

2297

1. Date: 25/26 May
- 1.1. Area: M'bari eastwards around southern edge of Pan to Beisebvlakte, including Gobaubvlakte and Ombika.
- 1.2. Persons: H. Berry  
M. de Jager
- 1.3. Aircraft: Super Cub at 60 metres altitude and approx. 130 km/h.
- 1.4. Total count time: 9 hours
- 1.5. Total wildebeest counted: 2 360<sup>+</sup>

<sup>+</sup> Table 1 gives the detailed counts.

Table 1: Aerial census of major Blue Wildebeest habitats of Etosha during May 1976.

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Okaukuejo	1+1	-
Leeupan	1+1	-
Grootvlakte	2+1+4	-
	1+1+1	-
	8	5
Okondeka	1	-
	6	-
	85	6?
	7	6
	12	?
Pan	9	?
	10	?
	10	3
	44	6
	4	-
	4	3
	12	?
	3	-
	4	2
	55	?
	59 (85)	24 (?)
	12	?
	4	3
	60	?
	25	?
51	?	
1	-	
28	?	
2	-	
6	?	

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Pan	1+1+1+1	-
	3+1+2+1+1	-
	10	?
	1	-
	66	?
	4	-
	7	?
	1	-
	9+6	?
	1	-
Okondeka	1	-
	28+17	?
	4+4	-
	123 (85)	33 (?)
	1	-
	17+10	?
	1	-
	32	?
	1	-
	29	?
Leeubron	1+1+1	-
	1+1+1+2	-
	7	?
Wolfsnes	2+1	-
Okaukuejo	1	-
	27+18	?
Ombika	1	-
Gaseb	20	?
Homob	7	1
Charitsaub	16	5
	2	-
Salvadora	10	2
	1+1	-
Charitsaub	14	6
	1+12	-
Rietfontein	1	-
	39	7
Halali	4	-
	29	8
Gobaub	14	6
Gobaubvlakte	1+1	-
Okaukuejo	1	-
Springbokfontein	1+1+2	-
	56	10
Miernes	1	-
Doringdraai	1+1+1+1	-
	10	-
Chuaob	1+1+2+2	-
	1+2+1	-
	26	4
	2	-
Namutoni	1+2+1+2+1	-
	42	8
	4	2
	22	7
	11	6

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Fisher's Pan	2+1	-
	60 (90)	19 (?)
	1+1+1	-
	26	8
	3+1	-
	18	-
	1+2+1	-
	5	2
	14	-
	18	8
	14	4
1	-	
Leeunes	1	-
Andoni	12	?
	17	3
	4	5
	3	-
	3	1
	4	-
	52 (60)	19 (?)
	1+2	-
	36 (45)	6 (?)
	9+1	-
	22	9
	1	2
	20	5
	1	-
	20	5
	1+4	-
	41 (60)	15 (?)
199(150)	? (?)	
1	-	
Beiseb	45	?
	1	-
	26	?
	14	-
	13 (15)	3 (?)
Totals	2 083	277

+ The bracketed figures denote estimates while the figures preceding the brackets are the actual counts made with the aid of aerial photographs.

1.6. Discussion

- 1.6.1. Percentage calves aged 3-4 months in a sample of 1 375 animals (58% of the total population) which included bull herds and mixed herds = 24,5%.
- 1.6.2. Percentage calves aged 3-4 months in a sample of 1 176 animals (50% of the total population) which consisted of mixed herds only = 29,9%.
- 1.6.3. Solitary, territorial bulls comprised 3% of the total population ( 70 out of 2 360), cf. 2% in 1974 (Berry et al.1975).
- 1.6.4. 88% of the population comprised herds of 10 or more animals, cf. 52% in 1974 (Berry et al.1975). The largest herd encountered was 199 animals.
- 1.6.5. The total population showed a continued decrease from 3 717 in 1973 (Joubert et al. 1973) to 3 300 in 1974 (Berry et al.1975) to 2 360 in 1976. No aerial counts were possible in 1975. The 1973-1974 decrease was 11%; the 1974-1976 decrease was 28%. It must be remembered that the May 1976 count is for several reasons not a good comparison with the previous counts, viz.:
  - i). a fixed-wing aircraft was used, not a helicopter,
  - ii). one observer counted, compared to two observers,
  - iii). the count was in May compared to September (1973) and July (1974),
  - iv). 9 hours were flown compared to 48 hours (1973) and 60 hours (1974),
  - v). different pilots were present in all three years' censussing.