

## CONTENTS

VOLUME 36 (1) 2003

OSBORNE, T. O. Editorial .....	1
SINGER, A. NBC to the Rescue: Good Birding and Good Deeds.....	2
CUNNINGHAM, P. L. Why do Lappet-faced Vultures favour smaller carcasses.....	5
KIEKEBUSCH-STEINITZ, E. Observations on the nutritional preferences of garden birds in Windhoek, Namibia .....	7
PAXTON, M. Kavango Bird Observations .....	31
PAXTON, M. Mahango Count (July 2002) .....	32
STEYN, N. Namibia Birding Day 2002 .....	36
PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME 2003 .....	38
PRICELIST FOR BOOKS .....	39

## Editorial

Timothy O. Osborne

I made the appeal in the last editorial for everyone to give out a membership form to people you know who are not members. How many of you have done this? I gave out 2 forms and one has signed up as a club member! So I am batting 50% in getting new members. Hopefully at the next annual general meeting we will see if we are perishing as a club or growing. Certainly birding is growing world-wide and I would hate to think that we are not part of that trend.

The rains have been late as usual and spotty throughout the country but the rain birds have arrived and are doing nicely. On a trip to Windhoek I counted 7200 Yellow-and-Blackbilled Kites along the B1. Fortunately the road was empty so I was not a road hazard as I was alone and watching the sky more than the road.

This issue has a paper written by a school girl who shows what sort of good scientific information can be gathered in your backyard. It also has more of Paxton exploits from the north.

## Namibia Birding Day 2002

Nigel Steyn  
PO Box 5030 Windhoek  
nigelsteyn@hotmail.com

In October the Namibia Bird Club held a fun competition for birders all over the country. The Object was to record as many species as possible in a 24-hour period, running from noon to noon. For those outside of the Windhoek area the time frame was 5-6 October, and for those within Windhoek 19-20 October.

Congratulations to the following teams:

1st with 113 species; Rolf Adrian, Hanjo Böhme, Dieter Ludwig and Torsten Ludwig (Windhoek area)

2nd with 107 species; Tim Osborne and Wilfred Versfeld (Etosha)

3rd with 80 species; Kylie and Nigel Steyn (Windhoek area)

Ellen Gudde won a spot prize of a lunch voucher for 2 at Kalahari Sands, in spite of the fact that she recorded a Ludwig's Bustard and an African Grey Parrot in Windhoek! (The former was Suzan Mallet-Veale's orphan and the latter was in a cage in the lounge.)

Many other teams won spot prizes of cases of cool drinks.

Some statistics from Namibia Birding Day 2002:

12 teams participated, 8 within Windhoek, 4 elsewhere (Okahandja, Etosha, Solitaire, Namib Rand).

A total of 29 people entered.

A total of 206 species were seen in all.

A total of 151 species were seen in the Windhoek area.

The most commonly seen birds in Windhoek are listed in the table below.

Number of teams recording: (%)

Species:

8 (100%) Laughing Dove, Redeye Bulbul, Masked Weaver. 7 (86%) Egyptian Goose, Whitebacked Mousebird, Blackchedded Prinia, House Sparrow, Blackcheeked Waxbill. 6 (75%) Grey Heron, Cape Turtle Dove, Grey Lourie, Forktailed Drongo, Titbabbler, Whitebrowed Sparrow-weaver, Scaleyfeathered Finch, Redbilled Quelia. 5 (63%) Blacksmith Plover, Cape Wagtail, Common Sandpiper, Pirit Batis, Namaqua Dove, Swallowtailed Bee-eater, Monteiro's Hornbill, Groundscraper Thrush, Rattling Cisticola, Whitetailed Shrike, Glossy Starling, Dusky Sunbird, Scarletched Sunbird, Great Sparrow, Melba Finch, Violeteared Waxbill, Larklike Bunting.

Happy birding in 2003!

Spoonbills were all over the place albeit in small groups of one to five in a group. Egyptian Goose were noted for the first time in a long time. Quite surprisingly there was a significant absence of any large concentrations of Wattled Plover which might suggest some change in suitable habitat or prey availability. Our count ended with no further dramatics and I remain grateful to the Park Officials especially Olavi Mutangara, Petrina Kandjibi and Leeverytuy Muiyoba for their enthusiastic help and friendliness.