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Newsletter 33, December 2012

CAR has certainly shifted into “automatic” gear with routes being captured by you at a fast rate following the CAR count day. Thank you very much to all participants and Precinct Organisers who are capturing counts online – this makes an enormous difference! The team of volunteers who have captured data sent to the ADU has been fantastic!

Thank you too for sending copies of your original roadcount forms to your Precinct Organisers, as these are essential in picking up any errors in data capture and following up queries. I am still missing a number of 2012 summer count forms, so please send these in with your 2013 summer count.

In this newsletter I have included a section on tips to checking your data, as I have kept track of the most common errors that still slip through. Do always check your totals against the totals calculated after completing your data capture as well as the tables in this newsletter: this is really useful in finding mistakes.

I have also been very impressed that most of you remembered to **record side of road for all CAR species and side of road and activity for Southern Black Korhaan**.

When you capture your 2013 summer count, please refer to **tips for capture of data online** on p 1 of Newsletter 32, as it is tricky only doing this data capture once every six months. To find Newsletter 32 click on CAR in the left-hand menu of the ADU webpage www.adu.org.za, then click on Newsletters. Please don't submit your card after capturing it, as then it is easy for you or your Precinct organiser to edit it. I will submit it once all is checked.

A huge milestone for CAR is being reached this summer count as the **Overberg observers celebrate 20 years of counting!!** This is an amazing achievement, especially as many of the routes have been counted by the same route leaders for most of those 40 counts. Duncan

In the recently released **Western Cape State of Biodiversity report** <http://www.capenature.co.za/docs/2217/State%20of%20Biodiversity%202012.pdf> I read the following encouraging statements: “Two conservation initiatives that contribute substantially to understanding and determining the state of avifauna within the province and South Africa are the Coordinated Avifaunal Road Count (CAR) and the South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2), both of which are coordinated by the ADU situated in the University of Cape Town's Department of Zoology. There are no other monitoring projects taking place at a national level dealing with as wide a diversity of avifauna species over a relatively long time scale that can compare with these two programmes.” Many thanks for collecting the CAR data that was submitted for this report: see pages 124–126, 131–132.

Congratulations to Dr Sally Hofmeyr!

Sally will be graduating on 17 December! I hope you read the summary of Sally's findings in the last Newsletter. Sally is now doing a postdoctoral fellowship focussing on the population trends and conservation ecology of the Secretarybird. There is much concern about this species recently listed as globally Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Sally is studying movements of this species and nest monitoring in the far Northern Cape in the Tswalu Kalahari Reserve. Sally will also be using the CAR data in analysis of monitoring data. In October Sally presented a paper “Using citizen science to document a species decline: the Southern Black Korhaan *Afrotis afra*” at the Pan-African Ornithological Conference.

Review of CAR project

I have recently consulted with the CAR Management team and all Precinct Organisers regarding the information collected during CAR counts and the possibility of including a few representative raptors in CAR counts. This has led to a decision to review the CAR project and Les Underhill, our Director, Res Altwegg, of SANBI, Sally Hofmeyr and I have an initial meeting this week to consider the responses from the CAR Management team and Precinct Organisers and assess all information collected by CAR and the analysis of data. I will inform you of any proposed changes before the winter count.

Latest News section on the CAR webpage

I hope you are all now aware that the CAR webpage has its own *Latest News* section at <http://car.adu.org.za/>

Flying and Habitat

To date you have recorded the habitat for flying birds as “indeterminate”, but this category has also been used when the habitat was indistinguishable due to distance. To get more precise information please record habitat for flying birds as “flying” and indistinguishable habitat as “unknown”. As before if a bird flies due to disturbance then record the habitat it took off from.

CAR Group on Facebook

You can become a member of the CAR Group on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/103532956456685/>. This is where you can share highlights of your count and your adventures during the CAR count day.

Recording km on your count and online for your route

Route km: The left-hand side of the data capture card has all the fields for km that are on the upper section of your roadcount form. However a number of you forgot to fill in the km for the end of your survey (when km for beginning of survey = 0). The route length (backtracks and detours do not form part of your route) is automatically calculated once you have filled in the relevant fields. This is a very important figure as it 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. GPS co-ordinates can then be calculated for each sighting, this is invaluable information for EIAs.

Record three small mammals in Western Cape

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

Date of summer CAR count

The next count is on **Saturday, 26 January 2013**. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise. The winter count will be on **Saturday, 27 July 2013!**

CAR Summer 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 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. The **CAR 15 Roadcount form** is enclosed, or can be printed from the CAR webpage.

If you can't count on 26 January do contact your P Org well in advance. 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.

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**.

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/Stansley's = DB.
Oribi = OR, Cape Gysbok = CG, Steenbok = SN, Vaal/Grey Rhebok = VR

Tips for checking data capture

It is important to check that all the count information on the left-hand side has been entered correctly, especially your km at end of survey (with the survey starting at 0 km) and any detour/backtrack km, so that your route length is correct. Check each line of sighting information as you enter it. Please check that the species codes are accurate and that the totals on your roadcount form equal the totals calculated by MyBirdPatch at the foot of your sightings entries.

Do remember to enter the ADU numbers of those who regularly assist under the Observers tab and the names of those who are new to CAR. If someone has been counting regularly and does not have an ADU No. please email me or ask them to register online.

Eco-driving

I thought of you all when I read an article by Simisha Pather-Elias in the December *Veld & Flora* called "The slow drive" as I know you drive slowly while CAR counting. Simisha tried eco-driving, which doesn't only mean driving slowly, and did a cost benefit analysis. These are some of the benefits:

- Maintain your vehicle by servicing it regularly. A dirty air filter and old spark plugs can reduce efficiency by up to 20%.
- Maintain correct tyre pressures – under-inflated tyres can increase consumption by up to 25%.
- Unload unnecessary weight from your vehicle.
- Educate yourself on eco-driving techniques. Efficient driving techniques like maintaining a constant speed can save up to 20% of fuel consumption.
- Optimise your routes. Sometimes the shortest route might not be the best route due to traffic, stops, slope, etc.

Simisha also suggests walking or cycling for distances less than 5 km, also of benefit mentally and physically! My husband and I have certainly really enjoyed living in a village where we can walk or cycle everywhere and get to know others we pass by. Lift sharing and use of public transport where available and safe are other options.

For further reading see: <http://www.ecodriving.co.za/> and <http://www.liftshare.com/za/>

Guidelines to minimize impact on birds of solar facilities

BirdLife South Africa has developed guidelines to ensure that the generation of electricity from solar energy does not negatively impact on South Africa's birds. The guidelines, which are designed to minimise the impact on birds of solar facilities and associated infrastructure can be downloaded from: <http://www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/birds-and-wind-energy>.

New CAR participants or no 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 consult 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.

July 2012 CAR count

It was freezing on many inland routes and there were major snowfalls about ten days before the count. We flew back from KwaZulu-Natal on 17th July and I was amazed at the extent of the snow. A number of Overberg and north-eastern Free State participants had to wait for mist to clear before starting their count. It was windy on several Southern and North-western Free State routes. The two coastal precincts in the Eastern Cape, Humansdorp and Kanton-on-Sea, had extremely muddy road conditions and so a few routes were postponed. The **interim website report on the winter count** can be found at http://car.adu.org.za/news_winter_2012.php

Project material on the website

You can download all project material 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 p 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 on <http://sabap2.adu.org.za>. You don't have to be logged in to enter this information.

Saddle-billed Stork Population Survey in Kruger National Park

If you are visiting the Kruger in the next three years you can assist in this survey by taking photographs of Saddle-billed Storks, in particular their bills as they are uniquely identifiable from the front pattern of the black band across the red bill. For further details visit <http://www.krugerpark.co.za/krugerpark-times-e-3-spot-a-stork-and-support-science-25067.html>

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

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

We are most thankful that the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) has provided core funding for CAR this year. Thank you very much to BirdLife Border and to the Somerset West Bird Club for their generous annual donations. I have not been successful in proposals submitted this year, but will persevere. 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 me a copy of the deposit slip.

Thank you to those who wrote articles in their local newspapers, birdnets or bird club newsletters. Yvonne Bosman had much adventure to write about regarding the Humansdorp counts in the *Bee-eater*. Yvonne also wrote about the wind farm monitoring that Maggie Langlands has been organizing in the Kouga area where there are ten proposed wind farms! Maggie has arranged for teams to monitor all species using the MyBirdPatch protocol and record the details for the Special Watch species. This monitoring supplements the quarterly monitoring by bird specialists doing the Environmental Impact Assessments. Lorraine Mullins obviously delighted in writing about what turned out to be one of their best counts ever on EG02 in the *Diaz Cross Bird Club* Newsmagazine. Tjaart van der Walt wrote about their count in "bibber weer" in the *De Aar Echo*.

Congratulations to Jim and Eve Cambray, enthusiastic CAR counters, who won a fabulous pair of binoculars for their Garden Watch article in the new *African BirdLife* magazine! So if you are in need of new binoculars submit an article featuring your observations of birds in your garden.

Ringed birds

Drummond and Gloria Densham reported a colour ringed Blue Crane on KM01. It is unusual to have a ring re-sighting from KZN. **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

Ken Price reported a dead Blue Crane at a feedlot around 48 km on OV07. Please report all powerline collisions to EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme on 0860 111 535 or wep@ewt.org.za.

Southern Bald Ibis project

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

Virtual Museums

There is a new Virtual Museum, **EchinoMap**, for all photos of echinoderms: the starfishes, sea urchins, brittle stars, feather stars and sea cucumbers. Do let your diving friends in particular know about this. Also a reminder about **MammalMap** for all mammal photos both here in South Africa or anywhere in Africa.

Biodiversity booklet

The new ADU/SANBI booklet entitled “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 p 3 has the Blue Crane CAR results in the Overberg. There is an article by Les about this booklet in the CAR Latest News dated 2012-8-21.

Overberg Lowlands Conservation Trust (OLCT)

“A new Trust that aims to protect the remaining renosterveld in the Overberg was launched at a Conservation Farming Day held at Suurbraak, Swellendam, on Monday 10 September. The Trust has the backing of private land users, government departments and non-profit organisations such as WWF South Africa. OLCT Director, Odette Curtis, aims to work with land users in the Overberg to assist in lowlands conservation. For more information on the Trust, contact Odette Curtis: 083 551 3341, or info@overbergrenosterveld.org.za”

(Extracted from CAPE e-news)

The threatened Southern Black Korhaan will benefit from conservation of this habitat.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for continuing to count your CAR routes despite the spiraling petrol costs and it has helped enormously that so many of you have captured your counts online. The four volunteers, Yvonne Bosman, Irmgard Kaiser, Ruth Knight and Anne McLeod have been absolute stars capturing the counts of those who don't have access to a computer. Inés Cooke arranged for a group of friends to fold this newsletter and stuff envelopes which saves me much time. The fact that so many of you now read this online saves us huge costs and trees!

Thank you to Michael Brooks for his development and maintenance of CAR on MyBirdPatch and René Navarro for summarizing the data. I am so grateful that Linah Maqashu did some of the checking of data capture and edited the tables. I also so appreciate Marja's creative layout of the newsletter! Season's greetings to you all and enjoy time with family and friends.

Travel safely,
Donella Young, Project Coordinator

COUNT RESULTS WINTER 2012

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in Eastern Cape												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	Other spp.
EB01	63.5	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith & team		4	1	4			1		
EB02	75	2408, 680	Peter Mather-Pike, I Field, M Cloran		4	2	3					2HAR
EB03	67.8	2119	Peter & Jenny Swift, Janet Calder		1	51 2	8				4 2	
EB04	39.2	1567, 10650	Barbara Monfoort, Noelle Lansdowne & Sue Smith		1	2					2	
EB05	32.6	195, 10913, 2734, 2736	Phil Whittington, Liz Watkins, Dirk & Jeanette le Roux		3	16	1				1	
EB06	67	10251, 6177, 1398	Michael Stanyon, Glenn Tharratt, Keith Marshall, Hardy Krantz		13	4	1				6	
EE01	38.5	2281	Jacky Steytler Lamer & Cara Leask	1	1	33						1BS
EE02	59.8	1129, 1730	A Moore & H Lechmere Oertel									
EE08	68.2	6730	Sarone & Carl van Niekerk		23 2	38 2			4	22 2	1HAR	
EE10	63	899, 6161	Kevin & Lesley Meise		2	83 3			1			7BI, 1BS
EE11	54	1261, 6182, 6188, 6184, 6186	Mike, Lida, Francisca, Mariena & Maretha Agenbag		1	10 1			2	4		
EE12	51	901	Jenni Brown	2		32 1					2	4UK
EE19	84.1	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton		3	4 2						44UK
EE20	42	6857	Kota Bruwer		5 2	4					10	2WC
EE22	14.3	2251, 2312	Sheila Bell-Cross & Jim Feely		2	148					2	
EE23	43	2044, 2180	Desmond & Martie Schroeder		2				2	38	2UK	
EG02	52.3	565, 1530	Pat & Mary Hulley, Lorraine Mullins	65	1				2	2		
EG03	76.1	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonnevlie, Jim & Eve Cambray						5		1	3KB
EG04	66	161	A Craig, M Wolmarans, D Danckwerts	26 7					4 2			3KB, 4WBK
EH03	54	2289, 2398, 6509, 1172	Chris & Valda Barratt, Ken & Maggie Keulemans	33	13		61		1	293		3WBK
EH04	43.2	1767, 1766	Jill & Kerry Tudhope & team	9	1		12					
EH05	38.3	301, 11507, 2406	Chuck & Jean Cook, Maggie Langlands, Trish Parker	5	6		27				14	4HAR
EH06	55.4	312, 12119, 2755, 312, 2289	Yvonne Craig, John Suckling, Erica Knight & Chris Barratt	32	25		86				7	6WBK
EK02	42.8	885, 2454	John Lardner-Burke & Brian Mathew		11		8			2	3	
EK05	62.5	1528, 1527	Laurie Wood, Jenny & G Roxburgh		10		4			1	9	2HAR, 1WS
EM01	62.1	974, 2111, 6819	Bradley, Lee-Ann & Brenna Gibbons	2 1						2	2	5NBK
EM02	61	2304	Ron Blaker							2		
EM03	56	198	Shaun Peard	71							9 1	10NBK, 4UK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffmann	12				37	6	2		7KB, 23KK
EP02	65	83, 2583, 2581	Andrew Nixon, Martie Potgieter, Come Erasmus, Phyllis Kukard	151 1		1		26	4			4KB, 5KK
EP03	61	868, 1089	Ken & Jen Munro	64 15				6	9			2KK
EP04	72.2	869	Peter Hall, N Bymanns, G & L Bam	11				2	1	1		2BS, 11KK
EP07	72.4	2245, 2246, 6173, 6175	Lesley, Michael, Dylan & Patrick Lord	5								55NBK, 2UK
EP08	110	10795, 10736	Paddy Campbell, Ross Zietsmann, Cliff Hopkins	110				7	3	4		6KB, 41KK
EP10	43	1731	John Bowker & Charles Brittnell							2		6KK, 32NBK
ES02	46	6746	Frikkie Rossouw		20			1		1		
ES03	60.3	6394, 2302	Fiona & Morven Munro	38	1							2KB, 5KK
ES04	46	1476, 1972	Judy & Zorb Caryer	215 17	1					1	16	1KK
ES05	93	6396, 6848	Sophia & Francois du Toit					24		1		2KB
ES07	37	1965, 2005, 6167	Alison Brown, Ros Turner, Gill Farrell, Rosalee Bradfield	4			2					
ES10	30	5953	Shirley Grindley & Roy Staught	70								
ES11	37	2211, 2420, 319	Greg Brown, Brendan Farrell & Graeme Brown	8					2	1		
Total	2380			975	158	440	217	103	36	33	452	7BI, 4BS, 9HAR, 27KB, 94KK, 13WBK
Birds/100km				41.0	6.6	18.5	9.1	4.3	1.5	1.4	19.0	
EB - Border, EE - Northeast Cape, EG - Grahamstown, EH - Humansdorp, EK - Kenton, EM - Middelburg, PE (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), ES - Somerset East												

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.

It was very cold on many routes in the Eastern Cape. Sandy and Hope Stretton recorded -4.8°C at 7.30 am and mentioned that the Blue Cranes left their area during a very cold spell of snow and drizzle between 17-22 June. Sheila Bell-Cross and Jim Feely noted a month of cold conditions prior to the count and it was -4°C until 10 am on the day of count. They were not able to complete EE22 as a high clearance vehicle was not available. Kota Bruwer saw a pair of Wattled Cranes on EE20. This is the second time a pair has been recorded on this route. Zorb and Judy Caryer had the highest total of Blue Cranes on ES04.

It rained for several days before the CAR count in the Humansdorp area and all three major dams were overflowing. Yvonne Bosman's descriptions about the challenges of the Humansdorp counts due to the extremely wet road conditions are in the interim winter website report. Yvonne and her team actually had to abandon their count of EH06 on the Saturday and counted two days later. "In spite of this there were more bustards reported on each route, many in places where they had not been counted before. It may have been the abundance of rain that brought them out into the open with many farm lands being flooded." EH06 had the incredible total of 86 Denham's Bustards and EH03 61! Fortunately Chris Barratt, who counted the closest CAR route, EH03, on the count day was able to accompany Yvonne and her team on the 30th and felt sure that only two birds could have been counted twice. The first Secretarybird since winter 2003 was recorded on EH03. A relatively new heronry was spotted on EH06 and 18 Black-headed Herons counted in the pine trees on that one farm. Weather conditions prevented the Kenton-on-Sea routes being counted on the 28th, but two routes were done later. There were fields of canola, a new crop to the region, on EK05 at 3 km and 32-38 km.

Paddy Campbell, Ross Zietsman and Cliff Hopkins had an amazing count on EP08 with 41 Karoo Korhaans, 6 Kori Bustards and 110 Blue Cranes. In the Border precinct Peter and Jenny Swift and Janet Calder counted 53 Grey Crowned Cranes on EB03, a route that has had Grey Crowned Cranes every count since counts began.



Crossing the Kromme River on EH06, after the water had subsided somewhat!
Photo: Yvonne Bosman

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in Eastern Karoo											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	UK	Other spp.	
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock	2	2	2					
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock	6	4						
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	61		8		1			
NK031	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson		7						
NK032	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson	30	2	3				16DB	
NK033	20	2165, 2259	Raymond & Santa Swenson		4						
NK041	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team				3				
NK042	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team	265			5	1		2KB	
NK044	20	2668	Tjaart van der Walt & team				5				
NK091	20	480	Peter C Ferreira			1	2			1KB, 5SG	
NK092	20	480	Peter C Ferreira				3				
NK093	20	480	Peter C Ferreira	4							
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith	3				1			
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith	17							
NK181	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	2			3				
NK182	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	36			4		1	1CC	
NK183	20	2660, 2662	Margaret & Roben van Zijl	2 1							
NK221	20	2855	Isabelle du Preez		4	4	8				
NK222	20	2855	Isabelle du Preez		3		2				
NK223	20	2855	Isabelle du Preez		1	1	5				
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	2	2		3				
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				1				
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				2				
NK301	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager	2				2			
NK302	20	2664, 2666	Lourens & Irma de Jager		4		7			5DB	
NK391	20	2859	Neville Hoets								
NK392	20	2859	Neville Hoets								
NK393	20	2859	Neville Hoets								
Total	560			433	36	19	53	5	1	1CC, 21DB,	
Birds/100km				77.32	6.4	3.4	9.46	0.9	0.2	3KB, 5SG	
NA01	54	6795	Samuel Tompies		3					2KB	



35th (!) Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTSB), Northern Cape

It was very cold in the Eastern Karoo, as was obvious in the photo in the interim website report. Tjaart van der Walt, Francisco and Sheldon counted 265 Blue Cranes on NK042. This is the highest total on an NK route, apart from the new route NK461 which surrounds a large wetland, since the winter 2004 count.

It is concerning that the total of Northern Black Korhaans was the second lowest total since counts of this species began and there was only a single Blue Korhaan! The last four years the winter counts of Blue Korhaan on the original NK routes have been incredibly low; in 2008 only five were counted, in 2009 and 2011 none were seen, in 2010 only three were counted.

Margaret and Roben van Zijl had an unusual sighting of one Grey Crowned Crane on NK182. Raymond and Santa Swenson had a high total of Denham's Bustard (16).

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 many of these routes.



Francisco Peer, Tjaart van der Walt en Sheldon Hendriks tydens die CAR voëlsensus van NK04. Foto: Tjaart van der Walt.

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.

Steenkampsberg precinct

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

Hendrik van Wyk and Gawie van Rensburg again had a high total of Blue Cranes (11) on their route, MS06. In summer they spotted 10 which was the highest total ever in this precinct. Many thanks to participants in this precinct for continuing to count, despite the few sightings of CAR birds.

Middelburg precinct

Thank you to Billy Smith for counting regularly in this mining area.

Standerton precinct

Congratulations to the Standerton participants who were the first precinct to complete

the capture of all routes electronically. On MT05 Johan van Rensburg counted 305 Blue Cranes and 380 Helmeted Guineafowl and saw ten species altogether. This was by far the highest total of Blue Cranes in this precinct. This was a fitting final count for Johan who took Tobie and Cecilia Pretorius counting as they will be taking over his route.

Wakkerstroom precinct

Pat and Doreen Cochran saw a single Northern Black Korhaan on MW08, this species has only been recorded twice on summer and twice on winter counts, as these sightings are just outside its normal range. Judy-Lynn and Graham Wheeler recorded the highest total of birds (235) on their route, MW07, including eight species. John and Elize McAllister also recorded eight species. My sincere apologies for the incorrect data in the last newsletter, I mis-read the dates. Fortunately the data is correctly captured on MyBirdPatch.

Chrissiesmeer precinct

As Barbi Forsyth, who organises the Wits Bird Club CAR count, wrote "The Secretarybirds were definitely popping out of the woodwork. This is the highest total we have picked up over the years. I am delighted that Phil and Lynn have now joined the ranks of the believers in Blue Korhaan. They have worked so long and hard at it and are to be congratulated for their perseverance." Joan Strugnell, Kevin and Rose Fowler also saw Northern Black Korhaan, this species has also rarely been seen in this precinct. MC01 ends in a section of road that is now used by many coal trucks and so it was impossible to bird the last 3 km.

Thank you, Barbi, for arranging such an enjoyable weekend.



Blue Cranes enjoying mealie stubble on MT05. Photo: Johan van Rensburg.

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in Mpumalanga											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK	Other spp.
MC01	73.5	1391, 1744	Philip & L Silcock, C Purchase		14 1			75		3	
MC02	64.2	1351	Murrie Slotar, L Amaro, A Rathbone, W van Vuuren			7			230		4SEC
MC03	62	1555	Lia Steen & F Kanichowsky	6	10			41	52		1SEC
MC04	68.9	11989	Jake Mulvaney, G Boy, A Earl	3				18	2		
MC05	68.8	1511, 1750, 1118	Barbi & A Forsyth, D & W Smith	10	2			101			4SEC
MC06	69.6	6624	Joan Strugnell, K & R Fowler	2							2NBK, 2SEC, 2WBK
MM03	44.1	2290	Billy Smith	6				48 16	61 12		
MS05	54.2	728	Anton Linstrom & T Steyn	5				72			2SEC
MS06	52.2	1178	H van Wyk & G van Rensburg	11					2		
MS09	56.8	1727	Jim McLuskie								1SEC
MS15	51	724	Lientjie Cohen & B Turpin	1							
MT01	84	1817	Nalda Williams	2				106	1	3	4NBK, 1SEC, 12SS
MT02	64	1816	Colin Williams	12				325			17SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman	2				185			1NBK, 10SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman					61	2		
MT05	66	2294, 12093, 6618	Johan van Rensburg, Tobie & Cecilia Pretorius, A Graham	305	17	55		380	5	27	9GWF, 7NBK, 62SS
MW01	57	2199, 2018	Penny Fox & Bev Thorne	4	5			52			1SEC
MW03	63.6	1867, 10721	John & Elize McAllister	12	2	4	16	10	1	15	1SEC
MW06	57.8	6409, 6411	Sandy & Kevin Twomey	5					2	3	
MW07	63.8	361	Judy-Lynn & G Wheeler	4	3	42	2	174	1	6 2	1SEC
MW08	89.3	10538	Pat & Doreen Cochran	11	9			124			1NBK
MW09	90	2003	Ann Cleal, R & B Wiesemann	10	4	1		18	17	4	
MW10	50.9	2017, 550	Norman Dennett, B & B Guérin	2	3				3		
Total	1423			323	130	138	19	1806	391	63	9GWF, 14NBK,
Birds/100km				22.7	9.1	9.7	1.3	126.9	27.5	4.4	101SS, 13SEC

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

Free State

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in southern Free State												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	KB, WS	
FS06	72.6	700	Johan Watson	122 5	3	16	3		16	5		
FS07	65.3	6834, 6401	D Kartounis, S Tsangarakis & team	101	3	4			2			
FS08	66.4	6, 1429	Andre & Annetjie Schlemmer					1	8	9		
FS09	61.9	24	Brian Colahan	11		9	17	1		31		
FS17	73.1	1620	Dawie Kok				38	4		16		
FS18	77	684, 11913	Louise Coetzee, J Taute, R Smith	9	2	6	17	4		18		
FS19	88.2	2263, 2384	Gela & Pieter van Heerden		1		2	3				
FS20	68	2171, 2394	Sandra Bishop & Sally Barnard		5		27	1				
FS21	60.1	682	Leon & Clarissa Barkhuizen		5		11	9	470			
FS27	78.4	694	Erika Schulze & D Schafer	59 14	4	4	1	2		5		
FS31	71.7	259	Johan van Niekerk		2			6		4		
FS35	71.4	1258	Hannes Blom		1		4	1	188	12		
FS42	67.5	24	Brian Colahan	43		3	39		11			
FS43	76	1801	Christo de Meyer				57					
FS45	80.7	2368	Annalie van der Vyfer & team		5		13	5	22 7	20		
FS47	84	1055, 1798	Johan & Henriette van den Berg				8	1	4			
FS50	79	1058, 6840	Frans & Malie Marais		4	1	2		129	2		
FS51	78.5	24	Brian Colahan		2					3		
FS54	59.2	1262, 818	Janine Liefbrig & Else Beemster-Boer		4		33			4		
FS55	48	1995	P J du Preez & Anthony Orrrock		1		11	1		5		
FS56	68.2	987, 988	Jeanette & Stephanus Buys		7		31			5		
FS58	79	863	Pierre Nel		1		18	2	2		1KB	
FS60	70	2260	Ilse, Kevin & Lida van den Bergh	64		5 4	30	2	22	9		
FS65	75	864	Savvas Vrahimis		2		6	2				
FS66	52.2	1399	Tom Mostert		1		2					
FS67	68.4	950	Daan & Tina Muller		1		8 3			4		
FS68	68.6	24	Brian Colahan	4	2		66		21	17		
FS70	57.9	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helene Bam		3	27					1WS	
FS73	68	1723, 1805	Callie & Renette Bam		4			5	17			
FS77	54.2	1153	Chalk Burger	1				2				
FS79	51.1	6838	Japie Froneman & A Thiar				17					
FS81	56	2478	Dreyer & Christel van Niekerk						6			
FS82	69.4	6704	Gertie Joubert			12	5		1			
FS83	49.2	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin		1		3	3		1		
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen		6			2		2		
FS85	81.1	285	Johan Cloete		6		12		3	13		
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie & Wynand Geyer				15		35	9		
FS91	58.8	641	Rick Nuttall		5		17	6				
FS92	64	1201	Fritz Krohn & P Weideman									
FS93	54.5	24	Brian Colahan	4	3		7	2		12		
FS95	77.3	24	Brian Colahan	8	2		9	2	4	5	3KB	
FS96	74	2653	Bok Cronje		3			2	5			
FS97	51.3	6381, 6383	Harold & Deirdre Elsmere		1					2		
FS103	53	1052	Duart Hugo		1		9	1				
FS104	68.7	1395	Geoff Johnson			1	38		9	16		
FS105	72.5	687	Riette Griesel	9		4	3		4	8		
FS106	50.3	102, 1946	Dawie de Swardt & HJ Bester		2		8			1		
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & Jenny Lotter		15		4		7	4		
FS109	62	13172, 6836	Des & Elza Bothma					4	9	5		
FS110	64	2464	D & K Bredenkamp & team				14	2	2	5		
FS111	79.2	24, 1996	Brian & Corlia Colahan				23			12		
FS112	61.4	1262, 684	Janine Liefbrig & L Coetzee	2			49	2	2	11		
FS113	94.9	1616	Danie Krynauw		2			6	13	7		
FS115	76	2466	Tiger & Emsie Muller		2		19					
FS116	46.7	6379	Louis Goedhals				14	1				
FS117	67.2	691	Willie Mostert		1		8	1		5		
FS118	67.4	24	Brian Colahan	200	2	15	11	2		6		
FS120	76	1889	Johan Labuschagne		3		61					
FS121	55.8	2460, 2462	N & Linette Pienaar				9		2			
FS122	62	1057, 2378	Lourens & Istelle Goosen		6		2	2				
Total	4005.6			656	124	111	804	92	1021	293	4KB	
Birds/100 km				16.4	3.1	2.8	20.1	2.3	25.5	7.3	1WS	

Brian Colahan, Principal Nature Conservation Scientist: Ornithology, Free State Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs, reports: Conditions were not ideal in the Free State on 28 July for the winter 2012 CAR surveys: several route leaders in the Southern (FS) and Northwestern (FW) Free State precincts remarked on the windy conditions, while some of those in the Northeastern precinct (FN) had to delay the start of their surveys because of early morning mist. Despite these challenges, over 100 routes were covered, for which the results of 96 have so far been received: 16 routes (covering 1019 km) were surveyed in FW, 21 (1233 km) in FN and 60 (4005 km) in FS, a total of 6257 km for the Province. A grand total of 4474 birds was recorded for the three precincts, giving a “density” of 72 birds/100 km, far less than the 117/100 km for the previous winter, but when there was an exceptional number of Spur-winged Geese in FW: 178/100 km, compared with 17/100 km this winter. Northern Black Korhaan were dominant there this time (32/100 km), with Des Walker (FW34, W of Kroonstad) and Herman Jordaan (FW18, SE of Kroonstad) recording over 50 each. Mary Littlewood and Rosemary Girard were pleased to see Blue Cranes again along FW52 (SW of Deneysville), though just two of them; only two more of these were recorded in the precinct, by Tjaart Venter (FW62) just S of Koppies.

The Grey Crowned Crane was dominant (18/100 km) in the FN, but with 221 (99%) of them seen by Rick Dillon’s team along FN31, E of Harrismit; they also saw 98% (144) of the Blue Cranes recorded in the precinct, as well as two White-bellied Korhaans. This korhaan was also seen along three other routes in FN; it is either increasing there, or route leaders are looking more closely at the Blue Korhaans they encounter and finding that some are actually White-bellied. It is encouraging to see that the Southern Bald Ibis, the third most abundant species (after Blue Crane), was recorded along more than half (60%) of the FN routes.

Leon and Clarissa Barkhuizen’s 470 Spur-winged Geese SSW of Petrusburg (FS21) made this species the dominant one (25/100 km) in FS, and they were also pleased to spot nine Secretarybirds along their route. Several route leaders suggested that the wind had affected their surveys, especially of the Northern Black Korhaan, but the density for that species was actually higher than in winter 2011: 20/100 km vs. 13/100 km. However, only 8% of the winter 2011 routes had no Northern Black Korhaans recorded, whereas 23% had none this winter. Abrie and Helene Bam (FS70) counted the most Ludwig’s Bustards (27) in the FS precinct, along their route S of Wepener; while quite regularly seen along routes in the SE, this species is usually more common in the SW. Four Kori Bustards were also spotted, one by Pierre Nel (FS58) S of Boshof and the other three by me E of Luckhoff (FS95).

There are often numerous sightings of Northern Black Korhaan on the Free State routes, many thanks to participants for their perseverance in recording them all.

Thank you to Brian for capturing and checking so many roadcount forms as well as compiling this report.

White-bellied Korhaan spotted on FN32.
Photo: David Weaver.



Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in north-eastern Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	Other spp.
FN16	53.5	701	Theunis & Thelmi Bekker	2 1	7	31			5	8 2	
FN25	61	1747	Morne Pretorius		3				2	3	
FN28	62	1892, 1893	Otto & Marguerite Nel		1	1		1			
FN31	77.7	2109	Rick Dillon & team	144	8		10	220 1	3	4	2WBK
FN32	52.4	1072	David Weaver			7	2	3			4WBK
FN37	59.1	2042	Melanie Potgieter		1	29		2		2	12NBK
FN39	61	2472, 2476, 2474	Irmgard Kaiser, L du Preez, Di Reed, Fiona Yatt		7	4		1			
FN42	71	1517	Henk Venter		6	10		1	6	18	
FN44	69.3	2470	Marina Ferreira		2	11					
FN46	63.5	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer		5				9	3	
FN48	56.6	605	Janet Lourens								2WBK
FN49	49	1747	Morne Pretorius		2	2			6	10	
FN50	55.7	942	Pieter Koornhof & Niel Botha		4		1	1	1		
FN51	63.9	2498	Ina van Rensburg		10			1			
FN52	71	717	Johan & M Strauss		9 1	13		1	29	10	1WBK
FN55	65	703	Nacelle Collins & E Bredenkamp		7	1				5	
FN58	63	705	Paulus Fihlo		9	4		2	4	4	
FN60	64	1505	Brian Barnes		1					4	61NBK
FN62	68.6	11376	A Barrett & D Redelinghuys		2				1		1GOL, 4NBK
FN63	46	1932, 6854	Pietre & Fred (Snr) Enslin		4				1		
Total	1233				147	89	123	224	16	68	69 1GOL, 77NBK,
Birds/100 km					11.9	7.2	10.0	18.2	1.3	5.5	5.6 9WBK

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in north-western Free State											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	UK		
FW02	41.8	12717, 11993	Sandra Brown & J Ainsley			15					
FW16	68.1	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe								
FW18	48.3	1268	Herman Jordaan			56					
FW26	64	2396	Louis Botha			25					
FW28	54	6695	Piet van der Merwe			11					
FW34	77.4	1163	Des Walker		1	58	1	132			
FW36	78.6	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy		4	8	2				
FW42	67.8	1177	Dolf, Pieti & Andre Hoffmann		7						
FW43	64.5	2261	Chris Daphne		2	22					
FW45	52.3	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan		1	6					
FW51	79	1253	Koos den Houting			45					9
FW52	58	2201, 1957	Mary Littlewood & R. Girard	2	4	5		37			
FW53	82	1173, 1940	Chris & Martina de Lange		2	20					4
FW60	63.1	1497	Vlam Els & Danie Erasmus		1	2		1			
FW61	60.1	10783	Alta Henning		1	36					
FW62	60.2	2262	Tjaart Venter		2	2	18	2	2		
Total	1019			4	25	327	5	172	13		
Birds/100 km				0.4	2.5	32.1	0.5	16.9	1.3		



Gauteng & North West

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG).

The Gauteng counts all started as close to 0700 am as possible. Lance Robinson and Andy Featherstone counted 13 White Storks and 135 Black-headed Herons on a burnt field! They had the incredible total of 193 Black-headed Herons for their route, GD02! I was encouraged to see that Secretarybirds were counted on nine Gauteng routes and Craig and Lynn Whittington-Jones saw five on their route, GD05. Piet Muller saw a single White-bellied Korhaan on GW01, while Leon Labuschagne recorded two Red-crested Korhaan on GM01. Craig reported seeing five packs of hunting dogs on GC04.

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

North West

Only the original Harts River route, HR01, was counted and 5 BHH and 7 NBK were recorded by Andrew Mvundle and team.

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in Gauteng									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BHH	HG	NBK	SG	Other spp.	
GB01	20	12647	Awie Coetzee, W Grobbelaar, E Hahn	3	140	3	4	2GOL, 1SS	
GB02	31.4	6345, 6717,	Maroti Tau, J Rone, P Dix, E Stroh		3	2	6		
GB03	52	2135	Peter Huggins & team	12	113	1		3SEC	
GB04	44	6809, 2793	Nathi Ngobeni, R Sekwele & Pitso		31				
GB05	18	614, 2945, 11055	Rihann Geyser, Rihaan Marais, M van Schalkwyk, Nici Kuhn	1	104 14	4			
GB06	46	2374, 6813	Leon & Lucia Lotter	5	147				
GB07	54	1764	Sean West		12		60		
GC01	19	2046, 6815	Willem & Melissa de Lange			4			
GC02	64.9	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	4	240	3	140	1SEC	
GC02	64.9	613	Craig Whittington-Jones	4	240	3	140	1SEC	
GC03	73.4	1123	Koos Richards & Piet Breytenbach		76	2			
GC04	76.2	613, 1538	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones	12	541	6		2SEC	
GC05	61.8	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell	17	222	1	26	1SEC	
GD01	61	746	Andre Botha & Cobus Bester	5	121 17	8			
GD02	61	2254, 10857	Lance Robinson & A Featherstone	165 28	156		55	3SEC, 13WS	
GD03	36.2	2672, 2833	Boet & Ann Holmes	2	10		4	2SEC	
GD04	52	2338	Phuti Matlamela & L Nevhutalu	5	71 3			1SEC	
GD05	52.7	613, 1538	Craig & Lynn Whittington-Jones	5	177			5SEC, 2UK	
GH01	55.9	2045, 13111, 1769	Rouxdene Deyse, Natalie & Emlyn Horn, B Henderson	3	415		2		
GH02	72.1	2226	Daniel Koen & Liesl Du Toit	5	287 4				
GH03	51	2101	Hein Pienaar	1	106	4			
GH04	46.5	2095	Claire & Pierre Eksteen	9	12				
GH05	64	6817	Rhulani Maluleke & Thapelo Mmola	1	6	1			
GM01	40	2102	Leon Labuschagne & E Seamark	1	40				
GM02	22	2102	Leon Labuschagne & E Seamark		10			2RCK	
GW01	50.7	2099	Piet Muller		8			1WBK	
GW02	48.5	6343	Yvonne Pennington & team	2	430				
Total	1339			290	3756	34	445	2GOL, 2RCK,	
Birds/100km				21.7	280.5	2.5	33.2	19SEC, 13WS,	1WBK
GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg, GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site									

Antelope in July 2012				
Route	OR	CG	SN	VR
KC01	4			
KG02	1			
KG03	3			
KM01	2			
KM02	5			
KM05	6			
KV02	1			
OV03		0	0	4
OV05		2	0	4
OV06		0	7	0
OV07		0	3	21
OV09		0	2	4
OV11		0	0	2
OV12		0	1	0
OV13		0	1	10
OV14		5	0	0
OV15		0	2	0
OV17		0	0	8
OV24		0	0	6
OV26		1	0	0
OV33		0	0	7
OV34		0	2	11
OV36		0	0	2
SW01		0	2	0
SW03		0	4	0
SW05		0	2	0
SW11		0	5	0
SW12		0	11	0
SW14		0	0	3
WB01		0	21	0
WB03		0	10	0
WK04		2	0	1
WU01		0	1	0
WU02		0	0	5
WU08		0	18	0
Total	22	10	92	88



Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in Swartland							
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	SG	Other spp.
SW01	75	1970	Fiona Hellmann & V van Vuuren	43 1	3	70 6	25BK
SW02	77.8	503, 1077, 6403	Sean, Louise & Jack Tucker	6	3	9	
SW03	63.7	574, 1080	Sylvia Ledgard & Pat Waddell	178	4	79	
SW04	64	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henrietta Melck	6		39	
SW05	59.6	106, 11090, 11911	Mel Tripp, S Forgarty & C Saunders	114	2	120 1	
SW06	73.4	1358, 11280, 10442	Reg le Roux, B Patterson, H Thompson, A Heystek	3	11	51	
SW07	44	1122, 1366, 2315	Linda Reynolds, Lesley Teare, Kevin Drummond Hay	35	14	39	
SW08	65.2	1474	Bruce Mackenzie & P Sumner	149		9	
SW09	61.1	2033, 2500	J, M & H van Deventer	182 1		68	
SW10	62	2362	Donny Malherbe	37	5	7	
SW11	69.6	479, 1081	David, Anne & C Dixon	6	2	5	1HAR, 5SBK, 25EC
SW12	81.3	2207, 2208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	4	1	24	6SBK, 15EC
SW13	47.5	673	Elna Slabber		4	369	15BK
SW14	50.7	506	Riaan van der Walt & B Zungu	8	1	222	
SW15	65	2006, 1467, 1135	Angela, Jens & Diane Oelbittel	76	8	4	1HAR
SW16	43.1	2051, 11567	C Faull, R Knight & L MacCullum	8 2	2	34	
SW17	58.4	2587	Clive Campbell-Smart	4		23 2	25BK
Total	1061			863	60	1181	2HAR, 16SBK, 25EC
Birds/100km				81.3	5.7	111.3	

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.

Swartland precinct

After the summer count we will have 17 years of CAR count information from the Swartland! Blue Crane totals were high. Bruce Mackenzie had the highest total (149) of Blue Cranes for SW08 to date. Sylvia Ledgard and Pat Waddell recorded 178 Blue Cranes on their route, SW03. On this route and SW09 there were extensive wheat fields from 35 km onwards. Jaco, Marlene and Hennis van Deventer, who counted SW09, saw 178 Blue Cranes feeding in a lupin field. Thankfully Nico Mostert was well enough to count and they recorded 6 Southern Black Korhaans on SW12. Cheryl Faull noted a change in habitat at 20km on SW16, where olives have been planted. The Southern Black Korhaan count was the highest since winter 2004!

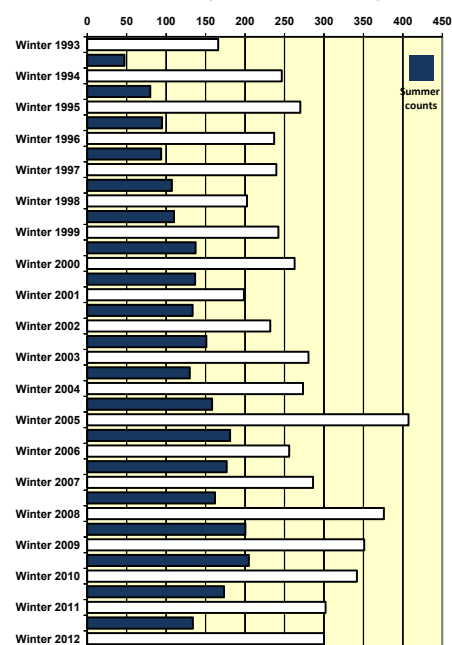
Your Precinct Organiser, Elna Slabber, no longer has a land line, so please use Elna's cell number, 0827710923, to contact her.

Overberg precinct

What an incredible achievement in this precinct! Congratulations!! This summer count will be the 40th in the Overberg! David Allan initiated the counts in the Overberg with the help of the Cape Bird Club and I am sure didn't envisage the counts continuing for twenty years! I hope as many of you as possible will be able to meet at the Caledon Wild Flower Gardens after your count to celebrate together. There is shade where you can

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in Overberg									
Route	km	ADU No	Observer	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	Other spp.
OV01	54	229, 2311, 1063	Inés & Duncan Cooke & P Rigg	28 1	4			42	
OV02	58	872	George Ward & H Ridderling	23 7				23	
OV03	47.7	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	28				20	
OV04	26.2	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	167	2			37	
OV05	67.3	228, 649, 1148	John Carter, T Wienand, B Dennis, F Kruger	139	12		12	55	1HAR
OV06	51.8	1655	Stuart McLennan & Ken Cockroft	101	2	12			
OV07	67.8	496	Ken Price & Lezleigh Flower	220	3	7	4	22	
OV08	72.8	492, 1075	Keith & M Moodie, A & A Fraser-Jones	1208 11	13	32	5	41	25BK
OV09	47.1	1083, 801, 802	Anne Price, Keith & Ann McAdam	265				214	
OV10	55.7	6331, 6333	Henry & Marion Naude, Mavis Smith	68	3	2		31	
OV11	61.1	245, 246	Sheila Siebert & Madelaine Loubser	9 2	2	7		13	1HAR
OV12	57.3	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	266	3			21	
OV13	69.4	520, 671, 672	Jill Mortimer, A White, R Lind, H Wetmore	420 6	5	33	6	1	75
OV14	85	123, 1922, 6742	John Coats, M Aucamp, H Hammerbeck, V Bilbrough	509	2	7	6		60
OV15	57.6	2112, 2113	John & Myra Jones	196 5	4 1	5	2	36	
OV16	61.3	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & Willem du Toit	356 7	8	15	9	22	
OV17	63.3	878, 2440, 2442	Lee Burman, M & H McNaught	42	7	10		26	1HAR
OV18	50.2	240	Wicus & H Leeuwener, T & R Mosterd	204	2			11	
OV19	62.9	1632, 1213	Christine Wallace, E Stodel, P Pistorius	140		1	9	33	
OV20	54.5	2356, 2358, 1325, 2342, 2344	Sue & Adrian Watermeyer, Neville Passmore, Bruce & Liz Napier	58	3			64	
OV21	63.9	2136, 2181	Attie Wilson & Christina Terblanche	85 16	11	9		14	
OV22	56.7	1660	Sally Adam & Pam Eloff	160	55	9		29	
OV23	56	1062	Andrew & John Marshall		7			51	
OV24	55.3	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw, Gill van Wyk	4	4	9 1		27	
OV26	18.8	871	Jeffrey Arizon, K Davids, A Farao	1	2	3		1	27 2
OV27	67	6491	M Groenewald & team		5	10		26	16
OV28	35.9	2057	Bill Naude & Brian Taggart	2	2			3	
OV29	25.7	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	113	1			5	
OV33	62.8	1463, 6153, 6455, 6157	Frans & Christie de Graaff & family	6	6			24	1HAR
OV36	40	1469	Avril Young & Doric	123	1	3		39	
OV37	35.2	1777, 1778	Rae & Ann Gordon, D & D Richardson	3		9 2		1	
Total	1688			4999	170	186	53	3	1099
Bird/100km				296.1	10.1	11.0	3.1	0.2	65.1
OV34	61	1550, 1551, 1211,	Héyne & Sharon Brink, J & M Dalton	5	2	9		3	2HAR, 35BK

Blue Cranes per 100 km in Overberg



enjoy your picnic lunch if your route is shorter and nearby. Those with longer, more distant routes will hopefully be able to join us for an early tea at about 3 pm when I plan to share some highlights from the last twenty years with you. You are welcome to share your CAR adventures as well!

I am very impressed that many of you noted an increase in crops, particularly wheat and canola on your winter forms. When I read the article "Bumper harvest overflows" on the front page of our local newspaper, the Theewaterskloof-Bredasdorp-Napier *Gazette*, dated 27 November, I felt very proud that your observations were being confirmed. Pieter Beukes, chairperson of the Caledon Agricultural Association, noted that the planting area of wheat had been 15% more than in 2011, barley had increased by 7% and canola by 6%. A 9% greater area in total was planted to cash crops. Interestingly there was an increase of 50% in lupins. The rainfall has been 15 % higher than the long-term average, which together with favourable climate conditions has led to a harvest of oats, barley, wheat and canola that has exceeded all expectations. Another aspect of land use highlighted by Stuart McLennan, who farms in the area, was the high density of sheep on remaining pastures.

Jill Mortimer and team, who count OV13, noted that canola and

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in smaller Western Cape precincts								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other spp.
WB01	60	343, 2346,	Maria Andela, M & A Oosthuizen			47 4		
WB03	58	1909, 2468,	Stefan, Madeleine, H & H Theron	107	12	18		25EC
WC01	41.4	1291	George Hattingh & Cliff McLarty		1		13	4DB, 3LB, 5SBK
WC02	56	2857, 2293	Carol & Mike Hewitt & team		1 1			
WK03	37	2292	Adrius Rabie	7 1	2		3	4SBK
WK04	44.2	2182, 2574	Margaret Powell, D & M Maurer	63	1		5	15BK
WK05	17	2182, 2574	Margaret Powell, D & M Maurer					
WK06	41	991, 2239,	Donella, Robyn Kadis & J Bolton	6	3		1	55BK
WK07	22	2138, 2140	Laurel Bloch & Mike Ford	5	1		4	
WU01	50	11372	Robert Smith & Ina Engelbrecht			4		3LB
WU02	55.6	2062, 10326	Pat Nurse & Jane Mouton	99 1	1			1DB
WU03	49	1004	Alan Wheeler		1			
WU04	34	1606	Natalie Baker		1			
WU05	69.8	6559, 6577, 297, 1520, 215	Oliver & Jean Purcell, Mike & Gill Euston-Brown, Heather Busby	238	8		4	6DB, 15BK
WU06	13	1606	Natalie Baker		1			
WU08	44	11617	Alan Lee & Matt Strich	24		7		2LB, 35BK
WU09	53.6	11543, 2299	John Rossouw, B James & team	3				
WW02	58.7	1475	Alan Collett					3DB, 3WS
Total	804			554	34	80	30	14DB, 8LB, 195BK, 25EC, 3WS
Birds/100km				68.9	4.2	9.9	3.7	
WB: Beaufort West precinct, WC: Calitzdorp precinct, WK: Little Karoo, WU: Unidionale , WW: Wilderness								

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

wheat had almost completely taken over the entire route with the removal of large areas of fynbos. Jeffrey Arizon and his team saw more Black Harriers on OV26 than have ever been seen before. Lee Burman had the second highest total (10) count of Denham's Bustard for her route, OV17; 16 were seen in winter 2004. Frans de Graaff and his family didn't see any Denham's Bustard on OV33 for first time since starting this route in 2001. Sheila Siebert and Madelaine Loubser counted 400 Greater Flamingoes at Langvlei on OV11.

Thank you to the many who waited for an hour or more for the mist to clear and Lee Burman who did a 34 km detour due to roadworks. For a more detailed report please refer to Duncan and Inés Cooke's report in http://car.adu.org.za/news_winter_2012.php "An intriguing thing that we and several others noted was that there were very many pairs of Cranes, unusual for winter." In the histogram alongside you can see the results of all 39 counts, showing the very steady increase in summer counts, but in recent years a possible decline in both summer and winter counts.

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 problems to André Marais at CapeNature, 028 3140062.

Huge thanks to all for returning forms so promptly and to Duncan and Inés Cooke and John Carter for all the data capture they did so that by 10 August all



Beautiful contrasts of wheat and canola in the Overberg on a misty morning.

Photo: Wicus Leeuwner

30 Overberg routes were captured and checked! Many thanks to Duncan and Inés for all the phoning, collection and acknowledgement of counts.

Beaufort West precinct

Stefan, Hanneltjie, Madeleine and Hardus Theron saw 107 Blue Cranes on WB03! On WB01 Maria Andela and her team counted 55 KK.

Little Karoo precinct

Two or three of these routes regularly have a few Southern Black Korhaan. There are fairly large patches of indigenous veld on these routes.

Uniondale precinct

Pat Nurse and Jane Mouton saw 100 Blue Cranes on WU02 and had never seen the area so wet after 150 mm rain. This was the third highest crane count on WU02. Mike Euston-Brown and his team also recorded a high total of Blue Cranes (238) on WU05, this route has had over 200 cranes on six of the thirteen winter counts and always a minimum of 63 cranes each winter count. These two routes have also consistently had the most Denham's Bustard sightings.

Calitzdorp precinct

Mike and Carol Hewitt remarked that the fields where they usually have sightings are now in use by ostriches. There has been a decline in the number of Denham's Bustard sightings on George Hattings' route, WC01.

KwaZulu-Natal

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



There was a most exciting sighting of five Southern Ground Hornbills, three adults and two juveniles, one pink phase and one yellow phase, feeding on artificial irrigated pasture on Malcolm Gemmell's route, KC01, near Creighton. The density of Blue Cranes was the second highest winter density, in July 2006 the density was 6.4 birds per 100 km of road. The high density in 2006 was due to the total of 112 Blue Cranes on Kobus Nel's route, KG07 in East Griqualand. This last count two routes had the next highest totals on a KZN route, Evelyn Hughes and her team saw 62 on KM02, while Rod Dicks and Derek Goosen counted 54 on KL02. Two routes had eight different species.

Diane Mason had the amazing total of 195 Grey Crowned Cranes (GCC) and also saw two Wattled Cranes, a group of eight Denham's Bustard and a Secretarybird on KM08! This is the highest total of GCC to date on a KM route,

with the nearest total being 94 GCC on KM01 in July 2011. In the Underberg area John and Gayle Ellison also recorded the highest total of Grey Crowned Cranes (109) on KU01 to date. Danie Faure and Amon Ndlova saw seven different species on KP01 including nine Blue Cranes, two Wattled and two GCC, as well as a single Yellow-billed Stork! Norman and Arthur Leveridge had the highest total of White-bellied Korhaans (3) this count on KD03, while Peter and Jo-Anne Smith recorded the only two Black-bellied Korhaans on KD04. Klaus and Miemie Heyer counted the second highest total of Helmeted Guineafowl (240) on a KZN route. The highest was on KD04 in July 2002. It was freezing in East Griqualand: Stiggs Cathcart and Alan Williamson recorded -5°C at 8 am on their route KG05. Ingrid Bryden and the Lourens' saw the most Denham's Bustard (DB) on this count and this was the second highest total for KG03: there were 19 DB in July 2009.

Val Cross, the Dundee Precinct Organiser, noted the extreme drought conditions in the area, and mentioned that most farm dams were dry and even the common ducks were missing from those with limited water. Johan de Villiers, who organizes the Newcastle routes, also reported that they had had the worst drought in many years.

Thank you to Helena Mattison, who is now coordinating the Vryheid routes, and AP Keeve who took on this responsibility after Darryl Baxter's sudden death.

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.

Number of birds counted in July 2012 census in KwaZulu-Natal												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observer	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	Other spp.
KC01	53	433	Malcolm Gemmell & Hannah Everett		14 5	16	2	4			41	5GH
KD01	80	2085, 2084	Elizabeth & Henery Bugden		5	54						
KD02	63	677, 1711	Paul & Bev Garner		2	5						1WBK
KD03	70.6	10921, 11338	N Leveridge, L Chivers, A Leveridge		3	6 2					1	3WBK
KD04	50	2352, 2354	Peter & Jo-Anne Smith					3	40	1		2BBK
KD05	60	1713	Elizabeth Durham & Eric Boswell			9			209	1		
KD06	53	1709, 1755	Myles & Carol Ellerker		4	3					4	
KD07	72	909	Heino Wellmann		1				29			
KD08	59	1179, 736	Val & Tony Cross		2				50		4	2SS
KD09	58	2285, 2316	Lynne & P Ruddle		29	14					2	
KD10	28	1179, 736	Val & Tony Cross		4	10					4	
KE01	49	6691, 6693	Ingrid & M Oates & 8 Learners			2				1		
KG02	52.5	1073, 2709, 2711	Pat Lowry, D & M Shaw, R Herbert		1		5	7			2	1WC
KG03	54	2703, 2705, 2707	Ingrid Bryden, Piet & Anne Louwrens	12	5		16	14	76		3	
KG05	56	1134	Stiggs Cathcart & Alan Williamson		6		4		150		20	
KG06	26.5	626	Malcolm Rivett		1					1	1	2WC
KG10	44.3	2713	Jeremy Brownrigg		2		14	11		2	4	
KL02	104	610	Rod Dicks & Derek Goosen	54	4	26	2				29	2WBK
KL11	36	814	Ann Gray & 4 learners		12				5 8			
KM01	70.4	1904, 1905	Drummond & Gloria Densham		4		24	8	124	2	38	4WC
KM02	63.5	1581	Evelyn Hughes & team	62	8		9		34		56	5WC
KM03	99	6121, 6413	John & C Curry, R Gregor, J & B Dagless		1						122	
KM04	35	474, 498	Shirley Bennett, Margie Sleight & team	7	1		2	1	3		22	
KM05	82.7	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernardine Turner, Linton Hall		5	7	5				39	2SS, 3WC
KM06	92	167	Pamela Nicol & team	2	4	4	46				72	
KM07	58	1799	Peter & Anita Divall & Bruce Laing		2				98	1		
KM08	60.4	2280	Diane Mason & O Corbishley		7		195	8		1	143	2WC
KN01	62	927, 1756	Johan & Christine de Villiers		3	10						2RWF, 1SS, 1WBK
KN03	51.6	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		8 1	2			30			
KN04	48.4	925	Alan Schwikkard		1	11			19		4	
KN05	38.6	1071, 1742	John & Kathy Sharpe		1	13	2		1		21	4SS
KN06	53.9	2036, 2037	Klaus & Miemie Heyer		9		5		240	3		7SS
KO01	52	425, 1529, 1963	Gavin & Sandi Calverley, S Calitz, Nikky		4				10 2		1	
KP01	65.15	6852, 6850	Danie Faure & Amon Ndlovu		9	17	2	3		2	37	2WC, 1YS
KP03	56	6434	Louis Lombard & K Wessels		1	14		4			1	
KU01	68	2015, 740	Gayle & John Ellison	4	12	36	109	8	34	2	20	
KU02	62.5	10451, 10491, 2350	Graham Klett, R Clark, B Osborne		7	5	2			1	115	3WC
KV02	61.2	2016, 2001	Paul & Ria Steffensen		9	1		4	96	1	2	
KV03	62	6415	Clive Mattison & Francis Finn		4	7				2		
KV04	34.6	1790	Arlene & Piet Steyn			4					1	
Total	2346			141	201	278	444	75	1258	22	808	2BBK, 2RWF, 7WBK, 22WC
Birds/100km				6.0	8.6	11.9	18.9	3.2	53.6	0.9	34.4	5GH, 15SS,
Precincts: KC - Creighton, KD - Dundee, KE - Escourt, KG - East Griqualand, KL - Ladysmith, KM - Midlands, KN - Newcastle, KO - Melmoth, KP - Paulpietersburg, KU - Underberg, KV - Vryheid												