7	700	Johan & Miriam Watson	29 5		8	7	3	9	18			
FS07	61	1746, 6401	A Nichas, S Tsangarakis, D Kartsounis	6	1	16	17	7		4			
FS09	61.8	24	Brian Colahan	21 1 2		2	9	1	1	6			
FS17	71.9	1620	Dawie Kok	1	1		25	3	7	8			
FS18	70.2	684	Louise Coetzee		2		19	3	4	3	3		
FS19	89	2384	Pieter van Heerden				12	1	21 1				
FS20	67.9	2171, 2394	Sandra Bishop & Sally Barnard		2	1	15	4	40				
FS21	60.1	682	Leon Barkhuizen		3		7	7	6				
FS27	78.4	694	Erika Schulze	4 1	1	1	11		50				
FS31	71.6	259	Johan van Niekerk		4		9		21	1			
FS35	71.4	1258, 864	Hannes Blom & Savvas Vrahimis		2		14	1	25	4			
FS42	67.8	24	Brian Colahan	19		6	32	3	102		3	54AS	
FS43	75	1801	Christo de Meyer		6		10						
FS45	80.8	2368	A van der Vyfer & L de Coning		6		21	1	70 27 10	16	1	1BS	
FS47	84	1055	Johan & Henriette van den Berg				8	2	12				
FS50	78	1058	Frans & Malie Marais		5	1			9	4 2		2YS	
FS51	79	24	Brian Colahan	1	4	3	22	3	13	12	1		
FS54	59.3	1262	Janine Liefbrig & Dirk Coetzee		2		26	1	2			70AS	
FS55	48	1995	P J Du Preez				58	8		6			
FS56	68.5	987	Jeanette Buys		2		52	4	58	11	19	1AS	
FS58	78.8	863	Pierre Nel				16	7					
FS60	70	2260	Ilse Van Den Bergh				5	1	53				
FS62	36	2298, 6117	Lynden & Rosemary Lund						3	3			
FS65	74.3	864	Savvas Vrahimis		2		7						
FS66	52	1399	Tom & J Mostert				5	1	7				
FS67	71.9	24	Brian Colahan	3	1		32	1	1				
FS68	69.2	24	Brian Colahan	1 2	4		26	1	36	19	10		
FS70	58.1	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helene Bam		5 1			7	13	4		1BS	
FS73	69	1723, 1805	Callie & R Bam, Brand & M Louw		19	4		1	21	2			
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger		2		2	3	2				
FS79	51.1	1397	Dewald Liebenberg				12						
FS82	72.2	6704	Gert & Jaco Joubert						11				
FS83	49.2	2214, 2215	Hennie, Trix & Karen de Bruin		7	1	3			8			
FS84	53	1297, 2053	Johan & Dalene Coertzen		5				10			2BS	
FS85	74.6	285	Johan Cloete		6		17		53	1			
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie & Wynand Geyer				40		61	6	8		
FS91	58.8	641	Rick Nuttall				10		19	1	23		
FS94	73	24	Brian Colahan	9	2		24	1		3			
FS95	84	821	Coenie Erasmus	2			3						
FS97	51.5	6381, 6383	Harold & Deidre Elsmere		6		2		65 2	9	3	1HAR	
FS101	62.8	24	Brian Colahan	37 2	1	5	3	2	118				
FS103	55.4	1052	Duart Hugo				14	1	1				
FS106	49.4	102	Dawie de Swardt & H Bester		1		7		34	3			
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jenny Lotter		17		3	1	8 3	3			
FS109	60.5	6793	Shirley Brooks & Frank Sokolic		6 1			2	7	8			
FS110	64	2464	Dirk & K Bredenkamp, L & V van der Westhuizen				9 1			2			
FS112	61.3	1262, 2394	Janine Liefbrig & Sally Barnard		3		33		69	3		2AS,1HAR	
FS114	71.1	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helene Bam	3	1		5	1	62		1		
FS115	76	2466	Tiger Muller		3		21		14				
FS116	46.7	6379, 6377	Louis & Lynn Goedhals		3		17		31				
FS118	67.2	24	Brian Colahan	227 8	2	7	17	2		7		1KK	
FS120	75	1889	Johan Labuschagne		6		49	1	27	4			
FS122	57	1057	Lourens & Istelle Goosen		1		1		47	1			
FS123	62	683	Chris Botha				3		4				
FS125	67.7	6375	Margie Pearce & John Goddard		3		2	1	9				
<b>Total</b>	<b>3615</b>				<b>384</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>127AS,4BS,</b>
<b>Birds / 100 km</b>					<b>10.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2HAR,1KK,</b>
													<b>2YS</b>

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in north-eastern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
FN16	53.7	701	Theunis Bekker		6	109	2		3	6		
FN28	63.5	1892, 1893	Otto & Marguerite Nel	2  1	2	4	6		4			1DB
FN31	78.8	2109	Rick & James Dillon, M Bignaut	8	7	13	8	2	4		32	
FN32	46.9	6125	Jean & Dave Short		1		4				15	
FN37	59.1	2042	Melanie Potgieter		8		2		2 7	4		12NBK
FN39	61.2	2472, 2474	Irmgard Kaiser, D Reed, A Kritzinger, F Yatt		8				4		1	
FN41	75.3	1045	GJ Vermeulen		28				13		1	4NBK
FN42	72	1517	Henk & Fransina Venter		8	4		2	13	6	21	
FN44	67.4	2470	Marina Ferreira		8			1				
FN46	63.8	718	Gerhard & E van Deventer		12	43		1	2		10	
FN48	56	605	Janet Lourens		3							3NBK,4WBK
FN49	47	1747	Morne Pretorius		4	6 1			17	15		
FN50	54	942	Pieter Koornhof & N Botha		11	44			13 3			
FN51	63.4	2498	Ina van Rensburg		18	7			3			
FN52	71	717	Johan & M Strauss	4 1	30 8	29	1	2	43 5	8	44	
FN55	63.7	703	Nacelle Collins		2				1	10	5	
FN58	63	705	Paulus Fihlo	250	32	61			13		1	
FN60	64	1505	Brian Barnes & R Prinsloo						1			50NBK
FN62	68.5	11376	A Barrett & D Redelinghuys		14	1			16 5	1		2NBK
FN63	46	1932	Pietre & Fred Enslin		1	9			11			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1238</b>			<b>266</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1DB,71NBK,4WBK</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>21.5</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>4WBK</b>

## Eastern Cape

Please remember to record activity and side of road for Southern Black Korhaan. 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 January 2012 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
EB01	63	175,174, 2209	Ken & G Griffith, S Walsh, D Leppert		15	9					30 1	2	
EB02	75	1398, 680	Keith Marshall, I Field & Wilkinsons		15 4		2				1	25	
EB03	67	2119, 1988	P Swift, G Branford, V Biggs & L Nel	10	4	19 2					28	46	
EB04	63.1	1567, 1584, 10650	B Monfoort, W Perks & N Lansdowne	2		4 1 2				2	1 4	33	
EB05	32.4	195, 10913	Phil Whittington, Liz Watkins	1	2	1					18 8	15	
EB06	63.6	10251, 6179, 6177	Michael Stanyon, O & G Tharratt		2						2	6	
EE06	50.74	6730	Sarone & Carl van Niekerk		7	45			2			15	1HAR
EE08	65.5	6765	Minette Cloete		8	6				1	20	8	
EE10	63	899, 6161	Kevin & Lesley Meise		5	12					14	4	
EE11	48	1261, 6182, 6188, 6184,	Mike, Lida, F, M & M Agenbag	11	8	32 14				1	15 27		10BI
EE12	50	901	Jenni Brown									4	
EE19	83.8	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	153 3	4 3	4		11		5	88 10	9	19UK
EE20	57	2281	Jacky & M Steytler Lamer & Cara Leask		2	16						29	
EE22	17.4	2251, 2312	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Feely		7	111					26	48	
EE23	38	2044, 2180	Des & Martie Schroeder		2						11	35	
EG03	76.1	341	Bo Bonnevie & Reiner Friedel	5					5		3	3	2KB
EH03	54	2289,2398, 2406, 2400	C & V Barratt, M Langlands & C Greathead	6 1	8 1		11				1	364	
EH04	43.2	1767, 1766, 2402	Jill & K Tudhope, P Bosman, J Thorpe		13 1							61	
EH05	38	1612, 1794, 11507, 302	Abel & H Bezuidenhout, J & C Cook	4	1		2			2		3	
EH06	0	312, 2753, 2755, 12119	Yvonne Craig, G & E Knight, J Suckling	88	12 6		21				8	83	1WBK
EK02	42.8	885	John Lardner-Burke, B Matthew		2					1	1	15	
EK04	55.9	2210	John Potter, W & W Grove		3		3 2			1	2		
EK05	60.2	1527, 1528	Jenny Roxburgh, Laurie Wood		5		8			1	5	6	
EM01	62.1	974, 2111	Bradley, Lee-Ann & Brenna Gibbons	72	2			11		3	5		4NBK,8UK
EM02	61	2304, 974	Ron Blaker & Bradley Gibbons	15	8					1	2		
EM03	56	198, 6754	Shaun & Agnes Peard	27 2	2			3		2	8		7NBK
EP01	71.4	1244, 653	D Hoffmann, P Brett & B du Plessis	36				12		1		3	7KK
EP02	65	83	A Nixon, M Potgieter, C Erasmus, P Kukard	36				5	7	2		2	1KB
EP03	61	1089, 868	Jenny & Ken Munro							2			7UK
EP04	70.4	869	Peter Hall, Lionel, Sigrid	4 1				3		1			12KK
EP06	55	6727, 10144	John Webber, D Smeda, J Vertue				1		2				2KK,2UK
EP07	72.3	2245, 2246, 6175, 6173, 6171	Lesley & Michael Lord & sons	2			1	2					31NBK,8UK
EP08	110.7	270, 10736, 10795	Dave Brown, R Zietsman, P Campbell	4				6	2		10	20	1KB,17KK
EP09	31	6727, 10144	John Webber, D Smeda, J Vertue		1						1	22	
EP10	43	1731	John Bowker, Pete Rowles					5					5KK,18NBK
EP12	11.46	1852	B Wright, A Widdows, F Landry & R Paton		43		2				17	38	
ES02	46	6746	Frikkie Rossouw		5			3		2		6	1KB,3KK
ES03	59.7	6394	Fiona Munro	4 1	1			1		1			1KB,1KK
ES04	46.4	1476, 1972	Judy & Zorb Caryer	12						1		2	
ES05	93	6396	Sophia du Toit	11				2	3		10	1	6KB
ES07	37	1965, 6167	Alison Brown, R Turner & R Bradfield	6	1				1				
ES08	45.2	6762	Jerry Rose-Innes	22 2				8	4				7KK
ES10	29	2291, 2496, 5953	Liz & Gerald Buisman, Shirley Grindley	52 2				1		2			2KK
ES11	37.9	2211, 319	Greg & Graeme Brown	4 3				2	3			2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2372.3</b>			<b>612</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>10BI,1HAR,1WBK</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>25.8</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>12KB,56KK,4WBK</b>
EB - Border, EE - North-east Cape, EG - Grahamstown, EH - Humansdorp, EK - Kenton, EM - Middelburg, PE (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), ES - Somerset East												<b>60NBK,44UK,1WBK</b>	

Chris and Valda Barratt and their team were kept busy counting 364 White Storks, the highest total for this species in the country this last summer. This province had the second highest density of White Storks this summer, mainly due to this concentration on EH03.

Sandy and Hope Stretton recorded by far the highest total of Blue Cranes on an Eastern Cape route on EE19. This is the most counted on a route in summer since Neville and Carmen Willows counted 255 on ES08 in 2007.

Sheila Bell-Cross noted a change to no till planting of maize and soya on EE22, a route which had the highest total of Grey Crowned Cranes (111).

I was glad to see that Mike Agenbag and his family counted 10 Southern Bald Ibis on EE11. Andy Nixon and his team were thrilled to see a Lesser Grey Shrike on EP02, a rare sighting in the Eastern Cape. Half of the Northern Black Korhaans were counted on EP07 by Michael Lord and his family.

Many thanks to Ken and Gertie Griffiths who have taken over organising the Border counts. I wrote about Graham Winch who initiated and coordinated this precinct since 1988 in the interim report, as well as others who are sadly no longer with us.

## Western Cape

*Please remember to record activity and side of road for Southern Black Korhaan and also include Grey Rhebok, Cape Grysbok and Steenbok in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds.*

### Swartland precinct

It was very hot in the Swartland, Mel Tripp and Simon Fogarty recorded 40°C at midday on their route near Moorreesburg. Riaan and Marika van der Walt counted 13 Blue Crane juveniles altogether with adult pairs. Despite the dry conditions Fiona Hellmann saw four Black Storks on SW01 and surprisingly Reg le Roux and team saw 61 White Storks on SW06 near Malmesbury. Many thanks to Marius Wheeler and his wife Kerry, who filled in for Nic Mostert who was recovering from a stroke.

Jan Hofmeyr didn't see any White Storks at the Mountain View pig farm on 29 January.

### Overberg precinct

It was a hot and windy day in most parts of the Overberg and a number of people remarked on how dry it was which is obvious in Wicus' photo. Most farm dams were empty. The Blue Crane density was the lowest since 2004! The team of five who counted OV20 had the lowest count ever with only 8 adults. The Denham's Bustard density was the lowest since summer 1997, while the Karoo Korhaan density was the lowest since monitoring of this species began in 1997. The Black-headed Heron density was the lowest since 2002 and the Spur-winged Goose density was the lowest since 2006. Since all these species had such

low densities it is most likely that the birds were sheltering from the hot, windy weather conditions. The White Stork density was also on the low side, but was the highest in the country this last count. The area around Mossel Bay was surprisingly green and Wilson and Christine Terblanche recorded two Black Storks. For a more detailed report please refer to Duncan and Inés Cooke's report in [http://car.edu.org.za/news\\_summer\\_2012.php](http://car.edu.org.za/news_summer_2012.php)

Tom and Freya Brett noted that there was an increase in dairy activities on OV29.

I missed seeing Ronnie Crowther's name for OV19, and Alison Passmore's for OV20 – they were both incredibly dedicated CAR route leaders. Many thanks to the rest of their teams for continuing these counts.

**Please fax or post your roadcount form directly to Duncan and Inés:** 20 Oakbridge Village, Bizweni Avenue, Somerset West, 7130. Fax: 0865106470. The funding for an Overberg Carne Group Field Officer has run out, so if you need to report any problems please contact André Marais at CapeNature, 028 3140062.

*Many thanks to Duncan and Inés who have efficiently organized the counts and checked the forms for this large precinct. Amazingly, in addition they have captured many forms most promptly assisted by John Carter!*



*The "dry face of the Overberg" this last summer.  
Photo: Wicus Leeuwner.*

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in Swartland							
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.
SW01	75	1970	Fiona Hellmann, Loni Drager	34 5 2	1	47	4BS
SW02	78.7	503, 1077, 6403	Sean, Louise & Jack Tucker	43	2		
SW03	64	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard, Pat Waddell	7 2	1	3	
SW04	63	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	2		8	1SEC
SW05	60	106, 11090	Mel Tripp & Simon Fogarty	18 1		6 2	
SW06	74	1359, 11280	Reg le Roux, B Paterson & A Heystek	26 5 1	2	9	61WS
SW07	45.2	1122, 2315, 1366	Linda Reynolds, Kevin Drummond-Hay, Les Teare, M Hansby-Stevens	10 1	3		
SW08	65.2	1474	Bruce Mackenzie & Willem Ran		6	42 30	
SW09	60	2033	Jaco van Deventer	4 1	3	85	
SW10	62.1	2362	Donny Malherbe	10 16	4	4 6	1SEC
SW11	68	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	6	4		1SBK
SW12	83	838, 140	Marius Wheeler & Kerry Foce	19 12		19 3	5SBK,1SEC
SW13	47.8	673	Elna Slabber, Faan & Suzette Gerber	6 1		10	
SW14	50.1	506, 1882	Riaan & Marika van der Walt	24 13	4	23	
SW15	67.9	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Dianne Oelbuttel	42 4 2	4	22	2HAR,1SEC
SW16	43.5	2051, 497	Cheryl Faull & Magda Schinkel	5 3	1	13	
SW17	58.1	2587	C Campbell-Smart & G van Schalkwyk				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1066</b>			<b>305</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>4BS,6SBK,</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>28.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>4SEC,61WS</b>

Number of birds counted in January 2012 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, Petra Rigg	55 3	2				1		
OV02	59	872	George Ward, H Riddering	3 7					4		
OV03	49.6	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	51	1	2			11	18	
OV04	27.5	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	56 8 1	2				1		
OV05	66.7	228, 649,1148	J Carter, T Wienand, B Dennis & F Kruger	64 2 4	3	4	4	2	16	42	
OV06	50	1655, 2110	Stuart & Ruth McLennan	80 15 6	1		3		2	137	
OV07	64.9	496	Ken Price & L Flower	81 7 1	6	1			2		
OV08	73.6	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	80 8	12	1			6	49	
OV09	47.6	1083, 802, 801	Anne Price, Ann & Keith McAdam	65 2 8	4				31		
OV10	63	6331, 6333	Henry & Marion Naude & Mavis Smith	123 1 8	1				7	9	2SBK
OV11	61.1	245, 246	Sheila Siebert, M Loubser & H. Keil	107 1 4	7	6				60	
OV12	56	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	14 2 1	1					17	
OV13	70.5	520, 672, 671	Jill Mortimer, Rene Lind, Ann White	141 2 7	9	3	2	2		34	
OV14	38	123, 6742	John Coats, H Hammerbeck & U Bilbrough	122 14 5	6				8	132	
OV15	57.8	2112, 2113	John & Myra Jones, Ken Cockcroft	131 9 15	4 2			1	21	24	
OV16	61.3	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg, Willem du Toit	46 8 2	3					42	
OV17	68	6636, 6638	Paul & Pauline Bramhall	119 5	2					6	
OV18	46.9	240	Wicus Leeuwner & Kina Joubert	161 1 9	6				14		
OV19	62.5	1632, 1213	Christine Wallace, E Stodel & P Pistorius	68 4	1	1				91	1HAR
OV20	54.2	2342, 2344, 1325, 2356, 2358	B & L Napier, N Passmore & Watermeyers	8	4				9	78	
OV21	64	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christine Terblanche	44 6 2	15	1			220	1	2BS
OV22	56.7	1660	Sally Adam & Pam Eloff	147 5 3	21			1	1	34	
OV23	58	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall		6 3				1		
OV24	56	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	30 2	1	8			15	3	
OV26	18.7	871	Jeffrey Arizon, K Davies & A Faraa	25 2	2						
OV27	73	6491	Marloise Groenewald, J Walker & Team	31	11				43	172	
OV28	36	2057	Bill Naude		1				1	1	
OV29	26.9	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	7 4						10	
OV33	63	1463, 6153, 6155, 6157	Frans & Christie de Graaff & Family	42 5 1	4 1	3		2	39	65	
OV36	40	1469	Avril Young & Doric	117 8 11		5		2			
OV37	35	1777	Rae Gordon, Doug & Daph Richardson	130 1 2	2						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1659.5</b>			<b>2369</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>2BS, 1HAR,</b>
<b>Birds/100 km</b>				<b>142.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>2SBK</b>
OV34	61	1550, 1551, 1211, 636	Héyne & Sharon Brink, J & M D'Alton	13		3 2			22		3HAR,1SBK

### Beaufort West precinct

Stefan, Hanneltjie and Madeleine Theron saw 54 Blue Cranes on WB03.

### Little Karoo precinct

Margaret Powell and Dieter Maurer recorded the highest total of Blue Cranes in this precinct and also saw a Black Harrier. Sadly another dedicated CAR route leader, Gillie Schütte, died very shortly before the count. Thank you to Laurel and Basil Bloch and Mike Ford for stepping in.

### Uniondale precinct

Mike & Gill Euston-Brown and team again had the highest Blue Crane count in the precinct. Eight learners assisted 3 adults in counting WU09, they saw 24 White Storks, the highest total in this precinct. Alan Lee cycled his route again. You can find photos and a description of his count at <http://bluehillescape.blogspot.com/2012/01/car-by-bike.html> It is encouraging that Alan saw seven adult Karoo Korhaan and two juveniles.

Number of birds counted in January 2012 census in smaller Western Cape precincts								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other species
WB01	62	343, 2346	Maria Andela & Marieta Oosthuizen			23		
WB03	58	1909, 1971, 2468	Stefan, Hanneltjie & M Theron	51 3	2 8	8		2LB,2SBK,6SEC
WC01	41.4	1291	George Hattingh					1SBK
WC02	58	2293	Mike Hewitt		2			2LB
WK02	47.4	2138, 2693, 2140	Laurel & Basil Bloch, Mike Ford		1			11WS
WK03	35.4	10729, 2292, 6642	Tineke & G Malan, A Rabie	12 1 4	5		1	
WK04	44.2	2182, 2574	Margaret Powell & Dieter Maurer	34 1				1HAR
WK05	17.1	2182, 2574	Margaret Powell & Dieter Maurer					
WK06	41.1	991, 2239, 6307	D Young, Robyn Kadis, Jeremy Bolton	10 1 1	1		10 3	4SBK
WU01	44.6	11372	Robert Smith & Ina Engelbrecht	47 2		4		4SBK
WU02	56.3	2062	Pat Nurse & Marina Smuts	24			9	1DB,2LB
WU03	50	1004	Alan Wheeler, C Pretorius & J Marais		3 3		2	4WS
WU04	33.8	2156	Allstair Pietersen					
WU05	69.8	297, 1520, 6559, 6577, 215	Mike & G Euston-Brown, O & J Purcell, H Busby	79 4	3		12	1WS
WU06	13	2156	Allstair Pietersen	3	1		2	
WU08	44	11617	Alan Lee	11		7 2		
WU09	54	11543, 545	John Rossouw, K Maya, J Roelfse & 8 Learners	3				1HAR,24WS
WW02	58.7	1475	Alan Collett		1			8WS
<b>Total</b>	<b>829</b>			<b>291</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1DB,2HAR,6LB,</b>
<b>Birds/100km</b>				<b>35.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>11SBK,48WS</b>

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

### Calitzdorp precinct

Mike Hewitt saw two Ludwig's Bustard on his route, WC02. This is the first time this species has been recorded on this route.



**KwaZulu-Natal**  
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 January 2012 census in KwaZulu-Natal													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
KD01	81	2084, 2085	Henery & Elizabeth Bugden		6	1	4		13	1	1	107	
KD03	70.5	10921, 11338	Norman & A Leveridge, L Chivers	2		2 1					7		2BBK
KD04	48.1	2352, 2354	Peter & J-A Smith, Roy Gravett		3	2				1		2	
KD06	48	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker	4 2	3	2	1					55	1BBK,1WBK
KD07	72	909	Heino Wellmann		2	8			3			4	
KD08	61	1179, 736	Val & T Cross & 2 Friends		7	67		17		6			2NS,2WBK
KD09	58	2285	Lynne Ruddle		1	10					3	3	
KD10	28	1179, 736	Val & T Cross & 2 Friends		1	3		9			3		
KE01	79	6691, 6693	Ingrid & M Oates & 10 Learners	2	4	3				1		33	
KG02	52.3	1073, 2709, 2711, 2715	Pat Lowry, D & M Shaw, T & E Stubbs	4	5		34 1	8			30	39	
KG03	54	2703, 2707, 2705	Ingrid Bryden, A & P Louwrens	4 3	2		59	29		13	17		2WC
KG05	56	1134	Stiggs Cathcart & A Williamson		16					1	21	4	
KG10	45.2	2713	Jeremy Brownrigg		2		33	5		1	74	78	1WC
KL11	34.4	814	Ann Gray & 5 Learners		3		3		5 8				
KM01	83.2	1904, 1905, 474	D & G Densham, S Bennett	2	29	14	30	2	6	2	20 3	47	
KM02	58.1	1581, 993	Evelyn Hughes & Janice Shipway	3	3		4				19	38	2WC,1OR
KM03	99	498, 2209	Margie Sleigh, S Walsch & B Murray		5		4		6 2		14 1	9	
KM04	35	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter	4			1				5	11	
KM05	80.8	167, 1751, 2162	Pam Nicol, K Nelson, D Milstein & G Glynn		9 2	17	13		1		17	36	1RNS
KM06	94	6121	John Curry & 4 Friends		6	12		2			21	28	
KM07	58	1799	Peter & Anita Divall, B Laing		2	2 1	1	3			1	9	
KM08	62.3	2280	Diane Mason & Olivia Corbishly		10						40	40	2OR
KN01	67.5	927	Johan de Villiers & Danie de Wet	4		74 24		4	16	2 2	18		4RWF,16SS,4WBK
KN03	51.5	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		3	12					12	1	
KN04	46.8	925	Alan & Rene Schwikkard		4						8	11	
KN05	38	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		1		1		10		16	38	1SS
KN06	48.5	2036, 1929	Klaus Heyer & Theuns Botha		3 1		4		17	1			1SS
KO01	52	1529, 425, 1963	Sandi & Gav Calverley, Sally Calitz									6	
KP01	62.8	6434	Louis Lombard	1	2						8 10		
KP03	60.5	6434	Louis Lombard		1								
KU01	68	2015, 740	Gayle & John Ellison	3	10	5	21		3		14	90	2OR
KU02	62.5	10451, 2350	Graham Kletz, Beryl Osborne	1	12 1		37	6	7	2	52	75	6WC
KV01	81	1683	AP Keeve		1	3	4				14	4	
KV02	60.7	2016, 2001	Paul, Ria & Dan Steffensen					3	55 15	4	11		3CF,8SS
KV03	63.1	6415	Clive Mattison				2			3	10	5	1BBK,1GOL
KV04	48	1722, 1790	Charl Oberholser & Arlene Steyn										
<b>Total</b>	<b>2169</b>			<b>39</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>4BBK,3CF,1GOL,</b>
<b>Birds/</b>				<b>1.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>2NS,26SS,1RNS,</b>

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

The January count was the 30th count in a number of KZN precincts: KD, KC, KG, KL and KU! Congratulations on now completing fifteen years of monitoring in this province.

It is most encouraging that the Denham's Bustard and Secretarybird densities were up since the all-time low densities last summer. White Stork densities were certainly much lower than last summer with 107 being the highest total on KD01 counted by Henery and Elizabeth Bugden. I was glad to see that Myles and Carol Ellerker had a much more interesting count than last winter with seven different species on their route. Three routes had nine different species: KM01, KN01 and KU01.

In the Midlands, the oldest precinct, Drummond and Gloria Densham remarked on the tall grass on the roadside and acres of mealies all along their route, KM01. Pam Nicol noted a change of land use on KM05 at Blairmore Farm where "the lovely grassland fields were now under maize or ploughed. Most of the land use between the Curry's Post Road and the Karkloof Road is now under either maize or soya beans unfortunately."

All three crane species were seen on Ingrid Bryden's route, KG03, and Evelyn Hughes' route KM02. Johan de Villiers and Danie de Wet recorded the highest total of Southern Bald Ibis including 24 juveniles. Graham Kletz reported 40 Southern Bald Ibis roosting in trees next to a dam at 61km on KU01.

It is wonderful to see that Ingrid and Mike Oates took 10 St Gregory Primary learners on their count of KE01. Ann Gray took four Winterton Primary learners on KL11.

It is sad to lose people like Brian Byers, who coordinated the KG routes efficiently for five years. Brian and Greta have been involved in CAR since counts began in East Griqualand in 1997. Thank you to Pat Lowry who is willing to be Precinct Organiser for this area. Pat's phone number is 039-7273844. Charl Oberholser, who counted KV04 and designed our CAR logo is also much missed in the Vryheid community. I would also like to acknowledge all that Dennis Holmes and Judi Williams contributed in counting over many years.

Do continue to count Oribi (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.

Thank you to Tim Wood for overseeing CAR in KZN.

Wilri Genis, Kelly Kritzinger, Jenna Hatting and Shaun Priest of Winterton Primary who assisted Ann Gray counting KL11 in a beautiful area near Winterton. Photo: Ann Gray.

