

WILDEBEEST COUNTS : 1976

2296

1. Dates: 13 - 15 December 1976
- 1.1 Areas: Entire plains areas surrounding Etosha Pan plus Gobaub.
- 1.2 Persons: H. Berry
W. Maritz
- 1.3 Aircraft: "Piper Super Cub" at 30 - 60m altitude and approximately 130 km/h.
- 1.4 Total count time: 11 hours 40 minutes.
- 1.5 Total wildebeest counted: 2659⁺

⁺Table 1 gives the detailed counts.

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

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Ekuma (Okotumare)	15	5
	77	?
	44	?
	180	?
	140 ⁺	?
	5	-
	95 ⁺	?
Northern boundary (Ekuma)	4	-
Poacher's Point	1	-
	20	1 ⁺⁺⁺
	6, 11, 16	-
	2	2
	1	-
	11	2
	4	6
8	3	

AREA	DULTS	CALVES
Andoni	11	3
	32	?
(on Owambo side)	100	?
	96, 370	?
	6	-
	40, 9	?
	68	15
	37	?
	1	-
Beisebvlakte	1	-
Acacia	64	?
Aroe	6, 6, 9	-
	50	?
	15 bulls	-
Fischer's Pan	1	-
Twee Palms	1 + 1 + 1	-
	22	5
	30	?
	4	2
	16	5
	17	?
Namutoni airfield	1	-
Chudop	1 + 1	-
Springbokfontein	1	-
Batia	26, 32	?
Ombika	9	2
	1	-
Gemsbokvlakte	3 bulls ⁺⁺	-

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Aus	1	-
Gobaub	11	4
Halali plains	1	-
	55	14
	55, 55, 33	-
	110	1 ⁺⁺⁺
	7, 17, 42	-
	2 + 5 bulls	-
	22	?
	5	-
	18	?
	3	-
Charitseub Plains	25	?
	1 + 9	-
	10	4
	6	3
	6 bulls	-
(on the Pan)	18	8
	83, 24	?
Homob	1	-
Gonob	1 + 1	-
Broken Tree	1	-
Wit olifant dam	2 bulls	-
Lonely tree	1	-
Okondeka - Leeubron	1 + 11 bulls ⁺	-
	55	?
	1 + 1	-

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES
Pan, off Okondeka	1	-
	6	4
	1	-
	61, 26	?
	1 + 1 + 3 + 3 + 30 + 1 + 1 (bulls)	-
	6 bulls ⁺	-
	1 + 1	-
Grootvlakte	1	-
TOTALS:	2571	88

Key: ? = individual calves could not be counted
 + = 1 yellow neckband present
 ++ = 2 yellow neckbands present
 +++ = 1 newborn calf present

2. DISCUSSION

- 1 Percentage calves aged 10 - 11 months in a sample of 481 animals (18% of the total population) which included bull herds and mixed herds = 22%.
- 2 Percentage calves aged 10 - 11 months in a sample of 363 animals (14% of the total population) which consisted of mixed herds only = 31,5%.
- 3 Solitary, territorial bulls comprised 1,2% of the total population (33 out of 2659), cf. 1,7% in July 1976, 3% in May 1976 and 2% in July 1974.
- 4 96% of the population comprised herds of 10 or more animals, cf. 89% in July 1976, 88% in May 1976 and 52% in July 1974. The largest herd encountered was 370 animals (117 in July 1976).

2.5 The count of May 1976 (fixed-wing) was 2360, in July 1976 (helicopter) it was 2638 and in December 1976 (fixed-wing) it was 2659. This is a variation of 11,2%.

Supplementary to the 1976 game census report for Etosha.

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OK UKUENO

20th December 1976