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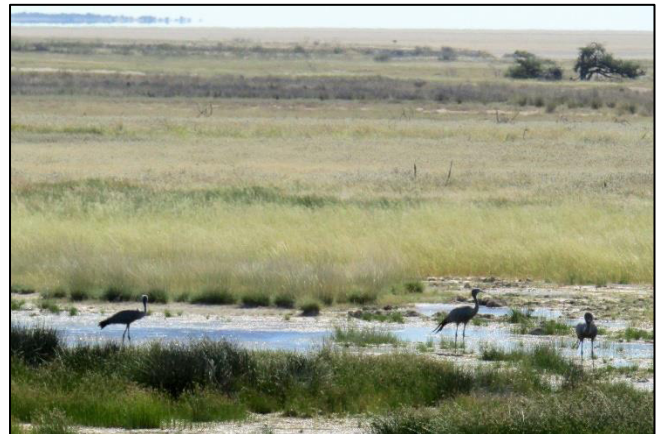
### APRIL 2017 CRANE CENSUS

Our last annual wet-season crane census at Etosha National Park took place from 3-8 April 2017, with a final count of 13 adults/subadults. This is slightly lower than the previous year's count of 16. However, this year eight chicks were counted, of which six have fledged – a result that is encouraging, compared to only two chicks last year. This is probably a reflection of the relatively wetter conditions during the preceding summer.

Hanjo Böhme kindly assisted with a supplementary count the week before the main census. Gabriel Shatumbu and Sethi Guim of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) were able to ring one of the chicks, surviving from a very late second clutch of two at Twee Palms (NEF; first recorded on 2 May 2017), on 14 June 2017; the other earlier chicks were unfortunately all at the fledging stage and could not be captured. This is the second year running that a second clutch has been recorded for Blue Cranes at Etosha, with two second clutches being recorded in 2016. For the first time, breeding was recorded in the north at Andoni waterhole, although the nest became flooded.

As we now know, our wet season counts are usually lower than those during the dry season, once the birds return to the Park (2016's maximum during the dry season remained at 23 birds, the same as for 2015). For this reason, we again did not carry out a dedicated summer aerial survey but continued to count opportunistically throughout the year. (PTO)

Exciting news is that a record number of 32 cranes was counted at Andoni on 25/9/17 by Thomas Kornelius and reported by Gabriel Shatumbu, both of the MET. A further good count of 26 at Andoni was obtained by Toni Hart on 2/10/17. We are very keen to see if these numbers will be sustained.



Family group of Blue Cranes with chick at Charitsaub waterhole in the Etosha NP (photo Ann Scott)



First breeding attempt recorded at Andoni waterhole in the north of Etosha (photo Angus Middleton)



(L to R) Mike Scott, Sethi Guim and Gabriel Shatumbu during the 2017 summer crane census at Etosha National Park (photo Ann Scott)

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blue crane foraging. I've also seen Ground Hornbills foraging in fresh elephant dung in Kruger. Just a thought.

Ed: Thank you for these interesting inputs. Yes, as mentioned in newsletter No. 55, elephant dung and its associated fauna must be a wonderful source of food for cranes and other creatures. We have had reports of the cranes feeding amongst elephant dung at Etosha, and observed it ourselves in April 2016 during a dry spell (see photo on p5 and newsletter No. 55, p3 – information that we repeat, for the sake of interest). Mostly, when the birds are present during the rainy season, food is more plentiful from a variety of sources (invertebrates on plants or in the ground; grass seeds). We were particularly struck by the fact that the above bird was feeding on fresh elephant dung at this time, which could be an indicator of the relative dryness of the current rainy season. During the dry season the cranes move off to the communal grazing areas to the north of Etosha, where the cattle dung may provide a similar source of food.

#### **Crane chicks and predation**

**5/5/2017 Mick D'Alton**, Overberg Crane Group, SA  
(mandjaldalton@omail.co.za)

Thanks for the interesting newsletter that we received. The developments with and dynamics of your birds are fascinating.

Funnily enough after I had started reading about the chicks I had this thought as to how the chicks survive in this hostile area where I would not like to spend a few weeks walking around a waterhole on my own. You then raise the question later on with the picture of the lioness. Here with us (in the Overberg, Western Cape) we lose a few birds to predators and raptors and I have quite often found where adult birds have been caught while sitting on a nest, probably by caracal. I have noted that this very often coincides with bad weather, rain and wind and I suppose that is because the conditions affect the birds' senses and render them more vulnerable to surprise. Although not so easy to record, raptors must also take their toll. We found a Martial Eagle on a freshly caught juvenile Denham Bustard the other day and the Jackal Buzzards may also target the small chicks. The adults though are formidable protectors when chicks are threatened and we had a bird really threaten the vehicle recently.

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## **CRANE SIGHTINGS THROUGHOUT THE 2016-2017 BREEDING SEASON AND START OF THE 2017-2018 SEASON**

The second section of this newsletter (below) consists of detailed records of sightings and photographs of cranes made over the past months.

Thank you one and all for your interest and enthusiasm in sharing this information, which makes an invaluable contribution towards piecing together a picture of the cranes' movements and activities. Unfortunately, space does not permit the use of all the photographs you have sent us, but they are much appreciated. (\*Note that the specific queries raised by some of the observers have already been answered by email.)

A summary of recently observed ringed cranes is provided below, for easy reference to the sightings mentioned in this newsletter:

<b>Recently observed ringed cranes</b>		
<b>Ring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Nest site occupied/breeding</b>
<b>NHD</b>	2006	Halali Seepage
<b>NHF</b>	2006	Charitsaub
<b>NHH</b>	2007	Charitsaub
<b>NBN</b>	2008	Halali Seepage
<b>NBW</b>	2008	
<b>NBZ</b>	2008	Chudop
<b>NHM</b>	2009	Salvadora
<b>NCJ</b>	2014	Nebrownii
<b>NCK</b>	2014	(Nebrownii)
<b>NCN</b>	2016	
<b>NEF</b>	2017	

## HISTORICAL RECORDS OF ALL THREE OF NAMIBIA'S CRANE SPECIES

### 1950s/1960s Trudi Stols

(library@scientificsocietyswakopmund.com)  
Sam Cohen Library / Scientific Society Swakopmund  
www.scientificsocietyswakopmund.com

Some old photographs from the Sam Cohen Library that may be of interest to the Crane Group. The one above was supplied by Dr Markus Zschokke (1893 - 1971), a veterinarian who was active in the then "Ovamboland" (the areas north of Etosha). The time period for the photos would be 1950s/1960s.

The second group photo below shows a large group of cranes, apparently at Andoni, but unfortunately there is no date.

Ed: It seems that the birds in your first photo (the large group of flying birds, top photo) could be mainly Grey Crowned Cranes, possibly with 2-3 Blue Cranes on the bottom left. If so, this must be amongst the highest counts for Grey Crowned Crane in Namibia and an important record.

The large group at Andoni (bottom) consists mainly of Blue Cranes – but there are at least three Wattled Cranes, which is also exciting. We have only a few records of the species within Etosha National Park (e.g. 2-3 birds in Feb-Mar 2013 – and also more recent sightings below), but the ones in the photo appear to be earlier than these.



## BLUE CRANES

**Apr 2015 Konni Lilli** (kornelialilli@aol.com)

Just heard of your great blue crane project. I'm not sure if you're interested in old sightings. In April 2015 we saw 2 animals at the waterhole Charitsaub (were ringed) and 2 other animals at the waterhole Nebrownii (photos by Konni Lilli and Silke Turban).



**27/3/16 Guido** (guido.coza@gmail.com) & **Hilda-Maria Botha**, NEWS (Information@NEWS-Namibia.org)

The photo was taken on 27/3/16 in Etosha between Halali and Okaukuejo. All I could see on the ring is NHD.

(Ed: NHD bred at Halali Seepage in 2016 and the pair had one chick [on left of photo], later ringed NCN)



**27/4/16 Karin Nelson**, Nelsons Safaris  
(nelsonsafaris@tiscali.co.za)

On our recent visit to Etosha we came across 3 blue cranes at Charitsaub (1902 582S 1615 913E). On closer inspection I noticed that all three had engraved colour rings and one had a GPS/satellite tracker on its leg. On Google I read some of your newsletters and saw that the one ring NHH was used on a chick on 12/3/07! I've attached pictures of the cranes and their tags: NHF, NHH, NCM + tracker. (Ed: Satellite tracker fitted 5 Apr 2016)



**1 & 18/5/16 Domingo Tjambiru** (dtjambiru@gmail.com)

At 09h00 I saw 4 cranes, 1 tagged NCK, at Rietfontein/Halali turnoff (gravel pit).  
On 18/5/16 I saw 3 cranes in the same area.

**13/8/2016 Francois & Julie Laubser and Mick & June D'Alton** (mandjaldalton@omail.co.za)

The Laubers spotted 22 Blue Cranes at Andoni.



**6/9/16 Vilho Absalome** (absalomevilho@yahoo.com)

I would like to inform all of you that yesterday (06-09-16) at 12h30, I was graced by the presence of 14 Blue Cranes at Andoni Waterhole. The birds are back, I hope they are predicting early rainfall. I could only see about 3 birds with rings on their feet as the waterhole was packed with so many zebras, wildebeest and springboks.

**6/10/16 Joyce Meyer** (MEYER2J@aol.com)

**via Keir** (support@bluecrane.org.za) & **Kevin Shaw** (shawka@capenature.co.za)

On 6/10/16 in Etosha National Park, Namibia, several of us saw at least 10 Blue Cranes at a waterhole. We were on a Rockjumper birding tour. Once we got home (Seattle, WA) we looked at our photos and saw two of the birds we photographed were ringed. Here is the best information we can provide. We were not particularly close so our information is minimal.

- 1 crane: Turquoise band on right leg.
- 1 crane: a light blue (?) ring on left leg. Appears to be some kind of writing on the ring. However, we cannot be sure of the colour other than it is "light" or "faded" ring (Ed: This appears to be NHD and NBW) (PTO for photos)



**24/11/2016 Kees de Jager**, Netherlands (cb.de.jager@hccnet.nl) & Maarten Hotting (maartenhotting@upcmail.nl)  
 Last two weeks we were travelling through Namibia. We visited also Etosha and were able to spot (and photograph) two ringed Blue Cranes there.

Date: 24-11-2016 Code: G(NCJ)

Location: Etosha (near Okaukuejo), Namibia

GPS: 19 9 46.63 S, 16 0 58.88 E

Info: 2 birds, probably a pair; other bird not ringed

Date: 25-11-2016 Code: G(NCN)

Location: Andoni Plain, Etosha, Namibia

GPS: 18 31 15.66 S, 16 46 21.11 E

Info: 3 birds: We hope to receive a life history of these birds.



**23/11/2016 Christiane Maluche**

(cmaluche@mtcmobile.com.na) & Hanjo Böhme  
 We spend a week in Etosha National Park and saw on 23/11/16 at Charitsaub the pair NHF and HHN (NHH) with what we think was a chick, it was not ringed.

The same day a bit later between Rietfontein and Halali near the turn off to Halali: NCK Blue Crane with one not ringed.

On 26/11/16 the same area at the turn off to Halali: NHM Blue Crane with one not ringed.

We hope the information is helping for your records.



**30/11/16 Xavier Birot-Colomb** (xavierbirot@hotmail.fr)  
I'm a French naturalist. I spent some days at the Etosha NP with three other birders: M. Birot, F. Birot, P. Pinon. We had two observations of Blue Crane to share.

30/11/16: 2 birds at Kapupuhedi, one unringed and one NCJ, green on left leg

2/12/16: 2 birds at Twee Palm, no ring, still there the

3/12/16

Hope it could be useful to the NCWG.



**Dec 2016 Fred Hodgson** (fhodgson@manx.net)

I saw a group of maybe seven birds amongst which was NCJ, near Newbrowonii in Etosha last December.

In 2015 two more were observed with rings NHH & NUF (NHF?) in the same photograph.

I hope this is of assistance to your research.

Thank you very much for the information on the Blue Cranes which proved interesting. NCJ was with maybe six other Cranes just at the turn off to Gemboksvlakte from the main road east of Newbrowonii (19D 09' 45.04"S 16D 01' 00.43"E). We saw them several times as we passed around 16/12/16.

Best wishes and I hope all goes well with the projects to protect these wonderful birds.

UK is only now getting regular sightings of *Grus grus* after many years.



**22/12/2016 (and 28/12/16) Toni Hart & Elise Ferreira** (mlarch@mweb.co.za)

Toni Hart from Birds of Namibia asked me to send you information about these two cranes at Charitsaub waterhole (above) in Etosha. We saw them the previous years as well. I am sure you have information of the pair, but may be pleased to know that they sit on two eggs now. Below: NCK & NCJ at Newbrowonii.



**24/12/16 André Meyer** (andre@swakop.com) & **Mark Boorman**

Here are two photos of the (ringed) bird. We saw it near Okaukuejo, co-ordinates (about) S19 09.792 E15 57.801 on 24/12/2016 11:22

We also saw another one (not ringed), a bit further towards Halali at 14:34 S19 02.562 E16 15.910.

Ed: NCJ



(PTO)



**3/1/17 Koos Zietsman** (koos.ziets@gmail.com)  
via **Maria Lopez** (safring@adu.org.za) & **Holger Kolberg** (holgerk@afol.com.na)

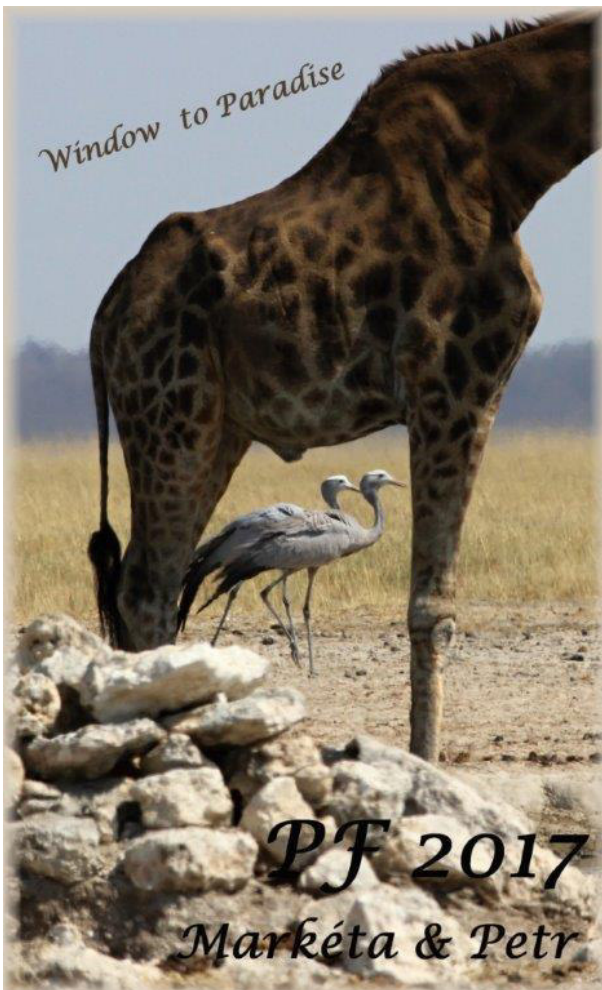
Ringed crane NHF was photographed near Charitsaub. Koos adds: Incidentally, we spotted a crane coming in to land at Salvadora fountain two days previously while we were photographing a pair of mating lions just the other side of the hill, the attached picture in near perfect light was the reason why we stuck to the lions and did not go after the Blue Crane, just this once!



**31/1/17 Markéta Ticháčková** (Marketa.Tich@seznam.cz)

I was very grateful for your recommendation for our travel to Namibia. With that we were lucky to see Blue Cranes and Wattled Cranes during our trip. If you would like I can send you some our pictures of cranes and we also try to read bands on Blue Cranes.

Now I am sending just our greetings to this year ...



**12/1/17 Matthias Ebert & Ernst Hönig**

(ebertmat@web.de)

I got the information from a pair of Blue Cranes with two chicks in the vicinity of Etosha Lookout, as you can see on the photo. The left adult is a ringed bird; the second adult is not ringed. Between the two adults is one chick, the second one is hardly visible under the tail feathers of the left bird (photo by Ernst Hönig).

Ed: NHD – Salvadora



**17/1/17 Matthias Ebert (ebertmat@web.de)**

As I learned in that small Eco-Museum in Okaukuejo, you are interested in sighting reports on cranes. So, I would like to let you know, that on 17/1/17, I saw one adult blue crane at the Andoni- waterhole. Along the south- eastern edge of Fisher pan, there was a pair of blue cranes, very far away. On 20/1/17, I saw a pair of blue cranes south- east of Salvadora with two chicks. They came right next to the road (25 to 30 meters), and I watched them for nearly 30 minutes. One adult crane was a ringed bird (Ed: NHM). Both were feeding the chicks with insects.



**13/1/17 Angus Middleton (AGM@NNF.ORG.NA)**

One bird was sitting at Andoni when we arrived, this bird had a silver coloured ring on the right foot. A second bird came in to incubate the egg. This bird was not ringed. A third bird was sighted near Namutoni (Lat -18.831; Long 16.918); it had no ring and was feeding.





**27/1/2017 Paul Gascoigne** (pauldunelark@aol.com) & **Helen Pooley**

We just passed through Etosha. We were informed that Cranes were nesting at Salvadora. Sadly, no sign of any Cranes here or the other two local places Sueda and Charitsaub. Delighted to say we did find a single Crane at Nebrownii on 27/1/17.



**29/1/17 Michael Vivian** (mgv6025@gmail.com) via Keir (support@bluecrane.org.za) & Kevin Shaw (shawka@capenature.co.za)

I was on holiday in Namibia recently and saw Blue Cranes in Etosha. The details I got were rings with letters HUF HNN and a green ring NCJ. Don't know if this is any help to you. All I can say is that they were a beautiful sight. If you have any information I would appreciate knowing.

Ed: First two could be NHF and NHH? – Charitsaub

**6/2/2017 Christiane & Richard Maluche** (cmaluche@mtcmobile.com.na) and **Hanjo Böhme**

We visited Etosha and saw the following cranes:

One pair at Namutoni

One more pair at Chudop, one ringed (NBZ) and a tiny chick

One pair on a nest at Twee Palms; it had rained heavily and the water level had risen

One more crane on a nest at Andoni waterhole, no colour ring



**15/2/17 Steve Lister** (stevelist@surfbirder.com)

During a very enjoyable bird tour of northern Namibia I saw just three pairs of Blue Cranes, all in the eastern part of Etosha. Two pairs both had two chicks, the other none, though they may have still been nesting.

One of a pair with two chicks near Namutoni camp on 15/2/17 had a green ring code NBZ on the right tibia. I have searched for info on this bird and it looks like it was ringed in 2009. Unfortunately I am not at all sure of the name for the location where I saw this bird but it was west of Namutoni.

Any info on your project and this bird would be welcome. I make a point of searching out and reporting colour-ringed birds in the UK.

**19/2/17 Gabriel Shatumbu** (gshatumbu@gmail.com)

Andoni 0 nest flooded

Twee Palm 2 adults, nest flooded (see picture of egg in the water)

Chudop 2 adults and 2 chicks

Halali Seepage NHD +1 on nest

Salvadora pair not seen

Nebrownii NCJ +1 on two eggs (see picture of position of nest)

(PTO)



**9/3/17 Andreas Gayde** (andreas@die-gaydes.de)  
 When writing my tour report on namibia-forum.ch Matthias told us about your research. I have only bad pictures, since there was not enough light and the birds where too far away.  
 First sighting where two adults and two chicks at 8:00 hrs 9/3/17 between Namutoni Airstrip and the Bridge over the pan (Ed: probably the Chudop family group)  
 Second sighting where two adults and one Chick at 15:00 hrs 10/3/17 approx. 2km east of Namutoni at the Fisher's Pan road (Ed: Could this be the Charitsaub family group?)

**28/2/17 Matteo Cuna** (matteocuna@gmail.com) via Keir (support@bluecrane.org.za) & Kevin Shaw (shawka@capenature.co.za)  
 On 28/02/2017 we were near Halali in the Etosha. We spot this crane with green ring NHD.  
 Can you tell us something about this bird?



**6/3/17 Absalom Vilho** (Absalom.Vilho@met.gov.na)  
 The nesting crane at Twee Palm two days after you visited me at the center, and a week after that, the whole nest was nowhere to be seen, it was flooded.

**16/3/2017 Paul Gascoigne (pauldunelark@aol.com) & Helen Pooley**

Just went through Etosha found a Crane plus minus 3 Km along the main road through the Park between turn for Halali and Rietfontein waterhole. Fairly close to the road. See attached picture showing ring numbers (NCN).



**20/3/17 Candice Zimny & Neil Thomson**

(batqs@afol.com.na)

A picture of a ringed Blue Crane taken at Newbrowni waterhole in Etosha on 20/03/2017 was posted on Facebook (Birds of Namibia) by Candice Zimny. The ring is NCJ.

**20 & 21/3/17 Ute Von Ludwiger (utevl@gmx.net)**

On 20/3/17 I had 2 adult cranes, one with a ring, but could not see the number, at Nebrowni next to the road. I could not get better pics. Too far away.

I saw the 2 adult cranes with their 2 young ones on the Chudop Triangle on 21/3/17 at around 12:00.

No more cranes at all. Where are they all?



**4-14/5/17 Ute Von Ludwiger [utevl@gmx.net] & Hanjo Böhme**

**4/5/17**

6 blue cranes east of Salvadora at 11h on 3/05/2017  
4 more blue cranes halfway between Rietfontein and Halali turn off at 11h30 on 3/05/2017

**6/5/17**

3 blue crane.....between Etosha lookout and Halali turn off

**14/5/17**

4 x Blue Cranes Fischerpan crossing at Namutoni.

**10/5/17 Andrea & Hartmut Träger**

(andrea.traeger9@gmail.com)

During a visit from 29/4/17-16/5/17, two Blue Cranes were observed in the water at Fischer's Pan (translated message in German)

**30/4/17 Kathrin Herbst (kathrin\_herbst@yahoo.de)**

On three of our four days in Etosha we were lucky to see blue cranes. We heard that sightings might be important, so we would like to report them:

- 30/4/17: 2 adults at Nebrowni waterhole in the afternoon, probably without rings, but not 100% sure (high grass)

- 1/5/17: 5 adults at the main road between Etosha lookout and junction at around 5 pm, three with rings (NCN, NBN, NHD) and two without

- 2/5/17: 2 adults without rings and 2 chicks ♥ at Twee Palms waterhole around 11 am.

*Ed: NHD hatched in 2006 (Halali east).*

*NBN hatched in 2008 in the same area.*

*In 2016, NHD and NBN produced the chick NCN below in the same area; NCN is one of the two chicks that hatched in 2016), and the only one to survive.*

*NHD was one of a pair that produced two chicks in 2017; its mate was ringed but the ring ID needs to be confirmed (This same pair had produced two tiny chicks by 3/1/18)*



**17/5/2017 Ute Von Ludwiger** (utevl@gmx.net) & Hanjo Böhme

I saw 7 cranes at the turnoff on Salvadora road/mainroad to Halali. SEVEN of them, could not figure out the rings. (One I could not get on the photo with the others.)  
The one with the chicks I saw at Twee Palms. One chick looks quite big already.  
Both were good sightings for me.



**4/6/2017 Ingo Behrens & Berenike Behrens** (berenike@batisbirdingsafaris.net)

My dad, Ingo Behrens, recently photographed two separate Blue Crane families in Etosha. He asked me to send these to you should it be helpful in any way. The one photograph clearly shows a ring (NBZ).  
\*Ed: These appear to be the Salvadora family and Chudop family (the latter at Andoni)



**5/6/2017 Hanjo Böhme** (gmbhanjo@iway.na)

I just returned from Etosha and was lucky to see the pair of Blue Cranes at Twee Palms together with their chicks. Both adults are not ringed and the chicks look very healthy; the one a little bit smaller than the other one. Very interesting that they still have chicks so late in the season. The pair at Nebrownii are settled there and they walk around in the surrounding plains. Otherwise I didn't see any more cranes, even though they are definitely around.

**3-4/9/17 Klaus Speedmann and Joris & Liz Komen** (liz@narrec.net)

Klaus Speedmann - tour operator - counted 23 Blue Cranes at Andoni waterhole on the weekend of 3-4/9/17. I think that 23 is the known population in Namibia?

**8/9/17 Quintin Hartung**, Gondwana Environmental Officer (enviro@gondwana-collection.com)

I was up in Etosha two weeks ago (8 Sept) and spotted four blue cranes near the Andoni waterhole (near King Nehale Gate). See attached pics.

(Ed: Possibly a family group from either Salvadora, or Chudop)



**8 & 25/9/17 Gabriel Shatumbu** (gshatumbu@gmail.com) & **Thomas Kornelius**

On 08.09.2017 Mr Thomas Kornelius (MET ranger at Namutoni) observed 19 blue cranes at Andoni waterhole. On 25/9/17 at about 17:50 Mr Thomas Kornelius observed **32 cranes** at Namutoni Andoni waterhole. (Ed: 32 is a record count, compared to our current maximum of 23; hopefully these numbers will be sustained)

**14/9/17 Gabriel Shatumbu** (gshatumbu@gmail.com)

Today from Lake Oponono I passed by at Andoni waterhole and following were observed: 18 blue crane total, among those there were known individuals: NEF (which I ringed at Twee Palms in May 2017) + 2, NBZ, NCJ + 1, NHH/N? (NHH), NCH/N? (NCN).

**2/10/17 Toni K Hart** (tkhart@iway.na)

We counted **26** Blue Cranes at Andoni on Monday 02 October 2017. I have taken some pictures of the legs which had rings.

**30/11/17-2/11/17 Ann & Mike Scott** (ecoserve@iway.na)

We checked all the known crane sites (including Andoni) and found 0 cranes. There was heavy rain at Halali and elsewhere on 1-2/11/17.

**7 & 9/11/17 Uschi Kirchner** ([uschi@safarisuk.ch](mailto:uschi@safarisuk.ch)) & **Hanjo Böhme**

7/11/17: 2 Blue Cranes at Nebrownii/ 1 with ring NCJ/ 1 unringed (seems like the "old" pair)

9/11/17: 3 Blue Cranes at Klein Namutoni/all unringed (new site???)

9/11/17: 13 Blue Cranes at Andoni Waterhole/1 with ring NEF/another one ringed, but cannot see initials/all the others unringed.

**4-6/12/17 Phil Palmer**, Bird Holidays, UK

([nightjar43@gmail.com](mailto:nightjar43@gmail.com))

Just back from Etosha and a green ringed bird was incubating at the same nest old site at Salvadora on 4/12/17 - too far away to read the ring and no other crane seen there.

We saw 2 more birds on the flat plain between Reitfontein & Halali on the same day - one was ringed NCJ.

5/12/17: We then saw 2 between Halali & Namutoni.

6/12/17: On the causeway near Namutoni airstrip we saw 2 more with one ringed but too distant to read (green ring on left leg), while 11 were at Andoni an hour later.

**22 & 24/11/17 Hannelore & Marek Hrywniak and Neil Thomson** (hrywniak@iafrica.com.na)

I am attaching three photos of a pair of blue cranes we saw at Kapupuhedi last week, while visiting Etosha. The one bird wore a ring with NCJ on it.



**27/12/17 Alice Jarvis** (alice@jaroconsultancy.com)

We saw 2 blue cranes: 27/12/2017 18:01  
-18.829403, 16.924562 (Chudop Triangle – east). One was ringed - seemed to be 78N/NBZ.

**3/1/2018:** Gabriel Shatumbu (gshatumbu@gmail.com)  
On 3/1/18 Mr Johannes Kapner observed 2 adults with two tiny brown chicks at Halali seepage. Among adults one had green ring.

**8-10/12/17 Sibylle Haehner**

(sibyllehaehner24@gmail.com)

Neil Thompson gave me your e-mail address to send you photos I took of Blue Cranes in Etosha recently.

We saw about 4 birds - all in the area of Salvadora.

The Crane with the Tag NHM was seen on 8/12/17 at Salvadora.

Are they also fitted with satellite tags?

On the morning of 10/12/17 we saw 4 Blue Cranes but I would think that one of them was Friday's individual.

One Crane was sitting at Salvadora waterhole on a nest.

One Crane we saw on the way from Halali close to Salvadora and the other 2 very far between Salvadora and Sueda.

I hope this information helps you a bit and thank you for the work you do with these wonderful birds!!

## WATTLED CRANES

(See also photo from 1950s/1960s above)

**4/1/2017 Fred Hodgson** (fhodgson@manx.net)

I saw and photographed a 'family' of three Wattled Cranes in Mahango NP (now Bwabwata). One large adult with well developed wattles, one slightly less developed but adult plumage and an obviously younger bird with pure white head.

The Wattled Cranes were seen over several days, the attached photos being on 4/1/17 at 18D 11' 44.38"S 21D 44' 14.66"E.



**22/5/17 Peter Hills** (hills.peterw@gmail.com)

Via **Kerryn Morrison** (kerrynm@ewt.org.za)

Just to let you know my latest crane sightings. During May 2017 we spent almost a month in Namibia. At Etosha Namutoni we spotted both Blue Cranes and one (surprisingly) a Wattled Crane at the following location: S 18°47.221' E 16°55.816' on 22/5/17 at 07h18 (Ed: Fischer's Pan, north-east of the causeway).



See the attached photo that is yet to be added to my web site.

During August /Sept. 2014 we visited China Qinghai Prov. and spotted a Black-Necked Crane on 29/8/16.

**9/11/17 Uschi Kirchner** (uschi@safarisuk.ch) & **Hanjo Böhme & Gudrun Middendorff**

1 Wattled Crane at Andoni Waterhole.



**24/11/17 & 1/12/17 Heidi Dednam** GAVA Explorations, (heidid@gavaexplorations.com) & Peter Bridgeford

24/11/17 There is a Wattled Crane at Klein Namutoni.

1/12/17 A Wattled Crane was spotted at Andoni this afternoon as well.

**6/12/17 Phil Palmer**, Bird Holidays, UK

(nightjar43@gmail.com)

There was also a Wattled Crane at Andoni.

**31/12/17 Chris Brown** (chrisbrown.namibia@gmail.com)

I take this opportunity to report on Wattled Cranes in Mahango on 31 December 2017 in monad 1810\_2143.

Two pairs plus a flock of 16. The latter probably in transit between Zambia and Botswana or vice versa.