

Namibia Bird News



No 9, June 2014

Do you remember? Do you remember the world before the poison?

This quote from a book by Amy Reed may soon become harsh reality in southern Africa. Just as I put together this issue of NBN I received news of yet another mass poisoning of vultures near the Kwando River, this time in Botswana.

Just how serious the issue is, came to light in two workshops that were held recently. The first one was an international occasion held in Spain and brought together experts from Africa and Europe. The second workshop was during the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme annual meeting where we dedicated an entire day to this matter.

Almost this entire issue of NBN is therefore dedicated to the poison topic: some articles I wrote myself others I plagiarised blatantly but I'm sure the authors of these pieces will not mind because of the gravity of the situation. We need to spread the message and need to act quickly, before it is too late.

Happy birding!
Holger



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There is some good news though...

Just as I was about to publish this issue, I received news of one of "our" vultures from Zambia. White-backed Vulture L421 was seen on 28 May 2014 in Liuwa Plains National Park by Frank Willems. This bird was ringed as a chick on 29 September 2013 on farm Klein Huis (owner Arne Gressmann) by myself. The distance between the ringing and re-sighting site is 681km and the time elapsed is just over eight months. Its good to see that at least some of our birds have survived...



International Workshop on Poison Investigation and Vulture Conservation in Africa and Andalucía, Ronda and Malaga, Spain, 8 to 11 April 2014

I was privileged to be invited to the above workshop and, of course, approached it with my usual cynical view of such occasions. After all, many of these workshops only produce a pile of paper but not much else. My mood was not improved much by my travel itinerary which involved an eight hour stop-over at Frankfurt airport before continuing to Malaga, in Spain. Here, of course, my suitcase didn't appear on the conveyor belt and I was about to vent my frustration on some poor unsuspecting Spanish airport clerk when I noticed a rather small sign on the arrivals notice board that informed you that, if you were coming from outside of the EU, you should collect your luggage at conveyor belt 526! Once I had found said conveyor belt and retrieved my "OR Tambo airport anti-pilfering cling-wrapped" suitcase I made my way to the exit where we were supposed to be picked up. Half an hour later I finally detected a sign of microfiche proportions that identified our pick-up. We were then taken on a lovely scenic drive through a wind generator festooned landscape to our final destination: Ronda.

What a lovely surprise! I was expecting to be put up in some sterile hotel room in the middle of some big city. *Au contraire!* This was a beautiful place in the middle of nowhere surrounded by veld (OK, in Europe they call it fields), horses, sheep, pigs and chickens were roaming around, and the welcome by our Spanish hosts was very warm indeed. After having been awake for more than 24 hours, all I wanted was a hot shower and a comfortable bed! It took me a bit of time to work out that in Spain "C" on the tap stands for "hot" and "F" for "f...reezing cold" and then I tried to catch up on some sleep. I don't remember much about dinner that night except that it was good and that the Spanish red wine served with it made me sleep really well.



La Algaba, the environmental education centre where the workshop was held.

The next day our workshop started with presentations about vultures and poisoning in various parts of Africa and Europe. After we all got deeply depressed about how bad the situation is in southern and eastern Africa, we were very happy that we were in a rural setting with no buses or trains because we probably would have flung ourselves in front of the next one of either passing when we found out about the situation in western Africa. Here vultures are actively persecuted because people eat them! Eeugh! Vultures have been decimated so much that now other raptors are being "disguised" as vultures by plucking the feathers off the head and neck before being offered on the markets.



Eurasian Griffons feeding near the centre.

Just when all of us were ready to slit our wrists, our hosts had a surprise for us. They had put out some vulture food and soon there were hundreds of Eurasian Griffons circling and coming down to feed! That was just the tonic we needed and we tackled the remainder of the day with renewed vigour and enthusiasm, after all, this had demonstrated to us what can be done! Vultures had just about disappeared from European skies but thanks to the efforts and persistence of some dedicated people and organisations most vulture species are now on the increase in Europe. The afternoon passed quickly and after yet another delicious Spanish meal we all retired for the night.



One of the sniffer dogs—they are trained to sit when they have found a poisoned bait.

On the second day we went into more technical aspects of poison and analysis and this was *terra incognita* for most of us. Fortunately we had some experts in that field guiding us through this session and thanks to their guidance we managed to learn quite a bit about poisons, identification of poisonings in the field and laboratory procedures. The highlight, for me at least, was a practical demonstration that afternoon by police agents showing us the use of sniffer dogs to find poison in the field.

The third morning it was our turn to play policemen with a hands-on practical session. Our Spanish police friends had set up a simulated poisoning incident in one of the fields and we had to go out and collect the evidence etc. Some of us

immediately destroyed some of the evidence by standing on it (a piece of poisoned bait!), but then it was all part of the learning process! We returned to the plenary to whip out some conclusions and a press release (the press release is reproduced *ad verbatim* hereafter). A concise and realistic action plan was thrashed out and all of us were happy that this will lead us toward addressing the poisoning issue in Africa.

Far too soon the last day had arrived and on the morning of 11 April we boarded a bus to take us to Malaga to visit Andalucía's reference lab for toxicological analysis. I finally got to see an Egyptian Vulture but unfortunately it was dead and we were about to butcher it to find out what had killed it. Now it was the turn of those of us who had secretly harboured dreams of becoming the next Christiaan Barnard to show our skills and we spent a couple of hours dissecting, sampling and analysing. As a reward for our efforts we were treated to a seafood lunch *par excellence* in down-town Malaga (I have never eaten so much seafood in one go in my life!) before being checked into a hotel from where we would depart to our respective homes the next day.



One of our Spanish colleagues demonstrating field techniques during the simulated poisoning exercise.

I think I learned more during the four days of this workshop than I did in total at many of the other workshops that I have attended. However, and this is a reason for concern, I was the only African government official that attended and this demonstrates to me that this issue is not taken seriously by African governments. The only way we will win this battle is by a regional, government supported campaign that involves all role players, whether they work for the government or not.

Finally I once again would like to thank the organisers and funders of the workshop for inviting me and making it such a rewarding occasion. The ball is in our court now and it is time that we start working.



The three main conclusions coming out of the workshop are:

1) Document the situation better – both in terms of vulture decline rates, and the poisoning incidents themselves (frequency and location), also the substances, methods and networks used, and motivations, to design intervention strategies;

2) Involve relevant government agencies in collaboration with conservationists, vulture experts, chemists/analysts, enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders, to rapidly and decisively change the path toward vulture extinction;

3) Robust research is required to alert authorities to the human health and sanitary consequences of vulture poisoning – vultures are not the sole victims here, humans are certainly affected too, either because they eat deliberately poisoned fish and wildlife, including vultures, as well as contaminated crops, or because sanitation around villages deteriorates with the disappearance of these highly effective scavengers, in parallel to the explosion of feral dog populations, and the increase of diseases they carry, including rabies.



analysis - use human health and agriculture angles

e) **Establish partnerships between European and African labs**

f) **Develop proposal to fund vultures and ecosystem services research** - sanitary role of vultures in Africa

g) **Coordinate African vultures inclusion in annex I CITES**

j) **Explore opportunities to develop field kit for commonly used poisons**

The following is a selection of the actions decided upon:

a) **Develop continent-wide database** - important to have overview of products involved. Database should be structured with a forensic investigative approach in mind, so as to allow for data on context (photographs, etc.) to be added.

b) **Share protocols** for dealing with injured birds/ poisoning events

i. Investigation

ii. Injured birds

iii. Laboratory protocols

c) **Develop funding proposal for training courses in Africa**

d) **Develop funding proposals for more lab**



To Members of the Press

Poison and African vultures: Widespread, increasing and mostly illegal use of poison is decimating African vulture populations, precipitating a biodiversity crisis with as yet uncharted human health consequences - conclude members of African, American and European organizations during a multinational workshop.

7th May 2014 – Africa is home to 11 of the 23 species of vultures worldwide. Once common and widespread across the continent, vultures are undergoing unprecedented declines in Africa – four species are now considered Globally Endangered and at risk of extinction, and three more are listed as Vulnerable, according to the IUCN Red List of Species. Poisoning is the number one threat to Africa’s vultures.

Rates of decline and causes of poisoning differ across the continent – in southern and eastern Africa vultures die after eating carcasses of intentionally poisoned animals. These situations arise for example when poachers use poisons to kill native African wildlife including rhino and elephants, when feral domestic dog populations are the subject of a concerted poisoning campaign, or native carnivores such as jackals and hyenas are targeted with poisons. In addition, poachers will kill vultures directly since their conspicuous presence can attract the attention of law enforcement agents. In certain regions of Africa, vultures are deliberately killed for food, for the traditional medicine trade, and as a result of direct persecution.

Whatever the means and the drivers, the situation is now critical – vultures are declining across the African continent, largely at a dramatic rate - decreases of up to 97% for some species have been detected in West Africa in just over three decades, while 50-60% rates of decline have been measured in the savannahs of East Africa and southern Africa. This continent is quickly losing its vultures, and with them the critical and highly efficient ecosystem services they provide. Without scavengers, carcasses are left to rot, disease spreads among other animals, sanitation decreases in and around villages and stray dog populations’ rise in tandem with associated cases of human injuries and fatal rabies incidences.

Vultures are considered protected species in most African countries, and many have enacted legislation that criminalizes the use of poison to kill wildlife. Unfortunately, contradictory agricultural and pest control regulations, poor awareness, lack of enforcement, and poor or inconsistent diagnostic capabilities usually mean that vulture poisoning often remains underreported and under investigated, with conviction and even indictments rare. Some African countries have no laws to protect vultures from poisoning or direct persecution.

“Vultures are magnificent birds that provide a major service to African society by cleaning up dead animals and helping to prevent the spread of diseases. If they disappear Africa will face an ecological catastrophe”, explained André Botha, the chair of the IUCN vulture specialist group, and the Birds of Prey Programme of the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa.

Faced with this huge wildlife and human crisis, a number of African, North American and European wildlife, vulture and poison experts gathered recently in a meeting in southern Spain, co-sponsored by the Junta de Andalucía, to evaluate the issue, exchange views, mobilize capacity and expertise and plan ahead.

Darcy Ogada, a Kenya-based conservationist from The Peregrine Fund stated “In India the almost complete disappearance of vultures has resulted in a strong increase of the feral dog population and associated rabies incidence, which has been estimated to have cost \$ 34 billion US in human health costs alone. It is shocking that nobody seems to be worried about the massive vulture decline we are now witnessing across Africa”.

Poisoning is an engrained, pervasive practice, incorporated even into food gathering in some parts of Africa. These practices and the poisoning of vultures themselves for consumption by local people also undoubtedly pose significant - but as yet undocumented - human health risks, while sanitation around villages often deteriorates without these scavengers. “Quantifying the potential human health impacts of the vulture crisis, and also estimating the real value of vultures within the African ecosystem is a priority”, commented Ralph Buij, a researcher from Alterra-Wageningen University and formerly based in Cameroon.

In some countries where vulture populations are still relatively strong, such as Ethiopia, other threats are looming. “Strychnine is increasingly used by municipalities against feral dogs, and other undetermined poisons, including registered and non-registered pesticides, are used to kill hyenas and jackals. Our rich vulture populations are at serious risk when they consume poisoned carcasses” said Yilma Abebe, project leader of the Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society.

The experts identified building/strengthening needed capacity while gathering more information and data as immediate priorities – with the aim of increased detection and better documentation of poisoning events, increased sampling and analysis to determine the causes of poisoning, and gaining a better overall understanding of the sociological drivers that are contributing to the increase in poisoning incidents. “It is critical that African governments become actively involved in this issue. Saving African vultures will require enforcement of policies on a continental scale. Science and documentation of poisoning will support recovery, but it will be the people of Africa and their governments that ultimately save the African vultures”, concluded Moses Selebatso, from Raptors Botswana.

The workshop closed with a set of relevant conclusions, products, and next steps – above all, it produced a consensual alert from vulture experts, chemists and analysts, government staff, enforcement agencies, and conservationists from 12 countries: “Without rapid and effective action, Africa will soon lose these critical keystone species!”, summarised José Tavares, the director of the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

ENDS

The International workshop on “Poisoning and vultures – what is the situation in Africa and how can Europe help?” was co-organized by the Junta de Andalucía, the Vulture Conservation Foundation, and Working Dogs for Conservation, in Ronda, Spain, on the 8-11th April 2014, and was funded by the EU programme on trans-border cooperation between Spain and Morocco. The list of participants, conclusions and the presentations can be found at www.4vultures.org



Report on vulture poisoning as a result of bushmeat poaching in NG 16 – May 2014

Report drafted by James Bradley, PhD, and Glyn Maude, PhD. All photos taken by James Bradley
Location: S 18 37 22.8 E 023 01 54.59 (Format: Degrees Minutes Seconds; Base map WGS 84)
Site is approximately 17km north of Motswiri camp, 12km east of Gudikwa village and 2km from the northern buffalo fence.



Background:

A hooded vulture, fitted with a GPS satellite transmitter in early March near to Santawani, stopped moving on 30th April 2014. This vulture then remained stationary for a period of 7 days after which the transmitter stopped sending locations. The last location for this bird was received on 7th May 2014.

Potential poisoning incident:

After reviewing the data, and the last known location for the vulture, the Raptors Botswana team became concerned that this vulture may have been poisoned. This information was communicated to relevant parties at Great Plains Conservation (concession holders) and Ride and Walk Botswana (Motswiri camp) and the 911 anti-poaching group in Maun (Patrick Penstone) to see whether it would be possible to visit the location from the ground. Due to water levels in the region it became apparent that it would not be possible to get a vehicle to the site from the South or East. This information was also discussed at the weekly anti-poaching meeting at the Matlapaneng satellite police post in Maun on 19th May.

On the morning of Friday 23rd May James Bradley flew with Hal Bowker to survey the site from the air. On locating and circling over the site it became apparent that there were a number of dead vultures at the location, please see the photos below. The majority of the dead birds appeared to be white-backed vultures whilst the hooded vulture fitted with a transmitter must also be present. It was not possible to identify a carcass from the air which the vultures may have fed on.

An elephant carcass was identified approximately 200m North-East of the dead vultures. However, this carcass was quite old and did not appear to be related to the vulture poisoning.

Site visit 24 May 2014

BDF helicopter: Pilots Lt Mothibakgomo and Lt Masupe

Passengers: Major Kelebeng (BDF), Kenosi Nfandiso (DWNP) and Dr James Bradley (Raptors Botswana).

On Saturday 24 May Major Kelebeng from BDF Boro made available the BDF helicopter to visit the poisoning site to identify the source of the poisoning and to document the scale of the incident. It was only possible to land approximately 600m from the poisoning site. On reaching the site it became apparent that the incident was worse than had been initially feared with many dead vultures. An estimate was made of more than 50 dead vultures during this visit.

- A buffalo carcass was identified as the source of the poisoning. Both shoulders and one leg of the buffalo had been removed by poachers for the meat.
- There were the remains of a fire near to the site of the buffalo.
- There were also the remains of a wildebeest carcass nearby – tail and jaw bones only.
- A possible second fire point was also identified where a third animal may have been killed.
- A small plastic bag was retrieved from near to the Buffalo carcass. This bag was retained by K Nfandiso for possible sample analysis.
- The hooded vulture fitted with a transmitter was not identified despite a search of the area.
- Pink splattered residue was seen on some of the birds – this is similar to a serious poisoning incident in the Kwando Region which was reported on 16 November 2013 by Dr Tico McNutt and Dr James Bradley.
- At least one bird was identified as having died in a tree with the carcass stuck in the tree.

- The majority of the birds had died on the ground away from large trees.
- The majority of the birds had died facing the ground.
- White-backed vultures were the predominant casualty of poisoning at this site.

Due to the number of dead vultures involved it was not possible to fully document the number of birds or clean the site during this visit. Major Kelebeng suggested a return trip be made on Monday 26 May to fully document the site and burn and bury all carcasses to remove any remaining traces of poison. Major Kelebeng removed the two tusks which remained with the elephant carcass located near to the site of the poisoning incident and they were brought back to Maun.

Site visit 26 May 2014

BDF helicopter: Lt Mothibakgomo plus one further pilot

Passengers: Cpl Tselaesele (BDF), Kenosi Nfandiso (DNWP), Dr Glyn Maude and Dr James Bradley (both Raptors Botswana).

A final visit to the site of the vulture poisoning was made on Monday 26 May 2014 with relevant tools to document and clean the site. The four passengers were dropped at the site whilst the helicopter continued to Kwando region, planning to return after 3 hours.

Method:

Gloves and masks were worn by all due to the possibility of poison remaining at the site.

All dead vultures that could be found were collected and moved to a central location. Due to the recent nature of this poisoning incident the majority of the carcasses remained complete and did not fall apart when picked up. Carcasses were arranged in piles of 10 with carcasses separated by species.

A hole measuring approximately 2m X 2m and approximately 75cm deep was dug in an open area. A layer of dried wood collected from around the poisoning site was placed in the hole to start a fire. Once the fire was lit two or three carcasses were placed on the fire and allowed to burn before further carcasses were added. Additional pieces of dry wood were added to keep the fire burning well. The remaining buffalo carcass was also thrown onto the fire and burnt to remove any remaining traces of poison. Once all carcasses had been burnt the fire was extinguished and the hole filled in by the addition of sand.

Two carcasses of dead vultures, one hooded and one white-backed vulture, were collected by Mr Nfandiso for possible sample analysis. These were birds which had died in trees and so had dried out allowing for a greater possibility of identifying poisons.

A thorough search of the area immediately surrounding the poisoning site was conducted with all dead vultures identified and burnt. Due to time limitations and the number of individuals on the ground it was not possible to search a wider area and so it is possible that some dead birds may not have been identified if they flew away from the site to roost.

Results:

A total of 92 vultures were identified as having died in this incident. Of these 85 were white-backed vultures, 6 were hooded vultures and 1 was a lappet-faced vulture. It is possible that there were some additional birds not identified which managed to fly a short distance from the poison site before dying. This poisoning was conducted by poachers hunting for bushmeat with a buffalo carcass poisoned and a wildebeest also killed in close proximity. The poachers appeared to make no attempt to remove the tusks from the elephant carcass located nearby.

Two dead vultures were removed for sample analysis by DWNP.

The hooded vulture fitted with a transmitter and wing tags was not found.

Summary:

The vulture poisoning incident reported here was the result of commercial bushmeat poaching with poachers intent on deliberately killing vultures to avoid detection. A minimum of 92 vultures were identified as having died at this site yet more are likely to have been affected but were able to travel some distance from the core area. Of these 92 vultures 91 are from species which are classified as endangered with the remaining vulture from a species classified as vulnerable.

This poaching and poisoning incident happened around the 29th and 30th April and was identified through one vulture being fitted with a GPS transmitter. It is likely that the timing of this incident is no coincidence as it occurs at the end of a month and shortly after pay day when people have the resources to buy meat. The poachers appeared to show no interest in the tusks which were located nearby at the elephant carcass.

Despite extensive searching it was not possible to locate the hooded vulture fitted with a transmitter. This is despite the vulture sending 7 days of fixes from within 30 metres of the same location before suddenly stopping working. It is our belief that someone returned to this site, saw the vulture with wing tags and a transmitter before destroying the transmitter and either removing or burying the bird. If the transmitter was able to send fixes for 7 days then it should have been able to continue for significantly longer. The poison used is unknown but the site shows significant similarities with a vulture poisoning incident recorded in November 2013 in the Kwando region.

Two dead vultures and a plastic bag were collected by the DWNP for sample analysis. The dead birds collected had died and got stuck in trees and so had dried out significantly without rotting on the ground. We await the results of any analysis which can be conducted on these samples.

Acknowledgements

Raptors Botswana would like to acknowledge the support provided by the BDF and Major Kelebung in making a helicopter available to visit, document and clean up such a remote site which is difficult to access from the ground.

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Figure 1 - Aerial view of vulture poisoning site



Figure 2 - Close-up aerial view of the core area of dead vultures



Figure 3 - Dead white-backed vultures in core area of poison site



Figure 4 - Dead white-backed vulture



Figure 5 - White-backed vulture which died in the tree



Figure 6 - The buffalo carcass was identified as the source of the poisoning. Both shoulders and one leg had been removed by the poachers



Figure 7 - A pink residue was seen on some of the birds, identical to a poisoning incident in the Kwando region which was fully documented and reported in November 2013



Figure 8 - Dr Glyn Maude arranged vulture carcasses into piles of 10 dead birds for documentation. Carcasses were separated by species



Figure 9 - Piles of vulture carcasses after collecting all carcasses into a central point - each pile is 10 dead vultures



Figure 10 - A dead hooded vulture



Figure 11 - Burning the first vulture carcasses in a hole approximately 2m x 2m



Figure 12 - Burning all vulture carcasses to clean site, gloves and masks were worn by all. Carcasses were added to the fire gradually to allow them to burn thoroughly



Figure 13 - The buffalo carcass was also burnt. Carcasses were allowed to burn down before the hole was filled in with sand to extinguish the fire and cover the remains

There's gold at El Dorado...

Holger Kolberg, photos by Peter Bridgeford

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Birds of Prey Programme (BoPP) held its annual meeting at El Dorado B&B and camping near the Andersson gate of Etosha National Park from 19 to 23 May 2014. The BoPP facilitates several projects throughout southern Africa and supplies the patagial tags that are used for vulture marking in Namibia. The meeting brings together all the project participants and gives them an opportunity to report back on their projects, exchange ideas and make new contacts.



The meeting kicked off with a one-day workshop on wildlife poisoning in southern Africa which was expertly facilitated by Dr Jose Tavares of the Vulture Conservation Foundation. Through Jose's guidance we arrived at a concise and feasible plan of action that will address the issue of poisoning in all southern African countries.

On Wednesday a day-trip into Etosha was organised and the delegates were rewarded with sightings of just about everything there is to see (mammal-wise) in the park.

Thursday saw a full day of presentations with a severe bias towards vultures. The keynote address was presented by Dr Rob Davies who introduced the African Raptor Databank (ARDB, www.habitatinfo.com/african-raptor-databank/) and launched the ARDB App for smartphones. Andre Botha, the BoPP manager, then gave a brief overview of the programme's activities for the past year and then various speakers presented on topics ranging from population modelling to camera trapping to movement studies.

Friday's short session covered eagles, owls and falcons before everybody packed up and left for home.





This was a most enjoyable meeting and I want to thank the BoPP steering committee for agreeing to host the meeting in Namibia. Our hosts, the Pienaars, also need to be thanked for their hospitality and all the good food! Finally, thanks to Andre and Rebecca from the BoPP for all the hard work they put in to make this meeting a success. I trust that everybody did find their own piece of gold at El Dorado...



Bird Atlas Update

A group of us spent the Easter weekend atlasing in the Namib-Naukluft Park. Subsequently I received the following article from Neil Thomson (batqs@afol.com.na).

Some Statistics on Atlasing in the Namib-Naukluft Park

The Namib section of the Namib-Naukluft Park between the Swakop and Kuiseb Rivers includes 172 pentads. This includes some pentads which are not in the park in their entirety. Some of those in the park are likely to be almost entirely inaccessible and some of those straddling the park borders may have been atlased from outside the park.

Since atlasing began in Namibia on 01/05/2012 until the end of April 2014 twelve atlasers (and no doubt some assistants) have managed to collect records for 76 (44%) of these pentads. This intrepid band has managed to collect an impressive 1 386 records for an amazing 123 species in the pentads atlased. This effort has been greatly assisted by the two “atlasing bashes” based at Ganab in August 2013 and April 2014.

The impressive species list is no doubt due to the variety of habitats encountered in the area covered. Surface water at Goanikontes and Kuiseb Bridge has meant that some water birds were present. Dunes along the Kuiseb provide suitable habitat for the Dune Lark. **The riverine vegetation along the two rivers hosts numbers of “bush birds” while the gravel plains and inselbergs of the desert support a number of more desert adapted species.** Recent rainfall in certain areas has possibly also boosted the number of species seen.

Whoever says that there is little birdlife in the Namib should look at the impressive species list.

The SABAP 1 bird list for the Namib-Naukluft Park lists 346 species but bear in mind that this includes e.g. Sandwich Harbour for which we currently have 269 records listing 57 species. If these, plus other parts of the park (and remember it goes all the way down to Aus!) are added then we will get quite close to the SABAP 1 species total.

Keep atlasing!

Holger Kolberg

Regional Atlas Coordinator for Namibia



As it stands...

582 pentads atlased

5.49% coverage

90 active observers

1612 cards submitted

Calendar of Events

13 July 2014: Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Avis Dam.

19 and 20 July 2014: Walvis Bay wetland bird count.

26 and 27 July 2014: Wetland bird counts inland.

10 August 2014: Namibia Bird Club morning walk at the Gammams water works.

18 to 24 August 2014: 26th International Ornithological Congress, Tokyo, Japan, website ioc26.jp

23 to 26 August 2014: Namibia Bird Club long weekend outing.

6 September 2014: International Vulture Awareness Day, fund raising dinner in Swakopmund contact Sandra Dantu felix@afol.com.na

13 September 2014: Vultures Namibia fund raising dinner in Windhoek contact Holger Kolberg holgerk@afol.com.na

14 September 2014: Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Avis Dam.

28 September 2014: Namibia Bird Club day outing.

11 October 2014: Namibia Bird Club at the Biomarkt.

12 October 2014: Namibia Bird Club morning walk at the Gammams water works.

9 November 2014: Namibia Bird Club morning walk at Avis Dam.

23 November 2014: Namibia Bird Club big birding day at Monte Christo.

14 December 2014: Namibia Bird Club morning walk at the Gammams water works.



Photo by Hugo Haussmann, taken near Horseshoe in the Bwabwata National Park.