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SANBI
Biodiversity for Life



Newsletter 34, June 2013

It is fortunate that CAR has been shifting into “automatic” gear as the Animal Demography Unit is undergoing big changes. Unfortunately re-structuring has become necessary due to a lack of sustainable funding. As you know there has been a struggle for funding for a long time. It is with great sadness that I let you know that it is highly likely that I, along with three other staff members, will be re-trenched from the end of September this year. I am most grateful for the forty Precinct Organisers who I hope with some extra help will be able to keep CAR running into the future. It is wonderful that many of you now capture your own data and that the Precinct Organisers, together with the team of voluntary capturers, have captured for those not online. However, if you have a computer, please make every effort to capture your route online before the end of September while I am still available to help if you have any difficulties. It is much easier to capture the count on MyBirdPatch than fill in the Word document that some of you use! The information that you are each gathering for your own route is vital in piecing together the “jigsaw puzzle” that gives us a picture of what is happening to the populations of our large terrestrial birds. In the last six months I have received six requests for CAR data related to wind farms. Sally Hofmeyr and I have also commented on the Southern Black Korhaan status on BirdLife International’s Globally Threatened Bird Forum and the draft for this species account in the new South African Red Data Book. I will be in touch with you all once the re-trenchment is finalised and when we have been able to put plans into place for CAR’s continuation. I can then let you know who will have over-sight for CAR at the ADU.

My heart is heavy as this is likely to be my last Newsletter to you all; my first one was Newsletter 3 in December 1997 when there was no database! It has been amazing to work with such an enthusiastic, dedicated and willing team of volunteers over the years. The friendships that have been built up around CAR counting have been very special to me and I have learnt so much from you all. The team of Precinct Organisers has been fantastic as the project has spread to seven provinces and without each one of you this would not have been possible. I know you will all continue to enjoy your days out counting

with the friends that share your route. Together you are giving so much in terms of time, skills, energy, petrol and often perseverance when road conditions or weather are challenging! Over 10 000 roadcounts is no mean feat and the important information about our birds and use of habitat that you are gathering just gets more valuable the longer the period of collection. Thank you for all that you are doing to conserve biodiversity in our beautiful country that is ranked as the third most diverse in the world!

There is important new information about the updated Information Sheets and counting raptors and crows in this Newsletter, so please do keep reading!! Try to have at least two, preferably three or more, people in your car if at all possible. The sections about each province/precinct are shorter than usual, as there is much to communicate here and the interim report was longer than usual.

I have at long last updated the Information Sheets 1 and 4. This was essential now that we are including the raptors and crows. Please note the section on these species. Also use the latest Roadcount Form CAR 16, as there are important additions.

Thank you very much for sending a copy of your original roadcount forms to your Precinct Organiser (P Org). Please continue to do this as these are essential in picking up any errors in data capture/km and following up queries. A few of you have sent forms directly to me in the past, but please now send your copies directly to your P Org. It is particularly important to check that you are adjusting your km correctly if you have a backtrack or detour on your route. If you are unsure please contact your P Org or me in the next two months.

Many of you are forgetting to fill in the km from your tripmeter at the end of your survey online, when the km at the start are 0. If you have no detour then the km from your trip meter at the end of your survey/count are exactly the same as the route length provided you zeroed it at the start of your route!

Do always check your totals on your form against the totals calculated after completing your data capture as well as the tables in this newsletter, this is really useful in finding mistakes.

CAR reached a significant milestone in the journey this last January as the Overberg routes were counted for the fortieth time! So this summer saw the completion of 20 years of counting in this region, where the routes were initiated by David Allan in July

1993. We had a wonderful celebration of this milestone count at the Caledon Wild Flower Gardens which I hope you read about in the CAR Latest News report dated 2013-02-01.

The Eastern Cape precincts have reached a huge milestone of fifteen years of counting. Graham Winch first contacted me and started the first two Eastern Cape Border CAR routes in January 1998 and in March 1998 I visited the Border Bird Club as well as a number of other Bird Clubs in the Eastern Cape and routes were set up by P Orgs. Two Border routes and the first four Steenkampsberg routes did their 30th count in January! The Standerton precinct was initiated ten years ago by Colin Williams with MT01.

Raptors and corvids (crows) join CAR

There is increasing concern about declines in raptors and also the increase in crows (corvids). There was a most positive response from the Precinct Organisers and CAR Management team regarding including some raptors and three corvids and we decided at our Review meeting to include some representative species. Many thanks to the Overberg and Swartland precincts who agreed to conduct a trial count in January. This went smoothly, but do remember to take an **extra roadcount form**, as a number of people went onto a third or fourth page!

We have included those species that are easily seen from the road while doing a CAR count as they are often on poles alongside the road or flying relatively low searching for food. Count these species in the same way as the usual CAR species, with regular stops every 2 km to get out and scan for all relevant birds and also very brief stops in between to record any relevant bird you spot while driving.

The raptor and crow names and abbreviations are at the foot of the updated CAR 16 roadcount form. As B is already used for bustards, C for crane species and K for korhaans we are using BZ for buzzard, KT for Kite and CW for crow.

Through email discussion with the P Orgs and the CAR Management team we have made some decisions regarding recording information:

For raptors and crows please record their **activity** and note that there are two additional activities “**perched**” and “**hunting**” (i.e. actively searching for food). Please decide whether a bird is flying and actively searching for food i.e. hunting in which case record the Habitat that it is searching in and for Activity put “**hunting**” or if it is just flying from one place to another, then put both Habitat and Activity as “**flying**”.

Updated Roadcount Form CAR 16 and Information Sheets 1 and 4: Please download from <http://car.adu.org.za>

The group who gathered to celebrate 20 years of counting in the Overberg with a delicious fruit cake made (anonymously, but their son let the cat out

of the bag!) by Precinct Organisers, Inés and Duncan Cooke. Photo: Rita Hanekom (inset) Ann White, Jill Mortimer & Rene Lind. Photo: Donella Young



Problems with the **data capture**? Please email car@adu.org.za with your phone number.

Our **fax** number in the Biological Sciences Department is 021-6503301. Please mark any faxes: **Attention CAR, ADU.**

Our online data capture system **recognises** you by your email address so please update your email address online if it changes by clicking on “**Edit profile**” on the top right hand corner at <http://mybirdpatch.adu.org.za>. For further details consult the FAQs on the CAR Home page.

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.
Mammals: Oribi = OR, Cape Grysbok = CG, Steenbok = SN, Vaal Rhebok = VR

NEW!

Raptors: Black Harrier = HAR, Steppe Buzzard = SPBZ, Jackal Buzzard = JKBZ, Pale Chanting Goshawk = PCG, Black-shouldered Kite = BSKT, Long-crested Eagle = LCE
Corvids: White-necked Raven = WNR, Pied Crow = PICW, Cape (Black) Crow = CPCW

Remember
your ADU number is in
the table of count results

For raptors or crows on poles/pylons (or the rare occasion when a usual CAR bird is on a pole) please put the most dominant habitat category near the pole, usually the agricultural habitat e.g. crops/stubble/pasture etc under the Habitat column and then under Relevant Feature nearby record “on pole”, or “on pylon” if that is the case and then under Activity put “perched”. We will use “on pole” for all types of poles – telephone poles, vineyard poles, fence poles etc. If a raptor is perched on something not mentioned under Relevant feature nearby, don’t worry just fill in the dominant habitat category for Habitat and “perched” for Activity. Poles are often between the agricultural habitat and road verge, which may make recording Habitat tricky. If it is difficult to tell which is the most dominant habitat then record the agricultural habitat, unless of course the raptor is actively hunting in the roadside verge then use the existing option “other-road/verge” for Habitat.

We have also added two additional options to Relevant feature nearby: “roadkill” and “rocky outcrop”. These birds are often attracted by a roadkill. Larger rocky outcrops or piles of boulders provide shelter for snakes, small mammals/rodents, lizards etc. and therefore can be attractive to a number of species.

Tips to distinguish between Buzzards: The juvenile Jackal Buzzard can “easily be mistaken for the Steppe Buzzard, but has larger, broader wings and a pale unbarred undertail.” (Sasol). The juvenile Jackal Buzzards “are larger and more heavily built, with stronger bills, broad rufous tails and much broader wings”. The “smaller Steppe Buzzard has longer, narrower wings”. (Roberts Birds).

Crows These birds are opportunistic omnivores and are very intelligent, they are considered by some to be the most intelligent of all birds. The White-necked Raven has been known to drop small tortoises onto rocky “anvil sites” to smash them and gain access to the body.

The White-necked Raven has a heavy curved beak with a white tip and the **white collar is around the back of the neck only**. “In flight and from a distance it may be distinguished from Cape and Pied Crows by its much broader wings, larger, heavier head and short, broad tail” (Sasol). The Pied Crow has a **complete white collar and white lower chest and belly**. “From a distance it may be distinguished from White-necked Raven by its longer tail, smaller head and white breast (Sasol). The Cape (Black) Crow is **uniformly black** with a long, fairly slender, slightly de-curved bill. Remember that the House Crow is not being counted, this crow is the smallest and has

a grey body with glossy black head, wings and tail and is not indigenous.

As Sylvia Ledgard, an experienced CAR observer pointed out, it is important that the route leader ensures that focus on the main CAR objectives is not lost. “It is very easy for people get diverted when it comes to raptors and spend too much time stopping and debating the ID of a distant flying raptor, or even one perched for that matter.” It is important to keep the focus on those species that we have selected.

When you capture your 2013 winter count, please refer to **tips for capture of data online** on p. 1 of Newsletter 32 or the FAQs on the CAR Home page, as it is tricky only doing this data capture once every six months. Please don’t submit your card after capturing your count, as then it is easy for you or your P Org to edit it. To edit your card click on the blue edit button at the end of the line for your card on the Managing submissions page (just login to MyBirdPatch again and click on the CAR tab, then look for your route. Your P Org will submit it once all is checked.

I have included a few reminders regarding data capture online as there are common errors:

1. Remember to always select the date that you did your count on, as otherwise the computer automatically puts in the date that you are entering the data on!
2. For the km for the Survey End please record the km at the end of your survey when your count starts at zero (i.e. km from tripmeter, NOT the total km from the odometer).
3. Please remember to fill in your observer’s names and ADU Nos under the Observer tab. If someone has been counting regularly and does not have an ADU no. please ask them to register online by clicking on “Register” in the left hand menu on the CAR Home page <http://car.adu.org.za/> For further help refer to the FAQs on this Home page.
4. Remember to click on Save at the bottom of the left hand side of the card for your route details whenever you add or change any route information and click on Save/Add species after entering each line of bird count information on the right.
5. If you recorded no CAR birds, then please make a note to this effect under the Notes tab.
6. Do check each line carefully as you enter it and when your capture is complete. Also check that the totals calculated at the end of the Bird tab are the same as the totals you worked out on your roadcount form.

Flying and Habitat

Most of you are remembering **not** to use “indeterminate” for flying birds. **This is a reminder to record**

the Habitat for birds that are flying when you see them as “flying”. But, most importantly do note that if a bird flies due to disturbance then record the Habitat that it took off from. If you cannot distinguish what type of habitat a bird is in then record the Habitat as “unknown”.

Please
use the CAR
email address
car@adu.org.za
in future

Latest News section on the CAR webpage

Don’t forget that the CAR webpage has its own Latest News section now <http://car.adu.org.za/> It is helpful to mark this page as well as the ADU home page as favourites in your browser.

CAR Group and Animal Demography Unit on Facebook

I would like to encourage you to become a member of the CAR Group on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/groups/CoordinatedAvifaunalRoadcounts/>. You can share highlights of your count and adventures during the CAR count day. It is a place where you can interact easily with one another and encourage each other too! The ADU has an active Facebook page and our Director, Les Underhill, says this is where you hear about most things in the ADU.

Recording km on your count and online for your route

If you are unsure of recording your km please refer to this section on p. 1 of Newsletter 33 and also Information Sheet No. 1. Do contact me soon if you have a detour and have queries regarding adjusting km. It is vital to get the km correct as this is invaluable information for Environmental Impact Assessments for the routing of powerlines and roads and developments such as wind- and solar farms.

Record three small mammals in Western Cape

Thank you to Western Cape participants for your extra time in counting Vaal/Grey Rhebok, Cape Grysbok and Steenbok. Please do check that your results are in the separate Mammal table. Remember that the habitat and side of road should be recorded as for CAR species and capture the mammals using the Mammals tab (between the Bird and Observers tab).

Record Oribi in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape

Thank you to participants in these provinces for counting Oribi, Please continue to do so, remembering habitat and side of road, and capture this using the Mammals tab.

Date of winter CAR count

The next count is on Saturday, 27 July 2013. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise. The next summer count will be on Saturday, 25 January 2014!

CAR Winter 2013 Count Information

Remember that we can only capture one habitat for each sighting, so if a group of birds of the same species is spread out over different habitats, please enter the number in each habitat on different lines of the roadcount form. Please read Information Sheets No. 1 and 4 as these have been updated and also have new information regarding raptors. Also remind yourselves of the local korhaan calls. The **CAR 16 Roadcount form** is enclosed, or can be printed from the CAR webpage.

If you can't count on 27 July do contact your P Org well in advance. Immediately after your count please check that all the details are filled in, that there are no errors in your species codes, capture your count online and send a copy to your P Org as soon as possible. If you are not online your P Org will capture your count if possible or arrange for it to be captured by a volunteer.

We have had problems with our server recently due to hacker attacks, fortunately fixed quickly by Michael Brooks. So please download and print the new Information Sheets and CAR 16 Roadcount form with extra copies of page 2 in good time, just in case the server is not up at the last minute!

January 2013 CAR count

I am most grateful that the weather was fine throughout the country and that the rain predicted in Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Gauteng did not materialize. The vegetation was tall in some areas due to good seasonal rains, so visibility was restricted. There was one route in the north-eastern Eastern Cape, EE02 that was incomplete due to a locked gate and KG06 was also incomplete. The **interim website report on the summer count** can be found at http://car.adu.org.za/news_summer_2013.php

Project material on the website

You can download all project material from the CAR webpage, <http://car.adu.org.za/>. The Word doc for transcribing your count is no longer available as we would prefer you to spend that time capturing your count on MyBirdPatch and send a copy of your original Roadcount form to your P Org.

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 sightings online at any time of year to assist those conducting focused studies on these species. The Special Watch link is in yellow writing in the Menu section with a black background



"Veteran bird counter, Stooks Wilton, points out a possible sighting to newcomer, Jane McCarthy, at the Krom River in East Griqualand – a lovely part of the world but with the lush vegetation this summer, ground birds were well hidden for the bird count on January 26." Photo & caption: Ric McCarthy

on <http://sabap2.adu.org.za>. You don't have to be logged in to enter this information.

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

I am delighted that Ivan Parkes, Chairman of Thorn-tree Conservancy and also the Gauteng Conservancy and Stewardship Association, contacted the ADU regarding their printing 50 copies of this booklet in each language for the 10 Anniversary Conference of Gauteng Conservancy & Stewardship Association and National Conservancy and Stewardship Association in September. Please let 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

Thank you very much to the St Francis Bay Bird Club who increase their generous donation to CAR each year! It was wonderful to also receive a donation from the Hermanus Bird Club. The donations made by individuals and Bird Clubs have been most appreciated, especially as the ADU projects rely entirely on outside funding. We are most grateful for the core funding we have received from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) over recent years but this cannot sustain all the posts at the ADU. Sadly we have not been able to source enough other funding, hence the re-structuring. There is a link in the left hand menu of the ADU home page to make donations online, so do draw potential sponsors' attention to this. All donations are tax deductible, it is important to specify 'other' and 'CAR, ADU' as recipient and send a copy of the deposit slip to car@adu.org.za

Thank you for writing articles in local newspapers, birdnets or Bird Club newsletters. It was heart-warming to read in the *Bokmakierie* December issue of the many ways in which the Wits Bird Club (WBC) has become involved in the Chrissiesmeer community since establishing the CAR routes there. Mpumalanga Wetlands Forum approached Barbi Forsyth, the P Org, to present a course on Waterbirds to coincide with their 10th Anniversary. Barbi presented this course last October together with Murrie Slotar. WBC members have been amazingly generous in knitting warm beanies for the children of iNyomani Primary and donating paint for classrooms and seed for their vegetable garden. Pat Hulley wrote about their count of EG02 and Adrian Craig reported on EG04 in the *Diaz Cross*.

Many thanks to Phil Whittington, Ornithologist at the East London Museum, who displayed information about CAR, CWAC and SABAP2 work done by the Museum and BirdLife Border at the Museum exhibition on natural history.

EWT–African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT-ACCP)

The *Grus Grapevine* is in the News section of their webpage <https://www.ewt.org.za>

Ringed birds

On OV11 and also OV18 a Blue Crane was spotted with rings/ring on only one leg, so it will be difficult to match the ring combination.

Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species at all times and report details to SAFRING. A photo is most helpful.

Reporting dead birds

For power line related deaths (electrocutions and collisions) please contact Constant Hoogstad (Eskom–EWT Strategic Partnership Project Manager): 011 372 3600/0860 111 535 or 082 334 4176 (after hours) or constanth@ewt.org.za For suspected poisonings please contact Zelda Hudson: 011 372 3600 or zeldah@ewt.org.za

On OV08 Keith and Michele Moodie saw a dead Blue Crane below a powerline very close to a marked section of line at 49.6 km. Christine Wallace reported one dead White Stork under high tension power lines at 37.6 km, and another at 50.5 km under a farm power line on OV19.

Southern Bald Ibis project

Kate Henderson (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 0827818783 or scottr@ewt.org.za

Biodiversity booklet

The ADU/SANBI booklet "Biodiversity early warning systems: South African citizen scientists monitoring change" can be downloaded from the ADU webpage, click on Conservation Resources in the left hand menu and find the link or click on http://adu.org.za/pdf/Biodiversity_booklet_2012.pdf. Page 10, entitled "Is farming for the birds?" is about farming and CAR and page 3 has the Blue Crane CAR results in the Overberg. This booklet was launched at the celebration of Biodiversity Day at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

Thank you!

We have really appreciated the way in which you have supported CAR by doing your route voluntarily despite the high petrol costs. Huge thanks too to each participant capturing and checking their own data. This last count Yvonne Bosman, Irmgard Kaiser and Anne McLeod have been amazing capturing more counts than usual, as Ruth Knight, our fourth voluntary capturer, had a back up recently. Many, many thanks to the amazing Precinct Organisers for all your phoning, gathering and checking of data and following up queries/missing information. Inés Cooke again arranged for a group of friends to fold this newsletter and stuff envelopes which saves us much time. Thank you to the many who read this Newsletter online, which saves postage and trees!

Thank you to Michael Brooks for further development and maintenance of CAR on MyBirdPatch and René Navarro for summarizing the data. Michael has also spent many hours, often after hours, rescuing and repairing the server after attacks by hackers. Thank you to Nelly Litholi for checking some of the data and I am so grateful that Amour McCarthy, who is also an intern at the ADU, did so much checking and where necessary editing of the data, as well as capturing a number of last minute forms and editing these tables. Amour has grasped the details of CAR quickly and will be available to help until the end of March 2014. Marja Wren-Sargent has been wonderful in updating the Information Sheets and typesetting the Newsletter in a short space of time before going on leave. I will be on leave from 2–16 July and will be thinking of you all especially as we count on the 27 July. Do take extra "eyes" out with you. Thank you so much for your participation in CAR which contributes to the conservation of these special birds.

Warm regards to you all and travel safely,

Donella Young,
Project Coordinator

Count results Summer 2013

Mpumalanga

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

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in Mpumalanga												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK	WS	Other species
MC01	73.5	1511, 1118	Barbi Forsyth, Verna Engelbrecht		2			5	1 2			1DB
MC02	64.2	6894	Diane Parnell, John Whiteside			2			14		2	
MC03	55.2	6886, 6888	Shane & Monica Jeycocke			57			20 9		8	
MC04	68.9	2197, 1388	Mike & Janice Isom		10		2	2	18 6		29	
MC05	68.8	6890, 6892	Lee & Sharon Bothma					5	3			
MC06	69.5	6884	Ginny Mes, Letitia Bezuidenhout		1	45		4			1	
MC07	72.8	6758	Raymond Dumbleton		1	11		16	23		1	
MM03	44	2290	Billy Smith		7	4		28	21 5			
MS04	63	780, 6748	Hannes & Bevvie Marais		1				4 2		4	
MS06	62.6	1178	Hendrik van Wyk, G van Rensburg	6	14	3			9		7	4GWF, 1SEC
MS14	54.5	730, 6767	Merwyn & Tracy Lotter									
MS15	51.6	724	Lientjie Cohen, R Venter		1							
MT01	84	1817	Nalda Williams, Marjorie Uys	2	6			10				3SS
MT02	64	10619, 6140	Robert van Bulderen, Johanna Snyman		7			24	8			1NBK, 9SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		7	8		17 6	8	2		5NBK, 1NS, 4SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		2			14				1SS
MT05	66.5	12093, 2294	Tobie Pretorius, Johan j/v Rensburg		14	16		75	8 1	4		17NBK, 16SS
MW01	57	10538	Pat & Doreen Cochran	1	2	26		7	11		13	
MW03	67.4	550, 2017	Brian Guerin, Norman Dennett, John Barrow		1	45 10		10	8 2		11	
MW06	58.8	6358, 2199	Judith Ryder, Penny Fox, J Traill, J van Gruting	49	6 1	10	2	11	35		2	
MW07	63	361, 2480, 2645	J-L Wheeler, A Steenkamp, K Garland, W Watson, O Douglas	8	6	34		27	10		9	
MW08	89.8	6411, 6409	Kevin & Sandy Twomey, Martin & Magda Gouws	1	2	45	2		11		22	1BBK, 3DB
MW09	87	361, 550, 2017	Judy-Lynn Wheeler, Brian Guerin, N Dennett, J Barrow		7	28 4			7		3	
MW10	52	1867, 10721, 2003	John & Elize McAllister, Ann Cleal, Sean Pyott	3	13		1	6	10	1	33	
Total	1510			70	111	348	7	257	256	7	145	1BBK, 4DB, 4GWF,
Birds/100km				4.6	7.4	23.1	0.5	17.0	17.0	0.5	9.6	23NBK, 1NS, 1SEC,
MC - Chrissiesmeer, MM - Middelburg, MS - Steenkampsberg, MT - Standerton, MW - Wakkerstroom precincts												33SS

Steenkampsberg precinct

Do fill in activity for Southern Bald Ibis, as well as for cranes and bustards.

Congratulations on thirty counts in this precinct, especially as there are few sightings! Hendrik van Wyk and Gawie van Rensburg had the most birds on their route, MS06. Thank you very much to Ursula Franke who has been coordinating these counts. I am grateful that Hannes Marais is willing to take over this role with assistance from Tracey Lötter. Thank you, Tracey for offering to help with data capture and checking.

Middelburg precinct

Billy Smith remarked on the many Flamingoes on MM03.

Standerton precinct

Congratulations on monitoring in this area for ten years! There were Swainson's Spurfowl on all these routes, this is obviously a favoured area for this species.

Wakkerstroom precinct

Please refer to Judy-Lynn's report in http://car.adu.org.za/news_summer_2013.php Many thanks to Judy for her efficient coordination despite being unwell.

Chrissiesmeer precinct

Barbi Forsyth reported "It is the first time in a couple of years that we have managed to complete all 7 routes, but compared to previous years our 188 birds is the lowest it has ever been. Our last lowest was 5 years ago when we got 357 birds." I am glad Shane and Monica Jeycocke saw 57 Southern Bald Ibis. Many thanks for all your efforts counting, especially with few sightings and a long trip to Chrissiesmeer.

Thank you, Barbi, for all your preparation for these enjoyable weekends in this area.

Gauteng & North West

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG).

Gauteng

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG).

Craig Whittington-Jones suggests going back to the normal CAR starting time, an hour after sunrise as the experimental earlier start did not produce the expected effect. Craig and his team saw four Blue Cranes on GD05. There were a few additional species this count, but surprisingly no White Storks only a single Yellow-billed on GC05 and unusually 22 Black Storks on GB01. Awie Coetzee, who counted GB01, said that he and Willem Grobbelaar were certain they weren't Abdim's. These birds were spread out in a newly mown field near Ezemvelo Nature Reserve. Roberts Birds says the Black Stork "occurs singly, also in pairs and small groups. Most groups up to <20, rarely 40-45 birds." So it is a rare to see so many together! If at all possible do take photos for rare sightings like this or out-of-range birds.

Many thanks to Craig for his coordination and for gathering all the Gauteng routes in so quickly.

North West

Kelebogile Moeti, Andrew Mvundle and Amos had the amazing sighting of 228 Abdim's Storks on the Harts River route, HR01.

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in Gauteng									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other spp.	
GB01	20	12647	Awie Coetzee, W Grobbelaar, E Hahn	7	12	6	8	10BI, 22BS	
GB02	31.5	6914	Peter Dix, Kanyane		4	6			
GB03	52	2135	Peter Huggins, Ineke & Tiny van Dijk	5	13	6	2		
GB04	44.6	6809, 2793	Nathi Ngobeni, R Sekwele, V Muano, B Mahlangu		20				
GB05	20	2945, 614, 11055, 6910, 6912	R Marais, R Geyser, M van Schalkwyk, N Kuhn, J Harmse		3	3		2SEC	
GB06	46	2374, 6813	Leon & Lucia Lotter	1	7		1		
GB07	54	1764	Sean West		9	2			
GC01	19	2046, 6815	Willem & Melissa de Lange			33			
GC02	64.9	613, 3008	Craig Whittington-Jones, Ian Davidson	21	19 1	14	9		
GC03	73.4	2390, 1123	Johan de Jager, Koos Richards		16	39			
GC04	58	2141, 1377	Peter Greaves, Koos van Dyk	1	14	7			
GC05	60.6	1651, 1652	John, Moira & Bruce Randell, Oskar	4	47	11	16 2	1YS	
GD01	61.4	746	Andre & Thea Botha	32	41		6	5UK	
GD02	53	1764	Sean West	7	24		1		
GD03	36	2672, 2833	Boet & Ann Holmes	3	6		4	1CF, 1GOL	
GD04	56.1	613, 3008, 11513	Craig Whittington-Jones, I Davidson, H Nel, M Boelter	65	48		12	4BC, 1UK	
GD05	52.7	613, 1538, 6880, 6882	Craig, Lynn, Ian & Kelly Whittington-Jones	21	24		1	2UK	
GH01	49.5	2045, 13111	Rouxdene Deysel, Natalie Horn	2	30	2	2		
GH02	72.5	2226, 6907	Daniel Koen, Liesl du Toit	11	10		25		
GH03	51	2101	Hein Pienaar	1	15	9	12		
GH04	46	2045, 13111	Rouxdene Deysel, Natalie & Elizabeth Horn	6	14	4	10		
GH05	58	6817	Rhulani Maluleke, Solly Shisberge		1	7			
GM01	42	2102	Leon Labuschagne		12 9				
GM02	21	2102	Leon Labuschagne		18 6				
GW01	49.8	2099	Piet Muller		24				
GW02	48	6343	Yvonne Pennington, Dave & Lynne Broom, R Rhode	3 1	8	2	1		
Total	1241			191	456	151	102	4BC,10BI, 8UK, 1YS	
Birds/100km				15.4	36.7	12.2	8.2	22BS, 1CF, 1GOL, 25EC, 8UK, 1YS	
GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site									

Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTS), Northern Cape

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in Eastern Karoo										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	WS	Other Spp.
NK041	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt	2		4		1		3KB
NK042	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt	11 1						2DB, 4KB, 2NBK
NK044	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt	72						2NBK
NK181	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	16	1					
NK182	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	2 2			1	2		
NK183	3.3	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl							10SG
NK221	20	2855	Isabelle du Preez		5	2	18			1KB
NK222	20	2855	Isabelle du Preez			3	9			
NK223	20	2855	Isabelle du Preez				6			
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2			9			
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	1			4			
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				2			
NK301	20.2	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager		1		1	3	3	3DB
NK302	23.4	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	6	2			3	1	3DB, 1SG
Total	267			115	9	9	50	7	4	8DB, 8KB, 4NBK, 11SG
Birds/100km				43.1	3.4	3.4	18.7	2.6	1.5	
NK461	20	10360	Marina Beal	50 3					1	4BHH, 180SG, 5UK

It is concerning that no Blue Korhaans were seen on the original NK routes. Tjaart van der Walt had the highest count of 72 Blue Cranes on NK044. Jeanette du Preez saw one Kori Bustard, this is only the second time this species has been recorded on NK221. Do please see the earlier section about including some of the raptors and crows in your counts. Generally numbers of CAR birds are low in your area, so I hope you will enjoy including these species.

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

Thank you to Christine Pienaar and Ronelle Visagie for gathering all the counts. Many thanks to Ronelle for capturing routes.



Free State

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

As in 2012, the rains in the Free State were generally poor before and during the summer 2013 Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts, when 6314 km were covered along 98 routes at the end of January. A grand total of 5133 birds gave an even lower overall "density" of birds: 81/100 km (94/100 km in 2012). This

was because, despite a substantial increase in the density of the dominant species of this survey, the Northern Black Korhaan (38/100 km, vs 20/100 km in 2012), most of the other species showed declines, especially the Spur-winged Goose with 17/100 km, vs 35/100 km in 2012. These korhaans were particularly abundant in the North-western Precinct (where 1020.8 km were covered along 16 routes), with more than 50 along four of the routes and an overall density of 54/100 km.

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in north-western Free State										
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.		
FW02	43.6	1274, 12717	Margaret Williams, Sandra Brown	4	25		21			
FW16	68.1	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe	2	4				3YS	
FW18	48	1268	Herman Jordaan, K Thirion		67	1				
FW26	64	2396	Louis & Nonnie Botha		38					
FW34	77.8	1163	Des Walker		78		20			
FW36	78.7	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy		38	1	70			
FW43	64.5	2261	Chris Daphne	4	49		9			
FW45	52.6	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan	4	7	2	14			
FW50	68	1938, 1939	Helm & Elizabeth Lekaota	1	8					
FW51	76.8	1253	Koos den Houting	1	91		5		2UK	
FW52	58	2201, 1957	Mary Littlewood, Rosemary Girard	2	12		4 4			
FW53	79.5	1173, 1940	Chris & Martina de Lange	1	38	3	21			
FW55	59	1890, 1891	Greg & Janine Goosen	71	6		70			
FW60	63.1	1497	Vlam Els	66	1					
FW61	60.1	10783	Alta Henning	1	66		4 8			
FW62	59	2262	Tjaart Venter		24		17			
Total	1021			157	552	7	267	2UK, 3YS		
Birds/100 km				15.4	54.1	0.7	26.2			

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in north-eastern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SG	UK	WS	Other species
FN16	53.5	701	Theunis Bekker, Pierre du Plessis		4	13	2	4	2	1	
FN28	63	1892, 1893	Otto & Marguerite Nel		11	31	2	9		5	3DB
FN29	66	1747	Morne Pretorius	6	11	30 6	1	3	7	3	
FN31	80.5	2109	Rick Dillon, Maureen Blignaut		8	22 3	5	1	1	2	1SEC
FN32	51.3	1072, 6427, 6125	David Weaver, David & Jean Short		10	13 6	12	3		32	2WBK
FN37	59.1	2043, 2042	Martin & Melanie Potgieter					45	2		19NBK
FN39	61	2472, 2476, 2474	Irmgard Kaiser, L du Preez, D Reed, F Yatt		22			13			2SEC
FN42	72	1517	Henk Venter		2	9		14	11 2		
FN46	63	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer		4	11		9			
FN48	56.7	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		2	5		2			7NBK
FN49	47.5	13528, 2070	Timothy & Sandra Hedges		18	11	2	16	12		2NBK
FN50	56	942	Pieter Koornhof, Nel Botha	2	7	7		4			
FN51	66.5	2498	Ina van Rensburg		21	15		2			
FN52	71	717	Johan & M Strauss	1	18			38			1WC
FN58	64	705	Paulus Fihlo		24	50		2			
FN60	64	1505	Brian Barnes						4		82NBK
FN62	68.4	11376	Adriana Barrett, Doriann Redelinghuis		2			7			3NBK
FN63	46.7	1932, 6854	Pietre & Fred Enslin		2	2					2SEC
Total	1110			9	166	234	24	172	41	43	3DB, 113NBK
Birds/100 km				0.8	15.0	21.1	2.2	15.5	3.7	3.9	5SEC, 2WBK, 1WC



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FREE STATE PROVINCE

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other species
FS06	72.4	700	Johan & Marie Watson	52 1 1	2	18	34	4	7	8		1HAR, 1YS
FS07	61	1746, 6834, 6401	A Nichas, D Kartsounis, S & T Tsangarakis	10 2		5	19		5			
FS08	67	6	Andre Schlemmer	6	5		6		5	3		
FS09	60.9	24	Brian Colahan	7	1	8	51		15	11		
FS14	73.4	2249	Marietjie Jordaan	1			66	1				
FS17	73.3	1620	Dawie Kok	3			43	2	1 1			
FS18	74	684	Louise Coetzee, Elsa Taute	2 1	2		65	1	2	4		
FS19	89	2384, 2263	Pieter & Gela van Heerden		1		36	1	7			
FS20	67.5	2171, 2394	Sandra Bishop, Sally Barnard		1		35		13			
FS21	60	682	Leon Barkhuizen		5		22	3	12	2		
FS27	78.5	694	Erika Schulze, B & D Schafer	13	1	1	6	2	1	3		
FS31	72	259	Johan van Niekerk, Toby Esplin		1		19	2	40	9		
FS35	70.4	1258	Hannes Blom	16	1		35		37	2		
FS40	75	24	Brian Colahan	2			38	2		2		1RCK
FS42	64.5	89	Beryl Wilson, Nikki Gibbs	3 2			34	2	1			6KB
FS43	76	1801	Christo de Meyer				63	2				
FS45	80	2368	Annalie van der Vyfer, Lizette de Coning		5	3	33	1	80	4		
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henriette van den Berg		1		54 1	2		1 3		
FS48	75.2	2249, 1946	Marietjie Jordaan, Hennie Bester			2	166	2	11	8		
FS50	79	1058	Frans Marais	32	1	2	5		28	2		4YS
FS51	78.4	24	Brian Colahan	4	1	2	11		19	13		
FS54	59.2	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig, E Beemster-Boer				43		4	3		
FS56	68.2	987	Jeanette Buys	8	3	3	77	4	8	5	22	40AS
FS58	82.5	863	Pierre Nel				79	3	24			
FS60	70	2260	Ilse van den Bergh, Kevin, Barker, Lida	2			14	4	52			
FS62	58	2298	Lynden Lund, Manie Swartz				6	1	1			
FS65	82.2	24	Brian Colahan		5		50	1	4			
FS66	51	1399	Tom Mostert		1		17		1			
FS67	68.6	950	Daan Müller		2		19		8			
FS68	59.8	1153	Schalk Burger, Lin Wessels	5			11	1	3			
FS70	58	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helene Bam		5			1	9			
FS73	67	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam		12				30	1		8CC
FS77	59.6	6936	Derek Foster	2	4		4	6	15			
FS79	50.2	1397	Dewald Liebenberg	24			27	1	13			
FS82	70	6704	Gert Joubert				7	3	21			
FS83	49.3	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin		6		1	2		4		
FS84	50	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen				5					
FS85	79.7	285	Johan Cloete		3		28		10	7		
FS87	53.2	6920	Brand Louw		1				2	2		2YS
FS88	63	1949	Wimpie & W.Geyer (Jnr)	1	4		47	1	22	5		
FS91	59.1	641	Rick Nuttall				48		33	3		
FS92	65	1201	Fritz Krohn, Willie Botha		1				1	4		
FS93	47.9	700	Johan Watson	10 1	2	7	12	5				
FS94	74.6	24	Brian Colahan	3			37		1			1BS
FS95	82.6	821	Coenie Erasmus	8			3	1				2KK
FS96	74	2653, 2688	Bok & Annalie Cronje		1			1				
FS97	51.3	6381, 6383	Harold, Deirdre & Andrew Elsmere		5		7	1	13	2		
FS103	53.1	1052	Duart Hugo				26					
FS105	74.5	687	Riette Griesel	81 13	1	11	10	1	12	14		
FS106	50.5	102, 1946	D de Swardt, Hennie Bester, R & I de Swardt				31		12			
FS109	62	13172	Des & Elza Bothma		3		1	1	31 1			
FS110	64	2464	D & K Bredenkamp, V & L van der Westhuizen		2		9	1				1YS
FS111	76.1	6899	Chris & Adri Bender		3		7	2			8	
FS114	70.8	1150	Abrie & Helene Bam		5		10		9	1	2	
FS115	74	2466	Tiger Muller		5		25	1	2			1YS
FS116	46.7	6379, 6377	Louis & Lynn Goedhals				14	2	8			
FS117	70.2	24	Brian Colahan	9 1	1		79	1		2		
FS118	67	24	Brian Colahan	107 5	1	3	33	3		2		
FS121	55.9	2460, 2462	Niel & Linette Pienaar				36		3			
FS122	56.8	1057, 2378	Lourens & Estelle Goosen		3		21				3	
FS123	62.2	13504, 2903	Deon & Shirley van Wyk	13 1		7			1			
FS125	64.9	6922	Naudé, Santie & Johan Truter				2					
FS128	63.4	2296	Eric & Anna-Mart Schroeder				21		4			2HAR, 1YS
FS129	54	129, 1959	Allen & Jenny Lotter		10		2		5	5		16BI
Total	4252			452	117	72	1711	75	648	135	35	40AS, 16BI, 1BS, 8CC, 3HAR,
Birds/100 km				10.6	2.8	1.7	40.2	1.8	15.2	3.2	0.8	6KB, 2KK, 1RCK, 10YS

Western Cape

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



Overberg precinct

Hearty congratulations to you all for your contributions to the forty counts in the Overberg over the last twenty years!! You are an amazing team and only a handful of routes have not been counted due to a last minute problem during that time. I did so enjoy seeing those who could come to the celebration. Thank you so much for the extra time involved in doing a trial count of raptors, this helped in working out the changes to the forms. Amazingly there were 739 Cape Crows in total, with 61 on John and Myra Jones' route, while Ann and Rae Gordon's route had 75 White-necked Ravens.

This last summer count the number of Blue Cranes per 100 km declined further. There has been a steady decline the last three summer counts since the peak in 2010. The winter value for birds per 100 km has declined the last four winter counts, so it is very important to keep monitoring our National bird in this region which has the highest density of Blue Cranes in our land. The Denham's Bustard

numbers have also been low the last two summer counts. Again only two Southern Black Korhaan were seen! The Spur-winged Geese density (birds per 100 km of road) was the fourth highest. The eastern part of the Overberg was particularly dry. Frans de Graaff noted a definite move to cattle farming on OV33.

For a more detailed report please refer to Duncan and Inés Cooke's report at http://car.adu.org.za/news_summer_2013.php

Please fax or post your roadcount form directly to Duncan and Inés: 20 Oakbridge Village, Bizweni Avenue, Somerset West, 7130. Fax: 0866788348. There is no funding for an Overberg Crane Group Field Officer, so report any crane problems to Andrae Marais at CapeNature, 028 3140062.

Thank you very much for returning forms to Duncan and Inés Cooke so promptly. Duncan and Inés, assisted by John Carter captured many and checked all of the Overberg routes. Many thanks to Duncan and Inés for all the phoning, collection and acknowledgement of counts.

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in Overberg																		
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG	WS	SPBZ	JBKZ	PCG	BSKT	WNR	PICW	CPCW	Other spp.
OV01	54	229, 2311, 1063	Inés & Duncan Cooke & Petra Rigg	81 7 4	3				50 10 1	51	29	3				4	11	
OV02	60.8	872	George Ward & Herman Riddering	29 14 2					110 54 16	9	11				2		20	
OV03	48.7	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	18 1					126	4	9	13			3	2	12	
OV04	26.5	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	62 5 1							1	8			1		13	
OV05	70.6	228, 1148	John Carter, Brian Dennis, F Kruger & A Lockhead	70 7 6	9	2	1		8	76	33	8	1	2	6	8	44	
OV06	50.3	1655, 2110	Stuart & Ruth McLennan, E Visser & M Goodall	90 6 7	7		4	2		231	39	5					48	
OV07	65.4	496	Ken Price	64 7 2	2	2			2	6	37	4					29	
OV08	71	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	98 18	6		2		5	209	23	1		1			42	
OV09	31	1083, 802, 801	Anne Price, Anne & Keith McAdam	66 5 10	3				121 14		29				5	5	4	
OV10	57.7	6333, 6331	Marion & Henry Naude, Mavis Smith	113 6 15	3				2	60	29	3	1			1	28	
OV11	60.8	245, 244	Sheila, Peter Siebert & Graeme Siebert	126 5 4	10				1	12	41				2		51	
OV12	57	56, 1585	P & A Albertyn, J & W Burchell, C & M Silberbauer	29 4	8				15	3	22	1			1		32	
OV13	70.5	520, 672, 671	Jill Mortimer, Rene Lind, Ann White	101 4 9	26		2	1	4	133	211	38	3		5	4	16	1BS
OV14	89	123, 1922	John Coats, M Aucamp	118 25 5	1				43	181	24	4	4	1			32	1BS, 1HAR
OV15	57.7	2112, 2113	John Jones, Myra Jones	67 8 9	5	11	2		9 17		22	7		2	1		61	1BS
OV16	61.2	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg, Willem du Toit	66 16 2	6		2			1	15	3			5		21	
OV17	59	2440, 2442, 11208	Mike & Helen MacNaught, Barbara Palmer	114 1	4	1			15	2	69	3		1	2	7	4	
OV18	48.5	240	Wicus Leeuwener, Kina Joubert	159 11	12			1	153 16	2	36	6			2	4	13	
OV19	62.9	1632, 1213	Christine Wallace, Estelle Stodel, P Pistorious	79 9 3	6				46	507	42	1					34	2SBK
OV20	54.8	2356, 2358, 2342, 2344, 1325	Sue & A Watermeyer, B & L Napier, N Passmore	51 1	7				4	85	17	14		2			47	
OV21	64	2136, 2181	Attie Wilson & Christina Terblanche	29 2	28	3			12		22	8	1				21	
OV22	56.6	1660	Sally Adam, Pam Eloff	58 3	21	6			66	110	11	4			15		12	
OV23	56.5	1062, 1128, 6732	Andrew, Lynne & John Marshall	71 1	5	9	2			3	16	6		6			11	
OV24	58	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	32 1	9	6			7		25	7		1	6		19	
OV26	18.8	871	Jeffrey Arizon, Kelvin Davids, Andries Faraa	29 2	1						14	3					7	1HAR
OV27	67	6491	Marloise Groenewald, Siviwe, Karen	12 1	5	6			65	69	14	2					4	
OV28	39	2057	Bill Naude	6 1	1						4	3					2	
OV29	25.9	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	6						17	4	8					2	
OV33	63	1463, 6153, 6157	Frans, Christie, Stephanie & Jan de Graaff	41 3	21	1			206	12	37	6		3	4	3	44	1HAR
OV36	40	1469	Avril Young, Doric	133 7 2	8	2			81		34	2			3		35	
OV37	35.2	1777, 1778	Rae & Ann Gordon, Michael & Carmel O'Dowd	35 1	3				68		6	7			75			
Total	1681			2251	246	27	14	5	1466	1861	754	144	7	25	138	34	719	3BS,3HAR,
Birds/100km				133.9	14.6	1.6	0.8	0.3	87.2	110.7	44.8	8.6	0.4	1.5	8.2	2.0	42.8	25BK
OV34	61	1550, 1551, 1211, 636	Heyné & Sharon Brink, June & Mick D'Alton	16 2	2	4					9	4		7	3		20	6HAR

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in Swartland													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	SG	SPBZ	JBKZ	BSKT	WNR	PICW	Other spp	
SW01	81.1	1970	Fiona Hellmann, Valerie van Vuuren	17 5	2	4	25	12	4	6		63	
SW02	77.7	503, 1077, 6403	Sean, Louise & Jack Tucker	11	4	1		10		1		5	
SW03	63.7	574, 6511	Sylvia Ledgard, Gillian Ford, Joan Ackroyd	43	1	18		14	2			12	
SW04	62	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	7				3	3	1	15		
SW05	59.9	106, 11090	Mel Tripp, Simon Fogarty	32 6		2		12	1	1		63	
SW06	73	1359, 10442, 11200	Reg le Roux, Helene Thompson, Beverley Patterson	54 3	5	24		44	6	2	2	47	
SW07	45.2	1366, 2315, 578	L Teare, K Drummond-Hay, M McCall, M Hansby-Stevens	19 1 2	5	5		49	1	5		28	
SW08	65.2	1474	Bruce Mackenzie, Peter Sumner	3	5	2		18	1			18	1SEC
SW09	60	2033	Jaco van Deventer	22 2 1	1	199		12	1	2		59	1
SW10	61.5	2362, 2364	Donny & Hanneli Malherbe	11 3 1	6	17	7	5	4	7	1	1	69
SW11	69	479, 1081	David & Anne Dixon	6	2	2		9	1			32	
SW12	81.2	2207, 2208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	15	1		40	46	3				
SW13	47.5	673	Elna Slabber, Susan	6 1			10	5	3	2		23	
SW14	48.1	506	Riaan van der Walt	22 8	1	36		7	15	2	5	20	
SW15	55	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbuttel	35 1 3	7	1		12	5			7	
SW16	43.1	2051, 11567	Cheryl Faul & Ruth Knight	26 3	2	1	25	7	16			1	
SW17	58.4	2587	Clive Campbell-Smart									27	
Total	1052			371	42	430	274	62	25	23	474	1HAR,5PCG	
Birds/100km				35.3	4.0	40.9	26.1	5.9	2.4	2.2	45.1	9SEC,1WS	

Swartland precinct

The seventeenth count saw the second highest number of Blue Cranes per 100 km counted! Lesley Teare, who counted SW07, noted that at 23 km on the left a wheat field that nearly always had Blue Cranes was now ploughed and no Blue Cranes were to be seen. Many thanks for counting raptors in the Swartland as well. It is surprising that not a single Cape Crow was seen in the Swartland. Donny and Hanneli Malherbe recorded 69 Pied Crows on SW10. It is interesting that there were more Steppe and Jackal Buzzards in the Swartland than in the Overberg.

Your Precinct Organiser, Elna Slabber, has a new land line 022-1250014 or 0827710923.

Beaufort West precinct

On WB01 Maria Andela and her team were rather disappointed to record only 19 Karoo Korhaans (following on the recent record numbers of this species). This

(KwaZulu-Natal continued)

André Bouwer noted that it was the first time that he had seen White Storks in soya fields, a non-cereal crop. All the Midlands routes, except KM08, had White stork sightings with KM06 having the highest total of 113. Diane Mason recorded six Wattled Cranes on KM08, this is the highest total ever on this route near Greytown. Gavin and Sandi Calverley and their team saw the first Black Stork ever on KO01 near Melmoth. The pair of Secretarybirds on their route had two chicks in the nest and the parents were in close attendance. Paul and Ria Steffensen saw six Secretarybirds on KV02! Paul and Bev Garner, who counted KD02, recorded two White-bellied Korhaans and 41 Southern Bald Ibis, but generally had a very poor count possibly due to the summer drought. They also noted that the crows attracted to the Kempenveld Vulture Restaurant had chased the Southern Bald Ibis away from one of their roost sites. It is concerning that the Denham's Bustards numbers are still very low in KZN.

At 59.1 km on KM02 there was a new maize field and Alan Schwikkard noted that grassland had been replaced by cash crops on KN04.

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 ensuring the smooth running of CAR in KZN.



Sandi Calverley took this beautiful photo of lush KZN grassland, cows and two White Storks



*Jackal Buzzard in De Beer's Pass on FN32.
Photo by David Weaver.*



*Steenbokkie on SW07.
Photo by Lesley Teare.*

Antelope in January 2013				
Route	OR	CG	SN	VR
EK02	2	0	0	0
KM02	1	0	0	0
OV01	0	0	3	9
OV02	0	0	0	3
OV03	0	0	0	14
OV04	0	0	1	0
OV05	0	1	1	2
OV07	0	0	1	4
OV08	0	0	7	0
OV09	0	0	0	11
OV10	0	0	3	0
OV11	0	0	0	20
OV12	0	0	4	0
OV13	0	1	7	6
OV14	0	2	31	0
OV17	0	0	0	1
OV19	0	0	7	5
OV20	0	4	0	0
OV21	0	0	1	3
OV24	0	0	1	2
OV27	0	0	0	3
SW01	0	0	4	0
SW03	0	0	10	0
SW07	0	0	11	0
SW10	0	0	2	0
SW12	0	0	9	0
SW13	0	0	1	0
WB03	0	0	7	0
WK04	0	0	2	9
WU08	0	0	21	0
Total	3	8	134	92

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.

Congratulations to Eastern Cape participants for 15 years of CAR counting! The highest number of Grey Crowned Cranes per 100 km was recorded in this province since the start of monitoring here. These birds were all spotted in the northeastern Eastern Cape precinct and are rarely seen elsewhere in this province. The majority of the Denham's Bustard seen in this province are in the Humansdorp precinct, an area where there are a number of proposed wind farms and many birders have been involved in extra monitoring. The Humansdorp routes were the first complete precinct captured online!

Des and Martie Schroeder noted a marked increase in the number of cattle on EE23. "The farmers are changing from sheep because of stock theft in the area."

Do refer to the interim report for more details http://car.adu.org.za/news_summer_2013.php

Many thanks to Ken and Jen Munro, who have counted since 1998, and Ron Blaker as they are not able to count anymore. Thank you to Jenni Brown who is moving and has counted EE12 so regularly since winter 1998, only missing one count!

Number of birds counted in January 2013 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
EB01	63.5	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith	2	18	5					50	9	
EB02	75	1398, 680, 2408	Keith Marshall, I Field, Peter Mather-Pike, V Biggs	4	7	22	2				1	6	
EB03	68.4	2119, 1988	Peter Swift, George Branford, Doug & Sue Walters	24	6	37				2	26	20	
EB04	61.7	1567, 1568, 10650, 1584	Barbara & Ken Monfoort, N Lansdowne, W Perks		3	1	1					9	
EB05	32.5	195, 10913, 2734, 2736	Phil Whittington, Liz Watkins, Dirk & J le Roux	1	1	10				1	21	49	
EB06	60.6	10251, 6177, 6179	Michael Stanyon, Glen & Owen Tharratt, H Krantz		9	6					15	9	
EE01	35.3	1129	Adele Moore, Samantha & E Sephton, F & J Reid		1	48					4	29	
EE02	23.3	1730, 1129	Helen Lechmere-Oertel, Adele Moore			5						10	
EE08	49.4	6730	Sarone, Carl, Kasper, Waldo & Ryno van Niekerk	2	2	13	3			2	9		
EE10	63	899, 6161	Kevin & Lesley Meise		4	97					5	18	
EE17	41.01	1129, 1730	Adele Moore, Helen Lechmere-Oertel		3	13					2	30	
EE19	79.8	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	114	6	10	3	6		17		52	1 23UK
EE22	14.7	2251, 2312	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Feely		2	60				1	17	27	
EE23	38.1	2044, 2180	Desmond & Martie Schroeder		6					2	4		1BS, 6KB
EG02	52	565, 6930, 11336	Pat & Mary Hulley, Daniel Danckwerts, C Bissett	31	1	2			1	1	2		
EG03	76.2	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonnevie, Jim & Eve Cambray, E Bonnevie	2	1			2	1				
EG04	66	161	Adrian Craig, A Webb, M Wolmaarans, B Fudge	2					1			5	
EH03	55	2289, 2398	Chris & Valda Barratt, Mike Gear, Penny Gear	5	9		14					141	
EH04	42.8	1767, 1766, 1771	Jill Tudhope, Peter Bosman, W Rosser, K Tudhope			10	1	5				32	
EH05	38	1612, 1794, 301, 11507	Abel & Hanny Bezuidenhout, Chuck & Jean Cook	7	5		4						3HAR
EH06	54.33	312, 12119, 2753, 2755	Yvonne Craig, John Suckling, Geoff & Erica Knight	70	2	13	6	22			25	137	4WKB
EK02	43.1	885, 2454	John Lardner-Burke & Brian Mathew		1		3			1	1		1HAR
EK05	62.5	1527, 1528	Jenny Roxburgh, Laurie Wood, Merienne Brown		5						126	12	
EM01	62.1	974, 2111, 6819	Bradley, Lee-Ann & Brenna Gibbons	16	4	1		2		3			2KK, 6NBK, 1UK
EM02	61	2304	Ron Blaker							1			
EM03	56	198	Shaun Peard, Andrea Toerien	7									6NBK, 5UK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett, Denise Hoffmann	41	6			12	2	4	4		13KB, 9KK
EP02	65	83, 2581, 2583	Andrew Nixon, C Erasmus, M Potgieter, A Widdows	8				26	2	3		1	2KB, 1KK
EP04	72.5	869, 11264	Peter Hall, Gordon Bain, Alan Buttram						5			10	7KK
EP06	56	6727, 10144	John Webber, Dave Smeda		6				8			2	1KB
EP07	72.5	2246, 6173, 6175	Michael, Dylan & Patrick Lord	4				3					2KB, 74NBK
EP08	111.1	270, 10795, 10736	Dave Brown, Paddy Campbell & Ross Zietsman	9				4	1	3	5	18	7KB, 18KK
EP09	31	10144, 6727	David Smeda, John Webber		3							5	
EP10	43	1731, 2265	John & Rolene Bowker, Elmari Kilian, A Viljoen	8				3		3			55NBK, 4UK
ES02	48	5162	Elna, Joseph & Dirk van den Bosch										1KB
ES03	62	1475	Alan Collett, Leonie Fouche		3			1	3				5KK
ES04	46	1476, 5953	Judy Caryer, Shirley Grindley	13							9		1BS
ES05	93	6396	Sophia & Francois du Toit	4					1				
ES07	37.7	1965, 2005, 6167	Alison Brown, Ros Turner, Gill Farrell	16	2				2				1KB
ES08	41	1475	Alan Collett, Leonie Fouche	9					2				2KB, 1KK
ES10	26	2291, 2496	Liz & Gerald Buisman	26	2	5							2KK
ES11	37	2211, 319, 2420	Greg Brown, Graeme Brown, Brendan Farrell	6	2	1		1	2				
Total	2291			462	142	326	52	72	32	27	390	568	2BS, 4HAR, 35KB, 45KK
Birds/100km				20.2	6.2	14.2	2.3	3.1	1.4	1.2	17.0	24.8	141NBK, 33UK, 4WKB

EB - Border, EE - Northeast Cape, EG - Grahamstown, EH - Humansdorp, EK - Kenton, EM - Middelburg, PE (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), ES - Somerset East



A great family team, Lynne, John and Andrew Marshall, who regularly count OV23.



Blue Cranes and chick. Photo by Duncan Cooke.