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Summary of the 2015 Winter Wetland Bird Counts in Namibia

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The current drought ravaging our country is also reflected in the wetland bird counts with no fewer than nine sites delivering a “nil return”! The good news though, is that for the first time since 2003, the pans around Tsumkwe were counted; in all, thirteen of them were visited, some with surprising results. In total, 53 sites were counted, resulting in 177 484 birds of 107 species. The coastal “big guns” Walvis Bay and Sandwich Harbour head the numbers list mainly due to large aggregations of flamingos and waders. Not surprisingly, three sites on the Okavango River head the species list. Twenty-two of the 32 Namibian red data species on the regular count list were seen at 37 of the count sites. A Black Stork was seen at the River

Dance area on the Okavango and two Saddle-billed Storks were seen in the Mahango core area as well as eight Wattled Cranes. A group of fifteen Wattled Cranes were seen in the Ndhovu area about two weeks earlier. The largest group of Maccoa Duck was at Gautscha Pan near Tsumkwe, whereas only two were recorded at the Walvis Bay sewage ponds where their numbers appeared to be increasing of late. Two Eurasian Oystercatchers were seen at Sandwich Harbour and a Pacific Golden Plover and 53 Red-necked Phalaropes at Walvis Bay.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who braved the cold to contribute to the counts, your efforts are appreciated.

Table 1: Detailed data for each site counted.

Site	Date	Grebes	Pelicans	Cormorants and Darter	Herons and Egrets	Storks	Ibises and Spoonbill	Hamerkop	Flamingos	Cranes	Geese and Ducks	Rails, Gallinules and Coots	Finfoot and Jacanas	Waders and Shorebirds	Gulls, Terns and Skimmer	Birds of Prey	Additional Species	Total	Species
Aeroplane Bay	01-Jul-15	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	7	0	3	0	0	26	31	0	0	72	9
Agate Beach	01-Jul-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	6	0	0	29	3
Avis Dam	25-Jul-15	0	0	4	2	0	1	2	0	0	53	0	0	112	0	1	1	176	18
Baraka Pan	07-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	2
Cape Cross	17-Jul-15	4400	0	10001	0	0	0	0	2756	0	263	0	0	159	724	0	0	18303	20
Daan Viljoen GP	25-Jul-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ekuma River	21-Jul-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fischer's Pan	20-Jul-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Friedenau Dam	02-Aug-15	28	0	43	1	0	0	0	3	0	144	65	0	50	0	0	0	334	18
Gautscha Pan	05-Aug-15	153	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	6170	3000	0	79	0	2	0	9410	22
Gimsa Pan	07-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Griffith Bay	01-Jul-15	13	0	10	1	0	0	0	24	0	4	0	0	19	6	0	0	77	10
Groot Dobe	05-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grosse Bucht	01-Jul-15	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	30	0	2	0	0	23	33	0	0	95	9
Guano Bay	01-Jul-15	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	31	0	31	0	0	53	17	0	0	137	14
Gura Pan	05-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	6	0	0	0	16	6
Hardap Dam	23-Jun-15	1	180	197	15	0	7	0	35	0	465	2	0	72	33	1	0	1008	25
Hoffnung Dam	25-Jul-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	152	0	1	4	0	0	0	157	6
Kaisosi Area, Okavango River	16-Aug-15	0	0	11	26	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	2	0	1	5	54	12
Khabi Pan	06-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Klein Dobe	05-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kwando River	01-Aug-15	0	0	7	20	4	4	0	0	0	34	7	28	51	0	9	20	184	27
Lake Oponono	21-Jul-15	141	36	2	190	32	0	0	1306	0	1126	3	0	7696	59	0	0	10591	31
Leadwood Pan	06-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	13	5
Lüderitz Sewage Works	01-Jul-15	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	0	34	0	0	19	319	0	0	488	9
Mahango Core Area	28-Jul-15	0	0	23	242	131	187	0	0	8	1100	0	39	100	0	6	3	1839	33
Makuri Vlei	07-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1
Mile 4 Saltworks	30-Jul-15	2000	0	61	2	0	0	0	2782	0	2250	0	0	338	454	0	0	7887	22
Monte Christo	26-Jul-15	16	2	10	1	0	5	1	0	0	237	33	6	41	0	2	0	354	24
Nama Pan	06-Aug-15	8	0	0	0	1	15	0	0	0	2665	71	1	95	6	2	0	2864	15
Naute Dam	25-Jun-15	0	15	50	5	0	2	0	0	0	80	2	0	2	0	1	0	157	13
Ndhovu Area, Okavango River	12-Jul-15	0	0	97	103	16	38	1	0	15	53	15	14	61	9	8	42	472	39
Nunda Area, Okavango River	17-Jul-15	0	0	32	29	0	3	1	0	0	44	8	5	14	4	1	9	150	23
Nuu-no Pan	06-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyae Nyae Pan	06-Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	19	3

Table 2: Data for species listed in the red data book.

Species	Total seen	No of sites
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) CR		
Black-necked Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>) NT	12207	12
Great White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>) VU	413	11
Cape Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>) EN	15747	4
Bank Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>) EN		
Crowned Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>) NT	39	6
Slaty Egret (<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>) EN	12	3
Rufous-bellied Heron (<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>) EN	12	4
Eurasian Bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>) CR		
Black Stork (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>) EN	1	1
Saddle-billed Stork (<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>) EN	2	1
Marabou Stork (<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>) NT	2	2
Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>) VU	46838	20
Lesser Flamingo (<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>) VU	33074	12
Wattled Crane (<i>Buggeranus carunculatus</i>) EN	23	2
Blue Crane (<i>Anthropoides paradisea</i>) CR		
Grey Crowned Crane (<i>Balearica regulorum</i>) CR		
Maccoa Duck (<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>) NT	38	5
African Finfoot (<i>Podica senegalensis</i>) EN		
African Black Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus moquini</i>) NT	377	9
Black-winged Pratincole (<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>) NT	115	2
Rock Pratincole (<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>) EN		
Chestnut-banded Plover (<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>) NT	9945	6
Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) NT	5	2
Great Snipe (<i>Gallinago media</i>) NT		
Hartlaub's Gull (<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>) VU	1631	16
Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>) VU	122	6
Damara Tern (<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>) NT		
African Skimmer (<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>) VU	36	3
African Fish-Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>) VU	55	15
African Marsh-Harrier (<i>Circus ranivorus</i>) EN	7	6
Pallid Harrier (<i>Circus macrourus</i>) NT		