

## WILDEBEEST COUNTS : 1977

1. Dates: 13 - 15 September 1977
- 1.1 Areas: Entire plains areas surrounding  
Etosha Pan plus Gobaub
- 1.2 Persons: H. Berry  
N. Maritz
- 1.3 Aircraft: "Piper Super Cub" at 30 - 60m altitude  
and approximately 130 km/h
- 1.4 Total count time: 14 hours 45 minutes
- 1.5 Total wildebeest counted: 2969 (Table 1 gives the detailed  
counts)

Table 1: Aerial census of major Blue Wildebeest habitats  
of Etosha during September 1977.

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES	COLLARS
Wolfsnes	15 bulls		
Okondeka	25 bulls		
	77 mix.herd	2	
Owambo +	1 bull		
	3 cows	1	
	22	8	
	32	6	
	90 mix.herd		
	50+4+65		
Beiseb	1 bull		
	53 mix.herd	11	
	12	1	
Leeunes	1 bull		
Okewi	8 bulls		
	18 mix.herd	0	

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES	COLLARS
Namutoni airfield	40 mix.herd		
	33 mix.herd	4	
	4 bulls		
Aroë	6 bulls		
Namutoni Fort to Twee Palms	13 bulls		
	1+1 bull		
	19 mix.herd	6	
	1+2 bulls		
	70 mix.herd		
	19 bulls		
Chudob	28 mix.herd		
Aub	26 mix.herd		
Doringdraai	3 bulls		
Okerfontein to Springbokfontein	55	1	
	3 bulls		
	27 bulls		
	16 bulls		
	21	3	
	1 bull		
Springbokfontein	11	1	
	12		
	160	40	
Achab	49	11	
Goas	33 mix.herd	7	
	20	1	
Etosha Look-out	6	3	
Ombika	21	2	
	1 bull		
Gobaub	48	8	
	10	3	
North of Charitsaub ( on Pan )	17 bulls		
	13 bulls		
	16 ++	2	3
	48 ++ m.herd	1	
	37 ++	14	1

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES	COLLARS
North of Rietfontein	23	2	
( on Pan )	12	0	
	7	2	
North of Rietfontein	122 mix.herd		
( plains )	93 ++	7	2
	2 bulls		
Nuamses plains	2 bulls		
	12 ++	2	1
	22 ++	3	1
	6		
	2 bulls		
	28 ++	4	1
	5	2	
	1 bull		
	32	3	
	1 bull		
	11	1	
	85	15	
Halali plains	20	4	
	1+1 bull		
	5	1	
	8	3	
	6	2	
	2	2	
	2 bulls		
	140 ++		1
	140 ++		1
	90 ++		1
	13		2
Akomaas	1+1+1 bull		
	150		
	7	1	
	2 bulls		

AREA	ADULTS	CALVES	COLLARS
Charitsaub	36	4	
	59 ++	11	1
	60 mix.herd		
	50 ++		1
	3 bulls		
	44 bulls		
Salvadora	18 bulls		
	11	5	
	1 bull		
Homob	50 mix.herd <sup>++</sup>	5	1
	2 bulls		
M' Bari	1 bull		
	1 bull		

Key: + 281 Wildebeest outside Etosha's boundary in Owambo.

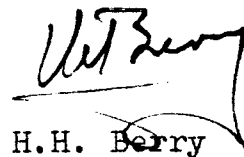
++ Herds include animals with neckbands  
( 17 marked animals seen in total ).

2. Discussion:

- 2.1. Percentage of calves aged 6-7 months in a sample of 1840 animals (62% of the total population) which included bull herds and mixed herds = 12%.
- 2.2. Percentage calves aged 6-7 months in a sample of 1556 animals (52% of the total population) which consisted of mixed herds only = 14%.
- 2.3. Solitary, territorial bulls comprised 0,6% of the total population (18 out of 2969) cf. 1,2% in Dec.1976  
1,7% in July 1976  
3,0% in May 1976  
2,0% in July 1974
- 2.4. 92% of the population comprised herds of 10~~0~~ or more animals (2736 out of 2969). The largest herd encountered was c. 200 animals.
- 2.5. Previous census figures for wildebeest are:

3717 in Sept. 1973  
3300 in July 1974  
No census in 1975  
2638 in July 1976  
cf. 2688 in Sept. 1977 + 281 wildebeest lost  
to Owambo.

18 September 1977

  
H.H. Berry