

Birding Big Day 2008

Neil Thomson
P.O. Box 2179 Windhoek
batqs@mweb.com.na

The Namibia Bird Club previously organized an annual Birding Big Day along the lines of those held in South Africa where teams of two to four birders competed against each other trying to record the most species in a twenty four hour period within a certain area with a maximum radius of 30 km. As some of the more experienced birders usually joined forces to form a team other members felt that they were unable to compete and interest in this fun event declined to the point where, last year, only two teams of two participated and then with one of the teams starting only on the Sunday morning. The committee decided to try a new format this year and on Sunday, 19 October twenty three interested individuals gathered at Monte Christo Guest Farm north west of Windhoek where they were randomly divided into four teams under the leadership of myself, Gudrun Middendorff, Hanjo Böhme and Dieter Ludwig. The teams were given four hours to record as many species as possible on the Monte Christo property with the proviso that at least two members of the team had to be satisfied that the species had been correctly identified. Good fun was had by all with Gudrun's team running out winners with 76 species recorded. The competition was followed by a lunch of Viennas, brötchen and potato salad provided by the bird club. All seemed to be of the impression that the event had been a great success and hopefully there will be an even bigger turn-out next year. The committee members would like to extend their thanks to all who participated and particularly to the Röthel family for allowing us to use this superb birding venue.



Big Birding Day 2008 Photos: Sonja Bartlewski

