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



The Tony and Lisette Lewis
Foundation South Africa



COORDINATED AVIFAUNAL ROADCOUNTS (CAR)

Newsletter 22

June 2007

SABAP2, the second bird atlas project is launched!

See www.sabap2.org or contact Doug Harebottle on 021-6502330 or Doug.Harebottle@uct.ac.za

General

Imagine being able to select a species abbreviation and at the click of a mouse the number of birds/100 km for summer and winter for that species appears for each precinct! This will soon be possible from your own computer, as well as updated useful summary graphics that were in the eight-year CAR report! Hugues (Hugh) Leray, a volunteer from France, has done incredible work designing queries for a summarized CAR database with René Navarro's help. I am most grateful to Hugues for his time and skills and to Pierre van den Berg, through whom I heard about Hugues' desire to work in South Africa for a few months. Pierre has counted an Overberg route for many years. As eighteen of the species CAR is monitoring are threatened species with Red Data Status, it is most important to make the results available online as soon as possible. There are now 46 precincts, 6600 roadcounts and altogether 36 different species are recorded on the database.

In the last six months I have had requests for the Bald Ibis data from Kate Henderson, of BirdLife, and Steven Evans, of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Oribi Working Group. In April Dr Richard Pettifor, from the Zoological Society of London, collected a copy of the CAR database that will be used for the Darwin Initiative project 15/002 entitled 'Integrating Crane Conservation with Sustainable Habitat Utilisation'. So the information you collect is being used!

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) has identified the CAR and CWAC (Coordinated Waterbird Counts) projects as valuable long-term datasets and is providing core funding for both projects! This is wonderful news and highlights the projects' importance in giving us a better understanding of how land use change, climate change and other pressures may affect birds, their population trends and conservation status.

A number of precincts have recently completed **ten years of monitoring** or are close to this major milestone. The following precincts are into their second decade of counting: Overberg, Eastern Karoo, Swartland, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Southern and Northeastern Free State! A huge thank you to all who have participated in these counts covering many kilometres and especially to the Precinct Organisers for inspiring enthusiasm and ensuring regular counts.

Footprints – when you hear that word what picture comes into your mind? Footprints on a sandy beach? I discovered that for many of us this was an immediate thought, when asked this question at the CAPE (Cape Action for People and the Environment) conference in May. One's footprints on a beach are washed away at the next high tide, but we as a human species are now facing the reality that our 'footprint' on earth is not being erased. Our presence in such numbers has had lasting and wide-ranging effects. In the last newsletter I encouraged you to see the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, giving a global warning about global warming. Maybe you are now feeling rather bombarded by the words, climate change, but I do hope that you are also hearing about practical ways in which you can make a difference. Consider ways in which you can leave a small, 'green' footprint rather than an indelible imprint. You may feel that your resources are limited, but there are unlimited opportunities when we work together. Your part in this project has demonstrated the difference that many contributions can make; counting over 19 000 km has only been possible by your voluntary combined effort. The title of the CAPE Conference I attended in May was 'Nurturing partnerships for lasting benefit'. I was encouraged to see that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Conservation Science publication highlights the difference combined action can make: "The value of partnership is nowhere more evident than in the contribution made by 1000s of birdwatchers who take

part in bird monitoring. Their contribution is invaluable." Below is a list of informative websites that give options for increasing the positive impact of our footprint and minimizing the negative impact of human activities. In other words "Live simply so that others may simply live." Visit www.ecofoot.org, www.wwf.org, www.earthday.net, www.greenspace.co.za

Date of winter CAR count

The date set for the winter count is **Saturday, 28 July 2007**. Start your count 1–2 hours after sunrise and make every effort to do the count on this specified date. If for some last-minute, unavoidable reason you are unable to count on this date, please let your Precinct Organiser know and do it on the nearest possible day. The summer count will be on Saturday, 26 January 2008.

Count information

I have really appreciated the fact that you obviously checked your roadcount forms more carefully before sending them in, as I have had to follow up far fewer queries. This has saved me much time and been a great help, as there is now so much more work with many participating organisations and deliverables required by organisations funding CAR.

The **CAR 13 roadcount form** and a **CAR leaflet** are enclosed. **Do indicate on the form if you are willing to receive the newsletter and form as a pdf document by email**, or download these from the website.

There is **one change** on the roadcount form that I think will gladden your heart! You **no longer need to record the farm number for crane or bustard sightings**. I checked with Precinct Organisers and the CAR Working Group, whom we consult regarding methods and management, earlier this year and apart from one precinct where very few birds are observed the decision was unanimous. I have been concerned that this was difficult and time-consuming and since you record km readings and the routes are on GIS, we have enough information to calculate a GPS coordinate for each sighting. The South African Crane Working Group (SACWG), who originally asked for this information, support this decision.

Do remember when a bird is seen flying to record 'indeterminate' in the habitat column. Also check that all details are filled in and do make a conspicuous note if you are ever unable to complete your route or have to do it in a different direction.

Please refresh your memory by **going through the Information Sheets** prior to the count and take them with you, as well as your **route map**. **Keep a careful note of your km**. Try to send in your data by the end of August, but always, **always keep a copy yourself!**

Photographs of habitat

If you haven't sent photographs it is not too late, but this is optional! Please note the date, route number, side of road and km (GPS coordinates too, if you have them). Ensure that you take representative shots and not too many, about 10. Also limit the size of each photo to about 250 KB. Whenever there are marked changes on your route it is important to note this on your roadcount form, as well as record this photographically if possible. **Changes in habitat or land use could be very important in interpreting trends.**

Email addresses

We do have problems with distribution lists, so if you didn't receive an email about the website report on the summer count, do send me your email address.

Project material on the website

If you are missing project material such as **Information Sheets**, or need extra CAR leaflets to hand out,



Results

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. The following abbreviations apply:

Korhaans: Blue = UK

Karoo = KK

White-bellied = WBK

Black-bellied = BBK

Southern Black/Black = SBK

Northern Black/Whitequilled = NBK

Bustards: Kori = KB

Ludwig's = LB

Denham's/Stanley's = DB

Storks: Black = BS

White = WS

Abdim's = AS

Yellow-billed = YS

Cranes: Blue = BC

Grey Crowned = CC

Wattled Crane = WC

Southern Ground-Hornbill = GH

Southern Bald Ibis = BI

Spur-winged Goose = SG

Secretarybird = SEC

Black Harrier = HAR

Black-headed Heron = BHH

Goliath Heron = GOL

oribi = OR

Mistakes and misprints: search them out!

Please check the figures given for your route in this newsletter against your records, and report any discrepancies immediately.

these can be downloaded from the foot of the CAR webpage.

Project material is available in Afrikaans as well. The **interim CAR summer count report** is also here, with colour photos, as well as past **newsletters**. Information about a collaborative Blue Crane genetics project is in the interim report.

Updating the trends of all species

Prideel Majiedt, of the ADU, has made excellent progress with capturing new routes onto GIS (Geographical Information System) one morning a week. The GIS length of routes is needed to calculate birds per 100 km, as odometers vary considerably. As habitat information is also now available electronically it is important that CAR routes are on GIS. It has helped enormously that the 1:250 000 maps are now available electronically from the Map Office.

Do visit the CAR webpage for updated trends in species, click on the species name in the table. As soon as the summaries that Hugues is programming are available there will be a link from this page.

ADU observer numbers and mailing list

If those who assist you regularly would like to receive an ADU number and be on the mailing list, do send me their contact details.

CAPE Award

In May the ADU received another award from CAPE for promoting private sector and community involvement in conservation. Thank you so much for your response and involvement in our volunteer projects like CAR. I have also received a copy of the CAPE book *Fynbos fynmense: people making biodiversity work* published by SANBI, that features a full A4 page on CAR.

CAR Report

The eight-year CAR report is still available, the cost (including postage) is R150.

CAR support

At the foot of the CAR webpage you will find acknowledgement of all the organisations that support CAR. The ADU is particularly grateful to the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) for funding through the Birds and Environmental Change Partnership. In August Phoebe Barnard of SANBI will be conducting a review of CAR here at the ADU.

As mentioned previously CAR received an African Bird Club (ABC) Conservation Award from the ABC that supports small conservation projects in Africa. We are also grateful for funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for a project, Big Birds on Farms, focusing on the Cape Floristic region (CFR). In February Odette Curtis and I travelled to Bredasdorp and gave presentations on our respective CEPF projects at the Overberg Integrated Conservation Group Quarterly meeting, where representatives from the agricultural sector, Cape Nature, municipalities, Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative and CAPE were present. I have been gathering information about land use, agricultural practices, land cover and weather in different regions of the CFR. In May James Harrison and I held a workshop here at the ADU with representatives from the agricultural community and conservation to assist us in interpreting the trends in bird numbers and developing recommendations for best practice in land management. Although we were a smaller group than I had hoped, we found this an incredibly helpful exercise and appreciated the 'hands on' experience and insights of participants. In August Odette and I will give presentations and collect responses to a questionnaire at the Agri Mega Week, also in Bredasdorp. About 2000 farmers gather at this event and I hope to gather information about best



practice in land management for the stewardship of biodiversity. We would be most grateful for any input on your part. Do send me any practical ways in which you have been able to encourage the conservation of biodiversity.

In March I presented CAR results at the Overberg Crane Group AGM and in September I will be presenting CAR results at the SACWG Workshop in KZN. We are most grateful for funding through the Darwin Initiative project 15/002 that we receive through our partnership with the South African Crane Working Group and the Zoological Society of London.

I was most encouraged to receive a donation of R2500 from an Overberg route, as an enthusiastic participant drew up a sponsorship form for people to donate an amount per bird counted on their route. About 28 people sponsored this count! In addition a calendar of bird photos was compiled and sold at a Somerset West Bird Club meeting raising funds for CAR!

I would like to thank my brother, Douglas Banks, and his company, Restio Energy, for providing Hugues with free accommodation in their work space and usually sharing an evening meal during his stay in South Africa. Restio Energy contributes to sustainable development through supporting and/or leading policy and implementation aspects of sustainable energy service delivery and use. Their focus areas are: rural energy, productive use of energy, and renewable energy. www.restio.co.za

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous support we receive from bird clubs, farmers, schools and conservation agencies through their participation in counts and coordinating precincts.

Articles about CAR continue to appear – thank you! Each route leader of BirdLife Border, Ken and Gertie Griffith, Graham Winch and Barbara Monfoort gave an interesting description of their count in *Tiptol*. Lorraine Mullins wrote of their day on EG02 in the *Diaz Diary*. Barbi Forsyth gave an amusing account of the Chrissiesmeer counts in the Wits Bird Club newsletter, *Bokmakierie*.

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Thank you so much for your donations!

S Alberts, J Bedale, M Cole, Mr & Mrs A Cole, I & D Cooke, Y Courtin, J Cumberledge, Discovery Peninsula, O Goodwin, J Gould, I Horton, Mr & Mrs A Joubert, A Kiefer, D Keith, P & A Koker, R Lind, H Lindsay, J Mortimer, Mr & Mrs G Palmer, J Peters, F Rennie, P Rigg, G & M Scholtz, M Swanepoel, Mr & Mrs M Taylor, W Terblanche, Mrs van der Watt, D Volmer, J Zetler.

Ringed birds

Ringed cranes were seen on OV12 and OV18. Do look out for colour-ringed cranes or other species all through the year and report details to SAFRING. For details, see the ADU website. Whenever you find a dead bird, do check for rings.

Dead birds reported

Pierre van den Berg reported two dead White Storks on OV16, directly under a powerline and Neville and Alison Passmore saw a dead Blue Crane under a powerline on OV20.

South African Crane Working Group www.ewt.org.za

SACWG urgently need colour-ring re-sightings, so do keep an eye on those crane legs and if you have a telescope or digital camera these do help. If you have any information about roost sites let us know, as this would be most useful information.

SACWG is planning to monitor a few routes in each province on a monthly basis and where possible they are using established CAR routes. It will be wonderful to have monthly data.



Endangered Wildlife Trust – Oribi Working Group

Steven Evans, who manages this group, wrote the following:

Thank you for the Oribi sightings during CAR counts this makes an important contribution to our knowledge of the accurate distribution of Oribi in South Africa.

The Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*) is a highly specialised antelope inhabiting African temperate grasslands. Oribi prefer high altitude, high rainfall, undulating, open grasslands. In South Africa, their numbers have declined sharply in recent years, and they now exist in only a few formally protected areas where they may resist the impact of mankind’s activities, with the bulk of Oribi occurring on privately-owned land. There is currently estimated to be less than 4500 Oribi left in South Africa and this species is classified as “Endangered”, due to its rapid decline in recent years.

The mission of the Oribi Working Group is ‘to promote the long-term survival of Oribi in their natural grasslands habitat through initiating and coordinating conservation programmes. These include: education and awareness, habitat conservation, research and monitoring, population management and forming partnerships with stakeholders.’

The EWT–OWG would like to use this opportunity to thank NCT Forestry Co-operative Limited, The Wildlands Conservation Trust, Aquellé Karkloof Classic MTB Challenge, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, KZN Crane Foundation and Mpumalanga Parks Board for their continued financial and

support in kind of the work of the EWT–OWG.

For further information contact: Steven W Evans, stevene@ewt.org.za www.ewt.org.za

Ground Hornbill Working Group www.ewt.org.za

Southern Ground Hornbills were recorded on KO01 and Laurie Wood and her team heard one on EK05. Jimmy and Lorraine Scott mentioned that four were in the veld around their farm house in the Kokstad area on 25–1–2007.

Do send in **any sightings at any time of year**. It is now possible to post sightings directly on the website www.natworld.org. Maps of 1:50 000 are available so it is not necessary to have a GPS.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for continuing to count, despite the rising petrol costs. Your generous contribution makes it possible to count a vast distance. Precinct Organisers make a significant contribution gathering and checking forms and keeping in touch with you. Linda Tsipa became too busy with financial administrative tasks and taught Denise Lesch to take over most of the data capture for this last count. Thank you to Denise for stepping in and Linda, for editing the tables as usual. Despite much other work, Marja Wren-Sargent has efficiently typeset this newsletter.

*Donella Young,
Project Coordinator*

Karoo Large Terrestrial Bird Survey (KLTSB), Northern Cape

Mark D. Anderson, Ornithologist, Department of Tourism, Environment & Conservation, Northern Cape reports:

On 27 January 2007, 29 people in 18 vehicles drove 1058.3 km in the Northern Cape’s eastern Karoo, counting large terrestrial birds along fifty three 20 km transects. This was our 24th survey and this winter we will

reach a marvellous milestone when we conduct our 25th survey! During the past 24 surveys we have amassed a huge amount of extremely valuable information along about 24 000 km of transects (all driven at about 20 km/h!). Looking at the database I see, for example, that we have observed a phenomenal 11 813 Blue Cranes and 3015 Ludwig’s Bustards during the past 12 years!

During our survey, Blue Cranes (351) and Ludwig’s Bustards (197)

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in Karoo											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	KK	LB	NBK	SEC	UK	WS	Other spp.
NK011	20	1753	Sterrie Marais	11//		14//		3//			
NK012	20	1753	Sterrie Marais	12//3		13//	2//				2SG
NK013	20	1753	Sterrie Marais	9//			1//	3//			
NK021	20	486	Luke Kock			7//	4//	2//			
NK022	20	486	Luke Kock			2//	1//	1//			
NK023	20	486	Luke Kock	6//		5//	2//				4SG, 6DB
NK031	20	2165	Raymond Swenson	6//		9//					
NK032	20	2165	Raymond Swenson	10//		7//	1//			3//	1BHH
NK033	20	2165	Raymond Swenson	6/3//		4//	1/1//				
NK041	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard				1//	1//			
NK042	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard	7//		23//	4//	1//			
NK044	20	501, 1205	Francois & Hester Taljaard	136/1//		11//	1//	1//	4//	11//	
NK061	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	44/5//		2//	11//	2//	2//	7/1//	
NK062	20	495	Fritz Bättenhaussen	7/1/1//				1//			
NK063	20	494	Fritz Bättenhaussen	4//		3//	4//		1//	27//	
NK071	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe				2//			2//	30SG
NK072	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe				6//				
NK073	20	1580	Petrus van der Merwe				1/1//	1//			
NK081	20	2070	Sandra Hedges				2//				3SG
NK082	20	2070	Sandra Hedges				2//				
NK083	20	2070	Sandra Hedges								
NK091	20	480	Peter Ferreira			2//	8//	2//	1//		20SG
NK092	20	480	Peter Ferreira				3//				
NK093	20	480	Peter Ferreira	5//		2//	6//	1//			
NK101	20	2105	Heath Cronje	9//		7/1/4	9//	1//	2//		
NK102	20	2105	Heath Cronje	6//		3//	7//	1//	1//		
NK103	20	2105	Heath Cronje								92SG
NK141	20	499	Henri Smith			4//					
NK142	20	499	Henri Smith	11//							
NK143	20	499	Henri Smith								
NK151	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				14//				
NK152	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe				2//				1KB
NK153	20	1898	Marisa van der Merwe								
NK171	20	667	Abie de Villiers	4//2			3//				
NK172	20	667	Abie de Villiers								
NK173	20	667	Abie de Villiers	20//							
NK181	20	1579	Diana Greathead	4//				1//			
NK182	20	1579	Diana Greathead			2//	5//				
NK183	20	1579	Diana Greathead	2//					1//		
NK221	20	105	Mark Anderson				1//				
NK222	20	105	Mark Anderson				1//				
NK223	18.3	105	Mark Anderson				6//				2KB
NK231	20	509	Ronelle Visagie	4//		6//	8//	14//	1//		2KB
NK232	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				12//	3//	1//		
NK233	20	509	Ronelle Visagie				4//	1//			1KB
NK351	20	1953	Erik Bättenhaussen	4//		1//					
NK352	20	1953	Erik Bättenhaussen					2//			
NK353	20	1953	Erik Bättenhaussen			2//					
NK391	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2//		4//	19//	1//		3//	1BHH
NK392	20	493	Lorette Luscombe	2/2//		1//	3//				14//
NK393	20	493	Lorette Luscombe			3//	3//	1//	2//		
NK431	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)			6//	16//		3//		
NK432	20	478	Kobus de Villiers (Jnr)	2//		21//	9//	1//	1//		
Total	1058.3			351	60	197	123	28	21	57	
Birds/100 km				33.2	5.7	18.6	11.6	2.6	2.0	5.4	2BHH, 6DB 6KB, 151SG

were once again the most numerous bird species seen. Francois Taljaard and Fritz Bättenhaussen recorded the largest number of Blue Cranes, 144 and 62 respectively. The January surveys help us identify the whereabouts of Blue Crane chicks which we subsequently ring in February. The Blue Crane colour-ringing project is a collaborative project between the SACWG and my Department.

This year we colour-ringed 60 Blue Crane chicks, bringing our tally since 1997 to 428 ringed cranes. This is a big team effort and I am especially grateful for the assistance provided by Ronelle Visagie, Bradley Gibbons, Leon Theron and other members of SACWG, as well as a large number of enthusiastic, helpful farmers (Sterrie Marais, Peter Ferreira, Henri Smith, Lorette Luscombe, Kobus de Villiers and many others). We now have 133 resightings/recoveries of Blue Cranes and this information, together with data collected during the KLTSB, was used by Dr Res Altwegg (from the Avian Demography Unit) and I to write a scientific article “Rainfall in arid zones: predicting effects of climate change on the population ecology of Blue Cranes (*Anthropoides paradiseus*)” that we have submitted to a leading international scientific journal. It is fantastic that a project involving “citizen scientists” has been able to generate information that can be used for climate change research.

The data collected during these surveys is currently being used by Ute Stenkewitz and me to determine population sizes and trends for Blue Cranes and Ludwig’s Bustards using a sophisticated computer programme called Distance. The results are extremely interesting and indicate that (a) the Blue Crane population may be increasing (perhaps related to the change in use of poisons to control brown locusts), (b) the eastern Karoo Blue Crane population is perhaps larger than was previously thought, (c) there may be some cyclical fluctuations in Blue Crane numbers (perhaps related to climatic conditions, and the subsequent availability of food), (d) the Ludwig’s Bustard population may be declining and (e) the presence of Ludwig’s Bustards is strongly correlated with rainfall (and therefore food) and that there are probably not pronounced seasonal movements between the summer and winter rainfall regions (as was previously thought). More on these exciting projects later!

I’d once again like to thank the KLTSB participants for their contributions. I’d also like to thank Ronelle Visagie for ably coordinating the survey and Donella Young for so capably and enthusiastically captaining the CAR ship.

Thank you to Mark and Ronelle for coordinating this survey, despite many other demands.

Eastern Cape

A reminder to include Oribi in your counts, while scanning for CAR birds.

White Storks were recorded on most Eastern Cape routes, but the overall density was about a fifth of last summer's density. Graham Winch reported severe storms with hail and tornado winds the day before the count in the Border precinct and remarked that their count was abnormal in many respects. Their route had the highest number of Grey Crowned Cranes, but they were aggregated in two large groups of 37 and 13 birds. There was one pair of parents with three chicks far from these groups. The Monfoort's and their team had to abort their count on EB04 at 11.30 am in pouring rain and heavy mist after 34.9 km. But they did have the highlight of seeing ten Denham's Bustards in a group.

Welcome to the new members of the St Francis Bay Bird Club who volunteered to assist with the CAR count. Yvonne Craig remarked on the very dry conditions and lowest numbers since starting to count in 1998.

Counting on their route, EH06, was hampered by rain and poor visibility. Maggie Keulemans and her team saw breeding Secretarybirds and Blue Cranes on EH03. I was sorry to see that Pat Hulley and family were delayed by a puncture!

Mike Agenbag saw 9 Southern Bald Ibis on EE11, as I have mentioned before this species was not recorded in this area during the first Atlas period. Alison Brown's son and daughter-in-law established a new route, ES11, near Somerset East. Neville Willows recorded 255 Blue Cranes and 19 Kori Bustard on ES08, the highest totals for these species in this province.

Laurie Wood and her team heard a Southern Ground Hornbill on EK05 near Alexandria! Jenny Roxburgh and Laurie are both very familiar with the call and independently concluded that it was this species. They also met a farm worker who said he had seen a large black bird with red near the head, before confirming it in their Sasol field guide. He had seen two in December, but only one in January. Patrick Brett and Denise Hoffman recorded 32 Ludwig's Bustard on their route EP01, the highest total this count.

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in Eastern Cape													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	CC	DB	LB	SBK	SEC	SG	WS	Other species
EB01	63.3	175, 174	Kenneth & Gertie Griffith	3//	4//	7//	2//				1//	1//	
EB03	66.5	115, 2119, 1988	Graham Winch, P Swift & G Branford	2//	2//	52/3//				1//	8//	28//	
EB04	34.9	1568, 1567, 1584, 2073	K & B Monfoort, W Perks & D Nell	2/1//	3//		10//			1//			
EE01	37	1730, 1129	Helen Lechmere-Oertel & Adèle Moore			1//	2//					13//	
EE02	64.1	1967	John Filmer	1/2//	2//	10//				1//	9//	22//	
EE06	53	2087	Corli van Rooyen			18//					2//	1//	
EE08	69.6	2098	Mark van Niekerk		6//	9//	5//			1//			
EE10	64	899	Kevin Meise		2//	2//						14//	
EE11	54	1261	Mike Agenbag	4//2	8//	8//2		2//		3//	3//	5//	9BI, 1BS, 6UK
EE12	52	901	Jenni Brown	5//	1//	1//					5//	23//	
EE17	42.5	1929	Theuns Botha		2//	5/3//				1//	5//	57//	
EE18	43.8	1918, 1919	Les & Adrian Larter	7//	4//	10/1//	11//			1//	74//	4//	9UK
EE19	83.6	1130, 1583	Sandy & Hope Stretton	90/6//	7//6	2/2//	3//	8//		3//	54/4//	23//	33UK
EG02	51.8	565, 1530	Pat Hulley & family & Lorraine Mullins	2//	1//			4//	3//				
EG03	77.2	341, 2081, 2082	Bo Bonnevie, Jim & Eve Cambray	6/2//	1//			4//	8//			26//	3KB
EG04	65	161, 2144	Adrian Craig & Jenny Gon		1//			4//	1//		5//	15//	
EH03	58	1772	Maggie Keulemans & team	5//	9//		22/6//		4//		22//	214//	
EH04	44.5	1132	David Tudhope & team		3//							73//	
EH05	40	1612, 1794, 301	Abel & Henny Bezuidenhout & C Cook	4/1/1	1//		2//			3//		2//	
EH06	57.7	312, 1974, 1975, 1770	Yvonne Craig, Jones' & Sylvia Leslie	20//2	10//		25//			1//	77//	46//	
EK02	43.9	885, 1523	John Lardner-Burke & Alan Wilson	2//	5/1//		8//				35//	14//	2WBK
EK04	60	1525	Tim Cockcroft, S Walsh & J Potter		1//		5//					9//	4OR
EK05	62.5	1528, 131, 1527	Laurie Wood, D Rampf & J Roxburgh		9//		10//				14//2	20//	
EM01	62.1	974	Bradley Gibbons	4//1				4//		1//			15NBK
EP01	74	635, 1244	Patrick Brett & Denise Hoffman	21/2//				32//	4//	3//			1KB, 5KK
EP02	66.6	1570, 1621, 83	Hermann & Terry Hertel & Andy Nixon	26//				9//					
EP03	62	872	Denzil Ward	8//				4//	2//				2KB
EP04	71.5	869, 518	Peter Hall & Jean Spearpoint					2//	2//		1//		3KB, 3KK
EP06	53.3	868, 1089	Ken & Jenny Munro				4//	1//				199//	16NBK, 4UK
EP08	110	270	Dave Brown	17/1//				26//	2//	1//		1//	1HAR, 3KB, 4KK
EP09	31	868, 1089	Ken & Jenny Munro										
EP10	43	1731	John Bowker	4//				15//		5//			5KK, 46NBK
EP11	48.3	1852, 195	Briar Wright & Phil Whittington	4/2//	8//		9//					4//	
EQ01	45	995	Gail McCann		3//	2//					60//		1BS
EQ02	54	930, 917	Don Field & Fin Weakly		2//	2//	2//			1//	4//		10UK
ES02	49	2063	Braam Basson					4//	1//				
ES03	62.7	2147	Alison Drewnicki	4//	2//			3//	7//				2KB, 46KK
ES04	47	1476, 1972	Judy Caryer & Zorb Caryer	30//	1//			4//		1//			
ES05	89	915	Andrew Cheeseman	2//				9//	5//				3KB
ES07	35.4	1826	Debbie Abrahamson	2/2//	1//					2//			2BBK
ES08	82	875, 2019	Neville & Carmen Willows	233/21/1				8//	4//	2//		11//	19KB, 10KK
ES10	26.3	2044, 2180	Desmond & Martie Schroeder	126/6/6						2//			2KB
ES11	35.3	2211, 2212	Greg & Fiona Brown	2//	2//			3//	3//				
Total	2436			695	108	140	126	146	46	34	385	825	9BI, 2BS, 37KB,
Birds/100 km				28.5	4.4	5.7	5.2	6.0	1.9	1.4	15.8	33.9	73KK, 4OR, 62UK,
EB - Border, EE - Northeast Cape, EG - Grahamstown, EH - Humansdorp, EK - Kenton													2BBK, 77NBK,
EM - Middelburg, EP - PE (Aberdeen & Steytlerville districts), EQ - Queenstown, ES - Somerset East													2WBK

Western Cape

Swartland precinct

At the workshop in May Kevin Shaw, Cape Nature ornithologist, reminded us of the fact that this region has had the longest history of large-scale farming in South Africa. This area has very dry summers and has experienced drought, with very low winter rainfall in recent years. The Blue Crane population has definitely been showing a clear increasing trend since we started monitoring in 1996, but this last summer the density was lower than in summer 2006.

Riaan and Marika van der Walt had the highlight of seeing four Secretarybirds on SW14. Fiona Hellman noted that a wheat field had been ploughed on SW01, possibly to plant vines. Nine White Storks and the highest Blue Crane total (49) were counted on SW15, near Tulbagh, by Angela Oelbützel and her team.

Ten White Storks were seen on the routes, but Jan Hofmeyr recorded 180 White Storks on the pig farm on the CAR day.

Overberg precinct

After about ten days of very hot, dry weather, the CAR day was pleasant in most of the Overberg, with just a few routes to the east experiencing high temperatures. Wilson and Christine Terblanche sweltered counting OV21, near Albertinia, at 40–42 °C. They noticed a number of reservoirs covered in shade cloth and wondered how this would be affecting species which have relied on these open reservoirs in the past. White Storks were absent or numbers were low on most routes, except for three which had more than 100 birds. OV19 had the highest total by far with 485 birds. The Spur-winged Goose density was at an all time high with seven routes recording over 150 birds and 402 on OV01!

Jeffrey Arizon, who is now Principal of Gansbaai Primary, noted that much of the farm land surrounding Teslaarsdal is being converted into small holdings. Also there has been a shift from barley to olives and vineyards in this area. Certainly the information I gathered from the agricultural businesses for the May workshop indicated that there has been a decline in barley production in the Overberg as a whole. As a result of my research

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in Swartland								
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	SG	WS	Other spp.
SW01	75.5	1970	Fiona Hellmann	23/2/1	2//	9/7/		
SW02	78.5	503, 1077	Sean & Louise Tucker	3//	3//			
SW03	63	106	Mel Tripp		6//	4//		
SW04	64	1286, 1287	Philbert & Henriette Melck	3/1/		2/26/		
SW05	60.9	163	Keith Harrison	8/4/	3//	8/4/		
SW06	73	1359	Reg le Roux	36/4/2	1//	150//		
SW07	49.2	2076, 1122	Brigid de Kock & L Reynolds	18/3		4//		2SEC
SW08	65.6	1474	Bruce MacKenzie	8//	9//	44//		
SW09	59	1135, 1467	Jens & Diane Oelbützel	18/5/	1//	62//		
SW10	62.5	2030	Pieter Bruwer	3//				
SW11	65.5	479, 1081	David & Ann Dixon		1//			3HAR
SW12	80.6	22,072,208	Nicolaas & Erna Mostert	7/2/				3SBK
SW13	52.6	673	Elna Slabber	27//	1//	20//		1SBK
SW14	52.8	506, 1882	Riaan & Marika van der Walt	33//6	2//	261//		4SEC
SW15	51	2006, 1135, 1467	Angela Oelbützel & family	37/7/5	7//	13//	9//	1DB
SW16	43.9	2051, 619	Cheryl Seeley	7/3/	2//	17//	1//	
Total	998			314	38	631	10	1DB, 3HAR, 4SBK
Birds/100 km				31.5	3.8	63.3	1.0	6SEC

into farming practices and weather patterns in the Overberg and discussions at the workshop, it became clear that we should actually be analysing the Overberg data as two separate regions, probably the routes west of the Breede River and those east of this river. GIS information indicating homologous farming areas will hopefully shortly be available from the Department of Agriculture, which will be very helpful.

If you need to contact Bronwyn Botha, the Overberg Crane Group fieldworker, phone 082 676 1734 or bronwyn@bluecrane.org.za. I was glad to meet Bronwyn at the gathering on Wicus and Hanlie Leeuwener's farm after the count. I do appreciate this opportunity to catch up with some of you.

I would like to acknowledge the huge contribution to Overberg counts made by Des and Mary Frylinck – they have not missed a count since the routes began in 1993! They have decided that it is time to retire from CAR; I would like to thank them and say "Well done! We will miss you!"

Beaufort West precinct

Many thanks to Maria Andela and Annatjie Mocke, who had to drive a 60 km detour due to a flooded river bed, in order to complete their route. On the farm Paardefontein two cranes had successfully reared a chick. Annatjie, who came to this farm about 54 years ago says there has always been a breeding pair of cranes, but they are not successful every year. Stefan and Hannatjie Theron recorded four Black Storks on WB02.

Little Karoo precinct

In addition to the new route, WK03, another two new routes were established by the Robertson Bird Club beyond Montagu. Laurel Bloch organised a recce of these routes last year and they were officially counted in January.

Uniondale precinct

Malcolm Botha, the route leader for WU07, mentioned saving a leopard tortoise crossing the road. It is wonderful that on the CAR day there are over 800 people out on the roads who are particularly concerned about the conservation of biodiversity. Natalie Baker, who coordinates the Uniondale routes, asked if I could mention "that CapeNature appreciates the time and expertise of the local bird club members who kindly assist with CAR counts. We have learnt so much from them and value their assistance." Only a few White Storks were recorded on three routes.

Calitzdorp precinct

George Hattingh, who counts WC01 near Calitzdorp mentioned that the area where they used to see the Denham's Bustards on a regular basis was under lucerne but has now been replaced with maize.

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in Overberg											
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	DB	KK	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
OV01	57.2	221, 222	Des & Mary Frylinck	75/18/1	8//				402//	1//	
OV02	63.3	1083, 801	Anne & Keith McAdam	101/22/5	5//				157/6/	16//	
OV03	48.2	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	189/5/1	2//	1//		1//	1//		
OV04	26.7	213, 214	Tom & Freya Brett	50/5/					21//	2//	
OV05	69.8	228, 214	John Carter & Brian Dennis	132/8/12	6//	4//	14//1		35//	19//	
OV06	50	1655, 2110, 2112	Stuart & Ruth McLennan & J Jones	114/12/4	10//1	8//	2//		18/2/		1SBK
OV07	68.6	496, 2184	Ken Price & Hester Snyman	142/6/	10//	8//			2//		
OV08	71.9	492, 1075	Keith & Michele Moodie	73/11/	10//	11//			257//	64//	3SBK
OV09	46	234, 239	Craig Thom & Bruce Squier	341/7/4	3//	2//			193//		
OV10	55.7	56, 1585	Pieter & Ann Albertyn	69/2/	1//				48//		
OV11	58.6	245, 246	Sheila Siebert & Madelane Loubser	54/3/	4//	17//	2//	1//	74//		3HAR
OV12	57.1	215, 216, 1380, 1381	Heather Busby, D Woods, Gill & Rory	96/1/	4//	41//		2//		2//	
OV13	70	520, 671, 1063	Jill Mortimer, Ann White & Petra Rigg	265/23/3	39/6/		8//	2//	7//	48//	
OV14	89	123, 1922	John Coats & Maureen Aucamp	99/15/3	7//		3//	1//	9//	46//	
OV15	58	255, 256	Dave & Sue Whitelaw	81/5/3	2//	2//			1/1/	85//	
OV16	61.9	249, 1379	Pierre van den Berg & Willem du Toit	31/3/	38//	5//	10//		3/60/	160//	
OV17	62	2205	David Riach	167/5/	2//	6//			1//		
OV18	49.7	240	Wicus Leeuwener	174//16	1//						
OV19	77.5	219, 1213, 1632	R Crowther, E Stodel & C Wallace	28/4/	3//	2//	2/1/		1//	485//	
OV20	57.2	1325, 1441, 1950, 1951	Neville & A Passmore, Patricia & Juni	62/8/4	2//	9//			6//	113//	
OV21	62	2136, 2181	Wilson & Christine Terblanche	19/1/	24//	7//			16//		
OV23	57.5	1062, 1128	Andrew & Lynne Marshall	2//	8/11/	2//			27//		
OV24	57.5	636, 1211	Mick D'Alton & Gerald Swanepoel	51//2	7//	44//			175//	26//	
OV25	36	1777, 1778, 2169, 2170	Rae & Ann Gordon, K & O Winterton	45/1/	2//				2//		
OV26	20.4	871	Jeffrey Arizon	35/2/2							
OV27	67.2	2213	David Milne	20//	9//				10//	39//	
OV28	41	1462, 1825	Tonia & Flip Schonken	2/1/	1//	1//			1//	15//	
OV29	27	991, 2174, 2175	D Young, Dennis & Belinda Henwood	16/2/	7//	1//		1//		13//	
OV33	62	1463	Frans de Graaff	26/2/2	9//	14//		2//	188/20	35//	1HAR
OV36	40.2	1469	Avril Young	171/9/15		1//			1//		
Total	1669			2988	242	187	43	10	1752	1169	4SBK
Birds/100 km				179.0	14.5	11.2	2.6	0.6	105.0	70.0	
OV34	61	1550, 1551	Heynè & Sharon Brink	3//	2//	4//			187//		3HAR, 2SBK

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in other Western Cape precincts								
Route	km	Observers	Observers	BC	BHH	KK	SG	Other spp.
WB01	62	343, 1101	Maria Andela & Annatjie Mocke			27//		1KB, 1LB
WB03	58	1909, 1971	Stefan & Hannatjie Theron	33//		10/1/1		4BS, 1 KB, 1NBK
WC01	38	1291, 1989	George Hattingh & Terry Robertson		2//			4DB
WC02	56	1999, 409	Elton le Roux & Willem Goemas	24/1//			19//	
WK02	42.4	1003	Andrew Schofield	28//			56//	50WS
WK03	35.4	20,112,012	Ian & Jane Banks	4/1/	1//	1//		
WK04	45.1	2138, 2139, 2140, 2182	L Bloch, G Schütte, M Ford & M Powell	10//	2//			6SBK
WK05	16.9	2138, 2139, 2140, 2182	L Bloch, G Schütte, M Ford & M Powell					
WU01	49.9	1392	J de Jaar & team	6/1/	1//			
WU02	57.9	539	Jonas Witbooi & team	15//			38//	4DB
WU03	51	540	Phillip Esau & team		1//			1BS, 1SBK
WU04	35.1	1606	Natalie Baker & team		2//			
WU05	70.2	297, 1520, 1521	Mike Euston-Brown	13//	2//		2/4/	4DB, 3LB, 4WS
WU06	13.3	1606	Natalie Baker & team					2WS
WU07	70	2206, 1332	Malcolm Botha & Kerry Hampson	14/4/				1SEC, 2WS
WW01	59.3	2054	Margaret Kiely & team		11//		25//	8WS
Total	761			154	22	40	144	5BS, 12DB, 2KB, 4LB
Birds/100 km				20.2	2.9	5.3	18.9	7SBK, 1SEC
WB - Beaufort West, WC - Calitzdorp, WK - Little Karoo, WU - Uniondale, WW - Wilderness								



Observers on WC02 near van Wyksdorp, left to right: Susan van Rensburg, Mike Hewitt, Carol Hewitt, Riana van Rensburg, Jana van Rensburg and Hendrik van Rensburg with Gankaberg field ranger, Willem Goemas, in the front. Photo by Elton le Roux.

KwaZulu-Natal

I do apologise for forgetting to mention a significant milestone achieved by KZN observers in the last newsletter! Below is an extract from my report to the BirdLife KZN Forum in August last year.

"It is ten years since the first CAR count in KZN in winter 1996. Trevor Snyman, who was Chairperson of the Regional Projects Committee and Kevin McCann, of South Africa Crane Working Group, were involved in 'getting CAR on the road' in consultation with Wendy Hitchcock, the CAR coordinator based at the Avian Demography Unit (ADU). Observers braved snow and icy conditions and due to impassable roads as well as poor visibility few routes were completed at the first attempt! Tim Wood was appointed as the KZN CAR coordinator and his knowledge of KZN and selection and encouragement of key people as Precinct Organisers led to the rapid development of 50 CAR routes in this province. These routes have been counted regularly and fortunately weather conditions have been favourable for most counts. Three of the route leaders who counted that first

winter count are still counting!"

Hot weather was experienced on most KZN routes during this last summer count and the grass was very tall in most of this province after good rainfall. White Storks were recorded on most East Griqualand (KG) and Midlands (KM) routes, but the overall density was half what it was last summer. Helmeted Guineafowl and Oribi numbers were particularly low, probably due to tall grass obscuring their presence. Pat and Bruce Whittle had quite an adventure counting their route, KG09, on Fearnley farm and I appreciate their perseverance! They got stuck on the road across the vlei for 2 hours, despite being in a 4 x 4, and Pat waded out in thigh-deep water to climb a hill to get signal so that she could summon help. Thank you, LeeAnne Dorning, for sending a tractor to the rescue and Pat and Bruce for continuing the count, wet, on the other side of the vlei! I was delighted to see that Monte and Eunice Pera saw two Wattled Cranes on KM08, the last time this species was recorded on this route was on the first count in summer 1998. Johan and Christine de Villiers had their best count ever on KN01 with eight different species counted, Denham's Bustard and Blue Korhaan being recorded for the first time.

Val and John Baxter, who have efficiently coordinated the East Griqualand counts are moving, a big thanks to them for their significant contribution to this project.

Do continue to count Oribi and use the following abbreviations for gamebirds:

HG for Helmeted Guineafowl,
CF for Crested Francolin,
SS for Swainson's Spurfowl,
NS for Natal Spurfowl,
RNS for Red-necked Spurfowl,
RWF for Red-winged Francolin,
GWF for Grey-winged Francolin and
SHF for Shelley's Francolin.

Thank you to Tim Wood for inspiring enthusiasm in CAR in KZN.

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in KwaZulu-Natal													
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	DB	HG	SEC	SG	WS	Other spp.
KD01	83	2084, 2085	Henry & Liz Bugden		4//		2//			2//	17//		
KD02	59	736, 1179	Tony & Val Cross	2//	3//	3//		1//		4//	1//	12//	
KD04	51.1	1255, 1745	Dennis & Sonja Holmes								26//		
KD05	55	677	Paul Garner		3//				2//	1//	1//	2//	
KD06	49.6	1755, 1709	Carol & Myles Ellerker		5//				2//	1//	3//	2//	
KD07	70	909	Heino Wellmann										
KD08	62	1834	Pieter Struweg		1//							3//	
KD11	52	611, 1832, 1833	Tony, Brenden & Curtis Roberts	2//	1//	4//				2//			2WBK
KD12	63	2172	Jeff & Christa Hilliar	2/2	3//	3//		1//		4//	1//	12//	
KE01	84	1602	Rose Laatz		3//	7//							2OR
KG02	53.4	623	Brian Byers		3//		7//			2//	12/1/	11//	
KG03	53.5	626, 1799	Malcolm & Sarah Rivett	7//	7//		27//			3//	17//	15//	
KG04	72.9	627, 2202	Bob Williams & Dan Dekker		4//		8/1/	5//			29/6/	10//	
KG05	55.5	629	'Stooks' Wilton		11/1/		4//				32/13/	25//	
KG06	59.6	1536, 1537	John & Val Baxter		8//		15//	1//	3//		33//	2//	
KG08	60	2086	Allan Geldart	4//	1//		15//2		2//		50//	28//	
KG09	10	427, 428	Bruce & Pat Whittle		4//		66//				51//		
KG10	36.3	1240, 1241	Ed & Myra Wells				4//				11//	2//	
KL01	89.5	50	Ken Gordon		5//	8//					1//	16//	2WBK
KL11	34	814	Ann Gray		7//								
KM01	73.5	1581	Evelyn Hughes		18//	25/3/					4//	32//	4WC
KM02	68	474	Shirley Bennett		1//	30//	2//		5/1/1		2/2/	67//	2WC
KM03	99	1904	Drummond Densham	3//			22//	1//			3//	22//	2OR
KM04	35	1610	Betty Jones								1//	1//	
KM05	83.7	1887, 1888	Alan & Bernardine Turner	3//	6//		31//			1//	14/3/	64//	
KM06	87.9	167, 1751, 924	Pamela Nicol, K & C Nelson	2//	18/1/	73//				1//	55/5/	64//	
KM07	68.5	490, 1843	Kevin & Lindy Mccann	2/2	6//			2//			10//	76//	
KM08	58	187, 1828	Monte & Eunice Pera		2//		31//		6//		14//	17//	2WC
KN01	64.7	927, 1756, 924	J & C de Villiers & H Behrens		4/1/	6//		3//		1//	5//	11//	4SS, 2UK
KN03	54	1609, 1754	Andre & Hettie Bouwer		4//	30//				1//	6/2/	1//	
KN04	48	925	Alan Schwikkard		7//		1//				52/5/		1SS
KN05	36.5	1717, 1718	Nic & Ann van Helsingden		4//		20//	4//	2//	21//	29//		
KN06	53.7	2036, 2037	Klaus & Miemie Heyer	7//		16/1/	4//	6//	1//	21/2/			2SS, 4UK
KO01	51.3	425, 1529	Gavin & Sandi Calverley		1//							4//	4GH
KP01	62.1	1792	Frik Lemmer		2//					2//	7//	3//	
KU01	68	429, 2015	Chris Thomas & Gayle Ellison	2//	10//		3//		7//	1//	8//	49//	1OR
KU02	68	1741	Carol Home		7/1/		2//	3//		1//	13//	52//	
KV01	80.8	1683	AP Keeve		2//		4//	4//			8//	24//	1BBK, 1WBK
KV02	60.4	2016	Paul Steffensen		3//		2//		4//	3//	2//		2SS
KV03	61	1566	Darryl Baxter		1//				17//				
KV04	34.6	1790	Arlene Steyn							4//			
Total	2470			40	173	209	273	21	58	36	567	654	1BBK, 4GH,
Birds/100 km				1.6	7.0	8.5	11.1	0.9	2.3	1.5	23.0	26.5	9SS, 6UK,
KC - Creighton, KD - Dundee, KE - Escourt, KG - East Griqualand, KL - Ladysmith, KM - Midlands													8WC, 5WBK,
KN - Newcastle, KO - Melmoth, KP - Paulpietersburg, KU - Underberg, KV - Vryheid													5OR



Dr Les Kindleysides, a very enthusiastic birder from the UK who also plans to "migrate" for the winter count, and Stooks Wilton scanning at a 2 km stop on KG05. Photo by Sandy Sargent.

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in northwestern Free State									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	NBK	SEC	SG	Other species
FW13	56.2	1515, 1903	Johann & R-M Potgieter					7/1/	
FW16	68	1172, 1749	Pieter & Cathy Lubbe	2//	1//			2//	
FW18	50.6	1268	Herman Jordaan			52//			
FW26	76.4	1174	Fanie Gouws		1//	16//			
FW28	56.4	1162	Piet van der Merwe			3//			
FW31	66.1	1175	Cecil Whitfield			10//		4//	
FW36	82.6	28, 1809	Johan & Amelia Hardy	11//	36//	2//	131//		34AS, 3UK, 6WS
FW42	57.9	1646	Andre Hofmann	3//	1//			4//	19WS
FW45	50	1563, 1824	Gert & Elize Jordaan			4//		12//	32AS
FW46	55.3	1624, 1990	V & H van Niekerk Brink	8/2/	3//	30//		24//	7UK
FW47	54.7	1890, 1891	Greg & Janine Goosen	1//	10//	1//	1//		5UK, 1WS
FW50	82	1938, 1939	Helmut & Elizabeth Lekaota	5//	28//		15//		47AS
FW51	80	1253	JJ den Houting		7//	55//	2//	5//	5UK
FW52	53.3	2201	Marry Littlewood	4//	15//		7//		
FW55	63.3	1936, 1937	Andries & Leanda Nel	15//	3//		84//		1WS
FW58	56.7	1890, 1891	Greg & Janine Goosen	3//	18//	1//	15//		1BS, 3UK
Total	1010			10	55	282	6	312	113AS, 1BS,
Birds/100 km				1	5.4	27.9	0.6	30.9	23UK, 27WS

Free State

The observers in the Free State need to be congratulated as they have also completed 20 counts. The first count took place in this province in July 1997 and was organised and coordinated by Brian Colahan, the Principal Nature Conservation Scientist of Ornithology of the Free State Department of Tourism, Environment and Economic Affairs and Rick Nuttall of the Ornithology Department in the National Museum. Rick initially wrote the Free State reports for this newsletter and Brian has in recent years. I know participants also appreciate receiving a Free State newsletter including an Afrikaans translation. Daan Müller has been most helpful in translating CAR project material. Altogether 241 routes have been set up in these last ten years by Brian. This represents a phenomenal amount of work, as any Precinct Organiser will agree. Initially there were two precincts and the northwestern precinct was started in 1999. *Thank you so much, Brian and Rick, for all the time you have given to this project.*

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in north-eastern Free State

Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other spp.
FN16	55	701	Theunis Bekker		3//	133//	2//		27//		1//	
FN25	71	719	Georg Wandrag		1//	26//			4//	3//		
FN26	65	606	Thomas Wessels		4//	1//			52//			
FN28	55.8	1892, 1893	Otto & Margueritte Nel		4//	3//	32//		1//	6//	4//	7LB
FN31	81.5	2109	R Dillon		5//	7//	59//	20/6//	1//	2/3/4	8//	
FN32	54	1072	David Weaver		6//	16//		12//	1//	10//		3DB
FN35	55	946	Tl Wessels			5//			4//			
FN37	59.4	2043, 2042	Martin & Melanie Potgieter		9//				2//	1/3//		4NBK
FN39	64	1433, 1810, 1470	Peter & Pasty Millin & G Potter		5//				3//			
FN40	66.5	2055, 2056	Hansie & Amie Joubert		9/1//				11/2//		1//	
FN41	81.6	1045	GJ Vermeulen		8//	8//			5//	8//		4NBK
FN42	72	1517	Henk Venter		3//	8//			5//	4//	2//	3AS
FN44	71.7	714, 1811	Frik & Linda Oosthuysen		1//				6/1//			
FN45	66.5	188	Hazel Vickery		4//	29//		1//	10//	3//	20//	7DB
FN46	64	718, 1813	Gerhard & Elmarie van Deventer		4//	50//			2//			
FN48	56.4	605, 1820	Janet & Koos Lourens		5//				10//	1//		2NBK, 1WBK
FN49	48.1	944	Gert Maritz		1//	32//	3//		12//	5//		
FN50	56.2	942	Pieter Koorhof		3//	14//			2//	9/6//		
FN55	68	703	Nacelle Collins		5//	26//		1//				
FN57	62.3	1932	Pietre Enslin		9//	15//		6//	1/5//		2//	
FN58	45.6	705	Paulus Fihlo		73//	34//	8//		10//			
FN59	43.2	2203, 2204	Kate Henderson & M Cunningham		4//	9//	61/5//		15/8//	1//	2//	
FN60	66	1505	Brian Barnes			2//			19//	6//		68NBK
Total	1374			99	159	492	43	13	258	34	40	3AS, 10DB, 1WBK
Birds/100 km				7.2	11.6	35.8	3.1	0.9	18.8	2.5	2.9	

Congratulations to Brian and Corlia who have just welcomed their little daughter, Deirdré, into this world. So I have written the following brief report:

The weather was fine in the three Free State precincts and at least 102 routes (some routes are still outstanding) were surveyed, covering a total of 1010 km, in the Northwestern Precinct (FW, 16 routes), 1374 km in the Northeastern (FN, 23 routes), and 4277 km in the Southern (FS, 63 routes). A grand total of 6431 birds was recorded, or 96.5 birds/100 km. The most abundant species in the FS was the Northern Black Korhaan, although numbers were lower than usual. Not many White Storks were observed in this precinct with 156 of the total (265) on just two routes. Stefaans and Jeanette Buys saw 817 Abdim's Storks on their route FS56 and a single Grey Crowned Crane. Coenie Erasmus spotted the only White-bellied Korhaan recorded in the FS. The Spur-winged Geese density was much higher than in recent summers. Angelo Nichas saw abundant numbers of Glossy Ibis for the

first time on FS07. The majority of the Blue Cranes in the FN were on Paulus Fihlo's route, FN58. Natie Wessels noted that there were more planted maize fields on FN35 than in previous years and much less natural habitat was available. White Stork numbers were also very low in this precinct and the FW precinct.

Many thanks to Brian Colahan, especially for coordinating so many routes.



*Lester's Surprise: A surprise for Mike Witcomb (l) and Lester Niss (r) on returning from counting!
Photo by Johann Solomon.*

Thank you to CAPE for the enclosed brochure – I hope you will be able to spread the message regarding as 'green' a footprint as possible!



*The wonders of a route (OV34) through a nature reserve!
Photo by Heynè Brink.*

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in southern Free State

Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	LB	NBK	SEC	SG	UK	WS	Other species
FS06	73.3	700	Johan Watson		34//		16//	15//	18//	6//		
FS07	61.2	1746	Angelo Nichas		11//	1//	10//	11//	2//	3//		1BS
FS08	69.3	6, 1429	André & Annatjie Schlemm		2/2//	4//	12//	9//	3//	1//		
FS09	60.8	24	Brian Colahan		2//	1//		18//	1//	22//6	9//	1BS
FS15	74.5	1056	PL Crouse			1//		3//				
FS17	74.6	1620	Dawie Kok		2//	1//		40//	3//	10//	18//	20// 1AS
FS18	74	684	Louise Coetzee					17//		27//	5//	
FS19	84.6	1155	Ronél du Preez			5//		31//		10//		
FS20	64.7	1432, 2171	Anne McLeod & S Bishop			2//	9//	45//	5//	1//		
FS21	60	682	Leon Barkhuizen		3//	2//		9//	1//	29//		11//
FS27	78.7	694	Erika Schulze				1//	5//		17//	15//	1KK
FS29	61	822	Stephanie Gerber			2//		7//		4//		
FS35	79.5	1258	Hannes Blom			2//		9//	1//	16//	10//	
FS39	72	689	Ann Hiemstra			1//		5//	1//			36AS
FS40	70	2107	Cornelia Squirra		2//		8//	15//		7//		41AS, 4KB
FS42	68.8	952	Kevin Preddy		4//		6//	17//	4//	55//7		1//
FS43	78	1801	Christo de Meyer					58//	4//	8//		
FS47	84	1055	Johan van den Berg					20//	2//	140//		
FS48	75	1808	Oockie Boshoff					25//	1//	2//	6//	
FS50	81.4	1058	Frans Marais			3//				8//		9YS
FS51	77.5	24	Brian Colahan		10//	2/1//		17//	1//	15//	2//	
FS54	59.3	1262	Janine Lieftrig			7//	3//	46//	8//	13//		2//
FS55	48	1995	L du Preez				6//	77//	3//		84//	48AS
FS56	72	2122, 987	Stefaans & Jeanette Buys		2//	2//	3//	76//	5//	36//	2//	72// 817AS, 1CC
FS58	80	863	Pierre Nel			3//		54//	2//	41//		27// 69AS
FS60	71	1152, 1289	Buks & Annatjie Roets		1//		5//	8//	5//	8//	2//	
FS66	55.8	1399	Tom Mostert			2//		4//				
FS67	68	950	Daan Müller			6//		6//	2//	36//	5/1//	
FS68	68.4	1051	Werner Böing					18//	1//	50//		
FS69	76	1065	Deon du Plessis		2//		6//	6//	1//	12/7/7	16//	4//
FS70	59.5	1150, 1151	Abrie & Helène Bam			5//		21//	1//	3//	13//	4YS
FS73	68	1723, 1805	Callie & Renett Bam			6/5//	3//		1//	4//	3//	9KK
FS77	54.2	1153	Schalk Burger						1//	23/2//	5//	
FS79	50.7	1397	Dewald Liebenberg					49//		2//		
FS83	47	2214, 2215	Hennie & Trix de Bruin					3//	1//			
FS84	52	1297, 2053	Johan & Daleen Coertzen			4//		3//				
FS85	79.2	285	JB Cloete			4//		12//		36//	6//	
FS88	62	1949	Wimpie Geyer			3//		31//	2//	35//	20//	
FS91	59.3	641	Rick Nuttall		3//	4//	6//	49//	9//	34//	3//	
FS92	68	1201	Fritz Krohn			3//		3//		10//	6//	
FS93	49.3	700	Johan Watson		3//	2//	10//	4//			14//	
FS94	72	24	Brian Colahan		6//	2//		8//	2//	3//	14//	1//
FS95	83.3	821	Coenie Erasmus			1//			2//	2//		1WBK
FS96	76.4	24	Brian Colahan			1/2//	1//		2//	6//	12//	
FS101	60.3	1046	Blackie de Swardt		25//					4//	4//	
FS102	71.5	687	Riëtte Griesel		8//		4//	2//	2//		15//	
FS103	58	1052	Duart Hugo			1//		8//				
FS104	73.4	1395	Geoff Johnson			4//		30//	3//	16//	17/4/1	
FS106	50.4	102	Dawie de Swardt			1//		13//	1//	31//		
FS108	59.3	129, 1959	Allen Jones & J Lotter			14//		5//		9//		
FS110	61	1396	Jeremy Jones			1//		29/1//	5//	24//		1BS, 2DB
FS111	81	1146	Johann Botha					17//	1//		2//	
FS112	59	1747	Momé Pretorius			9//		15//		53/12/13	7//	1YS
FS113	94.2	1616	Danie Krynauw			10//		3//	3//	12/4//	7//3	1//
FS114	78	713	Francois Nieuwoudt			1//		1//			5//	38//
FS115	75.9	24	Brian Colahan			1//		7//	1//	17//		
FS116	47	1799	Peter Dival			1//		30//	4//	8//	3//	
FS117	67	691	Willie Mostert					1//	4//	3//		
FS118	67.3	24	Brian Colahan		94/2/9		2//	13//	4//	6//	10//	1//
FS119	74	1140, 1141	John & Jill Moffett				9//	42//		20//		
FS120	76	1889	JC Labuschagne			6//		38//		5//	3//	1AS
FS122	63	1057	Lourens Goosen			1//	5//	22//	2//	34//	8//	
FS123	58	683	Chris Botha			5//				1//		
Total	4277			232	148	116	1127	98	1028	310	265	1013AS, 3BS, 1CC, 2DB, 4KB, 10KK, 14YS, 1WBK
Birds/100 km				5.4	3.5	2.7	26.4	2.3	24.0	7.2	6.2	

Number of birds counted in January 2007 census in Gauteng									
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	HG	SG	Other spp.	
GB01	20.4	931, 2183	Francois & Marianne Wolfaardt		//2	8//1		1GOL, 1NBK	
GB02	30.5	931, 2183	Francois & Marianne Wolfaardt					2NBK	
GB03	52.5	2135	Peter Huggins		6//	21//			
GB04	44.8	613, 1651	Craig Whittington-Jones & J Randell	2//		19//		1SEC	
GB05	21.6	2104	Pieta Compaan			1//			
GB06	46	613	Craig Whittington-Jones		6//	45//			
GB07	53.8	2099	Piet Muller					48AS	
GC01	16.2	2046	Willem de Lange			8//		3NBK	
GC02	61.2	613, 1651	Craig Whittington-Jones & J Randell	5//	8//	18//		3AS, 2NBK	
GC03	82	2046	Willem de Lange		1//	9//		4NBK, 19WS	
GC04	72	613	Craig Whittington-Jones		2//	24//	6//	1NBK	
GC05	62.7	1651, 1652	John & Moira Randell		1//	2//	2//	1AS, 3NBK	
GD01	62	77	Ian Smith		9//	18//	7//		
GD02	50	2166	Neville Cornish		2//	2//	9//		
GD03	36	2145	Diane Rose		3//	18//	13//	2WBK	
GD04	52.9	2146	Frans Rossouw		2//	19//		1WS	
GH01	53.9	2045	Rouxdene Deyssel		5//	50//	1//		
GH02	75.1	2103	Samantha Braid		3//	13//	2//		
GH03	52	2101	Hein Pienaar		6/2//	14//	1//	3NBK	
GH04	66	613, 1651	Craig Whittington-Jones & J Randell		9//	14//	27//	5NBK	
GH05	56.4	2039, 2039	Johnny & Andra Hennop		2//	2//			
GM01	50	2102	Leon Labuschagne			24//			
GM02	20	2102	Leon Labuschagne			28//			
GW01	51	2048	Gareth Eloff		7/1//	59//		36AS	
GW02	48.5	2152	Mags Pillay		1//			3NBK	
Total	1238			2	75	407	76	88AS, 20WS,	
Birds/100 km				0.2	6.1	32.9	6.1	1GOL,	
GB - Bronkhorstspuit, GC - Carletonville, GD - Devon, GH - Heidelberg,								27NBK,	
GM - Moloto, GW - World Heritage Site								2WBK, 1SEC	

Gauteng

Altogether 25 routes were counted within six precincts. Abdim's Storks were recorded in three of these precincts, with 36 seen on GW01. Diane Rose saw two White-bellied Korhaan on GD03.

Do remember to count the Helmeted Guineafowl (HG). Thank you to Craig for organising these counts.



The Chrissiesmeer CAR team of Wits Bird Club in front of an 1896 oaktree! Photo by Claire Eksteen.

Mpumalanga

A reminder to count Oribi, while scanning for CAR birds.

Steenkampsberg precinct

This winter count will mark ten years of monitoring in this precinct! Doug Harebottle, who is now Project Manager of SABAP2, and Kerryn Morrison, who is now manages the International Crane Foundation/Endangered Wildlife Trust Partnership African Cranes, Wetlands and Communities, set up the original routes. David Gaynor has been a most conscientious Precinct Organiser ensuring that CAR runs smoothly. I have really appreciated David and Helen's preparation of participants for counts and David's thoughtful count reports. As David mentioned in his report, "the dedication of participants in this precinct is commendable in view of the very low counts of target species that often result".

Denham's Bustard were recorded on three routes! The White Stork (19) and Helmeted Guinea Fowl (20) counts were particularly low. Oribi were recorded on MS01 (4) and MS09 (2).

Do continue to count Helmeted Guineafowl on these routes, using the

abbreviation **HG**, and also fill in activity and location (i.e., the last two columns) for Southern Bald Ibis, as well as for cranes and bustards.

Middelburg precinct

I am glad that Brian and Margaret Taylor have managed to continue counting MM01.

Standerton precinct

Blue Crane numbers were low, with only two on MT01.

Wakkerstroom precinct

Judy-Lynn had nine teams organised 24 hours before the count, but ill health/ crises struck and only five teams could count on 30th. Fortunately, the two most isolated routes were counted on 30th. Huge areas of grassland were being cut and baled everywhere. Bird numbers were low, although 100 Southern Bald Ibis were recorded on MW09. The dams/pans that had been damaged during the 2006 floods had not been repaired so bodies of water were scarce. Maize is being grown in low lying ground or right up to wetlands in many places. One of these major areas is up at Heyshope Dam where Grey Crowned Crane flocks could always be found, but none were seen this count

Chrissiesmeer precinct

Fourteen observers counted the seven routes in this area. Bird numbers were low for most species and the Helmeted Guineafowl numbers were the lowest in the last three years. Barbi and Alan Forsyth recorded 30 Southern Bald Ibis on their route, MC03. A fierce storm struck in the afternoon with a high wind and pebbled hail, but fortunately everyone was able to get home safely.

There is much concern in the community regarding the threat of mining for coal and sand quarrying. Chrissiesmeer is the largest lake system in South Africa with 270 lakes, so this monitoring by CAR and CWAC is vital.

Please continue to count Helmeted Guineafowl (HG) in this precinct.

Kruger precinct

The three counts in this new precinct went smoothly. Thank you to Brian Guerin and John Broodryk for setting up this precinct.

Number of birds counted in January census 2007 in Mpumalanga												
Route	km	ADU No.	Observers	BC	BHH	BI	CC	HG	SG	UK	WS	Other species
MC01	74	2058, 1985	Iris Hemmings & Lauraine Leigh		1//	8//		1//	5//		1//	
MC02	63.7	2094	Bev Carstens		1//				4/1		24//	
MC03	56.1	1511, 1750	Barbi & Alan Forsyth		4//	30//			88/28//	2//	4//	
MC04	68.8	1369	Lester Niss		8//		2//	11//	51//		4//	
MC05	70.8	1388	Janice Isom		6//			7//	4//4	3//	2//	
MC06	70	2197	Mike Witcomb		4/6//	4//				2//	6//	2SEC
MC07	78.3	2095	Claire Eksteen		8//	1//		10//	11//			
MK01	56.8	550	Brian Guerin					6/3				3GOL, 1NS, 6SS, 1YS
MK02	82	2164, 2177	Garth & Laura Batchelor									3RCK
MK03	53.5	2161, 2176	Peter Lawson & Siegfried Wolff		1/1//			11//29	2//			
MM01	54	1968, 1969	Brian & Margaret Taylor		1//					13/1//		
MS01	51.8	726, 725	David & Helen Gaynor	4//	5//	16//	2//		4//		19//	2DB, 4OR
MS02	56.6	1725, 1726, 1911	Des & Ann Brulais & N Champion		1//	21//						
MS04	63.5	2096, 2097	Trevor & Sharon Schaefer		2//							
MS05	55	728	Anton Linström		3//			2//	6//			
MS06	63.3	1178	Hendrik van Wyk	5/1//	5//	8//		11//	5//			3DB
MS07	57	1109, 1246	Bryan & Alice Rowland		7//			3//	5//			1SEC
MS09	54.5	1727	Jim McLuskie		1//			2//				1DB, 2OR
MS13	58.3	724	Lientjie Cohen		1/1//	6//		2//	3//			
MT01	85	1816, 1817	Colin & Nalda Williams	2//	19//			36//	23/7//	4//	7//	14SS
MT02	63	1912, 1973	Kevin & Glynis Armitage		13//			13//	14//			5SS
MT03	34.5	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		3//			2//	15//		3//	2SS
MT04	36.9	1986, 2093	Dries & Bonita Schoeman		7//							
MW01	60.1	2200	Patrick Mooney		8//		4//				24/1//	
MW03	66	361, 2003	Judy-Lynn Wheeler & Ann Cleal		13//	38//	5//	6//	5//	5//	72//	
MW06	56.4	2199, 2162	Penny Fox & Dee Milstein		5//		2//	2//	32//	2//	1//	2SEC
MW07	65	2196, 2195	Bronwen Davidson & Len van Eyk	2//	9//						3//	
MW08	89.6	2017, 2018	Norman Dennett & Beverley Thorne		8//		1//		34//		21//	5SEC
MW09	87	2195	Len van Eyk		7//	98/2//	3//		10//		6//	2DB, 2SEC
MW10	52	361, 2018	Judy-Lynn Wheeler & B Thorne		9/2//		2//	15//	19//	4//	5//	3SEC
Total	1884			21	163	232	21	172	394	25	200	8DB, 1NS, 27SS, 1YS
Birds/100 km				1.1	8.7	12.3	1.1	9.1	20.9	1.3	10.6	3GOL, 3RCK, 15SEC, 6OR