

WILDEBEEST COUNTS : 1976

- 1. Date: 20 - 28 July
- 1.1 Area: Entire plains area of Etosha.
- 1.2 Persons: H. Berry
M. de Jager
- 1.3 Aircraft: "Hughes 300" helicopter, carrying 2 persons.
- 1.4 Total count time: ± 30 hours
- 1.5 Total wildebeest counted: 2 638⁺

⁺ Table 1 gives the detailed counts.

Table 1: Aerial census of major Blue wildebeest habitats of Etosha during July 1976.

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Beiseb	25	15
Andoni	1	-
	43	23
	23	18
	41	17
	5	3
	32	8
	24	14
	19	10
	3	2
	14	6
	37	5
	61	12
	9	-
	18	5
	2+7+5	-
	10	2
	5	-
	9	9
	12	5
	20*+23*	-
	16	10
Kamcaldoring	32	7
Broe	2+15*+2	-

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Twee Palms via Fisher's Pan to Mamutoni	2+1+10	-
	22	8
	1+2+1	-
	43	5
	5	3
Koinachas and Chudop	10	3
	7	?
	16	-
	1+2+4+5	7
	18	-
Doringdraai	15*	-
	23	?
Ngobib Springbokfontein	1+1+1+1+1+1+5+1	-
	1	-
Lelali plains	16*	-
	63	?
	2	-
	10*	-
	117	?
	94	?
	27	?
1	-	
Charitsaub (on Pan at Sueda)	2+2+3+5+2	-
	25	?
	15**	5
	1+1+1+1	-
	35	23
	1+1	-
	27	8
	51	?
	8	4
	27	-
	18*+12*	-
	30	5
13	13	
Gobaub	60	9
Gonob	1+4	-
Kapupuhedi	11	?
	1	-
	5+2**	-

? = individuals could not be aged accurately.
 * = probably bachelor herds.
 ** = marked animal with neck band.

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Ombika	10*	-
	7	2
	12**	6
	4	2
	14	4
	2	-
	7	2
Wolfsnes	1**	-
	9*	-
	1**	-
Leeubron	1	-
Adamax	1+1	-
	13*+10*	-
Okondeka	26	4
	9*	-
(on the pan)	1+1	-
	1+2+1+5+1	-
	28	7
	2	-
	6	4
	1	-
	7	7
	10	7
	10	8
	17	7
	11	?
	22*	-
	4+3	-
	4	2
	2+3+1	-
	74	29
	12	7
	1+6	-
	82	?
	13	6
	6	-
	20	?
	13	9
	4	-
	27	9
	13	4
	8	3
20	8	
6	-	
7	5	
22	?	
52	?	
North of Okondeka	1+2+3*	-
	17	5
Ozonjuitji M'Beri	1	-
Wandsvlakte omuramba	1	-
Grootvlakte	1+1	-
Onandera	4	-
Onantinda	16	6
Dolomietpunt	1	-

? = individuals could not be aged accurately.
 * = probably batchelor herds.
 ** = marked animal with neck band.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 Percentage calves aged 6 - 7 months in a sample of 1 941 animals (74% of the total population) which included bull herds and mixed herds = 22,9%.
- 2.2 Percentage calves aged 6 - 7 months in a sample of 1 484 animals (56% of the total population) which consisted of mixed herds only = 23,5%.
- 2.3 Solitary, territorial bulls comprised 1,7% of the total population (46 out of 2 638), cf. 2% in July 1974 and 3% in May 1976.
- 2.4 89% of the population comprised herds of 10 or more animals, cf. 52% in July 1974 and 88% in May 1976. The largest herd encountered was 117 animals (129 in May 1976).
- 2.5 The counts in May and July 1976 are comparable in that the first count gave a total of 2 360 by fixed-wing aircraft, while the latter count totalled 2 638 by helicopter (an increase of 12% due to the more accurate method of counting).

Supplementary to the 1976 game census report for Etosha.

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16th October 1976.